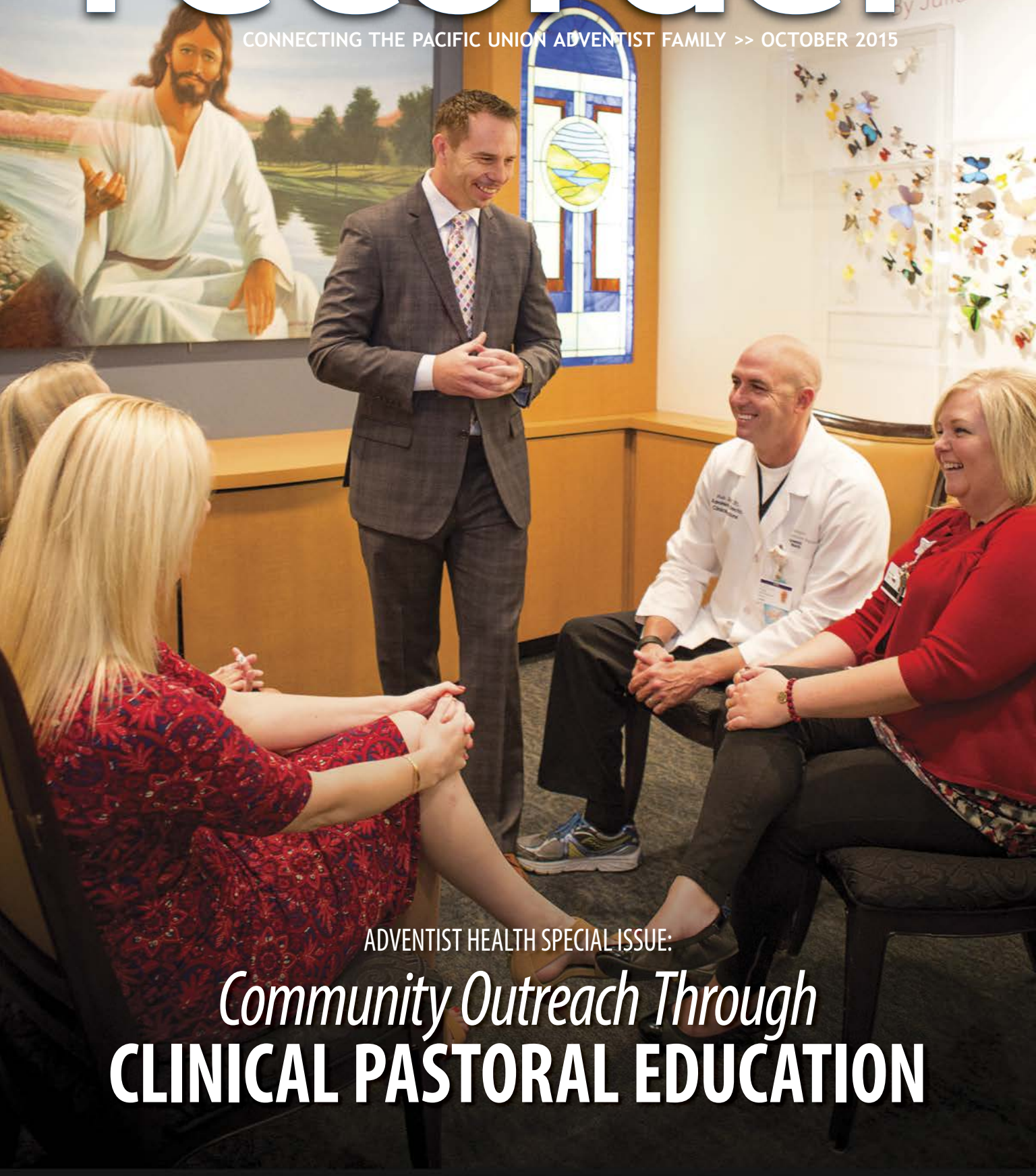


PACIFIC UNION

# recorder

CONNECTING THE PACIFIC UNION ADVENTIST FAMILY >> OCTOBER 2015



ADVENTIST HEALTH SPECIAL ISSUE:

## *Community Outreach Through* **CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION**

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## about the cover

Tony Andrews, director of Pastoral Care and Clinical Pastoral Education, speaks to other CPEs at San Joaquin Community Hospital in Bakersfield.

**PHOTO BY WILLIS DESIGN STUDIOS**

# PACIFIC UNION recorder

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



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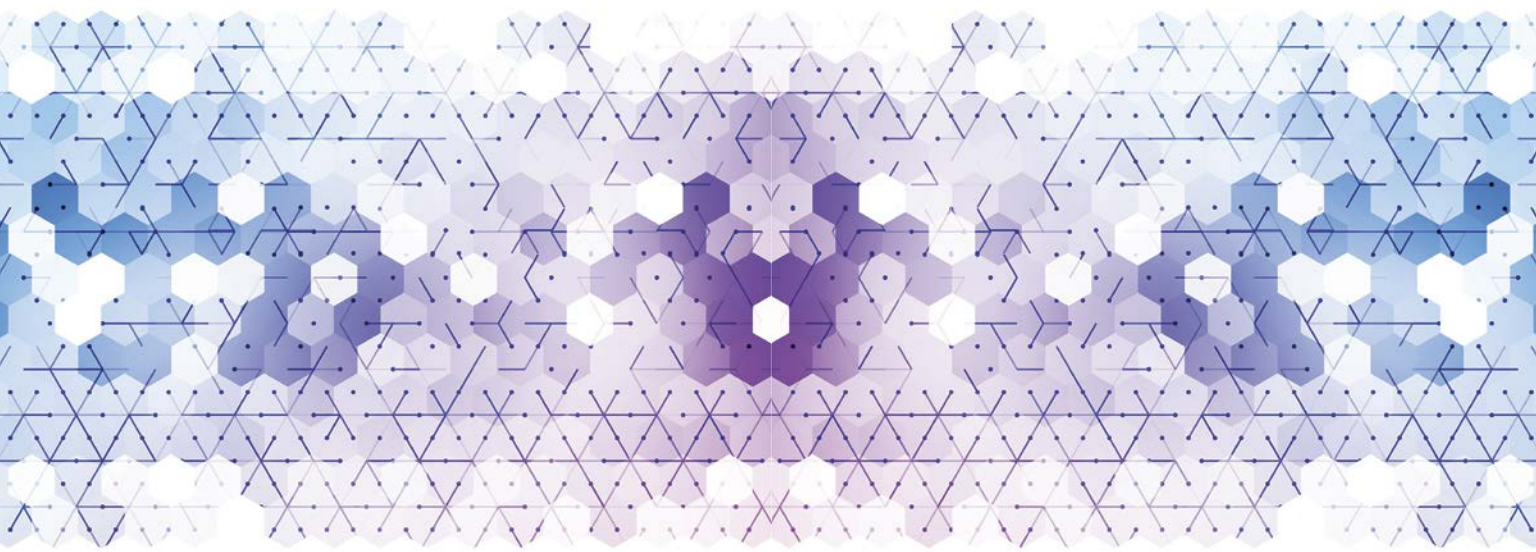
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	Year Average	Sept. Issue
Total number of copies	76,929	76,069
Total paid or requested outside-county mail subs	75,079	75,185
Total paid or requested inside-county mail subs	0	0
Sales through dealers, carriers, street vendors	0	0
Other classes mailed through USPS	1,850	1,884
Total paid and/or requested circulation	76,929	76,069
Total free distribution	320	320
Total distribution	77,249	77,389
Copies not distributed	150	150
Total	77,719	77,859
Percent paid and/or requested	99.6%	99.6%



# Living Our Mission by Empowering Our Communities



MICHEL LOURAITTE

**Ricardo Graham**  
President of the Pacific Union and  
Chairman of the Adventist Health Board



**G**od calls each of us to follow the example of Jesus Christ as loving and compassionate individuals. This means caring for others and ourselves in mind, body and spirit as He did on Earth. As Jesus empowered those He healed with confidence in His power, so we are called to empower the communities we reach.

First Thessalonians 5:11 tells us to “Encourage one another and build each other up,” advice that Adventist Health has taken to heart. Through programs such as LivingWell, Adventist Health is empowering its employees to take charge of their own health and live healthier lives. Through our approach to population health, caregivers work to empower at-risk patients by providing the knowledge, tools and support they need to attain their best health. Other training, such as clinical pastoral education, empowers pastors, chaplains and caregivers, supplying instruction and real-life practice in aiding grief-stricken patients and their families. Together, these programs and many more exemplify the Adventist Health

mission “to share God’s love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing.”

Jesus used healing as an introduction to his ministry as he traveled from place to place. Being more than a “faith healer” or “miracle worker,” He met people where they were and provided healing of the mind, body and spirit. Today hospitals and clinics play an important part in spreading the gospel commission of the church, showing Christ’s love to communities that might not otherwise be reached by the Adventist message. Health ministries provide a gateway — often an introduction — to our faith in a way that no other ministry does. Practicing the healing arts often breaks down barriers or softens resistance to overt spiritual paths, while opening hearts and minds to the truths the Adventist Church has been given to share with the world. Adventist Health believes that by embracing the mission and shared values, we will find new ways to bear witness to our Creator’s love, and new avenues for reenergizing the prophetic message of the Advent movement.

# Empowering Our Communities

**A**dventist Health is committed to realizing our mission, “to share God’s love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing,” in the 75+ communities we serve every day. From the Windward side of Oahu to the redwoods of California to Walla Walla Valley in the Pacific Northwest, we are working diligently to transform the delivery of care to better serve our patients, their families, and the broader communities.

Throughout Adventist Health, our workforce is leading the way to make a difference in the lives of those we serve. From operating clinics in rural areas that might not otherwise receive any care to taking a moment to pray with individuals in crisis, the people of Adventist Health are living our mission every day.

Smart growth is also a major component of our strategic initiatives. We are actively seeking opportunities to create new working relationships with hospitals, other providers, payers — and even some competitors — that align with our goals and extend our mission.

Every day, Adventist Health empowers healthy communities by improving access to comprehensive, quality health care services and enhancing the quality of life for those we serve through health programs that have been collaboratively identified and prioritized. We also provide health professions education, research, and other health services that would be otherwise unavailable to those in need. We are proud to extend our mission into the communities we serve. Together we can build stronger, healthier and more resilient communities.



MIGUEL LOURANTE

Adventist Health Board Chairman Ricardo Graham and President and CEO Scott Reiner tour Lodi Health, the newest addition to Adventist Health.

*Scott Reiner, Adventist Health President and CEO*

## Fast Facts

- 20 hospitals in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington
- More than 275 rural health clinics, physician clinics and outpatient centers
- 15 home care agencies
- Seven hospice agencies
- Four joint-venture retirement centers

Workforce of 31,000 includes:

- More than 22,350 employees
- 4,800 medical staff physicians
- 3,850 volunteers

There were many opportunities to serve our communities in 2014:

- 123,044 admissions
- 545,151 emergency visits
- 2,324,895 outpatient visits
- 858,501 rural health clinic visits
- 573,271 patient days
- 234,688 home care visits
- 80,386 hospice days



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# Growing Our Reach, One Community at a Time

**W**ith Lodi Health joining Adventist Health earlier this year and continual growth of our rural health clinics, Adventist Health is reaching more communities than ever. Pending discussions with Tehachapi Valley Healthcare District in Southern California would also expand Adventist Health's mission to more people.

"As Adventist Health grows, we're able to serve more people and to share Adventist Health's healing ministry with more communities," says Bob Beehler, vice president of Market Development/Mergers & Acquisitions. "In addition, it's crucial to the success of our organization that we continue to grow."

Growth also takes place in outlying areas through rural health clinics — especially in California's Central Valley — making Adventist Health the largest rural health provider in California. These clinics offer quality health care to otherwise-underserved communities. Collectively, the Adventist Health network of approximately 275 clinics sees more than 1,000 patients per hour, according to Mark Ashlock, senior vice president of Physician Strategy.

"We reach out to communities based on their need," says Beehler. "We don't look strictly at their economics."

Looking beyond the economics is part of what makes the difference for Adventist Health. "Patients come to the hospital when they're in their greatest need," says Beehler. "The uniqueness of our Adventist Health hospitals, clinics and other services is the compassion, the care and the love that our patients receive in their darkest moments."

Some growth brings Adventist Health into partnerships with other hospital systems, payers or even competitors, merging the strengths of each to create a mission-oriented culture and a successful infrastructure. Under an initiative with Blue Shield of California, telehealth services for medical specialty care are available to those who wouldn't normally receive it.

This innovative approach to care allows patients to see a specialist or other health care professional that is out of their geographic reach, without having to travel to the provider's office. Using interactive video technology,



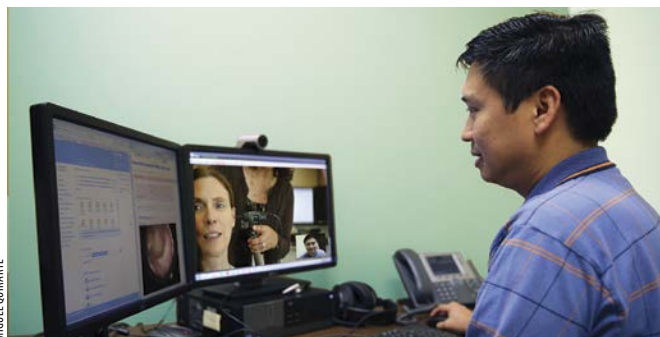
**Adventist Health President Scott Reiner and retired president and CEO Joe Harrington plant a tree at the dedication ceremony of Lodi Health.**

patients are able to see, hear and talk to doctors in private exam rooms while a telehealth coordinator assists with the examination and equipment. In 2014, more than 900 telehealth services and 3,811 telepharmacy services were provided for Adventist Health facilities.

Adventist Health has been well-received in these areas of expansion — thanks to good experiences and previous connections with the Seventh-day Adventist church and other Adventist hospitals and clinics. Lodi Health, for example, exists in a community where the church is respected among community members. During negotiations with the health system, board members' previous experiences with Adventist physicians and hospitals became one of many key factors in the unanimous vote to join Adventist Health.

"It's the culture of Adventist Health that leaves an emotional impression on patients and visitors," says Beehler. "Our health care mission provides an introduction to our faith."

*Shelby Seibold, Communication Specialist*



**Telehealth allows providers to care for patients using interactive video technology.**

# Population Health: Changing Our Words, Changing Our Thoughts, Changing Our Actions

**H**ealth care is full of buzzwords, and one you may have heard lately is “population health.” While the term’s definition varies, the common thread is the improvement of health in the communities we serve. At Adventist Health, population health doesn’t refer to one solution for everyone — it’s using the principles of wellness to enhance the health of the entire community.

“The vision behind population health is both anchored and inspired by Adventist Health’s deep roots in health and wellness — roots that maintain a stronghold on our way of thinking, behaving and being,” says Tom Russell, vice president of Population Health Innovations for Adventist Health. “It’s about influencing the populations we serve in a way that drives health and wellness for everyone.”

In addition to physical health, the idea of population health addresses whole-person health in mind, body and spirit. It takes a holistic approach. The fundamentals — nutrition, exercise, spirituality and environment — work together so each person can live the healthiest life possible.

Furthermore, it teaches individuals to actively engage in their own health by the choices they make every day.

Adventist Health believes that improving the health of the population begins at home with employees and their families — that’s why we’ve implemented the LivingWell program, which was originally created at Adventist Health Medical Center – Portland, in Oregon, to encourage a whole-person health approach to a healthy lifestyle.

“Our mission is to share God’s love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing and we believe that includes our employees,” says Russell. “We decided to focus on how we could take action and make a positive difference in the health of our team.”

The mission of healing doesn’t stop with Adventist Health employees — in fact, it’s only the beginning. The LivingWell program produces a healthy and happy workforce that can better serve patients and the community. Less time away on sick leave means better continuity within the team, increasing trust and communication and positively impacting the patient experience and clinical outcomes.

Ann Armour, a licensed vocational nurse in the mental health unit at Glendale Adventist Medical Center in Glendale, Calif., experienced the positive effects of the LivingWell program firsthand. In fall of 2014, she attended her free biometric screening as part of the employee health program. After the screening, a care manager for the Adventist Health Employee Health Plan called Armour to discuss her weight. Together they set exercise goals and discussed ways that Armour could take action to improve her health.



CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON

Employees are encouraged to participate in fitness activities.



ADVENTIST HEALTH

**Adventist Health employees participate in the California International Marathon each December.**

By April of 2015, Armour achieved her first goal, to lose 70 pounds. As a result, she now has more energy and is able to enjoy her free time as well as her job in a way she couldn't before.

"At work, one of the things we do is respond to codes when a patient is acting out," says Armour. "We have to run or walk quickly to the patient — often to the other end of the hospital. Now I can do that without being winded, which really helps my team and the patients that we serve."

Biweekly chats with her care manager helped Armour and gave her encouragement throughout her journey. She says that her care manager offered "complete and total support," which helped Armour's mindset about getting healthy. Instead of being told a list of do's and don'ts, she found a friend to talk to.

The approach to population health also affects the outcomes for the community as a whole, says Russell. A simple change in the language can go a long way in influencing the mindset of the population.

"When we think of 'health,' as opposed to 'health care,' we change our entire outlook and ask different questions," he says. "We think of

prevention rather than treatment, proactive rather than reactive health interventions. Changing the words we use changes our thoughts, and changing our thoughts changes our actions. It's a simple but powerful tool."

Though the terminology may be different and the concepts may seem new, the root of population health lies in Adventism's journey to health and wellness since its birth.

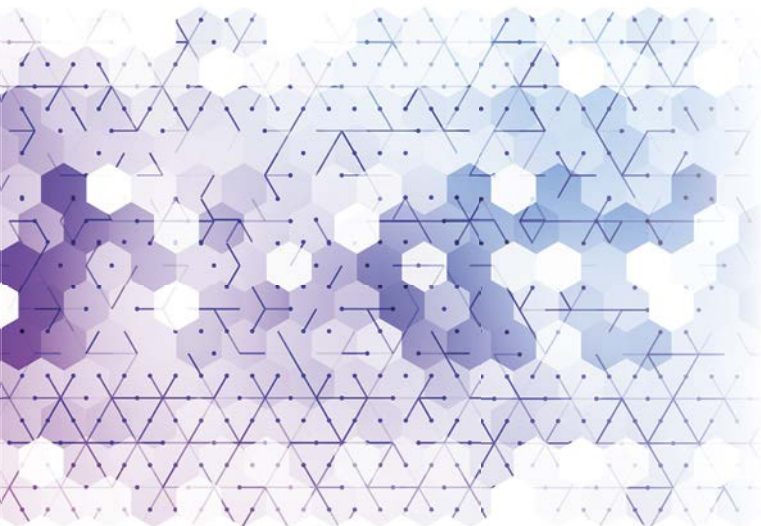
"The Adventist church has been known for health and wellness for years, and Adventist Health is a part of that journey," says Russell. "It's all about the people and keeping them in the center of care. That's what Christ did."

*Shelby Seibold*



MIGUEL QUIRANTE

**Adventist Health's Scott Thibault walks to keep off the 100 pounds he's lost with LivingWell.**





WILLIS DESIGN STUDIOS

**Tony Andrews, director of Pastoral Care and Clinical Pastoral Education at San Joaquin Community Hospital in Bakersfield.**

# Community Outreach Through Clinical Pastoral Education

**J**ack Duitsman, spiritual care coordinator for Gentiva Hospice in Bakersfield, Calif., decided to enroll in clinical pastoral education after being encouraged by several other chaplains who had benefitted from the program. As a hospice chaplain who completed his master's degree in theology, Duitsman knew firsthand that not a lot of pastoral care training is available in most seminaries.

"Chaplaincy is a part of pastoral ministry, but it's different enough that I felt I needed some extra training," says Duitsman. "When I heard there was a program beginning in Bakersfield, it caught my attention."

Clinical pastoral education, or CPE, is a community-based training program that focuses on the clinical skills that chaplains, pastors and other caregivers need to integrate spiritual care into everyday practice — in hospitals, churches and the community. This provides rigorous education in counseling that professional clergy wouldn't normally receive in seminary.

"CPE joins psychology and theology," says Tony Andrews, director of Pastoral Care and Clinical Pastoral Education at San Joaquin Community Hospital in Bakersfield. "We're between a pastor and a therapist and we bring those two spaces together."

From an educational standpoint, CPE offers a high degree of introspection, says Paul Crampton, assistant vice president for Mission and Spiritual Care at Adventist Health. While part of the focus is learning how to provide spiritual support for patients and their families, the other part is looking inward — as each pastor, chaplain and caregiver examines the

effect of the situation on themselves as well as their own reactions, biases and behaviors that influence their work with patients and families.

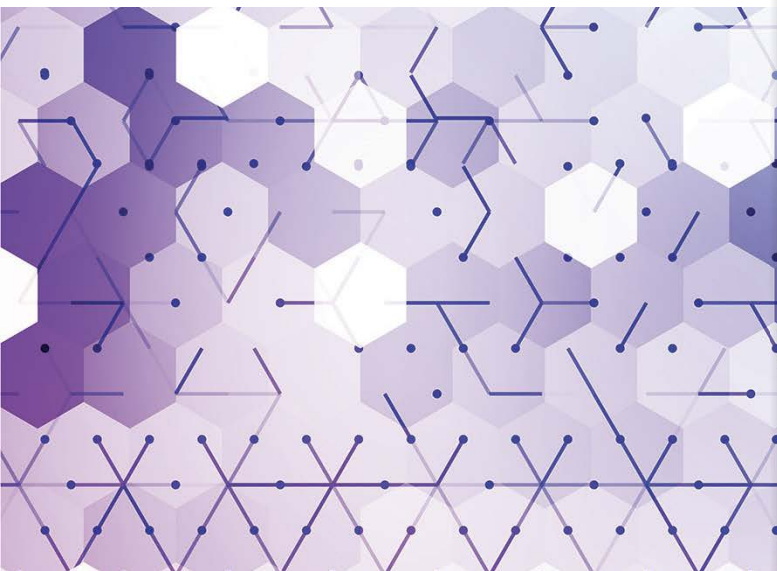
Andrews pioneered CPE at SJCH in January 2014 and began teaching his fourth unit in August of this year. Chaplains must take at least four units of CPE to be board-certified, with each unit comprised of a variety of attendees with diverse backgrounds and varying levels of experiences. Currently, Andrews is working with a local pastor, hospice chaplain, nurse, several theology students and laity who aspire to be prison chaplains. Each unit is independent of the others, so newcomers can join at the beginning of any term.

Participants use two primary tools to learn about and develop their own self-awareness: case studies and group process. In case studies, the group and each individual evaluate the interaction between the chaplain and the patient using theories learned in the classroom. Members are encouraged to bring situations from the previous week that challenged them with troubling or difficult issues, and discuss them for better understanding.

"There's a learning curve we all have that lasts a lifetime," says Duitsman. "The biggest part of CPE is looking into the mirror and realizing that there's a long way to go. It gives me empathy because I realize that I'm just as needy as the person whom I am serving."

In group process, interpersonal relationships are examined as members reflect on how they feel and how they interact with one another. In the small-group setting, subconscious behaviors rise to the surface where





Tony Andrews speaks with staff from San Joaquin Community Hospital.



WILLIS DESIGN STUDIOS

peers can express their observations about how these factors may be influencing other areas of life and work. Together, the case studies and group processes allow participants to learn more about their own lives and the behaviors that influence their work.

Duitsman says that the process of introspection was painstaking as he began to realize his need as a chaplain to be a problem-solver. He saw that he needed to stop trying to fix the situations for each patient and instead be present, listening.

"I needed to listen and enter into whatever the person is experiencing," says Duitsman. "Before CPE, I was woefully inept at doing just that. I thought my job was something else — I wanted to fix everything."

During some interactions, Duitsman has to set his own beliefs aside to provide support for a patient. One man he visits on a regular basis considers himself an atheist, but that doesn't stop Duitsman from providing comfort and support, which has led to friendship. The patient has brought up spiritual issues and entered into deep conversations with Duitsman, who says, "I don't have to feel like I have to convert him or else I have failed. It's not my job to figure him out. It's my job to be there — I can experience his life as he has determined to share it with me. And his story isn't over." Experiences such as this make CPE a relevant and unique part of ministry.

"This is where chaplains are underutilized," says Andrews. "Despite extensive training, we're usually called upon only for Scripture and prayer. But we go far beyond that in helping people process their anxieties, doubts and ambiguities."

The idea of CPE was developed in the 1920s by Anton Boisen, a Presbyterian pastor who had suffered from mental health issues, says Andrews. Boisen realized that clergy hadn't been able to help him through his mental lapse and decided to do something about it — train community clergy in pastoral care and better serve their members. Now CPE is often viewed as training only applicable to chaplains because it's required in health care — but it's so much more. Hospitals are utilized as training centers because they are full of people who are going through crisis, which gives CPE students — who can be anyone — an opportunity to practice while they learn.

"We're bridging the gap between health care chaplaincy and community through the spiritual aspect," says Crampton. "The experiences of this program reach far beyond hospital walls."

*Shelby Seibold*



PHOTO COURTESY ESTUARDO BAZINI-BARAKAT

April 2015 graduates of the CPE program at White Memorial Medical Center. Left to right: Otto R. Vasquez (graduating CPE intern); Estuardo Bazini-Barakat (CPE supervisor, WMMC); Bertha Herrera (graduating CPE intern); Julio Nava (graduating CPE intern); Edgar Urbina (director of Chaplaincy Services, WMMC); Archie P. Tupas (graduating CPE intern).

# Empowering Healthier Communities Around the World

**A**dventist Health hospitals and clinics don't limit their care or love to the United States. Each year Adventist Health physicians, executives, nurses and other employees take mission trips to serve communities around the world.



Hanford physicians Humberto Villalvazo, M.D., Gloria "Michelle" Ventura, M.D., Romeo Castillo, M.D., and Byron Tran, M.D., with translator Kristela Shehu.

## Albania – Central Valley Network

Four physicians from the Adventist Health Hanford Family Practice Residency shared God's love as they cared for more than 700 poor residents during a 10-day mission trip to Albania, joining about 70 team members with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency and New Soul Ministry.

Residency faculty members Romeo Castillo, M.D., and Humberto Villalvazo, M.D., as well as resident physicians Byron Tran, M.D., and Gloria "Michelle" Ventura, M.D., worked on a health care team that provided family medicine, pediatrics, dentistry, nutrition education, ophthalmology and surgery services.

Villalvazo, who served as the medical coordinator for the trip, also participated in a surgery to repair the kidney of a 4-month-old boy at Mother Teresa Hospital in Tirana, Albania. Local surgeons said it was the first time the laparoscopic surgery had been performed in their country.

"It was a very rewarding experience to touch people who really need these services," Villalvazo said.

In addition to the medical services, the mission team roofed a building, provided food and clothing, remodeled a local woman's kitchen and held a children's program.

## Armenia – Glendale Adventist Medical Center

Glendale, Calif., is home to the largest population of Armenians outside of Armenia. Earlier this year, Glendale Adventist Medical Center executives took a trip to the mountainous country of Armenia, or Hayastan, located in the South Caucasus region of Eurasia, for the first part of a two-phase mission trip.

The first phase was intended to verify that Noyemberyan Hospital was an appropriate partner hospital, identify common objectives with the health care community, and build relationships with local leaders. All of these pieces fell into place. In phase two of the mission, GAMC physicians, nurses and staff will provide life-saving care to treat stroke and heart attack victims, as well as provide vaccinations and critical health education for better care. GAMC will provide ongoing medical training to their physicians, medical supplies for the hospital, educational materials and pharmaceuticals.

"I was personally overjoyed and blessed by the Armenian people, the culture and the country," said Kevin A. Roberts, GAMC president and CEO. "As an Adventist Christian, I was inspired by learning the determination



Sarkis Kotanjian, executive director, Armenia Fund – Glendale, Calif.; Simon Keushkerian, M.D., past chief of staff, GAMC; Arby Nahapetian, M.D., vice president Medical Affairs and Quality, GAMC; Kevin Roberts, president and CEO, GAMC; Armen Mudatyan, health minister, Armenia; and staff of the Health Ministry.

of the Armenian people over the centuries. Their zeal to uphold Christ, even under the most drastic and persistent persecution, strengthened my faith."

## Belize — Feather River Hospital

A team of 34 volunteers from Feather River Hospital and Paradise Seventh-day Adventist Church in Paradise, Calif., traveled to Belize to work on a variety of projects with the community members of Santa Elena. The team of physicians, nurses, clinicians and community volunteers worked with La Loma Luz Hospital, Eden Seventh-day Adventist School and King's Children's Home orphanage during the trip.

On the night of their arrival, the group began preparing and sorting the medications that would be distributed at the orphanage and community clinics. In the following days, medical teams attended to patients at the orphanage, the hospital and many rural clinics in the surrounding area. In addition to medical services, volunteers prepared a site for a new building at Eden Seventh-day Adventist School and painted various areas in La Loma Luz Hospital.



Gregory Lang, M.D., and Deborah Yoder, RN.



Patients wait for their turn to see the medical volunteers.

## Papua New Guinea – Castle Medical Center

Castle Medical Center made its fourth mission trip to Paiam Hospital in Porgera, Papua New Guinea, last February. Kathy Raethel, RN, president and CEO; George Nardin, M.D.; Rick Yenke, director of Bio Medical Services; Karla Carlyle, occupational therapist from Rehab Services; and Chris Simons, communications and production specialist, made up the team that provided eye care and basic health training for the community.

The volunteers brought hospital supplies, clothing and hundreds of pairs of new and used prescription glasses to 510 patients and provided them with the resources they needed to see more clearly. In addition, the team from Hawaii worked in the hospital providing hygiene education, occupational therapy and service repairs for medical equipment.

"This was a great experience that reminded us of how fortunate we are to enjoy the freedom, safety and many opportunities in our country," said Simons. "Please keep Paiam Hospital in your prayers as Castle Medical Center continues to carry out its mission of healing here and in Porgera."

## Philippines – Southern California Region

In June of this year, Adventist Health's Southern California hospitals — Glendale Adventist Medical Center, White Memorial Medical Center, Simi Valley Hospital and San Joaquin Community Hospital — partnered to send more than 70 volunteers to the Philippines to serve the medical needs of the people of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

Despite complications (including power outages that forced the care providers to work with flashlights) the volunteers were able to supply basic medical care, biometric screenings, basic dental and surgical services, preventative patient education and spiritual care and healing to 2,323 patients.

One collaborative effort included the care of Marjorie, a 9-year-old girl who had a mass on her face. During her appointment, the Adventist Health doctors discovered that she needed extensive surgery that would cost about \$1,000. The trip volunteers decided to cover the cost of the operation, and Marjorie is now recovering.

"Marjorie's life has dramatically improved, all because of the compassion and generosity of the mission team," said Alexander Pamintuan, administrative director of Cardiovascular Service Line at San Joaquin



George Nardin, M.D., examines a patient.

Community Hospital. "Seeing the patients and their families leaving our site smiling and content was our biggest reward."

# Vision of the Future in Full Effect at Loma Linda University Health

*Briana Pastorino*



*A recent artist's rendering of Loma Linda University Health's new adult and Children's Hospital towers gives a sense of the planned construction, made necessary by new seismic standards set by the state of California which will take effect in 2020.*

Construction is in full swing at Loma Linda University Health as demolition and dirt moving make way for the transformational vision of the organization.

Last year, Vision 2020: The Campaign for a Whole Tomorrow was revealed as the organization's largest endeavor in its 110-year history, with an intent to raise \$360 million.

Beyond the Vision 2020 philanthropic campaign, additional funding for health care will come from state grants, bond financing and cash flow from operations.

The Vision 2020 campaign addresses the future growth of education, research, health care and Loma Linda University Health's emphasis on wholeness.

A major part of this vision is the construction of a new adult hospital and an expanded Children's Hospital.

California passed new seismic requirements for hospitals that mandate a new adult hospital by the year 2020, and this has created a challenge that has been embraced as an opportunity to step forward in faith and an opportunity to build a new state-of-the-art hospital that best serves patients, medical staff and the students who train at Loma Linda University Health.

Ground was broken for a new parking structure earlier this year on the corner of Campus Street and Barton Road; in early August, demolition of old buildings on Prospect Avenue began, making way for the new hospital complex.

Groundbreaking for the two new towers is slated for May 2016.

While the total number of licensed beds will not increase, all of the rooms will be private, maximizing efficiency, utilization and quality of care. The new adult hospital will have 288 licensed beds with a future capacity for 320. The expanded Children's Hospital will have a total of 349 licensed beds which includes existing compliant beds, and will have a future capacity of 377.

The new adult tower will be 267 feet tall and will become the second tallest building in California's Inland Empire.

One of the largest underserved populations in the nation sits steps from Loma Linda's doors, and care and ministry have never been needed more than now.

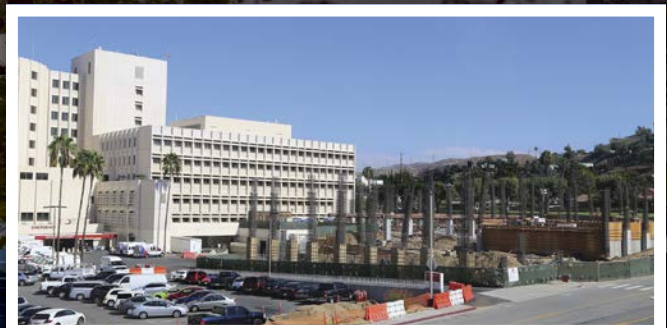
The goals of Vision 2020 will allow Loma Linda University Health to continue to meet the needs of its community, while enhancing its facilities to provide mission-focused education that prepares students for service around the world.

The organization's motto, "to make man whole," is evident in the new plans. At the entrance, a chapel will be in sight, reinforcing that this is a space where patients, families, staff and community members can experience a healing environment and whole-person care.

Concurrently, Vision 2020 is also raising funds to enhance scholarships, support research and expand the Wholeness Institute. Education and training for service are central to each of these plans for the future, as they strive to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

More information is available at [luhvision2020.org](http://luhvision2020.org).

*At Loma Linda University Health, construction is underway on a new parking structure which replaces the current parking lot where the two new hospital towers will sit.*



# Camp Wawona Makes Improvements in Time for Summer

Camp Wawona continues to be a source of fond memories for the hundreds who reside, one week at a time, within its borders each summer. Settled in the forest of Yosemite National Park since 1929, Camp Wawona is still a coveted destination. It has been able to retain a sense of nostalgia while evolving to meet the ever-changing times. For campers, all of the traditional summer camp activities are available, including swimming, horseback riding, obstacle courses, art and archery. In addition, Wawona offers campers the opportunity to find God in nature, to grow spiritually, and to develop life-long relationships.

This year, Camp Wawona hosted a steady stream of campers throughout the hot summer months. "I love Camp Wawona! It's a place that



Camp Wawona's new turf field has plenty of room for a variety of activities.

feels like home — like heaven on earth," nine-time camper Jana Fritz explains. "By the end of the week, there is a strong spiritual connection you have with camp. Words cannot describe it."

Wawona's week-long programs intertwine spiritual lessons that accentuate the chosen theme among staff and campers. This year's theme, "Acceptance," was emphasized each morning during worship. During evening programs, the staff performed an ongoing play based on the theme, climaxing at the end of the week.

As the weeks drew to a close, many campers dedicated their lives to Christ and wrote their names in a symbolic Book of Life.

While there is still a strong sense of tradition at Camp Wawona, it has not become stagnant. Some changes have already had a positive impact

on campers and the environment. A recently installed artificial turf field will not only improve campers' overall experience, but will also help conserve water during California's drought.

This summer, a new obstacle course called Whale Watch opened alongside new gymnastics equipment. "Camp is growing in many ways, like the new challenge course activities, outpost opportunities, and an incredible new turf field," said Taylor Stanic, a three-year camp counselor. "It has been a blessing to see how those additions have improved camp as a whole, and impacted kids in their journey with Christ."

Wawona is also now supporting Fresno Adventist Academy's organic farm by purchasing fresh produce for its kitchen.

*James Montague*



Smiles are contagious at Camp Wawona.

## Wawona Installs New Turf Field

Just before Wawona was to begin another year of summer camp, final steps were taken to complete its new recreational field of artificial turf. In celebration and thanks, Ramiro Cano, conference president, led a group of Wawona staff and CCC administrators in worship before the official ribbon cutting ceremony on June 3.

Cano emphasized the importance of the sacrifices that were made to complete the project through donations and time volunteered.

"I am so thankful for the many sacrificial gifts from campers, alumni and other generous donors that made this recreational field possible,"

said Jackie Phillips, Central's capital campaign director. "It is a much-needed addition to Camp Wawona so that everyone can play in God's beautiful outdoors."

With the field's completion in June, campers are now able to use it for any number of activities. The new field is a major improvement for Camp Wawona, which originally used its horse corrals for sports activities. Conference leaders anticipate that everyone who uses the field will be able to reconnect to God spiritually through the beauty of nature.



Administrators, volunteers and staff dedicate the new turf field June 3 with ribbon cutting ceremony.

*James Montague*

# Adventist Churches Host VBS at Local Apartment Complex

Parlier, Calif., is a small town with a population of 15,000 and no Seventh-day Adventist church. In an effort to reach this community, the Reedley, Sanger and Selma churches, from surrounding areas, collaborated in organizing outreach activities for the residents of Parlier. Over the past year, these churches came together for Christmas caroling, passed

out literature, prayed for people and collected and distributed food. Most recently, they came together to offer Vacation Bible School to children who live at the La Paz Villa apartment complex.

This complex is located in a neighborhood with significant needs. Sylvia Duran, manager of the complex, was excited to host VBS and mentioned that her prayers were answered. "We need Jesus here," Duran stated. "Drugs, theft and violence surround this area where there are a lot of young, hardworking families."

In spite of the heat, approximately 85 children, and many of their parents, met for VBS each evening in the outside activity area of the complex. The children, ages 5 to 14, enjoyed an hour and a half of singing, arts, games, devotions and snacks. Ezequiel Nichols, pastor of

the Sanger and Selma churches, led the event. The children eagerly participated in all of the activities. "They loved to hear about the Bible and prayer," Nichols recalls. "It was such a joy to hear them join in prayer, and to hear them sing praises to God."

A police officer patrolling the area stopped to investigate the activities and was very impressed by what he saw. He said he would be there when events were held again. As the meeting came to an end, many children asked, "Why can't we have this again tomorrow?" Duran has welcomed the churches to return, and they are now planning to organize a movie night and more time to share Jesus again.

*Rose Westre*



*Sid Rusk of the Selma church shares a Blue-tongued Skink during the nature story.*

## Notice of Constituency Session

Please take notice that the Central California Conference 33rd Constituency Meeting is called to convene as follows:

**Date:** November 8, 2015, at 10 a.m.

**Location:** Monterey Bay Academy, 783 San Andreas Road, La Selva Beach, CA 95076

The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports; to elect a president, an executive secretary, a treasurer, a vice president for ministries, an associate executive secretary, and any other such officers as deemed necessary by the delegates; to elect such director(s) for ethnic ministries as deemed necessary by the delegates; to elect members of the Executive Committee and the Bylaws Committee; and to transact such other business as may come before the meeting.

*Ramiro Cano, President*

*Ronald Rasmussen, Executive Secretary*

## Central's Evangelism Offering Exceeds \$1 Million

Soquel camp meeting, hosted by the Central California Conference, is known for several things. Among these are well-known and inspirational speakers, extensive children's programming, massive weekend crowds in excess of 10,000, a picturesque location on the Pacific coast — and the camp meeting's annual evangelism offering.

The much-anticipated offering began 19 years ago with the purpose of funding a variety of evangelistic events, initiatives and projects throughout the Central California Conference. The first offering collected in 1996 totaled a bit over \$97,000. Since 2004, the offering has consistently hovered around \$1 million. Thus far, donations and pledges for 2015 total \$1,134,944. "This year, as with every other, has been a prayer journey," explains Ramiro Cano, president. "This milestone was once again reached by the grace of God and through the remarkable prayer-led generosity of Central members and friends. We're humbled by the many who keep stepping out in faith through sacrificial giving."

The offering is managed by the conference's Evangelism Committee, which considers ongoing evangelistic programs as well as new proposals and requests for funding. The offering is used throughout the year to fund many different forms of evangelism and outreach throughout Central, including traditional evangelistic meetings, CROSStrainers (formerly known as Bible workers), educational scholarships for newly baptized members, Youth Rush (Central's summer literature ministries program), Camp Wawona scholarships for children whose parents are not Adventist, discipleship training programs, and Life Hope Centers, among many others. "We are thrilled by the many ministry opportunities that allow us to continue reaching Central's residents with the good news of the gospel," concludes Cesar De Leon, who serves as Central's evangelism director.

A copy of Central's 2015 evangelism report, contained in the camp meeting program guide, can be downloaded at [ccc.adventist.org/campmeeting](http://ccc.adventist.org/campmeeting).

*Costin Jordache*

# Community Children End Summer Music Camp on a High Note

In July 2015, students of a Glendale elementary school attended a five-week summer music camp provided by the Caesura Youth Orchestra, an outreach suggested by Peter Luna, a retired pastor of the Glendale City church. The program was designed to let the community know that Glendale City church is genuinely interested in being involved in the city by providing services to underserved residents.

Dave Ferguson, a Glendale City church member who is active in Glendale arts and music, accepted the challenge, establishing the Caesura Youth Orchestra (CYO) in 2014. The orchestra began providing free music education and group lessons and will eventually provide instruments to members who remain in the orchestra for at least three years.

Two dozen students at an elementary school in south Glendale began their music education by learning to play the recorder; they practiced for two hours, four days each week during the past school year. In late spring, they were provided with instruments, most of which were donated and refurbished.

(The CYO follows the model of El Sistema, which began nearly 30 years ago in Venezuela as a way to provide music to children in the barrios. El Sistema provided the children with a community, to avoid becoming involved in

drugs and gangs. Now, orchestras modeled from this beginning exist in many parts of the world.)

This past summer, CYO provided a five-week summer music camp for the students that were involved during the school year. Students attended four hours each day, five days each week, for a total of 100 hours.

After the brief camp, the students presented a 90-minute concert open to the public on July 10 at the Roosevelt Middle School in Glendale. The school had provided space for the music camp and the concert. More than 200 parents, friends and members of the Glendale City church attended the concert. The evening program included performance in voice, brass and woodwinds, stringed instruments and ensemble playing. California Assemblymember Mike Gatto prepared certificates of recognition for the staff and for each student who participated.



Conductor Luis Zuniga stops directing to see who is paying attention at the Caesura Music Camp and Caesura Youth Orchestra on the auditorium stage at Roosevelt Middle School in Glendale.

First-year response from parents, teachers and principals indicate high levels of satisfaction in the program. "CYO teachers are already seeing changing social skills among the students," said Ferguson, who leads out in the CYO. "In addition to the significant growth in music understanding and skill, students are observed reaching out to help one another

learn in the program — and many in the field of education acknowledge that teaching others is the most effective means of long-term comprehension of a subject. Students who are usually shy are gaining self-esteem by performing regularly in front of peers and in public performances."

Eleven-year-old Angela Velasco said that while in the camp, she learned to play all of the strings on the violin. "When I used to play, I didn't play all the strings," she explained. "I just played the A or the D. But now I play the G, the A, the D and the E."

Nine-year-old Jonathan Valentin picked up the saxophone that he's been practicing with, not just at the camp, but also at home. "I learned that the saxophone has a lot of notes, and you need a lot of fingers to make a 'D,' and you need to blow a lot of air to make a noise," he said.

The challenge of the Caesura Youth Orchestra is to make sure this successful program can continue and grow. Readers interested in helping can visit [www.mycyo.org](http://www.mycyo.org) for more details.

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Dave Ferguson and Betty Cooney



Students attending the camp met for four hours daily, five days each week, for a total of 100 hours.



# Altadena Church Hosts Fifth Classic Car Show

**O**n Sabbath, the day before the fifth annual classic car show held in the parking lot of the Altadena church, coordinator Bill Keets asked fellow members to plan to be there to support the event. Owners of close to 60 cars, many of them from the surrounding communities, had registered. The Sunday afternoon program was a full one that featured the owners' involvement in a number of ways.

The forecast called for hot, humid weather and rain, possibly with thundershowers, so Keets prayed with his church. "Please hold off the rain during the car show because we are trying to reach the community for you, Lord," he prayed.

"Our prayers were answered!" said Keets, after the event. "The rain held off until the car show was over. In fact, it didn't start pouring until 10 minutes after I arrived home."

Keets owns two classic cars. Some of his friends also are car buffs. "We are reaching an entire group of car enthusiasts through one guy," he said.

A man who lives in West Covina first started coming to the show two years ago. "I have heard nothing but love and kind words expressed at your car show," he said, "and men praying with

each other." He has since become a member of the West Covina Hills church. When Royal Harrison, director of the Greater Los Angeles Region churches, visited the event, he was asked to offer opening and closing prayers for the car show.

Men's ministry leaders are active in the car show, and other members help throughout the afternoon. When Keets' assistant couldn't be there at the most recent car show, member Kathleen Roberts volunteered to register all the cars as they came in.

Some 500 people attended, viewing the various restored cars, meeting Altadena church members, participating in a raffle, and eating veggie burgers. Each entrant received a gift bag and a flyer about God. Altadena singers performed a gospel concert. "Man, you blessed me today," one man said. "God is good!"

"So many people said the car show program was church for them," said Keets.

Dave Maher is in a car club called the Road Kings that has 200 members. "I have never been to a car show like this. I love it," he said.

Car buff Ted Saraf donated a \$695 road-jack system for the auction. Another man named Raymond Vega is a leader of a club called the "Bomb



*A food booth catered to the crowd of 500 that attended the car show that has become popular with neighborhood residents and car buffs from the Greater Los Angeles area.*

Squad" (a name reflecting their preoccupation with old cars) "We will all be here next year!" Vega promised.

"So next year, we will do a block party," said Keets, bowing to the need to accommodate complete clubs already planning to come. "We will need to ask the police department about getting the whole block roped off to accommodate the cars and the people. The neighbors are very happy about the car shows, too, so I'm sure they will welcome next year's event."

*Betty Cooney*



*Altadena church members and guests viewed the 60 cars in the show and enjoyed a gospel concert and other activities.*

# SECC Camp Meeting Sees Rise in Attendance

**A**t this year's camp meeting, hosted by the black ministries department of the Southeastern California Conference, Dedrick Blue, former senior pastor of the Kansas Avenue church, challenged the attendees to align themselves with "God's Positioning System," which was also the theme of this year's event.

PHOTOS BY ENNO MULLER



*Jerrold Thompson, associate pastor at Kansas Avenue church, shares a few words with those in attendance at his ordination service.*

Although camp meeting usually spans several days, this year's was cut to a Friday evening and Sabbath because of the General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas. Attendance was approximately 4,000, an uptick of nearly 1,000 from last year.

The event started on Friday, June 26, with an inspirational message from Andrea King, senior pastor of the San Bernardino 16th Street church and president of the Black Adventist Ministerial Fellowship.

On Sabbath, two services were conducted at the Riverside Convention Center. Seth Yelorda, executive pastor of the Mt. Rubidoux church, spoke during the early service, following music and a Sabbath school lesson review.

To begin the second service, Sandra Roberts, conference president, and George King, vice president for black ministries, welcomed attendees and presented recognition awards to individuals involved with the camp meeting for many years.

One of the highlights of the service was a portion entitled "Cardboard Testimonials." Individuals walked up to the stage holding large cardboard signs with descriptions of struggles they had faced. As music played in the background, they flipped the cardboard over to the other side with a description of how God had helped them overcome their struggle.

During the introduction of the speaker, it was announced that Blue had accepted a position at Oakwood University as the dean of theology. He expressed his gratitude for having worked at Southeastern, and then delivered a powerful message.

Alluding to Moses' words in Deuteronomy 11:26-29, Blue spoke of how blessings and curses sometimes happen side by side. But he affirmed that God positions Himself in a way that brings people out of the curses that happen in their lives.

"Some old-timers and newcomers were pleased with the preaching, the fellowship and organization of our program. Our topic this year was quite intriguing for some and really got their attention," said Ray Williams, camp meeting coordinator.

Meanwhile, the children and youth were treated to their own services focusing on the Beatitudes. The youth were involved with the service and the praise team, and David Zaid, pastor of the Philadelphian church in Long Beach, Calif., brought the message.

The services were followed by a meal catered by the Riverside Convention Center. For two years in a row, the attendees have reported being "thrilled" with the food options that were provided. Mealtime provided an opportunity for people to meet and fellowship together.



*Dedrick Blue, former senior pastor of Kansas Avenue church, speaks on Sabbath morning to a full convention center.*



*Church members come together on Sabbath, June 27, to worship and fellowship together during this years camp meeting.*



*Pastors gather around Jerrold Thompson and his family during the consecration prayer as George King, vice president for black ministries, prays.*

“That’s my favorite part of camp meeting,” said George Veal Jr., member of the San Bernardino Community church. “I have been attending camp meeting since 1972, and I love meeting people.”

After the meal, an ordination service was conducted for Jerrold Thompson, former pastor of the Hope Community church in Palm Springs and now associate pastor at Kansas Avenue church. The evening ended with a concert by 7th Element, a gospel cappella group of five men who have performed with or for artists such as Freddie Jackson, Melba Moore, the Winans, Richard Smallwood and Della Rose.

As in previous years, booths set up around the convention center highlighted different ministries and organizations, and the LifeStream blood bank set up a trailer for blood donations.

Red-shirted volunteers were seen throughout the convention floor, ensuring that everything ran smoothly. Paul Alexander, a former police officer who now works with security at La Sierra University, has been volunteering since 1995.

“This was the first time in all these years that we had to escort someone off the premises,” he said. An individual who was intoxicated and belligerent was led safely away from the convention floor. “I want to make sure everyone is safe. I’m glad that everything went smoothly.”

## Camp Meeting Includes Ordination Service for Jerrold Thompson

Jerrold Thompson’s ordination service was held during the 2015 SECC camp meeting on Sabbath, June 27, in one of the conference rooms in the Riverside Convention Center. A large group of supporters walked in with him to show their support, including the conference president, Sandra Roberts.

In 2005, Thompson accepted the call to ministry by becoming the youth/young adult pastor at the San Bernardino 16th Street church. Since then he has had a remarkable career in ministry, seeing the membership and tithe numbers quadruple during his four years at the Hope Community church in Palm Springs.

Thompson was born in Lynwood, Calif., to Panamanian parents. He went to Southwestern Adventist University, where he received a bachelor’s degree in corporate

communications and a master’s degree in business administration.

He returned to California and worked at the Loma Linda University Medical Center in the patient business office. But since then, he has been devoted to his ministry and has earned a master’s degree in pastoral studies from Andrews University.

After a praise session, Thompson’s brother, J.L. Thompson, preached the ordination sermon. George King, conference director of black ministries, led the consecration, which was followed by Jerrold Thompson’s response.

*Mario A. Munoz*



*J.L. Thompson, brother of Jerrold Thompson, preaches during the ordination service.*

# Redwood Campers Build Relationships

Over the past six decades, Redwood camp meeting has provided spiritual renewal and inspiration for thousands of people, and this summer's event — held July 23 to Aug. 1 — was no exception.

The theme for 2015 was "Christ's Method Alone: Building Relationships" — the first of a five-summer series of camp meetings based on Christ's approach to soul winning, as described by Ellen White in her book *The Ministry of Healing*. Each year will focus on a different aspect of His method.

The main speakers this summer included Ron Clouzet, director of the North American Division Evangelism Institute, and Doug Batchelor, senior pastor of the Granite Bay church and speaker/president of Amazing Facts — both of whom spoke in Pepperwood Pavilion — and Pacific Union College Chaplain Jonathan Henderson, who spoke in the Adult II tent. In addition to the main meetings, Redwood campers attended a variety of seminars about Adventist history, ministry to the deaf, soul winning, healthy cooking, prayer and more.

Redwood's Hispanic camp meeting was held both weekends in Sequoia Grove. Attendees responded so enthusiastically that NCC Hispanic Ministries Coordinator Jose Marin plans to extend the length of next year's event. "People told me: 'I'm not only coming back next year, but I'm bringing other people with me,'" he said.

On Friday, July 31, about 250 campers volunteered for the first Redwood Community Service Day. "We wanted to give people the opportunity

Continued on p. 22



Ethan Peters, 6, Rachel Williams, 3, and Caleb Williams, 6, do some weeding at a conference center.



Lodi English Oaks Senior Pastor Bob Mason and his son, Tim, clean up debris near the Eel River.



Volunteers meet together at the campground for prayer and instructions before beginning their work.



***Patrick Andraquin, from Rancho Cordova, and Quacinda Topkok, from Mountain View, exercise dogs for a rescue organization.***

JULIE LORENZ

JIM LORENZ



**Granite Bay Senior Pastor Doug Batchelor, Pacific Union College Chaplain Jonathan Henderson and NCC President Jim Pedersen sing "We Have This Hope" at the end of the Sabbath worship service.**

JULIE LORENZ



**Daniel Yim, Lockeford/Sutter Hill district pastor, baptizes Blake Lauri, from the Hayfork church.**

to be a blessing to the local community — to put this year's theme into action," said NCC Executive Secretary Marc Woodson, who organized the event with his wife, Marlene. Each volunteer wore a bright yellow shirt with Matthew 20:28 written on the back: "Jesus came not to be served, but to serve others."

The volunteers tackled a wide range of projects in Fortuna and Eureka. Many campers worked together to pick up 1,540 pounds of trash along the Eel River. "My favorite part of the day was walking the river bed with my dad, and finding a muffler that we joked was a piece of NASA equipment that fell from the sky," said 13-year-old Tim Mason, from the Lodi English Oaks church. "It made me feel good that I knew I was helping clean the world."

A number of volunteers worked at Miranda's Rescue for Large & Small Animals, where they walked dogs, built goat pens, painted, weeded and performed other tasks. "The owner was so overwhelmed by the number of volunteers that he had to stop several times — as he was giving us assignments — to tell us how blessed he felt to have so many there," said Carol Anne Cruise, a member of the Redwood Valley company.

The organization's owners, Shannon Miranda and Dean Paris, later wrote a thank you message: "You were the best large volunteer group we have had in the last 10 years! . . . Your kindness will never be forgotten!"

A number of other volunteers worked at Fortuna's Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, making quilts for a women's shelter and sewing pillowcases for a children's hospital, among other tasks. The congregation's public

affairs specialist, Sylvia Jutila, helped connect the Adventists to volunteer opportunities around Fortuna. "What a fantastic gift to our city," said Jutila. "All of the places where they served could not get over the wonderful aid and assistance they provided."

Campers also worked at several food banks, a library, a thrift store, a community center and another church. "We received so much positive feedback — both from the volunteers and the people they helped — that we plan to make this an annual event," said Woodson.

Earlier in the week, campers continued a long-standing tradition of donating blood to the Northern California Community Blood Bank, which parked its bloodmobile at the campground for three days. This summer campers donated 137 units of blood, bringing the total to 4,169 units given in the past 28 years. "We are sure grateful for each and every donor at SDA camp," said Jo Anna Ow, donor recruiter.

In addition to forming community ties, campers strengthened their relationships with each other. On the final Sabbath, Batchelor and Henderson invited their respective audiences — from Pepperwood Pavilion and Adult II — to join together in prayer at the end of the worship service. "We're going to let everyone know in the Northern California Conference — and we're going to send a message to the world — that even when we don't get our way on every issue, it doesn't change the fact that we are one," said Henderson, as he invited the Adult II group to join him in walking to the other venue.

A few minutes later, NCC President Jim Pedersen spoke to the large crowd. "We keep coming back to the message that Jesus says: He

wants us to be one," he said. "We are part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we are part of the family, and we have a great message, and we have a mission to share to the world."

All three men then led the group in prayer. "We just pray that You will give us that gift of the Spirit that we might be one in Christ and one in truth," said Batchelor.

In his prayer Henderson also emphasized relationships. "What makes us brothers and sisters is not that we agree on every point; what makes us brothers and sisters is we have the same Parent," he said.

At the end of the short prayer service, the combined congregation sang, "We Have This Hope."

Next year's Redwood camp meeting will take place July 21-30, 2016. (Hispanic camp meeting will meet July 23-30.) Keep up with Redwood news by joining the Facebook group Redwood Camp Meeting: [www.facebook.com/redwoodcamp](http://www.facebook.com/redwoodcamp).

*Julie Lorenz*

JULIE LORENZ



**Allyson Lassen from Windsor, Arla Nummelin from Covelo, and Kathy Jo Bryant from El Dorado sew quilt squares.**

# Youth Rush Reaches Souls in Nevada-Utah



CAREN WHITE

*Nevada-Utah Conference 2015 Youth Rush participants pause for the weekend.*

For 10 weeks this summer, Youth Rush had two literature evangelism teams with a total of 40 young people knocking on doors in the Nevada-Utah Conference territory. They worked not only in densely populated areas, but also in the small towns and the surrounding rural areas. In addition, one of the teams went to the Idaho Conference to assist with literature ministries there.

Adventist literature evangelists had never worked in some of these areas. They found many people searching for Jesus. Dita Nambajimana met a man from his home country of Rwanda. Nambajimana was thrilled to speak with him in their native language. The man told him that when he lived in Rwanda, he had gone to an Adventist evangelistic series but had never made a commitment to follow Christ. When he moved to the United States, his career became his priority, causing him to forget about God. Nambajimana gave him a copy of *The Great Controversy*, and the man remembered it and said that he would read it with joy. "Youth Rush made me pray!" says Nambajimana.

Students are often nervous about doing literature evangelism, but after experiencing Youth Rush, Haily Montgomery said, "I never thought that Christianity could be practical and that ministry can be so much fun."

Elizabeth Espinal met a woman named Terry as she and her husband were on their way out the driveway. Terry made a donation for some books and left. Some time later, Terry called the number on the receipt to say that she was happy with the books she had received. She was reading Christ's Object Lessons and wanted more books by the same author (Ellen G. White).

The Youth Rush summer workers found that although literature evangelism is a lot of work and requires a great deal of prayer, God can use them to reach His people at just the right time.

*Caren White*



CAREN WHITE

*Jossylin Carlos, Peter Mvunyi and Danielle Baquiro are baptized after the Youth Rush summer program.*

# Pacific Union College Remembers Church Founder

**E**llen G. White, perhaps the most widely known Seventh-day Adventist to have ever lived, was remembered worldwide on the centennial anniversary of her July 16, 1915, death at home in northern California.

At 3:40 p.m. on July 16, 2015, members of the White family, PUC faculty and staff, and community members gathered at Elmshaven, White's home in Deer Park, for a moment of silence and commemorative prayer at the exact time Mrs. White passed away 100 years ago. Jim Pedersen, president of the Northern California Conference, offered the prayer, thanking God for

White, her divine guidance, and her impact on the world.

The memorial service was the commencement of a three-day Ellen G. White Centennial Legacy Conference hosted by Pacific Union College and co-sponsored by the Ellen G. White Estate. The weekend event featured a celebration of White's historical significance and vibrant legacy in the areas of education, science and medicine, theology and leadership.

Prior to the commemorative prayer, Dr. Eric Anderson, director of the Walter C. Utt Center for Adventist History at Pacific Union College,

spoke on White's far-reaching contributions to the local community in a lecture titled "Ellen White, Elmshaven, and the Napa Valley." Anderson claimed, "You don't have to be a Seventh-day Adventist to be interested in Ellen G. White," pointing out White's recognition by the Smithsonian magazine as one of

the 100 most influential Americans of all time. White is listed among 10 other instrumental religious figures including Brigham Young, Roger Williams, Cotton Mather, and Billy Graham.

A number of White's descendants attended Thursday's events, including Bill White (great-grandson), Esther DuBosque (great-great-granddaughter and Elmshaven caretaker), Edee Torossian (great-great-granddaughter), Justin Torossian (great-great-great-grandson), Tim Kubrock (great-great-grandson), and Jana Kubrock (great-great-great-granddaughter).

On Friday, more than 100 conference participants enjoyed presentations exploring White's prophetic voice and counsel on education, nutrition and Christian living. Dr. George Knight, professor of church history, emeritus, at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, presented a lecture titled "Old Prophet, New Approaches: 45 Years of Crisis and Advance in Ellen White Studies." He provided a historical survey of the support and scrutiny of White's prophetic ministry. "My prayer for the next generation of Ellen White scholars," shared Knight, "is that they will move forward with both eyes open as they seek to be absolutely honest and rigorous in the investigation of a topic of great importance to the church."

Following Knight, Dr. Elissa Kido, professor of curriculum and instruction and director of the



*Gladys (Robinson) Kubrock (great-granddaughter) and daughter of Ellen White's oldest granchild, Ella May White-Robinson, with her children.*



*Seven generations of the White family enjoyed a reunion during the Centennial Legacy Conference.*



*Community and family gathered at Elmshaven to honor Ellen G. White, who died 100 ago on July 16.*



Center for Research on K-12 Adventist Education at La Sierra University, reflected on White's vision for Adventist education. In her presentation, "Something Better," Kido reviewed "The Blueprint," CognitiveGenesis, and other studies that demonstrate how the holistic approach of Adventist education results not only in above-average academic performers but also students of exceptional character.

James A. Peters, M.D., DrPH, RD, RRT, FACPM, and his wife, Cheryl-Thomas Peters, DCN, RD, celebrated White's role as a health reformer and relevance to modern medicine. They explored White's contribution to the rich Adventist heritage of health, wellness and whole-person care. The couple leads St. Helena Hospital's TakeTEN™ program, a health and lifestyle management program founded on White's health principles.

A special exhibit of White's artifacts opened Friday afternoon in the Rasmussen Art Gallery, further illustrating her contributions to health, education, missions and the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Friday evening vespers featured James R. Nix, director of the Ellen G. White Estate, who led the congregation in a "singing biography" of White through her favorite hymns. According to Nix, White's oldest granddaughter Ella White Robinson, who attended many of the weekend events, heard her grandmother say, "Children, we must learn to sing the songs of Zion here if we would join the angel choir yonder."

Under Nix's direction, the congregational choir opened with "There Are Angels Hovering



**James R. Nix, director of the Ellen G. White Estate, leads the congregation in singing White's favorite hymns.**



**William (great-grandson) and Patti White attend the festivities.**

Around," a Millerite hymn Nix believes White began singing early in her life. Other favorites Nix introduced to the audience included "Lo, What a Glorious Sight Appears," "We Have Heard," "Resting By and By," and "Jesus, Lover of My Soul."

On Sabbath morning, hundreds gathered at the Pacific Union College Church for divine services. Sabbath school featured Dr. David Trim, archivist of the world church, who discussed White's impact of the mission of the Church. Esther DuBosque, White's great-great-granddaughter, shared the children's story during the church service, as three of her grandchildren (seventh generation) listened attentively.

Over 50 members of the White family joined the Angwin congregation for Sabbath worship. The reunion was co-coordinated by

Tim Kubrock, White's great-great-grandson and principal of Lodi Academy. According to Kubrock, "The White family has held reunions going back to the 1920s. Now that we have expanded into the hundreds, it is a challenge to plan get-togethers. We really appreciated that PUC included our family in the weekend events. It offered us a great time to remember and celebrate our heritage."

Ted Wilson, General Conference president, closed the centennial conference by speaking on the importance of White and the gift of prophecy in the Adventist Church. In his first public sermon following his reelection at the 60th General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, Wilson shared that his family "owes its knowledge of this precious Advent message to the direct practical and prophetic evangelistic activity of Ellen G. White." He challenged listeners to be strong messengers of the Adventist message. "One hundred years after Ellen White's death," he stressed, "it is our sacred responsibility

to nurture the belief in an active use of the Spirit of Prophecy." The service was broadcast worldwide through PUC Church's live streaming.

*Emily Mathe and Jennifer Tyner*



**Ted Wilson and his wife, Nancy, enjoy Sabbath in Angwin with PUC President Dr. Heather Knight and her husband, Dr. Norman Knight, PUC outreach chaplain.**



**Esther DuBosque (great-great-granddaughter) teaches the children story for church service.**

# Kailua Church Celebrates 70 Years

The Kailua church celebrated its 70th anniversary Aug. 29. More than 300 members and friends gathered together to recognize how God led a small group to start a church, school and satellite Sabbath schools, and to partner with a community to establish a hospital. Kailua church officially formed Sept. 1, 1945, with 13 charter members. The pastor was Robert Nomi, who had just been released from an internment camp with the end of WWII. His wife, Sumiko, began Kailua Mission School with 15 students.

In those days, Kailua was largely undeveloped, with sandy roads, iron wood trees, small farms, and beachside vacation homes. The Hawaiian Mission owned a large lot with a vacation house. The second floor housed the Nomi

family, and the ground floor was a classroom on the weekdays and a place for worship on Sabbath.

As a teenager attending Hawaiian Mission Academy, Naomi Yamashiro remembers coming on the weekends. "I would help my sister, Sumiko, move chairs and desks to make room for the congregation," she said. Other than their time away in the 1950s while Dr. Charles Yamashiro attended medical school, the family has been a lasting presence of leadership and mission to the Kailua congregation.

Over the next 10 years, the church and school grew, and the church began to look beyond itself to the needs of the surrounding community. In the 1950s, members started branch Sabbath schools in the nearby towns of Waimanalo and Kaneohe. These two groups quickly became independent congregations.

One of the biggest challenges the community faced was the lack of a hospital on the east side of the island. For years, Windward Oahu residents settled for a part-time ambulance service and unpredictable trip over the mountains into Honolulu. In an emergency, rockslides and heavy rains could jeopardize the welfare of the patients and those attempting to transport them.

In 1953, a small group, led by Dr. Robert and May Chung, members of the Kailua church, joined together with the community to raise funds and support for a new hospital. In 1963, Castle Memorial Hospital opened



**Rob Lloyd served as pastor from 1992-2013. Under his leadership, the church grew and went through its biggest remodel in its history.**

it doors with 72 beds and 14 bassinets. This vision was realized because of the cooperation between the church, local community and government leaders.

While many pastors have served over the years, the last two decades of Kailua's journey were under the leadership of the late Pastor Rob Lloyd. Beginning in 1992, Lloyd pastored nearly 22 years and grew the congregation while also serving in conference leadership and evangelism around the world.

In the late 1990s, Lloyd had a vision for a new church building, and in 1999, the church broke ground on a complete remodel. While handling the many challenges of pastoral ministry, Lloyd would regularly show up the worksite ready to lend a hand and connect with the construction crew. One of those young workers, Jesse Seibel, wondered if church had any relevancy for him. Lloyd nurtured a relationship with Seibel, who later answered a call to pastor in the Hawaii Conference and interned with Lloyd at the Kailua church in 2006. In 2014, a year after Lloyd's untimely passing, Seibel became the senior pastor of the Kailua church.

*Jesse Seibel*



**Kailua church and mission school in its earlier days. The house on the left served as a residence and only classroom before the military donated barracks for additional classrooms to the right.**



**Pastor Robert Nomi (2nd row, 3rd from left); his wife, Sumiko, and sister-in-law, Naomi Yamashiro (seated far right) began Kailua church with 13 charter members.**

# La Sierra Ranked 8th Among the 50 Colleges That Add the Most Value

La Sierra University ranked eighth in the nation on a list of 50 universities and colleges lauded by *Money* magazine for adding the most value to students' education. "What's impressive is when a college can help students do far better than you'd expect based on their academic and economic backgrounds and the mix of majors at their schools. These 50 schools do just that," the magazine reported in its August 2015 issue.

In their specific analysis of La Sierra's placement, the magazine noted the university's six-year graduation rate of 59 percent, "which is 18 percentage points higher than comparable schools;" its 50 majors including the relatively recent additions of archaeology, criminal justice, environmental science, film production, neuroscience, and physics; and the high achievements of the university's Enactus team, which has won six national titles and two world cups. "Community service also plays a big role on campus, and students can take international mission trips," the magazine commented.

La Sierra strives to nurture and develop its students through programs that include the Center for Student Academic Success, which helps first-year and continuing students identify goals, strengthen study habits, plan careers, and manage money, and through the Career Services Center which offers individual career counseling, assessment and preparation including mock interviews and salary negotiation strategies. Additionally, the Zapara School of Business's annual Meet the Firms event links seniors with regional businesses, the university's Writing Center helps students think and write clearly, recitation classes help students succeed in science courses, and students frequently benefit from mentoring provided by university professors.

La Sierra is the only Seventh-day Adventist institution on the top 50 list. In addition, La Sierra ranked 216th on Money's Best Colleges list of 736 higher education institutions around the country rated on the best value for tuition dollars. La Sierra was one of two Seventh-day Adventist universities to make the cut — Andrews University placed 367th on the ranking.

Senior religious studies and psychology major Tania Acuna knows well the difference made by professors and staff who go the extra mile to help students reach beyond their perceived abilities. Acuna holds the position this school year as president of the Student Association of La Sierra University. She pursued the post upon the encouragement of former Office of Student Involvement Director Kim Canine, who pointed out Acuna's leadership skills. "To be honest, this job excites me and intimidates me in equal measure," Acuna said. "Had it not been for Kim, I probably would not be president right now. When LSU staff see potential and opportunities they are quick to act, and the outcome is always more than we would have imagined for ourselves."

In addition, she has benefitted from close interaction and direction from professors who make themselves available year-round. When she needed book recommendations for a couple of summer speaking engagements, professors quickly replied to her text messages, and one offered to look up his own college notes based on past studies related to her speaking topic. "This describes perfectly who they are, always willing to help even long after we leave their classes and this university," Acuna said.

Retiring Associate Provost Barbara Favorito, who has held various positions at La Sierra since 1990, noted the care given by faculty and staff to



LARRY BECKER

*"I will graduate next June having been taught by some of the greatest Adventist educators of our time, but also with a great community of mentors and what I hope will be life long friendships," says Tania Acuna, a student in the HMS Richards Divinity School and this year's Student Association president.*

help students achieve their goals. "Faculty always go the second mile to make sure the students have both the knowledge and the skills needed to learn and to grow. This individual attention is so important in our students' success."

## Read More

The *Money* Magazine Best Colleges list can be accessed at this link: <https://best-colleges.time.com/money/full-ranking#/list>

The *Money* Magazine list of 50 colleges that add the most value can be accessed at this link: <https://best-colleges.time.com/money/more-rankings/the-50-colleges-that-add-the-most-value#/list>

*Darla Martin Tucker*

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# Same Sex Marriage : Now What?

The Supreme Court's recent decision holding that there is a constitutional right for same-sex couples to marry did not come as a surprise. The questions of the hour: What does it mean? What are the implications for churches?

The popular conservative rhetoric accusing gay Americans of destroying marriage is misguided — the dismal state of heterosexual marriage is our own fault. The truth is far more profound: same-sex marriage represents a social and cultural shift of unforeseen consequences.

One of those consequences is expected to be the erosion of religious freedom.

The first question is often whether clergy will be forced to perform same-sex weddings. States can't really force clergy to do something they don't want to do, but they can penalize clergy. In states like Nevada, where clergy must obtain a license to officiate at weddings, states can easily revoke the license. California law already protects the rights of clergy to be selective in the weddings they perform, thanks to Senator Mark Leno who authored the bill. Some clergy may choose to perform only sacred wedding ceremonies, abandoning civil "marriage" now that it has been redefined to extend to same-sex couples.

A more challenging issue is expected to be tax exemption. A 1983 Supreme Court decision subjects religious organizations to the loss of tax exemption if they violate fundamental public policies. But tax exemption is both a federal and a state issue.

Property taxation is left to the states.

Conservative states like Arizona and Utah are unlikely to penalize churches for their views on marriage. California may be more receptive to revoking tax exemption, but would have to amend the state constitution, which secures the property tax exemption. This would not be easy to accomplish.

Moreover, there will be strong equal protection arguments if property tax exemption were repealed only for religious non-profits, and not for other charities, such as schools and libraries. Then there is the deductibility of charitable donations, and the potential taxation of church income — except most church income isn't actually income as the term is defined in tax law. Will there likely be challenges in the arena of taxation?

Undoubtedly. But the outcome is hardly a foregone conclusion.

Other challenges will come in higher education. Will religious colleges be able to conscientiously refuse to make married student housing available to same-sex married couples? Will such institutions be able to deny admission to same-sex married couples, if they so choose? What about faculty who enter into same-sex marriages — will it be illegal to terminate them? And will graduate programs in fields such as social work and psychology lose accreditation if they don't teach that same-sex marriage is morally acceptable?

County clerks who refuse to issue marriage licenses may unwittingly poison the already difficult climate for enacting laws protecting religious freedom and religious accommodation in the workplace. Moreover, the growing chorus of rebellion increasingly sounds like the repudiation of the separation of church and state, itself a threat to religious freedom.

These are just a few examples of the challenges that lie ahead. Justice Anthony Kennedy's opinion for the Supreme Court sought to allay religious freedom fears by reassuring us

that religious dissenters would continue to enjoy the right to both believe and teach their beliefs about marriage. However, he stopped short of saying we would have the freedom to exercise our beliefs. The dissenting opinions all highlighted the potential negative impact of the decision for religious liberty, with Justice Clarence Thomas citing the brief of the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference.

The social shift signified by same-sex marriage is a wake-up call to the church. Our first priority is to insure that moral outrage does not undermine the gospel imperative to extend the grace and salvation of Christ to all of God's children with their variety of sexual orientations. Our views on human sexuality were formed in antiquity, and were not a reaction against homosexuality, nor are they

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*Does the rainbow of equality have room for those who don't believe in same-sex marriage? The answer is by no means certain.*

mired in hatred. So let's not betray our faith by speaking in a hateful or offensive manner.

Same-sex marriage poses enormous challenges to the church, but God is still on His throne, and continues to empower the church to be a shining light in a darkening world. Truth does not need the world's approval, and the church has prospered in adversity throughout history, and can do so again.

Finally, this is a time for renewal: of our commitment to God, and yes, to religious freedom. The LGBT community has achieved a protected status in society. Now the question is, will conservative religious groups — Christian, Jewish, Muslim or otherwise — continue to have their freedoms respected, including their freedom to dissent with respect to marriage. Does the rainbow of equality have room for those who don't believe in same-sex marriage? The answer is by no means certain.

*Alan J. Reinach, Esq.*



# Pacific Union Executive Committee Pledges Support for Women Pastors

The Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee met Wednesday, Sept. 9, for its first meeting since the July General Conference session. The late summer committee meeting, typically held by teleconference, convened at the union office in Westlake Village, Calif., so that the union's General Conference session delegates could attend and share their thoughts with the committee. Approximately eight individuals who are not already committee members accepted the invitation.

The delegates shared their disappointment with the process and the outcome of the controversial vote related to women's ordination in San Antonio, but expressed their commitment to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its ministry within the Pacific Union. "G.C. session took a lot out of me," said Kendra Haloviak-Valentine, associate professor of New Testament studies at the H.M.S. Richards Divinity School at La Sierra University. "I found it an amazing witness that after [the vote at G.C.], this delegation showed up and kept on working. It was very moving to me. We love it so much that we keep on. Our church is really wrestling with growing pains. As we look to the future, what does it mean to manage a changing community?"

Reports also trickled in about confusion in local churches about what the vote at GC did — and did not — mean for local churches. Some had even received calls saying that women elders have been dismissed from their positions. "Women in the field are attempting to work with Christ-like forbearance," said Chris Oberg, senior pastor of the La Sierra University Church, "but the message isn't getting to the people in the pews."

"The union must communicate clearly about what actually exists," said Nathan Renner, senior pastor at the Sonora church. "What actually exists is that women can be elders, pastors, etc. The faster we move on clearly communicating reality, the better off we'll be."

According to Ramiro Cano, president of the Central California Conference, there is also still variation of beliefs within the membership, "even within homes, between husbands and wives," he said. "We have 140 churches in Central; not all are on the same page. But the one thing that unites us all is that we are affirming women in pastoral ministry. Central has five women pastors; one in the seminary. Time will move the barometer. God has called them."

The committee pledged its support for its female pastors and said it would continue to abide by the union constituency's 2012 mandate to "approve ordinations to the gospel ministry without regard to gender." The committee also asked the union officers, in collaboration with the union communication department, to craft a strong statement in support of women clergy and to create a comprehensive strategy for educating local church members about the practical implications of the 2012 Pacific Union and 2015 General Conference votes, as well as church structure and authority.

## Regular Business

The committee approved the retirements of five union office employees, including administrative assistants Sharon Edwards (43 years) and Peggy Liebelt (33 years); senior accounting clerk Linda Ramsey (36 years); African-American Ministries Coordinator Bobby Mitchell (30 years); and Vice President Arnold Trujillo (48 years).

Union Executive Secretary Bradford Newton reported a net gain of 74 members during the second quarter of 2015, bringing the total current membership of the Pacific Union's 808 churches and companies to 225,203.

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*"I found it an amazing witness that after [the vote at G.C.], this delegation showed up and kept on working. We love it so much that we keep on."*

Treasurer Ted Benson reported a tithe increase of 1.66 percent as of the end of July over the same time last year.

Vice President Arnold Trujillo invited Scott Ward, North American Division Public High School Campus Ministries coordinator and Lodi English Oaks associate/youth pastor, to address the committee. Ward introduced [www.LivingitHS.org](http://www.LivingitHS.org), a high school ministry resource center, and [www.Angel1project.com](http://www.Angel1project.com), a site filled with resources designed to help kids share the gospel with their peers.

Berit von Pohle, union education director, reported that although preliminary reports indicate a 0.4 percent decrease in enrollment in Pacific Union K-12 schools, that is actually the smallest decrease in many years. Some schools, such as Holbrook Indian School, had surprising increases, and a new school opened with 13 students in Bisbe, Ariz.

Pacific Union College President Heather J. Knight showed the committee a copy of the \$1.5 million check the school recently received, the first installment of a \$2.6 million private gift announced in 2014 from the late Stephen Ball, a 20-year resident of the Napa Valley. Ball was not a Seventh-day Adventist, but he appreciated the impact the college has on the community and wanted to support its mission.

Knight also reported that the campus is at capacity, and the school is turning to other avenues of revenue, including better management of its commercial center and the introduction of online programs. An online A.S. to B.S.N. nursing program began this summer, an online bachelor's in management will debut in January, and an online M.B.A. is in the pipeline.

*Alicia J. Adams*



ALICIA J. ADAMS

# Pacific Union Hosts Appreciation Luncheon for Women Clergy

**T**hursday, Sept. 10, the Pacific Union honored its female pastors with a luncheon designed to create dialogue, fellowship and support. “The administration believed it was important to demonstrate beyond words the value of our female clergy,” says Ricardo Graham, president. Twenty-six of the union’s 48 women clergy attended.

“We learned that throughout our union, these women are serving with distinction, living out the calling of the Lord through the deployment of their Spiritual Gifts,” says Graham.

The luncheon was an opportunity for the pastors to express their thoughts about the General Conference Session vote on July 9 and how it has affected their ministry since. “People don’t know what to say to us,” said Genevieve Isidro, youth pastor at the Calimesa church in Southeastern California Conference.

“When we got home [from GC], I have never felt more affirmed,” said Shawna Campbell, children’s ministry pastor at Loma Linda University church. “Flowers, calls, emails . . . I appreciated that.”

Others had been told to “get over it” and move on. “Ordination is a big deal, and to say that it is not is an offense,” said Tony Anobile, president of the Arizona Conference.

“Other people should not try to manage our emotions or tell us how to feel,” said Rochelle Webster, family ministries pastor at the Redlands, Calif., church.

Most of the pastors said they know of members who have, or have threatened to, leave the church as a result the GC vote. Though they expressed appreciation for the support and the passion, they hoped it would be expressed in more positive ways. “It is most disturbing when people want to leave on my behalf,” said Melody Darrow, associate pastor at the Mountain View church in Las Vegas. “Outrage does not comfort me.”

“Even though the result wasn’t a surprise, when the GC vote came in, I began crying and could not stop,” said Dr. Andrea King, senior pastor of the 16th Street Church in San Bernardino. “I commend our conference president, Sandy Roberts, for holding it together and keeping going.

To go through that and yet still minister to all of us — I thank you.”

“I’m so blessed to be in the Southeastern California Conference,” said Isidro of the conference’s history of encouraging and support women pastors. “How can we support women who are ministering in areas where they don’t?”

“We can model what healthy, thriving, diverse ministry looks like in the Adventist church,” Roberts said. “The Pacific Union has a great opportunity to be a place of refuge for women around the world who don’t have support. They are coming to us for hope.”

“I believe God is in charge of His church,” said Anobile. “We need to keep working together to help our friends understand that God has gifted everybody equally.”

“Thank you for the example you’re setting, for the pain you’re enduring,” said Northern California Conference President Jim Pedersen. “The journey is not done yet. The struggle will not be unnoticed, here or in eternity.”

*Alicia J. Adams*

# A Pledge of Support for Women in Ministry

*From the Pacific Union Conference Officers and Executive Committee*

“**T**he heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands” (Psalm 19:1). We raise our voices in praise for God’s grace as we are led by the Spirit in mission and ministry throughout the Pacific Union Conference. In a field of labor marked by great diversity and promise—in our churches, conferences, and institutions—we are wholly confident in Divine Providence for the leadership and power to be about our Father’s business and to proclaim the three angels’ messages and the soon return of Jesus Christ.

The Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee affirms today that the churches, conferences, and institutions of the Pacific Union territory are, and will continue to be, loyal and integral parts of the Seventh-day Adventist world church—one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ, we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures we share the same faith and hope, reaching out in one witness to all. This unity has its source in the oneness of the triune God, who has adopted us as His children (Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs, No. 14).

The Pacific Union views full participation and recognition of women in pastoral ministry as vitally important for Spirit-filled ministry within our territory, and we will continue to abide by the 2012 mandate of our constituency to “approve ordinations to the gospel ministry without regard to gender.” God has gifted the Seventh-day Adventist church for effective global mission, and we continue to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we do ministry through our local churches, conferences, and institutions.

General Conference policy permits women to serve as credentialed church pastors (GC Working Policy BA 60 10; North American Division Working Policy L 33 10), as well as ordained deaconesses (Church Manual, p. 78) and ordained elders (Seventh-day Adventist Minister’s Handbook, p. 94), and we encourage our churches in the Pacific Union to utilize and empower qualified women of all ages in these roles.

The Pacific Union Conference affirms the conclusions of the NAD Theology of Ordination Study Committee, as adopted at the 2013 NAD Year-end Meeting. We also embrace as brothers and sisters those who, using sound principles of biblical interpretation, arrive at different conclusions, and we encourage peaceful and respectful communication between all members—in love, preferring one another (Romans 12:10). Christ calls us to love one another, as God has loved us (John 13:34).

The Holy Spirit gifts people of every age, gender, and ethnic background according to His purposes, and we encourage women of all ages and backgrounds who feel called to ministry to answer, “Speak Lord, your servant is listening” (1 Samuel 3:10). We are committed to supporting women in every aspect of ministry and church leadership, whether they are licensed, commissioned, or ordained. Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, we press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13-14).

We believe the story of God’s leadership and providence throughout our territory and across our history—including the powerful leadership of the Spirit in these latter days—has the capacity to influence souls and win hearts. We will use all means to tell of God’s love and grace, and we will share the stories of God’s work through women in ministry as a witness to God’s purpose and to build up the church.

We rejoice in the opportunity to share in this great work, and we reassert our support for women in ministry in the strongest possible terms. We believe that “the same Spirit that has guided the Lord’s work all the way through will guide it today. ‘Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts’” (Ellen G. White, R&H, May 16, 1899).



# Promesa de apoyo a las mujeres en el ministerio

## De los Oficiales y el Comité Ejecutivo de la Unión del Pacífico

«Los cielos cuentan la gloria de Dios y el firmamento anuncia la obra de sus manos” (Salmo 19:1). Elevamos nuestras voces en alabanza por la gracia de Dios, mientras somos guiados por el Espíritu, en nuestra misión y ministerio a través de la Unión del Pacífico. En un campo de labor marcado con gran diversidad y promesa —en nuestras iglesias, conferencias e instituciones— confiamos plenamente en la Divina Providencia, el liderazgo y la fuerza para hacer la tarea de nuestro Padre y proclamar el mensaje de los tres ángeles y el pronto regreso de Jesucristo.

El Comité Ejecutivo de la Unión del Pacífico afirma hoy que las iglesias, conferencias e instituciones del territorio de la Unión del Pacífico son y continuarán siendo leales e íntegros a la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día mundial —un cuerpo con muchos miembros llamados de cada nación, familia, lengua y pueblo. En Cristo somos una nueva creación; las distinciones de raza, cultura, educación y nacionalidad, las diferencias entre los encumbrados y los humildes, los ricos y los pobres, los hombres y las mujeres, no deben dividirnos. Todos somos iguales en Cristo, que con su Espíritu, nos ha unido a él y unos a otros como hermandad. Debemos servir como él sirvió sin parcialidad ni reservas. A través de la revelación de Jesucristo en las Escrituras compartimos la misma fe y esperanza, dando un testimonio unido al mundo. Esa unidad tiene su fuente en la unidad del Dios trino que nos adoptó como sus hijos (*Creencias Fundamentales Adventistas del Séptimo Día*, No. 14).

La Unión del Pacífico considera la participación plena y el reconocimiento de las mujeres, en el ministerio pastoral, de vital importancia para un ministerio imbuido por el Espíritu en nuestro territorio, y afirmamos la decisión tomada en nuestra asamblea constituyente de 2012 de “aprobar la ordenación al ministerio evangélico sin consideración de género”. Dios ha dotado a la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día de una misión global efectiva y continuamos buscando la dirección del Espíritu Santo en los ministerios de nuestras iglesias, conferencias e instituciones.

Los reglamentos de la Asociación General permiten que las mujeres sirvan como pastoras de iglesia con credenciales (*Reglamento Operativo de la CG BA 60 10; Reglamento Operativo de la División Norteamericana L 33 10*), así como diaconisas ordenadas (*Manual de Iglesia*, pág. 78 [en inglés]) y ancianas ordenadas (*Manual para Ministros Adventistas del Séptimo Día*, pág. 94 [en inglés]). Por eso animamos a nuestras iglesias de la Unión del Pacífico para que utilicen y capaciten a las mujeres calificadas, de cualquier edad, para desempeñar esos papeles.

La Unión del Pacífico apoya las conclusiones del Comité de Estudio de la Teología Acerca de la Ordenación de la División Norteamericana, adoptado en las reuniones de fin de año de 2013 de la DNA. Aceptamos a los hermanos y hermanas que usando principios sanos de interpretación bíblica, llegaron a diferentes conclusiones y animamos a establecer una comunicación pacífica y respetuosa entre todos los miembros —en amor, prefiriéndonos unos a otros (Romanos 12:10). Cristo nos llama a amarnos unos a otros, como Dios nos ha amado (Juan 13:34).

El Espíritu Santo concede sus dones a personas de toda edad, sexo y antecedentes étnicos, según sus propósitos, y animamos a las mujeres de todas las edades y antecedentes que sientan el llamado al ministerio, a contestar “heme aquí, envíame a mí” (1 Samuel 3:10). Estamos comprometidos a apoyar a las mujeres en todo aspecto del ministerio y liderazgo de iglesia, ya sea con licencia, comisión u ordenación. “Olvidando ciertamente lo que queda atrás, y extendiéndome a lo que está por delante, prosigo a la meta, al premio del supremo llamamiento de Dios en Cristo Jesús” (Filipenses 3:13, 14).

Creemos que la historia del liderazgo y la providencia de Dios en todo nuestro territorio y a través de nuestra historia —incluyendo la poderosa dirección del Espíritu en estos últimos días— tienen la capacidad de influenciar almas y ganar corazones. Aprovecharemos todos los medios a nuestra disposición para hablar del amor y la gracia de Dios y compartiremos las historias de cómo Dios trabaja a través de las mujeres en el ministerio que testifica el propósito de Dios para edificar su iglesia.

Nos regocijamos en la oportunidad de ser parte de esa gran labor y en la forma más rotunda reafirmamos nuestro apoyo a las mujeres en el ministerio. Creemos que “el mismo Espíritu que ha guiado la labor de Dios hasta ahora, continuará guiándonos. ‘No con ejército, ni con fuerza, sino con mi Espíritu, ha dicho Jehová de los ejércitos’” (Elena White, R&H, 16 de mayo de 1899).

# Union Office of Education Offers Scholarships for Would-be Teachers

This year, the Pacific Union Conference Office of Education introduced a new four-year scholarship for 12th grade students who want to become teachers. In order to qualify, the applicants agree to continue their education at a Seventh-day Adventist college or university, with the goal of becoming a Seventh-day Adventist educator.

Three students received the award in 2015 — Taylor Hastings (Thunderbird Adventist Academy), Kacie Medina (Central Valley Christian Academy) and Evelyn Park (Redlands Adventist Academy). They will be awarded \$1,000 per year for their freshman and sophomore years and \$2,000 per year for their junior and senior years as they pursue their teaching degrees.

As part of the application process, the students each wrote an essay explaining why they wanted to become a teacher. Hastings' dream started early. "When I first entered kindergarten, I was very nervous and shy, but my teacher came up and introduced herself to me," she said. "She was so nice. I couldn't help but think 'Wow, I want to be just like her!'"

For many educators, the best part of the job is seeing the moment when students finally "get it," and their eyes light up with understanding. Medina experienced that feeling and was hooked. "I want to be a teacher because I love watching someone's face light up when they finally have that 'Aha!' moment," she said.



*Evelyn Park*

Outside the home, teachers may have the biggest influence on children's lives. Park noticed this in her own life. "Teachers are crucial to the world, and I strongly wish to have a part of it," she wrote. "Teachers have opportunities to make a positive influence on the young people, something the world truly needs. I have always had a heart for kids and giving them the attention and love they deserve. Being a teacher has always motivated me to have an impact on my students so that they may make a positive impact on someone else. Ever since I was in preschool, I have always loved my teachers and



*Kaycie Medina*

looked up to them highly. I believe that it is my opportunity to return the favor and give my students the love and care they desperately need."

With this scholarship, the Pacific Union hopes to build the next generation of Adventist teachers. Each year, the Office of Education plans to award as many as five scholarships to student throughout the union. Perhaps would-be educators will be inspired to become "something better" to benefit the Seventh-day Adventist school system and the children in them.

*Cheryl Dickerson*



*Taylor Hastings*

# Ambassadors Offer Expertise to Benefit Adventist Education

In February 2015, the Center for Research on K-12 Adventist Education (CRAE) launched a brand new initiative called Ambassadors for Adventist Christian Education, an organization created to recruit, organize and support volunteers for the K-12 Adventist educational system.

“The catalyst for AACE,” said CRAE director Elissa Kido, Ed.D., “was the number of people who would approach me after my presentations on Adventist education and ask me what they could do to help. I realized that there were passionate individuals out there, committed to supporting Adventist education, who simply needed direction and guidance to channel their energy into helping one of our schools.”

Upon receiving funding from Versacare to help with initial start-up expenses, Kido began working on building AACE from the ground up. AACE has three different categories: Local Chapter Ambassadors, Ambassadors-at-Large and Institutional Chapters. Each of these categories has a slightly different role, but the goal remains the same for all Ambassadors — championing the benefits of Adventist education to churches and communities and using their specific skills and areas of expertise to support schools.

Kido has been delighted by the response she has already received. Both La Sierra University and Pacific Union College are on board as Institutional Chapters and the database of

Ambassadors-at-Large continues to grow. “The support for AACE has been impressive,” she reported. “People from all different walks of life — retired educators, successful professionals, stay-at-home parents — have said, ‘Sign me up! I want to help!’”

The ways Ambassadors are volunteering are as varied as the individuals themselves. One is helping a school to create its own YouTube channel; another is an experienced grant writer and fundraiser and has volunteered to help schools with funding their various projects.

If you or someone you know would be willing to serve as an Ambassador, check out the AACE website at: [aace.lasierra.edu](http://aace.lasierra.edu) or call 951-785-2997 for more information.

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CALENDARS

Arizona Conference

**DANIEL 7, 8, 9:** The Sanctuary Doctrine (Sept. 16-ending Nov. 18, Weds. 6 p.m.) Gilbert SDA church, 2130 E. University, Mesa. Presented by Karl Wagner. Info: karlwagner@cox.net.

**THE ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER** Bookmobile will be on the road (Oct. 2 -Nov. 18). Watch your mail and email for the full schedule, times, and specials! For additional information or to place a pre-order, please contact us at 480-991-8501 or azabc@azconference.org.

**LIFELINE SCREENING OFFERED** (Oct. 8) Chandler SDA church will host non-invasive and painless health screenings. Five screenings are offered to scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries; abdominal aortic aneurysms; atrial fibrillation; hardening of the arteries; and bone density for men and women. Info and costs: 888-653-6441 or visit [www.lifelinescreenings.com/](http://www.lifelinescreenings.com/) community-partners.

**27TH ANNUAL ARIZONA** Women's Ministry (Oct. 9-11) with Ginny Allen, author *God's Love Song* and founder of Joy! Ministries. Retreat includes morning devotionals, inspirational music, a banquet, fun night and prayer sessions.

Info: Tammi Morby, 602-561-1634, for a brochure and costs.

**HEALTHY FOOD PREPARATION** (Oct. 11) 2:30 p.m. every second Sunday of the month. Casa Grande church, 1867 N. Trekkell Rd. Info: Sandy, 541-729-6759 or Carolina, 520-876-5240.

**GLENDALE CHURCH HEALTH Fair** (Oct. 25) 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 6901 N. 43rd Ave, Phoenix. Joining with local community service providers, this fair will include free massages, blood pressure and blood sugar checks, and much more, including a bouncer/jumper and children's activities. Info: 623-934-3295.

Central California

**HISPANIC OFFICERS TRAINING** (Oct. 3) Fresno Hispanic church. Info: Florina, 559-347-3144.

**HISPANIC OFFICERS TRAINING** (Oct. 10) Bakersfield Hispanic church. Info: Florina, 559-347-3144.

**MEN'S RETREAT** (Oct. 16-18) Soquel Conference Center. Info: 559-347-3142.

**PRISON MINISTRIES TRAINING** (Oct. 23) Conference Office, Clovis. Info: 559-347-3142.

**PATHFINDER CAMPOREE** (Oct. 23-25) Kiwanis Youth Camp, La Grange. Info: 559-347-3174.

**PRAYER MINISTRIES TRAINING** (Oct. 23-25) Camp Wawona. Info: 559-696-3692.

**GLOW LEADERSHIP TRAINING** (Nov. 7) Conference Office, Clovis. Info: 559-906-6460.

**CCC 33RD CONSTITUENCY MEETING** (Nov 8) Monterey Bay Academy. Info: 559-347-3194.

**YOUTH PRAYER CONFERENCE** (Nov. 11-15) location to be announced. Info: 559-347-3174.

**EXCELLENCE IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** - Track 3 (Nov. 20-22) Camp Wawona. Info: Rosa, 559-347-3181 or rgillham@cccsda.org.

La Sierra University

**FALL QUARTER SPIRITUAL** Emphasis Week (Oct. 5-9).

**LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY** Orchestra presents an All Beethoven concert (Oct. 17) 7 p.m. Hole Memorial Auditorium. Free.

**FACULTY RECITAL** (Oct. 18) 5 p.m. Raejin Lee, director of vocal studies. Hole Memorial Auditorium. Free.

**LA SIERRA'S WIND** Ensemble will be in concert (Oct. 24) 7 p.m. Hole Memorial Auditorium. Free.

**LSU'S HIGH SCHOOL** Wind Band Invitational Festival (Oct. 28-31) 4 p.m. Hole Memorial Auditorium. Info: 951-785-2036.

**FIRST SERVICE WORSHIP** takes place every Friday night at 8 p.m. at La Sierra University church. Info: 951-785-2090.

Northern California Conference

**PATHFINDER CAMPOREE** (Oct. 1-4). Lake Mendocino. Info: Youth Department, 925-603-5080.

**AFRICAN AMERICAN CONVOCATION** (Oct. 9-10) "Make Us One." Friday, 7 p.m., Valley Community church, 2929 South B

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Street, Stockton. Sabbath, 8 a.m., Stockton Christian Life Center, 9025 West Lane, Stockton. Speaker: Debleaire K. Snell; youth speaker: Michael Kelly; children's presenter: Marc Raphael. Golden Gate Reunion Choir. Info: 925-603-5097 or [nccsda.com/africanamericanministries](http://nccsda.com/africanamericanministries).

**FOOD, FUN, FELLOWSHIP** (Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28) Wednesdays. Orangevale church, 5810 Pecan Avenue. Meal at 6 p.m. (donation: \$2 per person). Community interest classes from 7-8 p.m., including cooking, discipleship, elder care, marriage and more — plus children's classes. Info: 916-967-2838 or [www.ovsda.org](http://www.ovsda.org).

**YUBA CITY CHURCH** 100-year Anniversary (Oct. 16-18) 1460 Richland Road. Join us as we remember, rejoice and renew our passion for the One it's all about. RVSP to [yubacitysda@gmail.com](mailto:yubacitysda@gmail.com) or 530-673-7645. Info: [www.ycadventists.org](http://www.ycadventists.org).

**JUNIOR/SENIOR RETREAT** (Oct. 23-25) Leoni Meadows. For academy, high school and home schooled juniors and seniors. Info: 925-603-5080.

**MEN'S CHORUS FESTIVAL** (Oct. 24) 5 p.m. Carmichael church, 4600 Winding

Way, Sacramento. Featuring six men's choruses in concert: Sonora, Modesto Praise, Bakersfield, Bay Area and Carmichael, as well as Christian Edition. Free. Info: 916-487-8684 or [www.carmsda.org](http://www.carmsda.org).

**ASIAN/PACIFIC CONVOCATION** (Oct. 24) 3:30 p.m. Antioch church, 2200 Country Hills Drive. Info: 925-603-5094.

**WILLITS CHURCH CENTENNIAL** celebration (Oct. 24) 10:45 a.m. Willits church, 399 West Mendocino Avenue. Following: 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: [msmithhistorygirl@comcast.net](mailto:msmithhistorygirl@comcast.net). Info and RSVP: Sally Foltz, [ssfoltz30@yahoo.com](mailto:ssfoltz30@yahoo.com).

**TEEN PATHFINDER INVITATIONAL** Caving Weekend (Nov. 6-8) Lava Beds National Monument. Info: 925-603-5080.

**WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL KOINONIA** Retreat (Nov. 6-8) Leoni Meadows. 31st annual event! Speaker: Pacific Union College Assistant Chaplain Shantel Smith. Learn to "break the silence" of abuse, early morning prayer sessions, prayer room, exercise, fellowship. Experience life-long transformation, spirit-filled worship and connection women need. Registration ends Oct. 15. Info: 707-552-2278.

### Pacific Union College

**ANGWIN AIRPORT FLY-IN** (Oct. 11) 10 a.m., Virgil O. Parrett Field. Enjoy aircrafts, food and flour bomb flights. Info: [kvarney@puc.edu](mailto:kvarney@puc.edu) or 707-965-6219.

**FALL REVIVAL** (Oct. 5-9) PUC church. Fall quarter week of spiritual emphasis featuring Jonathan Henderson, PUC campus chaplain, speaking on the "Adventist Advantage." Info: [www.puc.edu](http://www.puc.edu).

**PUC COLLEGE DAYS** (Oct. 18-19) High school juniors and seniors from Central California Conference area academies, high schools, youth groups and home school experience classes and college events at PUC. Registration required as

space is limited. Info: [enroll@puc.edu](mailto:enroll@puc.edu) or 707-965-6336.

**ANGWIN TO ANGUISH** (Oct. 25) Trail run offering Family 4k Fun Run, 12k, and 24k courses on PUC trails. Benefits PUC's Service-Learning Program. Info: [www.angwintoangwish.com](http://www.angwintoangwish.com).

**ACADEMY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL** Tournament (Oct. 29-31) PUC hosts an invitational tournament for women's volleyball teams. Info: [www.puc.edu](http://www.puc.edu) or 707-965-6652.

**PUC COLLEGE DAYS** (Nov. 1-2) High school juniors and seniors from Northern California Conference area academies, high schools, youth groups and home school experience classes and college events at PUC. Registration required as space is limited. Info: [enroll@puc.edu](mailto:enroll@puc.edu) or 707-965-6336.

**REGISTRATION OPEN** for online nursing program. PUC is accepting students into a new 100% online RN to BSN degree program for nurses licensed in Calif. Visit [onlinecourses.puc.edu](http://onlinecourses.puc.edu).

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### Southeastern California Conference

**ANIMAL VESPERS** (Oct. 3) 5 p.m., Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. Enjoy God's wonderful animals and creations that are tall and short, big and small. Info: 909-558-4570.

**LAY TRAINING SEMINAR** (Oct. 11) Loma Linda Fil-Am church, 11180 New Jersey St., Redlands. Info: Juliana Moon, 951-509-2337.

**STEVE GREEN CONCERT** (Oct. 24) 7 p.m. La Sierra Spanish church, 5885 La Sierra Ave., Riverside. Come and enjoy a concert with Steve Green. Info: 951-589-1919.

**MESSIAH'S MANSION** (Oct. 24-Nov. 1), Los Alamitos church, 4921 Katella Ave., Los Alamitos. Take a free guided tour to see a full-scale model of the Mosaic sanctuary. Info: 714-236-4827, [www.losalamitosda.org](http://www.losalamitosda.org).

### Southern California Conference

**CREATION HEALTH SEMINAR** (Oct. 10-Nov. 15) Sundays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Burbank church, 710 S. Glenoaks Blvd. Free light supper served at 6:30 p.m. Free Material. Info: [www.burbankssda.com](http://www.burbankssda.com), 818-848-7051.

**FINDING JESUS** in the Book of Revelation (Oct. 3-24) A 10-night overview of the book of Revelation. Meetings on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays at 7 p.m. Culver City church, 11818 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles 90066. Free Bible and syllabus. Free childcare for children and youth, ages 6-14. Info: [www.relevantseminars.org/culvercity](http://www.relevantseminars.org/culvercity), 888-848-7149.

**DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING** (Oct. 17) 9 a.m.-5:45 p.m., Glendale Adventist Academy, 700 Kimlin Dr. Presenter, Joseph Kidder, D.Min.; associate professor, Christian ministry, AU seminary. For pastors/church leaders (suggested: five leaders from each church, such as Elder, Youth, Family Life, Parents, Prayer, etc.) Details at [scc.adventist.org/Calendar](http://scc.adventist.org/Calendar). Info: 818-546-8405.

**AMATEUR RADIO TRAINING** Classes (Oct. 25 & Nov. 1) 10/25, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; 11/1, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., instruction; 2-4 p.m., license exam. SCC office, 1535 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. RSVP required. Details, [sccomm.adventistfaith.org/communication-events](http://sccomm.adventistfaith.org/communication-events). Info: 818-546-8461, 62.

**LOS ANGELES ADVENTIST FORUM** (Nov. 7) 3 p.m. Speaker, Zak Plantak, Ph.D., professor, Loma Linda University School of Religion. Chapel at Glendale City Church, 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241.

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**DEMAND IS HIGH** for Automotive Service Management with an expected job growth rate of 17% 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.

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**PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE** seeks faculty member in Psychology Department. Qualified person should have earned doctorate in psychology (ABD

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**THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION** and Psychology at Walla Walla University is seeking applications for a tenure-track faculty position in psychology to begin September 2016. We are seeking an enthusiastic person who will lead and direct WWU's master's program in counseling psychology. An earned doctorate in Clinical or Counseling Psychology or Counselor Education is required. Applicants should be license-eligible in the State of Washington. For more

information and to apply, please visit: [jobs.wallawalla.edu](http://jobs.wallawalla.edu).

**UNION COLLEGE** seeks Seventh-day Adventist experienced in K-12 education and eligible for Nebraska teaching certification to teach curriculum and instruction courses and supervise elementary student teachers. Ten years elementary teaching experience and multi-grade teaching experience are essential. Doctorate strongly preferred. Email letter of interest and CV to Dr. Denise White, Chair of Human Development, [dewhite@ucollege.edu](mailto:dewhite@ucollege.edu). Effective summer 2016.

**Events**

**SUPPORTING MINISTRIES CONVENTION** (Nov. 13-15) hosted by Postup Centers International at Pine Springs Ranch. Join us for inspirational testimonies and multiple workshops including: how to develop a vibrant health ministry, how to start your own home lifestyle center, steps to sustainable country living, hands on natural remedies and more. Sponsored by the Mentone Seventh-day Adventist church. For more information, visit [www.outpostcenters.org/psr2015](http://www.outpostcenters.org/psr2015).

**THE ADVENTIST AGRICULTURAL Association 2nd Annual Conference**, Glen Rose, Texas (Nov. 11-15). This conference offers a range of classes for

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## Missing Members

**CERES.** Contact: Sheri Darrough, Clerk, 1633 N. Central Ave., Ceres, CA 95307, 209-538-1024, [sdarro6438@comcast.net](mailto:sdarro6438@comcast.net); Ralph Azevedo, Sharon Barnett, Heather Burgess, Tomkico Cabral, Jose Camacho, Neal Carmichael, Desti Carr, John Chavez, Lawrence JR Coleman, Nicholas Collica, Janet Cordaway, Carrol Cross, Marion Cross, Heather Drew, Destiny Hamilton, Carole King, Nicholas Kreitzer, Sandra Kreitzer, Linda McCormick, Jenny McCulloch, June Newman, Dino Orozco Jr., Sheri Orozco,

Delmis Ponce, Joaquin Ponce, Lourdez Ponce, Luis Ponce, Julie Pool, Jeff Porter, Esperanza Reynolds.

### HAWAII CONFERENCE CHURCH.

Contact: Tracy Chavez de McGuire, [trmcguire@hawaiisda.com](mailto:trmcguire@hawaiisda.com); Efen Corzo, Francisco David Flores Martinez, Emilio Marty, Emilio Marty, Jr., Milagros Marty, Mario Nanguse, Andree Rios, Cassia Rios, Aime Rivera, Valeria Stella, Emily Marty, Jonathan Rios.

## Real Estate

**COUNTRY PROPERTY/RANCHETTE** for sale, South Central Oregon. 40 acres, fenced, small brand new house, many custom features. Good water, off the grid. See pics at [Owners.com](http://Owners.com) PGD 2527. \$194,900. Call Russ and Debby at 541-783-3788.

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**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE:** 40 acres 25 miles south of Clifton, County seat of Greenlee County, Arizona, \$10,000 or best offer. For more information, call Pat Gill, home, 205-688-4756 or cell, 205-217-0477.

## 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](mailto:office@portervilleadventist.org).

**ANOTHER PEACE CHOIR** 30 year Reunion and Concert (Oct. 15-17) Mt. Rubidoux church, Riverside, Calif. The Concert will take place Saturday evening at 7 p.m. For concert tickets, choir member registration, and more information visit: [AnotherPeace30.com](http://AnotherPeace30.com). Get your tickets and/or register today.

**NAPA ALUMNI WEEKEND** (Oct. 9-11) Fri. Vespers, 7 p.m., by 10-yr. Honor Class of '05; Sabbath Worship 10:30 a.m. Pastor/Professor George Hilton-Speaker; Mexican Lunch provided. Locals please bring desserts. Games, 7 p.m.; Fundraising pancake breakfast by class of '17, 9-10:30 a.m. School Gym. Info: 707-255-5233 or [chenderson@napachristian.com](mailto:chenderson@napachristian.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.

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**STEPS OF JESUS UCC TOUR** (March 16-27, 2016) with Dr. Carl Cosaert of Walla Walla University. Walk in the steps of Jesus visiting places like Nazareth, Caesarea, Masada, Petra, Jerusalem and more. Wonderful meals, accommodations and guides. Only \$2,335. Contact Sharon Seanson at [SharonS@uccsda.org](mailto:SharonS@uccsda.org) or visit [www.wallawalla.edu/bibletour](http://www.wallawalla.edu/bibletour).

**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 [schultz@crestviewcable.com](mailto:schultz@crestviewcable.com).

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**How to Submit Advertising** — Classified ads must be sent with payment to the Recorder office ([comdept@puonline.org](mailto:comdept@puonline.org)). Display ads should be arranged with the editor ([alicia@puonline.org](mailto:alicia@puonline.org)).

**Classified Rates** — \$65 for 50 words; 75 cents each additional word.

**Display Rates (Full Color Only)** — Back cover, \$3,950; full page, \$3,650; 1/2-pg., \$2,120; 1/4-pg., \$1,150; 1/8-pg., \$575; \$135 per column inch.

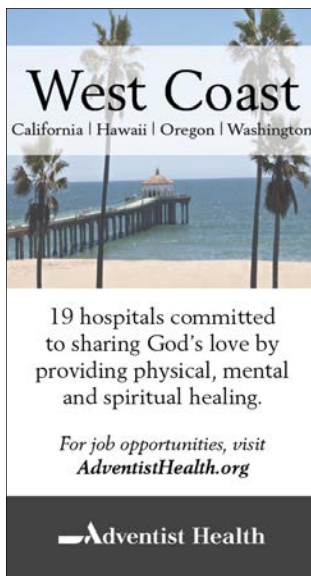
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**2015 Deadlines** — Please note that these are the advertising deadlines for the Recorder. Your local conference news deadlines will be earlier.

November: September 29  
December: October 27  
January 2016: November 30

## CONTRIBUTIONS

The Recorder pages are assigned to the local conferences, colleges and health care institutions, and all content comes through the communication directors in those organizations. If you have a news story/idea, calendar announcement, etc., please contact your local communication director. See page 2 for contact information. Want tips for writing for us? See [www.dailywritingtips.com/the-art-of-writing-news](http://www.dailywritingtips.com/the-art-of-writing-news).

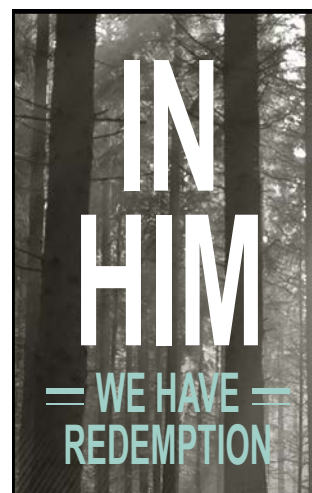


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**REDEMPTION**

# AT REST

**AGEE, DOUGLAS M.** – b. Oct. 24, 1929, Loma Linda, Calif.; d. Aug. 20, 2015, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: wife, Beverly; sons, Greg, Steve; daughter, Elizabeth; one grandchild.

**AVILA, EULOGIO** – b. March 23, 1922, Fresnillo Zacatecas, Mexico; d. May 20, 2015, Visalia, Calif. Survivors: sons, Eulogio Jr., Enrique; daughters, Tere Ana Flores, Blanca Chavez; 13 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren.

**AYCOCK, BOBBY GLEN** – b. Sept. 2, 1930, Phoenix, Ariz.; d. June 17, 2015, Phoenix, Ariz. Survivors: wife, Dorothy; son, Russell; daughter, Perian Starr; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

**BRYDEN, GRACE (MERRIHEW)** – b. Feb. 6, 1916, Oakdale, Calif.; d. July 7, 2015, Harriet, Ark. Survivors: three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

*Correction:* **BRYNER, URS MARKUS** – b. May 7, 1946, Winterthur, Switzerland; d. Dec. 14, 2014, Yerka, Calif. Survivors: wife, Darlene; son, Marcus; daughters, Stephanie Davis, Carrie Valdes; five grandchildren. Served as a surgeon in Yerka, Calif., Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, Hangzhou, China.

**CHAVEZ, YVONNE "PEGGY"** – b. May 12, 1930, Jaroso, Colo.; d. June 22, 2015, Mariposa, Calif. Survivors: husband, Charles; son, Steve; daughter, Cynthia Ruiz; four grandchildren.

**FAWKES, AGNES** – b. Dec. 17, 1923, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Feb. 13, 2015, Los Angeles, Calif. Survivors: brother, Alfred; sister, Winifred Hoellig. Worked for more than 40 years at White Memorial Hospital.

**HADDOCK, ATHEL** – b. Jan. 20, 1934, Cloverdale, Ala.; d. June 25, 2015, Jamestown, Calif.

**HARDT, JONATHAN** – b. April 27, 1927, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil; d. June 22, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: sister, Lenore Roth, Florence Robb. Served as the librarian at Loma Linda University and La Sierra University.

**HILLIARD, LA VONNE** – b. Nov. 19, 1922, Fort Collins, Colo.; d. Aug. 8, 2015, Calimesa, Calif. Survivors: sons, Duane, Dennis; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

**HOUGH, WAYLAND S.** – b. Dec. 23, 1932, Ferndale, Calif.; d. July 21, 2015, Fortuna, Calif. Survivors: sons, Patrick, Thomas; daughter, Anna Dean; two grandchildren; brother, Kenneth.

**HOWELL, BERNARD VICTOR** – b. Feb. 17, 1927, Maysville, Ark.; d. July 18, 2015, Chico, Calif. Survivors: sons, David,

Norman; daughter, Suzanne; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

**HUTTON, HORTENSE** – June 2, 1939, Dos Palos, Calif.; d. Aug. 15, 2014, Sacramento, Calif. Survivors: son, Michael Leon; daughters, Fareedah, Deborah; 10 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.

**LIGHTEL, STEVEN THERLOW** – b. June 19, 1950, Healdsburg, Calif.; d. July 18, 2015, Ukiah, Calif. Survivors: mother, Eunice; sister, Sondra Carlstedt.

**MILBURN, JAMES** – b. June 19, 1951, Glendale, Calif. d. April 24, 2015, Visalia, Calif. Survivors: wife, Ruthie; sons, Michael, Casey; three grandchildren. Served as a pastor in Modesto, Lemoore, Madera, and Visalia churches; chaplain for Adventist Health-Hanford; retired LTC Army chaplain.

**NWAIGWE, CHINEDU ADAKU** – b. Feb. 11, 1978; Loma Linda, Calif.; d. July 15, 2015, Santa Monica, Calif. Survivors: father, Manasseh Sr.; mother, Evelyn; brothers, Manasseh Jr., Nnamdi; sisters, Onyekachi, Nkiru Shevitz.

**PALMER, RUSSELL L.** – b. June 1, 1922, Croton, Ind.; d. March 6, 2015, Sun City, Ariz. Survivors: wife, Naomi; son, Russell Jr. III, daughters, Wanda, Linda, Rosalind, 14 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren.

**PARKER, JACK** – b. Sept. 6, 1930, Glendale, Calif.; d. April 22, 2015, Santa Maria, Calif. Survivors: wife, Helen; sons, Steven, Michael; daughter, Debbie; 14 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

**PEREZ, JUANITA S.** – b. March 5, 1926, San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, Philippines; d. July 5, 2015, Silang, Cavite, Philippines. Survivors: sons, Cesar, Elmer, Albert, Mario; daughters, Sonia Turburan, Angelina Yamzon, Nenita; 14 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

**PEREZ, PRISCILLA S.** – b. Sept. 5, 1950, San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, Philippines; d. July 9, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: brothers, Cesar, Elmer, Albert, Mario; sisters, Sonia Tuberan, Angelina Yamzon, Nenita.

**ROBBINS, JOANIE** – b. May 10, 1939, San Francisco, Calif.; d. July 17, 2015, Cameron Park, Calif. Survivors: sons, Scott, Eric; daughters, Kim Cline, Sonya Silva; 10 grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

**ROTH, RICHARD EDWIN** – b. Jan. 22, 1936, Oakland, Calif.; d. Aug. 1, 2015, Cherry Valley, Calif. Survivors: wife, Barbaranne; sons, Robert, Terry; daughter, Trish Swarez; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brothers, Allan, Ray, Don.

**SHIPP, VIRGIL** – b. Nov. 4, 1931, Belgrade, Mo.; d. March 11, 2015, Oakhurst, Calif. Survivors: wife, Marjorie; sons,

Charles, Donald, Gary; 11 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren.

**SMITH, NANCY PATTON (MORGAN)** – b. May 8, 1921, San Francisco, Calif.; d. April 21, 2014, Prescott, Ariz. Survivors: Kathleen M. Demsky. Served alongside her husband, George E. Smith, pastor and educator in Pacific Union, Ohio, and Texaco conferences, Andrews University.

**TAYLOR, CONSTANCE MAE (WHALIN)** – b. Dec. 14, 1925, Oakland, Calif.; d. Nov. 22, 2014, Rohnert Park, Calif. Survivors: husband, Melvin; son, Tim; daughters, Julie Taylor, Patricia Evans; step-daughter, Cheryl Crouch; three grandchildren.

**VERDE, EDGAR T.** – b. Dec. 10, 1945, Negros Occidental, Philippines; d. Aug. 11, 2015, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: wife, Jemima Cordova; sons, Edward Wayne, Edgar Lenard, Everett Jay; four grandchildren.

**WATERHOUSE, GARY S.** – b. Nov. 29, 1946, Minneapolis, Minn.; d. July 14, 2015, Oregon City, Ore. Survivors: wife, Arna; son, Mark; daughter, Mindy Thygeson; five grandchildren; mother, Mabe; brother, Greg; sisters, Bonnie, Kim. Served as pastor in Minnesota, Alaska as well as Central California churches: San Luis Obispo district, Bakersfield Hillcrest, Oakdale, Oakhurst and Clovis.

**WESNER, JUNE MAE (LAMMERD-ING)** – b. June 18, 1930, Sacramento, Calif.; d. Aug. 8, 2015, Sacramento, Calif. Survivors: husband, Wayne; daughters, Joleane King, Carolyn Wesner, Beverly Wesner-Hoehn, Lavonne Wesner; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

**WICK, WADEYNE** – b. Oct. 1, 1918, Shreveport, La.; d. July 5, 2015, San Diego, Calif. Survivors: husband, Harry Sanders; son, Bill Boersing; daughter, Diane Sanders; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

**WILLIAMS, CLIFFORD J.** – b. March 5, 1933, St. Helena, Calif.; d. May 28, 2015, Gilbert, Ariz. Survivors: wife, Bess; sons, James, John; daughters, Trisha; Patricia Woods, Debra Mazzini; 11 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

**WITT, DAVID NEAL** – b. Sept. 22, 1965, Modesto, Calif.; d. July 11, 2015, Sacramento, Calif. Survivors: wife, Armitta; sons, Andrew Conley, Alexander; daughter, Elizabeth; sister, Cornelius; mother, Geraldine; sisters, Shelley Terps-tra, Kimberly Meyer.

**ZAPARA, RONALD D.** – b. Jan. 30, 1944, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. July 16, 2015, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: wife, Sheri; daughters, Cher Zapara-Bouwer, Aimee; father, Wilbur; brothers, Dale, Randy, Terry; sister, Chelene Borris.

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

## SUNSETS

	10/2	10/9	10/16	10/23	10/30
Alturas	6:40	6:29	6:18	6:07	5:58
Angwin	6:49	6:39	6:28	6:19	6:11
Calexico	6:24	6:15	6:06	5:59	5:52
Chico	6:46	6:35	6:25	6:15	6:06
Eureka	6:55	6:44	6:33	6:23	6:14
Fresno	6:39	6:29	6:20	6:11	6:03
Hilo	6:07	6:01	5:56	5:51	5:47
Honolulu	6:17	6:11	6:05	6:00	5:55
Las Vegas	6:21	6:11	6:02	5:53	5:45
Lodi	6:45	6:34	6:24	6:15	6:07
Loma Linda	6:30	6:21	6:12	6:04	5:57
Los Angeles	6:35	6:25	6:16	6:08	6:01
Moab	6:56	6:46	6:36	6:26	6:18
Oakland	6:48	6:38	6:28	6:19	6:11
Phoenix	6:09	6:00	5:52	5:44	5:36
Reno	6:38	6:27	6:17	6:07	5:59
Riverside	6:31	6:22	6:13	6:05	5:58
Sacramento	6:45	6:35	6:24	6:15	6:07
Salt Lake City	7:06	6:55	6:44	6:34	6:25
San Diego	6:30	6:21	6:13	6:05	5:58
San Francisco	6:49	6:39	6:29	6:20	6:12
San Jose	6:47	6:37	6:27	6:18	6:10
Tucson	6:05	5:57	5:48	5:41	5:34

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White Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church  
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### SPEAKER & OTHER GUESTS

Pastor Velino Salazar  
*President, Southern California Conference of SDA*

Los Angeles Metropolitan Chorale  
*Lilibet Hunt, Director*

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October 2015

# Arizona NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT...



*Pastor Charles White, Arizona Conference President Tony Anobile and Communication Director Phil Draper.*

*Arizona Conference President Tony Anobile and Communication Director Phil Draper sat down with Pastor Charles White to discuss the Ellen G. White Seminars being conducted throughout Arizona Conference.*

**Question: What was it like growing up as the great-grandson of Ellen G. White?**

It took me a while to realize what a unique privilege it was to grow up as a great-grandson of James and Ellen White.

My two oldest aunts, Ella and Mabel, spent much time with her as the first grandchildren, and on into their adult lives as young married women. Aunt Ella was 33 when her grandmother died; Mabel was 30.

Ella heard many, many stories from her grandma, and wrote a number of books sharing these stories and her experiences. These ladies were wonderful, loving, grandmother types. I was in my mid-thirties and in pastoral ministry before they died.

My twin uncles Herbert and Henry were also an integral part of my life. They were 19 when their grandmother Ellen passed away. They loved my dad, Francis White, very much and we spent many good times together.

My grandmother, Ethel Mae Lacey, Willie White's second wife, spent much time in our home when I was growing up. Her time with our family made an indelible and positive impression.

My Aunt Grace and my Uncle Arthur had a significant influence regarding my great-

grandmother's memory. Grace was such a happy, caring and practical Christian. She reminded me of what Ellen White must have been like. My Uncle Arthur was the foremost living authority on Ellen White and early Adventist history. My dad was his younger brother. We spent many good times with Uncle Art, frequently joining him as he was teaching and preaching about Ellen White.

My dad was less than two years old when his grandmother Ellen passed away. He shared with my sister and me many stories he'd gleaned over the years from relatives.

My association with family members who knew my great-grandmother was very positive. They were all loving, caring, affirming individuals. It was obvious each loved Ellen White, but more importantly, Jesus.

**Question: What is the value of Ellen G. White's prophetic voice to the Seventh-day Adventist Church today?**

For too many years we've shied away from this beautiful gift in the ministry of Ellen G. White because of negative connotations associated with her work — particularly the "correcting" side of her ministry — causing some to set her aside or become ambivalent about her work.

I feel it's time — in the context of Bible first, Jesus supreme — we brought her back to her rightful place in the church. She had a deep love for God's Word, which she communicated clearly in all her writings. She had a deep love and personal relationship with Jesus. Other than Bible writers, I know of no one who has more clearly conveyed the

*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.*



President's Message, cont. from page 1

concept of God's great love.

My great-grandmother had a passionate burden for the "lost" in the church and in the world. It's time for us to blow the dust off her books and rediscover her writings for this generation.

Her writings will help renew our experience with God and revitalize our love for Jesus and His Word. I suggest reading or re-reading *Steps to Christ*, *Desire of Ages* and *Christ's Object*

*Lessons.* These are some of my favorites!

**Question: What is the purpose of the Ellen G. White Seminars?**

It's my heartfelt desire through the eyes of a family member to create a closer relationship with Ellen G. White and her family. Through personal stories, anecdotes and insights, I want to make her more "real" in contemporary life. She was a delightful, warm, loving person who I think we'd really like if we could know her intimately.

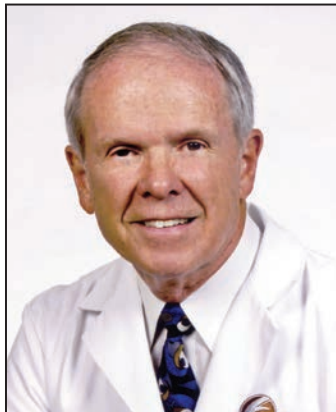
Then I want to challenge people to reconnect with the gift of prophecy as it was manifested through the life and ministry of Ellen G. White with the things she was passionate about and empowered her ministry — her passion for Scripture and deep love for God.

Ultimately, I want people to leave the seminars with smiles on their faces, and a renewed trust that God is working in His Church through the continuing ministry of Ellen G. White.

## Dr. Ron Sigler Named Veterinarian of the Year

By Anjali Tierney

**D**r. Ron Sigler was named "Veterinarian of the Year" by the Arizona Veterinary Medical Association at the inaugural/awards luncheon on May 15 at the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix. The award honors his service to the veterinary community for over 25 years. The Arizona Veterinary Medical Association is a membership organization representing veterinarians, veterinary staff and allied members throughout the state.



Dr. Ron Sigler

Sigler began his veterinary career in 1963. He received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Purdue University. He also attended Colorado State University, the University of Minnesota and Stanford University.

In 1977, Sigler became a Diplomate

of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists. In 1980 he opened the first veterinary eye clinic in the State of Arizona. During his career, Sigler has treated everything from tigers to Cocker Spaniels.

He spent many years sharing his professional knowledge and skill with veterinarians locally and nationally.

Sigler is an example of commitment to the profession of veterinary medicine, and has demonstrated that by his work in his professional community. He served as president of the Central Arizona Veterinary Medical Association and made it his mission to advance the notion that veterinarians have a responsibility to protect and to move the profession forward. He always believed in hard work and dedication to accomplishment.

Sigler is now a part-time retiree and part-time veterinarian at Eye Care for Animals clinic in Phoenix, Arizona. He and his wife, Patricia, attend the Wickenburg Seventh-day Adventist Church where he has served in many church leadership roles.





# Terry Pottle, New Thunderbird Principal

By Phil Draper and Rondi Astrup

A new principal has taken the reins at Thunderbird Adventist Academy in Scottsdale, Arizona. Terry Pottle transitioned from Fletcher Academy in North Carolina where he spent the past five years.

"I'm not your normal principal," Pottle confessed to parents and faculty. "I didn't come into education in a traditional way. In fact, education—teaching—wasn't on my radar. But I can see how the hand of God has guided me into this profession."

In college, Pottle majored in engineering but couldn't find a job after graduation. "I told God the next job that came along, I'd take it. I guess God has His own sense of humor for He answered my prayer immediately with a call to be maintenance director at Great Lakes Academy." He accepted the call.

From there he moved his family to Maxwell Academy in Kenya, Africa. During their nine-year stay, Pottle was head of maintenance, taught classes, and was in charge of a major renovation project that was to be done over a three-year period. With God's blessing, he and his team completed it in just 11 months.

Leaders at the East-Central Africa Division heard of Pottle's ability to successfully complete a building project in such a timely manner and hired him to complete several 13th Sabbath Offering projects, many of which had been waiting for years.

Realizing his children needed to return to the United States for their continued

education, he accepted a position at Wisconsin Academy. He quickly transitioned from head of maintenance to acting administrator. From there, he and his family moved to Georgia-Cumberland Academy where he was teacher and vice-principal. He attended nearby Southern Adventist University to complete his teaching credentials and earned a Master's Degree.

Dr. Dale Twomley asked Pottle to consider moving to Fletcher Academy, a large self-supporting school in North Carolina. The school was having major financial difficulties and Twomley thought Pottle was the man for the job to deliver the school from sagging finances and dwindling enrollment.

Always up for a challenge, Pottle and his family spent the next five years there helping bring the school back to a solid footing. Fletcher Academy went from being the lowest academically in the Southern Union to the highest; from empty dorms to having to turn kids away after capping the enrollment at 50 students per grade.

News of Pottle's successes initiated a call from Thunderbird Adventist Academy. Things were running so smoothly at Fletcher Academy, however, his initial



*Terry Pottle*

response was "no." But the invitation remained open, and he felt the call was from God. Finally, Terry's wife, Dana, asked, "Are you going to continue to tell God no?"

The Pottle family found themselves moving yet again, this time to Thunderbird Adventist Academy.

Pottle addressed staff members and parents at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year. "It is certainly possible to have a successful program at Thunderbird. The right elements are in place. There is a lot of hard work to be done as we work together, but with God as our partner, I believe we can look forward to a successful and happy school year!"

Addressing the parents he said, "You need to get what you paid for. It's my job to make sure this happens for you. We will work hard to give the your children the Christian education they deserve."

# Deaf Ministry in Arizona Conference

By Phil Draper

Some members of the Gilbert, Arizona Seventh-day Adventist church travel as much as two hours to attend church services. They do this because of the deaf ministry provided under the leadership of church elder Stan Pease.

Pease explains, “Our deaf members are of various ages, backgrounds and ethnicities; but here, as in God’s kingdom, everyone is equal.”

Attendance can be from four to 12 people, with visitors often making surprise visits. The group continues to grow as word spreads throughout the community for the opportunity to worship God with other deaf people, using their American Sign Language. Deaf members often take the light-rail, the bus, and some carpool together to help each other.

Each Sabbath morning, Pease begins his Sabbath School class at 9:30. Then church services continue with a video presentation or lecture/sermon interaction with questions and comments freely exchanged and encouraged. Twice monthly a fellowship luncheon is shared with deaf and non-deaf members, which gives opportunity for interaction so members can get to know each other better.

Using the Easy-Read Sabbath School Quarterly, picture-filled video presentations, and question and answer involvement, the Deaf Ministry seeks to help fulfill the Gospel Commission to send this message to EVERY nation,



*Deaf members enjoy Bible study with church elder Stan Pease.*

kindred, tongue and people, including those who “hear” with their eyes and “speak” with their hands.

Pease has served the deaf as an interpreter/tutor both in Maine and Arizona. He does not wear the title “interpreter” since a formal institution does not certify his experience. Further, he sees himself more as a “deaf advocate” with a passion for bridging the communicational and cultural gap between the hearing and the deaf.

While many churches talk about the “gift of tongues,” Pease believes when he communicates in sign language (his second language), he has the “gift of hands” as his learned skills take on much greater ease and proficiency than which he is normally capable.

The Gilbert church provides a room where deaf members can meet separately

from hearing members. Deaf members say they really look forward to their time together, digging deeper into God’s Word.

One deaf member commented, “We never get in a hurry to move on to the next point to make sure we stay on schedule. We can discuss all the topics until all our questions are answered and then move on to the next. Often there are discussions about the meaning of a word, or different signs used for the same meaning. It is fun and interesting.”

For more information about deaf ministries, contact Stan Pease at 602-616-2722 or email [stanpease@cox.net](mailto:stanpease@cox.net).





# centralACTS

Newsletter for Central California Conference  
of Seventh-day Adventists

## YAY! The Constituency Session is Coming

central california officers' perspective

Constituency sessions are always exciting. Representatives are chosen from all local churches to meet and make crucial decisions for our conference's future. Did you know, though, that this process is modeled in the Bible?

In Acts 15, Paul and Barnabas went to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles and elders to make decisions. On their way, they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria and told members there what had happened with God's work. It was good news, and made everyone very glad.

When they arrived in Jerusalem, they were welcomed and reported everything God had done. They then met to consider and discuss matters brought before them; yes, they even had speeches. After everything was said that needed to be said, the whole gathering made decisions and chose leaders to be sent out.

Shortly, conference and church leaders and laity will travel to Monterey Bay Academy to meet and to make decisions. On the way there, conference leaders will travel through the territory (town hall meetings) to tell members what has been happening with God's work. It is good news that should make us very glad.

**Pierre Steenberg**  
Vice President for Personnel, Central California Conference



Continued on page 3>>

## Calendar

**October 16-18**  
Men's Retreat

**October 23-25**  
Pathfinder Camporee

**October 31**  
GLOW in the Dark

**November 6-8**  
Koinonia Women's Retreat

**November 7**  
Constituency Prayer Session

**November 8**  
33<sup>rd</sup> Constituency

**November 12-15**  
Youth Prayer Conference

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

# OUR ORGANIZATIONAL GPS

## part 2



In the July 2015 issue of the Central Acts newsletter in the Recorder, I began sharing about our CCC strategic plan in an article entitled, "Our Organizational GPS." Let me continue the topic by exploring a question that some may have been asking: is there a biblical foundation for the concept of strategic planning? Or is this simply borrowing a process from the secular business model of today?

If we take a closer look, we find that God manages the affairs of human beings through planning with specific strategies in mind. In fact, time and again, He chooses individuals, comes along side of them and nudges them into strategic thinking and planning. The Scriptures are filled with examples of individuals whom God used to carry out His purposes with well laid out plans. The entire Bible, with its promise-fulfillment structure, reveals a God who works according to a grand cosmic plan.

Lets begin with God himself. In the counsel of peace (Zech. 6:13), the Triune God of the universe, convened a meeting to "plan" for the redemption of humanity. "The plan of salvation had been laid before creation of the earth; for Christ is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."<sup>1</sup>

In addition, Genesis 1 and 2 lays out the planned order of creation, with each day dependent on the previous. It would not make sense to create humans before a garden home was already in existence. It would not make sense to create the fish before the waters were organized or birds before the firmament existed or beasts of the field before there was grass. When we contemplate the creative order, we find logic, sense, and an intentional plan for the ultimate pronouncement, "And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good."<sup>2</sup>

Next, consider Joseph. God gave Pharaoh a dream that God interpreted through His servant Joseph. That dream contained a fourteen-year state of affairs for the nation; seven years of plenty and seven years of famine. Joseph laid out a strategic plan before Pharaoh to lay aside a fifth part of the harvest during the seven years of plenty. That plan included the building of storehouse facilities and for the sale and distribution of goods during the years of famine. A wise Pharaoh appointed Joseph as prime minister to oversee the plan and thus a nation was spared, along with the surrounding societies.<sup>3</sup>

Similarly, Moses, chosen by God to lead His people out of Egypt, struggled and was overwhelmed with the burdens of leadership. When Jethro, his father-in-law enters the scene, he finds Moses buried under the plethora of day-to-day management of that very large congregation. "The thing that thou doest is not good," said Jethro.<sup>4</sup> Jethro presented Moses with a Spirit-led strategic plan on how to address the issue by designing a method to delegate the work among others. Moses gladly embraced the godly counsel.

Then there's Nehemiah, another giant of the Lord whom God used to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem which had been destroyed. The biblical account articulates a strategic plan that served to accomplish the vision God had given. The work was accomplished in just 52 days.<sup>5</sup> Meanwhile, David defeated Goliath by ascertaining his weakness and utilizing his own God-given talent. As king, he led soldiers into

battle with strategies to defeat the enemy. David also left plans and resources to his son Solomon for the building of the temple.

And finally, there's Paul, a leader God used in mighty ways to establish His early church. Through his epistles we find well-selected plans to establish churches in cities to impact as many as possible. Paul also chose godly individuals to mentor in order to lead those churches in his absence.

We conclude then that strategic planning is not just a secular practice in the corporate world, but that it is primarily and more importantly, a God-given concept for the finishing of His work.

Consider Ellen White's perspective on the matter. She writes that, "as we near the final crisis, instead of feeling that there is less need of order and harmony of action, we should be more systematic than heretofore. All our work should be conducted according to *well-defined plans*."<sup>6</sup> (emphasis added).

Bringing it home to CCC's strategic plan, I'd like to share with you our new vision statement (the destination we're pursuing) and our new mission statement (how we're going to get there).

**Our Vision**  
Reflecting Christ. Transforming Communities

**Our Mission**  
Empowering every person to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and a center of influence for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Stay tuned for more as we continue to share elements of Central's new and exciting strategic plan.

**Ramiro Cano**

President, Central California Conference

1. Ellen G. White. Patriarchs and Prophets, page 63.

2. Genesis 1:31

3. Genesis 41-47

4. Exodus 18:17

5. Nehemiah 6:15

6. Ellen G. White. Selected Message, Volume 3, page 26.

When all of us arrive at MBA we will be welcomed and further reports will be given about what God had done. We will consider and discuss matters brought before us; yes, even listen to speeches. We will make decisions and choose leaders to send out.

Thank you for your involvement and investment in your church. Thank you that you or your representatives through the Holy Spirit's promptings are leading the church and making decisions for His kingdom. May God bless you, and may we also, like Paul and Barnabas, speak of what God did and give Him the glory.

## CENTRAL ORDINATIONS SEND OUT LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST



### JUSTIN JOUNGHAN KIM

Justin Jounghan Kim was born into a Seventh-day Adventist family in South Korea. He is the youngest child of Gwanjin and Youngsoon Kim. While he studied theology, he served the Puchon Western Church of the West Central Korean Conference as an assistant pastor and as a recruiter for the 1000 Missionary Movement.

In 2006, Kim came to the United States and enrolled in the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. While completing his master of divinity degree he also served in pastoral roles. Upon his graduation, Kim served in Nashville where he started a second-generation Korean youth ministry.

Kim's ministry motto is "Mission First." His special interests include media ministry, community service, discipleship and public evangelism. Since April 2012 he has been serving as pastor of the Fresno All Nations Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church.



### VICTOR MARTINEZ ORTEGA

Born in Veracruz, Mexico, God used others to influence Victor Martinez early in his life. From the age of twelve to fourteen, he lived in a Franciscan Seminary where the principal suggested that he would serve the Lord at another place. In addition, his grandmother constantly reminded him to always look for God.

At 26 years old, he was invited by his aunt to come to the United States, where he met the Lord. He received Bible studies and was baptized at the Bakersfield Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1990. After his baptism, Martinez prayed for a girlfriend that would be a life partner. Three weeks later, he met and fell in love with his wife Ruth.

In 1998 the Lord called him to pastoral ministry. Martinez began as a Bible worker in Pixley, Delano and Selma. He completed his bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Phoenix in 2013. A master's degree in pastoral ministry from the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University followed.

He currently serves as senior pastor in the Santa Maria Valley Hispanic and Lompoc church district.

Central California Conference  
**WOMEN'S RETREAT**  
**TENAYA LODGE**  
**JANUARY 29-31, 2016**

Register early to receive special rates.  
Register online at [ccwomens.adventistfaith.org](http://ccwomens.adventistfaith.org).  
For more information, contact CCC Women's Ministries,  
P.O. Box 770, Clovis, CA 93613 • (559) 347-3142



## MIRACLE ROADWAYS: REVISITED WOMEN MESSENGERS OF GOD

If you missed some or all of the Miracle Roadway interviews at camp meeting this year, we'll be sharing some in shorter written form throughout the year. Here's an interview done by Carlos Garcia (CG), pastor of the Los Banos Seventh-day Adventist Church. He interviewed Ariel Torres (AT), pastor of the Watsonville Spanish/Soquel Bilingual Seventh-day Adventist Church district, along with members Alma (AH) and Pepe Hernandez (PH).

CG: Good evening saints. We have someone very special with us tonight.

AT: Let me introduce you to sister Alma Hernandez and brother Pepe Hernandez. They are a wonderful couple who are working very hard to make sure that God's kingdom will come real soon into this world. Sister Alma is in charge of personal ministries and her brother Pepe is the head deacon in the church.

CG: Tell us why they are so special to your ministry and to your church.

AT: Last year, one of the Hispanic projects funded by the evangelism offering was Women Messengers for God. Sister Alma, together with ladies from more than 20 different churches in the conference, took the challenge to preach the Word of God for a whole week. That is why she is here, to bear testimony of what God did for her and through so many ladies in the conference.

CG: Praise the Lord! Alma you are very privileged to have a pastor like Ariel Torres. Something happened on March 15 of this year. Tell us what happened.

AH: Well, I was called to preach; something that I had never done before. My theme was to preach about baptism and a wonderful thing happened after I made the altar call. Over 20 people raised their hand that they wanted to be baptized and they wanted to study the word of God. From those 20, eight Bible studies were initiated and four people have been baptized since then. August 1 another one is getting baptized.

One study, in Santa Cruz, was a single mom with two boys. She said, "We could get the community room in my apartment complex, so we can invite more people." And when she said those words, I just knew something tremendous was going to happen.

Now 11 adults and 17 kids are studying with us at the apartment. The Lord is moving in such a way that He wants us to go out and preach His word, to go out and reach new souls because He is coming soon. There are a lot of people out there who are sick, dying, or desperate to know about the Lord. And we need to do that work. We need to go out there and preach His word.

CG: Amen. What a powerful testimony! So, you preached once and the Holy Spirit moved you to make a call. Folks, this is just a reminder that God still does whatever He wants to do, with whoever He wants to, at any time He wants to, and the only thing we need to do is put ourselves in His hands just like Alma and Pepe have done.

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# HŌ'IKE

## VISIONS OF PARADISE

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

**PAGE 2** | What did your summer look like? For many kids in the Hawaii Conference, it was filled with Vacation Bible School, summer camp, and even literature evangelism...

**PAGE 3** | Do you divert resources that belong to God (time, energy, money, etc.) away from God's work for your own worldly entertainment? Don't tear down the temple!

**PAGE 4** | Hawaii Conference welcomes new educators: Jacinda Gonzales, Joann Talitonu, Joshua Ertl, Rebecca McMillen, Migdalia "Millie" Mojica, and Sylvia Suk.

## Convocations Renew Our Faith

RALPH S. WATTS III

**It is wonderful to connect and reconnect with brothers and sisters of "like precious faith," some of whom we have not seen since last convocation. I am always richly blessed by the Holy Spirit-inspired preaching and music and grateful for such a special and blessed experience.**

The Bible contains so much timeless wisdom to renew our minds, and convocation is a great opportunity to refocus on the instruction and inspiration of God's Word.

We have planned and prayed that your time this weekend will be a true blessing for you as you enjoy convocation. As I write this, we have just concluded our Big Island convocation in the Hilo church. Our special guest speaker was Dr. Joe Kidder from Andrews University. His emphasis was on prayer and the power to change lives when we passionately commit to prayer. Here is a verse of Scripture that speaks to that reality:

"If My people who are called by My name

will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:14).

Imagine what God could do through the Hawaii Conference if all of us, every single member, dedicated ourselves to prayer each and every day.

Here is a thought: "Satan's main strategy with God's people has always been to whisper, 'Don't call, don't ask, don't depend on God to do great things. You'll get along fine if you just rely on your own cleverness and energy.' The truth of the matter is that the devil is not

terribly frightened of our human efforts and credentials. But he knows his kingdom will be damaged when we lift up our hearts to God" (Jim Cymbala; *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire*, p. 56).

What do you say we commit to lift up our hearts to God in prayer every day? May He revive and energize us to do the work that the Lord has called us to do. One day, soon and very soon, our convocations will not be in Hawaii, but by the sea of glass.

Each One Reach One

With Warm Aloha,

Ralph S. Watts III



# Vacation Bible School

MADONNA TAUEU

As summer drew near, children's ministries coordinators and their crews prepared for Vacation Bible School throughout Hawaii.

Props and décor included sets such as a campfire set-up in a very cold region, an under sea adventure, and the natural beauty of tropical climates.

Within the playful atmosphere of each VBS, the truth of the Creator was displayed. He never changes. The truth never changes. Children and adults alike can enjoy the same Bible truths, either learned years ago or just recently.

We have the honor and privilege of reminding our young ones during VBS that the same God we learned about in our childhood is the only true and living God; the One whose love has not changed for any of us. Let us remember His character for ourselves as we continue to share it with our growing children.

Furthermore, may we impart truth with and in love. Warren W. Wiersbe said, "Truth without love is brutality, and love without truth is hypocrisy." In other words, truth without God is brutality, and God without truth is hypocrisy.



Fun songs are a traditional part of VBS programs.



Volunteers worked hard to create a winter wonderland.



## Camp and Literature Ministries Keep Hawaii Kids Busy

ERIK VANDENBURGH

**I remember when the lights were turned off as a kid and I was told, "Go to sleep!" Today I have three young boys who often plead, "Daddy, please turn on a light!" The darkness of this world is a scary thing.**

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12). He illuminated this dark world with His love and dispelled the darkness of sin with His presence.

The youth department's theme is "Piercing the Darkness." This summer, we saw God light up the lives of our young people in many ways. We had a successful summer camp program with more than 150 campers. Our goal was to lead each camper to a personal relationship with Jesus.

- 41 requested Bible study
- 37 made decisions for baptism
- 57 dedicated their lives for God's work

While we had many new fun activities, the highlight was hearing the testimonies from campers about how God had changed their lives during their time at camp.

### Literature Ministry



Ke Ola (The Life) literature evangelists were the hands and feet of Jesus this summer, distributing hope-filled books and magazines from Hawaii Kai to Waianae, Oahu. Over a seven-week period, 13 students and four leaders knocked on 45,500 doors, placing 2,694 books in homes and businesses. Most important, 115 people requested Bible study.

# Where Is Our Treasure?

GERALD D. CHRISTMAN

**The temple in Jerusalem during the time of Jesus was an impressive super structure. Mark chapter 13 tells how a disciple of Jesus remarked, “Look, Teacher! What colossal stones! What a magnificent building!”**



Many of the students realized God had called them this summer to have an encounter with Jesus. Jeneva, from the Big Island, was concerned about losing her job, but she credits God for softening her supervisor’s heart to let her keep the job after Ke Ola.

JR Ola, looking for an encounter with God, was able to minister to a group of atheists who purchased some Christian books.

Ku, a junior at Hawaiian Mission Academy, was so impacted by his experience with God he decided to make a full commitment to Jesus and be baptized.

Half of our 13 student workers were from the Hawaiian Islands. The four leaders attend Andrews University, La Sierra University, Souls Northwest and Souls West. Scholarships earned total \$41,326.

God’s presence was definitely felt in the Hawaiian Islands this summer. With thanksgiving we give Him all the praise!



King Herod had extensively renovated the Jewish temple. Josephus, a Jewish historian, reported that the temple was “covered on all sides with massive plates of gold.” The sun’s reflection radiated a fiery brilliance leading individuals to avert their eyes. The temple was not just covered with gold on the outside. It was also filled with gold and valuable treasures on the inside, serving as a safe deposit box. Many stored their treasures and savings inside the temple.

Roman Emperor Vespasian was attracted to the temple — for the wrong reasons. He found the temple’s wealth to be irresistible. The Roman treasury was empty and Emperor Vespasian desperately needed money; so he sent his son, Titus, to overthrow Jerusalem.

Roman soldiers encircled Jerusalem and destroyed its walls. In 70 A. D., they hauled off what, today, was probably equivalent to billions of dollars worth of valuables and cash reserves. It has been estimated that 220,000 pounds of silver, gold and other valuables were stolen from the temple in Jerusalem. It was a very sad time for the Jews.

So what did the Romans do with their plundered wealth?

Our family visited Rome many years ago; while there, we toured the remnants of the great Coliseum. The Roman Coliseum was a mammoth building standing 165 feet tall; its circumference being 1/3 of a mile and consisting of 80 entrances. The Harvard Stadium based its design on the Coliseum.

The Roman economy was in shambles after the devastating reign of Nero; so a question has long puzzled historians — how did the Roman Empire undertake the exorbitant cost of building a structure like the Coliseum shortly after Nero had shattered the empire’s economy? Where did the funds come from?

The Jerusalem temple was pillaged in 70 A.D.; it’s not a coincidence that construction of the Coliseum began shortly after, between 70 and 72 A.D. Historians now know that construction of the Coliseum was financed by plundering the Jerusalem temple. Just think: gold, silver and valuables were taken from God’s holy temple so that a recreation center could be built in pagan Rome.

The Arch of Titus is an archway built in Rome that celebrated its victory over Jerusalem nearly 2,000 years ago. Engraved on the archway are Roman soldiers carrying a trophy as they triumphantly returned from Jerusalem. What was their trophy? The golden candlestick that was in the temple’s holy place. The Romans were so pleased with their prized acquisition that they engraved the golden candlestick on to what is called the Arch of Titus.

God’s House of Worship was robbed, destroyed and plundered so that people could amuse and entertain themselves in the Coliseum. What a sad story. This saga, unfortunately, gets worse. It’s been estimated that 500,000 people were killed in the Coliseum. Many were Christians who were tortured and thrown to wild animals. Can you imagine God’s pain as He witnessed His followers persecuted in a building that, in a way, had replaced the temple in Jerusalem?

What about today? Some steal and plunder from God’s House in order to finance their own recreational “coliseums.” They divert tithes or maybe offerings for their own pleasure; raiding God’s temple, in a sense, in order to fund their amusements.

God wants us to love Him supremely. Are we siphoning off resources from God’s treasury? Are we putting our money where our hearts should be?

# NEW SCHOOL YEAR BRINGS NEW TEACHERS

MIKI AKEO-NELSON

**The start of a new school year often brings new faces to the Hawaii Conference, and this year is no exception. Please join me in welcoming the newest members of Adventist education in Hawaii!**

Jacinda Gonzales is the new seventh grade homeroom and upper-grade science teacher at HMA Ka Lama Iki. She is a graduate of La Sierra University with a B.A. in liberal studies/education and holds an NAD certification in elementary education. She has teaching experience in California, Tennessee, Hawaii and Korea, which has given her a variety of experience in multicultural settings. Gonzales has a passion for increasing student learning through the use of robotics and computer programming and looks forward to introducing these platforms at Ka Lama Iki. She has developed her very own Seventh-day Adventist app to use in class with her students and believes in being a part of a system that upholds Seventh-day Adventist values.

Joann Talitonu is the new third and fourth grade teacher at Adventist Malama Elementary School. A graduate of Walla Walla University, Talitonu completed her student teacher experience at HMA Ka Lama Iki and first year of teaching as a volunteer teacher at Kona Adventist Christian School. As a local girl of Hawaii, she knows the challenges island children face and wants to be a positive role model for the students she works with. She has an extremely positive disposition and is eager to share her love for Jesus and His infinite mercy and grace with the students at AMES.

Joshua Ertl has accepted the call to serve as the volunteer upper grades teacher at Kona Adventist Christian School. Joshua has a master's degree in education from Walla Walla University and a bachelor's in history from the University of Wisconsin. He has various teaching experience in Thailand, Washington and Wisconsin and brings a special interest in social studies and history to Hawaii. Ertl's desire to be a living example of Jesus' love comes from years of mission work, and his students at KACS will see that passion this year.

Rebecca McMillen has accepted a call to serve as the volunteer kindergarten teacher at Adventist Malama Elementary School. Rebecca is a graduate of Union College and holds an NAD certification in elementary education, as well as junior academy endorsements in English, fine arts, health and physical education, math and religion. McMillen has worked in the Iowa-Missouri and Arkansas-Louisiana conferences and is looking forward to serving the children in Waianae. Her interests include gymnastics, swimming and working with the Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs.

Migdalia "Millie" Mojica has accepted a call to serve as the volunteer upper grades teacher at Kohala Adventist School. She is a successful literacy specialist from Florida who has used various literacy and technology initiatives to help students. She is fluent in English, French and Spanish, as well as conversant in Italian and Portuguese. Mojica's desire is to help students reach their God-given potential, and she is looking forward to working with the school family at KOA.

Sylvia Suk has accepted a call to serve as the volunteer first and second grade teacher at Adventist Malama Elementary School. She holds a B.A. in elementary education and has experience working with children in Arkansas, Virginia, and Maine. Suk has an impressive, go-getter spirit. She is passionate about music and enjoys sharing this gift with the children she meets in school and at church.

Please keep our newest team members, incoming task force volunteers, and returning teachers and administrators in your prayers. God has amazing plans for His children in Hawaii, and I look forward to sharing stories from across the conference throughout this upcoming school year.





# KINGDOM MATTERS

Northern California Conference Newsletter

“THE EFFECT OF  
RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL  
BE PEACE ...”  
(ISAIAH 32:17).



## Who's RIGHT?

If you're anything like me, you enjoy being right! If there's a point to be made, it's nice to be right. If there's a debate to be won, it feels good to be right. If there's a tough decision to be finalized, it's a good thing to be right.

Our three-year-old grandson, Stephen, likes to point out various kinds of cars as we drive through town together. He'll point to a car and say, "There's a Mustang!" Amazingly, he's usually correct. But if he isn't, and I try to suggest that it may be something else, he'll smile and say, "It IS a Mustang!" He likes to be right, even at his young age!

There are many people these days who go out of their way to "prove" that they're correct about one thing or another. In politics, the theme seems to be "I'm right, and the other candidate is wrong." On social media, there are so many ways for people to express their opinions, often in ways that clearly say, "I'm right, and if you don't agree with me, you're wrong"—or words that are much more denigrating.

It's good to be able to discuss ideas and positions, and to wrestle with what is right and what is not. However, in today's world, it has become increasingly more difficult to do that in a positive and decent way. If all that matters is proving that I'm right, it quickly

becomes a self-centered discussion.

It may not always be most important to be right about something. I can be accurate in the knowledge that I have the right of way to cross a street. But if I don't pay attention to the car that's not going to stop for me, I may end up being dead right!

As I read through Scripture, I find that there is certainly emphasis on being right, doing the right thing, living the right way, etc. But it seems that there is much more emphasis on being righteous, rather than on simply being right. And that means living life the way God wants me to live, rather than just proving to someone that I have a correct viewpoint.

The reality is this: "As the Scriptures say, 'No one is righteous—not even one.' ... Yet God freely and graciously declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when He freed us from the penalty for our sins" (Romans 3:10, 24, *New Living Translation*). And the result: "The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever" (Isaiah 32:17, *New Revised Standard Version*).

I share with you what the Apostle Paul said many years ago: "May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God" (Philippians 1:11, *New Living Translation*).

Peace.

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

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of Service



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VOLUME 13  
ISSUE 5  
OCTOBER 2015





# Bay Area Better Living Center Provides Help AND ENCOURAGEMENT

The Bay Area Better Living Center at the Oakland Immanuel Temple church offers a wide variety of programs to help people live healthier lives. “If we care about people, we care about their health,” said Rose Robinson, who serves as her church’s health minister. “We’re trying to show them a better way.”

The center—which has received a grant from the NCC Bridges evangelism initiative—hosts numerous health seminars, support groups and outreach activities. The center works with the Immanuel Temple and Market Street churches and hopes to work with other Bay Area churches in the future.

Last year, church member Mele Lautaimi attended a Complete Health Improvement Programs (CHIP) seminar at the center. She resisted going to the first class because she thought it would just be a guilt trip. “I was pleasantly surprised; it wasn’t anything that I expected,” she said. “It makes sense. The way they have it set up appeals to your intellect, not to your emotion.” Since then, she has lost 65 pounds, exercises regularly, and no longer takes medicine for diabetes and hypertension.

Once a month, people of all ages gather for the center’s First Sunday Lake Merritt Walk and Vege Breakfast. After a walk and a (private) weigh-in, the group enjoys a healthy breakfast at the center and has a lively discussion about health goals and strategies. “It’s a very encouraging group,” said Janice Craig, a community member.

Craig also attended a recent cooking class with Chef G. W. Chew, of The Veg Hub Ministry. “It was educational, but it was fun,” she said. “I like the way he presented the basic core idea of a recipe and then explained different ways you could change it”—by substituting healthier ingredients.

Another class presented at the center dealt with natural remedies, such as hot and cold treatments and the use of herbs and charcoal. Church member Carl Hill appreciated its focus on God. “It was not just dealing with the healing arts, but also with spiritual healing,” said Hill, who attended with his wife, Mary.

Ongoing encouragement is an important part of the center’s mission. “The goal is not just reversing the disease, it’s staying with [the healthy lifestyle] for the rest of our lives,” said Robinson. “We keep supporting each other.”

Volunteers from the center provide health screenings at various Oakland events, including this summer’s Berkeley Juneteenth Festival. While there, Robinson met a young woman who said, “Are you from a Christian church? I need someone to pray with me.” She told Robinson that she was suffering from an illness and losing hope. “So we prayed with her that God would bless her, and give her courage and faith and hope—and that he would heal her,” said Robinson.

Immanuel Temple Head Elder Busayo Alabi believes this young woman is not alone in her quest, not just for physical health, but also for spiritual support. “Events like this one demonstrate how quickly we can get to know people in the brief encounters that we have at these large public events, and at the same time shows how great the unmet needs are in the world,” he said. “People are looking for what we have. Hope!”

For more information about the center’s programs, call (510) 436-4011.



(Top) Dr. Norris Hollie, from the Market Street church, discusses a blood pressure reading with a community member at Oakland’s Laurel Street Fair in August. About 200 people stopped by the booth, and nearly 100 of them requested a blood pressure check.

(Above) Instructor Madeleine Nelson hands out certificates during a health class graduation.

(Photos by Rose Robinson)

(Below) A group gathers on the first Sunday of every month to walk around Lake Merritt in Oakland.

(Inset) Chef G.W. Chew, of The Veg Hub ministry, presents a vegan cooking class.



# Michael Ann Sparks Retires AFTER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

After a 40-year career at the Northern California Conference headquarters, Michael Ann Sparks retired on Aug. 31. At the time of her retirement, she was the longest-serving person employed at the conference office.

Sparks worked under seven conference presidents, serving as administrative assistant for a variety of departments, including African American ministries, community services, education, health, inner city ministries and stewardship. Office work changed significantly during her tenure. “When I first came, all they had were stencil machines and typewriters,” she said. Each time the technology was upgraded, she learned how to use it.

For the past 12 years, she has juggled the administrative assistant responsibilities for three departments—health, community services and stewardship—under Director Gordon Botting. “I have enjoyed every moment of it,” said Sparks.

Through the years Botting has been impressed by her professionalism. “I appreciate Michael Ann’s loyalty, efficiency and organizational abilities. Her work was done well and on time,” he said. “In addition, she’s very friendly and personable—with a great understanding of our departments.”

NCC Community Services Federation President Jim Oliver values her extensive corporate knowledge—and her willingness to help. “Michael Ann knows the history of many issues, since she has been in the office for so long,” he said. “It made my job so much easier to have her support. She is just really gracious, just a class act.”

NCC President Jim Pedersen agrees. “Michael Ann’s people skills and positive outlook have made her an asset to every department

where she has served,” he said. “Church members have told us about her spirit of helpfulness and effective work.”

In 1975, Sparks was working as a clerk-typist at UC Berkeley, when a friend told her about a secretarial position in the NCC’s education department. Within two weeks she was working at her new job. Although she had to take a pay cut, she was happy to work for the Church. “I really feel that the Lord led me to a job here at the NCC,” she said. “I’ve always looked forward to coming to work every day.”

She especially enjoyed working in a Christian environment. “I liked having worship to start our day,” she said. “Interacting with coworkers who have the same beliefs, and sharing experiences as we have been able to grow in Christ—that has been a blessing.” Her relationships with her coworkers extended outside of the office. “I’ve made several life-long friends here,” she said.

Raised in the Bay Area, Sparks is a long-time, active member of the Pittsburg church. She has two grown children: Melonie Saucedo-Flemming (married to Groves) and Monty Saucedo (married to Shika). Sparks and her husband, Robert—a retired schoolteacher—look forward to spending their golden years in retirement together.

As she reflects on her career, Sparks is grateful. “It’s just been a blessing. That’s all I can say,” she said. “God has been good.”



**Michael Ann Sparks served at the NCC office for 40 years: (top) working at her desk, (middle) promoting a health program; (inset) smiling for a conference directory photo in 1977.**

**(Below) Sparks made many lasting friendships at the office: (top) with Gordon Botting, her boss for 12 years, (middle) with Tina Cochrane and Bernadette Johnson, (bottom) with Suzan Williams.**





## An Easy Way to Create Lifetime Income and SAVE ON TAXES

If you are looking for a way to create income for yourself now or in the future, there are two charitable gifts you should consider.

**Charitable remainder trust**—When you transfer your appreciated stock or real estate to fund a charitable remainder trust, you can also avoid capital gains tax on the sale of your assets. The trust will sell the assets tax free and then use the invested proceeds to pay you income for your life. And your income could potentially grow with growth in the trust assets.

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The Veg Hub, mentioned in the article on page 2, is a ministry of the Bridges: Bay Area for Jesus program.



Become a fan of The Veg Hub on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/thevegghub](http://www.facebook.com/thevegghub).



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## NCC Project Continues TO HELP CONGOLESE WIDOWS

“Marie” is a widow living in a refugee camp in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Some time ago she received a goat from the Congo Widows Mission Project, sponsored by NCC women’s ministries. Unfortunately, someone stole her goat, and Marie became despondent. She was preparing to kill herself when several Adventist pastors happened to stop by the refugee camp. They intervened and got her the help she needed. They also made sure that she received another goat. Today, Marie attends the local Adventist church and sings in the choir.



members for their support and to give a report on the project. Since 2012, he and his team have distributed more than 1,000 goats.

A goat is a valuable possession in the DRC—especially for a widow with very little money. Goats are so precious that three of them can support a family through the sale of milk, cheese and baby goats. When a woman’s herd produces a fourth goat, she gives it to another widow. “They have the opportunity and joy of seeing somebody else become self-sufficient,” said NCC Women’s Ministries Coordinator Mary Jo Lauderdale.

Gasore (Jean) Bazungu, executive secretary of the North East Congo Union Mission, told Marie’s story on his trip to the United States this summer, and reported her reaction: “I will not be discouraged again. God is with me. How do people who don’t know me—people from very far—how can they buy me a goat? God cannot forsake me.”

Marie is only one of the many widows helped by the project. On Sabbath afternoon, July 25, Bazungu spoke at Redwood Camp Meeting to thank church

The Congo Widows Mission Project’s scope is not limited to goats. NCC church members collect used eyeglasses, which are shipped to the DRC to be matched to people who need them. Recently, the project built the 1,000-seat Kyeshero Adventist church, which will be dedicated next summer. The project is also currently raising money for much-needed school buildings and improvements.

Learn more: [www.nccsda.com/congowidowsproject](http://www.nccsda.com/congowidowsproject).



(Above) NCC President Jim Pedersen, North East Congo Union Mission Executive Secretary Gasore (Jean) Bazungu, and NCC Women’s Ministries Coordinator Mary Jo Lauderdale enjoy Sabbath afternoon at Redwood Camp Meeting. (Left) Bazungu shows pictures of his family to Jeremy Westcott and sons Josiah, Joshua, and Asher, from Miranda. (Inset) Bazungu speaks in Pepperwood Pavilion.

### Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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Hours: 8 a.m.–6 p.m. | Mon–Thurs

President, Jim Pedersen | Executive Secretary, Marc Woodson  
Treasurer, John Rasmussen

# Nevada-Utah Views

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*Focused on Jesus,  
we witness to the world!*

**October 2015**

In this issue...

- Great news in the Nevada-Utah Conference
- Upcoming Events

## Great News in the Nevada-Utah Conference!



**Ed Keyes**

by Ed Keyes  
President, Nevada-Utah Conference

As I start this article, I am reminded of the term “gospel.” This word is synonymous with the phrase “Good News.” If that is the case, the gospel is certainly what I have

to share with you in this installment.

### Hawthorne SDA Church

I begin with two situations that are not usually considered good news. First I had the privilege of speaking in our Hawthorne church on June 6 and was surprised to find as I drove into town that morning that there was a lot of construction going on. Well, Pastor and Mrs. Karry were there doing the Sabbath School and worship program so I asked them what the construction was. They told me that a tornado had come through town the night before - the first tornado ever in the history of that town. Praise the Lord no one was hurt and that it didn't happen just a few hours later when we were all trying to get to church.

### Elder Ron Halvorsen, Sr. Funeral

Secondly, the following weekend I attended the funeral service of one of my best friends, Elder Ron Halvorsen, Sr. How is that good news you ask? Simple. The scripture says, “Blessed are they that die in the Lord from now on, that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow

them,” (Revelation 14:13). There are few people I know in the world whose works will follow them like Ron Halvorsen, Sr. He has led more than 15,000 people into the church in North America through his evangelistic series, and countless thousands overseas as well. This great giant of the gospel left behind a legacy of soul winning that we would be wise to follow if we would see Jesus come in our lifetime. May the Lord bless and comfort his dear wife Carol, son Ron, and daughter Diane. As well as all the other family members and friends, as he will be truly missed.

### North American Division Ministerial Meetings

The end of June marked the first ever ministerial gathering of pastors from across the North American Division (NAD). For many years, the General Conference was always preceded by a time when pastors from around the world were invited to do some enrichment of their ministry through classes and workshops. This has not happened in recent years so the North American Division decided to have a training time of its own. It was well received, well attended, and truly blessed by God. The speakers and messages were timely and filled with the Holy Spirit. Nearly all of the Nevada-Utah Conference pastors attended this event and we had an opportunity of getting together with our staff as well while we were there.



**Elder Ron Halvorsen, Sr.**

COURTESY OF LEE BENNETT

*“This great giant of the gospel left behind a legacy of soul winning that we would be wise to follow if we would see Jesus come in our lifetime.”*

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on the next page**

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the previous page*

### General Conference Session 2015

From there, it was on to the 2015 General Conference Session for our denomination's quinquennial session. As a representative of the NUC, I attended every single business meeting. Most of the business sessions centered on *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual* issues, particularly wording of doctrinal statements, and policy for running the local church. As is widely known, a major discussion was given to the subject of Divisions having the right to ordain regardless of gender.

In a 58 to 42 percent vote, it was decided that local Divisions of the world church would not be allowed to make their own decision on ordination. As the church manual states, that responsibility resides at the Union level of church organization.

While there were things I did not agree with, I will say that, for the most part, the spirit displayed by the delegates and participants was certainly Christ-like and kind. I especially appreciated the evening meetings, which highlighted the work of the various world divisions. The music was beautiful and the testimonies were awe-inspiring. I am truly thankful to be a part of God's last-day movement.

### Open Church Districts Meetings

During July, I had several meetings with the leaders of two of our open church districts: Riverview in Reno and Living Water/Boulder City district in the Las Vegas area. These churches have very capable lay leaders and God will bless them in their search

for new pastors. As a matter of fact, we feel very confident that the Lord has led us to the right person for our Riverview church. I am truly thankful for the Christ-like spirit I have felt in all of these interviews and meetings. I have preached in Riverview twice in the last six weeks and am so thankful for the positive affirmation from the congregation. When I preached in Henderson at Living Water church I felt that same joyful spirit.

### Camp Meetings

August was camp meeting time for the NUC. I first had the opportunity of being a part of the Tahoe Camp Meeting. As I mentioned in my very first *Recorder* article last year, this camp meeting is the best kept secret in the church. The evening preaching was great, the daily seminars were awesome and God's Spirit was truly there. Put this on your calendar for next year - you will not want to miss it.

Immediately after we left Tahoe Camp Meeting, we headed to southern Utah to attend two different camp meetings. The first was our conference-funded camp meeting at the gates of Zion National Park. My wife and I were only there from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. because we wanted to visit another annual Adventist gathering held not far from there for the Red Cliffs and Cedar City district. God blessed both of these camps, as He

always does when His people come together to worship and learn. I encourage anyone who can, to plan to attend one of these great gatherings of believers the next time they meet.

*“I am truly thankful to be a part of God's last-day movement.”*



*Tahoe Camp Meeting “is the best kept secret in the church.”*

We promise not to do them at the exact same time in the future. The Zion Camp Meeting featured Elder Ben Maxson for the English group, with Pastor Marvin Clarke leading out in the youth department. The Hispanic group was very exciting to be a part of, as they had a full crowd with Sergio Balboa speaking and the powerful musical talent of Eusebio Diaz. The Cedar City camp meeting featured a good friend of mine as guest speaker, Pastor Van Bledsoe from Arizona. It was great to see Van and his wife Carolina, and they did a great job with the presentations.

After all of the camp meetings, I spent most of Sunday looking at potential camp sites for future camp meetings, youth camps, and retreats. Then on Monday, my wife and I got to hike in Zion National Park for part of the day. What a joy it was to see the amazing creation of God preserved in this National Park. It just happened to be the day before our 30th anniversary so we celebrated it enjoying God's second book of nature.

### iShare Convention

On August 13, my wife and I flew to Ontario, Calif., for the annual iShare convention. I had never been to one of these events before, so I was excited to discover what it was all about. I had the responsibility of doing three, one-hour workshops, being a part of a panel discussion, and giving my testimony on Friday night. It was a busy weekend for me, but it was great to see all of these young people worshipping the Lord together and giving testimony to His power in their lives. Our Literature Ministry Director Westney White was there with nearly all of our Nevada-Utah



*The Zion Camp Meeting featured Pastor Marvin Clarke (above) leading out in the youth department and Sergio Balboa (left) speaking for the Hispanic group.*

literature evangelists. It was great to see them represent our conference in such a tremendous way. It was nice to see my dear friend Tony Anobile, Arizona Conference president, there as well, along

with Elder Ricardo Graham, Pacific Union Conference president, and nearly every other conference president from our union. Special tribute was given to Elder Arnold Trujillo for his work with the iShare convention and his dedication and enthusiasm for evangelism.

### NUC Educators' Meeting

Early the next morning I was on a plane to Las Vegas where our educators from around the NUC were gathering together for three days of training, inspiration, and fellowship. Dr. Eileen White, our new education superintendent, along with the NUC administration, wanted to start the school year off right with a meeting that would bring us together to plan our vision for the future of

*God blessed all of the NUC Camp Meetings this summer, including this one at Zion National Park (above).*

*"...it was great to see all of these young people worshipping the Lord together and giving testimony to His power in their lives."*

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the previous page*

Adventist Education in our conference. Anna Atkins, from Orlando, Florida, led in a great discussion on the mission of our schools. We also were blessed with presentations from Dr. Martha Havens and Dr. Berit von Pohle, Pacific Union Conference office of education director. I had the privilege of sharing the morning devotionals in which I focused again on our mission to the youth God had entrusted to us. I came away from these meetings invigorated with a renewed desire to proclaim the great news of Seventh-day Adventist education with a clear and loud voice. These precious youth that God has given to us need to be educated for service here and in the hereafter. Let us do everything possible to get all our young people in our schools where they can learn about our Savior Jesus in a safe,

*He said, "I have a surprise for you, I need you to preach for me tomorrow as my wife is going into labor."*

### **Elder Omar Palmer and His New Baby**

I conclude this edition with one of the most amazing things that has happened to me in my ministry. I have been called upon to preach at the last minute on a

number of occasions but never like this. On Friday night August 28, Elder Omar Palmer, pastor of the Sparks church, called me.

I greeted him by saying, "pastor, I have a surprise for you. I'm coming to your church tomorrow." Indeed that would be a great surprise because in the 15 months I've been in the NUC I have only taken one Sabbath off, but the pastor gave me an even greater surprise.

He said, "I have a surprise for you, I need you to preach for me tomorrow as my wife is going into labor."

That was a first in my 30 years of ministry, but to make things even more exciting he said that he was wrapping up his evangelistic campaign and that he wanted me to preach on the millennium. For a pastor just about to become a dad, how could I say "no" so I said "no problem." Then he told me he had eight people ready for baptism and asked if I could do the baptisms as well. I have to tell you all that God is an amazing planner. If this had happened on any of the other 70 Sabbaths since I've been here, I most likely would not have been able to do it, but God had this day open. Praise the Lord for those eight precious souls, who gave testimony to God's leading in their lives through the biblical ceremony of baptism.

So you are all wondering, what about the baby? Well, at approximately 2:15 Sabbath afternoon, baby Omar was born to Omar and Cheryl Palmer. We visited with the happy parents the next day and what joy filled that room. I told them that even with all the great things the Sparks church was involved with the day before in church, all they kept asking about was the Palmer baby. May God always bless this baby, and family with His richest and deepest blessings.

### **With Blessings**

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

*In the Master's Service, Ed Keyes*

spiritual, uplifting, environment.

### **Riverview SDA Church**

On August 22, I had the privilege of preaching in the Riverview church again. This time though I was able to share the good news that Dr. Michael Stevenson had accepted the call to come and serve as pastor to this wonderful church. The announcement was received with great joy and I believe that God was working all along in this process. It is my sincere prayer that God will do mighty things in this community through the work of this church and Pastor Stevenson.

## Upcoming EVENTS

### **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.



# CONFERENCE PRIORITIES

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

## Reflection on Our Pioneers

The church is about people. It is people who were made in the image of God and who are the supreme object of His love.

As we reflect on our 100 years as a conference, it is not to celebrate great accomplishments in the development of our churches, our schools and institutions. Although they highlight God's leading in our community, might I suggest that it is committed people who prayerfully visioned what could be in this place who gave us a great heritage. We are indebted to these early pioneers who faithfully followed Jesus.

I would like to share a few stories of people who dared to lead our church. They laid part of the foundation of Southeastern California Conference.

At the age of 51, **Luther Warren** came to SECC during the first year of operation. He was known as a youth leader and was a popular speaker at camp meetings and other gatherings. He was asked to help with tent meetings in Redlands, San Bernardino Valley and San Diego. When our first camp meeting took place in Huntington Beach, he was the main speaker. His vision for youth ministry is still deeply entrenched and is carried on in our conference today.

**Roderick Sterling Owen**, a member of the first conference executive committee, was a convert from the Methodist Church. He entered denominational service and did ship missionary work in



the San Francisco harbor. Later, he went to teach Bible and history at Healdsburg College, now known as Pacific

Union College, eventually becoming the college president. After a while, he left and taught Bible and history at Fernando Academy, now known as San Fernando Valley Academy, and then became a faculty member at the College of Medical Evangelists in Loma Linda, now known as Loma Linda University. It was during his time at Loma Linda that he joined SECC's executive committee. His experience brought a rich understanding to that first executive committee.

**Jennie Wilson Gordon** was a church member living in Santa Ana. She was devoted to her church and to God. She was always available help those in need. She was an encourager of all those she met. We are indebted to Jennie and those like her who helped build our ministry culture of service and dedication.

In 1915 SECC's executive committee invited **Walter Black** to lead the conference's work with immigrants from Mexico. He and his wife, Kathleen, came to the conference

with previous experience in outreach to immigrant populations. Shortly after their marriage the Blacks moved to do ministry in Arizona and Mexico. Marcial Serna, pastor of the Mexican Methodist church in Tucson, invited Black to speak. Consequently, Serna was baptized shortly afterwards, as were most of his congregation and the first Spanish-speaking Seventh-day Adventist church was established in America. The church had one Chinese member, and in a short time Black was teaching English and giving Bible studies to a group of 20. SECC stands on his shoulders as we continue our multicultural ministries.

These stories reflect just a few of the faithful people God used as our conference was launched 100 years ago. There are countless more stories to be told, thousands of ways people sacrificially gave to the foundational

ministry of our conference. As we reflect on this centennial celebration, we remember people that led in the past, their sacrifice and the legacy they left behind for us. As we look back at their stories, we look forward with hope to

what God will do in our lives and in the future to expand His kingdom here in our territory.

*By Sandra Roberts, SECC President*



(Below) Kids and youth enjoy La Sierra University church's games at Camp Discovery play zone.

(Right) The sanctuary of the Calimesa church is full of kids and volunteers during the VBS week.



## VBS Remains a Vibrant, Effective Ministry to Community Families

Vacation Bible School continues to be a dynamic, high-energy ministry event each year, demonstrating to children how fun and fulfilling it is to learn about God. These programs across the conference provide active, safe environments for kids to meet new friends and share Jesus with the community.

In fact, evidence here suggests that VBS may be one of the best ways to start relationships with people in the community. Here's a sampling of VBS programs in Southeastern California:

**Bonita Valley church's** VBS was a hit in their community, as 45 of 105 kids were from outside the church. Members contacted previous attendees with postcards and phone calls, during which a mother told Samantha Angeles Peralta, youth pastor, that she heard of this VBS because a classmate at her son's public school had such a wonderful time last year that he invited his entire class!

"Our teen leadership made it shine this year," said Angeles. "They committed to two weeks: one for prep and one for the program. They just finished school, some graduating the

day before, but they showed up every morning excited to work! They even surrendered their cell phones so they could focus on the children."

Their work didn't go unnoticed. Other churches took time to learn from Bonita Valley. Four women who run a 5,000-member church in Orange County were not only amazed at the many teens involved, but also how smoothly it ran. They were particularly impressed with the number of young men committed to being role models.

**Azure Hills church** was proud of their congregation's participation this year. "We're glad to have a church where everyone rolls up their sleeves and gets to work," said John Brunt, now retired senior pastor.

"People become so engaged and passionate about creating something exiting for our kids," added Patty Maruffo, children and family pastor. "I look forward to it!"

To encourage parents to stay on site, members Art and Sharon Blinci ran

a parent café with refreshments and seating so parents could relax during the activities. Other unique attractions included a rock climbing wall and bounce house.

**La Sierra University church** noticed that VBS curriculums had few, if any, female characters in the program. So the volunteer team chose to change that with this year's "Camp Discovery—How Jesus Works Through Us."

It was important to the team that the stories for the week started with a girl and ended with a girl, so Peter Cress, VBS leader, along with other volunteers, crafted the lessons to include Naaman's servant girl and Esther.

"Kids were able to take a different perspective on characters in Scripture and allow for God's greater story to help us find hope in ourselves and our communities," remarked Beverly Maravilla, children and families pastor. "Members had so much fun creating this year's experience that volunteers are writing their own Esther curriculum for next year."

**Mentone church** chose the theme, "Plug Into Power—I am connected with Jesus!"

"The emphasis is not only *getting* connected," said Gatra Suhari, youth pastor, "but *staying* connected."

Thirteen Mentone preteens and teens helped as leaders, and one third of the 80 attendees were invited guests.

In order to encourage continued attendance, an incentive was announced mid-week. If the kids came each day, they would receive a T-shirt on the final day that represented their



(Left) Mountain lions group one waits eagerly with their crew leader, high school senior Yesminn Sosa, for their turn to scoot down the hill on a block of ice at the games rotation. (Above) Kids participate during group games at Azure Hills' VBS.

pledge to stay connected to Jesus. "We actually had better attendance toward the end of the week rather than at the beginning," added Suhari. "These kids were committed!"

**Kansas Avenue church's** children's ministries is already significantly involved in the community. Due to this familiarity, the majority of the 175 kids were from community families.

Patricia Jones, children's ministries director, kept a list of each family that attended other events. She maintains these relationships and made sure they knew about VBS.

"We had kids lead music and tweens perform skits, since kids like to see their peers up front," said Jones. "And for the Sabbath morning finale, many community families came."

"One person who lives by the church called me after VBS," Jones continued. "She'd never been to church, but she saw our banner as she drove by and decided to take her granddaughters. After coming home they shared everything they learned with their grandmother, and she shared it with their mother. Now their mother lets Grandma take them to church when they're with her."

**Calimesa church** cultivated

engagement for this year's VBS with a social media campaign that ran alongside the program. Every night had a different Instagram photo challenge, viewable by searching #calimesavbs2015.

"We also cherish having parents involved, so they can experience the blessing of seeing their kids have fun in a safe environment," said Isaac Kim, children and family pastor. "Parents are often the primary spiritual influence and we want to capitalize on that."

"Our community has always been supportive," Kim added. "They let us use their electronic billboards. And once you get a few kids coming, even more find out. We use an EventBrite database with several years of contacts. We send them information every couple weeks during registration season and have found that to be very effective."

**Fallbrook church** experienced their highest enrollment yet with a life-size model of the Old Testament Tabernacle for their Sanctuary theme. Several kids from the community came as a result of the door-to-door ministry's flyers.

In efforts to repurpose last year's Old Testament props, church member and artist



*Jeff Harper, youth pastor, acts as High Priest at Fallbrook's VBS, as he explains the altar of sacrifice.*

Debbie Collins suggested the Sanctuary theme and made several decorations from scratch. The rest of the set involved a rent-a-fence, white tarps, easy-ups, a candelabra and a bird bath.

According to Fallbrook youth group member Sierra Garret, who reported on the event for the website, many parents expressed

appreciation for the tangible, biblical theme. "It was very real for my children and you can tell it's sinking into their hearts," shared one mother.

"And isn't this the ultimate goal of any VBS?" posited Garret. "To go beyond entertainment and touch the hearts of kids?"



*(Top) "The Body Shop" at Mentone's VBS provided exercise while applying principles the kids just learned. (Above) Upon finishing VBS 2015 at Mentone church, all participants and volunteers took a pledge to always stay connect with Jesus.*

## Upcoming Events

**Pathfinder Teen Institute** (Oct. 2-4) Pine Springs Ranch, 58000 Apple Canyon Road, Mountain Center. This event provides an opportunity to increase teens awareness of the responsibilities they can perform in their local clubs. Info: Judi Jeffreys, 951.509.2265.

**Animal Vespers** (Oct. 3) 5 p.m., Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. Enjoy God's wonderful animals and creations that are tall and short, big and small. Info: 909.558.4570.

**Lay Training Seminar** (Oct. 11), Loma Linda Fil-Am church, 11180 New Jersey St., Redlands. Info: Juliana Moon, 951.509.2337.

**Steve Green Concert** (Oct. 24) 7 p.m., La Sierra Spanish church, 5885 La Sierra Ave., Riverside. Come and enjoy a concert with Steve Green. Info: 951.589.1919, lasierraspanshchurch.org.

**Messiah's Mansion** (Oct. 24 – Nov. 1), Los Alamitos church, 4921 Katella Ave., Los Alamitos. Take a free guided tour to see a full-scale model of the Mosaic sanctuary. Info: 714.236.4827, www.losalamitossda.org.

*(Right) Jon Paulien, dean of the school of religion at Loma Linda University, shares details of the story of Esther. (Far Right) Michael McMillan, pastor of the church, welcomes visitors, members and friends to the one-day camp meeting event at the Big Bear Valley church. (Below) Church members and friends enjoy a wonderful meal together after the church service.*



## Big Bear Valley Church Hosts First Camp Meeting in Region

“Growing in Christ” was the theme of a recent one-day camp meeting held at the Big Bear Valley church. Several churches from the valley participated in the all-day event, highlighted by prayer, music, worship and fellowship.

The guest speaker was Jon Paulien, dean of the School of Religion at Loma Linda University.

Michael McMillan, pastor of the Victoria church in Loma Linda, also serves as pastor of the Big Bear Valley church. He organized the event, which was held August 8, and led the morning devotional with meditations on John 4:19-26.



The devotional was followed by a welcome fellowship in the kitchen.

The Sabbath school portion of the camp meeting consisted of special music by Sweet Tidings Gospel Jam, as well as a sermon by Paulien on Esther and Mordecai. Children were encouraged to attend a special service for them in the fellowship hall.

For the worship service, the focus was on the “Growing in Christ” theme. Paulien highlighted the stages of surrender that a believer must go through. Members, as well as visitors, were encouraged by his words.

“We really enjoyed Dr. Paulien’s presentations,” said Wanda Gordon, a visitor from the La Sierra area.

A variety of activities took place in the afternoon. Some people went for a walk by the lake, while others met by the piano to sing gospel tunes. Others were encouraged to relax in the sanctuary and rest a bit.

The evening was music-filled. Curtis Wright, district pastor of the Twenty-nine Palms, Yucca Valley and Desert Hot Springs churches, led out in music and song. He was joined by Sweet Tidings Gospel Jam, featuring bluegrass and country gospel songs. After supper, the day ended with an hour of prayer led by McMillan.

Tina Burton, a Big Bear Valley church member, enjoyed all the

events throughout the day. “It was an inspiring camp meeting,” she said.

McMillan said he hopes to see the event grow as a way for smaller churches to come together and share in the experience of a rich and vibrant worship, and to fellowship with people.

“It would be a great venue for training,” he said. “This way, a lot of churches that may not have as many resources can come together and train deacons, elders and Sabbath school teachers. Also, it would give members an opportunity to connect with each other.”

Many of the attendees, excited about this year’s camp meeting, are already looking forward to attending it again next year.

Big Bear Valley church is nestled in the mountains on nearly 11 acres of land and has a history going back to the mid 1950s. After renting a facility for around 20 years, the congregation constructed the current church building, and by the late 1970s they had a vibrant community, even operating a school for a year.

Throughout the years, active members have conducted Bible studies and meetings at the church, and they are often visited by people from the surrounding valleys. Sometimes a family reunion or a weekend getaway brings people to the church to celebrate the Sabbath with the members.

*By Mario A. Munoz*

**SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**  
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 CONFERENCE PRIORITIES • ENNO MÜLLER, EDITOR

OCTOBER 2015

# KEEPING *intouch*

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James G. Lee, Jr.  
Vice President

## CHURCHES HELP BLAZE A

# “Pathway to Health”

## IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

By now, you may have heard about the Pathway to Health mega-clinic (PTH) that will be held in Los Angeles. The dates for PTH will be April 26-29, with a special Gratitude service on Sabbath, Apr. 30, to thank God and the many people who have been diligently working behind the scenes to help make sure the event is the most helpful outreach for the underserved and uninsured population of Greater Los Angeles.

We solicit your prayers—and your support—to help ensure a good attendance at Pathway to Health, both volunteers serving and those who come to be served. This event will be a great opportunity to minister to thousands of people in desperate need of medical, dental and vision care, and much more.

According to PTH President Leila Lewis, MD, we can anticipate that more than 3,000 volunteers will come to our city to assist with this outreach: doctors, dentists and hygienists, vision-care specialists, surgeons and many more types of specialists. In addition, more than half the volunteers will be non-

medical, volunteering to assist in data entry, registration; helping as greeters, pastors/chaplains, translators; in food preparation, translating and many other areas. Other specialties offered include haircuts for men and women, chair massages, and music therapy by school choirs and orchestras. For this major event, we will be collaborating with Pacific Union Conference, Southeastern California Conference, Adventist Health and Loma Linda University Health, White Memorial and Glendale Adventist Medical centers. **Find out more about participating in Pathway to Health at [pathwaytohealthvolunteer.org](http://pathwaytohealthvolunteer.org), and sign up today!**

Pathway to Health is not a stand-alone event. It is an opportunity for every church to have a part in a concerted effort to share a whole-person message with the public. The following points outline the possibilities for this key ministry to the churches and communities in SCC territory:

- It is important to begin inviting members to sign up as volunteers

for Pathway to Health—L. A. Health professionals willing to share their skills in medical ministry for two and a half days in Los Angeles in April. Health professionals are especially needed, along with many other individuals for a wide variety of functions. Pastors are encouraged to sign up as volunteer chaplains and lifestyle counselors.

- The SCC Health Response Steering Committee has planned a number of training events for Health Ministry directors, to help prepare churches to follow up Pathway to Health with Health Ministry seminars for patients. Many patients will be directed to come to the churches near them to receive lab results, prescription glasses and other items prescribed at Pathway to Health so they will be familiar with the church location and the church's linkage to Pathway to Health.
- Pastors, please plan to start working with your Health Ministry team to plan follow-up, based on the health ministry training that is being planned

Cont. on page 2

- for the first quarter in our conference. Pastors within the 30-mile radius of downtown Los Angeles\* who wish to be considered for evangelism funds for the health ministry outreach in their churches need to submit their plans to their region directors by Feb. 29, 2016.
- Pastors should begin to develop a database of individuals to invite to Pathway to Health from their interest and visitation lists, former members and other contacts. Churches with a food program should add people who participate in that program to the database as well.
  - In January, 2016, pastors and church leaders will want to start putting together teams that will distribute flyers in the immediate vicinity of their churches to let them know about Pathway to Health. These neighbors and friends will want to know about the services offered there so they can plan to attend. These neighbors should also receive flyers for the various health seminars when they are scheduled in the churches after Pathway to Health.
  - As churches become acquainted with these neighbors and other interests in the church database, flyers about future seminars and series about spiritual matters can be shared as well.

Please make Pathway to Health a matter of prayer as we work to finalize numerous aspects of the initial planning, with God's help. This is a huge opportunity for our churches to reach out into the community. We believe this is a "God thing;" that His hand is in this. Please make this a matter of your daily prayer, that every aspect of Pathway to Health will serve to glorify Him and be a blessing to His name.

James G. Lee, Jr.  
Vice President

*\*To see the list of the churches in the target area, please visit <http://scchealthmin.adventistfaith.org/2015-pathway-to-health-l-a>.*

## In Transition

(Voted June 11, 25; July 9, 23; Aug. 13, 2015)

### **New Employee**

(Voted June 25, 2015)

#### **Jesus Guardado**

Asst. Manager, Camp Cedar Falls as of 7/22/15.

#### **Benjamin J. Guerrero**

Pastor, Temple City Church as of 7/18/15.

#### **Shelly Ann Husbands**

Teacher, San Fernando Valley Academy as of 7/1/15.

#### **Alyse Noell Knutsen**

Teacher, Linda Vista Elementary as of 7/1/15.

#### **Sean Lehnhoff**

Teacher, San Gabriel Academy as of 7/1/15.

#### **Stephanie Perez**

Early Childhood Educ. Dir., Conejo Elementary as of 7/1/15.

#### **Sean Porras**

Teacher & Chaplain, San Fernando Valley Acad. as of 7/1/15.

#### **Vernieta Porras**

Teacher, San Fernando Valley Academy as of 7/1/15.

#### **Stanley B. Sihotang**

Assoc. Pastor, Indonesian-American church as of 8/1/15.

#### **Harry Walker**

Asst. Business Mgr., Los Angeles Adventist Acad. as of 7/1/15.

(Voted July 9, 2015)

#### **Christopher Perez**

Teacher, Conejo Elementary School as of 7/1/15.

(Voted July 23, 2015)

#### **Melissa A. Tomas**

Teacher, West Covina Hills School as of 7/1/15.

### **Changes within the Conference**

(Voted June 11, 2015)

#### **Blanca Barnes**

From Business Manager, Glendale Adventist Academy; to Exec. Asst. to the Principal, San Gabriel Acad. as of 7/1/15.

#### **Luke Brooks**

From Assoc. Pastor, South Bay church; to Assoc. Pastor, Vallejo Drive church as of 8/1/15.

#### **Michelle Mayer**

From Kindergarten teacher, Conejo Adventist Elem.; to Grade 2 teacher, Conejo Adventist Elem. as of 7/1/15.

#### **Ruth McConnehey**

From Substitute Teacher, Conejo Adventist Elem. To Kindergarten Teacher, Conejo Adventist Elem. as of 7/1/15.

#### **Mario Negrete**

From Principal, Glendale Adventist Acad.; to SCC Assoc. Supt. as of 7/1/15.

#### **Jenefel Stafford**

From Teacher, Crescenta Valley Elem.; to Teaching Principal, Crescenta Valley Elem. as of 7/1/15.

#### **Rozaleth Tenga**

From Teacher, Glendale Adventist Acad.; to Science Teacher, Newbury Park Adventist Acad. as of 7/1/15.

(Voted June 25, 2015)

#### **Eddy Caballero**

From LAAA Business Mgr., to Accountant, San Gabriel Acad. as of 7/1/15.

#### **Greg Hoenes**

From Pastor, Santa Clarita church; to Director, SCC West Region as of 6/23/15.

#### **Richard Roethler**

From Director, SCC West Region; to Pastor as of 6/23/15.

### **Leaving the Conference**

#### **Lauren Cherne**

From Teacher, Linda Vista Elem. as of 6/30/15.

#### **Heidi Craig**

From Teacher, West Covina Hills Elem. as of 6/30/15.

#### **Ryan Matt Dayao**

From Account, San Gabriel Acad. as of 4/15/15.

(Voted June 25, 2015)

#### **Larry L. Caviness**

From President, SCC; to Retired as of 6/30/15.

#### **Mark Lockwood**

From Treasurer, Newbury Park Academy, to Lodi Academy as of 6/30/15.

# Simple Method Leads to 32 Baptisms AT SPANISH AMERICAN CHURCH

The Spanish American church welcomed 32 new church members on Sabbath, August 29. The baptisms resulted from members' using a new and simple method of sharing Jesus. Carlos Acosta, senior pastor, had noticed that very few people were actively involved in sharing their faith. "The majority of members want to share their faith with others, but there is a lot of fear," Acosta said. "Many think that sharing Jesus means knocking on doors, speaking to strangers and beginning a Bible study. I felt it was time to change that mentality and find a way to make sharing our wonderful Jesus more user friendly."

The church chose "Escuela de Carteros Misioneros" ("Missionary Mailman School"), a method developed by La Voz de la Esperanza, the NAD Spanish-speaking radio-television ministry. Joel Medina, La Voz assistant to director for production, conducted training with a number of SCC church leaders. The Spanish American church then held a training session on how to establish a Missionary Mailman School that would continually train members to share Jesus and provide them with Bible lessons.

More than 100 signed up to be "carteros misioneros" ("missionary mailmen"). Leaders had tables set up in the entrance of the church with the Bible-study lessons and gifts to give to those with whom they shared the first lesson. Missionary school leaders decided to permanently set up the school in the church foyer at the front and center of the church. Sabbaths



"Hilda Carranza (in blue blouse, on right), director of the first Missionary Mailman school. "It's the first time so many people have signed up to give Bible studies!" Photo by Nesity Pittau.

at 9:00 a.m., leaders set up tables with the lessons, gifts and a folder in which members can keep track of each mailman or woman, and those with whom they share the lessons.

Henry Garci, Sabbath School superintendent, sees a benefit in having the school located at the main entrance. "The missionary mailman school has given a boost in attendance to the Sabbath School and linked itself to helping all members become missionaries here in the city," he said. "Now, every Sabbath School member is welcomed to receive the Word of God and invited to share via the school."

By August, 2015, the Church's Missionary Mailman School had 120 church members enrolled in giving Bible studies and 190 new people studying. The most interesting part of this method is the fact that it calls people to share Jesus with friends and family. "The majority of church members, when asked how they came to know Jesus and how they came to the Adventist church," said Acosta, "say that a family member or friend was the one who invited them."

The church held an evangelistic series from August 22-29 with the purpose of reaping the first fruits

of the Missionary Mailman School. One by one, members reported that the people with whom they were studying were beginning to come to church and were ready for baptism. As the meetings began, 25 people had decided to accept Jesus by baptism. Speaker for the series was Pastor Omar Grieve, La Voz de la Esperanza director. "I am very happy to see how the church has caught the vision of involving every member as

a missionary for Jesus," he said. At the conclusion of the series, 32 people were baptized.

This experience has left the Spanish American Church with the desire to continue sharing Jesus. The Missionary Mailman School will begin a new 10-lesson Bible study series called, "Hogar Feliz" ("Happy Home"), focusing on how God can make the household better when Bible teachings are followed. "We are planning a second grand opening of the Missionary Mailman School," said Irma Pablo, school leader, "with the objective of signing up 200 church members to give Bible studies."



Pastor Carlos Acosta (left) baptizes candidates, with the help of Assoc. Pastor Gustavo Mendez.

Photo by Joel Medina.

# SCC EVANGELISM



## Health Steering Committee Planning Training for Pathway Follow Up

The following training for Pathway to Health follow-up is planned for Health Ministry leaders and pastors in 2016:



### Health Ministry Overview – Jan. 2016

Overview of programs to be taught as well as guidelines for ongoing Health Ministry in your church.

**Diabetes Undone – Early Feb.**, to allow churches time to try the program for members before Pathway to Health.

A video-based series, featuring Wes Youngberg, DrPH, MPH, CNS, FACLM; clinical nutritionist and lifestyle medicine specialist.

### CREATION Health – Gerard Kiemeneey Depression – Feb.

An overview of programs available, with suggestions for implementing in your church.

**Overcoming Depression**, program developed by Neil Nedley MD

**Fit and Free** (Lifestyle Matters, Michigan Conference)  
Program developed by Vicki Griffin and Evelyn Kissinger

**Well Assured** – Stress Management & Emotional Well Being – Wellsource Inc.

**Vegetarian Cooking** – Early March

**Plant-Based Cooking School** – Susan Jenson, R.D.

**“La Cocina Saludable”** (The Healthy Kitchen)  
– Gloria Huerta

**Breathe Free2 Plan to Stop Smoking** (on request)

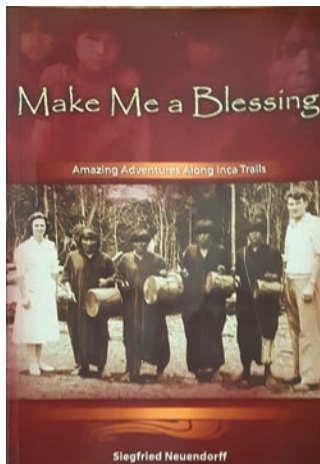
Glendale area location – to be provided by Glendale Adventist Medical Center

## Adventist Author in SCC

Siegfried Neuendorff pastors the small German-American church in Los Angeles. Pastor Neuendorff, with his wife Evelyn came to his SCC pastorate after their full and adventurous mission service in Peru. Neuendorff's book, "Make Me a Blessing," is a colorful and engaging story of their lives of dedicated service.

"Make Me a Blessing" begins with the pastor's life as a child in Germany under Hitler's regime—the hardships of life in that era and how he and his parents were enabled to leave Europe for Loma Linda in the U. S. While becoming acquainted with American life and finding ways to support himself, he met Evelyn, a nurse who would become his wife.

Together, they eventually decided to go to the mission field as independent missionaries, paying their own way to Peru, where they progressed from the jungles to the cities, from independent missionaries to being employed by the Adventist church. Their total dedication to serving the needs of the people led the tailor-builder to try his hand at removing teeth, putting up churches, and preaching from pulpits and eventually to large radio audiences. The story of this dedicated couple will inspire and thrill readers. To obtain a copy of "Make Me a Blessing," please contact Pastor Neuendorff, 310-991-4874 or email him at [pastorsn@verizon.net](mailto:pastorsn@verizon.net)



## Tamirand Avenue Series Results in 21 Baptisms

Twenty-one persons were added through baptism to the vineyard of the Tamarind Avenue church in August, taking their stand after a six-week evangelistic meeting entitled, "Jesus in the City Bible Series." The meeting was facilitated by Interim Pastor-Evangelist Allen Sovory, Associate Pastor-Evangelist Michael Johnson and three diligent Bible workers: Esther King, Courtney Ockletree and Patricia Clayton.

The Bible workers labored hard for several weeks before the series, giving Bible studies and praying with interests in the community. "The ones baptized in this meeting are not only a blessing but a miracle from God because of challenges all along the way presented by the enemy of souls", said Sovory.

"This is a new beginning for the Tamarind church family, whose focus is to evangelize their community more consistently, 'adding souls to the church daily such as should be saved,'" said Johnson. "May God be praised for the faithful effort of His church in these closing hours of earth's history. May God be praised for the faithful effort of His church.