

PACIFIC UNION

# recorder

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*Carmichael Church Pathfinders*  
**VISIT ELMSHAVEN**  
*TO EARN THE ADVENTIST HERITAGE HONOR*

# CONTENTS:

- 26 *Adventist Health*
- 27-32 *Advertising*
- 14 *Arizona*
- 12-13 *Central California*
- 1518 *Conference Newsletters*
- 20 *Hawaii*
- 22-23 *La Sierra University*
- 21 *Loma Linda*
- 19 *Nevada-Utah*
- 8-9 *Northern California*
- 24-25 *Pacific Union College*
- 10-11 *Southeastern California*
- 4-7 *Southern California*



## about the cover

Carmichael church Pathfinders visit Elms Haven — Ellen White's home for the last 15 years of her life — June 13 to earn the Adventist Heritage Honor.

**PHOTO BY**  
**KRISTOPHER CABREIRA**

# PACIFIC UNION recorder

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# The 2015 Vote on Ordination

In August 2012, delegates to a special constituency session of the Pacific Union voted that requests for ordination would be approved or disapproved by the Executive Committee without considering whether the candidate was male or female. Since then, more than two dozen women have been ordained to ministry in our territory.

In July, nearly three years later, delegates to the General Conference Session will decide how the world church will deal with this issue. They will not be asked to approve or disapprove women's ordination, but whether or not to let each division decide what policy will best advance the preaching of the gospel in its territory. The exact wording of the vote will be:

"Is it acceptable for division executive committees, as they may deem it appropriate in their territories, to make provision for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry?"

Many things have happened in the three years since the Pacific Union and others decided to ordain women, the most obvious being the completion of a world-wide ordination study. From that study came two important contributions to the discussion.

First, the Theology of Ordination Study Committee (TOSC) adopted, and the Annual Council of the General Conference approved, the church's first Theology of Ordination statement. This document formally clarifies that ordination to ministry is the official acknowledgement by the church that the person ordained is a trusted spokesperson and representative of the church. This acknowledgment neither acts in place of God's call nor elevates the ordained person to some new level of spiritual authority over other believers. All Christians are called by God to some type of ministry; some are called to pastoral ministry. Those who are faithful to that call accept it, and through ordination, the church affirms God's call. Many members of the TOSC and others believe this theological statement alone provides a solid foundation for a yes vote in San Antonio, though, of course, not all careful Adventist Bible students agree.

The book of Acts records that the early church faced a similar impasse, with some church leaders pointing to Old Testament texts that said all males who followed God

must be circumcised, and others pointing to overwhelming evidence that God was pouring out his Spirit on Gentiles who had not been circumcised. In the light of God's obvious infilling, those early church leaders took a new look at old Scriptures, found support for the gospel ministry they saw God doing through uncircumcised Gentiles, and voted to change nearly 2,000

years of church practice. As Peter said after seeing God's ministry through Cornelius, "Who was I to think I could oppose God?" (Acts 11:17, NIV). James, the brother of Jesus, made a similar statement at the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15).

The second major development since 2012 is that after the General Conference-sponsored worldwide TOSC study on ordination, the church was unable, once again, to arrive at a consensus. Like the North American Division's own study commission declared: "We believe that an individual, as a Seventh-day Adventist in thorough commitment to the full authority of Scripture, may build a defensible case in favor of or in opposition to the ordination of women to the gospel ministry, although each of us views one position or the other as stronger and more compelling." If you are a member in the Pacific Union, where some members strongly support ordination of women and others do not, you know that good and faithful Adventists stand on both sides of the issue.

As I look toward the decision of the delegates a few days from now, I will say that I believe a yes vote is the best way forward, but certainly not the only way. I believe this is God's church, and that His work on earth will be done regardless of any debates that may take place — or continue. Christ Himself is the basis of our mission and our unity. Our 28 Fundamental Beliefs are not in doubt. And our mission is clear.

Please join me in praying for God's leading at this General Conference session.

*Ricardo Graham*



Are you interested in real-time updates from General Conference? Follow [twitter.com/Recorder\\_SDA](https://twitter.com/Recorder_SDA) on Twitter, [www.facebook.com/pacificunionrecorder](https://www.facebook.com/pacificunionrecorder) on Facebook, and two hashtags: #GCSA15 (the official church session) and #GCSA15PUC (for Pacific Union-related posts).

# Cambodians Open Center in North Long Beach

Cambodian members and guests gathered May 9 for the ribbon cutting celebration for a new ministry center for Cambodian people in the North Long Beach area. The "Sua Sdei," (Welcome) Center is an attractive storefront center that is a long dreamed-of and prayed-for place of worship and service to the Cambodian community. "This is the first official Cambodian center in the United States," said Pastor James Dok, who has ministered in the Los Angeles area since 1983, when he first arrived in the U.S.

After a month of hard work by Cambodian members, the center was painted and remodeled, furnished and ready to receive visitors. But two weeks before the opening date, one item still was missing. "We need a piano," said Nou Yon. "We have to have one!" So the pastor and members prayed for a piano.

"Very soon," said Dok, "we received a phone call from someone asking if we would like a piano!"

Speakers noted the hard times Cambodian members had experienced before coming to

this country. "As I look over this group," said Larry L. Caviness, then president of Southern California Conference, "I see some brave people. Some leave their country because they want another chance. Sometimes people leave out of desperation.

"You have been welcomed and integrated into American society," Caviness said. "The center is opened for the purpose of

offering services to the Cambodian community and any others who may come. Some may ask, "Why are Adventists doing this? We are organized for service and our service is worldwide: hospitals, clinics and schools around the world, to help young people get an education. Thank you, Pastor Dok and staff, for bringing this center to reality."

"Now the second part of the dream," concluded Caviness. "We are organized to carry out another very important mission, to share the gospel of Jesus Christ who calls to us, saying, 'Come unto Me and I will give you rest.'"

Gerard Kiemeney, L.A. Metro Region director, introduced Dok. "There is a history of pain in his story, in the history of his people," he said. "During the ravages of war, Dok lost friends and family. He endured oppression and pain. He experienced what it was like to be in shackles.

"Through these experiences, Dok received a vision and that vision, expressed in one word is, 'Welcome.' All are welcome. Welcome means a loving touch, education, encouragement. Your center has a mission and a purpose in North Long Beach. You are going to make a difference that enhances anyone in this community. You will be offering legal advice, health advice and classes in English as a second language.

"This is why we lay hands on this group and their pastor," said Kiemeney. "You understand the word welcome. Through you, God will be welcoming your larger family, and we will pray that His Spirit will empower you in this welcome."

"The journey of 1,000 miles begins with a single step," quoted Dok. "We took this step today. Now we will take another step and another and another."

More than 100 people filled the center, spilling out into the area outside. Two ordained Buddhist monks or venerables came from the neighborhood, expressing appreciation for the invitation. Police Lieutenant Kevin Coy came with a small retinue of his officers to welcome the center and their staff to the neighborhood.



Pastor James Dok welcomes visitors to the ribbon cutting: (l. to r.) Buddhist monks, Larry L. Caviness, Cherise Gardner, Velino Salazar, Mitch Williams, and Gerard Kiemeney; Police Lieut. Kevin Coy and officers.



Velino Salazar, then SCC executive secretary and currently SCC president, offered the prayer of dedication as other conference leaders laid hands on the pastor and members.

Betty Cooney

# Maranata Church Dedicates New Building and Votes New Name

**A**fter buying and transforming a warehouse into a church over a period of six years, members of the Maranata Norwalk church, recently renamed Adonai Seventh-day Adventist Church, celebrated the dedication of their new sanctuary on May 9.

“The church had the building for six years before they could move in,” said Pastor Rogelio Paquini, who has been with the church for less than a year. “They were trying for the last five years to come to the building, but it wasn’t ready. After they sold their previous church, they then had to rent it while work was done on the new building. Finally, we are here! It has been like the Israelites wandering with Moses!”

When the congregation moved in, they immediately began letting the neighborhood know they were there for them. “Our 35 Pathfinders and Master Guides took flyers to the community telling them what we are all about,” Paquini said. Pathfinders distributed free

batteries for smoke alarms, donated by the Fire Department, in the residential area surrounding the church.

Once a month, members host fund-raising for the church, selling pupusas, American breakfast items and other foods from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Area residents have been coming to the event in increasing numbers, the pastor noted.

Pastor Luis Peña, SCC Hispanic Region director, referred to Haggai’s promise from God for the dedication of Solomon’s temple. “Haggai’s dedication prayer was very beautiful,” said Pastor Luis Peña, SCC Hispanic Region director.



*Platform guests knelt for prayer after the ribbon cutting: (l. to r.) Pastors Luis Peña, Larry L. Caviness, Rogelio Paquini and Velino Salazar; head elder, Jorge Beanato, who is also the supervisor of the building project.*



*As part of the church’s continuing witness to the community, Adonai Pathfinders participated in the free Presidential Youth Fitness Program by performing the mile run, shuttle run, push ups and sit ups in the park adjacent to the church.*

“In this temple, this church, the community is showing a desire to be here, because the Lord is here.”

“The first time I saw this building, it was a mess!” said Larry L. Caviness, then SCC president. “I thought, ‘What a vision this is going to be!’ Today it has been turned into a place of worship. Instead of warehouse business, its business is being Jesus’ church. Originally this building was powered by dollars. Now it is powered by the Holy Spirit. May His Spirit reign supreme here, always.

“This is the first time you’ve worshipped

in the church since it was finished, the first official worship service in the church. And it is the first Sabbath we will address your pastor as Dr. Paquini,” he said as members applauded, “since he just finished his doctoral studies.”

“This temple stands as a testimony of God’s love, where people can learn about Him. It’s a place of forgiveness, of rest for children, young adults and for those with little or no hair,” Caviness joked. “The gifts of God’s love and His life are for us. May the witness that shines out of this building bless the community as well as the members.”

Currently, services are bilingual once each month; plans include a weekly bilingual service, says Jorge Beanato, head elder.

*Betty Cooney*



*The Adonai church is located at 13246 Mapledale St., Norwalk, Calif.*



*A former warehouse in a residential neighborhood required extensive renovation to become a house of worship.*

# SCC Elects Velino Salazar President at 64th Constituency Session



(L. to r.) President Velino and Esther Salazar, Vice President James G. Lee Jr. and Marsha Lee; Treasurer Sung Oh and Carol Oh; and Superintendent of Schools Harold Crook and Pam Crook.

At the 64th Constituency Session of the Southern California Conference, five nominees of the administrative team were elected or re-elected to serve for the next quadrennium. Velino A. Salazar was elected president, following the retirement of Larry L. Caviness. Sung Oh, who also is retiring, was returned to office as treasurer while a suitable replacement for the position is found. James G. Lee, Jr. and Harold Crook were re-elected vice president and superintendent of schools, respectively. The position of executive secretary was referred to the new executive committee since Marc Woodson, who had been voted to the office, declined the call.

Delegates also voted the 31 members of the executive committee. The work of the newly-elected Committee began on June 23, when they met to nominate and elect region directors, departmental directors, associates and assistants. (Visit [scc.adventist.org/LatestSCCNews](http://scc.adventist.org/LatestSCCNews) for those results.)

After the invocation by Pastor Courtney Ray, a choir of 134 students from SCC's five senior academies (Glendale Adventist, Los Angeles Adventist, Newbury Park Adventist, San Fernando Valley and San Gabriel) quietly made their way to the platform. Singing "The Lord's Prayer," "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" and "We Shall Behold Him," the mass choir drew hearty amens and applause. Music teachers James Brown, LAAA; and Sumy Lopez, NPAA; were soloists for the final song. Lily Evardome-Hunt conducted.

Caviness' devotional, which focused on the session's theme, "Christ Alone, Our Story, Our Center, Our Hope," pointed to the second coming of Jesus and his personal hope that all would be together in the New Jerusalem.

Michael Roland, a member of the SCC Prayer, Spirituality and Renewal team, led in a season of prayer engaging all delegates. The team prayed at the session from 7 a.m. and continued until the end of the meeting, at close to 3 p.m., undergirding the entire session.

William Taylor, a delegate from the University church, moved to establish a subcommittee to evaluate the effectiveness of the current region structure. Delegates approved and referred the motion to the Executive Committee.

Two delegates spoke to a second motion, introduced by Michael Jenkins, pastor of the Breath of Life church and a member of SCC's Youth and Young Adult Committee. Jenkins moved that, "A committee be formed to study the effectiveness of and to make recommendations concerning restructuring youth and young adult ministries, conference wide." The motion called for meetings of the committee to start in the first week of July and last for a maximum of two months. The motion was approved and referred.

Iki Taimi, pastor of the Gardena Genesis church and current chair of the SCC Senior Youth and Young Adults Committee, also came to the mic. "We all know the numbers of our young adults missing from church. Young adults are leaving because the church doesn't invest in

them. They don't feel engaged by the church. I recommend that the executive committee enact and create a Senior Youth and Young Adult Department with staff, payroll and budget. If we want young adults to stay, and if we want to win any more back, they need to know that this conference is willing to invest in them. This area of the work needs great attention and recognition from the conference at large.

"There needs to be a voice that speaks for senior youth and young adults, a department that is constantly developing ways to understand their rhythm and life, and how to engage this demographic culture. They need to help guide the conference into the dialogue, so that both the conference body as well as the senior youth and young adults are edified. We cannot afford to keep losing this group!"

Harold Crook, Ph.D., superintendent of schools, affirmed SCC's K-12 college preparatory



**Pastor Iki Taimi, Gardena Genesis Community church, spoke to the issue of senior youth and young adult ministry after Pastor Michael Jenkins, Breath of Life church, moved to refer the matter of senior youth ministry to the Executive Committee.**



**Leaders and delegates engaged in small-group prayer times during the meeting.**

education. Results of a tracking program used by the department revealed a possibly unparalleled result, he said. "About 80 percent of our students either have a two-year or four-year degree after graduating from one of our schools."

A quick re-setting of the stage brought chairs for new retirees Larry and Linda Caviness and Sunny and Carol Oh. Tributes and standing ovations greeted both couples. "We want you to know how much we appreciate the combined 200 years of service both couples have given to the church," Salazar said, with a smile. "Fifty years each!" Tributes and gifts came from coordinators of women's, Spanish women's, men's and prayer ministries; Dan Jackson, NAD president; Ernie Castillo, NAD vice president; Ricardo Graham, Pacific Union president. James G. Lee Jr., SCC vice president, presented plaques on behalf of the conference administrative team.

Net losses in both tithes and membership for the 2011-2014 period were shown in the treasurer's and secretary's reports. "The country's financial recession of 2007-2010 is still affecting giving," Oh observed, "and also is seen in the net loss in conference membership."

Salazar noted that membership had been impacted by the slowed immigration boom and the fact that the church is not engaging millennials. "This concerns me, because these people are our family," said Salazar. "Why are they leaving? The immigration boom has slowed, the church is not meeting the needs of second- and third-generation immigrants, and secularization in all segments of society. We need to connect and reconnect with millennials more effectively."



**Carol Oh expressed her gratitude to delegates on behalf of Sung Oh and herself for their gifts and kindness during their many years of service in the conference. On the left is Deidre Hodnett, administrative secretary for Sunny Oh.**

Caviness next briefed delegates on the Newbury Park project, going step-by-step from the start of the project to the present. "Lowe's Home Improvement Company is in escrow, tentatively scheduled to close by October 2015," he said. "On the north campus, two offers are pending — one, a senior housing development (estimated to be a nine-month escrow with possible extensions, closing summer 2016); the second, an open-land offer (details of that offer were still confidential). However," he added, "the remaining unsold parcels will cover the debts when they are sold. The two largest parcels will cover all third-party debts. One of the parcels is in escrow and will close in September or October. The second should be in escrow in August or September."

Paul Sandman, a delegate from Thousand Oaks, moved to create a subcommittee of qualified professionals to review the project and advise the Executive Committee. The motion was voted and referred for implementation.

The SCC 64th Constituency Session ended with several prayers by leaders who had been present throughout the day. New people had been placed in new positions. A number of issues had been dealt with; some were still to be resolved by the new executive committee. But Jameson Matsuda, a 17-year-old delegate, the senior class president at Glendale Adventist Academy, was especially impressed. "I think it's amazing that so many people would come together on a Sunday to further the work of the church because they believe so strongly in the message that Adventists want to share with the world," he said.

Betty Cooney

# PUC Children's Church Engages Kids' Sense of Wonder

**W**onder. Delight. Excitement. Children often experience these emotions — but not often during church. However, when kids attend children's church at the Pacific Union College church, they discover a worship service that engages their attention by appealing to their five senses. "Children will remember what they are immersed in," said PUC church Assistant Pastor Wendy Witas, who leads the event. "We do whatever we can to create that 'wow' factor."

As many as 400 kids and parents attend each children's church — held six to eight times per year. Church begins with a worship service, followed by time to explore a variety of stations featuring interesting displays, hands-on activities, fun art projects, creative snacks, and abundant decorations all centered on a theme. Some recent themes include Egypt, the ocean and outer space — each based on a story or a text from the Bible. "I like children's church because it's kind of like a little Vacation

Bible School," said first grader Lachlan Snook. "I like all the activities they have."

Witas and her team work hard to find appealing activities for all stages of childhood. "My family really appreciates the effort that is put into children's

church in order to engage various age groups," said church member Karen Miller-Han. "My crafty 8-year-old daughter loves the arts and crafts at the different booths, and my 12-year-old son enjoys the exhibits."

Kids' participation is a strong priority. Children host the worship service, as well as presenting Scriptures, prayers, special music selections, skits, puppet shows and more. They also help set up activities, work at the stations and clean up afterward. "Our kids are taking part and leading out, and it's wonderful to see," said church member Shelley Peterson. "I commend Pastor Wendy for making it a priority to have them involved and learning church participation and leadership at such a young age."

Children's church draws on the many resources available at the college and in the surrounding community. Up to 100 volunteers — including college students to people in their 90s — take part in preparing and presenting the events. College departments and individuals loan their equipment and collections for display, such as telescopes, sea creatures, musical instruments and Egyptian art.

Church families are not the only ones attending the events. Witas often observes new families walking through the stations. "It's neat to see people I'd never seen before," she said. "It's reaching to the community beyond our church members. It's a safe place to come — a time of learning."

Throughout all the fun, children's church focuses on Jesus. "What impressed me the most was Pastor Wendy's comment that she wants the kids to know that they are special and to remember how much God loves them, and that by providing hands-on learning experiences, the children are making memories that will last," said church member Kathy Jefferson.

For more information about upcoming children's ministries events at the PUC church, go to [www.pucchurch.org](http://www.pucchurch.org).

*Julie Lorenz*



*Joshua Stinfil plays his violin for children's church.*



*Nina Gregorutti makes friends with Hump-Free the camel, supervised by Lyon Ranch founder Robert Lyon.*



*Makayla Chaffee pictures herself as an astronaut.*



*Lachlan Snook takes the helm of the "Apostle Paul's ship" before the shipwreck.*



# Manteca Church Launches “Little Free Library” Early Literacy Project

Little Free Libraries are showing up all over — including the Manteca church lawn. The house-like structure, mounted on a pole, displays a variety of books through a window on its door. The books change frequently, as people add and remove what they want. That’s the whole point of the Little Free Library: it’s a gathering place for neighbors to share books and get acquainted.

The church’s Little Free Library — the second one in Manteca — is the result of a mini-grant from First 5 San Joaquin Faith-Based Community Initiative. Church member Virgie Patterson-Newman facilitated the project process, which has opened doors for church members to interact with a variety of people in the community. “People have really connected to the project, and already there are so many positive things happening as a result,” said Patterson-Newman.

As one of the grant requirements, Patterson-Newman developed a Literacy Team to implement the LFL project and to provide ongoing stewardship of the church’s LFL. She invited church members and people from the community, including retired librarian Ruthanne Bassett. “It was a joy to work on the Little Free Library project with Virgie and the team at the Manteca church,” said Bassett. “Now, whenever I drive

by the church, I am thrilled to see our LFL filled with books for anyone who wants to read!”

Stockton’s Little Free Library Association supplied the unfinished structure; church member John Grimson primed it and set it up; and Manteca Adventist School students painted the colorful decorations, designed by church member Noah Porter. Each LFL comes with a 100-book starter kit to begin the give/take process. (Guidelines allow religious storybooks to be included in the libraries, but not religious tracts. The Manteca church can remove books that they believe are inappropriate for their LFL.)

On May 3, more than 70 people gathered on the lawn for the LFL kickoff. The day before, church members walked around the neighborhood to invite nearby residents, and several area families came to the event. So did Jeanne Pollard, who has Manteca’s first LFL in her front yard. Audrey Weir-Graham, social studies department chair at Stagg High School, gave a presentation about literacy, and Patterson-Newman formally cut the ribbon on the LFL. The MAS Tone Chime Choir performed, and attendees enjoyed crafts, other fun activities and refreshments. Each child chose a book to take home.

Among the day’s special guests were Stockton Councilman Moses Zapien, Kandi Howe of



“One of my goals for this church is to find ways to serve that will say we care about our community, so this is a positive step for us,” said Manteca church Pastor Bruce Blum (center) with the Literacy Team: John Grimson, Virgie Patterson-Newman, Ruthanne Bassett, Ann Porter, Jessica Preston (not pictured, Noah Porter).



On May 3, Audrey Weir-Graham speaks at the Manteca church’s Little Free Library kickoff event.

the Stockton Little Free Library Association, and Ricardo Graham, Pacific Union president. Joanna Gonsalves, from First 5 San Joaquin, also attended. “Our partnership with the Manteca Seventh-day Adventist Church over the years has helped to bring school readiness messages to the Manteca community,” she said. “The new Little Free Library will also build very nicely on their previous efforts to promote school success.”

The church has agreed to run its LFL for at least a year, but Patterson-Newman can see a long future for the community partnerships that have been established. “It’s so important for the church to engage with the community and get acquainted with their neighbors,” she said. “Many good things can happen when we bring our collective resources, talents, and skill sets together.”

Check out the LFL website: [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org).



Manteca Adventist School students Kezia Delos Santos and Joanna Springer paint the Little Free Library.



During the kickoff, Virgie Patterson-Newman cuts the ribbon to officially open the church’s Little Free Library.

Julie Lorenz

# Pastors Ariza and Osborn Ordained

This spring, two pastors were ordained in the Southeastern California Conference: Pablo Ariza, associate pastor of the Calimesa church, and Trevan Osborn, associate pastor of the Azure Hills church in Grand Terrace. Both specialize in young adult ministry and various outreach efforts and are excited to continue their passion for service with their new credentials.

## Pablo Ariza

On March 14, Pablo Ariza was ordained at the Calimesa church, where he is associate pastor for young adults and community outreach, as well as for facilities management.

While attending college at La Sierra University, he worked for the spiritual life office and was director of First Service, La Sierra University church's Friday night worship service. After graduating, he received his first assignment as assistant pastor at the Loma Linda Spanish church, where he met his wife, Erica, a foster care and adoption social worker. He left to begin his seminary studies in Berrien Springs, Mich., in 2009. While there, he worked for Andrews University Campus Ministries as student



Alex Soto, pastor of Loma Linda Spanish church, offers the ordination prayer for Pablo Ariza.

chaplain for outreach. He accepted the position at the Calimesa church in 2012 and is "grateful to God for providing an incredible journey."

"I believe that Jesus has a role to play in everyone's life," said Ariza. "That's why I believe my role as a pastor and our role as Christians is to affirm whatever God is doing in someone's life — no matter what it is."

He recalled, "Growing up, I remember the mission statement of my home church was 'to transform the unchurched into mature disciples of Jesus Christ.' Being welcoming to people who aren't Adventist or even Christian is some-

thing I try to be very intentional about. It's not just Adventists sitting in our pews and listening to our words."

Ariza was thankful to have pastors from his formative years at the Mountain View church in Las Vegas, Nev., participate in his ordination service. Alex Soto, now pastor of the Loma Linda Spanish church, offered his ordination prayer and Dave Gemmel, associate director of the North American Division Ministerial



Pablo Ariza, young adult and community outreach pastor, shares his passion for ministry with church members.

Association, offered the benediction via video.

"After working with Pablo for three years, I see how passionate he is about serving people," shared Jon Ciccarelli, senior pastor of the Calimesa church. "He has a great sense of humor, he's very down to earth, and he can engage people in worship and in service. We're happy to have him here at Calimesa."



Jon Ciccarelli, senior pastor of Calimesa church, shares a few words about Pablo Ariza.

PHOTOS BY ENNO MÜLLER



Pablo and Erica Ariza stand together during the ordination service at the Calimesa church.



*Norma Osborn, former associate pastor at Sligo and Pacific Union College churches and mother to Trevan Osborn, offers the ordination prayer for her son.*



*Trevan Osborn, young adult pastor at Azure Hills church, shares a few of his ministry experiences with friends and church members.*



*Mario Perez, assistant to the president, encourages Trevan and Shari Osborn in their call for ministry.*

## Trevan Osborn

On April 11, Trevan Osborn was ordained at the Azure Hills church, where he serves as young adult pastor. Osborn has held this position for more than three years, coordinating the Connect young adult group and Connect's primary outreach ministry, which collaborates with Helping Hands Food Pantry in San Bernardino.

Before accepting the position at Azure Hills, Osborn also pastored for five years at the Far West End and Patterson Avenue churches in Virginia after graduating from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. He attributes the beginning of his ministry path to his senior year in high school at Takoma Academy, in Takoma Park, Md. That year they offered a special Bible class where students directed worships and Weeks of Prayer at area Adventist elementary schools.

Osborn was grateful that some of his mentors were able to participate in his ordination

service. Sandra

Roberts, conference president, presided over the service, and his mother, Norma Osborn, former associate pastor at Sligo church and Pacific Union College church, offered the ordination prayer. Kendra Haloviak Valentine, who taught Bible class to Osborn and his wife, Shari Pottinger Osborn, when they attended Washington Adventist University, presented the homily.

"As I became more involved with preaching and coordinating worships, I realized how much I loved doing it, so I decided to become a pastor. And I'm proud to say that I was following in my mother's footsteps, as she was an associate pastor at Sligo church at that time."

Osborn considers his ministry priorities to include helping people take the next step in their relationships with God. Osborn believes that no matter where a person is in their walk with God, there should always be growth and a desire to learn more.

Osborn also emphasizes how much he loves the energy and authenticity that comes with working with young adults. "I don't pretend to have all the answers, but I enjoy being there for encouragement, to ask questions, and get people thinking for themselves, drawing their own conclusions," he said. And rather than spending most of his pastoral time at a pulpit, Osborn often uses his gift of empowering others to share their stories and lead within their own circles of influence.

"While Osborn's title is young adult pastor, he's been much more than that," said John Brunt, senior pastor of the Azure Hills church. "He's contributed to the whole church, showing his real heart for ministry. He's a wonderful colleague and a real team player. The whole staff appreciates him."

*Amy Prindle*

# Girls' Retreat Draws 215 to Soquel

**M**ore than 215 teen girls from across the Central California Conference gathered April 17-19 at Soquel Conference Center in Soquel, Calif., for a weekend of prayer, learning and fun at Girls' Retreat 2015.

At registration, everyone had their picture taken and hung on a string, symbolizing their importance at the retreat. Guest speaker Ruth Rivera, a theology graduate from Southern Adventist University, introduced this year's theme: "I Am \_\_\_\_." She told the story of the world's loneliest whale, tying it in with the fact that Jesus always hears and understands our song even when other's don't.

Sabbath morning, the girls attended break-out sessions on topics such as toxic relationships, human/sex trafficking, anxiety, inner beauty and maintaining a personal relationship with God.

For the church service, Rivera shared a message on accepting God's invitation to follow Him entitled "I Am Chosen." That afternoon, four

stations paved the way for their journey to the top of the hill. Girls learned what it's like to carry real life burdens, such as inadequacy, guilt, shame and loneliness, discovered their spiritual gifts, learned the importance of priorities, and learned that Jesus is the only one who can completely blot out sins.

During Saturday night's meeting, Rivera shared her testimony, "I Am His." Many girls also shared their testimonies of God's saving power in their lives through cardboard signs on stage.

"It was a powerful and moving experience," reflects Elizabeth Pombo, Youth Evangelism

JOYCE MULLIGAN



*Two sides of cardboard, one expressed who they were before Jesus, the other represented who they are now. One teen is surrounded by friends after an emotional testimony of the changes in her life.*

Team audio-visual coordinator, "to see how these girls have changed or how they are now working on changing their view of themselves, now that they are focusing more on Jesus."

*Kalissa Jardine and Elizabeth Pombo*

## God's Girls Getaway

**G**od's Girls Getaway, Central's annual retreat for girls ages 8-12, continues to offer girls and their moms, grandmothers or significant mentors a chance to connect in a retreat-like environment. Those who attended

learned about their relationship with each other and with God, and about the value that Jesus places on them. This year's God's Girls Getaway, fondly dubbed "G3," took place May 1-3 at the Discover Life church in Sonora, Calif.

Eighty attendees were mentored by 10 staff members, who actively supported the girls and their moms throughout the retreat. The girls broke into small group "hives," where they did Bible studies on topics such as Bee-ing Friends, You are Bee-autiful, Let's Bee Friends and Let the Fun Bee-gin and focused on Jesus' invitation to be friends. Meanwhile,

moms enjoyed the same studies and discussion with Rosa Gillham, Central California Conference children's ministry director.

Additionally, attendees participated in Modesty Moments, music, activities, crafts, a mom/daughter game show and Sabbath afternoon activities including random acts of kindness. "Jesus loves you no matter what," concluded one participant.

"Jesus made us perfect and special," said another. Others emphasized that believers can pray about anything, that God thinks they are valuable, and that Jesus is their best friend.

"It doesn't matter what people say. Jesus still loves us!" concluded another.

"It is so important for girls at this age to strengthen their relationship with Jesus," explained Leah Page, G3 retreat organizer. "Relationships now provide a solid foundation for them in their teen years."

*Sherry Pratt*



KALISSA JARDINE

*Girls stop for the Bible Challenge during the Sabbath afternoon activities.*

# FeJA Teens are Forever Faithful



JUAN HERRERA

The retreat has passed, but the message and challenge of that weekend lingers on. Teens learned to face the world by making their own decisions, knowing that they have a faithful God on their side, giving them hope to face every day.

*Alejandra Zepeda*

## Crossfit Inspires Teen Guys

From April 17-19 at Monterey Bay Academy, 55 guys ages 13-17 gathered from across the state for the Central California Conference Guys Retreat 2015 featuring guest speaker Larry Graack, enrollment director at Pacific Union College. Using this year's theme, "Crossfit," Graack shared that believers can be fit to carry their cross because of Jesus' sacrifice and His promises.

"It's powerful to see over 50 guys that are supposed to be 'too cool' to worship, singing with such sincerity," says Andrew Uyeyama, conference senior youth director.

The weekend included many physical fitness challenges, as well as a trip to the Ano Nuevo State Park where they viewed the giant elephant seals near the beach. After park guides explained the elephant seals' evolution, the teens shared with other park-goers their own beliefs about how God created the animals.

During each of the four meetings, Uyeyama, along with Matt Morgan, one of the retreat organizers, and Tom Gearing, youth pastor of Fresno Sunnyside, delivered what they called "man talk." Topics included how to respectfully talk to a girl in a way that lifts her up, and even a lesson in giving a proper handshake. These and other topics gave teens practical lessons on how to be a man of God in everyday life, and how being a man of God permeates even the small things.

"I was really impressed with how the guys got along so well. They all seemed to be there for the right reasons, said one parent-chaperone. By the end of the weekend, many of the guys had committed, or recommitted, their lives to Jesus and were inspired to be godly men.

*Travis O'Reilly*



ANDREW UYEVAMA

*Fitness challenges included a push-up contest.*

*One group prepares a modern-day skit from the Book of Daniel.*

Every year for the past 22 years, the leaders of FeJA (Federacion de Jovenes Adventistas, or Federation of Adventist Youth) plan, promote, pray and organize a special retreat for teenagers ages 13-17. One hundred seventy-five gathered from around Central California Conference on May 1-3 at the Soquel Conference Center in Soquel, Calif., for the annual FeJA Teens Retreat.

This year's theme for all the events held throughout the year by FeJA is "Forever Faithful." As a part of the FeJA retreat, the teens were guided through different aspects that define being faithful to God in the midst of modern culture, and were engaged in various activities which allowed them to practice being faithful.

Upon registration, teens were placed into groups with chaperons. Attendees had a few moments to make new friends. The weekend was filled with ice-breaker games, worship music, a musical concert by Yaissel Abreu from Bakersfield, improvised dramas retelling the chapters in the Book of Daniel, practical workshops, biblical scavenger hunts and social activities based on the retreat's theme. David Lopez, author and a pastor in the Texico Conference, shared the keynote messages at the retreat. The sermons challenged teens to be part of a faithful generation and emphasized the reality of what it means to be faithful to God, family and those around us.

It was Benny Martinez's first time attending a spiritual retreat. An eighth-grader at Richland Jr. High, Martinez was glad to be there because he made new friends. "[It was] a different and good experience," said Martinez.

First-time attendee, Carlos Santos noticed the impact this retreat had on him. "I knew God was speaking to me about the things I have to be faithful on," Santos reflected.

# Record Numbers Attend Hispanic Women's Retreat

Camp Yavapines, near Prescott, Ariz., hosted 362 women April 24-26 for the 26th annual Hispanic women's retreat for the Arizona Conference.

The event was organized by SEMAA (Sociedad de Esposas de Ministros Adventistas de Arizona) and led by Mayra Escalante, women's retreat director. "The entire weekend was such a blessing," said Escalante. "We were encouraged and challenged by the messages given by international evangelist Dr. Liz Polanco. And we made history — this is the largest attendance ever."

The theme was "Timber of the Divine Carpenter," "Maderas del Carpintero Divino." Polanco shared her study regarding the types of wood from different trees mentioned in the Bible. She explained how the carpenter evaluates the quality of the wood, which plays a role in defining the product it will become.

Softwoods, hardwoods, light shades, darker shades, smooth or rough, the carpenter takes them into his hands and decides what and how he will turn that piece of wood into art. In the same way, Jesus, the Divine Carpenter, takes us in His hands and transforms us according to His will into a piece of art that will serve and glorify Him.

Betty Valenzuela was excited about the number of visitors who attended the event. "What a great opportunity to meet, get to know and share ministry with approximately 50 visitors from other faiths. We found women share the same triumphs, challenges and struggles — no matter what their faith or background."

This was the first time simultaneous programs were conducted for teenage girls. Eva Gonzalez and Valeria Estrada organized these meetings. Their speaker, Aida Brignoni, delivered words of practical encouragement. Vanessa Quintana provided free counseling and answered many questions about life.

Escalante concludes, "We are thankful for all the support we received from the people who helped to make this event a success — especially the pastors and the women's ministry directors throughout the Arizona Conference."

*Phil Draper*

PHOTOS BY MARIA MARTA GIMENEZ



**Aida Brignoni, speaker for the teen meetings; Dr. Liz Polanco, main speaker; and Maria Denny, women's ministry director, stop for a photo.**



**More than 360 women attended the Hispanic women's retreat at Camp Yavapines April 24-26.**



**Mayra Escalante, Betty Valenzuela, Aida Brignoni, Graciela Hernandez, and Vanessa Quintana share a photo moment with Dr. Liz Polanco.**



**Chandler Spanish church ladies gather for a group photo. Top: Karine Silvestre, Delia Sanchez, Mirna Orozco, Rosa Meza, Oralia Flores, Luz Maria Loera; Bottom: Nelly Arguelles, Ernestina Mendivil, Guadalupe Meza, Sandra Castaneda.**

# Hall Speaks for Week of Prayer at Monument Valley

Pastor David Solomon Hall Sr., youth director for the Nevada-Utah Conference, visited Monument Valley during the week of April 28 to present morning worships at the Monument Valley SDA Mission School and evening worships at Monument Valley church for the school's week of prayer.

"We say thank you to Pastor David Solomon Hall for coming to our school and presenting," says Cara Luna, head teacher. "The students enjoyed the stories and the experiences he had had when growing up. The students loved the mission impossible theme music. We loved the messages!"

Monument Valley is a region of the Colorado Plateau. The area is known to the locals as Tse' Bii' Ndzisgaa, which means "valley of the rocks." It is characterized by a picturesque cluster of vast sandstone buttes. Monument Valley is located on the Arizona-Utah state line near the

Four Corners area of Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico. The valley lies within the 27,425 square-mile Navajo Nation and has a population about 2,026 residents. This location has been the setting for more Western movies than any other site in the United States.

The school, a part of the worldwide educational system of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, was established between 1952 and 1953 to continue the Christian education of children of the Monument Valley church. It is also open to members of the community who desire a quality Christian education for their children. MVMS is a two-classroom school that enrolled 29 students during the 2014-15 school year. This is a 10 percent jump in enrollment from the previous years.

"My babies attend this school," says Bernadine Greyeyes, a parent. "Teachers are great, food is delicious, and students are awesome.



*Shymone Moses and her Kindergarten thru second grade class.*

What is most important and great about this school is students learn about their Savior Jesus Christ through morning worship, singing, Bible class, community outreach, health and fellowship with one another."

*Shymone Moses*

# Lake Tahoe Camp Meeting Set for August

Lake Tahoe camp meeting is scheduled for Aug. 3-8 at the Tahoe Valley RV Resort in South Lake Tahoe, Calif. Lake Tahoe camp meeting is a lay-run, Nevada-Utah Conference supported gathering designed for those longing for an old-fashioned camp meeting feel.

Exceptional speakers are on tap to meet the needs of a very diverse group. Ingo Sorke, professor of religion at Southwestern Adventist University, will be the evening keynote speaker.

Pastor Brian and Lydia Bilbrey, presenting "Prayer 101" during the early morning meetings, will guide attendees through revitalizing a personal prayer life. Bilbrey, a former pastor of the Heavenly Valley and Truckee churches, is no stranger to Lake Tahoe.

Afternoons will be filled with a variety of seminars, including "Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation" with Pastor Ralph and Darly

Robertson. Robertson is a retired pastor, a former ministerial director and evangelism coordinator as well as a former Tahoe camp meeting superintendent.

Pastor Jean Ross, vice president of evangelism for Amazing Facts, co-host of the popular radio program "Bible Answers Live," and the administrative pastor of a fast-growing church plant in the Sacramento area, will present "Jesus in Revelation."

Pastor Larry Carter, director of the Pacific Union literature ministries program, is actively involved with the Youth Rush and the SOULS West programs. He will tell encouraging stories about the young people involved in these ministries.

Larry Siemans will offer his popular nature hikes to areas around the Tahoe basin. He has also



*Christian Edition Men's Chorus will perform a Sabbath afternoon concert.*

planned one late evening of star watching in the meadow behind the campground. Siemans is the chair of the science department and a chemistry professor at Simpson University in Redding, Calif.

Christian Edition Men's Chorus will present a Sabbath afternoon concert.

For more information, contact Virginia Rose at [tahoe camping meeting@gmail.org](mailto:tahoe camping meeting@gmail.org). For campsite reservations, call Tahoe Valley RV Resort 530-541-2222; be sure to ask for the Lake Tahoe Camp Meeting rate.

*Jane Poynter*

# Maranatha Facelifts Facility in Midst of Storm

Throughout their history, various mission teams have supported Kohala church and Kohala Adventist School. These efforts have not only bettered their facilities but also edified their faith.

On Nov. 24, 1935, the Kohala church was organized with 12 charter members. In 1952, under the leadership of Pastor George Kiybau, the church secured a permanent property. Thirty years later, under the leadership of Pastor Wendell Nelson, the present facility was constructed. A starter gift of \$10,000 obtained from the Sundean Foundation inspired the congregation to move on in faith. The ASI-Mission Church Builders along with the local members raised \$210,000 to complete the building. The grand opening of the church took place on Sept. 1, 1984.

Five years later, ASI-Mission Church Builders came with 26 volunteers from the mainland.



Maranatha volunteers stand in front of the newly installed roof.

During their three-week stay, they added two classrooms and the breezeway to the school.

In recent years, the facility's roof has been an ongoing challenge. The island sun, trade winds and sea salt mist had taken their toll. Down pours called for pails in the classrooms to catch the many leaks. The church began fundraising for the replacement of the roof and submitted an application to Maranatha Volunteers International to provide the manpower for the renovations.

On Dec. 26, 2014, local members and friends started to remove the old shingles in preparation for the group of 24 Maranatha volunteers who would arrive on Dec. 28. Combining with local volunteers, the team was a great mix of young and old, skilled and unskilled,

professional and amateur, male and female. There were doctors, surgeons, dentists, and even some roofers!

The sanctuary, cafeteria and school classrooms received brand new steel roofing. New siding was installed on weathered walls. Two classrooms received a fresh coat of paint and new windows. All of this work was accomplished within two weeks. In the midst of the renovations, the new roof was put to a test. A strong tropical storm hit the Hawaiian Islands. The winds toppled many trees and cut power to the neighborhood for a couple days. Even with all the surrounding chaos, the storm damaged nothing on campus.

Saturday evening, members presented a Polynesian cultural program to show their appreciation to the volunteers. Sunday, many of the volunteers went whale watching. When they returned to the church, a Samoan feast in their honor awaited.

"The KOA 'ohana is extremely thankful for the hard work of the Maranatha team who replaced the church and school roof tops," said Miki Akeo-Nelson, superintendent of schools. "Their efforts prevailed in the midst of a literal storm, and it serves as a reminder that our Lord protects all those who love Him."

Dale Trefz



Volunteers remove the old roof in preparation for the new.



Kohala Adventist School receives a new look for a new year.



# Loma Linda University School of Public Health Appoints New Dean

**H**elen Hopp Marshak, Ph.D., is the new dean for the Loma Linda University School of Public Health. For more than two decades, Hopp Marshak has served in the school as a faculty member, and for the past four years as associate dean of academic affairs.

"I am delighted Helen Hopp Marshak has accepted this position to lead our School of Public Health," notes Richard Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H., president of Loma Linda University Health. "Her rich background at our school, from the classroom to administration, has prepared her well for this role."

Hopp Marshak grew up just 20 miles from Loma Linda but began her academic career by moving north. After receiving a bachelor's degree in psychology from Pacific Union College, she attended the University of Washington in Seattle, earning an M.S. and a Ph.D. in social psychology. She married Arthur Marshak in 1997 and became Dr. Helen Hopp Marshak. Her husband is program director for the M.S. in health professions education program in the School of Allied Health Professions.

From her first day on the job, Hopp Marshak has had a vision for the school. "We have a lot of opportunities to engage in evidence-based practice to improve the health and well-being of at-risk populations locally and around the world," she says.

In January 2014, the School of Public Health changed its departmental structure into three interdisciplinary centers designed to foster collaboration. "Working together, across traditional disciplines, reflects the changes happening in the field of public health," says Hopp Marshak. "We will now be better poised to prepare our students to work in a collaborative environment, solving real-world problems."

Hopp Marshak also addressed the growing need for online education. "We must grow our digital presence, including enhancing our online education programs, which will transform the



*Helen Hopp Marshak, Ph.D., serves as dean, Loma Linda University School of Public Health.*

public health workforce by 'training individuals in place' where they work and live."

Her mother, Joyce Hopp, Ph.D., M.P.H., has worked as a faculty member in the School of Public Health since 1968 as well as serving as School of Allied Health Professions dean from 1968 to 2002; she is now an emeritus professor in the School of Public Health.

"Because my mother was the dean in the School of Allied Health Professions for so long, I saw the types of challenges she had to face and often realized how nice it was to be a faculty member," says Hopp Marshak. "I still feel that [being a faculty member] is the most honorable role in academics." In 2002, she received the

P. William Dysinger Excellence in Teaching Award for her work as a professor.

"Helen understands research and academics, and I believe she will lead our school through the challenging times ahead," says Hart. "With the burgeoning interest in population health, this can be our finest hour for the skills our faculty have and the strategies we have long espoused."

Hopp Marshak succeeds interim dean Ronald Carter, Ph.D., Loma Linda University provost, who served from Jan. 1 to April 16, 2015.

*Marcus Chapman*

# La Sierra Homecoming Honors Ten Alumni

## *Business school alum donates \$50K for new charity*

International investment banking specialist Fred Masato Uruma addressed the La Sierra University alumni banquet audience in April with humor and the surety of a seasoned speaker, graciously accepting the Honored Alum award presented to him. Then he turned the tables.

Uruma surprised the audience by announcing his \$50,000 seed donation to establish a foundation named in honor of John Thomas, the university's Tom and Vi Zapara Business School dean. Called the Johnny Dream for Kids Foundation, the charity will aim to help underprivileged youth in Japan through a nonprofit Uruma operates. The concept involves connecting Japanese youth with English-as-a-Second Language summer classes at La Sierra with a goal of future enrollment at the university.

"Hopefully we can invite other people from other regions in the world to bring those children and motivate them to study at La Sierra University in the business school," Uruma said.

Uruma is a 1984 graduate of the Zapara School of Business and this year's Honored Alum. He joined three other Honored Alumni recognized by the College of Arts and Sciences, H.M.S. Richards Divinity School and the School of Education during a homecoming banquet and vespers. Alumni gathered from around the country to attend the annual alumni weekend.

Uruma's father worked for the Seventh-day Adventist Church and studied business at La Sierra after the family moved to the United States in 1968, Uruma said. Uruma and his sister attended La Sierra Academy and Uruma later graduated with honors from LSU's business program. His son, Michael, is now enrolled in the business school.

Uruma is president and chief executive officer of Touchstone Capital Group, where he provides investment banking, advisory and asset management services. He founded Touchstone Investment Management in 2002 to provide

cross-border investment management services in Japan to global institutional investors.

Alumni of the Year Donald and Donnie Rigby served with distinction on the Walla Walla University faculty for more than 30 years until they retired in 1992. During their banquet remarks, Donald Rigby said, "A teacher's real legacy is his students." Donnie's commitment to her students is exemplified by her belief that "If we are going to be successful, we have to be willing to give of ourselves." Both believe that throughout their careers, it was their many students who enriched their lives.

The university's college and schools also respectively gave Honored Alumni awards to Kevin D. Leiske, Gerry Chudleigh and Cartha L. Tennille.

Leiske, a veterinarian, is responsible for the medical care of more than 100 species of mammals, birds and reptiles housed at the Living Desert Zoo & Gardens in Palm Desert. He is also committed to helping preserve endangered species through participation in national and international research projects. Leiske graduated from La Sierra in 1990 with a biology degree and earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Mississippi State University in 1995. While at La Sierra, he also majored in accounting.

Leiske found a "family" in the business school accounting department and a strong academic experience in the biology department, he said during his award acceptance speech. "I was truly blessed by all of that. It helped prepare me for the career that I was aiming to achieve," he said.

Chudleigh, a 1965 La Sierra graduate, pastor and author, has a broad background in denominational youth ministerial positions, marketing and development. He currently serves as communication director for the Pacific Union.

Chudleigh was unable to attend the banquet but sent a response through his friend and La Sierra Board of Trustees member Ted Benson, who serves as treasurer of the Pacific Union. Chudleigh, in his statement, recalled how

religion professor Fritz Guy talked the reluctant teen into enrolling as a freshman religion major by stating, "The first year is mainly general courses anyway so [you] might as well sign up as a theology major and switch to something else. Tonight I want to thank Dr. Guy and the entire religion faculty and other staff for equipping me for everything I've done in my life, from pastoring, to youth ministry to writing," wrote Chudleigh. "Thank you for teaching and modeling that God is about truth, that God is truth, and that truth, no matter how uncomfortable it makes us, is the ultimate reason for the existence of the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

Tennille holds Ed.S. and Ed.D. degrees from La Sierra in administration and leadership, and in curriculum and instruction. She is currently a visiting adjunct professor for the School of Education and where she teaches and plays an important role in documentation, reporting and assessment activities.

In her acceptance talk, Tennille cited several School of Education faculty who positively impacted her career as well as the support of her family. "The person who had the most influence on me was Linda Caviness. She was my teacher first — I was terrified of her — and then she became my boss as chair of curriculum and instruction and has become one of my best friends."

The College of Arts and Sciences, the H.M.S. Richards Divinity School, the School of Education and Zapara School of Business Rising Star awards respectively went to alums Carlos O. Calderón-Tena, G. Vaughn Nelson, Ching-Mien "Crystal" Chuang and Daniel A. Chinchay.

Calderón-Tena, a La Sierra 2004 psychology graduate with master's and doctoral degrees from Arizona State University, is currently a tenure-track assistant professor of psychology at California State University, Fresno. He conducted undergraduate research under the



*La Sierra University Honored Alums and Rising Stars were recognized during the 2015 Homecoming banquet and vespers April 17. Left to right, Fred Masato Uruma, Cartha L. Tennille, Kevin D. Leiske, Alumni of the Year recipients Donald Rigby and Donnie Thompson Rigby, Carlos O. Calderon-Tena, G. Vaughn Nelson, and Daniel A. Chinchay.*

mentorship of La Sierra psychology professor Paul Mallery.

"Coming to La Sierra was indeed a transformative experience of self discovery and service to others," Calderón-Tena said. "The most important thing I learned is that the most meaningful thing we can do is serve others."

After earning his Bachelor of Arts in religious studies in 2004, Nelson served as coordinator for the La Sierra University Church's Twentysomethings Ministry and in pastoral positions at the Norco church and the Bonita Valley Adventist Church/Grace Church Plant in National City. In 2012, he returned to the La Sierra University church as pastor for discipleship and nurture.

"If we're to try to distill down the nearly 3,000 hours I spent sitting in classrooms here at La Sierra into one valuable thing, I think that it would be something akin to the old saying about teaching a person to fish instead of merely giving them a fish, except in this case, the life-sustaining, self-perpetuating gift that La Sierra has given me is a glimpse of a God whose love is expansive and extravagant," said Nelson. "Because the limits of this love cannot be reached, it has become a perpetual invitation to learn more, to study in new ways, to explore.

... To the Divinity School faculty and so many people here at La Sierra, I am deeply grateful."

Chuang was in China during homecoming weekend and could not attend. She is currently the director of international programs and affairs at Tainan University of Technology, Taiwan. In addition, she is an assistant professor in the Department of Fashion Design, Music and Art Education at Tainan University of Technology.

Chinchay earned his business degree from the Zapara School of Business in 2009. While at La Sierra, he played a number of key roles on the School's Students In Free Enterprise (now ENACTUS) team. He credits his experiences at La Sierra for engraining within him the school's values of "Create Value, Make a Difference."

After completing a nine-month Merchant Leadership Program, Chinchay joined Walmart's confections department following graduation. He since has been a buyer in Walmart's Breakfast To-Go/Syrups and Mixes division, a \$1.3 billion segment, and since 2013 has been senior buyer for Walmart's Hot Beverages category, where he has direct responsibility for that \$2.9 billion category.

Chinchay has also worked with the Walmart Foundation in creating the "Fighting Hunger

Together" effort, challenging some of Walmart's top vendors to join in the program. He was able to convince Kraft, ConAgra, Kelloggs, General Mills and others to provide additional financial support. His efforts led Walmart to continue the program, which will soon launch its fifth campaign.

"Some of the most valuable time I spent on campus here wasn't in class," commented Chinchay upon accepting his award. "It was with SIFE, now Enactus. The lesson it really taught me was servant leadership. One of the best examples for me is Dr. Johnny Thomas. Johnny is personally invested in his students. Any student that's going to put in the work, Johnny is an advocate." Chinchay recalled venting to Thomas about his nervousness over a first Walmart job interview during the SIFE national competition in Philadelphia in 2009. "He pulls out his Blackberry and writes a recommendation letter for me to Walmart, and that was the catalyst for my career. Thank you, Johnny, for creating value and really making a difference in my life."

To view photos of La Sierra University's homecoming weekend, visit: [www.facebook.com/LaSierraU](http://www.facebook.com/LaSierraU).

*Darla Martin Tucker*

# Pacific Union College Announces 2015 Maxwell Scholars

Pacific Union College has selected the recipients of the 2015 prestigious Maxwell Scholarship. The scholarship rewards incoming freshmen for high academic achievement, a commitment to Christian service, and outstanding leadership experience with \$15,000 in annually renewable funding — \$60,000 each over the course of four years at PUC.

These students comprise the seventh group recognized by PUC's Maxwell Scholar Program, which was established at PUC in 2009 to recognize the late Malcolm and Eileen Maxwell, former president and first lady of PUC. Applicants must meet GPA and test-score requirements, and the ranking of their applications is based on résumés, an essay, and letters of recommendation.

For the 2015-2016 academic year, the Maxwell Scholar Program selected as their finalists Andrew Caster, Sam Delaware, JoAnn Johnson, Laurel Kwon and Morgan Rogers.

## Andrew Caster

Caster, a senior at Loma Linda Academy, is a well-rounded individual whose hard work is evident in all that he does. According to principal Robert Skoretz, Caster “represents that quintessential blend of academic excellence, extracurricular breadth, service and leadership.” Complementing his outstanding academic record, he has served in multiple leadership roles, including campus ministries director and co-leader



*Sam Delaware*

of the school's daily worship team. A gifted musician, Caster is the principal French horn and student conductor for the Loma Linda Wind Symphony. In 2013, he was named to the All-Southern California High School Honor Wind Ensemble. Using his musical talent for service as well, Caster is a volunteer with Loma Linda Broadcasting Network and performs for the Loma Linda University church, Heritage Gardens Health Care Center, and ReGEN High School Ministries. He has served on a mission trip to Costa Rica and sponsors a Congolese orphan. Caster is a member of the National Honor Society.

## Sam Delaware

Delaware from Durham, Maine, divides his time between maintaining excellent grades, volunteering as a math tutor, and serving as Pine Tree Academy's senior class president. Delaware is a member of the National Honor Society, a Phi Beta Kappa Award recipient, and first chair trumpet in his high school band. An avid photographer, “Sam epitomizes the word creative,” says Judy Krzywon, his English teacher. “He is a talented artist, but he uses his artistic ability



*Andrew Caster*



*Jo Ann Johnson*

to spread the word of God through poignant photographs." His interests beyond photography include varsity soccer, mission trips, mathematics and entrepreneurship. He owns his own wedding and portrait photography business.

### Jo Ann Johnson

Johnson, of Highland, Calif., is committed to making her high school, church and community a better place. In addition to her exemplary academic achievements, Johnson is an enthusiastic volunteer who has aided in homeless ministries, directed her local Pathfinders club, and completed a month long mission trip to Panama. Since 2012, she has worked as an organization assistant and intern at the Elder and Disability Law Firm. Johnson honed her leadership skills as editor-in-chief of the Redlands High School newspaper, *Hobachi*. According to her English teacher, Heather Block, Johnson "has been accepted for a lifetime nomination in the prestigious Quill and Scroll International Honor Society for High School Journalists for her contributions." Her other interests include music — she plays violin and piano in multiple ensembles — and running on the cross-country girls team.



Laurel Kwon

### Laurel Kwon

Kwon leads an active student life at Cabrillo High School, where she has been involved in many school clubs, including the National Arts Honor Society, National Honor Society, Art Club, Congs for Christ, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Associated Student Body. She currently serves as editor-in-chief of the high school's yearbook. A Lompoc, Calif., native, Kwon participates in a variety of community service projects including collecting clothes for the homeless, donations to food banks, fund-raising for UNICEF, trash pick ups and singing to patients at the Comprehensive Care Center. As musician, composer and singer, she shares her talents and musical knowledge leading a singing group called Titanium. "One of my favorite qualities in Laurel," shares her music teacher, Joyce Michaels, "is that she enjoys stepping into the spotlight, but she is equally happy to step aside and encourage other people when it's their turn to shine."

### Morgan Rogers

Rogers, of Redlands, Calif., was chosen as a Maxwell Scholar for her Christ-like character, outstanding academic ability and experienced leadership skills. At Redlands Adventist Academy, she ranked at the top her class and has been a National Honor Society member since her sophomore year, while serving in a variety of leadership positions, community outreach projects and mission trips. Rogers excels further as she is involved in many extracurricular areas, such as varsity sports, music ensembles and school publications, proving that it is possible to achieve high marks in classes and perform on



Morgan Rogers

the courts and in concerts. Campus Ministries Director Lemar Sandiford says, "Morgan is a young lady who has continued to shape herself into Christ's image in that she has a heart focused on the service and care for those less fortunate than herself." Rogers is also very involved in the Redlands church as a youth praise team member, children's Sabbath school leader and Vacation Bible School volunteer.

In addition to these finalists, PUC recognized five semi-finalists, who received annually renewable scholarships of \$12,000. The 2015 semi-finalists are Michelle Camba from Mountain View Academy; Jaymie Monteith from Central Valley Adventist Academy; Ariel Park from La Sierra Academy; Jefferson Richards of Mount Vernon Christian School, Wash.; and Kerstan Thio of Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy.

*Emily Mathe and Amanda Navarrete*

# Adventist Health News Notes



Lodi Memorial Hospital in Lodi, Calif.

## Lodi Health to Join Adventist Health Family

In May, the California Attorney General approved Lodi Health's affiliation with Adventist Health, paving the way for completion of the transaction. Lodi will become the 20th hospital in the four-state health system.

Lodi Health is a private, nonprofit, 62-year community-based organization in Lodi, Calif., that includes 190-bed Lodi Memorial Hospital, 15 medical practices, several outpatient services and centers, an adult day care center and a child care center.

"I am humbled and honored that your board has trusted our organization enough to have unanimously chosen to affiliate with Adventist Health," said Adventist Health President and CEO Scott Reiner. "We don't take that trust lightly. We will take good care of your hospital and this community. Adventist Health has a track record

of joining a community and staying. We've been in one community for nearly 150 years and in four others for more than a century. Our entire system is eager to bring our distinctive mission of whole person health and invest in the future of Lodi, a goal both organizations have shared with the community from the start."

## Ukiah Valley Medical Center Introduces Supportive Care Team

Ukiah Valley Medical Center recently renamed its Palliative Care team to Supportive Care team. This team gives loving care to patients with serious illnesses. The team consists of the hospitalists, chaplains, speech therapists, massage therapists, social workers, registered nurses and a medical director. This model has become a benchmark which Adventist Health is wanting to implement in its other hospitals.

The goal is to provide specialized supportive care to patients with advanced illness. They take time to look at the whole person, to do advanced care planning, care for the caregivers, alleviate symptoms and help improve quality of life.

## Adventist Health Hospitals Receive Awards

The Women's Choice Award uses evidence-based quality designation that drives consumer and patient appreciation through education, empowerment and validation and recognize hospitals that deliver a recommendation-worthy customer experience. The following Adventist Health hospitals received this award.

- Castle Medical Center – America's Best Hospitals Obstetrics
- Castle Medical Center – America's Best Hospitals Emergency Care
- Walla Walla General Hospital – America's Best Hospitals Emergency Care

The Leapfrog Group released its seventh round of hospital safety scores. For the first time, viewers can see every grade that a hospital has received since it first started scoring hospital safety in June 2012. The score is based on 28 safety measures. "A Grades" were given to the following hospitals:\*

- Adventist Medical Center – Portland
- Glendale Adventist Medical Center
- Feather River Hospital
- White Memorial Medical Center

\*Critical Access hospitals Howard Memorial Hospital, St. Helena Hospital Clear Lake and Tillamook Regional Medical Center were not included in the scoring.

Sonora Regional Medical Center's Skilled Nursing received a five-star rating from Medicare. SRMC is the only nursing home in the area to receive this rating. The rating is based on health inspections, staffing and quality measures.

The Center for Wound Care at Sonora Regional Medical Center received the Robert A. Warriner III, M.D. Center of Excellence award. The Center earned this award because it has achieved patient satisfaction rates higher than 92 percent and a healing rate of at least 91 percent in less than 30 median days, among other quality standards for the last four years.



Ukiah Valley Medical Center recently renamed its Palliative Care team to Supportive Care team.

Jenni Glass

**CALENDARS**

**Arizona Conference**

**\$100 SUMMER CAMP.** Camp Yavapines continues with Junior II Camp for ages 9-12, July 5-12; Tween Camp for ages 12-14, July 12-19; Teen Camp for ages 14-16, July 19-26; and Senior Camp for ages 50+, July 16-19. Online registration is available at [azsdayouth.com](http://azsdayouth.com) or call 928-237-4568.

**CHINLE/KINLICHEE DISTRICT** Campout (July 24-26) at Fluted Rock. Info: Pastor Dale Wolcott, 928-589-7210.

**HISPANIC CAMP MEETING** (July 27-Aug. 1) Camp Yavapines, Prescott. Pastor Omar Grieve, director, La Voz de la Esperanza and Pastor Carlos Craig, president, Texas Conference. Info: Gabby Corelia, 480-991-6777, ext. 117.

**Central California**

**SOQUEL CAMP MEETING** (July 16-25) Soquel Conference Center, Soquel. Info call: 831-460-9811.

**CHURCH TREASURER** (July 19) Soquel Conference Center. Info call:

559-347-3169. Register at [auditassit@cccsda.org](mailto:auditassit@cccsda.org).

**PATHFINDER PARADE** (July 25) 2 p.m. Soquel Conference Center. Info call: 559-347-3174.

**FORTY DAYS OF PRAYER** (July 25-Sept. 3) Additional direction call: 559-347-3165.

**CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS** Training (Aug. 29-30) Central California Conference office. Info call: Rosa, 559-347-3181 or [rgillham@cccsda.org](mailto:rgillham@cccsda.org).

**Northern California Conference**

**REDWOOD CAMP MEETING** (July 23-Aug. 1) "Christ's Method Alone: Building Relationships." Main speakers, Doug Batchelor and Ron Clouzet in Pepperwood Pavilion; Jonathan Henderson in Adult II. Other speakers, seminars, concerts, Campestre Hispano and more! Don't miss the blessings and inspiration. Info: [nccsda.com/redwood](http://nccsda.com/redwood).

**Pacific Union College**

**ELLEN G. WHITE CENTENNIAL** Legacy Conference (July 16-18) Celebrate

the significance of Ellen White 100 years after her death. Ted Wilson speaks for Sabbath services. Info: [www.puc.edu/egwlegacy](http://www.puc.edu/egwlegacy).

**PUC AT SOQUEL CAMP** Meeting (July 16-25) Stop by PUC's booth, then join PUC's Alumni Relations team for a special luncheon on Sabbath, July 25. Info: [alumni@puc.edu](mailto:alumni@puc.edu) or 707-965-7500.

**PACIFICQUEST** (July 19-24). Motivated students entering grades 6-8 enjoy a week of learning and fun. Info: [www.puc.edu/pacificquest](http://www.puc.edu/pacificquest).

**PUC AT REDWOOD** Camp Meeting (July 23-Aug. 1) Stop by the PUC booth, then join PUC's Alumni Relations team for a luncheon on Sabbath, Aug. 1. Info: [alumni@puc.edu](mailto:alumni@puc.edu) or 707-965-7500.

**KOREAN CAMP MEETING** (July 26-Aug. 1) PUC hosts the annual assembly for Korean Adventist congregations on the west coast on its Napa Valley destination campus. Info: 707-965-7362.

**SUMMER QUARTER CLASSES** PUC offers a full range of courses on campus, with tuition and housing both 50% off. Info: [puc.edu/summer-classes](http://puc.edu/summer-classes) or 800-862-7080.

**FALL QUARTER REGISTRATION** (Ongoing) Incoming and returning students can register for the ideal Fall quarter schedule as they prepare for career or graduate school. Info: 707-965-6336 or [puc.edu/admissions](http://puc.edu/admissions).

**Southeastern California**

**SECC YOUTH DAY** (July 12) Six Flags Magic Mountain. Enjoy a day with various youth groups throughout the conference. For tickets, which include lunch and a full day pass, contact the

youth department, 951-509-2260 or email [syaya@seccsda.org](mailto:syaya@seccsda.org).

**Southern California Conference**

**CONCERT BY STUDENTS** of the Caesura Summer Music Camp. (July 10) 7 p.m. Roosevelt Middle School auditorium, 222 E. Acacia Ave., Glendale 91205. Sponsored by the Caesura Youth Orchestra, Glendale City church. Info: 818-244-7241, [myco.org](mailto:myco.org).

**SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT** (July 11) 4 p.m. Featuring organist Thomas Mellon. Concert will include music by Max Reger, Jean Guillan and Mellon's own compositions. A reception follows. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241.

**FIFTH ANNUAL CLASSIC** Car Show (July 19) Free admission. Prizes, food, live entertainment, raffles and lots of fun. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Altadena Adventist church, 2609 N. Lincoln Ave. Presented by Altadena Church Men's Ministry & Community Outreach. Info: Billy Keets, 818-512-2160.

**LOS ANGELES ADVENTIST** Forum (July 25) 3 p.m. Presenters: Editor of SPECTRUM magazine, Board Members and Staff. Topic: "What Now? Adventism after San Antonio." Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241.

**"PRESERVING YOUR ASSETS: When Medi-Cal Comes Knocking"** (July 26) 9 a.m. Presenter, Jonathan Cherne, Esq., C.P.A. Free brunch. Walk-ins welcome! Scholl Canyon Estates, 1551 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. Info/Reserved seating: 818-546-8421; [gpark@seccsda.org](mailto:gpark@seccsda.org).



**BIBLE ENRICHMENT TOUR OF ISRAEL 2015**

OPTION 1

OPTION 2

**November 15 – 23, 2015**

\$3,295

from New York or Chicago, Los Angeles or Houston

With a post extension to *More of Israel*, November 23 – 25, 2015 for \$395

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With a post extension to *7 Churches Turkey*, November 29 – December 4, 2015 for \$995

Join Pastor Jim Gilley, Danny Shelton, the 3ABN Team, and special guest host, Lyle Albrecht



Danny Shelton



Jim & Camille Gilley



J.D. & Shelley Quinn



C.A. & Irma Murray



Lyle & Peggy Albrecht

For more information, call Jennifer at Maranatha at 602-788-8864 or Jill at 3ABN at 618-627-4651 ext. 3013.

[www.3abntour.com](http://www.3abntour.com)

\*These trips are self-supporting, and no 3ABN contributions are used for this tour.\*



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**CLASSIFIED ADS**

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**DEMAND IS HIGH** for Automotive Service Management with an expected job growth rate of 17 percent between 2010-2020, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Southern Adventist University offers an associate's degree in automotive service as well as a bachelor's in automotive service management. Both programs feature hands-on experience with ASE master mechanics and a focus on incorporating Christ-centered values in the classroom as well as the workplace. Southern students have an 85 percent pass rate on ASE certification exams. Part-time work opportunities and internships are available in the auto shop on campus. Visit [southern.edu/tech](http://southern.edu/tech) for more information.

**THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT** job outlook is strong with an expected growth rate of 16 percent between 2012-2022, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Southern Adventist University offers an associate's degree as well as a bachelor's in construction management. Students learn to unravel the complex components of commercial and residential construction projects and gain management techniques and leadership skills needed to supervise a job site. Southern's program features hands-on experience while incorporating Christ-centered values into both learning and working environments. Visit [southern.edu/tech](http://southern.edu/tech) for more information.

**ENJOY WORRY-FREE RETIREMENT** at Fletcher Park Inn on the Fletcher Academy campus near Hendersonville, N.C. Spacious villa homes and limited rental apartments available NOW. Enjoy a complimentary lunch at our vegetarian buffet on the day of your no-obligation tour. Call Loretta for details, 800-249-2882, [www.fletcherparkinn.com](http://www.fletcherparkinn.com).

**LOOKING FOR AN INVESTMENT,** retirement or second home in Hawaii? Full-service real estate company, including property management. Contact Marc Lonnstrom, Realtor, Home Net Connections. 808-227-8310 or email: [Marc@HomeNetHawaii.com](mailto:Marc@HomeNetHawaii.com). Website: [www.HomeNetHawaii.com](http://www.HomeNetHawaii.com).

**RELOCATING?** Apex Moving & Storage has a National Account Contract with the GC for your moving needs! Take advantage of a volume-rated discount. Be assured you are moving with one of the best! Call Marcy at 800-766-1902. Visit us at [www.apexmoving.com/adventist](http://www.apexmoving.com/adventist).

**SOLAR POWER MAKES** Your Home, school or church a power house. Power your mission project. Save money, be good stewards of the earth, Arizona solar experts here to help you go solar. On/off-grid, purchase; finance or lease in Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah. Verde Solar Power, 928-284-0884. For more information, go to the web: [www.VerdeSolarPower.com](http://www.VerdeSolarPower.com) or email: [sda@verdesolarpower.com](mailto:sda@verdesolarpower.com).

**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 800-634-9355 for more information or visit [www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle](http://www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle).

**Bulletin Board**

**AUTHORS OF COOKBOOKS,** health books, children's chapter and picture books, call 800-367-1844 for your FREE evaluation. We publish all book formats, distribute to over 39,000 bookstores in 220 countries. Find our NEW titles at your local ABC or [www.TEACHServices.com](http://www.TEACHServices.com) — USED SDA books at [www.LNFBooks.com](http://www.LNFBooks.com).

**DONATE YOUR VEHICLE** to Canvasback Missions. Gifting your running vehicle to a 501(c) (3) nonprofit benefits all. We receive assets to run missions in Micronesia, and you get a tax break. We accept real estate and planned giving, too. 707-746-7828. [info@canvasback.org](mailto:info@canvasback.org). [www.canvasback.com/donate](http://www.canvasback.com/donate).

**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. Email, Don & Yvonne McClure, [sdapm@someonecares.org](mailto:sdapm@someonecares.org) or 260-387-7423.

**THREE MANUAL, PIPE ORGAN** console with AGO pedalboard and a synthesizer. FREE to any Seventh-day Adventist church. 951-776-9134 or 951-538-998 cell. Riverside, Calif.

**Employment**

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks a faculty for Public Health/Nutrition/Wellness who will be the Director for the Internship Program of Nutrition and Dietetics. A preferred qualified person should be a registered dietitian with a master's degree. Clinical & teaching experience desired. For more information and to apply, visit [www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job\\_15](http://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_15).

**DEMAND IS HIGH** for managers of skilled nursing facilities and senior care centers. Southern Adventist University's degree in long term care administration is available on campus or online. Enjoy being a licensed professional and a leader in the business of caring. Visit [Southern.edu/business](http://Southern.edu/business), call 800-SOUTH-ERN or email [ltca@southern.edu](mailto:ltca@southern.edu) for information.

**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** Advancement office seeks full-time Vice President. Responsibilities center primarily in development in addition to PR/Marketing & Alumni. Minimum bachelor's degree and 2 years advancement experience required, master's degree preferred. Submit cover letter and CV/résumé to Human Resources at [denise.rivera@swau.edu](mailto:denise.rivera@swau.edu).

**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** has an immediate opening for a full-time nurse educator to serve as

Chair for Nursing Department. Doctoral degree required with three years of university/college teaching experience; must have an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at [arosenthal@swau.edu](mailto:arosenthal@swau.edu).

**UNION COLLEGE SEEKS** committed Seventh-day Adventist experienced in K-12 education and eligible for Nebraska teaching certificate to teach curriculum and instruction courses and supervise student teachers. Doctorate strongly preferred. Email letter of interest and C.V. to Dr. Denise White, Chair of Human Development, [dewhite@ucollege.edu](mailto:dewhite@ucollege.edu). Effective 2015.

**UNION COLLEGE SEEKS** professor specializing in emerging media. Minimum 5 years' experience in public relations or integrated marketing communication essential, as in commitment to staying current with constantly changes in practice. Doctorate preferred; master's required. Email cover letter and CV to Michelle Velazquez Mesnard at [miesnar@ucollege.edu](mailto:miesnar@ucollege.edu).

**WALLA WALLA GENERAL HOSPITAL** is a 72-bed faith-based hospital with over 100 years of service to the community. We currently have available: Medical Technologist, ASCP or equivalent. Current Health Care BLS. Visit our website at [www.wwgh.com](http://www.wwgh.com) to learn more about us or apply online.



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Application deadline is August 1, 2015. To apply, visit [apply.wallawalla.edu](http://apply.wallawalla.edu).



Events

**BUTLER CREEK HEALTH** Education Center. Prevention and recovery from lifestyle disease amidst the beauty of nature. Diabetes Reversal, Permanent Weight Loss, Overcoming Depression. Upcoming Programs (Aug. 2-14) & (Sept. 6-18). Cost: \$1,250. Register online or call, 931-213-1329. www.butlercreekhealth.org.

**WORSHIP WITH US** at Yellowstone National Park every Sabbath from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Services at 10 a.m. in employee recreation hall connection to Old Faithful Lodge.

**YOU ARE INVITED** to the Maranatha Volunteers International Convention in Tualatin, Ore. (Oct. 2-3) Rolling Hills Community church. Celebrate missions with updates from around the world, and musical performances by Wintley Phipps. Children's programming provided on Sabbath. This event is free. Register at www.maranatha.org or call 916-774-7700.

For Rent

**FOR RENT.** 1-bdrm, \$400; and 2-bdrm, \$500 in beautiful Camas Valley, Ore. It is 30 miles from Roseburg. It has a fenced garden spot, fruit trees, quiet, NO smoke, drugs, drink. Wood heat, stove, refrigerator, clean and nice. No pets, except a cat. 541-643-8011.

**RESTAURANT FOR LEASE** in Christian ministry venue: Located in Oregon near Roseburg, across from the Winston Wildlife Safari (150,000 visitors per year). The 18,000 square foot ministry building holds a Christian bookstore / biblical & Egypt artifact tours. This exciting opportunity won't last long! Must have restaurant experience. 541-643-8011.

Missing Members

**ALL NATIONS.** Contact: 1948 S. Peck Rd., Monrovia, CA 91016; 626-357-7514: Anthony Alexander, Attore Ford, Daniel Clyde Foster, Gabriel Gardner, Gloria Mejia, Ivette R. Mejia, Terrie L. Mejia, Maria de Lourdes Montano, Andriana Osuna, Petra Palacia, Elaine Reimann, Frank Reimann, George Simpson III, Jacqueline Samllwood, Majorie Smallwood, Tiorima Tobing, Sylvia Williams.

**COMMUNITY ADVENTIST FELLOWSHIP.** Contact: 464 E. Walnut St. Ste. 211, Pasadena CA 91101-1632, 626-460-8684, secretary@CAFchurch.com: Modesta Ambrosia, Amy Baquimdoc, Suzie Bailey, Erlinda Banaag, Joshua Basa, Hector Becerra, Roger Brandt, Jonathan Chew, Aaron Cruz, La Dori Garcia, Isabel Hinostroza, Crystal Knight, June Lynch, Marybel Maranan, Debbie Mars, Alijandra Martines, Mariana Martinez, Maria Caudelana Mesa, Gizela Myromoqicz, Barbara Paton, William Randolph, Frank Rask, Maria Rodina, Emily Marie Salas, Romilia Salinas, Shelley Satonin, Jose Somoza, Estelita Ulgasan, Jay Wolfe, Kimberly Wolfe, Sok Kheng (Suzy) Yeo.

Real Estate

**AN OASIS IN THE DESERT.** 5.9 acres fenced near McNeal, Ariz. Paved roads, 2-bdrm, 2-bath manufactured home with sun room, front and rear decks, in good condition; barn, RV shelter, shop, carport, many beautiful trees, cactus garden, well, utilities, natural gas, high speed Internet, cable TV. Only \$95,000. A quiet place. Owner may finance. Call 520-678-5411.

**ARKANSAS HOME** for Sale: 3-bdrm, 2-bath, one-story, 2,200 sq. ft., brick home on 60 acres surrounded by Ouachita National Forest. City and well

water; 30'x50' work shop/storage building; 2-bdrm mobile home for in-law, central heat & air con., wood burning site blowers. \$357,500. Call Carlyn Kim, 951-966-1669, Keith, 479-243-5341.

**COLLEGEDALE MINI ESTATE.** 6,600+ sq. ft., gated, 5-bdrm, 5.5-bath, \$545,000. Quality construction/amenities, well-maintained, Efficient Mitsubishi Ductless HVAC. Pre-qualified buyers. Text "7491350" to 79564; Harrison, Tenn.: Island Point Estates, 2,800+ sq. ft., 4-bdrm, 2.5-bath. Boat launch 1.8 miles, \$279,000; Collegedale, Tenn: Small rental, \$108,000. Contact: Eppy, 423-432-3195. Crye-Leike Realtors, Ooltewah, TN 37363, 423-238-5440; www.CollegedaleRealEstate.com.

**FOR SALE IN Costa Rica:** "Charleston Ranch" with Pacific Ocean view on 6 acres. Six bedroom-two story house. Electricity, telephone, Internet, and artesian water available. Several gardening sites; mild temperatures at 2,800 feet elevation. Contact: Charles Clever 928-577-7076. Viewable Online at revelado.org/charleston.ranch.pdf.

**OREGON - DOUGLAS COUNTY - 5** acres and 2,200 sq. ft. home with fruit trees, out of town. Half way between Roseburg and Eugene, 3.5 miles east of I5. Home and separate shop 15 years old. Beautiful views, and quiet. Surrounded by forest. Call Tom at 541-817-6893.

**PEACEFUL COUNTRY LOG HOME** living. Beautiful hand crafted log home on 20 acres in NE Wash. Home features gravity feed water, timber, and off-grid solar power system. Amish wood cook stove heats house and water, large fenced garden spot with fruit trees. Put the finishing touches on your dream home. Reduced to \$265,000. 509-675-6771.

information as the anniversary weekend approaches.

**LINDSAY SPANISH 50TH** Anniversary (Sept. 5) 588 E. Honolulu St. Lindsay, CA 93247. More details call 559-519-2381.

**OAK PARK ACADEMY** Alumni Weekend (Sept. 18-19), Nevada, Iowa. Honor classes '40, '45, '50, '55, '60, '65, '70, '75 and '80. Gates Hall, 825 15th Street, Nevada, Iowa. Make plans to attend. Info: Allayne Petersen Martsching, 402-312-7368 or email: allaynemartsching@gmail.com.

**WILLITS CHURCH CENTENNIAL** Celebration (Oct. 24) 10:45 a.m. Willits church, 399 West Mendocino Avenue. Following the celebration: fellowship dinner and church history presentation at Willits school, 22751 Bray Road. If you can't attend, send a note of your memories of church/school. Send pictures: smsmithhistorygirl@comcast.net. Info and RSVP: Sally Foltz, ssfoltz30@yahoo.com.

Vacation Opportunities

**ADVENTIST ISRAEL TOUR.** Join Jim Gilley, Danny Shelton, and the 3ABN team for an unforgettable Bible Enrichment Tour. Fantastic buffets, fellowship, and guides. Affordable. Two departure dates: Nov. 15-23 or Nov. 18-29, 2015. Contact: Jennifer at Maranatha Tours, 602-788-8864, or Jill at 3ABN, 618-627-4651.

**COOL OFF THIS SUMMER** in Hawaii. That's right, beat the heat at "Hilltop Haven", Waimea (Kamuela) the Big Island. Central to all the attractions and beaches. Vacation studio rental with all amenities. www.vrbo.com/694518. Respond with an inquiry, stating you saw us in the Recorder. We'll make it worth your while.

**RELAXING MAUI VACATION** in Kihei. Only a 3-minute walk to the beach! 1-bdrm w/king bed. Clean, comfortable, well-maintained. Sleeps 4. Fully-furnished kitchen, washer/dryer, & more! FREE parking, Wi-Fi, & calls to U.S./Canada! Friendly Kihei SDA church nearby. Affordable rates. Book now! Visit us at: www.vrbo.com/62799 or call Mark 909-800-9841.

**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. For rates, photos and reservations call: 541-279-9553, 541-475-6463, or email schultz@crestviewcable.com.

Reunions

**100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** of the Porterville church (Oct. 24) 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Speaker, Jerry Lutz, former pastor. Learn the history, share memories, meet friends. Noon meal provided. Info: 559-784-6031; email: office@portervilleadventist.org.

**ALUMNI REUNION** El Dorado Adventist School (Sept. 18-19) 1900 Broadway, Placerville. Friday golf tournament; Sabbath School, 9:30 a.m.; Sabbath worship service, 10:30 a.m. Honored classes: 2000 and 2005. Featured speaker: Dr. Jeff Youker. Sabbath lunch provided. Info: Lois Roberts, lois.eas48@gmail.com.

**CARMICHAEL CHURCH 50TH** Anniversary (Dec. 18-19) Save the date and check www.carmsda.org for the latest

The BEST 160-bed medical center, snuggled at the foot of the Koolau Mountains, on the charming Windward side of the Island of Oahu. With 1,200+ employees, and staffed by 300 physicians, Castle Medical Center is owned and operated by Adventist Health, a Seventh-day Adventist, non-profit, health care system. Utilizing state of the art technology and innovative care, we provide both inpatient and outpatient service treatments in a nurturing environment.

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Castle Medical Center  
Adventist Health

Where better to work than in Hawaii, where you can practice your profession AND play in the sun?!

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California | Hawaii | Oregon | Washington

19 hospitals committed to sharing God's love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing.

For job opportunities, visit  
**AdventistHealth.org**

Adventist Health

## AT REST

**BRYNER, URS MARKUS** – b. May 7, 1946, Winterthur, Switzerland; d. Dec. 12, 2014, Yreka, Calif. Survivors: wife, Darlene; son, Marcus; daughters, Stephanie Bryner Davis, Carrie Bryner Valdes; six grandchildren. Practiced medicine in the United States and China; worked as a professor of surgery at Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital in China; honored by colleagues in China and Loma Linda as Surgeon of the Year in 1996.

*Correction:* **BARKHURST, LILA MARGUERITE** – b. June 13, 1920, Huron, S.D.; d. Feb. 12, 2015, Yucaipa, Calif. Survivors: sisters, Lillian Guild, Ilene Bolander.

**CLEM, JOHN HENRY** – b. July 20, 1930, Leedey, Okla.; d. April 29, 2015, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: sons, Randy, Terry, Lynn.

**GALE, DONNA LEE (POWELL)** – b. Aug. 20, 1930, Santa Clara, Calif.; d. April 24, 2015, Lakeport, Calif. Survivors: son, Timothy, Matthew; daughters, Cathy, Gale; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

**GOSSE, JUANITA STANDISH** – b. Jan. 31, 1923, Madison, Tenn.; d. April 18, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, William; daughter, Joan Regester; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

**GRAHAM, JANICE ELIZABETH** – b. Oct. 7, 1951, Loma Linda, Calif.; d. May 5, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Chris Sparks; mother, Doris; brothers, Ralph, Tim.

**KIGER, MICHELE SUSAN** – b. Aug. 23, 1953, Tokyo, Japan; d. Jan. 14, 2015, Richmond, Va. Survivors: sisters, Mary Ann Kiger, Martha Kiger-Nelson (Dick). Served as a discharge planner at St. Helena Hospital.

**KULP, EVA BEULAH MAE FOSTER** – b. June 21, 1924, Merced, Calif.; d. April 14, 2015, Caldwell, Idaho. Survivors: sons, Dallas, Leslie; daughters, Peggy Bacon, Susan Mellinger, Maxine Sales; 18 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; brother, Herber Foster; sister, Wilda Southerland.

**LEVAY, GIZELLE** – b. June 27, 1929, Hungary; d. Feb. 25, 2015, West Hollywood, Calif. Survivors: son, Joseph; daughter, Kimberly.

**LITCHFIELD, RAY FULLER** – b. Jan. 3, 1930, Lodi, Calif.; d. May 10, 2015, Sacramento, Calif. Survivors: wife, Betty; son, Donald; daughters, JoAnne Walter, Carolyn Cooper; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

**LOCKE, DONALD ROBERT** – b. Jan. 23, 1930, Portland, Ore.; d. Feb. 11, 2015, Napa, Calif. Survivors: wife, Marilyn;



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

## SUNSETS

	7/3	7/10	7/17	7/24	7/31
Alturas	8:39	8:36	8:32	8:26	8:19
Angwin	8:37	8:35	8:31	8:26	8:20
Calexico	7:53	7:52	7:49	7:45	7:40
Chico	8:38	8:36	8:32	8:27	8:20
Eureka	8:51	8:48	8:44	8:39	8:32
Fresno	8:21	8:19	8:16	8:11	8:05
Hilo	7:04	7:03	7:02	7:00	6:57
Honolulu	7:17	7:17	7:15	7:13	7:10
Las Vegas	8:01	7:59	7:56	7:51	7:45
Lodi	8:31	8:29	8:25	8:20	8:14
Loma Linda	8:04	8:02	7:59	7:55	7:50
Los Angeles	8:08	8:06	8:04	7:59	7:54
Moab	8:45	8:43	8:39	8:34	8:27
Oakland	8:34	8:32	8:28	8:23	8:17
Phoenix	7:41	7:40	7:37	7:33	7:27
Reno	8:29	8:27	8:23	8:18	8:11
Riverside	8:04	8:02	7:59	7:55	7:50
Sacramento	8:33	8:31	8:27	8:22	8:16
Salt Lake City	9:01	8:59	8:55	8:49	8:42
San Diego	8:00	7:58	7:55	7:51	7:46
San Francisco	8:35	8:33	8:29	8:24	8:18
San Jose	8:31	8:29	8:26	8:21	8:15
Tucson	7:34	7:32	7:29	7:26	7:21

son, Jeffrey; daughters, Serena, Diana Gutierrez; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren. Served as Pathfinder area coordinator for the Northern California Conference.

**MANUEL, JAMES LESLIE** — b. Nov. 17, 1941, Santa Monica, Calif.; d. May 7, 2015, San Francisco, Calif. Survivors: sons, Dana, Walter; daughter, Diedra Bagley; seven grandchildren; brother, John; sister, Cheryl.

**MCBRIDE, NYLA LEE (BOEPPLE)** — b. Sept. 2, 1936, Twin Falls, Idaho; d. May 20, 2015, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: sisters, Nancy Knoll, Cheryl Howard; one grandchild.

**MCINTYRE, LUCILLE (WENDELL) OVERTON** — b. July 21, 1925, So. Lancaster, Mass.; d. Feb. 20, 2015, Yucaipa, Calif. Survivors: sons, Robert, Walter; daughters, Elaine Larsen, Jeanne Hudspeth; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren. Served as a linotype operator of LLU print shop; and in the bindery.

**MILLAZZO, MARY JANE** — b. March 4, 1925, Holland, Mich.; d. May 12, 2015, Reno, Nev. Survivors: husband, Sam; daughters, Kathy Carothers, Julie Cobb, Caryl; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

**MONTGOMERY, WAYNE “JOE”** — b. Nov. 20, 1935, Benton City, Wash.; d. May 16, 2015, Madera, Calif.; Survivors: wife, Donna; sons, Randall, Donald; daughter, Lisa; sister, Judy Hall; eight grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

**OVERTON-MCINTYRE, LUCILLE M. (WENDELL)** — b. July 21, 1925, South Lancaster, Mass.; d. Feb. 20, 2015, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: sons, Robert Overton, Walter Overton; stepsons, Lee McIntyre, Fred McIntyre, David McIntyre; daughters, Elaine Overton-Larsen, Jeanne Overton-Hudspeth; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren. Served for 70 years as church musician and choir director.

**PICKETT, EDNA MAE (GILL)** — b. Sept. 12, 1939, Vannsdale, Ark.; d. March 3, 2015, Reno, Nev. Survivors: son, Keith; daughters, Monica Pickett-Dorsey, Priscilla Johnson; 17 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren.

**SMITH, PATRICIA MARILYN** — June 11, 1928, Oakland, Calif.; d. March 17, 2015, Redding, Calif. Survivors: husband, Lauren; son, Russ; daughters, Linda, Jan; nine grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren.

**SOTO, NATALIA (MONTES)** — b. Dec. 1, 1932, Marca, Ancash, Peru; d. March 14, 2015, Lima, Peru. Survivors: son, Reynaldo; daughter, Edith; daughter-in-law, Maria; three grandchildren.

**TAYLOR, ALVIN LEON** — b. Nov. 7, 1941, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. June 18, 2015, Los Angeles, Calif. Survivors: wife, Pheno; daughters, Nampombe, Nakundwa; four grandchildren; brothers, Robert Jr., William, Calvin; sisters, Virginia Taylor-Hughes,

Sheila. Human rights activist, writer, scholar, historian, educator (USA & Africa), helped revise By-Laws & Constitution for SCC and LAAA; and school board member.

**TAYLOR, ROBERT DONALD JR.** — b. Sept. 25, 1938, Kansas City, Mo.; d. July 8, 2014, San Bernardino, Calif. Survivors: son, Robert III; daughters, Moria, Janis, Lisa Velasquez; six grandchildren; brothers, William, Calvin; sisters, Virginia Taylor-Hughes, Sheila. Served as a pastor, Pathfinder drum and bugle corps leader, teacher, orchestra and choral director, musician, historian, genealogist, piano technician, and church planter.

**THAYER, VIRGINIA “GINNEY” FAY DENNIS** — b. July 9, 1930, San Pedro, Calif.; d. May 20, 2015, La Pine, Ore. Survivors: sons, Randy Cutler, Jon Cutler, Robbie Felix; daughters, Christina Riggs, Jenney Bailey; 11 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; brother, Tom Dennis; sister, Carol Dennis.

**WAMPLER, SHARON (BRIZENDINE)** — b. March 16, 1943, Modesto, Calif.; d. April 24, 2015, Modesto, Calif.; Survivors: sons, Brian, Brent; three grandchildren.

## ADVERTISING

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October: August 25  
November: September 29

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July 2015

# Arizona NEWS

## FROM THE YOUNG ADULT LEADER



Pastor Benjamin  
Lundquist

Sabbath evening, May 9, pastors, church leaders, and young adults came together at the Camelback Seventh-day Adventist Church to celebrate the conclusion of the Millennial Matrix Project that started in January 2014.

The Millennial Matrix Project was a comprehensive year-long pilot program to develop seven local Seventh-day Adventist church environments to more effectively reach, engage, and love young adults for Jesus.

Over the course of 2014 and part of 2015, the Arizona Conference Young Adult Ministries Department partnered with seven churches, diverse in ethnicity, size and location, as they began a

journey of learning, growth, and development of young adult ministry. The project's objectives were to:

- **INSPIRE** local church members to recognize the need and potential for utilizing young adults in ministry
- **EDUCATE** local churches about young adult culture and the current condition of our world
- **TRAIN** local leaders in young adult ministry practices
- **RESOURCE** local churches with the tools to love young adults better
- **DEVELOP** a customized long-term young adult ministry plan

Participants shared the struggles and triumphs that took place during the project. Facilitating a ministry effort of this length of time and size was challenging, but driven by the desire that we as a church must do something different, it was a successful launch.

I am reminded of the story of Jesus healing the paralytic man who was lowered through the roof. A small group saw an incredible need for this man whose only hope was to reach Jesus. They moved him toward the house where Jesus was speaking, but their progress was met with an insurmountable obstacle as a huge crowd blocked all access to Jesus.

In that moment, getting the paralytic to Jesus moved from something that "needed"

*Cont. on page 2*

*This newsletter is stitched into the Recorder and is only available to Arizona Conference members. Each conference within the Pacific Union provides a newsletter such as this in the Recorder every-other month.*





Youth Adult Leader, cont. from page 1

to be done to something that “must” be done. The only hope was Jesus — and through the rooftop, they found a way.

This Millennial Matrix Project brought together a team of incredible pastors, church leaders, and gifted young adults united around the cause of loving better the largest generation of young adults

the world has ever seen.

Jared Branham, a young adult interviewed during this evening program, shared “This project has meant the world to me as I see what can happen when churches and leaders unite around Jesus to reach my generation.”

Plans are in place to launch the

project across the North American Division in the fall of 2015. This will churches — any size, anywhere — to start their own journey to love young adults better.

Pastor Benjamin Lundquist  
Young Adult Ministries Director

## Holbrook Indian School Student Receives Gates Millennium Scholarship

Barbara C. Willis

Euraylia Begay, a senior at Holbrook SDA Indian School in Holbrook, Arizona will be graduating this year with a Gates Millennium Scholarship (GMS) to attend an accredited college or university of her choice. Begay plans to attend Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska to study to be a physician’s assistant. Her goal is to return home to work on the Navajo Reservation after she graduates from this program.

Over 50,000 students competed for 1,000 scholarships—which GMS reported as their most competitive year to date. Recipients of this scholarship have excelled academically and have demonstrated a commitment to community service and social improvement for future generations. Under the GMS program, recipients will receive leadership development opportunities, mentoring, academic and social support as well as financial support.

Begay decided when she was a freshman in high school that she’d

like to try for this scholarship but didn’t think that it would actually happen. During her sophomore year, a senior named Virginia Dedman became the first graduate from Holbrook SDA Indian School (HIS) to receive the Gates Millennium Scholarship.

“When Virginia became a Gates Scholar, I knew that it was something that I wanted and would really work for,” Euraylia remembers thinking when she heard the news.

“She’s been through so much in her young life and fought so hard—it’s absolutely amazing to be able to see her blessed with this scholarship. We are all so very proud of her,” commented Jehovah Poor Bear-Adams, HIS vice



*HIS graduate Euraylia Begay is a recipient of the Gates Millennium Scholarship.*

principal.

Pedro Ojeda, principal at HIS, encourages Euraylia saying, “Euraylia is a hard worker. I am confident that with support from the people around her, and with much prayer, she will be able to complete her studies and see her goal of working on the Navajo Reservation fulfilled.”

Holbrook Indian School is a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school for grades 1-12. The school has served the Native American and Holbrook communities since opening its doors in August, 1946.

If you are interested in attending HIS, please contact the Registrar’s Office at 928-524-6845 or you can find HIS on the web at [www.hissda.org](http://www.hissda.org).



# Hands and Feet for Jesus

Shirley Chipman

**H**onoring mothers at the third annual Mother's Day Tea in the Camelback Rotunda on May 3rd is just one of the projects of serving for the small group of about a dozen Camelback members known as "Hands and Feet for Jesus." Their mission is to be co-workers with the Great Physician through simple acts of kindness, visiting, praying, and lifting up brothers, sisters and shut-ins to Jesus.

Decorated with spring flowers and colorful decorations, the Rotunda resonated with the joy of happy faces, music, and a delicious menu fit for a special mom — strawberry spinach salad, quiche, scones, delightful tea sandwiches and a variety of caffeine-free teas. Many volunteers made this event possible, including Camelback's fantastic young adults: Sara, Chris, Ana, Esti, Dan and Mason, who were the servers.

Guest speaker Mike Ortel, ministerial secretary for the Arizona Conference, spoke about his mother and the meaning

she brought to his life with her examples of dedication, hard work and good home cooking.

"I was so blessed to be here today with my daughter,"

said one of the attendees. "The stories and thoughts from the speaker brought back so many memories of my childhood and my own mother."

Besides special occasions like Mother's Day, this ministry also brightens days for individuals by sending cards on special days and just every-day greetings. They will sit with the sick and shut-ins at Camelback Church and read, listen, share music and pray with them.

Transportation to a dentist appointment, a ride home from the hospital, assistance with simple household duties such as dishes,

straightening up and vacuuming as a person desires, are all a part of being a helping hand.

"At times supplying a cup of soup and a fresh loaf of bread can mean a lot to a shut-in friend," said founder Jean Shepherd.

Claiming the promise in Prov. 16:3, "Commit your plans and decisions to the Lord and under His guidance you will succeed," Hands and Feet for Jesus volunteers have found a great comfort and joy in their own lives as they serve others.



Speaker Mike Ortel shared loving memories in his homily, "My Mom."



Camelback church secretary Cherie Oberlick.



Lexi Williams served as the emcee.



Pat Howard played a flute solo accompanied by Carolynn Brizendine



Cindi Palmer sang a song she wrote entitled "How Does She Know."

# Women of Beacon Light “Surprised by Love”

By Phil Draper and Barbara Francis

The women of the Beacon Light SDA Church gathered around their Garden of Eden in the church’s fellowship hall February 22. They came to review the book “Surprised by Love” by Elizabeth Talbot. The focus of this event was on God’s love for His children.

Three ladies were chosen to speak at the event. Their topics -- God’s love, His rescue plan, and how He plans to restore the human race.

Yiska Trammel spoke on “God’s Plan for His Children.” She emphasized that since man is created in the image of God, everybody is special. God prepared a unique place for His children at creation. Adam and Eve were placed in a nursery, a beautiful garden. In the midst of the garden was the Tree of Life, a constant reminder that God is the Life-giver upon which man must depend. She challenged the women that they, too, must depend upon Jesus today and reminded them He knows their every need.



*The women of Beacon Light SDA Church celebrated their women’s prayer breakfast.*

Julie Williams addressed the topic “The Rescue Mission.” She told how God’s children were kidnapped and deceived by the serpent and condemned to die. Man forfeited eternal life with his Creator. Now humanity needed rescue. No longer in harmony with God, man was put out of the garden. Therefore, God had to send his Son to rescue us from sin.

She then asked the women to write their fears and concerns on pieces of paper and

bring them to the foot of the cross, which was on display.

Rosalind Pereira spoke of “Restoration and Reunion.” Her dramatic presentation pointed to the time when humanity was reunited with God in the special place He had prepared for us.

“The day was Spirit-filled,” said Julie Williams, the pastor’s wife. “We were blessed beyond measure as we were surprised by love.”

Music for the event was provided by

Carol Simmons and Erika Hinds. At the end of the service, flowers from the created Garden of Eden were planted in the church courtyard.



*From left to right – Barbara Francis (Women’s Ministries Leader), Yishka Trammel (speaker/presenter), Julie Williams (speaker/presenter), Rosalind Pereira (speaker/presenter).*



*The Garden of Eden*





# centralACTS

Newsletter for Central California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

## Memoirs & Appreciation

central california officers' perspective

Can you believe it? School has already winded down across the conference. Students and teachers have completed projects, studied for exams, took their last field trips, and prepared for graduations. For some of our graduating seniors, this will represent 8-9 years in an Adventist elementary school, while others will graduate from academy having attended up to 12-13 years.

Why not take pause? As we reflect back on the year that is now history, let's ask ourselves, "Have I thanked my child's teacher? administrator?" When is the last time that we showed appreciation for the heavy responsibilities that our faithful teachers and educators carry? Many of our faithful teachers and school staff work tirelessly for modest wages, living to make an eternal difference in the lives our children/youth.

Wouldn't it be appropriate for us to take a moment to jot a little note of appreciation to them? As you can imagine, many teachers work day after day with little or no notice of thanks. We can all get too busy to take the time to appreciate them. A word or thought of appreciation will make a lasting impression on our faithful teachers.

Finally, when one pauses to reflect, the process of Adventist education is really all about discipleship. The home, school, and church working together for daily, small 'doses' of Jesus as experienced through the lives of Godly teachers and fellow students. As the year winds down, let's all revel in the friendships our children have made; and with the ties made to Jesus, Himself. Thank you for helping celebrate the blessings of Adventist education this school year.



**Dave Gillham**  
Vice President for Education, Central California Conference

## Calendar

**July 16-25**  
Soquel Camp meeting

**August 7-8**  
FeJA/Hispanic Youth Retreat at Wawona

**August 14-15**  
Hispanic Marriage Retreat

**August 14-16**  
iShare at Ontario, California

Pathfinder Leadership at Wawona

**August 21-22**  
Adventurer Leadership at Camp Wawona

For additional information, call the Central California Conference at 559-347-3000

# OUR ORGANIZATIONAL GPS



Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Along those lines, Helen Keller—blind from birth—was once asked, "What would be worse than being born blind?" She replied, "Having sight without a vision."

With much prayer and reflection, on October 7-10, 2013, the Central California Conference administration, together with departmental leaders, began a strategic planning process for our conference. Our challenge was to develop a vision, an organizational "GPS", if you will, to help guide the direction of our conference.

Let me first begin by outlining what I mean by GPS. The GPS of an organization is found in its Strategic Plan and thus in its Vision, Mission, Core Values and Goals. The Vision defines the future, where we ultimately want to be, while the Mission defines how we will get where we want to be. The Core Values describe the priorities and choices that are to prevail during the journey, the filters that guide our actions and decisions. Finally, the Goals provide the dashboard of measurable results or outcomes.

When these elements are well-defined, they will serve to communicate the purpose and the reason for the organization's existence. All decisions, across the organizational landscape, need to reflect the foundational influence of the organization's Vision, Mission, Core Values and Goals. Consistently applied, the strategic plan will result in a culture and identity that will fuel the experience and the journey. Consequently, there will be calibration, alignment, and directional clarity providing an environment for creativity, motivation, and unity.

In our world, it is easy to confuse noise and activity with achievement. We can be fooled into thinking that the sound of gears and pulleys is the sound of something important being accomplished.

Could that be true in your life? How about in your local church? Or how about in our conference? Are there hundreds, even thousands of parts spinning and turning and making a lot of noise, but accomplishing very little?

When an entity is void of an organizational GPS, it will flounder, drift, limp, and experience confusion, which could lead the organization to splinter into fragments. Those connected and influenced by the organization will eventually lose trust in its corporate purpose and its existence.

One can say then, that in the absence of a well-defined GPS or strategic plan, the organization could just be making a bunch of noise.

## Central California Conference Vision Statement:

REFLECTING CHRIST.  
TRANSFORMING  
COMMUNITIES.

If so, we would do well to remember, that even though our contraption may win a prize at the state fair or gain the accolades of our peers, God is the final judge. And what you and I think has substance may actually be no more than vapor, which will easily dissipate like steam.

In Habakkuk 2:2, the prophet was asked to, "... write the vision, and make it plain upon tablets, that he may run that reads it."

In 1851, the Crystal Palace Exhibition opened in London, England. It was the first of a series of World's Fair exhibitions. People came in droves to behold the wonders of the latest technological advances. One of the greatest marvels of the time was steam. Everything driven by steam was displayed: locomotives, looms, organs, etc.

Of all the great exhibits that year, the first-prize winner was a steam invention with seven thousand parts. When it was turned on, its pulleys, whistles, bells, and gears made a lot of noise, but, interestingly enough, the contraption didn't do anything. Seven thousand moving parts making a lot of commotion, but having no practical use.

In the coming months, through articles in the Pacific Union Recorder, at camp meeting and at our November constituency meeting, we will share information about the CCC strategic plan and hope to "make it plain," so that as we journey together we will do so with purpose, clarity and alignment. For now, we've included CCC's new vision statement at the center of this page, with more to come!

Looking toward the future, we will prayerfully live and breath the strategic plan. It will be the barometer that will serve to identify our effectiveness and our performance, both individually and corporately as God's vineyard for such a time as this.

  
Ramiro Cano

President, Central California Conference

# Deaf Evangelism

by James Montague

On March 31, 2015 the Fresno Central Seventh-day Adventist church hosted a three-week evangelistic series for the Central Valley's deaf and hard-of-hearing community. The series, entitled "Truth for Today, Hope for Tomorrow," consisted of sixteen meetings over a three-week period and discussed biblical prophecies. The first seven meetings were held in Fresno's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Center which offers job assistance, peer counseling and social events to the local community.



The series was unique in that it was conducted in ASL (American Sign Language) for its target audience and then translated into English for those who could hear. The speaker, pastor David Trexler, is himself deaf and used his knowledge of ASL to share biblical messages with others who are hard-of-hearing. Trexler also serves as the director of Three Angels Deaf Ministries.

"The net result was excellent, considering that the deaf population is hard to reach," explained Robert Plubell, one of the two Central Valley Deaf Ministries group leaders. The series resulted in six baptismal candidates. Three of those are from Madera. LeRoy and Sylvia Cano, and along with Wendy Kaestner, had all attended earlier evangelistic series at the Madera Seventh-day Adventist church with the assistance of ASL interpreters. Trexler's fluent knowledge of ASL, however, clarified biblical prophecies, moving them towards baptism. All three were baptized on May 9 at the Madera church by pastor David Dean. The final three, Jerry and Judy Blessing and Robert Snider, have attended various Adventist churches over the years and were compelled to commit to baptism by the message of hope and love. They were baptized on June 7 at the Fresno Central church by pastor Gary Jensen, administrative pastor at Fresno Central.

The Central Valley Deaf Ministries involves the Madera, Porterville, and Fresno Central Adventist churches along with their congregations. "[This ministry] is on fire for the Lord," says Jensen. "They are very committed to reaching the hard-of-hearing with the Adventist message because no one else is doing it." The ministry has even uploaded the series to YouTube, in order to reach a national audience. "We have fallen in love with the Adventist message and are happy to be part of the family," concludes Sylvia Cano.



## LIFE HOPE CENTERS DEVELOPING TO OFFER HOPE AND LOVE

by Vanessa Greer DNP(c), ACNPC, CNS

Have you wondered about the person standing on the corner with the sign asking for "any help, God Bless," or the men standing in front of Home Depot early in the morning. This is the face of humanity in the flesh; our family, friends, neighbors.

How does the Bible inform our understanding of disparities and justice? The Bible is rich with guidance to follow God in service to humanity;

*Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble (Psalm 41:1).*

*Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked (Psalm 82:3, 4).*

*He that oppreseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor (Proverbs 14:31).*

*He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again (Proverbs 19:17).*

Continued on page 4>>

# GLOW Leadership Training

By Austin Beltz

On May 2, 2015 over 50 people representing 18 churches of the Central California Conference (CCC) attended the GLOW Leadership Training (GLT). The GLT was held at the Clovis conference office and provided training for new church GLOW leaders as well as continuing education for previously trained leaders.

The program started with songs and a testimony sharing time in which GLOW leaders had the opportunity to share what God was doing through literature ministry at their local churches. Anthony Baca, a teacher at SOULS West, the Pacific Union's outreach leadership school, gave a keynote message on the history and prophetic relevance of literature ministry. The rest of the day consisted of simple and practical training segments, prayer time, inspirational stories, a graduation for new leaders, and of course, free lunch.

A total of 14 church members graduated as new GLOW leaders.

At the local church level, GLOW literature ministry is completely dependent on unpaid volunteer workers, which make these training and equipping summits essential. The most effective GLOW leaders are those who continue to stay plugged into the network of ideas, support, and spiritual encouragement that they find at GLT.

Joel Moutray, CCC GLOW field director, said that "It was our best CCC GLOW Leadership Training yet!" Moutray oversees the biannual summit and has helped launch GLTs in other conferences as well. He helped develop GLT over the last few years and strives to find new and better ways to inspire and equip lay people to become active leaders and workers in their local churches.



Continued from page 3>>

Jesus closely empathizes with His people who suffer in Mathew 25. He identifies himself with the hungry, thirsty, stranger, sick, poor, the needy and those in prison. Essentially, he is saying that while we are eating well, the farmworker is starving not far from us. We live in a world where disparity and social injustice walk in front of us every day. God is asking us to understand the needs of our community and engage to serve with others in meeting the identified needs. Love is seen as the driving force to the application of dignity and justice attained through love.<sup>1</sup>

Life Hope Centers is a developing initiative in the Central California Conference, which incorporates and demonstrates principles of practical organized service "seeking to restore the sick to health".<sup>2</sup> Among the initiative's goals is to inspire every local church to become a center for healing and restoration of physical, mental emotional and spiritual wellness.

For more information on Life Hope Centers go to [www.ccchealth.adventistfaith.org](http://www.ccchealth.adventistfaith.org) or call 559-347-3142.

<sup>1</sup> Lasaki-Kosoko, S., Cook, C., O'Brien, R. (2009). Cultural Proficiency in Addressing Health Disparities. Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Sudbury, Massachusetts.

<sup>2</sup> White, E. (1901). The Medical Missionary. P.240. Retrieved from <http://www.whiteestate.org>

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# HŌ'IKE

## VISIONS OF PARADISE

JULY 2015 | NEWS, INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION FOR THE HAWAII CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

**PAGE 2** | Please take a few minutes to log on and complete a brief survey about your Hawaii Conference school. Mahalo! Also, Hawaii welcomes Dennis and Lisa Anderson to the family.

**PAGE 3** | The new Executive Committee got right to work after constituency session. They elected conference employees, appointed people to committees and approved some land deals.

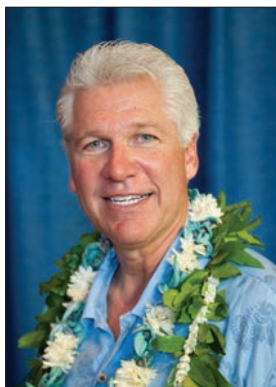
**PAGE 4** | Hawaii Conference welcomes Stephanie Brown, Izraias Uribe, and Dennis and Lisa Anderson, and bids farewell to Arline Matsumoto and Feryl Harris.

## 20/20 VISION

RALPH S. WATTS III

**God certainly blessed as we gathered together for our constituency session on April 26 at the Honolulu Central church. I shared a devotional thought at the beginning of the meeting. It afforded me, as president, a chance to share a conviction God has laid on my heart. Unless the Lord comes before our next constituency session five years from now, it will be the year 2020. So, it occurred to me that perhaps what we really need as a conference for the next five years is a “20/20 vision.”**

The Bible is absolutely clear when it exclaims, “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18). So, what if we were to commit to grow as a conference 20 by 20? What if we were to accept the challenge to grow by 20 percent by the year 2020? That could be our 20/20 vision — kingdom growth for Christ in reaching Hawaii for Him.



This kingdom growth challenge is one for all of us.

What if our tithe were to grow by 20 percent over the next five years? Can you imagine the potential and possibilities for ministry? What about our schools? The 20/20 vision would see our enrollments increase by 20 percent over the next five years. How about 20 percent more baptisms than ever before? Now that's kingdom growth! This 20/20 vision would also include growth in our summer camps and literature ministries programs. What if 20 percent more young people made a commitment for Christ during the weeks of camp? Alleluia! A 20/20 vision!

Let me share with you how this is already happening. The Honolulu Central church just concluded a four-week evangelistic series with Taj Pacleb. I had the privilege of attending



**Fifty people were baptized at the conclusion of a recent series of evangelistic meetings at Honolulu Central church.**

several of these meetings and was immensely blessed with all the hard work and dedication of the members who supported the series. Yes, Taj is the one up front preaching nightly, but it is the sacrificial services of pastors and members working together that makes all the difference.

On the final Sabbath, May 9, my heart was thrilled as I watched and 50 precious individuals commit their lives to Christ in baptism. Kingdom growth. Are you ready and wanting to catch the vision, too?

Because of Him,

*Ralph S. Watts III*

# The Value of Adventist Education

MIKI AKEO-NELSON

The Office of Education is conducting a survey to better understand the value of Adventist education in the Hawaii Conference. We are interested in the opinions of those we serve, and your candid responses will provide valuable information as we plan for the future.

Use the links below to provide feedback on each school that is applicable to your experience. Only Office of Education personnel will have access to your survey answers. While your responses will be collected and reported to the appropriate school, your identity will remain completely anonymous.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey. We value your input and look forward to hearing from you.

*Adventist Malama Elementary School*  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/ames2015](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ames2015)

*Hawaiian Mission Academy (9-12)*  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/hma2015](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/hma2015)

*Hawaiian Mission Academy Ka Lama Iki*  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/kalamaiki2015](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/kalamaiki2015)

*Hawaiian Mission Academy  
Windward Campus*  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/windward2015](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/windward2015)

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*Kohala Adventist School*  
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*Kona Adventist School*  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/kacs2015](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/kacs2015)

*Maui Adventist School*  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/mauiadventist2015](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mauiadventist2015)

*Mauna Loa Christian School*  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/maunaloa2015](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/maunaloa2015)

## Hawaii Welcomes Dennis and Lisa Anderson

ERIK VANDENBURGH

Hawaii welcomes Dennis and Lisa Anderson to the conference family. The Andersons are transitioning from the Arizona Conference where Dennis was boy's dean at Thunderbird Adventist Academy and Lisa was administrative assistant in the youth ministries department.



Hawaii Conference welcomes the Anderson family.

Dennis will be working as manager at Camp Waianae where he will utilize his extensive background in construction to update and improve the camp. During his years at Thunderbird, he coached basketball, baseball, football and the acrobatic team.

Lisa will be working at the conference office as administrative assistant in the youth ministries and treasury departments. For the past four years, she has worked with all aspects of youth ministry including Pathfinders and summer camp, in addition to her regular office duties.

The Andersons have three grown children. Zack, 24, is currently working in Scottsdale, Ariz., while making plans for his future career in the Navy. He is a health and fitness enthusiast, excited about God's blessing for the next step for his life.

Tucker, 22, just returned from Thailand where he worked as a student missionary for one year. He will be returning to Southern Adventist University to complete his bachelor's degree in nursing.

Signe, 20, has attended SAU and is pursuing a degree in dental hygiene. She is currently on a short-term mission project. Her passion is surfing and she is thrilled her parents are moving to Hawaii where she can realize her dream of becoming a better surfer.

Dennis' hobbies include all sports, dirt bikes, hiking and watching sunsets on the beach.

"I'm happy doing whatever the kids are doing!" says Lisa.

The Anderson's dog, Cooper, will be arriving in August.

# HAWAII CONFERENCE MILESTONES

GERALD D. CHRISTMAN



## Aloha, Hawaii Conference Ohana,

The Hawaii Conference constituency convened on Sunday, April 26, 2015, at Honolulu Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. Delegates at this meeting, among other business, approved the Nominating Committee's recommended slate of names; this included individuals elected to serve on the 2015-2020 Hawaii Conference Executive Committee. Executive Committee members are, in the Hawaii Conference, elected to five year terms. The task of the Executive Committee, according to the church's working policy, "is to function for the constituency during interim constituency sessions."

The newly-formed Executive Committee, subsequently, assembled that same afternoon to elect conference departmental directors and associates for the ensuing quinquennium. Elected were: Bie An "Fong" Tija, assistant treasurer; Ralph S. Watts III, ministerial director; Miki Akeo-Nelson, superintendent of education; Erik VanDenburgh, youth director. Watts had been elected president earlier in the day during the constituency meeting, along with the secretary and treasurer.

Individuals were also appointed to serve on

various sub-committees that, ultimately, report or make recommendations to the Executive Committee. Some of these sub-committees are: finance, personnel, building (construction), audit review and ordination review. Members to the Board of Education were also approved.

I want to share two other notable actions the Executive Committee took on April 26. One was approving the purchase of 3.7 acres adjacent to Camp Waianae. Expanding Camp Waianae acreage has, for many, been a long-term dream. This recently acquired property includes the house to the left of the gate when entering the camp. I am happy to report that this sale transaction has been completed.

A second voted action relates to the Waipahu Samoan church. The Waipahu Samoan congregation has been needing a permanent home since they vacated their Waipahu property in 2013. The Executive Committee approved that a Letter of Intent be given to purchase property in Kapolei (Kalaeloa/Barbers Point). This 52,621 square foot (approximately 1.25 acre) property has for many years belonged to the U.S. Navy. The property has two buildings

on it: one is a sanctuary. The second building is smaller and it could serve either as a fellowship hall or for Sabbath school classes. Hawaii Conference has submitted a Letter of Intent to purchase this property — negotiations have *not* yet been finalized.

I have described some organizational facets of the Hawaii Conference, as well as recent property acquisitions. These items only become useful as they serve to undergird the mission God has given to you and me. The following words by Stephen Covey challenge me: "Anything less than a conscious commitment to the important is an unconscious commitment to the unimportant."

I like the way Ellen White describes the New Testament church: "The only ambition of the believers was to reveal the likeness of Christ's character, and to labor for the enlargement of His kingdom" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 120-121). May these words be our conscious commitment.



# STAFF CHANGES – SUMMER 2015

GARY G. JOHNSON



**Stephanie Brown**

*New Staff –  
Aloha and Welcome*

**STEPHANIE BROWN** joined the treasury department June 1 as auditor/accountant. Brown graduated from Southern Adventist University in May 2015 with a Bachelor of Business Administration in financial management with an emphasis in accounting. “As the daughter of a police officer and a nurse, service has always been a large part of my life,” says Brown. “While I did not have their talents for public service, I am able to use my accounting skills to help others. This is why I am excited to be joining the Hawaii Conference. Not only will I be joining a talented team of business men and women, but I will also be able to use my accounting and auditing skills to serve God.”

**IZRAIAS URIBE** has been hired as the youth evangelism coordinator, working under the supervision of Erik VanDenburgh, conference youth director. Uribe, who graduated from La Sierra University in June 2015 with a bachelor’s degree in religious studies, will be in charge of the summer literature ministries program, Ke Ola, as well other youth evangelism initiatives throughout the year.

**DENNIS ANDERSON** is the new Camp



**Izraias Uribe**

Waianae caretaker/manager. His wife, **LISA ANDERSON**, will be administrative assistant to the youth director and the treasurer. (See more on Dennis and Lisa in the youth director’s report.)

*Departing Staff –  
Mahalo and Farewell*

We bid farewell to two colleagues who have given the conference outstanding service for



**Arline Matsumoto**

many years.

**ARLINE MATSUMOTO** started working for the Hawaii Conference in 1966 and has worked as an office secretary, accountant, assistant treasurer and auditor in the ensuing years for the treasury and executive secretary departments. She has served with excellence and devotion, inspiring many with her commitment to the Lord and her church as well as her work ethic. Mahalo, Arline, for your many years of faithful service to the Hawaii Conference.

**FERYL HARRIS** has served the Hawaii Conference since August 2004 in trust services and children’s ministries, in addition to assisting in youth ministries, preaching, hostessing and driving. Her love for the Lord and the church, plus her positive attitude, have been a blessing and encouragement to many. We wish Feryl and her husband, Mahlon, God’s blessings as they depart Hawaii for the next chapter of their lives in West Virginia. Thank you for your service in Hawaii.



**Feryl Harris**



# Nevada-Utah Views

Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
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*Focused on Jesus,  
we witness to the world!*

**July 2015**

In this issue...

- Great Things Are Happening in the Nevada-Utah Conference!
- Upcoming Events

## Great Things Are Happening in the Nevada-Utah Conference!



**Ed Keyes**

by Ed Keyes  
President, Nevada-Utah Conference

I begin this news segment where I left off last time—with soul-winning.

### **Ogden Hispanic SDA Church Evangelistic Meetings**

Shortly after tax day, I began a series of evangelistic meetings with Pastor Angel Cuenca in the Ogden Hispanic church. I was truly blessed to see how this church was so well prepared for this series of meetings. Each night featured a special set of gifts given to the visitors—all of them things that would help in their walk with Christ. Also, each night and the Sabbath morning services featured beautiful music delivered by talented local church members. I want to thank those who translated my sermons from English to Spanish. I have a tendency to talk fast, so they did a marvelous job engaging the crowd in the messages. By the end of the series, there were six people baptized, and others are studying and preparing for future baptism. Praise the Lord for the Ogden Hispanic work. May God bless them as they continue to further the work of God in this area.

### **Sunset Spanish SDA Church**

I also had the privilege of speaking for the Hispanic church that meets in Layton, Utah, known as the Sunset Spanish church, another congregation of the Ogden district. This group has a very strong youth/young adult focus and

the Lord is blessing. They are actively trying to find a more suitable building they could acquire in that area. Right now they are meeting in a storefront-type of facility, which is adequate for their needs, but as they continue to grow they could do so much more with a structure of their own. Please pray with me that God will help them find just the right location to purchase their own facility.

### **Paraiso Spanish SDA Church**

The last few days of April, I spent time visiting some of our churches in Las Vegas. For the first time, I had the privilege of meeting Lay Pastor Ivan Cuxevea, of the Paraiso Spanish Church. God is blessing this small group of believers and I ask you to pray for Pastor Cuxevea and their local church leadership as they continue to try to be a blessing to this community.

### **Pahrump SDA Church**

The weekend of May 1-2, I had the opportunity to preach in Pahrump, Nevada. It was such a blessing to be at this church filled with people praising God and studying the Bible with a holy zeal. Sabbath school was a real blessing to my soul, and the service lifted me heavenward. A group from the Las Vegas Fil-Am church came over to do special music and song service. What a blessing it was to listen to this God-centered, spiritual music. Let us also pray for this church and Pastor Wayne O'Bannon as he leads out in the worship and outreach of this congregation.

*“It was such a blessing to be at this church filled with people praising God and studying the Bible with a holy zeal.”*

**Continued  
on the next page**

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the previous page**

### **Bill Bossert Retirement**



*Bill Bossert*

On May 3, I had the joy of participating in my good friend Pastor Bill Bossert's retirement program. I say it was a joy because I love this servant of Christ and his ministry, but really it was sad to bid him farewell. He has been such a blessing to the Riverview church and the NUC as a whole that it is truly hard to see him leave. Pastor Bill has served this church with distinction for many years, and his focus on youth/young adult ministry has strengthened the entire North American Division. The

night's program was filled with music, skits, and personal testimonies of God's blessings received through the work of Pastor Bill. It ended with a famous song emphasizing the thankfulness that many will show in heaven when they meet after the end of this age. May God richly bless you in your retirement my dear friend.

### **Southeastern California Conference Health Workshop**

On May 5, I had the rare honor of giving a health workshop for a worker's meeting in the Southeastern California Conference (SECC). When I came to the NUC, I decided that I would limit my out-of-conference speaking engagements to one a year. This was the first, but that's not what made it rare. What actually made it rare was that the topic they asked me to speak on was "fitness and health." I have preached world-wide on four different continents and in most of the states of the U.S. I have written well over 500 sermons, but I have never spoken on the subject of fitness. I guess when you lose over 110 pounds in front of the eyes of your peers they notice. Thank you Dr. Sandra Roberts, SECC's president, for the invitation. It was affirming to me that all the running, hiking, and sit-ups have really had an impact. Most of all I want to thank my Heavenly Father for giving me the determination to stick to my fitness goals. With my crazy work schedule (averaging 13-14 hours

a day, 7 days a week) it was only the Lord that got me up at 4:00 a.m. every morning to get my exercise in.

### **Las Vegas Area Pastors' Meeting**

On May 7, exactly one year from the day I accepted the call to the NUC, I met with a group of pastors in Las Vegas at our monthly area pastors' meeting. It was wonderful to listen to what God has been doing in Las Vegas and how inspired these pastors are to reach souls for Christ. Keep up the good work, or should I say the "God work."

### **Heavenly Valley SDA Church**

That Sabbath, May 9, I spoke at the Heavenly Valley church in South Lake Tahoe.

*"It truly was a blessing to be a part of the service that day. God has blessed this little church with great lay leadership and it showed in the service and in the reports that were given to me of ideas the church had for outreach into the community."*

It truly was a blessing to be a part of the service that day. God has blessed this little church with great lay leadership and it showed in the service and in the reports that were given to me of ideas the church had for outreach into the community. It was great to see each mother receive a rose and a gift in recognition of Mothers' Day.

### **Meetings at Pacific Union College**

On May 11, I drove down to Pacific Union College (PUC) to participate in meetings for the next three days. These meetings included a Union President's Council, a Pacific Union Executive Committee, a PUC Board of Trustees, and finally a PUC Constituency Meeting. All of which went very well. I would like to also say that I was highly impressed with the way PUC is visioning for the future. The Lord is certainly blessing the leadership of Dr. Heather Knight and her staff as PUC continues to grow and develop young people to lead the church in its near future.

### **Southern California Conference Constituency Session**

On May 17, I attended the quadrennial constituency session of the Southern California Conference. The session was well attended,

*"I have written well over 500 sermons, but I have never spoken on the subject of fitness. I guess when you lose over 110 pounds in front of the eyes of your peers they notice."*

great reports were given about the growth of the conference and my dear friend Elder Velino Salazar was elected to serve as the new president of the conference. God bless his leadership and vision for the SCC. It is my prayer that God will do amazing things to bring many souls into His kingdom through the work of the leaders of the SCC.



*Velino A. Salazar*

**Pastor Tammy Losey Goodbye**

The following Sabbath, May 23, I was at the final service of Pastor Tammy Losey at the Living Waters Fellowship church in Las Vegas. As you can imagine the service was very emotional after 11 years serving this church and district. I want to personally thank Pastor Tammy for her many years of dedicated service to the NUC. May



*Tammy Losey*

God bless her in her continuing professional education (CPE) program and in her future as a chaplain or pastor — wherever He may lead her. It has been an honor to work with her this year.



**Arlyn Sundsted & Tierra Wallace Retirement**

Then on May 27, I had the great



**Riverview Christian Academy Graduation**

May 21 found me at the graduation of our students from the Riverview Christian Academy, along with my fellow officers Carlos Camacho and Doug Reeves. There were at least five other ministers in attendance. The leadership and staff of the school, under the direction of Claritza Karry, gave a wonderful program that night. Great music was combined with awards given for the students numerous achievements. It was obvious that a tremendous amount of effort went into helping our young people get into and stay in good physical condition. I was amazed to hear how many of these young people participated in a marathon. Pastor Jose Karry gave an inspirational message, which challenged the young people to be determined to succeed no matter what challenges they face. Let us remember to pray for our young people often as they battle the enemy every day.

**Grand Canyon Hike**

Memorial Day Sunday and Monday, I took my first couple of days off since my son was married last year. It was wonderful to hike from the south rim of the Grand Canyon to the north rim. After bivouacking on the cold north rim Sunday night, I hiked back to the south rim all day Monday. Forty-seven miles, twenty-four hours, and dozens of blisters later, I was back on the south rim thanking the Lord for health and a car to get me back home. It was great to spend time alone with God in His great second book of nature. However, I couldn't wait to get back home to see my wife.

*The Riverview Christian Academy provided a great program to celebrate their graduates on May 21.*

*“It was wonderful to hike from the south rim of the Grand Canyon to the north rim.”*

*Continued on the next page*

**Continued from  
the previous page**



**Arlyn (right) and Judi  
(left) Sundsted  
and Tierra Wallace  
(middle)**

privilege of participating in another wonderful retirement program. This time it was for Arlyn Sundsted, our beloved NUC Superintendent of Schools. The program featured a talent show from the students of the Las Vegas Junior Academy and a dramatic reenactment of some of the things Arlyn is known for — both growing up and in the various aspects of his career. Even though I have known Arlyn less than a year, from the stories that were told and the skits that were done, I felt like I had known him all his life. The program finished with the song “Thank You” by Ray Boltz, which was very emotional as you can imagine. That same night Mrs. Tierra Wallace celebrated her retirement as well. It was wonderful to see the students recreate moments they had spent with her in her work with the school. She served officially

as treasurer, but she did so much more. God bless both Tierra and Arlyn as they begin a new chapter in their lives. May retirement bring you more time with your families and more joy as you continue to serve the Lord in a new way.

### **NUC Schools**

I'd like to finish this installment by saying how proud I am of the great work of our Seventh-day Adventist schools in the Nevada-Utah Conference. My heart and soul is in Christian education. I believe with all my heart that this is one of the most underappreciated areas of mission in the church today. There is no question that the work our teachers and educators do for our children is truly evangelism in its highest form. May God continue to bless our teachers and schools as they educate our youth for eternity. Let us never weary in praying for our educators as they strive to lead our young people to Jesus.

May God continue to pour out His blessing upon this conference.

*In the Master's Service, Ed Keyes*

## **Upcoming EVENTS**

**“Called”  
NAD Ministerial Meetings**  
*June 28-July 1*  
Austin, TX

**2015 General Conference  
Session**  
*July 2-11*  
San Antonio, TX

**Asian-Pacific Evangelism  
& Discipleship Seminar**  
*August 1*  
Reno, NV

**Lake Tahoe Camp Meeting**  
*August 3-8*  
South Lake Tahoe, CA

**Utah Camp Meeting**  
*August 7-9*  
Orderville, UT

**Utah Hispanic Convocation**  
*August 7-8*  
Orderville, UT

**Back to School Youth Rally**  
*August 28-29*  
Las Vegas, NV

**Reno Area Regional Convocation**  
*September 4-6*  
Reno, NV

**Hispanic Lay Evangelistic  
Training with Alejandro Bullon**  
*September 7-8*  
Las Vegas, NV

**Hispanic Lay Evangelistic  
Training with Alejandro Bullon**  
*September 9-10*  
Salt Lake City, UT

**Pathfinder Camporee**  
*September 10-13*  
Clear Creek Family Ranch,  
Orderville, UT

**NAD Adventists  
In Step For Life Week**  
September 20-26

**NUC Hispanic Women's Retreat**  
*September 25-27*  
Las Vegas, NV

**NUC Women's Retreat**  
*October 2-4*  
Reno, NV

**Hispanic Men's Retreat**  
*October 2-3*  
Las Vegas, NV

**Youth Rally 2015**  
*October 9-10*  
Las Vegas, NV

**Teen Leadership Retreat**  
*October 23-25*

**NUC Asian-Pacific Convocation**  
*November 4-5*

**Men's Retreat**  
*November 12-15*  
Reno, NV

*Please contact the Conference office for  
further information on any events you may be  
interested in.*

The NEVADA-UTAH VIEWS is a newsletter stitched into the **Recorder** and is only available to Nevada-Utah Conference members. Each conference within the Pacific Union provides a newsletter such as this in the **Recorder** every other month.

# KINGDOM MATTERS

Northern California Conference Newsletter



“...NO MIND HAS IMAGINED  
WHAT GOD HAS PREPARED  
FOR THOSE WHO LOVE  
HIM” (1 CORINTHIANS 2:9).

## A Future Beyond IMAGINATION

In this issue . . .

Fun Day  
at the Zoo



Sacramento Capitol  
City Church Presents  
LeaderShape Conference



Adventist Book Center  
Camp Meeting  
Specials



VOLUME 13  
ISSUE 4  
JULY 2015

When summertime arrives, my mind eventually turns to thoughts about my grandmother, since this is the time of year when her birthday comes up on the calendar. She lived to be 105 years old, passing away in 2006. We had a good relationship through the years, and I was blessed to live near her for much of my life. It's in tribute to her that I always end these articles with "Peace," since that was the typical sign-off in her correspondence.

As I think back to her long life, I often reflect on the huge changes in society that took place following her birth in 1901. Automobiles were just coming into existence (but I don't think she ever got a driver's license!). Telephones were becoming more widespread in their availability. It would be a decade or two before air travel would start gaining public acceptance. Radio was still in its infancy, and television wouldn't come along for several more decades. And things such as computer technology and space travel were only the stuff of dreams. But by the end of the 20th century, these advances were all a matter of reality. What changes just within the span of my grandmother's lifetime!

Certainly we know the prophecies of

Daniel, pointing to "the time of the end, when many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase" (Daniel 12:4, *New Living Translation*). That increase in knowledge certainly has been dramatic. And, if so much took place in the last century, what's going to be next?

But what sparks my imagination even more can also be found in the pages of Scripture: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Corinthians 2:9, *New Living Translation*). I like to think I have a pretty creative imagination. I've read the verses that talk about God's eternal world in terms of streets of gold, gates of pearl, the tree of life that has a different fruit every month, and more. I think I can start to grasp what that future may be like, until I realize that I can't even begin to comprehend the wonders that God has in store for His family! Perhaps it would be like trying to describe to my grandmother, when she was just a young girl, what a computer would be like, or a cell phone, or space travel. She wouldn't be able to even imagine such things.

Our God has an awesome eternity awaiting us, if we choose to accept Him at His Word. But the greatest part of it all is that we'll be able to see and hear, first-hand, how much God really loves each of us. I can't wait!

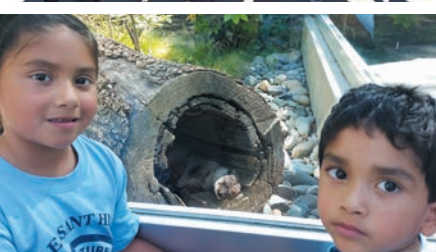
Peace.



By Jim Pedersen, who serves as the president of the Northern California Conference.



# Fun Day AT THE ZOO



This spring, Northern California Conference

Adventurer Club members and their families—about 600 in all—spent a day at the Sacramento Zoo. The event was

the annual Fun Day, planned for all club members, ages 4-9, throughout the conference. “We try to find something that is both fun and educational for each Fun Day,” said Alice Merrill, associate director for children’s/family/Adventurer ministries.

Adventurers of every age enjoyed the event. “My favorite part of Fun Day was the show. The hawk flew right over my friend Gracie’s head,” said Placerville club member Kathryn Carlson, age 9. “I really liked watching the baby giraffes at the zoo and being with friends,” said Leah Gomez, age 5, from the Pleasant Hill club. Little

brother Christian, age 3, said, “I saw zebras, giraffes, lions, beavers and snakes!”

Carmichael club director Karen Yao

reports that her Adventurers cited a variety of favorites: Brayden Blood liked the macaws; Connor Blood appreciated the zebras; Andrew and Caleb Yao enjoyed all the animals; and Amy Wong liked the big cats.

She wasn’t the only one. “Our family stayed late into the afternoon—the best time to hear the lions roar!” said Jody Sears Barbuta, Granite Bay club director.

Participants also enjoyed the opportunity to interact with kids and parents from other NCC churches. “It’s always fun to see all the other clubs and families together and get reconnected with friends from other clubs, said Tamalisa Carlson, director of the Placerville club.

Conference events such as this help kids realize that their local church is part of a bigger fellowship of Adventist families. “They can look forward to meeting each other at bike derbies, Family Fun weekends at Leoni Meadows and

other Fun Days,” said Elizabeth Miller, coordinator of the Pleasant Hill club.

Next year’s

Fun Day will be held in the Bay Area. Find out more about NCC Adventurers at [www.nccsda.com/adventurers](http://www.nccsda.com/adventurers).

*“I really liked watching the baby giraffes at the zoo and being with friends.”*



About 600 people attended the NCC Adventurer Fun Day at the zoo. (Photos: Sonia Gomez, Tamalisa Carlson, Diane Nicolici, Karen Yao)



# WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR UNSPENT RETIREMENT SAVINGS?

If you are like most people, you will designate family members as beneficiaries of your retirement accounts. The problem with doing this is that most of your savings will never go to your loved ones because it will be taxed. A better solution is to give your family stocks and real estate, which may be received and

sold by them without paying any tax. Your retirement assets make a much better charitable gift because the Church can receive the entire asset tax-free and make use of it to further our mission.

Contact us or visit our website today, so we may assist you in discovering the right plan for you.

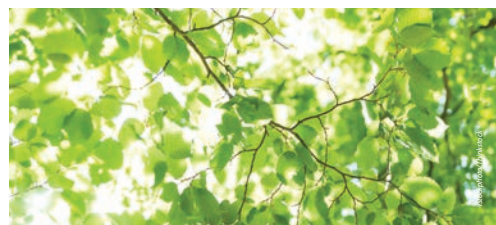
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## Sacramento Capitol City Church Presents LEADERSHAPE CONFERENCE

God equips every member with certain spiritual gifts, enabling him or her to build up other believers so they can perform the soul-saving mission of the Church. With this premise in mind, the Sacramento Capitol City church presented its first LeaderShape Conference, March 6-8.

Senior Pastor Damian Chandler had a two-fold vision for the conference. “We ask people to lend their skills and talents to the cause of the Kingdom but often don’t give them the ‘hows’ (training), or ‘whys’ (mission). LeaderShape exists to remind us of our mission and give us the tools we need to accomplish it,” he said. “Secondly, we wanted to inspire people who were just sitting to serve in our mission to ‘Take Sacramento for the King.’”

The weekend’s keynote speaker was Jesse Wilson, Oakwood University associate professor of religion and director of the international Pastoral Evangelism and Leadership Conference. “Pastor Wilson’s ideas are timely and refreshing, not cookie-cutter,” said Kevin Anderson, head elder. “He looks at things through a different lens—service for Jesus Christ.”

On Sabbath afternoon, attendees had time to attend two seminars, choosing from a variety of seminar options, including: leading worship; pursuing excellence in leadership;



building effective ministry teams; organizing for success; elders, deacons, deaconess and spiritual leadership; and the leader’s call to the community. “My favorite part was just seeing how excited people were to grow in their ability to serve,” said Chandler. “People were almost running from workshop to workshop. That was amazing to see.”

Other Sabbath highlights included a film screening, a panel discussion and leadership training for kids. An evening candlelight dedication service served as the culmination of the day. At this service, pastors and elders anointed the hands and head of each attendee. “I felt especially inspired by the anointing service,” said assistant church clerk Maria Hill. “For me, it was symbolic of blessing, protection and empowerment from God upon my efforts as a leader in furthering His kingdom.”

Plans are in the works to make LeaderShape an annual event to remind all members of their responsibility to employ their spiritual gifts, talents and influence. “Excellent leaders in the Church aren’t trying to draw attention to themselves,” said Anderson. They’re trying to put focus on the gospel and winning souls for the kingdom.”

By Ella Tolliver, who serves as an elder at the Sacramento Capitol City Church.



(From Top to Bottom)

Damian Chandler (right) discusses

commitment to discipleship with Parnell M. Lovelace Jr.

Panelists participate in a Sabbath afternoon discussion: (left to right) Associate Pastor Trevor Barnes Jr.; Oakwood University Associate Professor of Religion Jesse Wilson; Senior Pastor Damian Chandler; NCC African American Ministries Coordinator/Inner City Director Leon Brown Sr.; Executive Director of the California Black Health Network Brenda (Darcel) Lee; Founding Senior Pastor of Center of Praise Ministries Parnell M. Lovelace Jr. (Not pictured: Facilitator Emil Peeler, Loma Linda University adjunct professor of religion and the church’s director for growth and leadership).

Hands are anointed at the dedication service on Sabbath evening.

Jesse Wilson speaks at the LeaderShape Conference.

(Photos: Stacey DeRossett)

# ADVENTIST BOOK CENTERS

# SALE

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

## Camp Meeting Specials

Available at both the Pleasant Hill and Sacramento stores!

	Size	Regular Case Cost	Camp Meeting Cost per Unit	Camp Meeting Cost per Case
<b>Loma Linda/Worthington</b>				
Worthington Vegetarian Burger	12/20 oz	\$63.29	\$5.19	\$56
Worthington Vegetarian Burger Inst.	50 oz	\$138.19	\$10.99	\$120
Worthington Chili	12/20 oz	\$49.39	\$3.49	\$38
Worthington Chili Institutional	50 oz	\$114.99	\$8.79	\$96
Worthington Choplets	12/20 oz	\$69.49	\$5.19	\$56
Saucettes	12/19 oz	\$67.19	\$5.19	\$56
Worthington Vegetable Skallops	12/20 oz	\$62.99	\$5.19	\$56
Worthington Vegetable Skallops Inst.	50 oz	\$140.99	\$10.99	\$120
Diced Chik	12/13 oz	\$57.89	\$4.39	\$48
Frichik	12/12.5 oz	\$54.19	\$4.39	\$48
Frichik Low Fat	12/12.5 oz	\$54.19	\$4.39	\$48
Frichik Institutional	40 oz	\$140.99	\$10.99	\$120
Prime Stakes	12/13 oz	\$55.29	\$4.39	\$48
Worthington Vegetarian Steaks	12/20 oz	\$63.99	\$5.19	\$56
Veja Links	12/19 oz	\$66.49	\$5.19	\$56
Veja Links Low Fat	12/19 oz	\$66.49	\$5.19	\$56
Super Links	12/19 oz	\$69.49	\$5.19	\$56
Tender Rounds with Gravy	12/19 oz	\$66.49	\$5.19	\$56
Swiss Stake	12/13 oz	\$54.69	\$4.39	\$48
Swiss Stake Institutional	47 oz	\$142.59	\$10.99	\$120
Loma Linda Vegetarian Burger	12/19 oz	\$63.29	\$5.19	\$56
Loma Linda Tender Bits	12/19 oz	\$66.49	\$5.19	\$56
Loma Linda Redi-Burger	12/19 oz	\$63.89	\$5.19	\$56
Loma Linda Linkettes	12/20 oz	\$63.49	\$5.19	\$56
Loma Linda Linkettes Institutional	96 oz	\$108.59	\$17.59	\$96
Loma Linda Big Franks	12/20 oz	\$63.49	\$4.89	\$56
Loma Linda Big Franks Low Fat	12/20 oz	\$62.89	\$4.89	\$53
Loma Linda Big Franks Institutional	96 oz	\$108.59	\$16.79	\$91
Loma Linda Little Links	12/19 oz	\$64.79	\$5.19	\$56
Fried Chik/N with Gravy	12/13 oz	\$55.19	\$4.39	\$48

### Frozen

Worthington Smoked Turkey Roll	4 lbs	\$94.79	\$21.39	\$78
Worthington Chicken Roll	4 lbs	\$94.79	\$21.39	\$78
Worthington Corned Beef Roll	4 lbs	\$100.99	\$23.19	\$84
Worthington Wham Roll	4 lbs	\$100.99	\$23.19	\$84
Worthington Dinner Roast	2 lbs	\$76.09	\$11.59	\$63
Leanies	12.75 oz	\$66.69	\$6.09	\$59

### Cedar Lake

	Size	Regular Case Cost	Camp Meeting Cost per Unit	Camp Meeting Cost per Case
Chops	12/19 oz	\$60.69	\$5.29	\$58
Nuti-Loaf	12/19 oz	\$67.79	\$5.59	\$61
Terkettes	12/19 oz	\$60.69	\$5.29	\$58
Hostess Cuts	12/19 oz	\$60.69	\$5.29	\$58
3 Grain Patty	12/19 oz	\$60.69	\$5.29	\$58
Dinner Steaks	12/13 oz	\$54.79	\$4.59	\$50
Vegi-Scallops	12/20 oz	\$61.19	\$5.29	\$58
Dinner Cutlets	6/19 oz	\$30.39	\$4.59	\$25
Vege Meatballs (Non GMO)	12/16 oz	\$71.39	\$5.49	\$60

### Heritage

Turkey Slices	6/16 oz	\$67.29	\$11.29	\$62
Chicken Slices	6/16 oz	\$67.29	\$11.29	\$62
Corned Beef Slices	6/16 oz	\$67.29	\$11.29	\$62
Ham Slices	6/16 oz	\$67.29	\$11.29	\$62

### New Products

Loma Linda Fishless Tuna	13 oz	\$4.99	\$4.39	\$48
Loma Linda Chik'n Patty	13 oz	\$4.99	\$4.39	\$48
Loma Linda Chik'n Chunks	13 oz	\$4.99	\$4.39	\$48
Loma Linda Beefless Chunks - Gravy	13 oz	\$4.99	\$4.39	\$48
Loma Linda Taco Filling	20 oz	\$5.89	\$5.19	\$56
Loma Linda 5 Bean Chili	20 oz	\$5.89	\$5.19	\$56
Caroline's Tuna	5 oz	\$1.66	\$1.39	\$29
Caroline's Taco Filling	5 oz	\$1.66	\$1.39	\$29
Kim's Homestyle Burger	8 oz	\$5.69	\$4.99	\$27
Kim's Macaroni Casserole	10.5 oz	\$5.69	\$4.99	\$27
Kim's Breakfast Sausage	7 oz	\$5.69	\$4.99	\$27
Kim's Golden Waffle	11.4 oz	\$5.69	\$4.99	\$27

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# CONFERENCE PRIORITIES

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

## Lessons from a Safari

I had the privilege to experience a very meaningful and special moment a few years ago. This experience moved me deeply and caused me to think about what it means to be part of a community and what that could mean for our churches.

Several years ago, I traveled to Africa with a group of college students on a mission trip. These students came from La Sierra University and Walla Walla College. This trip was sponsored by Share Him. The students were speaking every night in outdoor evangelistic meetings around the city of Lusaka, Zambia. At the same time a Voice of Prophecy team was holding meetings at a convention center in downtown Lusaka. It was inspiring to see God work through these students as the Spirit of God spoke through them to reach thousands of people, people that were hungering for hope and who came to hear messages of grace.



ISTOCK/THINKSTOCK

Since I was already traveling to Africa for this evangelistic campaign, I chose to go on a safari for a week before the meetings began and experience God's creation on that continent. Traveling to several camps in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana was an adventure of a lifetime. Lions, zebras, giraffes, monkeys, hippos and so many other creatures provided constant entertainment, and I was in awe while observing them in their natural habitat.

One day, while canoeing with my guide in the early morning hours down a river filled with hippos, we glided around a corner and came face to face with a herd of elephants on a small island in the middle of the river. Having swum out to the island, the elephants were leisurely grazing on reeds that covered the island. The guide asked us to quit paddling and quietly observe them. He told us if we watched patiently we would observe a rare lesson in community.

We immediately noticed an elephant in the herd without a trunk. She looked very healthy. We began to quietly ask questions of our guide. "What happened to her? How does she eat?" He told us to just watch.

I had tears in my eyes as I began to observe the

other elephants gather reeds with their trunks and feed the elephant that didn't have one. Our guide told me they had been doing that since she lost her trunk in a poacher's snare, and he assumed the other elephants would feed her until the day she died.

There is so much for us to learn and emulate from this herd of elephants. If we can translate this image to our churches, to the body of Christ, how powerful would that be? May we care for each other and give hope to all.

"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it"—I Cor. 12:26, 27.

*By Sandra Roberts, SECC President*



**"If we can translate this image to our churches, to the body of Christ, how powerful would that be?"**

(Left) Anthony Penick, assistant district pastor for Hope Community and San Bernardino 16th Street church, and Dante Marruffo, youth pastor at Azure Hills church, pass out water and snacks during the block party at the Muscoy Elementary School in San Bernardino.



(Right) Students from Loma Linda Academy distribute various prizes for the kids during the block party at Muscoy Elementary School in San Bernardino.



## San Bernardino Block Party Exposes Community Needs to Be Met

More than 30 organizations were involved in this year's community block party, held at Muscoy Elementary School in San Bernardino. This was the third event of its kind, spearheaded by partner churches, Azure Hills church and UReach ministries from the Loma Linda University church.

Nearly 550 community residents and volunteers attended the event, an uptick from last year's block party, held at Alice Birney Elementary School in Colton. Adventist churches represented this year included San Bernardino 16th Street, Azure Hills, Calimesa, Campus Hill, Crosswalk, Loma Linda Chinese, Loma Linda Filipino, Loma Linda University, Mentone, Redlands and Victoria.

However, the event also involved several other organizations intent on supporting the community, such as the American Heart Association, Mental Health Systems, Kidz Zoo, the Mexican Consulate's Ventanilla De Salud, SAC Health System clinic and several others. Support also came from San

Bernardino City Unified School District and the local Fire Department.

Some of the booths at the event offered

*One of the many children that attended the event is excited to get his face painted.*



glucose and blood pressure checks, massages, basic education on health and lifestyle, and tooth-brushing and flossing tips. Some booths had free food, and there was a constant line at the face-painting booth. Children also enjoyed a small zoo.

The block party represents a shift in the way church is traditionally done, according to Patty Marruffo, family pastor of Azure Hills church, who has been involved in the planning and execution of the block party since its inception three years ago. By partnering with other organizations, needs can be discovered and met.

"A lot of times we want to bring people to where we are," said Marruffo. "This is another way to do church. We go to where others are, mingle with them and discover their needs. This is the stage. Hopefully through mingling, others may come to know who we are and also see Jesus in a different way."

While the block party itself was a successful event, it is only a culmination of many things happening behind the scenes.

After hearing about last year's event, Muscoy Elementary School asked for the event to be conducted on their campus. The organizers met with the principal and community leaders.

"We promised to come with no strings attached," said Marruffo. "We said we would be happy to bring resources and information, as well as to create a fun day just to say that we care.

No more than that. They opened the doors and allowed

us to come in and did not charge us for using the facilities."

But the conversation did not end there. After the event, the groups reconvened to debrief and talk about areas of need in the community. Their goal was to discover needs and think of ways to address them.

These needs included tutoring for children; help for families torn apart by deportation; English classes and GED training for parents; health and wellness information; and nutritional information for parents and families.

Although the needs are many, Marruffo believes that steps are being taken to meet some of them in tangible ways. Many area churches have committed themselves to gathering school supplies for the upcoming school year.

Many have also become involved with the gangs and drugs task force in the Inland Empire, as well as Faith in Motion, a social services program that connects church groups with needy families or individuals.

David Hutabarat, former special projects manager for UReach, partnered with the Loma Linda University School of Health to explore the option of establishing a community garden.

There are already plans to hold an event next year and there is no limit to what can be done.

"This is the Jesus method," said Marruffo. "Jesus met people's needs, and then He invited them to follow Him. We do what we can and at that point let the Holy Spirit do what He does best."

*By Mario A. Munoz*

# SECC Members Walk 100 Miles to Fight Diabetes and Obesity

Several members of Southeastern California Conference participated in a 100-mile walk to fight diabetes March 22 to 27. This pilot program was sponsored by the Pacific Health Education Center, which is a health institute located in Bakersfield. The walk started at Tom's Farms in Corona, and ended at Mission Bay in San Diego. The participants walked an average of 16 miles a day to reach their destination.

The 100-mile walk had two goals, according to Esther Alonso-Neal, director of community health at the Pacific Health Education Center. The first was to create awareness of the benefits of walking. The second, she said, was "to organize a walking event that would create a buzz for Americans on how to walk away from diabetes and obesity."

Organizing the event with Alonso-Neal were La Sierra University health and exercise science students Alexander Alonso and Tiffany Alhandy.

"For me, personally, it was also a way to bring awareness to diabetes, because I just lost my grandmother to diabetes in October. I wanted to make people aware that some forms of diabetes can be reversed; it's not incurable," said Alonso.

For the full 100 miles, seven church members participated. However, 11 other participants joined to fulfill their own walking goals along the way. Participants of all ages and fitness levels volunteered to join the walk. The youngest participants

were 10 and 11 years old, with the eldest participant being Neftali Alonso, 88 years old.

"The whole way, he was ahead of everybody," said Alonso. "It's his thing; it's his hobby. I think he really enjoyed it." Alonso added that Neftali Alonso walks at least six to eight miles every day.

"Pacific Health Education Center was excited to invite him on the walk. They consider him a remarkable example of enjoying health and vitality at the age of 88 through the benefits of walking and staying active," said Alonso-Neal.

Brian Neal, director of health ministries and commitment for SECC, contacted four churches between Corona and San Diego, asking them to shelter the walkers at night. "A special thank you to the Murrieta, Fallbrook, Escondido and Vista Samoan churches for willingly opening their doors in support of this pilot walk," said Alonso-Neal.

The walk also garnered interest on social media. A video posted by Alonso on YouTube received more than a thousand views. "People want to sit down with us because they're interested in embarking on something like this," said Alonso.

According to Alonso-Neal, each of the seven 100-mile participants reported losing a few inches off their waistlines and felt the walk was also a spiritual journey. Many continue to walk during the week, continuing to experience weight loss and health gains.

"Pacific Health Education Center intends to

inspire and facilitate other communities across the United States and around the world to try some version of this event," said Alonso-Neal. "This pilot walk has proven that Americans are motivated to get walking with the purpose of getting healthy, and spreading the message of walking away from diabetes."

By Kendrah Adams



The group of walkers pose at the Escondido church sign, where they will stay the night.



(Left) Neftali Alonso talks with a friend during the 100 mile walk from Corona to San Diego.



(Right) Participants of the 100 mile walk reach San Diego at the end of the sixth day.

## Upcoming Events

**Organ Concert** (July 1) 11 a.m., Paradise Valley church, 2701 E. 8th St., National City. Nicholas Halbert and Chinar Merjanian, young organists, will present an organ concert as part of Balboa Park's centennial celebrations and part of the Maerican Guild of Organist's week long concert series. More info, 619-245-5845 or visit <http://agosandiego2015.org/schedule.html#day4>.

**Piano Concert** (July 9) 7 p.m., Paradise Valley Senior Living Community, 2701 E. 4th St., National City. Internationally-acclaimed pianist Gustavo Romero will present a free concert. More info, 619-235-5845.

**SECC Youth Day** (July 12) Six Flags Magic Mountain. Enjoy a day with various youth groups throughout the conference. For tickets, which includes lunch and a full day pass, contact the youth department at 951-509-2260 or email [syya@seccsda.org](mailto:syya@seccsda.org) for more information.



## An Unexpected Gesture

*From the desk of Don Dudley, Superintendent for SECC*

The end of the month of May and the first week of June marks a time of celebration for schools with graduations from Kindergarten, elementary school and high school. Along with the

celebration and rejoicing of students achieving a milestone in their lives, educators start worrying about the seniors plan for the traditional class prank. Over the years, this activity has taken on many forms as classes look to leave their school with a lasting memory.

This year something unique occurred at Redlands Adventist Academy. Instead of a class prank the seniors participated in a "class thank." On Sunday May 31, the senior class met on campus with their sponsors and began to implement a "class thank." Every teacher, from Kindergarten through grade twelve, received a letter of appreciation with a rose on their desk and their rooms were decorated with symbols of thanks and appreciation, highlighting the class color, hot pink. The



center of campus was decorated with pink flamingos, creating a maze that younger students were able to enjoy the following morning. Bible verses and inspirational messages were written with chalk on the sidewalks around campus. Fences were decorated with pink ribbon hearts for all to enjoy.

What would motivate a class to break the long standing tradition of a prank? I asked Joshua Knowlton, senior class president, and this is what he had to say. "With our Senior Thank, we wanted to leave an impression on Redlands Adventist Academy. By choosing to do a positive act for the school, it seemed like it was our chance to honor our principal, teachers, staff and friends. It is our hope,

as a class, to show everyone that we care. We want the Class of 2015 to be remembered as the class that changed the school in a positive way. Not only could this opportunity of thankfulness be our way of expressing our appreciation towards the school, but a challenge to other classes in the future."

In all the years that I have worked in education this "class thank" is something I have not seen. I salute the RAA class of 2015 for this gesture of thanksgiving.



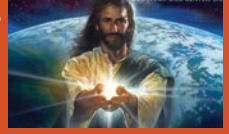
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JULY 2015

# KEEPING *intouch*

## IN THIS ISSUE

*Envisioning Our  
Future: God's  
Dream*



*27th Hispanic  
Women's Ministry  
Retreat*



*Evangelism*



**Velino A. Salazar**  
*President*

## ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE: *God's Dream*

I want to briefly reflect on our future as a conference, envisioning—with God's help—what is ahead of us as we enter this new quadrennial term.

Throughout the last four years, God's blessings in our conference territory have clearly been manifested. I have no doubt that His blessings will continue, as we allow Him to guide us and His Spirit to empower us to carry on His mission.

Our present could be perceived as awkward, since we don't understand some things and may not know how to explain some areas of our past. At the same time, we are a little cautious about how to begin our journey into the future. For moments like these, we need to remember the words of Ellen White: *"We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."* (Life Sketches, p. 196)

As Adventists, for 152 years we have embraced the vision Jesus had for us, to "preach the everlasting gospel to every nation, tribe, tongue and people." We

have gone to more than 200 nations, and reached hundreds of cultures and languages worldwide.

However, those nations from around the world have come to our shores, right here in Southern California. Many of us, or our ancestors, have come from different countries and cultures. We are highly diverse, even in our conference church family, and this diversity has enriched our own identity. This diversity makes us strong and versatile, to reach out to our Southern California community for Christ.

Humanly speaking, our immediate future may seem uncertain and challenging in some ways. We may wonder, how do we reach out to the 224 different cultures, nationalities and languages in our territory? From God's perspective, this is our best opportunity

to fulfill Jesus' command of going to all these nations, tribes, tongues and people.

We don't have to cross oceans to go to people of different nationalities, cultures or languages. We just need to cross the street or walk a couple of blocks, or visit the next city, to find them and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We still need missionaries to go overseas. Some, like my own daughter, are still sensing that call "to go overseas." (She just returned from serving one year as a student missionary in the

Marshall Islands.) Others, like myself, do not feel that call to go overseas, but we feel an urgency, a call to go to our neighbors and show them that we care about them.

Living in a major metropolitan area presents tremendous opportunities

Cont. on page 2

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# In Transition

(Voted Mar. 26; May 14, 28, 2015)

## New to Conference

(Voted 3/26/15)

### Pliny Fondevilla

Pastor, Inter-Valley Filipino church, as of Mar. 1, 2015.

(Voted 5/14/15)

### Matthew Belonio

Associate Pastor, Glendale Filipino church, as of June 14, 2015.

(Voted 5/28/15)

### Leila Dali

Teacher, Simi Valley Adventist School, as of July 1, 2015.

## Changes within Conference

(Voted 5/28/15)

### Anthony Paschal

From Religion Teacher, Glendale Adventist Academy; to Associate Pastor, Glendale City church, as of July 1, 2015.

### Velino A. Salazar

From Executive Secretary, SCC Office; to President, SCC Office, as of May 17, 2015.

## Leaving Conference

(Voted 5/14/15)

### Sharon Crooms-Schwartz

Teaching Principal, Linda Vista Academy, as of June 30, 2015.

### Gabriel Madrid

Principal, Conejo Adventist Academy, as of June 30, 2015.

### Alvin Maragh

Associate Pastor, Central Filipino church, as of Apr. 30, 2015.

### Wendy Newmyer

Principal, Crescenta Valley Elementary School, as of June 30, 2015.

(Voted 5/28/15)

### Sharon Hairston

Teacher, San Fernando Valley Academy, as of June 30, 2015.

### Jennifer Opp

Teacher, Conejo Adventist Elementary School, as of June 30, 2015.

### Tanya Stotz

Teacher, San Fernando Valley Academy, as of June 30, 2015.

### Sandra Suarez

Teacher, Glendale Adventist Academy, as of June 30, 2015.

### Leslie White

Chaplain/Teacher, San Fernando Valley Academy, as of June 30, 2015.

Envisioning Our Future: God's Dream, cont. from page 1

to witness for the Lord through an outreach called "Pathway to Health" (PTH). This has already been done in San Francisco and Oakland in 2014 and in April of this year in San Antonio, Texas.

In late April, SCC leadership received word that the ASI (Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries) national Board approved our request to have the same event in Los Angeles March 23-25, 2016.

My friends, our future is bright and safe, not from a human perspective, but from God's perspective. In the days ahead, it is our intention to place an emphasis on health, education and on living the Gospel (or evangelizing, as Elder Caviness coined this term).

As I see how Jesus has envisioned His Church, I want to join Him in envisioning what He wants for His church in Southern California Conference.

I envision myself seeking the Lord more intentionally, praying and searching His Word and His prophets. For Christ Alone to be the Center of our lives, we will all—you and our administrative team and

pastoral, educational and office staff—need to spend more time seeking Him and listening to Him. We need to learn what plans, what dreams He has for us as individuals and as a conference.

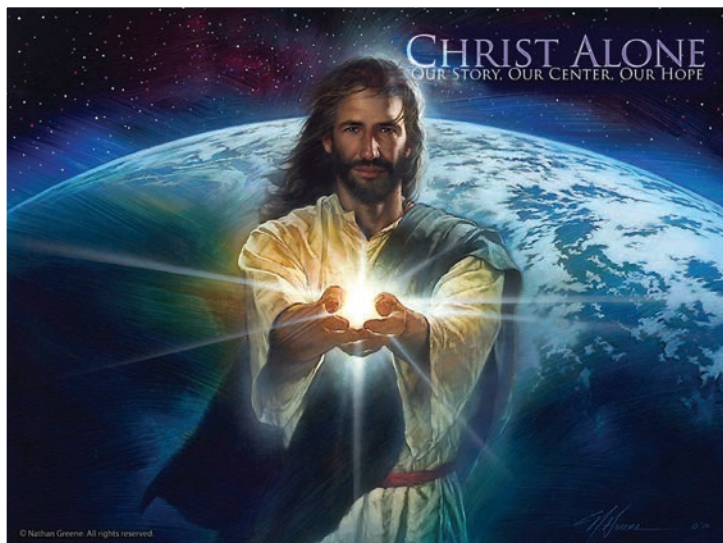
In our seeking, we need to talk and listen to each other; God also can speak through our dialogue. That's how the Early Church became successful; the disciples and the apostles had to put aside some of their own preferences and traditions, to make room for the new generation of converts coming into the expanding church. They did it by being flexible, without losing their core principles. They were open to evangelizing their communities and to changing their world.

My dear brothers and sisters, the generation that is coming behind us are our children, and we know that we all want them in God's kingdom. Let's give them the opportunity to participate and take ownership in this sacred work. This is their church as well! They have grown up in it. They want their church to be relevant, to fill the current needs of the communities in which we live. As parents, grandparents and mentors, let's make ours the words of 3 John 4: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth."

I envision our churches filled with committed disciples witnessing in their communities, serving others as Jesus served wherever He went. This will attract more disciples to follow Jesus.

I envision our schools as educational centers attracting more students to learn about Jesus, as a result of the Christ-like lives of their teachers, who imitate and follow the Great Teacher.

I envision our region and department offices as resource centers for assisting local churches in reaching their full potential to communicate the Gospel.



Cont. on page 3

I personally envision SCC churches being open to explore every possible avenue to reach more people for Christ. God can give us ideas to be creative, to reach our complex and ever changing society. The methodologies in our witnessing programs can vary, but the gospel needs to be kept intact and pure.

To reach a higher standard of effectiveness in our witnessing programs we need to maximize the resources the

Lord has given us, even if we have to reorganize them.

And, in a final note, I personally envision seeing Jesus coming in the clouds as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. I envision that day when I, my wife and two young adult children, Eric and Melissa, together enter the pearly gates of the New Jerusalem.

I envision that day seeing each one of you, with your families, entering the

Heavenly City to live forever with the Lord.

May God help us all to be faithful to Him, making Christ Alone the Center of our lives.

Velino A. Salazar  
President

*(This editorial have been condensed from closing remarks at the 2015 Constituency Session.)*

## *Showers of Blessings on the Mountain:* 27TH HISPANIC WOMEN'S MINISTRY RETREAT MEETS

*By Lucy Sifuentes-Benitez*

**E**arlier this year, 497 women gathered at Pine Springs Ranch in the San Joaquin Mountains in search of God's blessing, peace and communion through prayer, music and fellowship at the annual SCC Hispanic Women's Ministry Retreat. For some, it was a sacrifice to leave behind their

husbands and children for the weekend and to get the money for this event. Many women start saving the year before to be able to pay the fee. Others prepare and sell food or have garage sales to get money to come for this special retreat.

The weekend began with a well-presented drama about the woman afflicted with an issue of blood for 12 years, who touched the border of Jesus' garment and immediately was healed. Among many other things learned from this incident, three were spotlighted: Following Jesus with all our heart will give us faith and our desire will be granted. Believing in His love will give us courage to seek Him and never depart from Him. Accepting His wonderful virtue to touch our souls changes our lives forever.



*"Beloved," a talented group from Miami, Florida, presented excellent music.*

"4 Real Women International Group" from New York provided the retreat speakers. This Christian non-profit organization led by Norka Blackman-Richards presented well-designed, creative and innovative messages to three groups: teenagers, young single women and adult women. Their inspired presentations reminded the women that, no matter what is happening around them, they are "God's workmanship, created with a purpose."

SCC Women's Ministry provided spiritual counseling to those requesting private interviews with volunteer counselors. This year, Marcy Castillo-Rood of Glendale, was joined by Juanita Trivino of Redlands for this ministry, for the first time.

"I loved attending that session," said Dorothy Means, Pacific Union Conference Women's Ministry director, "and seeing those young ladies so attentive, creative and fully engaged as their leader addressed them. I thank God that this is a reality in the ministry, because we need to include them in our lives, as

well as training for them to discover the passion and assignment the Lord has given them as His daughters. God has a plan for all of us in preparing others to meet Christ when He comes."

Antonia Elenes, SCC Hispanic Women's Ministry coordinator, and her staff join in thanking the many women who faithfully participate every year in the "Colchitas with Love" project. This year, 7,000 "colchitas" [baby blankets] were distributed to bless babies throughout Los Angeles, Tijuana, Baja California; and Villahermosa, Tabasco, Mexico.

SCC Hispanic Ministries Director Pastor Luis Peña shared an inspiring message at the close of the event.

# SCC EVANGELISM



James G. Lee, Jr.  
Evangelism director

We need to use every available means to reach communities in the Greater Los Angeles area. That's why the Southern California Conference is pleased to partner with the "Your Best Pathway to Health" Initiative developed through ASI (Adventist Laymen's Services & Industries) in co-sponsoring the Pathway to Health Los Angeles March 23-25, 2016.

Health ministry is evangelism. Ellen White wrote, in volume 1 of the Testimonies, that health ministry "is a part of the third angel's message and is just as closely connected with it as are the arm and hand with the human body." (p. 486)

Pathway to Health has already touched hearts and lives in Oakland and San Francisco, California (2014) and in San Antonio, Texas (April, 2015). As a result, thousands of people have received free medical, dental and vision care as well as a new, whole-person perspective on caring for their bodies. This amazing outreach has been made possible because Adventist health professionals and other individuals in the church have come from all over the U.S. and given their time and skills to help people with medical needs.

In March, our medical professionals and members in both Southern and Southeastern California conferences will have the God-given opportunity to help with Pathway to Health L. A. Participating in this at-home mission trip will not only change people's lives in our communities, it will make residents in our area aware that Adventists care. And volunteers' lives will be changed as well as they see God at work through their own ministries and in the responses of the people they serve.

Currently, the SCC Health Response Steering Committee members are gearing up for training pastors, health ministry directors and any members who want to have a part in this



The dental treatment section is one of the largest PTH areas, since many people have no dental insurance.

outreach, which we estimate will help more than 10,000 people in Los Angeles and draw as many as 2,500 volunteers. Training will bring together many ministries in our churches, including the Evangelism and Ministerial, Health Ministry, Literature Evangelism, Young Adult Ministry and Community Services departments. This full-force strategy—and your help and prayers—will be needed!



Betty Cooney,  
Communication/  
Health Response  
Committee

We will be sharing more details about training schedules and procedures as we receive them. In the meantime, please be praying for Pathway to Health L. A. and how you can participate!

**For details of the San Antonio Pathway to Health event:**

**San Antonio video:**

<http://tinyurl.com/http-tinyurl-com-p2yxno>

**SCC Health Ministries details:**

<http://scchealthmin.adventistfaith.org/2015-pathway-to-health-l-a>



Tilly Sakai, second from right, is a Thousand Oaks church member who has been very active in preparing PTH meals.



A dentist lets a patient's daughter watch him as he works on her mother.