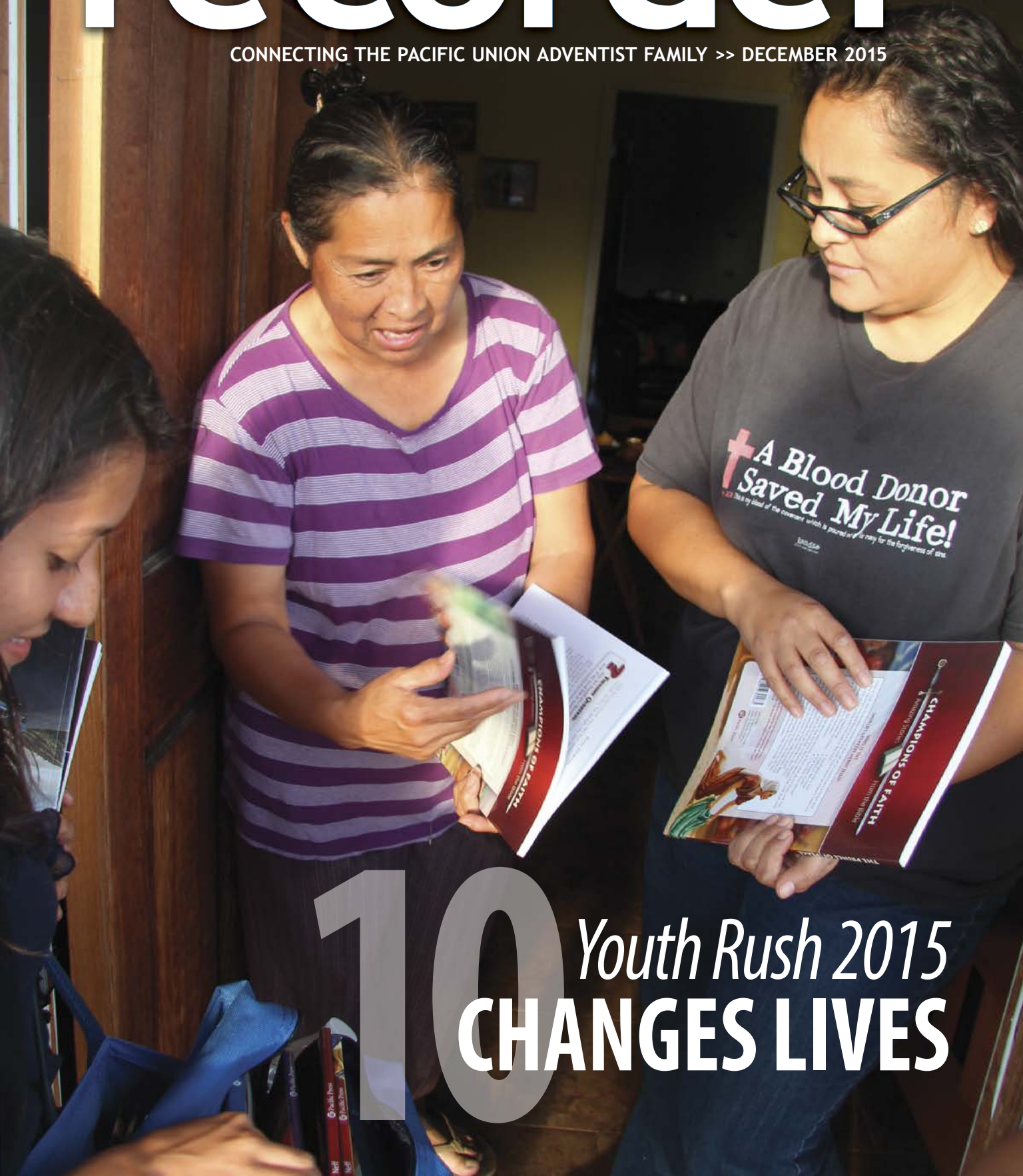


PACIFIC UNION

recorder

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10 *Youth Rush 2015*
CHANGES LIVES

Your Best

PATHWAY *to* HEALTH

Los Angeles

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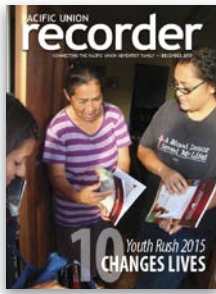


LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
HEALTH

Your Best Pathway to Health is a service of Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries, in partnership with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Adventist Health, Loma Linda University Health and many other organizations.

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about the cover

Ingrid Vergara shares literature at a doorstep in Los Angeles. Some \$285,000 was donated toward student scholarships as a result of students' knocking on doors in 2015.

PHOTO: SUSAN PEREZ



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This issue of the Recorder was delayed because of technical problems beyond our control. We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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Love Your Enemies. Really.

A number of years ago I came under great conviction that grace was revealed not only on Calvary's cross but also in Bethlehem's stable, in Joseph's carpenter's shop in Nazareth, as well as on Judea's dusty paths and Galilee's mountainsides. Jesus' short public ministry was launched by the declaration; "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand" (Mark 1:15). Jesus was speaking of His kingdom of grace. Throughout His public ministry, His preaching, teaching and healing revealed principles of His kingdom of grace. He invites all to enter into His kingdom of grace today. It is of vital importance that all accept His gracious invitation. That is because those who enter the kingdom of grace today will enter the kingdom of glory when Jesus returns for His family.

The foundational principle of the kingdom of grace is love, which is revealed in selfless acts of forgiveness, compassion and kindness. Jesus shared the most revolutionary teaching of Christianity when He said, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy,' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."



Arnold Trujillo retires as vice president of the Pacific Union Dec. 31. Trujillo is an active evangelist, presenting his series, "Waves of Grace," in churches around the Pacific Union and beyond.

Notice that the injunction is not, "tolerate your enemies." The injunction is "love," "bless," "do good," and "pray for." I must confess, I fall far short of this kind of love. After more than 48 years of ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, my observation is that I am not alone in falling short. Many times our enemies are in our homes, churches or neighborhoods. The idea of loving and forgiving someone who has done injury to our family, our children or grandchildren is well-nigh impossible for the human heart. The idea of loving someone who is unrepentant for the evil done to our loved ones or ourselves is extremely foreign to the human experience. The daily news highlights atrocities committed against women and children. Innocent worshippers are gunned down by a racist madman. It appears to me that more and more people are warring and polarizing into hate-filled camps. Yet our Savior and Lord said that we are to "love," not "hate," our enemies. How is this possible?

In commenting on this verse, Ellen White, in her book *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings*, page 75, observes, "It is only the Spirit of God that gives love for hatred. To be kind to the unthankful and to the evil, to do good hoping for nothing again, is the insignia of the royalty of heaven, the sure token by which the children of the Highest reveal their high estate." Without claiming to have reached the divine standard of loving all my enemies, permit me to share a few insights that, I believe, the Spirit of God has given me on this issue:

1. God is the single Source of agape love in the universe. We humans do not have it within ourselves to love as God does. If we are to love like God loves, we must receive it from Him. He delights to fill our love cups to overflowing so we will have love to share with our family and our friends — as well as our enemies.

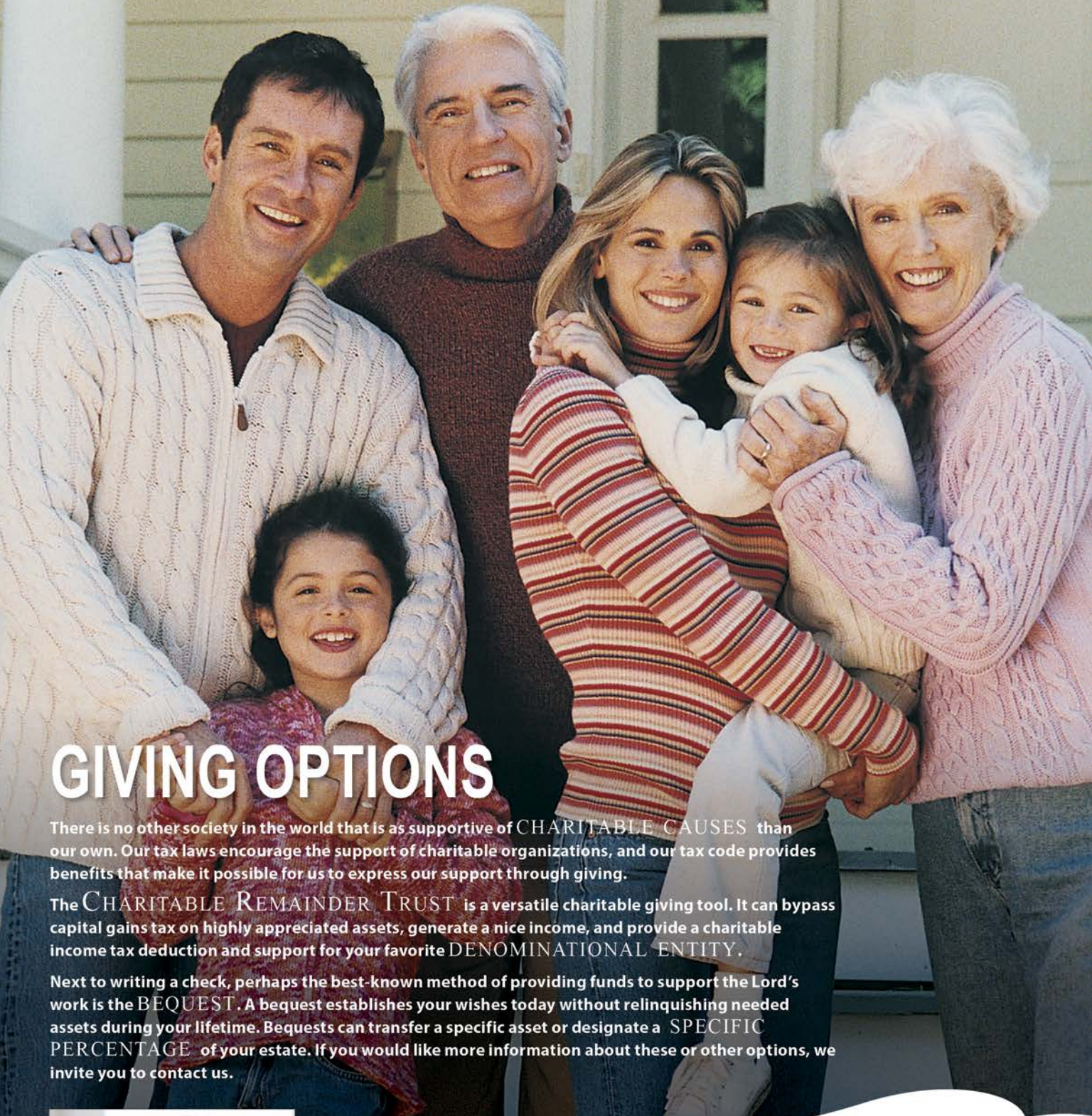
2. Forgiveness is primarily for the one offended — not the offender. Hatred is an exercise in self-destruction. We become like what we behold. By focusing on our enemies' behavior, we become like him or her. Forgiveness and love liberates us from the bondage of our enemies.

3. God is sovereign. He alone knows the end from the beginning. While evil may have its way for a season, we know the end of the story. We are children of a heavenly Father. We are the apple of His eye. He has perfect memory and He is just. He will recompense all those who have caused His beloved children to suffer.

4. To love our enemies does not mean we must be passive about their behavior. We cannot be enablers.

5. We must constantly choose to focus on the grace of Christ for us personally. We must beseech God to send the Holy Spirit to open our blind eyes and deaf ears to the reality of how the unmerited favor of the Godhead surrounds us like air and provides for us and protects us every minute of every day. We must allow this divine grace to soften our hearts and minds and lead us to jaw-dropping amazement! We must behold our utter unworthiness and God's utter goodness! As we realize our total lack of merit and God's abundant grace for us personally, we find the power to love even our worst enemies.

Arnold Trujillo



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Creation Science Evangelism Presented in Two Arizona Schools

Dr. Marilyn LaCount recently presented "God's Amazing Creation" to the kindergarten through eighth grade students at both Glenview Adventist Academy and Thunderbird Christian Elementary School through her S.T.E.M. – Creation initiative. S.T.E.M. is an acronym for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

This two-day, two-part presentation featured an overview of the six days of creation as viewed through the video, "The Creation: The Earth Is a Witness." This was followed by an exploration of the star fields and constellations in the STARLAB Portable Planetarium to emphasize the fourth day of creation. About 25-30 students can be seated at a time in the inflatable STARLAB dome.

One popular feature of the program is the various astronomical cylinders projector, which displays not only the usual Greek and Roman constellations with the Big and Little Dipper and so forth, but also the Chinese, African and Egyptian constellations. With the dot-to-dot, or star-to-star, tracings in the sky, for example, the Chinese-culture cylinder projected a pagoda



Paula McElvania's Thunderbird Christian Elementary students give the program a thumbs-up.

or a dragon, while the African-culture cylinder projected an elephant and African kings and queens. LaCount explained that people in other parts of the world viewed the starry night skies

from the perspective of their stories, culture and everyday lives.

The starfield cylinder displayed about 3,000 stars, which is about what can be seen on a clear, dark night away from city lights.

Students responded positively: "Thank you for bringing the STARLAB." "It was amazing!" "I loved the stars and the movie!" "Our kindergartners still talk about the stars. Thank you."

"You were a real blessing to our school," said TCE Principal Jeff Rogers. "I am so grateful for the opportunity you gave our students."

As a mathematics enthusiast and evangelist, LaCount has established a new personal initiative, S.T.E.M. – Elation. Its goal, she says, is to "positively change S.T.E.M. attitudes, dispositions and self-efficacies one child, one family, one community at a time." Through the use of workshops for parents, teachers and students, training sessions, professional development and programming, she hopes to begin the change. Other initiatives include Granny's Got Math and S.T.E.M. – Creation.



Dr. Marilyn LaCount presents "God's Amazing Creation" to students at Glenview Academy and Thunderbird Elementary School.



Students at Glenview Academy line up for a visit to the STARLAB.

Shirley Chipman

Conference Officers Elected at Constituency

Delegates at the 33rd Central California Conference constituency session voted Sunday, Nov. 8, to re-elect Ramiro Cano for another four-year term as president of the conference. Cano has served in the position since November 2010.

Also re-elected were Ronald Rasmussen, executive secretary; Steve Horton, vice president for ministries; Frederick Anderson, director of African-American ministries; and Antonio Huerta, director of Hispanic ministries.

New officers include Keith Scott, treasurer; Jerry Nelson, associate executive secretary; and Manuao Mauia, Asian-Pacific ministries director.

The session, themed "Connecting to Build," included a look at the conference's new strategic plan, a document two years in the making. According to Costin Jordache, vice president for communication, the plan is "a living document that is grounded in Scripture and bathed in prayer."

In October 2013, CCC leaders and lay members began the process with a strategic planning intensive where they looked at the vision, mission and core values of the organization. After two years of discussion, fine-tuning and prayer, the result included seven SMART strategic goals — goals that are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound. SMART goals are dynamic, says Jordache, and will develop continually as the needs of the conference shift.



Ivan Williams, ministerial director for the North American Division, encourages delegates to strive for biblical oneness. "Oneness doesn't mean a cookie-cut uniformity," he says. "Put kind people at the door of the church. Jesus pleads with us today to be a reflection of His love."



Pictured left to right: Antonio Huerta, Hispanic ministries director; Frederick Anderson, African-American ministries director; Manuao Mauia, Asian-Pacific ministries director; Keith Scott, treasurer; Ramiro Cano, president; Ronald Rasmussen, executive secretary; Steve Horton, vice president for ministries; and Jerry Nelson, associate executive secretary.

The session also featured video reports from each department, highlighting accomplishments and challenges from the past five years. Officers reported that there were 4,552 total baptisms and professions of faith between 2011 and 2014, bringing membership to 37,344, a net gain of 1,646 since 2011. There are 29 conference-owned schools educating 1,815 students, the evangelism offering exceeded \$1 million every year during the quadrennium, and tithe increased from \$24,999,284 in 2011 to \$26,444,628 in 2014 (a nearly 10 percent jump).

The report also included a breakdown of where tithe dollars are spent. For each dollar that comes in, local church programs get 36.46 cents, education and youth ministries receives 20.95 cents, 13.84 cents go to national and global needs, local conference services gets 10.58 cents, other ministry services receive 9.36 cents, and the Pacific Union gets 8.81 cents (much of which it returns in both cash and services).

Alicia J. Adams



Prayer team members pray with each delegate and guest as they enter the Monterey Bay Academy gymnasium.



Delegates welcome members of the Fresno All Nation Korean church into the official sisterhood of churches.

Central California Conference Unveils Historic Strategic Plan

Following two years of research, dialogue, collaboration and prayer, the Central California Conference officially unveiled its strategic plan at the organization's 33rd constituency session, held at Monterey Bay Academy on Nov. 8.

The plan introduces members to newly-developed vision and mission statements, along with core values and strategic goals intended to guide the conference in its decision-making and planning. "We are thrilled to unveil this historic strategic plan," says Ramiro Cano, conference president. Cano equates the conference's strategic plan to having an organizational GPS. "This GPS provides calibration, alignment and directional clarity, resulting in an environment which stimulates creativity, motivation and a unifying rally for all of us in the Central California Conference."

The process began in October 2013, when Central leaders, ethnic ministry directors, and representatives from various ministry departments, along with pastoral and lay members, met for a four-day strategic planning intensive. "The collegiality of the entire process was inspiring," recalls David Gillham, Central's vice president of education. "We now have a clear understanding of the goals we have to shoot for."

The members of the group challenged themselves with several historical perspectives and cultural realities. Extensive presentations were made on the history of the Central California Conference, the "DNA" of Central as an organization, and current cultural trends.

From there, the team brainstormed, grappled with and voted on various concepts that led to a clear and succinct vision and mission statement and a comprehensive set of core values. Finally, the team distilled dozens of ideas down to seven strategic goals that will focus the work of the conference over the next few years. The entire process was immersed in prayer and Scripture. Multiple seasons of prayer and spiritual anchor points dotted each day's agenda. "Our journey of discovery led us to a clear vision of what we could become," recalls Frederick Anderson, CCC's director of African-American ministries. "By the end, we had developed a vision and mission of which everyone in the process owned a part."

Over the next year, the strategic plan was fine-tuned through a series of follow-up meetings and discussions. This follow-up work included developing each strategic goal into a SMART goal, defined as a goal which is specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound — a dynamic process that will continue as each goal develops with the needs of the conference. "I can't wait to see what the Lord is going to do through His people who know what they want, why they want it and how they are going to achieve it," says Antonio Huerta, Central's director of Hispanic ministries.

The results of the strategic planning work were shared with all Central pastors and educators during a historic summit in early 2015, resulting in further feedback on the direction

of the strategic plan. "I am really grateful that we are developing a strategic plan," says Bryan Del Valle, senior pastor of the Modesto Central church. "I think it helps us to be good at what we can focus on; not to be mediocre at many things, but great at the things we are doing." The process culminated in a presentation to Central's constituent delegates at the conference's 33rd constituency session.

"We will prayerfully live and breath the strategic plan," concludes Cano. "It will be the gauge that will serve to identify our effectiveness, our performance both individually and corporately in God's vineyard for the ensuing years here in Central."

Costin Jordache



President Ramiro Cano brainstorms with Ron Rasmussen, executive secretary; Ken Bullington, associate education superintendent; and Ed Walker, prayer leader.



Strategic planning team prays at the end of the 4-day intensive.

VISION

Central California Conference Strategic Plan

VISION the destination we're pursuing

Reflecting Christ. Transforming Communities.

MISSION how we're going to get there

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

CORE VALUES our essential convictions

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

Committing to understand, embrace and apply the will of God as found in Scripture.

PRAYER

Bathing every individual, leader, process, goal, and decision in transformational and intimate prayer.

SERVICE

Serving and meeting the tangible needs of all people within the communities to which we belong.

SOUL-WINNING

Connecting all people to the gospel message of Jesus Christ and to His personal invitation.

DEPENDENCE

Leaning on the wisdom and the grace of God for every aspect of life and leaning on each other along our spiritual journey.

INNOVATION

Using our resources in the most effective and creative ways for enlarging the Kingdom of Heaven.

DIVERSITY

Embracing, celebrating and empowering the multifaceted family of God by recognizing and respecting the value of every individual, created and called by God for a unique purpose.

GROWTH

Calling all people into a deeper relationship with God through vibrant churches, excellent schools, and healthy relationships.

INTEGRITY

Conducting every aspect of life and ministry with honesty, transparency and a spirit of excellence.

ALIGNMENT

Remaining unified and united in our God-given purpose and aligned with the needs of the communities and the world around us.

STRATEGIC GOALS: CONNECTING TO BUILD what we aim to achieve

INTEGRATED DISCIPLESHIP

To connect ministries in building up individuals, families, churches, schools and communities in relationship with Christ.

HOLISTIC STEWARDSHIP

To build an enthusiastic community of faithful managers of God-given life resources.

TRANSFORMATIONAL EDUCATION

To connect Christ-centered schools with homes, churches and communities, preparing students for the joy of service in this world, and the world-to-come.

GENUINE OUTREACH

To connect our faith community with the life and needs of our greater communities.

ORGANIC GROWTH

To build up and expand the community of disciple-making believers.

PRACTICAL SPIRITUALITY

To connect and equip a community of individuals who experience and share an active and personal relationship with Jesus.

STREAMLINED STRUCTURES

To build increasingly integrated and efficient organizational structures to maximize assets, cooperation and accountability.

To watch Central's Strategic Plan video,
or to download a copy of the plan visit
ccc.adventist.org/strategicplan



SUSAN PEREZ



Sixty-seven young adults spent their summer with Youth Rush, talking to people at home or work, in area communities.

Youth Rush 2015 Changes Lives

Ridge Garcia, a summer Youth Rush literature evangelist, was contacting local businesses when he noticed Joe Shields* sitting in a hallway. He seemed to be crying, so Garcia decided to stop, put his books down and ask him what was wrong.

"I don't want to be bothered right now," Shields told him at first, but Garcia persisted. Finally, he explained that he was about to send an email asking for a loan from his work. By asking for this loan he would be risking his job, his marriage — possibly his whole life.

"Sir, when times like these come," said Garcia, "I believe that prayer is the answer." Shields, who is Jewish, agreed, and said he prayed a lot. After a short prayer, he sent the email to his boss. Only a few minutes later, the man's computer alerted him of a new email. He was

startled as he read the response: his loan had been approved!

Shields thanked Garcia and then they both thanked God. The man could not believe that God had answered his prayer so quickly. He explained that he wasn't even supposed to be there in the hallway near his office suite. He was at home first, but couldn't focus and had gone to his office to find some peace and quiet.

Once there, he was so overwhelmed that he stepped out of the office so co-workers wouldn't see him crying. Then he encountered Garcia.

At the end of their conversation, Shields asked if he could purchase books, and bought copies of *The Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy*. Garcia assured him that the books also would help answer questions that he had expressed about spiritualism, since he had recently had some unexplainable supernatural experiences in his home.

"Repeatedly," said Heidi Carpenter, director of the SCC literature evangelism department, "literature evangelists see that 'people don't care what we have or what we know, unless we show them just how much we care'" (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

Sixty-seven young adults spent their summer talking to people at home or work, in area communities. Their goal: to meet the holistic needs of the people through Jesus-centered literature and connect interested persons with

an Adventist community nearby. They shared literature with the purpose of fostering a deeper spiritual life in all who read it, thus leading the reader into a relationship with Jesus Himself.

Aleesha Groth had good reason to be excited about being in the latest Youth Rush, since she would be ministering to people in the same way she had come to Jesus. SCC Youth Rush leader Brielle Anderson had knocked on her door in 2014, sharing the book, *The Desire of Ages*.

Groth had multiple prayer requests and Anderson helped her pray for each one. Her first prayer, for a stable job, was answered within 24 hours! She signed up for Bible studies and the two stayed connected throughout the year. God began answering each prayer request, until finally Groth decided she wanted to participate in the 2015 Youth Rush. She joined the team led by Anderson, who told her, "You are just as much an answer to my prayer as I was to yours. I had asked God to be able to plant a seed and watch it grow in the life of someone I met at a door." Groth was baptized and now attends an Adventist church in Michigan.

Youth Rush students praise God for the way He has worked in leading them to the right people at the right time.

**Not his real name.*

Heidi Carpenter and Susan Perez

SUSAN PEREZ



Eduardo Alonso (left) helped place some of the 37,000 books in Southern California Conference communities during the summer of 2015.

CAF Church Switches Gears in Pasadena

The legacy of Community Adventist Fellowship Church is reflected in our love for evangelism," said Pastor John Aitken II. "We are currently located in the First Congregational church of Pasadena. We are working toward organizing ourselves to reach the Pasadena community in which we now worship, so that our future will continue the legacy of reaching people for Jesus Christ until He returns again."

"The DNA that this church has is evangelism and telling people about Jesus who know nothing about the Bible," said SCC President Velino Salazar at the church's 25th anniversary celebration on Sept. 19.

While at the church's first location, in Arcadia, the church also was the site for The Carter Report media ministry, since Pastor John Carter was the church's founding pastor. Whenever worship services or programs were filmed at that location, CAF was the audience. Following the sale of the building, the congregation relocated to Pasadena.

Pastor John Aitken II is the current pastor. "The members are proficient and proactive," he said, "which makes outreach not only possible, but a priority. They care about reaching the community and are willing to help with outreach. That's a great blessing for our church and this Pasadena community."

Following its quarter-century history, the congregation has had a metamorphosis of location, leadership and structure. The anniversary event provided an opportunity to announce the new direction of the CAF church to the many returning members and guests who came to hear Carter preach.

"We announced the upcoming presentation of 'Earth: Theater of the Universe,' a multimedia series exploring the entire Bible story from Genesis to Revelation, as the first evangelistic series in the church's new location," Aitken said. The program tells the story of the plan of salvation in the context of the great controversy between



ANDRES ALTAMIRANO

Head elder Marcy Rood talks with Marianoel Sulgatti-Amlaner while she waits to donate blood.

Christ and Satan. The church plans to offer the series every six months.

"We are located near the heart of the city of Pasadena," said Aitken, "and right next to Fuller Theological Seminary. Our hope and prayer is that offering this type of series exploring the entire Bible will be of interest to the many unchurched people living in the area. Members went door-to-door in the neighborhood, sharing announcements and saying hello to more than 3,000 neighbors.

Previously, the church board had approved CAF member Andres Altamirano's suggestion that the church host a Red Cross blood drive for the community in June 2015. The drive launched the church's outreach in its new area, drawing a total of nearly 80 members and community residents, according to Aitken.

For its first drive, a Red Cross representative presented CAF with a Clara Barton Award, its highest award. Altamirano is an avid volunteer-coordinator of blood drives and other outreach events. Throughout each year, he involves 15 or more Adventist churches and Pathfinder clubs in blood drives, scheduling two drives each month. CAF had its second blood drive Nov. 14.

On the same day, the church officially opened its multimedia Museum of Biblical Theology and Apocalyptic Imagery, which contains action figures illustrating biblical scenes and artifacts. "The museum collection tells stories about Adventists' belief about history — past and future," said Aitken.

For updates about CAF church's activities, including trail cleanup, homeless ministry and more, visit communityadventistfellowship.org.



DANIEL BURGOS

Left to right: Pastor John and Anna Aitken II, Pastor John and Beverley Carter, and Pastor Velino and Esther Salazar, attend the 25th anniversary celebration.



JOHN AITKEN II

The Community Adventist Fellowship meets at the First Congregational church, 464 E. Walnut St., Pasadena.

Betty Cooney

BAY AREA
FOR JESUS

Bridges

INITIATIVE

PRESENTS

10 days of PRAYER

OAKLAND "UNITED IN PRAYER AND MISSION"

Thursday, December 31, 7:00 p.m.	Grand Advent SDA Church
Friday, January 1, 7:00 p.m.	Oakland Market Street SDA Church
Saturday, January 2, 7:00 p.m.	Oakland Spanish SDA Church
Sunday, January 3, 7:00 p.m.	Oakland Elmhurst SDA Church
Monday, January 4, 7:00 p.m.	Oakland Immanuel Temple SDA Church
Tuesday, January 5, 7:00 p.m.	Oakland Market Street SDA Church
Wednesday, January 6, 7:00 p.m.	Oakland Spanish SDA Church
Thursday, January 7, 7:00 p.m.	Oakland Elmhurst SDA Church
Friday, January 8, 7:00 p.m.	Golden Gate Academy
Saturday, January 9, 4:00 p.m.	Grand Advent SDA Church

December 31, 2015-
January 9
2016

www.nccsda.com/TenDaysofPrayer

Orangevale Church Hosts AMEN Clinic

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY POPE



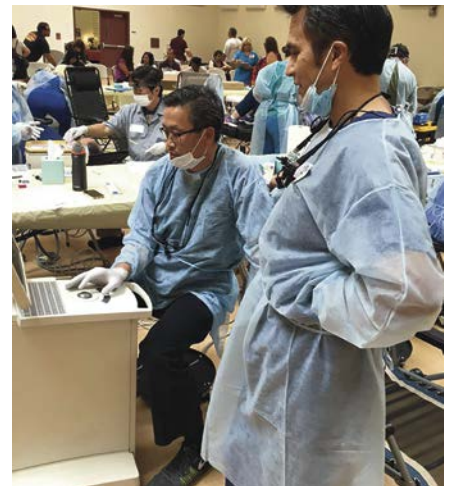
Dental hygienist Leila Miller cleans a patient's teeth.



Danny Kwon, executive director of AMEN and Life and Health Network, volunteers during the clinic.



Dentist Abel Loredo receives a hug from a grateful patient.



Dentists Patrick Im and George Chen program the software for the Cerec machine to mill a crown.

This summer, the Orangevale church gave many of its neighbors a much-appreciated gift — a visit to the dentist.

On Sunday, Aug. 23, more than 100 people received free dental care in the Orangevale SDA School gymnasium on the church campus. The all-volunteer clinic was a partnership between the church and AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism Network), based in Auburn, Calif. AMEN provided equipment, supplies, some volunteers and organizational structure for the dental/medical clinic. The church provided volunteers and the desire to reach out to their neighborhood. "When we read about Christ's ministry here on earth, He was always helping the whole person," said Orangevale church Pastor Jon Cicle. "This clinic provided us with the fantastic opportunity to live out ministry as Christ modeled for us."

Dentists and dental hygienists manned more than 15 dental stations, performing cleanings, crown procedures, extractions, fillings and root canals. Most people who came to the clinic were interested in receiving dental procedures because they had no dental insurance, or they couldn't afford to make the payments required by their dental plan.

In addition to dental care, people received free consultations with a family physician,

an emergency room physician or a pediatrician. Other volunteers included nurses who performed intake assessments; massage therapists who helped patients and volunteers to de-stress; and others who did registrations, health screenings, exit interviews and more.

Rather than advertising throughout a large area, the Orangevale church intentionally invited people in its neighborhood. Volunteers at the church's food and clothes closets invited their clients and asked them to spread the word. Others hung a big sign on the church's fence to advertise to drive-by traffic, and Cicle wrote an article for the local community newspaper. Several employees of a nearby pizza restaurant came to the clinic because their supervisor saw the newspaper article and encouraged them to come. In addition, church members who needed dental care were also welcomed. "We wanted this outreach event to be an organic and natural part of our relationship with our community — rather than a one-time, big event," said Cicle.

Roseville dental hygienist Stacy Garcia cleaned six patients' teeth during the clinic. She was struck by the gratitude her patients expressed. "People were so excited to get their teeth cleaned. Back in my office, people say, 'Do I have to get my teeth cleaned?'" she said.

After several procedures, one woman expressed her thankfulness that she would be able to eat comfortably, without pain, for the first time in years. "The most rewarding part of the day was when the patients came up to me and said thank you — with their smiles and their hugs — just being so grateful about the whole thing," said Shirley Pope, the church's food closet director.

Watsonville dentist Abel Loredo estimates that he provided more than \$4,000 worth of dental care during the six-hour clinic. He believes that when people are helped physically, they are more receptive to spiritual help. "I don't preach," he said. "but God has given me this ability to heal and fix teeth, and I want to place it at His disposal to open doors for the gospel to reach people's hearts."

Julie Lorenz

37th Annual African American Convocation Inspires and Blesses Participants

About 1,500 people attended the 37th annual NCC African-American Convocation, held Oct. 9-10 in Stockton. The Valley Community church hosted the Friday evening vespers. Sabbath services and other programs were held throughout the day at Stockton Christian Life Center. The weekend's theme — and objective — was "Make Us One." "I really feel like we began to see the fulfillment of that goal," said NCC African-American ministries coordinator Leon Brown Sr.

Church members of all ages appreciated the convocation's messages and music. "The speakers were excellent, and the choir was great,"

said 91-year-old Lakeport church elder George Sampson.

Jahniya Jackson, a 10-year-old from the Valley Community church, also received a blessing. "I found Convocation 2015 to be very inspirational because I learned that God will always be with you," she said.

The weekend's keynote speaker was Debleaire Snell, senior pastor of First Seventh-day Adventist Church in Huntsville, Ala. On Friday night, he preached about John the Baptist's trial of faith, admonishing God's people to exercise this type of faith during these challenging end-times. On Sabbath, he unpacked the account of

Acts 16:15-34, depicting the effectiveness of prayer to "unleash the weapon of mass destruction against the kingdom of darkness." Many responded to the appeal for rededication and resolved to seek God in prayer and hold fast to Jesus in dark times.

"I particularly enjoyed the sermons during the weekend,"



TIMRAHLACY

Brian Daniel II plays his saxophone during the Sabbath afternoon service.

said Brown. "Elder Snell did an amazing job." (Recordings of the Sabbath programs are available on audio CD for \$5 or video DVD for \$10. Contact randi.wilson@nccsda.com to order.)

Teens and kids attended meetings especially for them. The speaker for the youth was Michael Kelly, II, senior pastor of the Mt. Rubidoux church in Riverside. Mt. Rubidoux church associate pastor Marc Raphael Sr. spoke for children's church. Pacific Union College students, including members of the women's basketball team, led the kids' Sabbath school programs. They also

MICHAEL PARKS PHOTOGRAPHY



Kids participate during children's church.

MICHAEL PARKS PHOTOGRAPHY



About 1,500 people worship at Stockton Christian Life Center.

MICHAEL PARKS PHOTOGRAPHY



Pastor Debleaire Snell speaks for the Sabbath morning worship service.

helped serve lunch and participated in the Sabbath afternoon program.

One unique feature of this year's convocation was the Saturday evening social event — "Battle on the Court" — featuring a short basketball game, pitting the NCC African-American pastors against the PUC Pioneers women's basketball team. "I was looking forward to it," said center Ariel Barnes, a PUC senior speech pathology major from Dallas. "It was competitive, but always fun."

George Glover, PUC women's basketball coach, was impressed by the good will of the spectators in the jam-packed gymnasium. "It was really interesting to listen to the crowd cheer for whoever was scoring," he said. "There was so much support."

That positive atmosphere continued after the game, as the pastors talked to the students one-on-one and prayed with them. Many in the crowd also approached the team members. "A lot of women came up and spoke to us and encouraged us to continue studying in school and staying close to God," said Barnes. "They uplifted us. It was very humbling to have so many people stay."

Glover was glad that people throughout the NCC saw his team in action and met them individually. "It was a chance for the church members to see what great student athletes we have on campus," he said. "This is one of the best groups of young ladies I have had."

In a variety of ways, this year's convocation lived up to its theme. "Convocation 2015 was such a spiritual blessing," said Valley Community church member Beverly Dunlap. "It was so refreshing to be excited about being in God's presence with saints that were spiritually motivated."



Convocation attendees fellowship between meetings.



Backed up by the 45-member Golden Gate Academy Reunion Choir, director Mellonie Banks leads the congregation in song.

Next year, instead of a weekend convocation, the NCC African American Ministries Department will host a camp meeting on the PUC campus, from Wednesday, June 29, to Sunday, July 3. "We want more opportunities to have a good time in the Lord, as well as to equip members to finish the work," said Brown. He wants

to emphasize that the camp meeting will be open to everyone interested in attending, not just African-American constituents. "Come one, come all!" he said. "We need to be more than a group of churches; we need to be one family."

Paula K. Brown



At "Battle on the Court," the NCC African-American pastors played against the Pacific Union College Pioneers women's basketball team.



Valley Community church pastor Edwin Brown (in checkered shirt) coaches the pastors' basketball team.

Campus Adventist Network Offers Spiritual Support on UC Campuses

There's no question that college is a decisive time in a young adult's life. For the past several years, young adult ministry has become a key focus in church initiatives as research revealed that many young Christians slip away from the church at this pivotal time in their lives, especially if they seek higher education opportunities on public campuses.

As documented in an article by Tina Butoiu, co-president of Campus Adventist Network and a third-year communication/political science major at University of California San Diego, the General Conference Commission on Higher Education reports that more than 75 percent of Adventist college students attend public schools. When Richard Lee pastored the San Diego Central church (he now pastors the Loma Linda Korean church), he saw this to be true in his own community. Several church members attended UCSD, but he watched as their attendance at services dwindled. So he decided to do something about it, and CAN began in 2008 as a weekly Monday

night Bible study on UCSD's campus.

"There were times in the beginning when nobody showed up," said Lee. "But I prayed for every single student there. I was at least happy for the chance to be there and pray for UCSD."

Students eventually took great interest, and CAN persevered, providing them a safe place to ask spiritual questions and express themselves freely. Lee tried to keep their spirituality relevant to their daily college lives.

CAN has now spread to three other UC campuses: Los Angeles, Irvine, and Mount Rubidoux church's Adventist Christian Fellowship group in Riverside. These four groups often collaborate for events, worship services or mission trips throughout the year.

Chris Lee, former CAN president at UCSD and now a medical student at Loma Linda University, shared how CAN provided opportunities for him to discover his own calling.

"I went on several mission trips with CAN, and every trip blessed me in a different way," said Chris. "The strong moral support plus the life-changing trips set me on the path I'm now taking.

My GPA had gotten low before, but after joining CAN, I made friends who set high goals for school."

Many public universities have no shortage of Bible study groups, but according to former CAN president Kathleen Valenzuela, the emphasis on tight-knit interpersonal

connections is what makes CAN stand out from other groups.

"CAN is tailored toward students' unique struggles," Valenzuela said. "It's also comprised of adults who care about us and want to support us. Plus, everyone there wanted to be there, and as a result we were all friends outside of those weekly Bible studies."

CAN has made a difference in the lives of several young adults, and the supporting local churches are inspired to keep this network growing strong.

"It's amazing to see the passion the students have for this. It grows because students invite their friends to come. We have as many non-Adventists attending as Adventists just because of the fellowship," said Joey Oh, associate pastor of the San Diego Central church and sponsoring pastor of UCSD's CAN.

"Pastors will often do Bible studies on a topic a student is struggling with, or help students conduct their own studies," Oh continued. "It can be easy for shy students to get lost in a big campus, but CAN gives them a home here where they can challenge and explore their faith, while at the same time keeping their roots."



Students from different University of California campuses gather together to participate in the "Joint UnOlympics."



Students from different University of California campuses participate in a mission trip to Mexico.



UCSD students attend the CAN winter retreat.

Amy Prindle

Evangelistic Series at Escondido Spanish Church Brings 30 People to Christ

In spite of the summer heat, many members and visitors attended a series of evangelistic meetings held at Escondido Spanish church. Evangelist Sheldon Cooper took the opportunity to describe a God that is intimately connected to the lives of those who accept Him, using miraculous stories from his own life as illustrations. By the end of the week, there were 27 baptisms and three professions of faith.

The Escondido Spanish church is a medium-sized church of approximately 400 members

and was founded a little over two decades ago. Each year, the church conducts two or three evangelistic-centered events, of which one is often a week-long evangelistic series for the neighboring community.

Gilbert Vega, senior pastor of the church, invited Cooper, a long-time friend, to lead the series that spanned eight days in August. Although Cooper is not a native Spanish-speaker, Vega was comfortable inviting him since they have collaborated in the past.

keep Christ first. They invited Bible workers to help with the event, and members were encouraged to reach out to their friends and families.

The Friday before the series began, elders of the church hosted a prayer vigil specifically for the event. Each took a 20-minute block to develop an idea related to the upcoming series, and then led those in attendance through a time of prayer and reflection.

The following week, brochures and posters were dispersed, but ultimately, it was the members themselves who were able to encourage others to attend the meetings.

During the series, Cooper shared stories from his own life. His emphasis was not theology, but rather, relationship. Describing some of the difficulties he had while being away from God, he recounted miracle after miracle that brought him back to the Savior. He told of a Christ that is real, a Holy Spirit who hears you, and a God that will be there when you are surrounded by evil.

"Overall, the event was very well attended," said Vega. Visitors and members alike appreciated Cooper's enthusiasm and humor. Throughout the series, the church featured a health station with a nurse present to take blood pressure and to give health advice to attendees. At the end of the series, the church gave gifts to attendees, including their own Bible and a special meal.

According to Obed Escalante, a long-time member of the church, the conclusion of this event was unlike anything they had seen there before. "This is the biggest single day baptism at the Escondido Spanish church," he said.

The church was thrilled to welcome the 27 newly-baptized members into the congregation, but according to the pastor, even long-time members were blessed. "For the members of the church, it was like a revival," said Vega. "I had members and elders already asking when we can bring Cooper back."



Pastor Gilbert Vega, left, translates for visiting evangelist Sheldon Cooper.

"I have translated him in many different settings," said Vega. "So I already know his cadence, the way he speaks. Also, being a speaker myself, it is easier to follow his lead and flow. It worked out well."

Members believe this event couldn't have succeeded without God's presence. Throughout the planning stages, the church endeavored to



Twenty-seven people chose to be baptized at the conclusion of Cooper's series, and three others renewed their commitment to Christ through profession of faith.

Mario A. Munoz

Logan Church Family Finds a Place to Call Home

Originally organized in the early 1900s, the Logan church has traveled a long road to become what it is today. In the 1920s, the congregation's founders built a church and even operated a small private school. However, many of the church members moved away, and the church disbanded in 1945.

In the 1960s and '70s, Seventh-day Adventists began to return to the Cache Valley. Initially, the group traveled to the neighboring city of Ogden to attend services with the established congregation there. As time progressed, members began transitioning to meeting in one another's homes as well as renting out various facilities in which to conduct worship.

In the 1980s, the group formally reorganized and eventually obtained a building of their own in 1987. Unfortunately, the church building became subject to eminent domain and was demolished by the city of Logan. While the small congregation was disappointed at the loss of their place of worship, they were given fair market value and moved forward with the intent to purchase another building.

After searching for many years, the church finally found a location that felt like home. The 11,000 square foot facility located just across from the historic Logan train depot fit the group's needs perfectly. After a two-year renovation, the church opened its doors.

"The church was designed with the community in mind," said Terry Griswold, head elder. "We wanted our building to be a positive asset for surrounding neighbors, businesses,

university students and the city of Logan at large."

From the park-like landscaping to the modern community-focused interior design, the church's members used their talents and resources to create a space that is truly unique. Andrea McCulloch owns and operates Milieu Design directly across the street from the new church building. McCulloch took an interest in helping the congregation realize an outstanding design that goes beyond traditional expectations.

One unique focal point of the church is a smoothie bar and creperery designed with college students in mind. Utah State University strongly impacts the church's community and, as a result, the congregation has made ministry to USU students a priority. Plans for future collegiate ministry expansion include a rock climbing wall, video production studio, student housing and a community-based farmers market.

In the building's great room area, a line of flags hangs from the ceiling. The flags represent the home countries of the congregation's members. From Asia, Africa, South America, Central America and North America, the diverse group seeks to be a welcoming place for all nationalities.

The congregation celebrated its grand opening Sept. 25-26. Ed Keyes, Nevada-Utah Conference president, was the



Local university students enjoy the church's newly renovated smoothie bar during its grand opening weekend.



MIKE MCDONOUGH

weekend's keynote speaker. He shared his testimony of transformation with both church members and community guests.

In mid-October, Carlos Camacho, conference executive secretary, presented "Jesús ¡Haz un Milagro!" This weeklong seminar focused on Logan's Hispanic community. "It was something that I needed in my own life," said member Gilbert Gabaldon. "It was wonderful!"

Jose Hernandez, one of the three who were baptized at the conclusion of the series, said that he "learned a lot about the love and forgiveness of God through Christ."

Members in Logan are excited about the future. With a local population of approximately 50,000 and a population of more than 100,000 throughout the Cache Valley, there are many more opportunities to reach people for Christ now that the church has a place to call home.

Ryan Habitzel



Ed Keyes, Nevada-Utah Conference president, shares his testimony to a packed house during Logan's grand opening weekend.

La Sierra Awarded \$2.6 Million to Increase Student Success

La Sierra University, a 93-year-old institution recognized for its diverse population and its service-learning programs, recently received a \$2.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to enhance educational services and help eliminate barriers preventing Hispanic students and under-served populations from achieving academic success.

The award is known as a Title V grant, which falls under the Higher Education Act. La Sierra is one of 96 Hispanic-serving institutions of higher education across the United States to receive a portion of \$51 million in grant funds intended to help Hispanic and low-income students achieve greater academic success leading to graduation. The grants will assist with faculty development, curriculum development, academic tutoring and mentoring and other services.

"We are delighted by this good news," said university president Randal Wisbey. "It is an

honor to receive this valuable and substantive grant from the Department of Education as it will enable the university to build upon our strengths and better serve all of our students."

La Sierra University has a student body that is approximately 42 percent Hispanic. Additionally, the university is home to many students who are first in their families to attend college, and who will benefit from a supportive environment that allows them to complete the educational process and reach their potential.

La Sierra will receive \$524,919 to implement the program this school year and approximately \$525,000 for each subsequent year of the five-year program. Goals include increasing retention and graduation rates by developing integrated and holistic student support services and building upon a student-focused classroom environment that emphasizes personal interactions through group study and collaboration with faculty.

Project strategies include early needs assessment and a summer immersion program. A scaffolded degree pathway will help ensure students are progressing toward graduation, and an AVID for Higher Education student success program will coordinate tutoring, career advice, counseling and other services.

The three-year grant application process involved numerous faculty and staff members. "Various focus groups on campus put considerable thought and effort into designing the most effective strategies that build on our strengths of personal interactions with students and existing initiatives toward success, like our Center for Student Academic Success," said Marvin Payne, director of Sponsored Projects Administration at La Sierra University. "We will provide an integrated approach where academics and student services unite to provide a comprehensive support system."

According to a September report from the U.S. Census Bureau, the country's Hispanic population totaled 55 million as of July 1, 2014, an increase of 1.5 million, or 2.1 percent, since July 1, 2013. Of the states, California had the largest Hispanic population in 2014 with 15 million. Riverside and San Bernardino counties saw its Hispanic population grow by 47,000 during the same time period to reach nearly 2.2 million, half of the area's population, according to a media report.

*Darla Martin
Tucker*



Associate physics professor Elvis Geneston (left) and student Benjamin Figueroa work in the physics lab at La Sierra University in 2014.

Adventist Health Honors Physicians for Exceptional Care

Adventist Health physicians spend each day living the system's mission — to share God's love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing. Out of more than 4,800 medical staff physicians, 18 were selected based on their commitment to remarkable patient care for the Physician of the Year Mission Awards, given at the Adventist

Health Physician Leadership Symposium in October. The awardees came together from four states, 18 facilities and many different specialties, yet they all had in common their absolute commitment to the Adventist Health mission.

James A. Peters, M.D., Dr.P.H., R.D., RRT, FACPM, was featured as the first alumni honoree of the awards for his work at the St. Helena Lifestyle Medicine Institute. Peters graduated from Loma Linda University School of Medicine and went on to earn a second doctorate in public health and a master's in public health and epidemiology. In 2010, he and his wife, Cheryl Thomas-Peters, Doctor of Clinical Nutrition, R.D., co-founded TakeTEN, the only residential lifestyle program operated by a Seventh-day Adventist hos-

pital in the U.S. At TakeTEN, participants learn practical ways to live healthier every day. It's work such as this — and the work of each of the awardees — that is celebrated at the Physician of the Year Mission Awards.

After a dinner honoring the awardees, David Levy, M.D., spoke about dealing with



Paul Crampton, right, speaks with award honoree James A. Peters.



David Levy, M.D., speaks at the dinner.



Physician of the Year awardees pause for a photo.

disappointment and how to conquer the fear of failure. He encouraged the audience — more than 200 physicians, hospital leaders and family members — to find the small “5- and 10-dollar” successes in each day instead of basing all happiness on less-frequent “thousand dollar joys.” Levy told his personal story of failure as a surgeon and his journey of asking for forgiveness from patients when surgeries don’t go as well as hoped.

Each physician, selected by his/her own site, is chosen as an exemplary health care provider. Nominees were selected for leading a life of integrity, seeing patients as whole persons (mind, body and spirit), incorporating loving care into practice and integrating spirituality into the patient care plan.

“Our mission attracts some of the most compassionate people on the planet who dedicate their lives to providing hope and alleviating suffering,” says Paul Crampton, master of ceremonies for the award dinner and Adventist Health assistant vice president for Mission and Spiritual Care. “The Physician of the Year Mission Award recognizes these extraordinary individuals who are God’s hands of healing and work each day to make the world better.”

The Physician of the Year Mission Awards are just one aspect of the Physician Leadership Symposium, which brings together leaders from across the health care field for two days packed with presentations, workshops and networking events. Topics range from population health to palliative care to care outcomes, pulling from the strengths and experiences of a wide variety of speakers.

Shelby Seibold

TakeTEN

TakeTEN is a 10-day physician-directed lifestyle medicine program at St. Helena Hospital’s Center for Health in St. Helena, California.

Watch the video at: https://youtu.be/sbZHFvS_7kM

Ready to take steps to better health? To learn more about TakeTEN, call 877-905-3510 or visit www.sthelenacenterforhealth.org.

2015 Physician of the Year Mission Award Recipients

Wesley Rippey, M.D. Adventist Medical Center – Portland

Gary Hoffman, Ph.D. Adventist Health – Central Valley Network

Agustin Rubio, M.D. Adventist Health – Central Valley Network Community Care

Frank Gavini, M.D., FACC Adventist Medical Center – Hanford

Denis Mee-Lee, M.D. Castle Medical Center

Hyung W. An, M.D. Feather River Hospital

Cheryl Lee Jang, M.D. Glendale Adventist Medical Center

Jonathan Linthicum, M.D. Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital

Jorge Ocegueda, M.D. Lodi Memorial Hospital

Hany Aziz, M.D. San Joaquin Community Hospital

Marc Shapiro, M.D. St. Helena Hospital Clear Lake

Fred Stoddard, M.D. St. Helena Hospital Napa Valley

Laurence J. S. Weekes, M.D. Simi Valley Hospital

Don Dudley, M.D. Sonora Regional Medical Center

Glen Sayler, M.D. Tillamook Regional Medical Center

Robert Calson, M.D. Ukiah Valley Medical Center

Robert Betz, M.D. Walla Walla General Hospital

Byron K. Williams, M.D. White Memorial Medical Center



ENT Professors Teach Vocal and Choral Students How to Protect Their Voices

Singers can easily damage their voices if they aren't careful. It doesn't matter if they're a world-renowned soloist or a member of a junior high choir: the consequences of singing the wrong way can ruin their voices — sometimes permanently.

"Singers require specialized treatment for their voice problems," explains Thomas Murry, Ph.D., professor of speech pathology in otolaryngology head and neck surgery, Loma Linda University Health, "much like super athletes require specialized treatment for their orthopedic problems."

Murry and his colleague, Brianna Crawley, M.D., an ear, nose and throat surgeon at Loma Linda University Health, regularly share their knowledge of the human voice with young singers as well as give tips on how to recognize problems or avoid them in the first place.

Members of three choirs at Clement Middle School in Redlands, Calif., heard Murry speak about understanding and protecting their voices Sept. 22, 2015. More than 60 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders listened as he explained ways to recognize and avoid common problems experienced by singers.

On this particular day, Crawley, who had planned to join Murry for the presentation, was involved in a surgery case that went longer than expected. Murry and Crawley, both specialists in caring for people with voice disorders, had given a similar presentation the day before to voice majors at the University of Redlands.

Their research into voice disorders has been widely recognized, and they have been asked to present their findings at upcoming conferences in Santa Clara, Calif.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; and Paris, France.

Murry shared illustrations of the vocal cords, more accurately known as vocal folds, explaining the structures, how they work, and showing some of the problems that can develop from misuse.

John Gann, director of instrumental and vocal music at Clement, worked with Murry and Crawley to arrange for the presentation. Gann directs beginning and advanced choirs and bands, as well as a string orchestra, for approximately 1,000 students at the school.

"Around 20 percent of our students are involved in our music program," says Gann. "We're so fortunate to have such strong support." Following the presentation, students were given opportunity to ask questions.

Larry Kidder



Thomas Murry, Ph.D., speaks with members of the Clement Middle School choirs about how to protect their voices from some of the more common problems experienced by singers.

Annual Triathlon at Loma Linda University Health Invites Seniors to 'Live It'



Female triathlon participants ride stationary bikes for the cycling portion of the race as they wait for the horn to sound. Next, they headed to the half-mile track, then swam several laps in the pool.

More than 90 seniors from Inland Empire communities took part in the seventh annual senior triathlon, sponsored by the Senior Wellness Program at Loma Linda University Health's Drayson Center.

The event took place Sept. 11, beginning at 7:30 a.m. and continuing most of the morning. Participants began with cycling, followed by track and ending with the swimming portion.

Seniors were divided into the following categories for men and women: ages 55-59, ages 60-64, ages 65-74, and ages 75 and beyond.

The Senior Wellness Program was formally organized in 2002 and has been serving seniors ever since with fitness, sports and social events created specifically for them.

Between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays, Drayson Center leadership realized the facility, with several pools, gym with three basketball courts, six tennis and four racquetball courts, and weight and cardio rooms, was virtually deserted. So they decided to open the entire center to seniors during those hours and all day Sunday.

More than 1,000 area seniors currently take advantage of the special membership, aerobic classes, weight and cardio rooms, social events and a host of other activities. Those 80+ receive a complimentary membership.

The annual triathlon is one of a number of events designed to encourage seniors to "Live It," keeping healthy and engaged.

Larry Kidder



Triathlon participants lightheartedly check to see if their medals are genuine gold. With a \$5 entrance fee, that was unlikely; however, they still celebrated their accomplishments.

Loma Linda University Health A-Team Volunteers in the Community

Volunteers from Loma Linda

University Health advancement team (A-Team) work at sorting donated food and other items on Friday, Oct. 9, at Helping Hands Pantry, a non-profit on Artesia Street near Loma Linda.

The group enjoyed a pizza lunch, then got busy sorting materials to create baskets of food, toiletries, clothing, children's toys and many other donated goods for needy area residents. One big job was going through giant bins of oranges and other citrus, sorting out the good and packaging plastic bags of the fruit. Fifty A-Team members participated in the volunteer activities.

Jiggs Gallagher



PUC Adds Two New Health-Related Business Degrees

Pacific Union College has a rich history of equipping students with a passion for health ministry and leading lives of productive service in the industry. With employment of medical and health services managers expected to grow by 23 percent by 2022, PUC's department of business is expanding its educational offerings to meet this demand.



Accounting major Christopher Lawrence, who plans to enter the healthcare field after graduation this June, was one of 33 college students accepted into Adventist Health System's Leadership Development program this past summer.

The Bachelor's of Science in management for medical professionals is designed for students who wish to combine a pre-professional track (such as pre-medicine and pre-dentistry) with a business degree. The program will provide students with a greater knowledge of management principles for the purpose of starting a practice, becoming a healthcare leader, or gaining a better understanding of the industry prior to entering graduate studies.

"Young medical professionals are entering a challenging work environment with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and its emphasis on efficient and effective operations and quality management in healthcare settings," says John Nunes, associate professor of business. "Having a business degree to supplement the sciences needed to succeed in medical and allied health professional programs will enhance the ability of young medical professionals to deliver a pleasurable experience for patients at sustainable levels of profitability. This will be very critical in the 21st century healthcare landscape."

The B.B.A. in healthcare management prepares business students for careers in environments such as hospital administration, nursing homes, and medical practice management. Nunes says a number of PUC graduates end up going into healthcare management after graduation. "We have a good network of career and internship opportunities with healthcare organizations, and a number of our students demonstrate interest in a healthcare administration career while studying business," he explains. "This degree provides them with specific healthcare-focused courses in fund accounting, healthcare economics, healthcare management, and healthcare law to develop their competencies in a specific healthcare industry context."

According to Rodney Hardcastle, chair of the department of business and economics, a goal of this program is to combine class preparation with health-related internships, especially placements with Adventist Health.

This past summer, Christopher Lawrence, a PUC accounting major who wants to pursue a career in healthcare, was one of more than 100

applicants from a variety of higher education institutions (the only student from California) accepted into the 2015 Leadership Development program at Adventist Health Systems. "I worked on numerous projects this summer, ranging from strategic operations to finance and accounting," reports Lawrence on the hands-on experience he received during the 12-week internship. "This internship has strengthened my desire to become a financial leader in the Adventist healthcare industry. My plan is to continue in the way I believe God has shown me and extend the healing ministry of Christ with the gifts He has blessed me with."

Students interested in the new business degrees should visit www.puc.edu/admissions or call 800-862-7080, option 2, to talk with an enrollment counselor.

Emily Mathe and Jennifer Tyner

PUC Announces New and Improved Scholarships

Providing for a college experience is one of the largest single investments a family will make. Pacific Union College's resolve to make a Seventh-day Adventist liberal arts education accessible and affordable to all admitted students is stronger than ever. Last year, PUC awarded students over \$40 million in aid.

We're excited to announce a new scholarship program for first time freshmen entering Fall 2016. The PUC Legacy Scholarship recognizes families who have made a PUC education part of their family tradition. Legacy students will receive a \$1,500 renewable scholarship if their biological parent or legal guardian attended PUC (see puc.edu/scholarships for criteria).

Also beginning with Fall 2016, PUC will offer improved scholarship opportunities to high achieving students. The Maxwell Scholarship, PUC's highest recognition, will award five first-time students renewable full-tuition awards (worth approximately \$112,000 over four years). PUC's most prestigious and selective scholarship is based on a combination of academic success, leadership experience, and a commitment to Christian service. Details can be found at puc.edu/maxwellscholar.

In addition, amounts for PUC's academic achievement and Mostert Christian Leaders scholarships have been increased. All eligible incoming students must have their application materials submitted to the college by March 2 in order to be considered for the awards.

To learn more about PUC's full scholarship program, specific criteria, and to apply, visit puc.edu/scholarships or call 800-862-7080, option 1.

Parents, guardians and students can also attend one of the 2016 financial aid workshops, where professionals will explain the steps students need to complete to get the highest amount of financial aid. See the back page of this magazine for locations and dates.



PUC awarded more than \$40 million in financial aid last year.

PUC Staff

Nondiscrimination Policy Statement

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church schools, admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools, and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, or gender in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.

Arizona Conference

Adobe Adventist Christian School
Cochise County Adventist Christian School
Desert Valley Christian School
Glenview Adventist Academy
Maricopa Village Christian School
Prescott Adventist Christian School
Saguaro Hills Adventist Christian School
Thunderbird Adventist Academy
Thunderbird Christian Elementary School
Verde Valley Adventist School
Yuma Adventist Christian School

Central California Conference

Armona Union Academy
Bakersfield Adventist Academy
Central Valley Christian Academy
Chowchilla Adventist Elementary School
Dinuba Junior Academy
Foothill Adventist Elementary School
Fresno Adventist Academy
Hollister Adventist Christian School
Kern Adventist Elementary School
Los Banos Adventist Elementary School
Miramonte Adventist Elementary School
Monterey Bay Academy
Mother Lode Adventist Jr. Academy
Mountain View Academy
Oakhurst Adventist Christian School
Peninsula Adventist School
San Francisco Adventist School
Sierra View Junior Academy
Templeton Hills Adventist School
Valley View Junior Academy
VHM Christian School
West Valley Christian School

Hawaii Conference

Adventist Malama Elementary School
Hawaiian Mission Academy (9-12)
Hawaiian Mission Academy Ka Lama Iki
Hawaiian Mission Academy-Windward Campus
Kahili Adventist School
Kohala Mission School
Kona Adventist Christian School
Maui Adventist School

Mauna Loa School

Nevada-Utah Conference

Abundant Life Christian Academy
Bishop Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School
Deamude Adventist Christian School
Eagle Valley Christian School
Fallon SDA Elementary School
Las Vegas Junior Academy
Monument Valley SDAMission School
Riverview Christian Academy
Summit Christian Academy
Susanville Adventist Christian School

Northern California Conference

Adventist Christian Elementary School of Red Bluff
Adventist Christian School of Willits
Adventist Christian School of Yuba City
Bayside SDA Christian School
Chico Oaks Adventist School
Clearlake SDA Christian School
Crescent City SDA School
Echo Ridge SDA Elementary School
El Dorado Adventist School
Feather River Adventist School
Foothills Elementary School
Fortuna Junior Academy
Galt Adventist Christian School
Hilltop Christian School
Humboldt Bay Christian School
Lodi Academy
Lodi Adventist Elementary School
Magalia Adventist School
Manteca Adventist Christian School
Middletown Adventist School
Napa Christian Campus of Education
Orangevale SDA School
Pacific Union College Elementary School
Pacific Union College Preparatory School
Paradise Adventist Academy
Pine Hills Adventist Academy
Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy
Redding Adventist Academy
Redwood Adventist Academy
Rio Lindo Adventist Academy
Sacramento Adventist Academy

Tracy SDA Christian Elementary School
Ukiah Junior Academy
Vacaville Adventist School
Westlake SDA School
Yreka Adventist Christian School

Southeastern California Conference

Calexico Mission School
Desert Adventist School
El Cajon SDA Christian School
Escondido Adventist Academy
Hemet Adventist Christian School
Laguna Niguel Junior Academy
La Sierra Academy
Loma Linda Academy
Mesa Grande Academy
Murrieta Springs Adventist Christian School
Needles SDA School
Oceanside Adventist Elementary School
Orangewood Academy
Redlands Adventist Academy
San Antonio Christian School
San Diego Academy
Valley Adventist Christian School
Victor Valley SDA School

Southern California Conference

Adventist Christian School
Adventist Union School
Antelope Valley Adventist School
Conejo Adventist Elementary School
Crescenta Valley Adventist Elementary School
East Valley Adventist School
Glendale Adventist Academy
Linda Vista Adventist Elementary School
Los Angeles Adventist Academy
Newbury Park Adventist Academy
San Fernando Valley Academy
San Gabriel Academy
Simi Valley Adventist School
South Bay Junior Academy
West Covina Hills Adventist School
White Memorial Adventist School
Pacific Union Conference Operated School
Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School

Holbrook Indian School Education Center Dedicated During 70th Anniversary Celebration

The weekend began Friday afternoon with a “sneak peek” of the newly remodeled education center (HIS-EC), which will house the high school. “This is amazing!” said Corwin Bahe, student association vice president. Classes and programs in HIS-EC began in November. In the past, the HIS-EC building has been used for dorms, a bakery, and the cafeteria.

At vespers Friday evening, Dr. Ricardo Graham, president of the Pacific Union, shared a message with students, staff and visitors about young Samuel to show how God can use anyone, regardless of age, and that as we get to know Him, we will come to know His voice.

On Sabbath, Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division, preached about the parables of the lost sheep, lost coin and the prodigal son, along with personal illustrations to demonstrate what lengths God will go to to save each person, no matter how far they have wandered.

Holbrook Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the front steps of the HIS-EC. Ted Benson, treasurer of the union

and an HIS board member, opened the ceremony with prayer. Daniel and Forest Walter, sons of the school’s founders, attended.

Attendees also honored Barbara Willis, recently-retired development director, for her years of service.

Principal Pedro Ojeda reminded everyone that the celebration was about more than a building.

It’s about “what God will do for the students and staff of HIS through this building,” he said.

Tony Anobile, Arizona Conference president, gave the dedicatory prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to dwell in the students and staff of HIS, as well as in the halls of the new HIS-EC.

Jana Townes, Holbrook Student Association president, cut the red ribbon with her father, an HIS alum, and all the HIS students and staff behind her on the steps looking on.

On Sunday morning, the cafeteria staff hosted the HIS 70th anniversary prayer breakfast. HIS Vice Principal Jovannah Poor Bear-Adams shared a letter she had written to the students of HIS. God “lived and died for you. And so, He made you an education



Pastor Charlie White leads a choir of students, including fifth-grader Quentina Joe (center) and sixth-grader Johanna Tso (right).



NAD President Dan Jackson speaks to attendees Sabbath morning.

center so that you could see, even for just a little bit, while you sit in your classes, that you are worth more than you think,” she said. “Because you matter, your life matters, and because you are worth it.”

Learn more about HIS, started by Marvin and Gwen Walter in 1946, at HolbrookIndianSchool.org.



HIS students, staff and guests cheer after Jana Towne, student association president, cut the ribbon for the HIS Education Center dedication.

Diana Fish

Momentum for Growth Summit Held in Loma Linda

This one-day church growth event was organized under the auspices of the Pacific Union and the North American Division Asian/Pacific ministries, headed by Dr. VicLouis Arreola III, director.

Featured presenters included Dr. A. Allan Martin, teaching pastor of the Younger Generation Church in Arlington, Texas, and Bing Alabata, itinerant teacher and Bible expositor based in Chicago.

Martin's topic, "Exploring Younger Generation Ministry," presented careful research on young adults of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. Alabata lectured on "Expository Preaching," with an actual demonstration on how it is done. Arreola spoke on "Growing Healthy, Missional Congregations,"

with practical stories from real life situations happening in many churches today.

"The summit was instructive and inspirational," said Beverly Williams of the Apple Valley All Nations church. "It was absolutely wonderful. I hope it's held every year so more people can attend and be blessed."

Each registered attendee received a certificate at the culmination of the event.

"It is my prayer that as a result of this summit, the Asian/Pacific pastors and lay leaders were blessed with fresh inspiration and better equipped to serve in their local churches in growing and nurturing healthy congregations," said Arreola.



Bing Alabata shares his passion for engaging, expository preaching.

Lemuel Niere and Maricel Felarca



Pastor and Mrs. Somchai Piromgraiakd shake hands with the speakers as they receive their certificates of completion.



Dr. Allan Martin teaches attendees about ministry to younger generations.

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Key Officer, Two Directors Voted at Nov. 12 Executive Committee

The Pacific Union executive committee met Thursday, Nov. 12, to consider year-end business. Members voted in three new union personnel: Tony Anobile, vice president, as of Jan. 1 (currently Arizona Conference president, replacing Arnold Trujillo, who is retiring); Virgil Childs, regional coordinator, as of Feb. 1 (currently Oakland Market Street Church senior pastor, replacing Bobby Mitchell, who is retiring); and Ray Tetz, communication director, as of Nov. 15 (owner of Mind Over Media, replacing Gerry Chudleigh, who passed away July 4).

The committee also voted two new members into its own ranks: Cherise Gardner (senior pastor of the Long Beach church, Southern California) and Rith Dok (a teacher at Summit Christian Academy, Nevada-Utah). In addition, they added Mark Valencia and Steve Allred to the Church State Council Litigation Committee.

President Ricardo Graham reported on the North American Division Year End Meeting, including the relocation of NAD offices out of the General Conference building, the Compassion 10 Million Initiative, the Statement on Human Sexuality, issues related to Ben Carson's presidential candidacy, the 2016 NAD prayer initiative (hope-heals.org) and more.



Tony Anobile will assume his new role as vice president of the Pacific Union as of Jan. 1. "I am deeply moved and honored to be joining the administrative leadership team of the Pacific Union Conference," said Anobile. "Having grown up in California and spending all of my ministry experience in the Pacific Union, I am looking forward to working with my fellow officers in support of the seven conferences of our field as we work together to advance God's kingdom in preparation for the Lord's return. My goal is to assist our constituents to mobilize their God-given gifts and talents to impact their communities in outreach."

The committee also acted on the Presidents Council recommendations. All three were voted, including increasing the payout on the Education Endowment Fund from 4.5 to 5.0 percent per year to provide additional funds for scholarships; to increase the payout on the Evangelism Endowment Fund from 5.0 to 6.0 percent per year to accommodate demand for additional evangelism support; and to adjust the formula to maximize distributions from the Church and School Loan Fund.

In addition, Ted Benson, treasurer, reported that as of the end of the third quarter, tithe was up

2.58 percent from the same time last year. The 2016 operating budget, Recorder budget, appropriations and assessments, and wage scale received approval.

The committee approved 12 ministers for ordination: Sara-May Colon, Patricia Marruffo, Filip Milosavljevic, Brandon Moningka, David Ocegueda, Shirley Ponder and Syahryl "Norman" Yazid, from Southeastern Calif.; Manuel Arteaga and Christopher Chong, from Southern Calif.; and Mauro Gutierrez, Zachary Page and David Pikop, from Central California.

The committee approved three people for ministerial scholarships: Jason Kim, Isaac Byung Chan Lee and Jamison Wallington, all from South-eastern California. Also, they approved Matthew Kirk from the Central California Conference for a Doctor of Ministry degree. Four candidates received emeritus ministerial credentials: Stuart Harrison, Arizona; Charles McKinstry, Marvin Ponder, and Larry Veverka, Southeastern. Then, Stephanie Brown was approved as a Hawaii Conference business intern.

The committee approved money from the Evangelism Endowment Fund for several innovative projects: Adventist Compassion Care (\$20,000, Northern California Conference), Jewish-Russian Ministry (\$15,000, Southern California Conference), and THRIVE Evangelism & Health Clinic

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

SUNSETS

	12/4	12/11	12/18	12/25
Alturas	4:32	4:32	4:34	4:38
Angwin	4:48	4:48	4:51	4:54
Calexico	4:35	4:36	4:39	4:42
Chico	4:42	4:43	4:45	4:48
Eureka	4:48	4:49	4:51	4:54
Fresno	4:42	4:43	4:45	4:49
Hilo	5:41	5:43	5:46	5:50
Honolulu	5:48	5:50	5:53	5:57
Las Vegas	4:25	4:26	4:28	4:32
Lodi	4:45	4:45	4:47	4:51
Loma Linda	4:39	4:40	4:42	4:46
Los Angeles	4:43	4:44	4:47	4:50
Moab	4:55	4:55	4:57	5:01
Oakland	4:49	4:50	4:52	4:56
Phoenix	5:19	5:20	5:22	5:26
Reno	4:35	4:35	4:37	4:41
Riverside	4:40	4:41	4:43	4:47
Sacramento	4:44	4:44	4:47	4:50
Salt Lake City	4:59	5:00	5:02	5:05
San Diego	4:42	4:43	4:45	4:49
San Francisco	4:50	4:51	4:53	4:57
San Jose	4:49	4:50	4:52	4:55
Tucson	5:18	5:19	5:21	5:25

(\$21,000, Nevada-Utah Conference).

In addition to reports from Vic Louis Arreola, Asian-Pacific ministries coordinator, and Charlene Sargent, Adventist Community Services and disaster response ministries coordinator, Berit von Pohle presented a report from the education department. Union educators and schools, she said, are focused on the philosophy of differentiated instruction, a teaching framework that provides different students with different methods of learning (even within the same classroom) in terms of: acquiring information; processing, constructing, or making sense of ideas; and developing teaching materials and assessments so that all students within a classroom can learn effectively. Approximately 12 percent of the department's budget goes toward differentiated instruction events, she said. "Our job as a teacher is to ensure



Ray Tetz stepped into the role of communication director immediately after his election. "We began our ministry in Southern California," said Tetz, "and it is a great privilege to be coming back to the Pacific Union in this new capacity. While much of my ministry in recent years has been for the ministries of the world church, we have always considered California our home. I have enjoyed working with the officers and staff of the church here in the Pacific Union on a number of initiatives in recent years. Greater effectiveness in presenting the Gospel message, coupled with a renewed vision for engagement with the communities we serve, will be the communication department focus."

every student learns," said von Pohle.

She also introduced the new CREATION

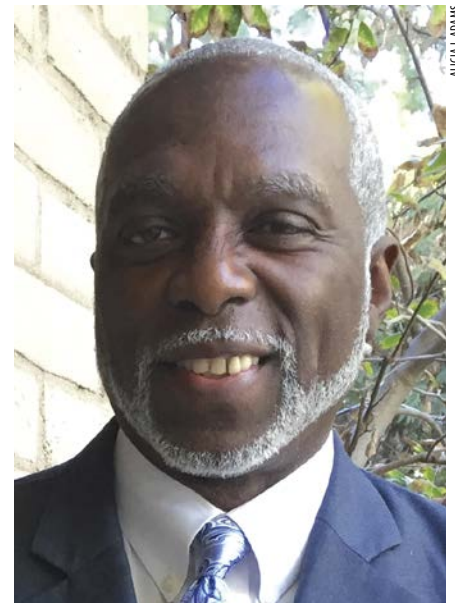
Kids early childhood education curriculum, and illustrated the elementary and secondary focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) through the Robotics program.

Pacific Union College President Heather Knight and La Sierra University President Randal Wisbey presented a joint higher education report outlining some of the successes and struggles of their institutions and of Adventist higher education in general. For the first time in many years, enrollment is down in both schools. One reason, they said, is that schools based outside the Pacific Union are actively recruiting here.

"How about more intentionally asking our constituents to support us?" asked Knight. "Each school gets \$3.6M of subsidy from the Pacific Union. Why not let our students get the benefits of our tithe dollars? Think of us first!"

The next meeting of the Pacific Union Executive Committee will be at the union office on March 17, 2016.

Alicia J. Adams



Virgil Childs will join the Pacific Union Conference leadership team as regional coordinator Feb. 1. "I am continually amazed and humbly appreciative of God's providence," said Childs. "I consider it a privilege to partner with the administration, regional coordinators and workers of the Pacific Union under the direction of the Holy Spirit to see people delivered and restored for the kingdom of God."

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A Penny for Your Thoughts?

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CALENDARS

Arizona

ALL ABOUT JESUS REVIVAL SEMINARS (Dec. 4-12) Pastor Lee Venden, Clearview church, 19554 N. Papago Dr., Sunrise. Friday, Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m. and except for Sabbaths, presentations are evenings at 6:30 p.m. (including Sunday) of the following week. On Sabbaths, there are three presentations: during Sabbath school, church and after the potluck.

RETIRES CHRISTMAS DINNER (Dec. 6) 11:30 a.m. Arizona Conference Office, 13405 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale. Info: Shirley Chipman, 480-991-6777.

THUNDERBIRD ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND (April 2) 6:30 p.m. Open house for classmates who attended during the '50s and '60s at the home of Al and Jan Ghelfi, 5525 N. Camelback Canyon Drive, Phoenix 85018. Phone: 602-840-3077.

Northern California

SPANISH-SPEAKING NEW BELIEVERS' RETREAT (Dec. 4-6) Leoni Meadows. Speaker: Paradise church Senior Pastor Ben Maxson. Info: Hispanic Ministries Department, 925-603-5092.

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST (Dec. 5) 9:30 a.m. Pleasant Hill church, 800 Grayson Road. Enjoy delicious food and a fun children's program. Info: church office, 925-934-5803.

NATIVITY DRIVE-THRU (Dec. 11, 12, 18, 19) 6:30-9:30 p.m. (new hours) Roseville church, 914 Cirby Way. 17th annual event. Live actors and animals! Free. Info: church office, 916-786-8350.

DRIVE-THRU LIVE NATIVITY (Dec. 11, 12) 6:30-9:30 p.m. Santa Rosa church, 840 Sonoma Avenue. Free! Stay in your car to see live actors in nine scenes and hear taped narration on provided CDs. Info: 707-578-8883.

Pacific Union College

DEMETRIOS & EAMES (through Dec. 7) Works by Lisa Demetrios and Lucia Eames Rasmussen Art Gallery. An exhibit of three generations of Eames artwork exploring a legacy of design innovation that continues to influence the arts today. Show runs through Dec. 7. Info: 707-965-6303.

ACADEMY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT (Dec. 2-5) PUC hosts an invitational tournament for academy basketball teams. Info: www.puc.edu or 707-965-6652.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT CHRISTMAS CONCERT (Dec. 5) 4 p.m., PUC church. The holiday season is not complete without the joyous sounds of this annual Christmas celebration for the whole family. Info: www.puc.edu or 707-965-6201.

NICARAGUA MISSION TRIP (Dec. 11-18). Students devote their Christmas break to service in Nicaragua. Info: www.puc.edu/spiritual-life or 707-965-7190.

BRAZIL MISSION TRIP (Dec. 27-Jan. 4). Students conduct medical screenings, health presentations and workshops in the Amazon rainforest of Brazil. Info: www.puc.edu/spiritual-life or 707-965-7190.

CHRISTMAS VACATION (Dec. 11-Jan. 3)

WINTER QUARTER BEGINS (Jan. 4) Students begin the new academic term. Info: www.puc.edu/admissions.

ALBION RETREAT AND LEARNING CENTER (ongoing) Comfortable lodging for visitors and groups available along the Mendocino Coast. Perfect for classes, retreats, reunions, weddings, or

vacations. Info: www.puc.edu/albion or 707-937-5440.

Southern California

GLENDALE CITY CHURCH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT (Dec. 4) Concert is free; all welcome. Ample street parking, or free parking in the Fashion Center. 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241.

"SALUTE TO POLITICIAN" DAY (Dec. 5) 10 a.m., concluding with an afternoon concert by the singing group Pro Deo. Featured speaker, Pastor Lonnie Melashenko, Columbia Union Conference revivalist. Afternoon concert by "Pro Deo" singing group; inspiring testimonies. Malibu Adventist congregation, Webster Elementary School, 3602 Winter Canyon Rd. Info: 818-458-8884.

VALLEY CROSSROADS CHORALE 7TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT (Dec. 12) 5 p.m., featuring God's Favor, Men of Note and New Beginning Praise Team, Valley Crossroads church, 11350 Glenoaks Blvd., Pacoima, CA 91331.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT (Dec. 10) 7 p.m. Glendale Adventist Academy,

700 Kimlin Dr., in the Charles E. Watkins Auditorium. Info: 818-244-8671.

HARK, THE HERALD ANGEL, A MUSICAL FOR YOUNG VOICES (Dec. 12) 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rolling Hills church, 28340 Highridge Rd., Rolling Hills Estates 90274. Free. Info: 310-541-1819.

"CHRISTMAS IN THE BARRIO" COMMUNITY EVENT (Dec. 19) 4 p.m. Christmas drama, toy donation and family dinner. Spanish American church, 1615 Bridge St., Los Angeles 90033. To donate toys, please contact Pastor Carlos Acosta, 626-632-5127.

"THE GREATEST GIFT—HOPE HAS ARRIVED!" COMMUNITY EVENT (Dec. 24) 7 p.m. A program of Christmas music, readings and a message of hope, co-sponsored by the Burbank church and St. David's Anglican church, 710 S. Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank 91502. Info: www.BurbankSDA.com; 818-848-7051.

REVELATION OF HOPE WEEKEND REVIVAL (Jan. 8-9) Speaker, Taj Pacleb. Fri., 7 p.m.; Sabbath, 10:45 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. West Covina Hills church, 3536 E. Temple Way, West Covina 91791. Info: 626-915-7819.

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Missing Members

RIVERVIEW. Contact: Fanga Finau, clerk, Riverview Adventist Church, 7125 W 4th St, Reno, NV 89523; 775-322-9642; riverviewadventistchurch@gmail.com: Virginia Kemper, Barbara Kent, Betty Killoran, Kelley King, Martie Flinn King, Jack King, Carole King-Denmark,

Sunia Kohitola, Estaben Kolsky, Sylvia Kolsky, Linda Lang, Talama Leota, Faafetai Leota, Ualiu Leuluaii, Jennife Leuluaii, Michelle Lewellyn, Mark Link, Michael E. Litchfield, Tomi Ford Maddux, Kevin Marlo, Tiffany McMaster, Christian McMaster, Andrew McPherson, Jeanie McPhearson, Patricia Meier, Nelly Meyer, Autumn Milan, Mackey Miller, Linda Morgan, Jeremiah Mountain, Karen Musso, Brenda Naumann, Reno Ng, Faigofie Palaita, James Park, Nancy Park, Lisa Phelps, Angela Walker Piper, Jean Poole, Scott Polk, Cynthia Powell, Barbara Pratt, Dolly Pule, Angela Pule, William Pule, James Rasmussen, Milam Rasmussen, Lois Ratzlaff, Gene Reynolds, Mary Reynolds, Kimberly Rials, Frances Richardson, Robert Riley, Martina Romero, Kenneth Ross, Kera Ross, Toni Ross, Lecia Roundtree, Suzie Scarpa, Harlan Sharp, Vivian Sharp, Mary Shelton, Randy Simpson, Robin Simpson, David Lee Smith, Jeri Smith, Kimberly Snyder, Edward Spaulding, Sandra Somosa Spengler, Sharon Stettner, Sharon Stiverson, Cassandra Sturdivant, Darin Alan Sutton, Shane Tackett, Shannon Tackett, Norma Thompson, Tamera Thompson Thorsfeldt, Yit Tisoni, Larry Turnage, April Turnage, Matthew Turnage, Corenna Vance, Brett Vi Volpi, Brooke Wallace, Keitha May Wallace, Richard Weatherston, Collene Weatherston, Britta Wiseman, James Todd Wright, Twyla Wright, and Liane Youngerman.

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2016 Deadlines — Please note that these are the advertising deadlines for the Recorder. Your local conference news deadlines will be earlier.

- February: January 5
- March: January 27
- April: February 23
- May: March 29
- June: April 26

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.

AT REST

ANDERSON, ALVIN KENNETH – b. Aug. 13, 1922, Orleans, Neb.; d. Sept. 3, 2015, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Lynnae Webster, Shari; two grandchildren.

APPLEY, KEITH – b. May 18, 1927, Bakersfield, Calif.; d. Oct. 9, 2015, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Gwynn Harris, Ellen Kiger; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

BERGEM, DOROTHY EARLINE (COCHRAN) – b. Aug. 27, 1924, Yuma, Colo.; d. May 29, 2015, Redding, Calif. Survivors: son, Dwayne Curtis; daughter, Donette Jones; 16 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren.

BERGVALL, MELVIN – b. July 24, 1925, Hibbing, Minn.; d. Oct. 16, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Barbara; son, Gary; daughter, JoAnn; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

BURNS, BRUCE B. – b. May 13, 1950, Medford, Ore.; d. Sept. 12, 2015, Middletown, Calif. Survivors: son, Bruce Jr.; daughters, Adele Browers, Becky Burns-Dimarino; six grandchildren; father, Bob; brothers, Mike, Gordon; half-brothers, Rory, James.

Correction: **HAGEN, ILA B. (NELSON)** – b. July 8, 1921, Elk Horn, Iowa; d. May 18, 2015, St. Helena, Calif. Survivors: husband, Russell; son, Bruce; daughter, Joan Hughson; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

DE LEON-WILLIAMS, INGRID YAZMIN – b. July 11, 1979, Bayamon, Puerto Rico; d. Sept. 28, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: husband, Roland Paul; son, Alexander; daughters, Viviana, Arianna; father, Marino De Leon; mother, Daisy De Leon; brothers, Kevin, Javier.

DUDAR, KRISTOPHER LANCE – b. Feb. 14, 1995, Thousand Oaks, Calif.; d. Oct. 6, 2015, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: father, Brian; mother, Monica; brother, Brandon; sister, Erika. Worked at Leoni Meadows Cowboy Camp; assisted with the Paradise Adventist Academy wagon train trip.

FLIER, MARJORIE H. (OFFENHAUSER) – b. July 24, 1915, Knoxville, Iowa; d. Aug. 26th, 2015, Thousand Oaks, Calif. Survivors: sons, Weldon, Michael; daughter, Nanci Williams; 10 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, two great-great-children.

GIESE, HERBERT H. – b. Dec. 22, 1919, Revillo, S.D.; d. Oct. 3, 2015, Mesa, Ariz. Survivors: son, Dave; daughters, Linda McGinnis, Janice Davis; step-daughter, Rhonda Thompson.

GREEN, JUDITH – b. Feb. 23, 1941, Washington, D.C.; d. Aug. 13, 2015, Visalia, Calif. Survivors: husband, Ray; son, Thomas Carter; daughter, Natalie Carter Carrere; one grandchild.

IGARTA, DIANA – b. Feb. 22, 1942, Hilo, Hawaii; d. Oct. 9, 2015, Kihei, Maui, Hawaii. Survivors: sons, Brian, Scot; daughters, Michel Won (Myles), Dawn Calasa (Herman); five grandchildren.

LARA, ALICIA (LEON) – b. June 22, 1952, Watsonville, Calif.; d. Feb. 7, 2015, Watsonville, Calif. Survivors: husband, Narciso; sons, Narciso Jr., Angel; daughter, Maribel; three grandchildren.

MAYER, DANIEL WOODROW – b. April 22, 1930, Lodi, Calif.; d. July 8, 2015, Visalia, Calif. Survivors: wife, Donna; son, Dennis; daughters, Dena Shropshire, Dawn Bickner; eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren.

PEMBERTON, THELMA – b. March 26, 1917, Ark.; d. Aug. 4, 2015, Porterville, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Nina Kisling and Elaine Benson; three grandchildren, six great-grandchildren.

ROSE, GREGORY A. – b. Oct. 25, 1947, Napa, Calif.; d. Sept. 16, 2015, Angwin, Calif. Survivors: wife, Rosalie; sons, Gregory Scott, Christopher; daughters, Rebecca Rose-Brenner, Melissa (Lisa) Bohlman; eight grandchildren.

SYKES, IVAN ROBERT – b. June 18, 1919, Battle Creek, Mich.; d. Oct. 6, 2015, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: wife, Marilyn; son, Steve Morrison; daughters, Judi Paliungas, Rebecca Noel, Donna Shane, Paula Shane; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

TREVINO, TONY – b. Nov. 27, 1944; d. Aug. 4, 2015, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: wife, Heather Coeur-Barron; son, Matthew; daughter, Michelle Booth; and four grandchildren.

WAREHAM, S. BYRON – b. May 1, 1927, Bentley, Alberta, Canada; d. Sept. 24, 2015, Fortuna, Calif. Survivors: wife, Charolette; son, Davis; daughter, Dorothy Stockton; four grandchildren; brother, Ellsworth; sister, Goldie Thomas. Served as professor of general dentistry at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry.

WILLIAMS, JOHN LUTHER – b. July 5, 1931, Kingston, Jamaica; d. Oct. 28, 2015, Corona, Calif. Survivors: wife, Marylyn Joan (Young); son, Jim; daughter, Joni Hollie, Sandy Silvestri; 10 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

WUERSTLIN, GILDA LAURINE – b. Dec. 3, 1925, Ohio; d. April 18, 2015, Yreka, Calif. Survivors: sons, Jim, Tom; daughter, Darlene Bryner; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

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November 21 Rio Lindo Adventist Academy *
January 5 Bakersfield Adventist Academy
January 6 Armona Union Academy
January 7 Fresno Adventist Academy
January 11 Central Valley Christian Academy
January 11 Mesa Grande Academy
January 12 Lodi Academy
January 12 San Fernando Academy
January 13 Paradise Adventist Academy
January 13 Orangewood Academy
January 14 Redwood Adventist Academy

January 14 Newbury Park Academy
January 19 Pine Hills Adventist Academy
January 19 San Diego Academy*
January 20 El Dorado Adventist School
January 20 Escondido Academy*
January 20 Glendale Academy
January 21 Mountain View Academy
January 21 Calexico Academy*
January 21 Los Angeles Adventist Academy
January 25 Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy
January 25 Redlands Adventist Academy*

January 25 San Gabriel Academy
January 26 Sacramento Adventist Academy
January 26 Loma Linda Academy*
January 26 Thunderbird Academy*
January 27 Napa Christian Campus of Education
January 27 La Sierra Academy*
February 3 PUC Prep School
February 9 Hawaiian Mission Academy

* All Financial Aid Workshops will be held at 7:00 p.m. with these exceptions that start at 6:30 p.m.

December 2015

Arizona NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT...



Tony Anobile
President

When I became president of the Arizona Conference I was asked about my vision for the Conference. I remember responding it was my goal to continue the Kingdom growth my predecessors had been advocating. My predecessor Duane McKey would often say, “We need to empty hell and populate heaven!” I totally agreed and set a goal to surpass the 20,000-member mark in Arizona.

I recall on December 31, 2008 our membership was 16,999 — so close to 17,000. We kept emphasizing evangelism, and in 2009 over 90% of our pastors were involved in their own evangelistic series. Even though we encountered difficult economic times, the Arizona Conference family kept forging ahead, bringing precious souls to Jesus.

I am happy to report that in September 2015 the Conference Clerk informed me we had reached and passed the 20,000-member mark! This is a wonderful reality thanks to the cooperation of the Arizona family — pastors, teachers and lay members.

As we come to the end of another year and look forward to 2016, I would like to remind you of the three major elements we are committed to in Arizona for kingdom growth.

1. We want to bring people to the church — that’s evangelism. All of us should be involved in evangelism. Remember evangelism takes place in different ways. Whether public or personal, all of us should be sharing the Good News of Jesus to everyone with whom we come in contact.
2. We want the people we bring in, the new members of the community, as well as those of us who have been a part of the church for a

longer period of time, to stay in. That’s called retention. We want to retain our family of believers who eagerly await the second coming of Jesus.

3. We want all of our church community members to be healthy and active — through stewardship. Our churches must have programs, ministries and initiatives that encourage all members to remain healthy and active, giving to and supporting ministry opportunities as God has gifted them.

Where do we go from here? Let’s set our sights on 25,000 members. Together we must seek to populate heaven and finish the work in Arizona so Jesus can come and we can go home! Remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 24:14: **“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”** (NIV)

I want to see Jesus come, don’t you? Let’s not lose our focus. Let’s recommit more than ever to continue kingdom growth. Why not make a pledge to bring one person to Jesus in 2016? Can you imagine if we all did that, we would surpass the 25,000-goal by thousands? Can it happen? I believe so. Thank you for doing all you can to **“Light the world with Jesus’ love, to grow the family of God!”**



Tony Anobile
President

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.



Go Karting to the Finish Line

By Shirley Chipman

Go Kart Racing is one of the summer camp highlights at Camp Yavapines in Prescott, Arizona. Leaders Randy and Cathy Fields have spent the last nine years directing the Go Kart program and reaching out to young people.

They enjoy all aspects of the program – getting to know the campers, teaching them the parts, how to fix and care for karts, and how to drive and learn the rules of racing. At first some don't know the brake pedal from the gas pedal, but by the end of camp, they're very knowledgeable. Randy raced stock cars in the past, so he's the man they go to for answers.

Originally purchased from Sodikarts and shipped from Europe, the karts were paid for by donations from churches and individuals.

"We're using something super fun

to teach campers spiritual, practical and life lessons," both Randy and Cathy agreed. "Campers learn the art of safe and fair lessons, when competing for that trophy or ribbon."

Preparation for camp includes checking all 16 karts, making repairs and getting them 'track ready.' Classes are taught Monday through Thursday and on Friday each class races for trophies, medallions or ribbons. Awards are given for 'fastest time of the week,' 'most improved,' and for sportsmanship, which is voted by their peers.' The track is built each year under the camp dome and is changed a little each week to match the probable ability of the age group for Juniors, Tweens and Teens.

Since the \$100 camp was incorporated five years ago, there are now over 1,000 campers during the summer rather than about 300. Best of all, nearly 100 campers were baptized this year.

"Even with practice and training, the best driver still may not win" says Randy. "There could be a mechanical issue, a minor mistake or something another driver did. Our emphasis is that finishing the race is what's important, not in what place you finish. Campers are taught to do the right thing all the time – not because they have to, but because they can."



The pavilion is made into a race track during summer camp for the Juniors, Tweens, and Teens.

A great reward for the Fields is to see summer camp kids go onto become camp counselors and staff at Camp Yavapines. A grandson and granddaughter have attended camp for the past five years, and the grandson is now part of the staff and a helper for the past two years.

"We praise God for camp staff who are not afraid to share Jesus and what He has done for them," said Cathy Fields. "Our greatest joy is to show campers they can have a relationship with Jesus and still have a fantastic time."



It's time to claim the trophy at the end of the race, along with instructor Randy Fields.



Cathy organizes, times, prepares certificates, and is the one behind the camera, while Randy, the former stock car racer and trucker, does the teaching.



Never Giving Up in Springerville

By Pastor Ethan Muse

President Franklin D. Roosevelt famously declared December 7, 1941 “a date which will live in infamy” when the people of Japan declared war against the United States of America.

December 8, 2014 is a date which will live in infamy for the Springerville Seventh-day Adventist Church because that was when God declared war on the devil and told him He wasn’t done with His church in Springerville yet and to back off.

2014 had been an interesting year for the small Springerville congregation. As their pastor, I had become increasingly weary of board meetings because the major topic of discussion was how much longer until we gave up, faced and admitted reality and agree to close the Springerville church. Keeping it open seemed to be a losing battle.

I hated the idea of giving up and closing the church. But the signs were clear — we would be closing our doors unless God did something big to keep them open. So our small congregation earnestly sought the Lord in prayer.

The very morning of our prayer session, I received a call from a total stranger living in stranger in Colorado. She informed me I had inherited a large sum of money and she wanted to verify the address. I soon realized the beneficiary of the inheritance was the Springerville Church, not me personally. Glen and Leona Stone passed away recently leaving the Springerville Church an inheritance of \$50,000.



Pastor Ethan Muse baptizes Kolbe Isaacs

We held a business meeting to discuss what to do with the money. We chose to pay the church debts, then focus on evangelism.

In July and August 2015, the Springerville church hosted a six-week evangelistic campaign with Evangelist Mike Sady from Decoding Prophecy Ministries. Sady presented the complete Seventh-day Adventist message in the most Christ-centered, gospel-focused manner. Many of the members commented

how they had never heard the message presented so clearly. Although attendance was small, God blessed our evangelistic outreach with four decisions for Christ and baptism by the end of the series.

Nicole Gilliam and Bernadette Palmeteer joined the Springerville Church. Micah Johnson and Kolbe Isaacs joined our neighboring church in Show Low.

Shortly before his baptism, Micah informed me of his burning desire to become a Seventh-day Adventist minister and requested information about how to begin studying to prepare for the ministry. I put him in contact with Dr. Bill Kilgore from the Theology Department at Southwestern Adventist University who directed him to SAU’s online Adult Degree Program.

These four precious people have become vital members of their new churches. Our prayer now is for God to help us continue our evangelistic outreach in Springerville, never giving up the goal of winning men and women to Jesus as His soon coming draws near.



Hispanic Women's Ministries Walk for the Cure

By Shirley Chipman

On Sunday, October 11, 60+ enthusiastic and joy-filled women and children from Monte Vista Spanish SDA Church in Phoenix and Hispanic Women's Ministries joined together to 'walk for the cure.'

They carried a banner that displayed their dedicated belief, "The Lord will fight for you: you need only to be still." Exodus 14:14

The 3.1 mile Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure began at 6:45 a.m. at the Cesar Chavez Plaza in downtown Phoenix. Participants could register as a timed adult, youth or breast cancer survivor. Options were to walk or run and just donate through the entrance fee or sign up other sponsors and fund-raisers

through friends and family to raise more donations.

"Cancer is something none of us expects to hear about regarding our loved ones," said Maria Denny. "However, it was just last summer my daughter Giovanna was diagnosed with breast cancer. During this walk, the team celebrated the lives of both Giovanna and Iris, who are members of our group. Both are survivors, now cancer free and they were the inspiration for this Hispanic group to be part of the mission to eliminate breast cancer."

The Susan G. Komen race is the world's largest and most successful education and fund-raising event for breast cancer ever created. The event raises

significant funds and awareness for the breast cancer movement, celebrates with survivors and honors those who have lost their battle with the disease.

As a Christian community these women and children are thankful they can work together to raise funds to find a cure, save lives, support survivors, and end breast cancer forever.





centralACTS

Newsletter for Central California Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists

BREATHING FREELY

central california officers' perspective

One late night, my wife and I were in the hospital emergency room with our two-year-old son, Sammy. In just a few hours we had to go to the airport because we were moving to Michigan. The reason we were in the hospital was because our son had the flu, which had ignited his asthma. I remember after the first dose of medicine for his wheezing, I saw very little improvement. The emergency room doctor, who was really busy that night, came to us and said that Sammy was ready to go. I was so uncomfortable with her decision. I knew that she was the doctor and she was the expert, but something in my gut told me that she was wrong in discharging him after just one treatment. Who am I to say that she was wrong with her diagnosis? Well, I too have asthma. I could see certain symptoms in my son that told me he was not ready to be discharged. So I did what I had to do. My love for my son compelled me to demand that the doctor give my son another breathing treatment. I explained my reasons and pointed out the symptoms of breathing difficulty. She agreed, and after the second treatment, we all could see the difference. His vitals improved shortly thereafter and we were on our way to catch a flight.

At times, the troubles of this life do not allow us to breathe freely. Jesus Christ knows what you are going through during difficult times because he too experienced the sin disease of this world. He will help you overcome whatever troubles you encounter because He experienced what you've experienced and overcame it all. During this Christmas season, remember this, that Your God came in the flesh and because of that, He can empathize and give you the power to have victory over sin.



Ezequiel Nichols
Associate Executive Secretary, Central California Conference

Calendar

December 6
Treasurers Training

December 12
Family Life/Sabbath
School Workshop

December 24
CCC Office Closed
for Christmas

January 8-11
Young Adult Retreat

January 22-24
Federation Leaders Training
& Cross-Trainers Retreat

January 25-27
Pastors Retreat

January 29-31
Womens Retreat

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



CONNECTING TO BUILD

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Relationships are the building blocks of any society, with the family being its foundation. We were created to make relationships, to be social individuals that interact and serve. This is first learned and practiced in the home and as we mature and move into society, we are to connect and build relationships with others.

In Genesis 2:18, we read, "...it is not good that the man should be alone." The Lord created Eve to complete the man, as a helper, as a partner, as a companion, an individual to connect with.

This is certainly true in business as well. If an organization does not connect relationally with its customers, it will soon go out of business. Church life is no different. Members who are intentional about making connections with one another soon create what some would call a "this sure is a friendly church!" environment.

In our recently rolled-out strategic plan, we have emphasized the power of connection. In particular, when discussing our strategic goals, we've used Legos as a metaphor to describe what we mean. If you think about it, a Lego brick was created with one purpose, to connect with another Lego brick in order to build something. Children play with Legos for hours, connecting and building. It's a powerful metaphor when you stop to think about the implications.



In this issue of the Recorder, you will find a copy of the CCC strategic plan, along with an article about how it came about. Look at the strategic goals section. You will find each goal explanation beginning with the words “to connect” or “to build.” This is quite intentional and is meant to drive home the point that our goals as a conference are about *Connecting to Build*.

Like Legos, we were created by God to connect with each other and to build up His church for the salvation of souls. Ellen White describes it this way: “Christ’s followers have been redeemed for service....He gives to every man his work. Each has a place in the eternal plan of heaven. Each is to work in cooperation with Christ for the salvation of souls.” COL 326

In this age of social media, the rule of the day is about making connections; through the Internet, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc. Just think of all the connections that occur at your office every day: people to people, people to customers, business to business, management to principles, and employees to vision, just to mention a few.

I have spent hours observing, at various times, each of my six grandchildren playing with Lego bricks. As grandparents, it has been one of the best investments to have a box full of Legos available at home for when the kids come to visit. There are literally endless possibilities of what you can do with a box of Legos. Six Lego bricks can be arranged in 915,103,765 different positions. That will definitely keep a child busy for many hours!

Imagine the endless possibilities when we, as children of God, are intentional about connecting in order to build God’s kingdom to hasten the Lord’s soon return.

One more observation. When a child plays with Legos, he or she always starts from the bottom. The more connections you make at the bottom, the stronger your foundation becomes and the higher you can build. This “bottom-up” approach is also a great model for implementing our strategic plan. The more relationships and connections we are able to make in our local churches, schools and communities, the stronger our foundation for building up the Kingdom. This also engenders unity, trust and strengthens the church.

With that in mind, I am excited to announce that our strategic plan is not a top-down imposition on our members, churches and schools. Rather, it’s a guiding document that is meant to inspire every individual to think intentionally and strategically about how to connect with others in order to impact their communities and their world for Christ.

Take a moment to visit our strategic plan website at ccc.adventist.org/StrategicPlan and begin praying about how the Lord is calling you to plug into His vision for us. I’m looking forward to the many inspiring stories that will surface as every one of us connects with God and each other!



Ramiro Cano

President, Central California Conference

CCC Mission Statement

“ Empowering every person to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and a center of influence for the kingdom of heaven. ”

CENTRAL ORDINATIONS SEND OUT LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST



NAOFUMI NOZAWA

Raised in Tokyo, Japan, Naofumi Nozawa never knew about Christianity. After years of searching for God and studying the Bible, he met a small group of Seventh-day Adventist Christians in Toronto, Canada. The last few pieces of the puzzle had been found and he made his decision to be baptized in 2007.

While colporteur in Toronto, he learned of the shortage of pastors in Japan. Thoughts of ministry entered his mind. Returning to the States, job hunting was hindered by his desire to keep the Sabbath. God surrounded him with people who guided him into full-time ministry.

Nozawa graduated from the seminary with a Master of Divinity degree from Andrews in December 2010. He currently serves as the senior pastor of the San Francisco and Mountain View Japanese Churches.

EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGNS

PROMOTE COMMUNITY IN FRESNO AND MODESTO AREA CHURCHES

By Jessica Maynez

Evangelistic campaigns are most often associated with their impact on community members that attend the meetings. However, pastors in the Fresno and Modesto areas found that each of their month-long campaigns had unique impacts on both members of the community and on their churches as a whole.

Fresno Central Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted a series entitled “Amazing Prophecies: Revelation Seminar,” presented by the North Pacific Union Conference evangelist, Jason Morgan. The series had an astounding average visitor population of 45% of the overall attendees. When the location changed from the Veterans Memorial Auditorium in downtown Fresno to the local church a week later, the visitors didn’t waiver. “Often times when you move to the church, you lose a lot of your people,” said associate pastor Gary Jensen. “But when we moved, we didn’t lose that many.”

The stable attendance was aided by the involvement and response of established members towards the visitors. “They were so excited; and it revitalized the whole church,” explained Jensen. “Truth has a convincing power in and of itself. No matter what background the person has, it really opens people’s eyes.” And indeed it did as nearly 30 baptisms took place, several being re-baptisms, and all of them positively impacting Fresno Central.

The mission to spread God’s truth through prophecy was also pursued by the pastors of six Modesto area churches. Associate conference evangelist and former Turlock church pastor, Antonio Cano played an integral part in casting the vision. Organizing one large evangelistic campaign, the pastors of Modesto Central, Modesto Parkwood, Ceres, Modesto Hispanic, Modesto Westside and Turlock Churches banded together in an unprecedented way for that area. With Cano’s reassignment to the Bay Area, the team invited Chad Kreuzer, director of Anchor Point Films, to present a series entitled “Archeology and Biblical Prophecy.”



The seminar had two themes per night for four weekends and took place in the Central Valley Christian Academy gymnasium, a schedule and location that proved to be beneficial for all churches involved. “It really [helped] in the realm of endurance,” said pastor Godfrey Miranda of Modesto Parkwood. “We [were] able to keep it going without anyone getting burned out.”

For pastor Bryan Del Valle of Modesto Central, the collaboration forced the pastors to shift their focus from individual church growth to kingdom and human growth. And when the Modesto pastors decided to preach at each other’s churches to support community, the impact it had on Del Valle’s members did not go

unnoticed. “I’ve seen a transformation in the way our church members feel about the other churches,” explains De Valle. “Now we’re being intentional about interacting with [them].”

Pastor Carlos Garcia of Modesto Hispanic agreed that the campaign had a community-building effect on the churches. The prayer efforts of his congregation for the success of the seminar, “really made them feel a part of the evangelistic effort,” Garcia said.

These two campaigns have demonstrated how effective community can be built through public evangelism, which ultimately impacts not only the individual, but the whole church, from pastor to visitor.

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HŌ'IKE

VISIONS OF PARADISE

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

PAGE 2 | Hawaii youth have been busy. The conference youth ministry team added two additional church districts. Also, volunteers have been working hard to upgrade Camp Waianae.

PAGE 3 | Did you know that God doesn't have grandchildren? That's right — each one of us is His own child. Also, do you wonder about some of the inner workings of the conference?

PAGE 4 | The Education Department has embraced the conference's 20/20 Vision to grow our churches and schools by 20 percent in the next five years. Schools are off to a good start.

TRAIN UP A CHILD

RALPH S. WATTS III

Recent studies by George Barna show “the probability of someone embracing Jesus as his or her Savior was 32 percent for those between the ages of 5 and 12, 4 percent for those in the 13 to 18 age range, and 6 percent for people 19 or older” (Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions — Why Children Should Be Your Church's #1 Priority p. 34). I think about that as I spend time visiting our schools and looking into the faces of all the precious children. How important it is for our children to learn about Jesus starting at an early age.

standing beside us as parents, pastors and teachers at the foot of the cross.

Academics are very important, and Adventist education should provide the highest standards for student achievement — as it has been doing. Recent statistical studies have shown that Adventist schools provide excel-

lent education regardless of the size of the school, the grade level, the subjects taught, or the region of the country in which the school exists. But unless we value the spiritual outcome as the highest priority, even above academics, we will drift from our true mission, a mission of redemption.

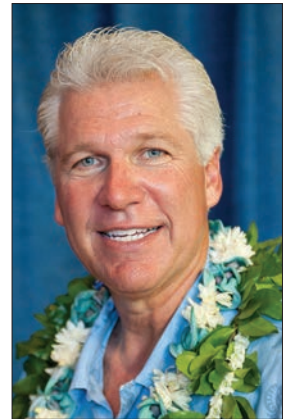
The Adventist education system was built on the principle of a partnership between the home, the church, and the school, thus giving that partnership a spiritual foundation. Values taught in the schools must align with the values held by the home and the church, thus providing a balanced partnership. But unless the three entities share the same core values, the partnership will be unstable. Adventist education is an evangelistic arm of the Adventist Church. It is evangelism. Our number one goal should be to see our children in a personal relationship with Jesus and to help them learn to share that relationship with others.”

It is no wonder we place such a high commitment on our children in Hawaii. We want to see each of them in Heaven.

Each One Reach One

With Warm Aloha,

Ralph S. Watts III



Adventist Malama Elementary students mug for the camera. Photos by Ralph Watts III.





YOUTH DEPARTMENT FOCUSES ON DISCIPLESHIP AND CAMP IMPROVEMENT

The conference volunteer youth ministry team has expanded from the Aiea church to two additional church districts — Kaila and Kaneohe. The team’s goal is to grow youth ministries at the local church while training future pastors through intentional mentorship from the local pastors and the conference youth director.

Our volunteers recently conducted a week of prayer at Ka Lama Iki where students learned about the fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control; Galatians 5:22-23) and how Jesus wants those fruits to be part of each of our lives. Many students made commitments to accept Christ as their personal Savior and requested Bible studies; 21 students requested baptism.

Following the Ka Lama Iki week of prayer, the youth ministry team began another at Hawaiian Mission Academy. We are grateful for this team and believe this program will expand to more churches.

Life has also been very busy at Camp Waianae. Dennis Anderson, camp manager, has been working hard to make the camp look amazing. He has filled numerous dumpsters during a major clean up. Trees and shrubs have been trimmed, landscaping continues, and many repairs have been made to the buildings.

Thirty-five Hawaiian Mission Academy dorm students came Columbus Day weekend and volunteered to help. They cleaned buildings, hauled brush, pulled weeds and began filling

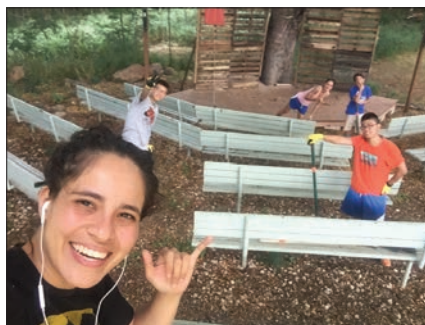
holes in the grassy field.

We are just beginning a long-term plan for camp

improvement and growth, and have much to share regarding future development and visioning. We encourage our Hawaii Conference family to partner with us to make Camp Waianae a beautiful place where young and old can come for mental, physical and spiritual refreshment as they grow closer to God through nature.



ERIK VANDENBURGH



God, the Original Parent

God doesn't have any grandchildren.
~ E. Stanley Jones



MADONNA TAUEU

As I tread the footsteps of the late Feryl Harris, I sense her impact and how much people loved and miss her. I read her correspondences regarding plans and concerns for Hawaii's children.

Feryl mentioned being grateful for time to expend her God-given energy for others, particularly for children. We laughed about the stamina required to keep up with little ones, and contemplated the attentiveness of God in all of His children's lives, including adults.

Whether we are childless, parents, or even grandparents, we are each considered the children of God. Why is this? I suppose it represents how close God wants to be with each of us, from conception to death. Anywhere along the continuum of life, God is our Father, and our Father wants to parent us as we grow-up.

In children's ministries, we do not serve only children, but also their parents and families. It takes a collective effort to point our children to the original Parent, Abba, our God.

We must keep in mind that even as we point our young ones to Him, we ourselves never outgrow being parented by Him as long as we choose to be His child.

Conference Potpourri

GERALD D. CHRISTMAN

Aloha, Hawaii Conference Ohana,

The Hawaii Conference Executive Committee addresses some agenda items that are similar to those of church boards and business meetings, such as approval of the previous meeting's minutes, a review of financial statements, financial planning and so forth. These agenda items may be routine, but are, nevertheless, important. This report will look at some additional actions voted at the Hawaii Conference's most recent Executive Committee meeting.

Re-issuing of Credentials and Licenses

Credentials and licenses are issued to full-time Hawaii Conference employees. Both credentials and licenses are issued for designated periods and they expire at the end of the calendar year when constituency meetings are held. Both credentials and licenses serve as ecclesiastical or conference endorsements; they are granted to pastors, teachers and other conference employees. Credentials or licenses authorize employees to serve in their designated ministries.

Executive Committee Size

A request was made at the last constituency meeting to re-evaluate and to potentially increase the size of the conference's Executive Committee. A comparative analysis of other North American Division conferences has, subsequently, been made. Executive Committee sizes in North America seem to mostly vary between 12 and 27 members. Many conferences with twice the membership of the Hawaii Conference have between 17 and 23 members. Conferences eight or more than 10 times larger than Hawaii's membership (such as Texas and Southeastern California) have 25 or 27 members on their committees.

The Hawaii Conference's bylaws presently stipulate the maximum size of the Executive Committee to be 20 members. Our conference is, without a doubt, small, with membership hovering around 6,000. It appears that our churches, compared with sister conferences, are well represented on the conference's



Executive Committee level. The Executive Committee, as a result, voted to recommend to the conference's Constitution and Bylaws Committee that the Executive Committee continue at its present size.

Financial Audit Review

Hawaii Conference finances are audited annually. The conference received an "Unqualified Opinion" in its latest annual audit. An "Unqualified Opinion" is the best or highest rating an institution can receive; it is given when auditors conclude that Financial Statements are reliable. It is sometimes called a "Clean Opinion," in that auditors believe that the presented Financial Statements give true and fair financial views without any significant reservations.

I believe it is appropriate to here recognize Treasurer Gary Johnson and Assistant Treasurer Bie An "Fong" Tija for their excellent management of conference funds. I solicit your prayers for Gary Johnson and his family as he, at the time of this writing, continues undergoing medical procedures in Portland, Ore., in his battle against cancer.

I close with a quote that challenges me: "Often our plans fail that God's plans for us may succeed" (Ellen G. White, *Ministry of Healing*, p. 473).



ADVENTIST EDUCATION EMBRACES 20/20 VISION

MIKI AKEO-NELSON

Following the 2015 quinquennial constituency session, President Ralph Watts III introduced his 20/20 Vision for the Hawaii Conference, challenging churches and schools to increase their membership/enrollment by 20 percent by the year 2020, all for the purpose of increasing souls for the kingdom.



Due to the hard work of principals, teachers, home and school associations and volunteers, as well as the continued dedication and sacrifice of parents, churches,

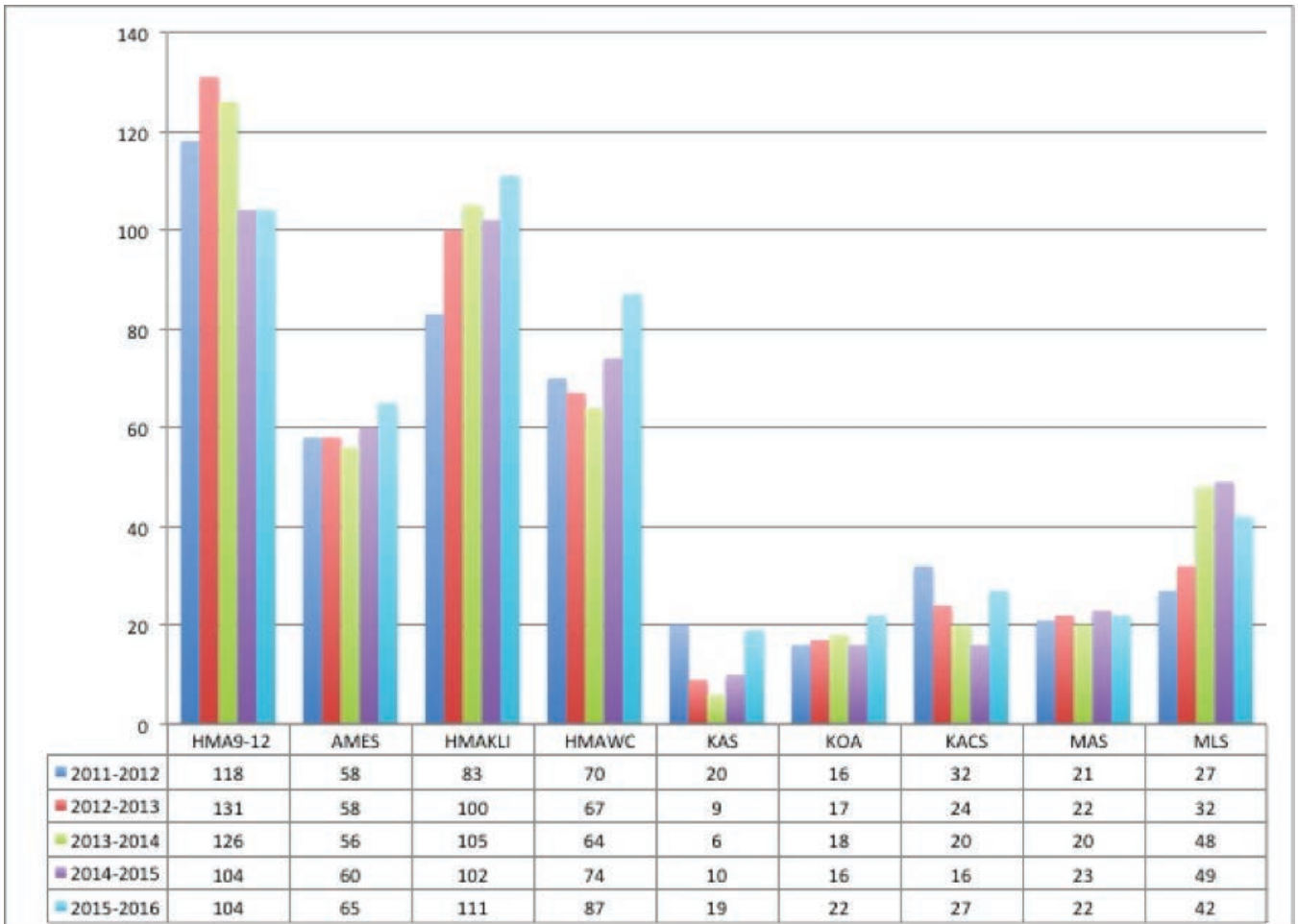
schools and the conference, Adventist education is well on its way toward reaching that goal.

At the opening report period for the 2015-2016 school year, Hawaii K-12 schools reported a 9.9 percent increase in enrollment, sys-

tem-wide. While some schools have seen additional increases since the reporting period, others remain stable. The conference schools are working hard to expand programs, as well as improve the methods by which we ensure student learning will continue.

If you know of anyone who wants to be a part of Adventist education, call your local church school to inquire how to make that happen.

For more information about the 20/20 Vision and how you can be a part of it, check out www.hawaiisda.com/#!/presidentblog/clenk.



KINGDOM MATTERS

Northern California Conference Newsletter



“...WONDERFUL COUNSELOR,
MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING
FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE”
(ISAIAH 9:6)

A Promise of **Peace** AND GOODWILL

One of the beautiful carols of Christmas is “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day.” It may not be one of the most familiar to you, but its message is one that I believe we need to recall and put into practice on a regular basis. The well-known poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, out of a very personal tragedy in his life, wrote the lyrics in 1863. His son, Charles, had joined the Union cause in the American Civil War, in spite of Henry’s objection. Upon learning the news that Charles had been severely wounded in battle in November of that year, and still grieving from the recent death of his wife in an accidental fire, Henry was weighed down with grief. When he heard the town’s bells, calling people to a celebration of the Christmas season, his feelings at first were overwhelming:

*And in despair I bowed my head;
“There is no peace on earth,” I said;
“For hate is strong, And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!”*

He had good reason to be in despair. Like many people, when tragedy struck it was a time to wrestle with God over the meaning of life. But in spite of the ache of his fatherly heart, he could not ignore what his faith had taught him, and what that faith was speaking to him

in his circumstances:

*Then pealed the bells more loud
and deep:*

*“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men.”*

The Christmas season is a special time of the year. It’s a time for wonderful music, beautiful decorations, delicious food, and the exchange of gifts. For many people the Christmas season is a time that brings up memories—both happy and painful. It’s a reminder that we still live in a world filled with numerous hurts and challenges—things that take a long time to heal. But the promise of old—long before Jesus was born in Bethlehem—was that the Messiah would be the Prince of Peace. “For a Child is born to us, a Son is given to us. The government will rest on His shoulders. And He will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6, *New Living Translation*).

It was a message that was repeated by the angelic choir announcing the birth of Jesus: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” (Luke 2:14, *New King James Version*). And it’s a message that bears repeating today—“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail, With peace on earth, good-will to men.”

Peace.

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

In this issue . . .

Honoring Heroes and
Encouraging Legacies



Turning Points: Healing
Hearts for Ministry



VOLUME 13
ISSUE 6
DECEMBER 2015





(Top) El Dorado Adventist School students shake hands with first responders after the Sept. 11 service.

(photos by Linda Grado)

(Below) Honored attendees salute the flag.

(Inset Right) California Assemblywoman Beth Gaines speaks during the ceremony.

(Inset Below) Sixth graders Jason Garecht and Tommy Rogers raise the flag.

(photos by Linda Grado)



Honoring Heroes and Encouraging LEGACIES

This summer NCC church members honored heroes—both well known and unsung—and encouraged young people to create worthy legacies of their own.

El Dorado Adventist School Remembers 9/11 and Honors First Responders

By Bonne Daggett

On Sept. 11, students and teachers at El Dorado Adventist School presented a program designed to honor the memory of those who lost their lives in 2001 and to show appreciation for the first responders who put their lives on the line every day they go to work.

This annual program is unique in the Placerville area. “EAS has provided the only continuous recognition in our community for public safety and the military since 9-11-01,” said George Nielsen, Chief of Police, (ret.), City of Placerville Police Department. “We greatly appreciate EAS and are so blessed to have this incredible school in our community.”

“EAS has provided the only continuous recognition in our community for public safety and the military since 9-11-01.”

Every year the school invites local police, California Highway Patrol, sheriffs, firefighters, the National Guard, and any former student recruits who are able to participate.

This year EAS graduate Chris Helms—who has been accepted into the Air Force Academy—lowered the flag at the end of the ceremony.

During the program this year, Camino church Pastor Craig Klatt invited the guests to surround the flagpole, as students and parents encircled them. Then Placerville church Youth Pastor Cameron Haley offered a prayer of thanks and blessing on the public servants. Principal Hector Alvarez closed the

program with a poem. “We had all the first responders and lots of flags. Everyone showed a lot of respect. It was really good,” said sixth graders Jason Garecht and Tommy Rogers.

EAS students then brought the cards, notes, and drawings they had made—plus trays of homemade cookies their mothers had prepared—to present to the first responders. Each student went along the line of men and women, shaking hands and thanking them personally. “It is an honor to invite our local community heroes who protect us and our liberty daily and thank them personally,” said junior Rachel Frenn. “Their acts of courage and selflessness inspire us and command our utmost respect and appreciation.”

“Community Servants Tribute” Draws Community Closer

By Kathy Nixon

The Yankee Hill and Concow community honored unsung, everyday heroes at a packed-house tribute service on Sunday, Sept. 20, in Yankee Hill’s restored Old School House. Hosted by the Golden Feather church and their community services, “Grandma’s Basement Donation Thrift Shoppe,” the event enjoyed enthusiastic support from area civic organizations. The honorees were five volunteers in the areas of fire

safety, public safety, elementary student support, and preservation of local history.

Besides honoring special people, the free event served to build bridges between the church, individuals, and civic organizations in the spread-out Northern Sierra foothills community. Butte County Treasurer Peggy Moak, Sheriff-Coroner Kory Honea, and the local Cal-Fire station crew were honored dignitaries.

“The event was well attended by a cross section of civic and community leaders and gave an opportunity for church members to recognize their service and to connect with them in a positive way,” said Golden Feather/Oroville district Pastor Larre Kostenko.

Planners partnered with local civic organizations by inviting them to nominate the honorees and to make the presentations. Each honoree received a certificate of appreciation, an inscribed book of Bible promises, and yellow roses—along with gift certificates donated by five area businesses.

During the program, Kostenko promoted religious liberty through his remarks highlighting The Gettysburg Address, and by providing free literature, including recent issues of *Liberty* magazine. Local historian Larry Mauch shared highlights of the area’s colorful history. Pastor Doug McMaster of Calvary Chapel - Concow led in the invocation. Music included patriotic selections, a rousing sing-along song, and an inspirational piece.

Both church and community members enjoyed the service—and the refreshments and fellowship afterward. “We heard many positive comments, including one of the county officials saying, ‘This was so much fun, and I enjoyed the singing together; it makes me want to go to church!’” said church member Patrice Kielhorn.

“And, of course, we invited her to join us any time,” said church member Alice McCall. “It’s like planting a seed; it can grow into a huge tree. You never know what that one meeting will grow into.”

Because of the positive impact of this service, Golden Feather church members are making their planning tools

available to other churches interested in hosting a similar event. Contact Kathy at harkathy@att.net.

Collegiate Summer Program Provides Fun and Promotes Spiritual Growth

This summer, the Lodi Fairmont church renewed their Collegiate Vespers Series with a fresh twist. They chose to hire a college-aged student to lead the program—Jordan Shelton-Greene, a Lodi Academy alumnus, who is a junior at Southwestern

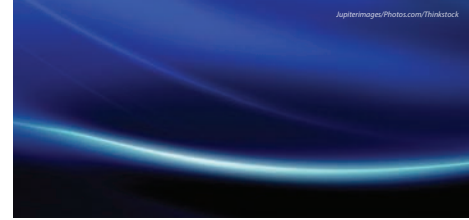
Adventist University. “We value young adults in our church family here at Fairmont,” said Senior Pastor Tracy Baerg. “We desired to have an ongoing ministry for collegiate, feeling it’s a priority for collegiate-age young people to have ownership in their own ministry.”

Under the guidance of Baerg and Associate Pastor Jesse Malin, Shelton-Greene led his fellow college students in a summer of fun and increased spiritual growth. During activities such as Friday night vespers, Sabbath School discussions, leisure trips, and home visits, the Fairmont collegiates explored what the Scriptures have to say about leaving a legacy, and how they were empowered by the Holy Spirit to shape their own legacies for the betterment of themselves, their families, and the world. On August 15—Collegiate Sabbath—the young adults led the church’s worship service.

The college-aged students enjoyed participating in activities with other Christians in the same phase of life. “It was good to be among peers,” said group member Randy Patterson.

Head Elder Ray Brown, a collegiate Sabbath school leader, believes the summer experiment was successful. “Our goal was to develop leadership for college students by college students,” he said. “Jordan showed a passion for God, for college students, and for having a legacy for the Lord.”

“We desired to have an ongoing ministry for collegiate, feeling it’s a priority for collegiate-age young people to have ownership in their own ministry.”



(Top) The honorees hold their roses (from left to right): Marji Corey, Brenda

Rightmyer, Dee Stewart, and Shelly White. (Florence Wilson was honored posthumously.)

(Above and Inset) The Old School House in Yankee Hill brings church and community together to honor volunteers.

(photos by Kathy Nixon)

(Below) Jordan Shelton-Greene speaks for Collegiate Sabbath at the Lodi Fairmont church. (photo by Tracy Baerg)



Bonne Daggett is the administrative assistant at El Dorado Adventist School. Kathy Nixon serves as the Golden Feather church’s communications secretary.

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Turning Points "HEALING HEARTS FOR MINISTRY" A CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN

Friday
3-9 p.m.

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Sabbath
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Cost: \$35

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Seventh-day Adventist
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Orangevale

*Friday night soup supper,
a light Sabbath breakfast
and a catered lunch
will be provided.*

Music by
Kelly Mowrer
& Jodi Dilger



Keynote Speaker

Sermon Title - "Unfinished Business"
Shantel M. Smith, a Toronto native, attended Tyndale University College and Seminary and completed her Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies. She then continued on to Andrews University and graduated with a Master of Divinity. She currently serves as the associate chaplain at Pacific Union College.

Seminar Presenters

Shirley Abell & Mary Jo Lauderdale - "Healing Grief—from Tragedy to Triumphant"
Kate Berry Edwards - "Be Still, In the Presence of God"
Taya Gyorkey - "For I Have Not Given You the Spirit of Fear: Becoming a Woman of Power"
Liz Pancoast - "Healthy Choices: Good, Better, Best—Living A Smart Life"
Aryonna Bella Waters - "The Child in Me"
Karen White - "From Ordinary to Extraordinary: Healed, Restored, Transformed and Equipped for God's Service"

Offering and Report for Congo Widows Mission Project

Nevada-Utah Views

Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
10475 Double R Boulevard, Reno NV 89521
Phone: 775-322-6929 • Fax: 775-322-9371



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

December 2015

Great news keeps flowing from the Nevada-Utah Conference!



Ed Keyes

by Ed Keyes
President, Nevada-Utah Conference

The Nevada-Utah Conference is an incredibly active conference for sure. The first weekend of September had several things happening at the same time. The

Lord rained down blessings on the Reno area with a regional convocation at the Sparks church.

Native American Camp Meeting

That same weekend, I was in Monument Valley for the annual Native American Camp Meeting. It was great to see people from several conferences and tribes, serving the Native American community, all come together to worship the Lord in this beautiful setting. Elder Charlie Whitehorse shared with me that it was the best attended Native American Camp Meeting ever. I had the privilege of speaking three times to the group that was gathered that weekend and it was exciting to see so many people make commitments to follow Jesus in a deeper and fuller way.

Pacific Union Presidents' Meetings and Union Executive Committee

The following week, I was at the Pacific Union office for presidents'



meetings and Union Executive Committee. I am truly thankful for this Union as it has helped fund many of our outreach projects in the NUC.

Prison Ministry Program

I flew from these meetings back to Reno where I preached and attended a wonderful Prison Ministry program planned out by our own Westney White. There were prison ministry leaders from all over the North Pacific and Pacific Unions and of course from our own conference. Great information and testimonies were shared and the blessing of the Lord attended this workshop in a powerful way.

NUC Pathfinder Camporee

The same weekend we were having the Prison Ministry gathering in Reno, our youth were together in Southern Utah for the NUC Pathfinder Camporee. Under the direction of Elder David

"...the blessing of the Lord attended this workshop in a powerful way."



(Above) The Prison Ministry program in Reno.

(Inset) The NUC Pathfinder Camporee.

**Continued
on the next page**

**Continued from
the previous page**

Solomon Hall, our young people gathered for a time of fun, fellowship, and worship. The reports I received of this weekend were tremendous. Our young people were happy to play and fellowship, but that's not all they did. They were challenged to a deeper commitment to our Lord and Savior Jesus through the preaching of Dr. Michael Stevenson, the new pastor of the Riverview church in Reno.

Wasatch Hills Evangelistic Series

After a week back in the Reno office, I headed for Salt Lake City to attend the opening weekend of the Wasatch Hills evangelistic series held by Pastor Adam Case and his team, with guest evangelist Richard Halversen. Over 70 visitors from the community attended. God truly blessed this series with 10 souls joining God's church by baptism and profession of faith.

Summit Christian Academy Week of Prayer

While I was in Salt Lake I spent a week at the Summit Christian Academy speaking for a week of prayer. I was truly blessed with this group of young people and dedicated staff. If you are reading this and living in the Salt Lake area, I want to encourage you to check out our school there. I was truly impressed with the leadership and spiritual commitment of the teachers and staff. I can say with all earnestness that I am grateful for Summit as it is fulfilling the mission of our Adventist education goals and aims. Thank you Cindy McCaw, Kate Schleenbaker, Sara Willard, Rith Dok, Thomas Roy and Pam Mertz for leading our youth closer to Christ and preparing them for future life.



Logan Church Dedication

That weekend pastor Ryan Hablitzel and his church in Logan had the grand opening dedication of the newly remodeled church in



Logan church members hold a smoothie bar and interact with community members at the dedication of their newly remodeled church.

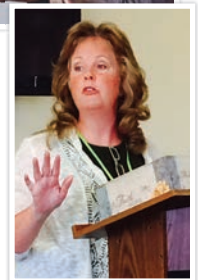
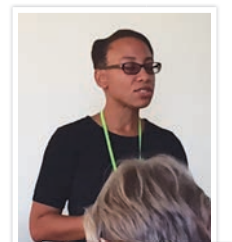
Logan and the Adventé project. On Friday night, they had 36 non-member visitors to their church from Utah State University. All I could say was "Wow!" What a great evangelistic endeavor this church is involved in. I spoke on Sabbath morning and in the evening, and also had fun participating in the smoothie bar for both breakfast and dinner. What a great way to meet people in the community. Thank you Pastor Ryan and Logan church family.

Pacific Union College Board/Retreat

The following week, I was at the Pacific Union College board meeting and retreat in Tucson, Arizona. I really appreciate the work of this committee and the leaders of the college for their hard work in trying to keep our school's focus on Jesus and making better citizens for the world we live in today and for the world to come.

NUC Women's Event

The following weekend women from all over the NUC gathered together in Reno to listen to powerful messages from guest speaker Connie Hall, and to worship our Savior together. My wife Lillian participated in this event and shared with me what a great meeting this was. She mentioned that there was a sweet spirit with all the leaders and participants at this special event. NUC Women's Ministry



Women's event guest speaker Connie Hall (above) and NUC women's ministry director Robyn Cordova (below)



(Above) The Wasatch Hill evangelistic series results in baptisms.

(Inset) NUC President Ed Keyes presents the week of prayer at Summit Christian Academy.

"I was truly impressed with the leadership and spiritual commitment of the teachers and staff."



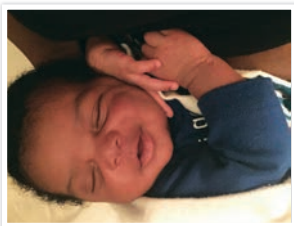
Director Robyn Cordova was honored with a gift of appreciation for her many years of service to the women of the conference.

Tala Ki Mamani Tongan Church Anniversary

That same weekend, I was back in Salt Lake for the anniversary service of the Tala Ki Mamani Tongan Church. Pastor Sheldon Bryan led out in a wonderful service with a lot of great music and testimonies about how the Lord has led this church thus far in its history. I had the great joy of speaking for the main church service, giving a simple challenge to keep doing the things that make their church the best place in their community for people to be.

Congratulations Sheldon and Terry Bryan!

I would also like to take a sentence or two to congratulate Pastor Sheldon and Terry Bryan on the birth of their son Micah Emmanuel Bryan, born October 12. My wife and I had the privilege of meeting this gift of God in his own home that week. God bless the Bryan family in a special way.



Micah Emmanuel Bryan

NUC Pastors' Meeting

That Monday we had a pastors' meeting at the Wasatch Hills church. I am grateful for the quality of pastors we have in this conference. The pastors shared what was happening in each of their districts and the goals they have for their districts. It is exciting to hear them share a willingness, in fact, a desire, to work together to build up the family of God. There is no rivalry in this group - just a great willingness to collaborate together for the work of God done in Utah.



(Left) Pastor Lola Moore speaks at the annual youth rally in Las Vegas. (Above) The Mountain View church shares stories of their recent baptisms.

Office Time

After the pastors' meeting I drove my old car back to Reno where I spent the week in the office, which I really needed to do. With the geographic challenge of the NUC, I need to be on the road so much that when I'm in the office it's a joy, partly because of the wonderful people I work with in our office.

Annual Youth Rally

The weekend of October 9-10 was the Annual Youth Rally in Las Vegas. Under the direction of Elder Hall, we had a great program. The testimonies were powerful and the worship was heartfelt. I had the joy of attending on Friday night and was truly blessed by Pastor Lola Moore's message.

Mountain View Church Baptisms

While I have visited the Mountain View Church for several different events, October 10 was the first time I preached there. I was more than blessed by the service which featured stories from a recent baptism in the area of 26 blessed souls. Pastor BJ Boles led out in this outreach and baptism service and shared testimonies of each of the candidates that joined the church. Pastor Peter Neri had two of those baptisms, one of those being an individual who could not walk and was carried into the lake to participate in the service. Pastors Angel Heredia, Melody Darrow, and Amos Mwero all took part in the baptism as well.

Riverview Adventist School Week of Prayer

The following week I got to be home and work in the office every day. I was also happy

“The testimonies were powerful and the worship was heartfelt.”

Continued on the next page

**Continued from
the previous page**

to be able to speak for a week of prayer at the Riverview Adventist School. Once again, I was greatly blessed by the students and staff of our school in Reno. Claritza Karry, Stacy Maxted, and Fanga Finau were great to work with and the students were very attentive to the messages I shared each day. That shows me that something great is happening there. Thank you to the staff of Riverview.

West Jordan Church

On October 17, I got to preach at the West Jordan church just outside of Salt Lake City. What a great church it is! They are working hard to bring people to the knowledge of the Truth. Pastor Martin Emslie and his church family have baptized several people in the last month as a result of reaching for their goals for kingdom growth.

Emslie 50th Anniversary Celebration

That evening, though, was a real highlight as I had the great joy of participating in the 50th anniversary celebration for Pastor Martin and Diane Emslie. It was great to hear the story of how this couple met, fell in love, and stayed in love all these years. The venue

was a beautiful indoor garden like none I've ever seen. The entire service, music, readings, poems, and scripture were all done by family members. Members from churches that the Emslie's have served in various places came to support them, including

a large group from Idaho. I thank the Lord for the privilege of meeting and getting to know Diane and Martin as they are truly "salt of the earth" people.

"I have spent a lot of time in our NUC schools the past two months and I can truly say we have nothing to fear for the future. God is blessing our system of education in the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

Las Vegas Junior Academy Week of Prayer

On October 19, I started another week of prayer with the Las Vegas Junior Academy. This is the

largest school in the NUC and I have been there for talent shows, graduations and other events, but I felt incredibly honored to be asked to speak there all week. Once again, I was greatly blessed with our team and students at LVJA. I have spent a lot of time in our NUC schools the past two months and I can truly say we have nothing to fear for the future. God is blessing our system of education in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Our staff at LVJA are truly doing the greatest form of evangelism by helping our young people stay focused on Jesus and His great mission. Thank you Leah Scott, Connie Wade, Sandra Depner Dacyl Galicia-Silveira, Merle Bradley, D'Mariae Banks, Dina Morataya, and Rowena Cruz.

Las Vegas Area Convocation

Finally, I finish with a great highlight - the Las Vegas Area Convocation. The weekend of October 24, the Lord attacked the devil on his ground in Las Vegas. Elder Oneil Madden with the support of all the pastors of the Las Vegas area churches worked together to put on an event that challenged our members to work to "Advance God's Kingdom" in this area. I was blessed to speak on advancing God's Kingdom to well over 1,000 members in attendance. The local youth pastors did a great job and Ben Roy "Science Guy" amazed the children. The evening concert with Robin Brown was followed by a social at the Las Vegas Junior Academy gym. Church members are already excited about the 2016 Convocation with guest speaker Dr. Carlton Byrd, senior pastor of the Oakwood University Church and the speaker/director of the Breath of Life ministry.

Continuing Our NUC Ministry

As you can see from reading this article, the Nevada-Utah Conference is an amazing entity for advancing God's Kingdom.

May God continue to pour out His blessing upon the NUC.

In the Master's Service, Ed Keyes



Diane and Martin Emslie (above) and with son-in-law Greg and daughter Tawnya Constantino (below).

CONFERENCE PRIORITIES

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

God's Faithfulness

In the midst of Lamentations we find amazing words. These words brought encouragement to a distressed people and in them is an expression of a basic biblical faith.

*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end;
They are new every morning;
Great is your faithfulness.*

Lamentations 3:22-23

In four short lines we read that God's love and mercy never end. They are new every morning. Throughout the day, reflections on these gifts bring us back to the LORD. *Great is your faithfulness!*

So every day we look for God's love and mercies. From my perspective, I see them daily. I see them as our conference seeks to serve and engage in our mission to expand the kingdom of God. God's faithfulness is evident each new day as we labor together in Southeastern California Conference.

I want to share with you how I experience God's faithfulness. Take a glimpse through my window; walk with me through one of my weeks. Through this journey we can see and experience God's great faithfulness impacting our churches, schools and homes; we can see our ministers and teachers inspiring others and members reaching out to those around them.

Monday, October 12

On Monday morning the conference staff gathered together to start the work week with worship. We experienced God's

faithfulness, as we joined in singing, praying and listening to Dan Smith, senior pastor at Garden Grove church. Smith reminded us that the story about Peter's dream shows how God moves. God changes peoples hearts and He works through our members. It is here that we see the steadfast love of God at work.

Later that morning, I attended an SECC teacher in-service day at Loma Linda Academy. I had the opportunity to speak to our incredible teachers, principals and business managers. These amazing educators pour themselves into the lives of our 4,559 students. With a passion for sharing and modeling an integrated life of following Jesus, they provide a glimpse of the greatness of God.

That afternoon was the San Bernardino area pastors meeting at Valley Fellowship church. This was the third in a series of area pastors meetings around our territory that took place over two weeks. It was good to have face-to-face time with our pastors in a nicely remodeled sanctuary. Reports, discussion on outreach and evangelism opportunities, and information



Sandra Roberts speaks during pastors meeting to her colleagues in ministry.

on policies and procedures were part of the meeting. Spending time with our pastors showed me that God's steadfast love is found in our dedicated team who serve our churches.

Tuesday, October 13

The next morning I flew to Chicago to attend an advisory committee for the 2019 Oshkosh camporee. At the office, Jonathan Park, executive secretary, and Verlon Strauss, treasurer, led out in the weekly officer and administrative committees. During these meetings we share with those around the table and reflect on the ways God's faithfulness can be seen within the periscopes of our work. God is good!

Wednesday, October 14

While I attended the meeting in

**Continued
on page 3**





(Left) Jamie Grace, recording artist, performs on Saturday night to conclude the conference. (Right) Participants read the devotional book, "The Queen in Me," given to them during a break.



Girl Empowerment Conference at San Bernardino 16th Street Church

The San Bernardino 16th Street church recognized a huge need in their community. Over half of the residents of the city of San Bernardino receive some form of government assistance. In addition, the city is plagued with problems of human trafficking and exploitation of minors.

To combat this growing threat, the church hosted a two-day event to educate and empower girls who face the risk of falling victim to this kind of abuse. According to Andrea King, senior pastor of the church, "groomers" pepper the city and have even been spotted near or on church property.

Groomers are predators who target vulnerable minors with the intention to coerce and manipulate them to engage them in sexual activity with others. They pose a threat particularly to young girls who may have low self-esteem or are isolated from others.

"A pimp is not what most people think. Sometimes it can be a 19-year-

old boy wearing a polo shirt," said King, illustrating the need to educate girls and empower them to fend off these threats.

To get the word out for this event, the church utilized all available means. Posters were put up on light posts and public bulletin boards. Members passed out flyers around the community and other communities were contacted, including other churches, businesses, the YMCA, community centers and public schools.

There were plenty of volunteers for the event, nearly half who were not Adventist. A majority of girls were of elementary and middle school age, but there were also a lot of high school girls who attended.

The conference included activities, videos, projects and music, while speakers shared lessons on life, love, self-esteem and self-image. Breakout sessions included topics on beauty, ways to deal with parental pressure, how to overcome negative circumstances and how to deal with sexual pressure.

The seminars were conducted by King and

other guests, including Rachel's House, a non-profit housing center designed for women who have fallen victim to human trafficking. Alicia Jones, assistant pastor for outreach of the Riverside church in Nashville, Tenn., also spoke during the event, and led some of the breakout sessions.

To cap off the conference, gospel recording artist Jamie Grace performed for the attendees. Her song, "A Little Bit of Lovely," was the theme of the conference, and those in attendance had a chance to greet and meet her after the concert.

Although the event only lasted two days, it will continue to reap benefits. King and other presenters prepared a 40-day devotional for girls to take with them. In addition, San Bernardino 16th Street church will launch a mentoring program for girls who may have already experienced trauma or sexual abuse, or any other number of challenges. In addition, one of the volunteers was so moved during her three-week training that she wished to be baptized.

Church members are eager to support their young girls through this mentoring program. Many of the members wished this kind of program had been available to them during their own youth, which may have led them down different paths. With the upcoming mentoring program, girls will have the opportunity to be comfortable with their identity, destiny and divine design.

By Mario A. Munoz



(Left) Andrea King, senior pastor of San Bernardino 16th Street church, speaks to the girls attending the empowerment conference. (Above) Sarai Howard, one of the many girls attending the conference, shows her "Who Am I" portrait.

Continued from page 1 Chicago, others in the office held orientation for our new employees. During this time we talk, encourage and share how they can participate in the mission of our church no matter what their position or role may be. It's a time to motivate our new employees and to thank them for serving our communities.

Also that week some in the office interviewed pastors as to their ordination readiness. These pastors will be recommended to SECC's Executive Committee and then on to Pacific Union Executive Committee for approval for ordination. We see God's faithfulness in the work He does through our pastors!

Thursday, October 15

Officers began the day by interviewing candidates for an associate treasurer at the conference office. We then drove to Riverside Spanish church for an afternoon meeting with pastors from the Riverside area. This church has a recently remodeled sanctuary which is an inviting space for worship. This meeting concluded our area pastors meetings for the fall. It is always inspiring to meet with these called men and women of God!

Friday, October 16

The conference office is closed on Fridays, but it is a day when I can return phone calls, respond to letters and catch up. As the days closes, I am always ready to welcome in the Sabbath day with others and went to speak for vespers at the Loma Linda University Mobile



During their recent excursion to the Callexico Mission School the conference administrators enjoy kids having a few minutes of fun during class periods.

their teachers and parents is affirming and a testimony of the faithfulness of God.

Home Estates. What a delightful group of people to worship with. What assurance of God's faithfulness.

Sabbath, October 17

On Sabbath, conference officers met at Los Alamitos company for a high day of worship as we organized the congregation into a church. It was an inspiring morning as we recognized how God has been faithful in their midst and how effective they have been in an engaged mission-driven ministry.

After a delicious potluck lunch, several of us drove to the San Diego South Bay church to celebrate and to ordain Darren Carrington, their local pastor. We were privileged to affirm God's work in and through his ministry.

Sunday, October 18

Although there were no formal meetings on this day, many of the conference staff, including myself, found our way to one of the numerous SECC school fall fairs. I was successful in avoiding the "dunk tank" that serves as a school fundraiser. To be with students,

Monday, October 19

As a new work week began, many of us left early in the morning to drive to Callexico Mission School for a board meeting and a campus visit. What an inspiring day we had as we observed an active campus where many of the nearly 400 non-Adventist students come across the border from Mexicali every day to take advantage of Adventist education. Thank you to all of our teachers, staff and school administrators for their faithful ministry.

Now a new week begins. This is what I do. This is what we do here at the conference office. Each new week will be different from the previous week but we clearly see God's faithful love and steadfast mercies. I see it in the expression of the lives and ministries of His people. God is faithful every day. God is at work every day. We celebrate God's unending faithfulness throughout our conference.

By Sandra Roberts, SECC President



(Left) Current and former pastors of the Los Alamitos company celebrate with the church their transition from a group to a company. (Above) Darren Carrington, pastor of San Diego South Bay church, shares his passion for ministry and his gratefulness to God's guidance in his life.



(Above) During lunchtime attendees enjoy eating and fellowshiping together. (Right) Worship leaders set the tone at the beginning of the day at the Gear Up conference put on by the conference youth department.



Gear Up Training at Conference Office

On Sunday, November 8, the youth department of the Southeastern California Conference hosted a special training at the conference office to empower youth leaders from local churches. This conference, also known as Gear Up, was prepared to help youth leaders with the mission to help youth become representatives of Christ across the conference territory. This year's training conference focused on discipleship and the theme for it was Connect.

Youth leaders that participated in Gear Up had the opportunity to attend several workshops and seminars designed to better equip them to serve youth, churches and their local communities. The conference youth department utilizes Gear Up conferences as their main method of training leaders for children and youth ministries. It is also a place where the staff can share resources and ministry tools with youth leaders.

To ensure that resources are available

to church members, the youth department reworked and updated their resource library. Books, articles and videos are now available on Kindle devices and can also be accessed online. It is now possible to check out materials and have them mailed to the local church leaders. These changes came from an expressed need for more support and tools to do ministry at the local church. Besides sharing with attendees about these new changes, the youth ministry team shared valuable information on how to create unique worship services aimed at children, how to plan youth activities throughout the year, and other general information about current trends in these ministries.

"Another resource that was released at Gear Up was a series of online training videos. They are available to youth leaders and pastors in our conference. This year, we also added a special religious liberty track, which shared how youth leaders can connect with local politicians and

community leaders, as well as how they can integrate ministry in their local communities. The seminars were geared towards helping leaders find tangible ways to help grow youth in

their faith," said Eric Penick, an associate youth director for the conference.

Various speakers with diverse backgrounds led out during the workshops and breakout sessions. Some attendees felt that the information was not only applicable to youth ministries but to them individually as well. "The session Making the Bible More Real by Pastor Jeff Harper from the Fallbrook church helped me, an adult, and I will use it for other adults," said attendee M. Nica McNeil. Another vital area addressed was why youth tend to leave the church. The workshop *Sticky Faith*, an initiative run by the Fuller Youth Institute, was valuable because, according to Dominick and Lorissa Tino, it provided "information from an actual research study done on Christian youth and equipped us with the tools to improve our Sabbath School class and Pathfinder club."

The general feedback after the training was positive, with attendees emphasizing how Gear Up was refreshing and informative, and how much they appreciate the resources and strategies provided by conference youth department. "Gear Up was like getting a drink of water in a dry desert," said attendee Alyce Britton. "I am energized and encouraged by the fellowship with others who are so committed and talented to work with our youth."

By Natalie Romero



Attendees of the Gear Up conference start the day with worship.

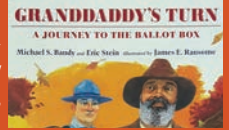
SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
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 SANDRA ROBERTS, PRESIDENT • JONATHAN PARK, SECRETARY • VERLON STRAUSS, TREASURER
 CONFERENCE PRIORITIES • ENNO MÜLLER, EDITOR

DECEMBER 2015

KEEPING *intouch*

IN THIS ISSUE

"Granddaddy's Turn" Winning Acclaim for Local Member



South Bay Junior Academy Plant Sustainable Garden



Evangelism



Velino A. Salazar
President

YOUNG ADULTS

Are Now On Board!

It's probably Ellen White's best-known statement about young people, and it's an unforgettable image for anyone who works with youth and young adults:

With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world! (Education, p. 271).

To that end, a vitally important vote was taken on October 20, 2015: the SCC Executive Committee voted to reinstate the Young Adult Ministries Department that our conference had 20 years ago. This decision was made after receiving a report from the Youth and Young Adult Ad Hoc Committee, which was appointed to address the concern for youth and young adults presented by delegates at our May Constituency Session. The delegates voted to "revamp and reorganize the Youth and Young Adult Ministries and to make our young adults a priority in our conference."

One month after the Session, the SCC Executive Committee appointed a

15-member committee to address and study this matter, and present their recommendations to the executive committee. This committee was established with representation from each region, as well as from the conference executive committee.

The Y/YA Ad Hoc Committee met several times; praying, reviewing and revisiting the past and current status of this ministry. They felt called to envision the bright, promising future for SCC young adults. Initially, a survey of 17 questions for youth and young adults was developed and sent via social media. To incentivize participation, the Ad Hoc Committee offered three mini iPads to be raffled among the participants. Congratulations to the winners! Anh Truong, El Monte

Vietnamese; Eli Ramon, Hacienda Heights; Jasmine Foster, Tamarind Ave.

The work of the Ad Hoc Y/YA Committee resulted in two proposals:

Proposal A – Two Separate Departments: keeping the Youth Department and reinstating the department of Young Adult Ministries, having a director for each.

Proposal B – One Department with Multiple Ministries: expanding the current Youth Department by adding the Young Adult Ministries responsibilities and having just one director.

A report from the Ad Hoc Committee favoring Proposal A was presented to the conference Budget and Finance Committee one week before the Executive Committee meeting. The report highlighted the importance of young adults and encouraged the the Budget and Finance Committee to seriously consider funding for this new department as the 2016 Budget is prepared.

The Executive Committee voted in

Cont. on page 3

Y/YA Ad Hoc Committee:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Aarleene Chow | Javier Casas |
| Diana Escobar | Karen Towns |
| Ed Sammons | Michael Jenkins, chair |
| Greg Sewell | Sherilyn Flowers |
| Gus Ramos | Velino Salazar |
| Iki Taimi | Vinh Nguyen |

In Transition

(Voted Aug. 13, 27; Sept. 10, 22, 2015)

New Employees

(Voted 8/13/15)

Lois N. DeWitt

Teaching Principal, Linda Vista Elementary School, as of 7/1/15.

Rodney Balmes

Assoc. Pastor, Central Filipino church, as of 9/1/15.

Changes within the Conference

(Voted 8/13/15)

Richard Roethler

Pastor, Santa Clarita church, as of 8/8/15.

(Voted 8/27/15)

Christopher Famisaran

From Pastor, El Monte English Church, to Pastor, El Monte English church/Assoc. Pastor, Temple City Church, as of Sept. 1, 2015.

(Voted 9/10/15)

Lawrence S. Dorsey

From Pastor, Delaware Ave. church, to Pastor, Delaware Ave./University churches, as of Jan. 2, 2016.

(Voted 10/22/15)

Saul Aispuro

From Pastor, La Voz-Sylmar Span./Eastmont Span. churches, to Pastor, Lynwood Span./South Gate Span. churches, as of Nov. 16, 2015.

Javier Caceres

From Pastor, Canoga Park Span./Shalom Span. churches, to Pastor, El Sereno Span./EastMont Span. churches, as of Feb. 1, 2016.

Pablo Gaitan

From Pastor, Lynwood Span./South Gate Span. churches, to Pastor, La Voz-Sylmar/Lancaster Span. churches, as of Nov. 1, 2015.

Javier Huerta

From Pastor, El Sereno/Silver Lake Span. churches, to Pastor, Canoga Park Span./Shalom Span. churches, as of Nov. 1, 2015.

Luis Liñan-Olvera

From Pastor, West Hollywood Span. Church, to Pastor, West Hollywood Span./Silver Lake Span. churches, as of Dec. 1, 2015.

Ordinations

Carlos Granados

Aug. 29, 2015

Yonny Jimenez

Aug. 1, 2015

Albert Peterson

Aug. 15, 2015

Retiring

Myriam Salcedo-Gonzalez

As of Nov. 1, 2015

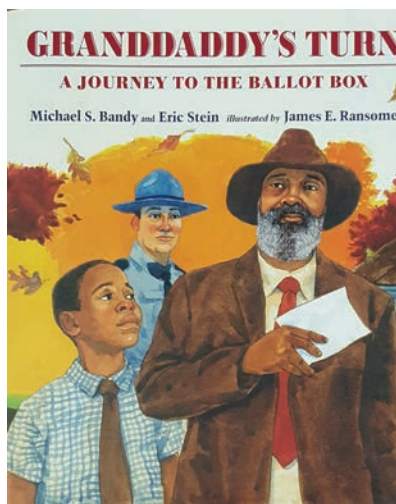
“Granddaddy’s Turn”

WINNING ACCLAIM FOR LOCAL MEMBER

Michael Bandy, a member of the Glendale City church, is keeping his day job in Hollywood, but he is continuing to receive a string of accolades and awards for his co-authoring of two books for children and young people—“White Water” and “Granddaddy’s Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box;” and the “White Water” film. Both the books and film center on kid- and family-friendly stories that look back at segregation in ways that children and young people can readily understand.

The “White Water” film has been shown at numerous film festivals, garnering warm responses and reviews, including the Pan African, Selma, Chicago Black Film festivals, and the Cleveland Urban and Montreal film festivals. It was the highest rated TV movie for TVOne cable and satellite channel. It was also nominated “Best TV Movie” by Cablefax Magazine and received numerous other recognitions as well.

“Granddaddy’s Turn, A Journey to the Ballot Box,” by Michael S. Bandy and Eric Stein, is the second book by Michael Bandy that has drawn significant public attention and awards because of its subject matter. The book is a fictionalized account about the struggle for voting rights in the civil rights-era South through the true-life story of a boy and his grandfather and is beautifully illustrated by James E. Ransome. This moving story focuses a spotlight on a difficult facet of U.S. history with grace and poignance. Bandy has a gift for writing about difficult topics in ways that reveal facts



with personal warmth, conveying the humanity of each character.

“Granddaddy’s Turn” is told from a young boy’s perspective, as he accompanies his grandfather to the polls the first time he is permitted by law to vote. What happens at the polls that day and years later form the basis of a story reminding readers of

the importance of having a vote—and of using it, whenever possible.

This book has received rave reviews by numerous prestigious reviewers, including the New York Times. “Granddaddy’s Turn” and “White Water” are available at Amazon.com.

favor of Proposal A, including a request to the conference administration to bring an action plan for the implementation of this new department no later than the first quarter of 2016. This action plan is to include funding, job description and staffing (recruiting, interviewing and selecting personnel for the new department).

One of the challenges discussed by the Executive Committee members in October, and later by the conference officers in regard to this initiative, was the fact that the conference currently has limited financial resources.

However, putting our full trust in the Lord first and foremost, and showing our care and love for our own young adults and the generation behind them,

we are moving forward in faith with the assurance that “the Lord will provide.”

Conference leadership and the Executive Committee are determined to put our sons and daughters at the top of our priority list. Why? Because we want them to be saved! They face temptation and peer pressure on a daily basis. Their faith is being challenged; their principles tested.

We need to reinforce what we have taught them at home and at school when they were growing up, to show them we are listening and that we care! We need to empower them to lead the church with us in these days of upheaval in our world.

We cannot keep taking the risk that more of our young adults will leave

the church. We must work together in providing a safe, secure place for them to worship, to share the gospel and nurture their own personal relationships with Jesus Christ.

If we truly believe we are living in the last days of earth’s history, let’s equip and empower our youth and young adults to become that “army of workers, rightly trained,” so that the message of a soon-coming Savior will be carried to every corner of our conference and our world!

I invite you to earnestly pray for this initiative for our young adults! Soon and very soon, my dear brothers and sisters, we are going to see the King!

Velino A. Salazar
President

SOUTH BAY JUNIOR ACADEMY *Plant Sustainable Garden*

On Oct. 24, the South Bay Junior Academy (SBJA) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new Sustainable Garden. Torrance Mayor Pro Tem Geoff Rizzo was a featured speaker for the event.

The multi-use sustainable vegetable and fruit garden recycles water, using Oase technology vertical tower-gardening techniques and an aeroponic garden system powered with solar and/or electric energy. It reportedly is simple to set up and saves more than 90% of the water required by a traditional garden.

According to Susan Vlach, SBJA’s principal, the area of the garden is 2,736 sq. ft. and has already supplied the school lunch program with produce from the first harvest.

“We have many amazing volunteers who are working together,” said Vlach, “and are teaching our students the



(l. to r.) Torrance Mayor Pro Tem Geoff Rizzo, School Board Chair Janet Barnbill, SBJA Principal Susan Vlach, EnviroscapE L.A. owner Mike Garcia cut the ribbon to officially open the sustainable garden. Photo by Quiet Ncube

for the students, families, faculty, church members and the community, to inspire and encourage others to utilize water-saving methods in their own homes and grow healthy foods in their own backyards.”

The project was supported by donations and in-kind gifts from a half dozen local businesses, the Metropolitan Water District and with funding obtained by the Mayor’s office.

benefits of fresh food growing in a sustainable way. Eventually our students will be helping with the upkeep. The Rolling Hills church Pathfinders will earn an honor by planting some of the trees.

A stated purpose of the Sustainable Garden project is to “Serve as a demonstration garden

(l. to r.) SBJA teachers Aubrey Scarbrough, Allison Sleeman, and Kirsten Born participate in the first planting of the vertical tower. Photo by Quiet Ncube



SCC EVANGELISM



*Samuel Lee,
Director*

Asian Pacific Region

The **L. A. Tongan church** held evangelistic meetings for two weeks, Nov. 8-21, nightly except Fridays. Elder Sonatane Vunileva was the speaker for parents and other adults wanting to hear the message in their own Tongan language. Simultaneously, Pastor Douglas Na'a conducted an evangelistic meeting in English for those youth and young

adult island folks who speak English.

Trinity Filipino Company held its second 2015 evangelistic seminar Nov. 22-28. Following each series, attendees were invited to participate in small groups and attend church for further fellowship in God's Word. Elder Wilbert Diel is the pastor.

The **L.A. Central Korean church** held a Bible Prophecy evangelistic series Oct. 24-31 in a public meeting room in a central area of Korea Town.

About 60 non-Adventists attended, and about 20 out of the 60 attended Sabbath morning worship at the end of the series. The church is excited that so many non-Adventists responded. Elder Do-Pyo Hong is the pastor; Elder In-Jong Moon is the associate pastor of the church.

L. A. Metro Region

The **Hacienda Heights church** is involved in ongoing "Missional Church Training" so members will be more mission-minded in everything they do. The training includes health, felt needs, CREATION Health, nutrition cooking classes and GLOW ministry. Elder Brett Poynter is the pastor.

At the **Norwalk church**, the youth led out in a CREATION Health series.

West Covina Hills church is involved with GLOW and Cross-Training with the SCC Literature Evangelism Dept. The church plans a community evangelism series in Feb., 2016.



*Gerard Kiemeney
Director*



*Luis Peña
Director*

Hispanic Region

During November, 2015 about 20 Hispanic churches were involved in public evangelism.

On October 24, 2015, the Lay School of Evangelism held its first graduation. Some 58 students graduated, after completing eight intensive classes on how to become a Bible Instructor. Professor Ricardo Norton, Andrews University, awarded completion certificates.

For Jan. 20-23, 15 Hispanic churches have signed up to

participate in a harvest evangelism effort. These events will be coordinated by the Pacific Union and El Centinela (Pacific Press), and hosted by the SCC Hispanic Region. Most of the guest speakers will be Hispanic directors from different fields in the NAD.

Literature Evangelism – On Oct. 31 for "GLOW in the Dark," 1,085 youth and young adults got involved in handing out GLOW tracts appropriate for Hallowe'en: "War in Heaven," "Myths about Hell" and "Can Dead People Talk?" In less than two hours, at least 56,000 tracts were distributed in SCC neighborhoods, which more than doubled the 25,000 handed out in 2014.

*Heidi Carpenter, director
David Fernandez,
assistant director*



West Region

The **Mojave church** held a one-day, "Effective Prayer" meeting that resulted in three Bible studies, with two more people considering studies. On Wednesdays, the church also has a "Brown Bag Ministry," in which members buy Dollar Tree Store items for children and hand them out to about 15 children in the community.

On Oct. 31, the church held an All Night Prayer service, which one community resident attended. The church wanted to be a light in the neighborhood, especially because it was Halloween night. George Husband is the pastor.

The **Simi Valley church** hosted a weekly small-group outreach using the "Thunder in the Holy Land," which had three non-members attending the series. The church also hosted a weekly Healthy Living and Cooking School outreach from Sept. 15 – Nov. 17. About 50 people attended each week, most of them non-Adventists. "We are cultivating the interests and making friends," said Pastors Phil and Jan White.

The **Lancaster church** uses monthly programming to encourage church members to be evangelistic and seasonal themes are utilized for evangelistic opportunity.

Through evangelistic appeals and commitment when Kidz Church is held twice a month, and ongoing outreach through Community Services and Adventurers and Pathfinders, members are having excellent opportunities for relationship building and evangelism with non-member families. Elder Ed Sammons is the pastor.



*Greg Hoenes
Director*