

PACIFIC UNION

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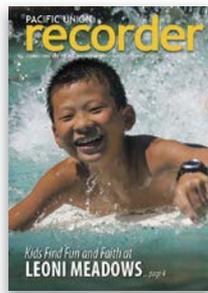
CONNECTING THE PACIFIC UNION ADVENTIST FAMILY >> APRIL 2015



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about the cover

Base Camp at Leoni Meadows gives kids the chance to try many activities — including the camp pool.

PHOTO BY ERIC HENTON



PACIFIC UNION recorder

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Signs, Signs, Everywhere Signs

As I was driving down a street a while back, I saw a sign on a telephone pole. It was bright yellow, and from a distance it looked like it was 11 X 8.5 inches in size. The big black block letters simply read "TURN TO JESUS." It registered on my mind as I drove past. Then, a few blocks further, I saw above a convenience store, a very large commercial billboard saying, "JESUS LOVES YOU."

I wondered if they were placed by the same organization. There weren't any words taking credit for either one of them. I am not sure what motivated whomever to place them, but I noticed them both, and thought about them during the day.

It is our daily joy to turn our hearts and our hurts over to Jesus. Sharing with Him in our prayerful meditation time and the study of His Word. Of course, Jesus continues in His search and rescue mission, as expressed in Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

He asks His disciples to continue the work on earth for Him, seeking souls so that He can let them know of His great work for them done on Calvary's cross and in the heavenly sanctuary. "To Seek and To Save" — that is the crux of His mission and ours as individuals and organizations, as people who say we love Jesus and are experiencing His empowerment daily. In the words of the Helen H. Lemmel song,

*O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free!*

Refrain:

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.*

The weary, troubled soul can turn to Jesus and find that the things of this earth — power, popularity, position, possessions and more — grow dim in comparison to His unmatched charms.

Of course, the Savoir knew this. Maybe that's why he promised: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself" (John 12:32, NIV). (He didn't say if, He said when — it is an actuality).

The second sign reminded me of something we all know, but don't always think about or dwell upon — the fact that Jesus loves all of humanity, and His love is so intense that He couldn't even think about leaving us lost and alone. He came to pay for our redemption with His

own blood! Remember, He is called "the lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8).

We turn to Jesus to experience the fact that He loves us. The old children's song has it right: "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

We turn to Jesus because "He restored the whole race of men to favor with God. No sin can be committed by man for which satisfaction has not been met on Calvary. Thus the cross, in earnest appeals, continually proffers to the sinner a thorough expiation" (EG White, *Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 343).

The cross is the greatest sign of God's love for the world. See John 3:16.

Not only that, he has given us access to His own treasure house of power, giving us, through grace, the ability we don't naturally have — to resist sin. Amazing, simply amazing.

While some accept Jesus as Savior, they forget that He is also Lord. He is also King of Kings, and has all authority to command obedience from love. "If you love me, keep my commandments," He says. Jesus saves from sin and has authority to command our victory over sin.

The prophet wrote: "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth" (Isaiah 53:4-7, KJV).

Because He suffered, bled, died and arose as our sacrifice, one day, He will come again and "every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord" (Philippians 2:10).

Maybe the biggest sign our neighbors, friends and family will see is our lives, changed by the indwelling of Christ's Spirit in our minds, living out His values in us daily. Jesus can make us like Himself. What a wonderful sign that is to behold!

Ricardo Graham



Kids Find Fun and Faith at Leoni Meadows

Summer camp season is just around the corner. This year's camp theme at Leoni Meadows is "In the Light," based on John 8:12: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Each year, the carefully selected staff at Leoni Meadows plays, laughs and worships with hundreds of campers. "Our staff members for this summer have been chosen because they know how to have fun, stay safe and share Jesus," said executive director Craig Heinrich. "I am looking forward to a great summer of seeing kids' lives touched and changed through camp ministry."

Some camps are offered for several weeks, while others take place only during one week. Please visit www.leonimeadows.org to find the complete schedule, camper requirements, and registration information.

Kids' Camps

Base Camps – Drive a go-kart. Test your skills 38 feet up in our high ropes course. Ride a horse. Paddle a canoe. Fly down the zip line. Swim in the pool or pond. Scramble up a climbing wall. Create a ceramic masterpiece. At Base Camp, you'll live in cabins and get to try some of everything. Plus, you can sign up for two

classes of your choice, with great options like digital photography, challenge course, archery and biking.

Cowboy Camp – Saddle up. Sleep in a covered wagon. Ride, ride, ride. Care for your own horse. Connect with the God who created the whole outdoors. Pack up on an over-nighter and sleep under the stars. Cowgirls can come any week, or choose our "girls only" week.

Wrangler in Training – Work hard. Play hard. Bunk in a wagon at Cowboy Camp. If you know how to ride and handle horses, and want to learn how to share Jesus with kids while having more fun than you can imagine, give us a try. To apply, fill out and return the camper application form by May 15. We'll interview you by phone or in person and let you know if you're accepted into this special program (ages 15-17, limit 8).

PHOTOS BY ERIC CHENTON



Summer can't get much better than tubing at aquatics camp.

woods all week. Build your own shelter. Test your daring on our Staple Climb. Backpack. Play in stretches of Dogtown Creek that everyone else misses. See nature as God created it.

Indian Camp – Live in a teepee. Throw a tomahawk. Walk silently through the woods. Shoot an arrow. Hide unseen in the woods although you're in plain sight. Create your own Indian gear from leather. Learn more about the Great Spirit.

Wilderness Camp – Camp out in the

Aquatics Camp – Wakeboard. Sleep under the stars. Ski. Catch rays on the beach. Tube,



Each year kids make decisions to follow Christ, and some choose to be baptized at Leoni Meadows.



Friendships are part of the camp experience.

kneeboard, and grow in the knowledge of God's grace. Join us for a week (or more) of great fun in the sun.

Cross Country Running Camp – Sleep in a cabin, spend time each morning honing your endurance as you learn the inside scoop on cross country running, and enjoy our awesome camp activities in the afternoon. CIF award-winning XC coach Paul Turk will have you churning out record times before the week is over.

Basketball Camp – Dribble. Shoot. Play as a team. Pass. Block. Rebound. Live in cabins at Base Camp and join all the great evening campfires. With just 16 in this camp, you won't be sitting on a bench. This year all-star coach Bob Paulson from Pacific Union College will be putting you through your paces.

Backpacking Trip – Come explore the El Dorado National Forest with the Leoni staff! See amazing waterfalls, lakes and streams, as we explore the incredible gift of nature that God has given us.

Girls' Volleyball Camp – Serve. Set. Dig. Spike. Learn teamwork. Get better acquainted with being on God's team. Stay in cabins and join Base Camp for crazy campfires and all the other camp fun. This year Jennifer Pappas will be our all-star coach.

The Great Outdoors Camp – This camp is designed for kids who have not seen the wonders of God's great outdoors. Camp under the stars, swim in the streams, swing from our challenge course, fly around the go-kart track during an awesome week of adventure.

Family Camps

Family Camp – From worship first thing in the morning, through every exciting camp activity during the day, to campfire at night, we're here to bring you all closer to each other and to God. You and your kids can fill your days doing great camp stuff together: the water slide at the pond, horseback riding, go karts, cross country running, any part of the challenge course that you have the guts to try, swimming, archery and all the rest.

Medical/Dental Retreat – You just can't beat combining continuing education with days of fun for your whole family. The Category One classes are offered through Loma Linda University.

Leoni Meadows Staff



Family campers enjoy a campfire program.



A young camper meets a snake from Leoni Meadows' nature center.

Redwood Creek Summer Camp Tradition Continues

Almost every summer for the past 75 years, Redwood Creek Summer Camp has provided a safe and fun place for campers to connect with Jesus. Located on Cookson Ranch — 30 minutes east of Arcata — on the banks of a beautiful creek, hundreds of kids have camped there since the late 1930s. “When I was a kid growing up, I went to Redwood Creek Summer Camp,” said camp director Scott Swanlund. “It was an amazing experience being a camper, and now I’m lucky to help create amazing experiences for today’s campers.”

Last year, 60 kids attended the week-long camp, including 52 who were able to attend because of the Campership Program. Operated by the Orleans church, the Campership Program serves families — on a first-come, first-served

basis — who need financial assistance in sending their children to camp.

This summer, organizers plan to double the number of campers by offering two weeks of camp: July 5-12 (ages 9-11) and July 12-19 (ages 12-15). “I’m looking forward to this summer because God is going to bless and make it even better than last year!” said girls’ counselor Ariana Brinckhaus.

The camp staff works hard to encourage each camper to make a new friend and to try a new activity during his/her camp experience. To help achieve these goals, RCSC offers a variety of activities, such as horseback riding, rappelling, go-karts, swimming in Redwood Creek and more.

During campfire worships — and throughout the day — Christian staff members introduce the young people to God. “Not enough kids know that they have a Father who thinks they are incomparably valuable!” said Brinckhaus. “I can play a small part in loving kids and connecting them to what their young hearts need.”

Many kids meet Christ during their time at camp. “I really enjoy seeing the smiles on the campers’ faces when they make their first decision to give their heart to Jesus!” said Josh Rayburn, camp pastor.

Since 2012, the camp has been managed by a board composed of representatives from local Adventist churches: Arcata McKinleyville, Eureka, Fortuna and Orleans. The board threw a Christmas party for campers and their families at the Orleans church in December. About 60 people attended, including members of the Orleans church, board members and camp staff. Guests enjoyed a “campfire” worship service, followed by a chili and cornbread supper and funny camp skits. Campers and their siblings received Christmas stockings. The party was a good way to reconnect campers and staff mid-way between camp sessions.

Staff members are eagerly anticipating summer 2015. “I’m looking forward to seeing the staff and the kids that will be coming back again, meeting new staff and new kids, and



Garrett Dennis (right), boys’ counselor and rappelling guide, folds the flag with one of his campers during evening line call.



At the Christmas party for campers and their families, girls’ counselor Ariana Brinckhaus (left) helps a camper choose a gift to take home.

teaching them that God is always with them,” said Swanlund.

How To Help

For many years RCSC operated with borrowed or rented equipment. In order to better serve campers and provide safe activities, the board needs to upgrade or purchase new equipment. Funding priorities for 2015 include: rappelling equipment and ropes, go-karts, operating expenses, horse equipment and digital cameras. For more information: donations@redwood-creekcamp.org.

Donations to the Campership Program are tax deductible. Make checks payable to Orleans SDA Church. Write “Campership Fund” on the memo and mail to: Attn: Treasurer, Orleans SDA Church, P.O. Box 220, Orleans, CA 95556. For more information: campership@redwoodcreekcamp.org.

For camp applications, visit www.redwood-creekcamp.org or e-mail info@redwoodcreek-camp.org.

PHOTOS BY JEANNETTE QUINN



Campers rappel down Rattlesnake Rock.



A Redwood Creek camper drives a go-kart around the track.

Jeanette Quinn

REDWOOD

CAMP MEETING

JULY 23 - AUGUST 1, 2015



This year begins a 5-year theme focusing on Christ's method of evangelism as described in Ellen White's book, *The Ministry of Healing*. This year's theme will focus on the first step—building relationships. “**CHRIST'S METHOD ALONE** will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me’” (143).

Don't miss this annual event, featuring this year: Doug Batchelor, senior pastor of the Granite Bay church and president/speaker for Amazing Facts Ministries; Ron Clouzet, director of the North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI) and professor of Christian ministry and pastoral theology at Andrews University; and in the Adult II tent, Jonathan Henderson, Pacific Union College campus chaplain and an associate pastor of the PUC church; plus many more exciting seminars, meetings for Campestre Hispano, and some programs for the deaf. Visit www.nccsda.com/redwoodschedule for up-to-date information on speakers.



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Clouzet

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Kingdom Kids Christian Preschool Opens in Orangevale

On the first Monday in February, Kingdom Kids Christian Preschool opened its doors to eight charter students, ages 3-5. A long-anticipated addition to Orangevale SDA School, the preschool is the result of a lengthy process. "It was painfully slow, but as I look back, God's timing is better than our timing," said Orangevale SDA School Principal Brad Davis. During the delays, donors gave generously to the project. "It's a 100 percent paid-for preschool . . . free and clear," he said.

The preschool's director is Gina Wilmot, who comes to the job with years of experience working with children. She graduated from Loma Linda University with a major in early childhood education, and she has done postgraduate work in education. She is also a certified child life

specialist. In addition to teaching at a preschool and developing a kindergarten program, she worked for many years as a child life specialist at Loma Linda University Medical Center. More recently she served as a substitute teacher for Orangevale SDA School and Sacramento Adventist Academy. Wilmot believes that working with children is her true passion. "Every time I veered off and did something else, I always came back to kids," she said.

The preschool and school share a campus with the Orangevale church. "From a church perspective, the preschool improves our ministry offerings, helping us care for more families with a greater diversity of needs," said Pastor Jon Cicle, who has enrolled his two young sons. "From a parent's perspective, it means a great deal to my wife and me for our kids to be in a Seventh-day Adventist Christian environment. The staff is building great relationships with our kids. They love to go to school." Wilmot works with teachers Tetyana Bondarchuk and Kristi Phillips.

Those involved with Kingdom Kids have several goals: connect with families in the community who are looking for a good preschool — with the aim of enrolling 20-plus students; and retain the students for kindergarten and primary school. "We have another nine years of elementary school that we can offer them — with great teachers and classrooms," said Cicle. "We hope they'll want to continue the excellence."

The preschool project began several years ago after a surprise discovery. While evaluating a pavement project, Davis and some others walked around the elementary school property inspecting the work. As they looked into a hole in the ground, they noticed a significant pipe. Davis had believed that a preschool on



BRAD DAVIS

Kingdom Kids Christian Preschool is accepting students ages 3-5. For more information about the school, visit www.kkcpreschool.org.



LAURIE STACEY

Teacher Tetyana Bondarchuk and kids sing an alphabet song.



LAURIE STACEY

Two preschoolers paint apples during a lesson.



BRAD DAVIS

Preschool Director Gina Wilmot talks with some of her students.

the property wasn't a viable option because it would be too expensive to install the required piping to the main line. With the discovery of the pipe, the project could begin.

Now that it's launched, many hope that the preschool will be an important ministry to reach the Orangevale community for Christ. "Kingdom Kids Christian Preschool is nestled in an already well-established, caring, K-8 school family environment," said Coreen Hicks, Northern California Conference associate superintendent of education. "We hope many families will discover this loving environment where students are able to cultivate their natural abilities while becoming captivated with learning and with Jesus."

Julie Lorenz

Sacramento Fijian Company First in North America



NCC Executive Secretary Marc Woodson (far right) reads a plaque, which acknowledges the organization of the new company. From left to right: Pastor Joseph O'Connor, head elder Poate Matairavula, elder Ron Jonas, elder Jone Korovata and NCC Assistant to the President Ed Fargusson.



A majority of the members of the new company gather together.

On Jan. 24, the Sacramento Fijian company became the first formally organized Fijian congregation in the North American Division. The service took place on a Sabbath evening at Sacramento Central church, followed by a celebratory Fijian meal.

During the program, Northern California Conference Executive Secretary Marc Woodson encouraged the members to keep their “bula” spirit. (Bula is a Fijian word that connotes a feeling of affection and welcome.) He also reminded them: “Don’t forget the purpose of your congregation.”

The new company — which currently meets at Sacramento Adventist Academy — is the 157th congregation in the NCC. Conferences organize church groups into companies for the purpose of fellowship, worship and mission; the “company” status is a step on the way for a group to become organized as a church. “Praise the Lord,” said one of the group’s long-time members, Olivia Wieland. “He has rewarded our hard work. Now we are ready to work toward an organized church.”

More Fijians live in the Sacramento area than anywhere else in the United States, and more are coming to the area each year. Adventist immigrants from Fiji want to worship with the music and traditions of their own culture and in their own language. “The yearning to maintain the Fijian communal bond created the desire for the establishment of a Fijian church,” said Joseph O’Connor, who pastors the congregation.

about 15 years ago to earn his master’s degree in religious studies from La Sierra University. He did more postgraduate work at the SDA Theological Seminary, planning to return to Fiji, where he had served for five years as a pastor. A Fijian group that met at the Sacramento Central church asked him to stay in the United States, and he and his wife, Sotia, agreed to work with them.

The new company is comprised of members from various small groups in Sacramento — most of whom came to the organization service. “Today we witness a coming together, for we Fijians have gone through experiences that hammer the truth home — united we stand, divided we fall,” said Jone Korovata, who serves as an elder.

The new company’s services are conducted in Fijian and English. “We plan to establish a multi-ethnic church which reflects our wider Fijian community, our young people that are being born and bred in the U.S., and the community at large that Fijians have married into,” said O’Connor.

The congregation is eager to grow. Plans are in the works for two evangelistic series this year, with the goal of baptizing 40 people. The company also wants to broadcast their services online. “All it takes is for us to cooperate with Jesus to reach more people faster than you ever thought possible,” said Poate Matairavula, head elder.

O’Connor came to the United States

Along with his congregation, O’Connor looks forward to making a unique contribution in the conference territory. “I am forever grateful that the purpose of the Sacramento Fijian company is to further enrich the Northern California Conference with the unique, friendly island gospel spirit of Jesus Christ,” he said. “We look forward to finishing God’s work among the rest of the Fijian community in Sacramento.”

Julie Lorenz



The Sacramento Fijian company choir sings during the organization service.



The O’Connor family: Joseph and Sotia, with sons Job (back) Ruben (right) and Wase (left).

UReach Combines Several LLU Church Ministries

Now in its third year, UReach, the outreach ministry of the Loma Linda University church, encompasses a variety of ministries and community services.

UReach was formed at the end of 2011. Its mission is to be “doers of the Word,” according to James 1:23. UReach helps LLUC staff and members accomplish their mission by engaging them with their community

in tangible ways. LLUC had been looking for a strategic and comprehensive trajectory for its various outreach ministries. Essentially, UReach combined all of the existing outreach ministries, including EXCELL mentoring and tutoring, community case management and Re:Live Thrift.

The heart and soul of UReach began with a question: What does it mean to be a Christian?

Some young adult leaders started seriously asking themselves that question about eight years ago as they were starting LLUC’s young adult



A group of UReach volunteers clean up a plot of ground in Loma Linda. In partnership with the city of Loma Linda UReach has reopened a community garden where community and church can grow food and relationships.

service, known as Re:Live. One thing they kept coming back to was the church’s relation to the neighborhoods around it. It seemed clear that Christ spent a lot of time with the people in His community, getting to know them and helping those in need.

First, the team from Re:Live began to see everything from unemployment and homelessness to abuse and hunger all within a short distance of the church. What could they do? They were a young, inexperienced group, but they were convinced that sharing Christ with others is less

about spreading ideas and words than about living a life. They worked from the belief that building relationships is the key to leading people to Jesus.

UReach has classified various efforts as either outposts or relational ministries. For example, Re:Live Thrift is considered an outpost ministry, a place where church members can interact with the local community. Outposts are the first step in meeting new people and creating relationships. For many members of the community, the thrift store is the first place they meet and interact with a Seventh-day Adventist.

UReach’s goal is to create relationships that will lead people into a deeper connection with Jesus. Staff members invite individuals to continue collaborating with one another so that they are forming community together. This is not a quick, easy process, but it is essential to the continued growth of the body of Christ.



The Re:Live Thrift Store sign shows not only shop contact information, but also its mission statement.

Historically, one of the ways that UReach intentionally built relationships was through a case management program. Eventually, giving aid to people in endless crisis and need, without any life change, seemed like poor stewardship. Thus UReach started a program called JOBS. This program allows 10 individuals from the streets, from rehab, from prison or from many other difficult life situations to work with UReach for six months while they transition into work at another location. The JOBS program became central to UReach, because having solid work is vital to stabilizing nearly all aspects of an individual's life.

Cassie Bay is a graduate of the JOBS program. She worked part-time at the thrift store before finding her current job.

"I had a great experience through UReach," she said. "They helped me with the JOBS program and the Re:Live thrift store. It is so hard to find a job if you don't already have one. UReach gave me the opportunity I needed to be able to move into a permanent position. Because of my experience as an assistant manager at the thrift store, I am now receiving a promotion at my current job. I am so grateful that UReach gave me a chance to prove myself."

Some of UReach's other projects and ministries, such as Meals on Wheels and Re:Live Thrift, have become places where people in the JOBS program can find temporary work. During that time they can build a résumé, receive education and begin training that will help them reenter the workforce. Along with church member donations, ministries such as Re:Live Thrift make some of the money needed to keep UReach in operation.

UReach also relies heavily on volunteers. For example, one volunteer church member focuses on helping people in the JOBS program with their job searches. Others volunteer each week by sorting and pricing clothes at Re:Live Thrift. Volunteers help out with every ministry, including tutoring and fund-raising.

Robert Cross is a volunteer with the tutoring program. He says, "At first I was skeptical of UReach. But soon I was taken aback by the kindness and genuineness that everyone has shown me. I began as a recipient of their help, and now I have chosen to give back by volunteering with the tutoring ministry."

For people who are busy with work, children or school but who still desire to get involved, UReach offers special projects, such as passing out food at Thanksgiving or assisting with a Vacation Bible School held at Re:Live Thrift. UReach wants to help bridge the gap between the church and the community. The various ministries seek to interact with people on a regular basis and share the life-changing good news about Jesus with everyone who is willing to hear.

The team at UReach is still looking for ways to answer the question of what it means to be a Christian. For more information about UReach, visit ureachlluc.com.

DAVID HUTTABARAT



UReach volunteers serve community members at an event intended to connect church and community through breakfast at a neutral location.

DAVID HUTTABARAT



Kathy Webb, Robyn Delgado, Kylie Alexander and Angie Gomez proudly display their JOBS Program graduation certificates.

Kevin Ekvall with Burt Clark

Corona Church Offers Hope and Comfort During “Blue Christmas” Event

Although Christmas is commonly a time of joy and celebration, for the many individuals who have experienced loss and pain throughout the year, the holiday is an especially painful time. Members of the Corona church provided an opportunity for such people to experience peace, comfort and hope.

“What makes the celebration of Christmas difficult for many who have experienced a significant loss recently or whose loss occurred during this time of year is dealing with the pain of that loss while everyone else is celebrating,” said Gary Taber, the church’s senior pastor.

On Dec. 12, the church held a “Blue Christmas” service to reach out to people who had recently experienced loss, whether through death, divorce, illness, depression or any other painful life challenge.

Once they decided to go ahead with it, they spread the word by placing an ad in the local paper and sending out mailings to friends and members who had experienced loss during the year. They also gave stamped envelopes to three local mortuaries so they could send invitations to people they had served during the year.

The program was held at the church’s fellowship hall in order to provide a warmer, more welcoming environment than the sanctuary, especially for guests. As people were greeted at the door, they were invited to write the name of

their loved one or their specific loss and place it on one of the luminaries at the entrance.

The service began with a meditative Christmas carol, followed by readings of prose and Scripture. The pastor also gave a brief message of hope and healing.

He went on to retell the story of Jesus’ birth and Mary and Joseph’s pain and loss during that time. Joseph may have lost respect from his family and community by staying with his pregnant wife. They both must have lost touch with family when Herod’s decree led them to flee to Egypt. But just as Christ was wrapped in swaddling clothes, all can have the hope of being wrapped up with God’s love and peace, even in dire situations.

The program ended with a candle-lighting ceremony to remember loved ones. Those who attended were also given suggestions to help them celebrate the holiday in the face of recent loss. Each participant received a warm throw blanket, and the booklet *Life After Loss*, by Larry Yeagley.

Elders were available to talk and pray with those in attendance after the service while refreshments were served.

While many in attendance were church members, family and friends, a few of them were nonmembers attending a service at the church for the first time.

“My spirit was very low, and I could not get through the sadness and the brokenness that one feels when a loved one is no longer in this world and Christmas is here. All you want to do is hide from the holidays and cry,” said Lucy Roybal.



Luminaries line the entrance of the fellowship hall.

That night, as Roybal said “goodbye” to her loved one, she knelt down to pray. “I thanked God for the great feeling of peace I had in my heart and for the Corona church, which helped me arrive at that great feeling. That feeling enabled me to get through the holidays and give love to others.”

“We saw God at work in small, quiet ways and in huge, miraculous ways,” said Taber.

Mario A. Munoz



Attendees socialize while waiting for the Blue Christmas service to begin.



Participants light candles in remembrance of those they lost.

Vista Spanish Church Seeks to Expand Soccer Program

Members of the Vista Spanish church hope to expand a church youth soccer program in San Diego County.

The church began its own soccer teams in September 2012 because of the popularity of the sport among its church members' families.

"A group of parents decided to start the team because it is a popular sport, and our kids cannot play in competitive leagues because the games are on Saturdays," said Luis Aguilar, the church's Pathfinder director and sports coordinator.

The teams are supported by and comprised of parents, their children, members of the church and community as well as other Adventist church members in San Diego County.

"Some of the parents have mentioned that they like that it is composed mostly of kids from our community churches," said Aguilar. These are the Oceanside and Oceanside Spanish churches, Escondido and Escondido Spanish churches and the San Marcos church.

The church currently runs two teams: the '03 team, comprised of boys and girls born on or before 2003, and the '04 team, comprised of boys and girls born on or after 2004. Each team is made up of 12-15 children who play in games every Sunday in the Leo Mesa Indoor Soccer League in San Marcos. According to Aguilar, the Vista Spanish church teams are the only church teams in the league, with nearly 80 percent of

its members coming from Adventist churches. Community teams account for the rest of the league.

Aguilar and parent volunteers used to conduct practice sessions and games three times a week for children, youth and adults in the Vista Spanish church parking lot. They also used that time to connect with members of the community who would ask to join them after watching them play. Though no serious

injuries occurred while playing in the parking lot, because of various mishaps, the children currently lack an adequate space to practice and only meet for their games on Sundays. Aguilar hopes to raise enough money, through donations, to build a field suitable for the children, as well as a church league, to play on.

"We have lost many young members from our congregation because of sports. Whether it is soccer, baseball, football or any other

sport, kids have left our churches because they want to play a sport. We need to provide an alternative program where our kids can both play and attend their Sabbath worship. Having a Sunday program where the kids can come and play will allow them to continue attending their churches," said Aguilar.

Kendrah Adams



Players and coach pose for a group photo.



The '03 soccer team and their coach gear up and pose for a photo.



The '04 team and coaches gather for a photo.

Claremont International Church Finds New Home and Name



Rudy Bermudez, Upland Community church pastor, poses with a church member who had just received his evangelism leadership seminar certificate of completion.

More than 100 people attended the inauguration of the Upland Community church, formerly known as the Claremont International church, on Dec. 27. Church members and visitors celebrated the blessing of their new building and name change.

The celebration included music by the Masters Call Trio, from the Loma Linda Filipino church; the Cousins Singers, from the Inland Empire Filipino church; a saxophone solo by church member Josephine Simorangkir; and the Upland Community church choir.

Ray Musser, the mayor of Upland, was in attendance as well as Jonathan Park, Southeastern California Conference executive secretary. Park was also the worship speaker. He encouraged the church members to be faithful in their calling. After the service, attendees shared a meal prepared by several of the church members. They were also welcomed to return to the church for a music program in the afternoon.

The church's move to Upland marks the end of the members' 19-year search for a permanent church building. The original name, Claremont International church, was because the members first began meeting in Claremont. They later met in a rented space in Upland, and from there moved to San Antonio Christian school in Ontario, before moving to their current location in Upland.

"The church members have been going from one place to another, but they finally found a place to call their own," said Elizer Sacay, conference vice president for Asian/Pacific ministries.

Members had been raising funds for a long time. Between the \$300,000 they raised and a loan from the conference, the congregation was able to purchase their new property at 205 South Campus Avenue, Upland. Under the leadership of church member Tim Swett, many members helped prepare the new space for worship.

The first worship service in the new building was conducted on Thanksgiving Day. The church members rejoiced and praised God for the blessing they had received.

"As the pastor, I find it a joy to hear expressions of praise and gratitude to God for His guidance to His church," said Rudy Bermudez, church pastor.

With the church now being in Upland, the church voted at a business meeting to recommend a name change from Claremont International church to Upland Community church.

In anticipation of the acquisition of the new property, the church hosted an evangelism leadership seminar. Thirty-four people attended and received certificates of completion. Presenters included Sacay; Robert Edwards, conference evangelist; Able Cordero, pastor of the Moreno Hills church; and Jocelyn Sonsona, church member. They presented on topics such as "The Urge of a Fadeless Vision," "Visitation Revisited," "Knowing Your Community," "How to Give Bible Studies," "How to Gain Decisions," "How to Meet Objections," "Temperaments and Leadership" and "The Power of the Holy Spirit."

"The year 2014 was a year of training for the church members. They are now, in 2015, implementing all they have learned," said Sacay.

*Rudy Bermudez with
Chloe Jacqueline Vander Zwan*



The Upland city mayor Ray Musser speaks at the Upland Community church inauguration service.



A special music group sings during the Upland Community church inauguration service.

inSpire 2015 Brings Adventist Creatives Together

Is there a place in the Church for “creatives”? For those who participated in the inSpire weekend at the La Sierra University church, the answer is a resounding yes! Held Jan. 23-24, the conference celebrated creativity as a way to honor God.

The first inSpire weekend was held in Berkeley in 2013, and since then, many artists have joined the inSpire community on its website. Both the weekend and website were designed to encourage all types of artists — professional and amateur: “What you have is a gift from God. It definitely has spiritual value,” said Rich DuBose, director of Church Support Services for the Pacific Union, which co-sponsored the recent event with the La Sierra University church.

The weekend provided many opportunities for learning and expression: dramatic and musical improvisation, original music, a presentation on “Storytelling, Film, and Faith,” a panel discussion on the challenges of being an artist and worship services focused on creativity. Chris Oberg, senior pastor, concluded her Sabbath sermon by encouraging her listeners to start every day with Genesis 1:28 — God creating humanity in His image — “the beginning of our story,” she said. “And then be ready for what God wants to create.”

At the end of the worship service, a mother and her toddler painted a large blank canvas set up on the platform. The mother led the child in trying out different ways to apply paint with

PHOTOS BY ENNO MÜLLER



Kristi Fontamillas, former art teacher at La Sierra Academy, and her children create a piece of art during inSpire weekend.

hands and brushes, and they created art together. “What a stunning display of what it looks like to co-create under God’s guidance!” said Oberg.

On Sabbath afternoon, an artists’ studio displayed paintings and calligraphy, as well as works in progress. “The best part was student artists working on projects while visitors came through the gallery,” said Erik Harty, a first-year film student at La Sierra University. “It was really cool to see their artwork come together in person.”

During the weekend, the winners of the inSpire songwriting competition were announced. First place went to Brad Nickel, from Lacombe, Alberta, for his song, “Reaching In.” Composers from across North America entered 109 songs into the competition, which was judged by songwriters and others in the music industry. “The Church is well served in the next generations with

fresh and deeply Spirit-driven music,” said Oberg. “We need this music in our community.” (Visit the inSpire website at www.visitinspire.org/awards to hear the top 13 songs.)

Conference organizers hope that local churches will learn to appreciate the creatives in their midst. “There are so many opportunities for churches to celebrate what artists are doing and to learn from their way of seeing the world,” said Vaughn Nelson, associate pastor for discipleship and nurture.

DuBose stresses the importance of creativity to young people growing up in a culture that emphasizes music, film and other creative forms of expression. “If we can’t find ways to creatively communicate our message, so that we’re speaking the language of our culture and using the vehicles they use to express themselves, we just won’t be able to connect,” he said.

Next year’s inSpire 2016 will be held at the Carmichael church in Sacramento. Between conferences, Adventist artists can find a community of like-minded people, see/hear original work, learn about competitions and events, and meet other creatives at www.visitinspire.org.



Beverly Maravilla, associate pastor for children and families; Donovan Childs, assistant chaplain of campus ministries at La Sierra University; and Scott Ray, English adjunct professor at La Sierra University, preform a drama skit at inSpire.

Julie Lorenz

Leaders Trained for Youth and Children's Ministries

The eighth annual Hand 'N Hand leadership weekend for leaders of youth and children began with the question, "Why Me?" Pastor Erik VanDenburgh, conference youth director, posed this question in his keynote address Friday evening, Feb. 13.

VanDenburgh challenged leaders to examine their reasons for taking on the responsibility to minister to the children and youth of their congregations. Participants were also advised to consider the impact they can make in their interaction with these young people.

Linda Koh, children's ministries director for the General Conference, led children's leaders through seminars dealing with the way to involve kids in ministry. She shared practical witnessing techniques, how to reach children by becoming acquainted with their world, and knowing how to incorporate their world into their experience with Jesus.

Eric Penick, associate youth director in the Southeastern California Conference, conducted sessions on ministry to youth. His sessions included leadership expectations, effective planning, and the importance of safety in their relationships with teens.

On Sunday morning, Linda Hovanski, Friends Club director from the Hilo church,



Linda Hovanski received the "Salvation Way" scholarship for her leadership with the Hilo church Friends Club.



Rudy Botardo is awarded the "Salvation Way" scholarship by Pastor Erik Vandenburg. Rudy will select a child to receive a free summer camp scholarship.

introduced "Destination Paradise," the 2015 North American Division Vacation Bible School program. The hands-on activities for attendees served to integrate more fully in the fun and the spiritual emphasis of the program. Linda was

also the recipient of the children's ministry recognition honor for her work with the church and community for Hilo's Friends Club. Along with that honor, she received a free week at summer camp for the child of her choosing.

Ruday Botardo was also honored for his years of service to Hawaii Conference Pathfinders. Rudy is not only known for his years of labor to

Pathfinders, but also for his willingness to step up to the plate in whatever job needs to be done. Botardo will also choose someone to receive a free week at Camp Waiana'e.

Musical highlights of the weekend included Honolulu Central Church children's choir under the direction of Wanda Valencia, as well as the LamYuen family with their harmonious praise Sabbath afternoon.

Sharon Quick, Hawaii coordinator for "Shield the Vulnerable," was on hand to remind participants that all who work with children and youth are required to complete this online program to protect the children they serve.

As in previous years, another highlight of the weekend was the Sunday morning resources give-away made possible by Pacific Press, AdventSource, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, and several other entities. Participants were encouraged to share the materials with others at their local church.



Sharon Quick emphasizes the necessity of background checks and education for all those volunteering with children.

Feryl Harris

Youth Retreat Asks “What Now?”

On Feb. 20-22, youth from Oahu gathered at Camp Waianae for “What Now?” a spiritual retreat geared for academy and high school students. The goal of the weekend was to help young people understand the next step after coming to Christ and how to grow in their walk with God.

Youth checked in late Friday afternoon, and by the evening they were singing, praying and listening to an inspiring message together. Pastor Eric Penick was the featured speaker. He began Friday night with a message on Rachel, who sat on her idols. He challenged the teens to let go of their idols so they could hold on to God’s promises.

Sabbath morning started with “Morning Manna.” This was an optional session that focused on the importance of prayer, including an experiential prayer wall and quiet time with God.

That morning, Penick asked those in attendance if they had faith that has power. Like the disciples who were unable to cast out unclean spirits, Christians often have a form of godliness, but deny its power, he explained. He then led them in a study on how to develop faith that makes a difference in their lives and the world around them.

Sabbath afternoon featured team-building activities with a spiritual focus. The leaders designed numerous challenges to prompt discussions on what it means to be part of the body of Christ.



Youth work together to guide a ball through the course, prompting a conversation on what it looks like to reach all the “fruits of the Spirit.”

In the evening, Penick continued with a message on the fruits of the Spirit.

Late night activities got the youth moving, laughing and encouraging each other. Split into teams, the friendly rivalries created competition and cooperation.

Before their departure the following morning, each attendee had an opportunity to share their needs in an open forum and were challenged to make a decision for their spiritual growth.

“We needed to move forward [with the event] despite the lack of time, and God really came through,” said Pastor Erik Vandenburg, new Hawaii Conference youth director. “While our group was small, the event quality was high. Those who attended were truly blessed. We will build off this event and hope it continues to grow.”

Jesse Seibel



Pastor Eric Penick (left, front row) poses with the Hawaii youth.



Pastor John Clark (left) leads the campers in evening worship.

The Nehemiah Project Rebuilds Walls, Community

In the record-breaking heat of June 2014, with the assistance of constituency members and Maranatha Volunteers International, more than 100 workers came together at Sierra View Junior Academy for a "Week of Work." As part of the project, 10 acres of fence were installed and volunteers prepped and painted two large buildings.

The project ensued when the SVJA endowment board formed a task force to address deferred maintenance. The vision was unclear, so the group began to pray for direction. The book of Nehemiah came into focus as a blueprint for rebuilding. As the group prayed, funds began to come in from members of the community as well as alumni. Needs were quantified and the project was officially named, "The Nehemiah Project."

As outlined in Nehemiah 1:4-11, prayer was the first step. A 10 days of prayer event was organized for April 2-11, 2013, to ask for God's guidance and blessing as the project was launched. Sierra View principal Jeri Hoag recalls seeing God's hand in the project as



Marjorie Lewis is ready to paint.

things fell into place quickly. "God had a bigger plan than what we originally saw," explains Hoag. The Maranatha partnership, funds and

permits came together in just a few months. The vision grew beyond fencing and painting to include restrooms with handicapped access



Volunteers work hard.



Sierra View Junior Academy alumnus and Maranatha volunteer Richard Sample prepares the building.

and additional office space that would improve security and student safety.

SVJA was built in 1953 to serve the churches of Exeter, Lindsay, Visalia, Tulare and Porterville. Since that time, the constituency has grown to include nine churches. The school is centrally located on 20 acres in the middle of orange groves outside of Exeter. The week of the "The Nehemiah Project," each of the major churches organized three meals a day for the workers. The local pastors and Maranatha team provided daily worship. "It was so encouraging to see folks praying, eating and working together. I could see it bring awareness and a sense of ownership back to the constituency," said Maranatha team leader Jeannie Tweety.

Volunteers from as far away as Florida camped at the school and gave time, money, and sweat to the project. Local community members arrived with tools, materials and heavy equipment necessary to complete the

project. "It warmed my heart to see students, parents, alumni and even those who had never even been on campus working together," says Brenda Evans, long time employee of SVJA.

Maintaining a college prep educational program in today's economy is a challenge, and updating and improving facilities often takes a back seat to operational costs. With that in mind, SVJA leadership formed an endowment board in 1986 to meet the needs that lie outside of the school's operational budget. However, there had not been significant maintenance or improvement work completed since the early 1990s. "The desire to fence the school has been discussed for over 20 years," explains Richard Dunn, president of the Sierra View endowment board. "What a blessing it is to now see it completed."

The annual "Celebration Sabbath" service, where all the constituent churches were invited to worship together at the school, was held

March 28 and focused on 62 years of Seventh-day Adventist education within the community. Maranatha mission stories host and master storyteller Dick Duerksen inspired those that returned to give thanks for God's providence and leadership at Sierra View.

The Nehemiah Project is not over. Phase II is scheduled for the second week of June. Plans being committed to prayer include the completion of the painting of the gymnasium, classrooms and locker room building. Handicapped accessible restrooms will be added and the restrooms in the kindergarten, first and second grade classrooms will also be renovated. Finally, the Nehemiah Project aims to raise \$1,000,000, which will be allocated to the mission and evangelism program at Sierra View Jr. Academy.

Ed Evans

GLOW Continues to Expand, Reaching People Around the World

In September 2007, the Central California Conference began a ministry centered on the creation and distribution of short tracts. The idea was to inspire everyone to carry informative literature with them, wherever they went, and to share these written insights as opportunities arose. The blueprint of the program evolved from Publishing Ministry, a book written by Ellen White. Giving Light to Our World (GLOW) was officially launched, and soon local churches and conferences began expressing interest in adopting the program as part of their ministry line-up.

The following year, Pacific Press contacted Nelson Ernst, GLOW director of the Pacific Union and CCC, offering to cooperate by putting GLOW's contact information on back panels of the Pocket Signs tracts. Later that year, GLOW developed its first tracts, entitled "End of the World," "Promise of Peace," and "Talking with God." "It was refreshing to see church members getting motivated to pass out literature," Ernst recalls. "Hearing the success stories motivated them even more."

New tracts continued to be developed and translated in order to reach multiple people groups. By 2009, GLOW had caught the attention of entities outside of North America. The Danish

Seventh-day Adventist printing press heard of GLOW and contacted Ernst. They offered to print GLOW tracts on scraps of paper left over from other print jobs, giving birth to the first international GLOW printing.

"Since GLOW started seven and half years ago in response to Central's evangelism offering, it has been inspiring to watch it grow way beyond CCC," reflects CCC literature ministries director Bill Krick, "We watched for God to open doors. Instead, it feels like the floodwaters are carrying us through the doors. In fact, we are running to keep up with GLOW." Soon translations of the tracts began surfacing in various countries around the world.

Over the next several years, GLOW stories and testimonies began appearing in *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World* magazines on a regular basis. By this point, the ministry had grown significantly, and discussions with the Pacific Union led to the transfer of GLOW's operations to the Pacific Union. The following summer, the General Conference made GLOW one of three resources available on its official publishing mobile app.

Creative GLOW distribution methods continued to be developed, including a partnership with *Adventist World* magazine, which led to the printing of a GLOW tract in its January 2015



issue, distributed to 1.5 million homes. Readers were encouraged to cut out, fold and distribute the tract. Stories soon began to surface. "After receiving the tract in the magazine, inmates in Michigan reached out asking for more," recalls GLOW international coordinator Kamil Metz. "They were excited to share more GLOW tracts with their families."

February has proven to be significant in the history of GLOW. Churches throughout Central California are setting 26-day GLOW-a-thon goals and surpassing them. The Madera church distributed more than 10,000, while Mountain View Japanese church has distributed more than 27,000. Meanwhile, the printing of 20,000 tracts into the Hungarian language took GLOW over the 45,000,000 printed tracts mark and brought the number of languages into which GLOW has been translated to 48.

You Never Know

Recently a Korean high school student in Southern California found a *Steps to Health* GLOW tract on the ground at school. After he read it, he began to practice the health principles found in the tract and soon lost 20 pounds. When reading the part about trusting in God, he became interested in learning how to pray. He contacted a local Adventist pastor and began to take Bible studies. He is now a baptized Seventh-day Adventist Christian and an advocate for GLOW. Check out his video testimony at <http://tinyurl.com/pkwhm2x>.



More Info

Is your local church or school interested in starting a GLOW ministry? Contact your local conference GLOW director to find out how. Also, share the number of GLOW tracts you have distributed at isharechallenge.com.

February also brought an invitation from the General Conference publishing department for Ernst to meet with the world publishing houses in Istanbul. Metz attended the meeting in Turkey on his behalf, where division publishing directors voted to make GLOW an official literature publication endorsed by the General Conference.

Since the trip to Turkey, the president of the European chapter of Adventist-Laymen's Services

& Industries (ASI) contacted Metz, inviting him to present a seminar at one of its upcoming meetings. GLOW leaders hope that it will lead to the publishing of GLOW into even more languages.

"The goal of the GLOW ministry is to empower every believer, whether young or old, with a vision and passion for sharing their faith and

saving souls through easy-to-share literature," concludes Metz.

"God uses the various tract topics to allow interaction when needed most," adds Desiree Albertson, GLOW administrative assistant.

Sue Schramm

Trash-a-thon Cleans Community

Students from Dinuba Junior Academy walked back to campus with heads held high as they retraced their steps with trash bags in hand after participating in the ninth annual DJA Trash-a-thon. "What a difference we made!" shouted one student to the rest of his group.

The annual trash-a-thon started with the arrival of current principal Allen Lipps in 2006. DJA students and staff take time from classwork every year to participate in a community service event and fundraiser on the last Friday of October. Treated in the same manner as other fundraisers, students solicit sponsors for picking

up bags of trash along city roadsides and from nearby businesses.

Businesses enjoy seeing the students out and about in their orange vests and filling trash bags. "You kids deserve a medal for what you're doing," said a McDonald's employee who came out with ice cream cone certificates. "I didn't realize how much trash was around our lot until you cleaned it!"

The event gives community members a renewed sense that young people still care about their community and environment. People driving by often honk and wave in support of the students' efforts.

The funds raised are used to help pay for the fifth- through eighth-grade class outdoor school trip at Camp Wawona and to bolster the classroom funds of the lower grades. DJA



Students from grades one through nine get ready to hit the streets to pick up trash around the school and community for the ninth annual trash-a-thon.

leaders say that event proceeds cover most of these expenses.

Perhaps the greatest benefit is for the students themselves, who are proud of the work they do and the difference it makes in the community they serve. They enjoy seeing the clean areas as they walk back to campus, realizing that in a small way, they have done a very big thing.

Allen Lipps

Students cleaning trash from the entrance to Dinuba Downs, a local retirement center in town.

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A Fertile Spot to Grow

by Michael Temple

Gordon MacDonald shares the following story about visiting a small group of men and women affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous. MacDonald said that he visited the group because he has friends who are recovering alcoholics and he wanted to see for himself what they were talking about. Here's what he found:

"One morning Kathy — I guessed her age at 35 — joined us for the first time. One look at her face caused me to conclude that she must have been Hollywood-beautiful at 21. Now her face was swollen, her eyes red, her teeth rotting. Her hair looked unwashed, uncombed for who knows how long.

'I've been in five states in the past month,' she said. 'I've slept under bridges on several nights. Been arrested. Raped. Robbed (now weeping). I don't know what to do. I ... don't ... want ... to ... be ... homeless ... any more. But (sob) I can't stop drinking (sob). I can't stop (sob). I can't ...'

Read full article:

www.churchsupportservices.org/fertile



Stories of Faith

Adventist Christian Fellowship – Learn how the Adventist Church in North America is ministering to students on public university and college campuses.

The Pacific Union has produced a library of short video clips that can be shared for inspirational and ministry purposes. They can be downloaded and shared at mid-week or Sabbath events. Our latest video features Ron Pickell with Adventist Christian Fellowship, a campus ministry initiative of the North American Division.

Visit: www.vimeo.com/channels/storiesoffaith



inSpire 2015 Songwriting Awards



First Place — “Reaching In,” by Brad Nickel

“I’d just like to say how honored I am to have been a part of the 2015 inSpire songwriter’s contest. The recognition and exposure are really encouraging for an aspiring artist like me. I believe this is what God has called me to do and also many others around the world, to be a witness for God and a positive light through music. I’m so honored and blessed to be able to witness about Christ through music. I think that’s the type of music the world needs to hear more of, especially in the times we live.”



Second Place — “Stars,” by Alison Brook

“Winning second place in the inSpire songwriting contest was a lot less like winning a contest, and a lot more like public acknowledgement of what I’ve been doing, without notice, since I was 8 years old. Of course, the fuel that drives me to create has always been a love of music, but as I have aged, I have grown to do it for so much more than that: for the love of the gospel. Thank you inSpire for creating a space for me to create for both of those reasons: for the beauty of music and for the gospel.”



Third Place — “I Am Not Quiet,” by Scott Kabel

“When I learned that I was among the winners of the contest, I thought, ‘Wow, who are these people and why do they care so much about art? Why doesn’t this kind of random, no-strings-attached support happen more often? What can we do as a church to shake our artists awake? A little exposure and money is, honestly, a catalyst...’”

The results of the inSpire 2015 Songwriting Contest are now public! This year we had an amazing number of songs come in — 109! Our goal is to encourage new talent and bring fresh music to our ongoing mission to share Christ with our world. The event was produced by Pacific Union Conference Church Support Services, and was open to songwriters throughout the North American Division.

Special kudos to our judges for their help: Jael Amador, Greg Evans, Ron Nelson, Naomi Striemer and Nicholas Zork.

Listen to winning songs here: www.visitinspire.org/awards

inSpire eNews

Thank you to the many songwriters across North America who submitted songs. Some of the songs will be featured on our inSpire website in 2015 at www.visitinspire.org.

If you are an Adventist creative with a passion to use the arts to communicate hope, sign up for inSpire’s free eNews at www.visitinspire.org/enews.

Overwhelmed by Grace

by Rich DuBose

I’m made of the same stuff that everyone else is, and I’ve been hot-wired to treat people as they deserve to be treated. I know, Scripture invites me to be gracious — even when I am wronged, but that doesn’t come naturally. So a number of years ago, I came to the conclusion that Jesus was asking me to do the impossible. Why even try to be nice when it’s so easy to be otherwise?

Read full article at: www.churchsupportservices.org/overwhelmed



Resources

You Can Use



The Dangerous Act of Loving Your Neighbor: Seeing Others Through the Eyes of Jesus, by Mark Labberton

Jesus didn't see a sick woman, he saw a daughter of God. He didn't see an outcast from society, he saw a child of Israel. He

didn't see a sinner, he saw a person in the image of the Creator. Are we able to see others with the eyes of Jesus? Seeing rightly is the beginning of renewal, forgiveness, healing and grace. Seeing rightly is the beginning of how our hearts are changed. Through careful self-examination in the Spirit, we begin to bear the fruit of love toward others that can make a difference. Here is a chance to reflect on why our ordinary hearts can be complacent about the evils in the world and how we can begin to see the world like Jesus. With each chapter broken into brief segments punctuated by questions, this book is ideal for both personal reflection and group discussion. See what happens when you take a chance on the dangerous act of loving your neighbor. Your vision might just be changed forever.

Published by InterVarsity Press 2011. **Price:** US\$15.61.

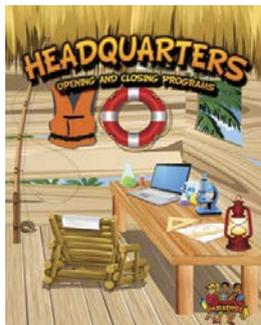
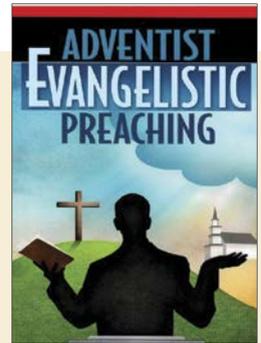
Available at: www.amazon.com

Adventist Evangelistic Preaching, by Russell C. Burrill –

Whether you've preached hundreds of evangelistic sermons or you're preparing for your first, you'll find *Adventist Evangelistic Preaching* invaluable in making your presentations more persuasive, practical, and effective. In this book, Russell Burrill, veteran soul winner and evangelist, lays out the lessons he has learned over decades of evangelistic preaching and leads the reader, step by step, through every aspect of the evangelistic process, from sermon preparation to calling for decisions.

Published by Pacific Press, **Available at:** www.adventistbookstore.com

Price: US\$14.99



Destination Paradise VBS – Headquarters Leader Guide, by NAD Children's Ministries –

This leader's guide includes everything

you need to plan your church's VBS program. Learn about creating a pre-planning schedule, recruiting volunteers, equipping station leaders, decorating, keeping children safe, and much more.

Through Bible stories, music, games, crafts, snacks, nature, and more, kids will learn that God loves them and has a plan to save them.

Available at: www.adventsource.org.

Price: US\$14.95

Update Your Church Website

How would you like to have fresh devotional, health and family-related articles automatically appear on your church website, without having to pay any fees or make any updates? The Pacific Union produces new content every week that can be embedded on your website via RSS technology. Two websites (AnswersForMe.org and StoryHarvest.org) push content several times a week to any website with a digest reader that has implemented the necessary code requirements.

More details visit: www.answersforme.org/rss



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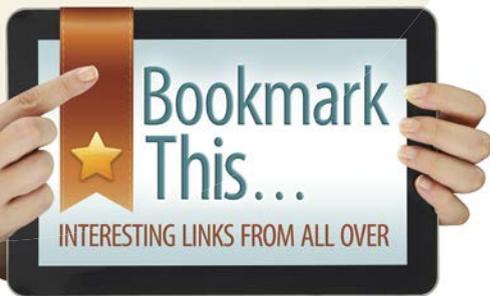


Random Acts of Kindness

The Random Acts of Kindness website is a platform where media, education, community, social networking and entertainment connect you with inspiration, tools, resources, organizations and a larger support network to help you take action, get involved, harvest and share the benefits of kind actions in your daily life and society. Randomactsofkindness.org is dedicated to providing you with dynamic means to teach, learn, collaborate, grow and communicate the kindness you care about in your unique ways.

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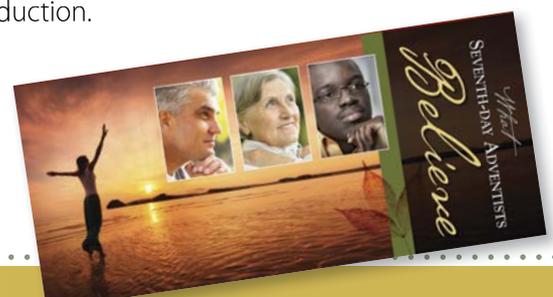
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“If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tender-hearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one.”

—Testimonies to the Church, vol. 9, p. 189

Adventist Brochure Now Available

Here’s a fresh description of who Adventists are and what they believe. This brochure is designed to speak to readers in today’s culture who may or may not come from a religious background. The graphics are new and the overall layout is colorful and contemporary in style. In just one sitting, readers will get a good feel for who Adventists are and why they may want to learn more. Churches within the Pacific Union may request a FREE sample at: css@puconline.org, or call 805-413-7372. Quantities may be purchased at cost. Currently it is available in English only, but a Spanish version is in production.



Annual Women's Conference Empowers 1,000 with Vital Health Information

For many women, the challenges of navigating their needs and the needs of others while pursuing careers or education limits time to learn about vital developments in health care and nutrition.

The luxury of spending an entire day with experts in health care, nutrition, fitness and healthy recreation, such as gardening, became a reality for 1,000 women who attended the seventh annual Loma Linda University Health Women's Conference, themed this year "Ready. Set. Go Green. Think Lean." For attendees, the conference was a day to learn and have their questions answered, to plan, be inspired and gain dozens of tools to live a whole life.

"This yearly event," says Beverly Rigsby, "is a time where women experience an entire day to focus on wholeness. With access to health testing and seminars on interests including decorating and gardening, the impact goes well beyond the day of the conference. As participants learn more about their own and their loved ones' health and participate in complimentary health testing, it can be life changing." Rigsby is service

line director for GYN women's services at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

There is also an active Loma Linda University Health / Women's Health Facebook page, facebook.com/LLUMCWomensHealth which is populated with informative and inspirational posts.

While there were more than 250 women on this year's waiting list, everyone will be able to benefit from wisdom shared during the conference — videos of conference breakout sessions led by experts on topics including nutrition, weight loss, incorporating fitness into one's busy life, osteoporosis, the importance of sleep, planning for retirement, decluttering and gardening,

among many others, will soon be available online at no charge.

"Like" the Women's Health Facebook page for daily inspiration and to learn when the archive of conference seminars will be posted.

Nancy Yuen

Loma Linda University School of Public Health Works to Improve Health Equity

Determined to improve health equity by increasing access to health care in San Bernardino, Loma Linda University School of Public Health students and faculty are working with community organizations to engage a population that includes young black men, persons with limited English proficiency, those with substance use disorders, individuals who are homeless or living with mental health disorders. Additional populations include those in county jail, state prison, on state parole or county probation, or under post-release community supervision.

The 18-month initiative, titled "San Bernardino County MediCal Outreach, Retention,



Sherma Charlemagne-Badal, Ph.D., right, is principal investigator / project director, and Edward McField, Ph.D., will serve as co-investigator / project associate director for the grant.

and Enrollment" (SBC-MORE) was made possible

by a \$1.15 million award from the County of San Bernardino.

The school is collaborating with a historic coalition of San Bernardino County departments and agencies including the Departments of Public and Behavioral Health, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, as well as the county's probation, sheriff's and transitional assistance departments. SBC-MORE was developed in the context of the reorganization of the School of Public Health into multi-disciplinary academic centers focused on regional health equity.

Loma Linda University Health

Hernandez Shows Compassion Is More than Skin Deep

If you ask Teresa Hernandez, RN, BSN, CWON, what she does, she'll tell you she is a registered nurse certified in wound care and ostomy care. She is a knowledgeable, skilled professional and yet, so much more.

"She really cares about her job and she cares about the people she works with, like me," says Richard Smith, a resident in Sonora Regional Medical Center's long-term care unit.

Smith was Hernandez's first wound care patient. He had a number of trouble spots that required Hernandez to spend several hours a day treating him. They got to know each other and have become friends.

"She bent over backwards to help me, and if there was anything I needed, she would find it for me," Smith explains. "She still comes by to say hello when she's in the neighborhood."

In 2010, Sonora Regional Medical Center began a very-focused campaign to reduce hospital-acquired pressure ulcers (bed sores). Hernandez was an integral part of that campaign and proudly states that there were no cases for a seventh month stretch in 2014, as compared to 49 when they started. It's an admirable achievement, but her dedication to the good health and well-being of her patients didn't end there.

At age 48, Hernandez went back to school. She received her bachelor's degree and ostomy and wound certification. It was her dream to open an ostomy outpatient clinic in Tuolumne County. Sonora Regional Medical Center made her dream a reality.

PHIL SCHERMESTER



Teresa Hernandez, right, brings quality medical care and real friendship to patients like Richard Smith, right.

"I really felt there was a need," says Hernandez. "As a wound care nurse, you also check and treat ostomy patients. They are frustrated. They have discomfort. It really is a specialty area that needed to be addressed. Sonora Regional supported me and paid for my training, and my dream came true."

Hernandez helps patients prepare for and adapt to living with a colostomy, ileostomy, or urostomy by providing pre- and post-op teaching and stoma and appliance evaluations. She also started an ostomy support group.

"My job brings me so much joy," she says. "Sometimes I feel guilty that I am paid to do something that brings me so much fulfillment. I have been very blessed by God. And I am fortunate that I am able to form relationships with patients over a long period of time, which is important to me. Like Richard Smith, we become friends."

Hernandez and Smith truly have become friends. Hernandez even planned and executed a fishing and barbecue birthday celebration especially for him.

Hernandez has a passion for enriching the lives of her patients. Her dedication to the mental, physical and spiritual needs of her patients demonstrates her intrinsic core values paralleling those of Sonora Regional Medical Center. In recognition of her dedication to the mission, vision and values of Adventist Health, Hernandez was selected as the recipient of Sonora Regional Medical Center's Angel Award in 2014.

PHIL SCHERMESTER



Teresa Hernandez receives the 2014 Angel Award at Sonora Regional Medical Center.

Susan Kohl Metcalf and Karen O'Brien

Fighting the War on the Mind

Despite living through traumatic events, such as fleeing a bloody civil war when he was a boy, Jacob A. Ayuen has kept his faith in God, and has been given the opportunity to help others fight a different type of battle — the war on the mind.

Ayuen, a physician assistant, cares for patients with depression, anxiety and other disorders at an Adventist Health Behavioral Health clinic in Hanford, Calif.

“It’s important that we treat behavioral health issues and get people back to a normal state of mind, so they can be productive in society and support their families,” says Ayuen. “Our goal is to restore their lives.”

Ayuen saw his own life turned upside-down at an early age. He was one of The Lost Boys of Sudan, a group of 20,000 Sudanese children who fled civil war in 1987. Nearly 4,000 of them eventually found refuge in the United States, and Ayuen was one of them.

“I was separated from my parents at the age of 8 because of civil war in Sudan,” says Ayuen. “I remember walking barefoot, with no clothing, for more than a thousand miles to get to Ethiopia.”

With Bible in hand, Ayuen made the treacherous journey, enduring conditions no child should, such as eluding military gunfire as he crossed the Gilo River. Ayuen says some leaders wanted to purge the country of refugees.

“I woke up one night to gunshots,” he says. “I don’t know if it was the government or the townspeople, but they shot at us in our sleep, killing several. I grabbed what I could and ran!”

After living in Ethiopia for four years, the children were forced to leave when civil war broke out in that country, too. They walked from Ethiopia, back through Sudan to Kenya.

While in Kenya, Ayuen stayed at a refugee camp, where he and the others endured what they called “Black Fridays,” or days when the children would go without food, some of the hardest days of his life. He recalls not eating for weeks yet going to school to study.

“I wanted an education and a chance at a better life, so my motivation and faith in God never wavered,” says Ayuen. “I knew I could use my education to make other people’s lives better.”

One of Ayuen’s fondest memories of Kenya was meeting his wife and having children, but he would leave after 10 years to pursue his dream of working in medicine in the U.S. The day he boarded the plane was Sept. 11, 2001.

“I was actually on a plane headed to Vermont the day of the September 11 attacks,” says Ayuen. “Our plane was diverted to Canada, where we stayed for two weeks.”

When he finally made it to the U.S., Ayuen became part of the Vermont Refugee program, which brought some of The Lost Boys of Sudan to the U.S. to find work.

After graduating from Saint Michael’s College in Vermont in 2006, he worked as a phlebotomist for the American Red Cross, then as a lab technician in Boston. In 2008, his wife and two sets of twins joined him. They moved to Omaha, Neb., where Ayuen continued to work for the American Red Cross. In 2011, he sought physician assistant training at Union College in Lincoln, Neb., a Seventh-day Adventist college. After graduating, he earned certification from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

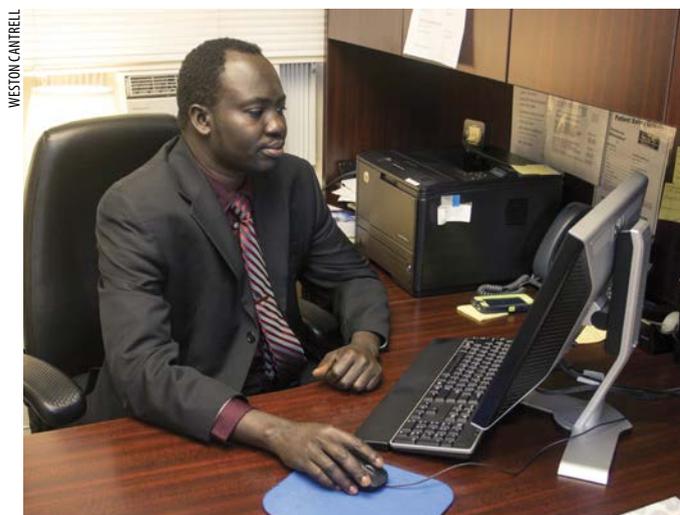
Ayuen says his desire to provide health care to the poor aligns well with Adventist Health’s mission of sharing God’s love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing.

“I thank God for giving me this opportunity,” he says. “If you work hard, you can get ahead.”

Ayuen is also thankful his dad taught him the importance of education. His father passed away when Ayuen was training to become a physician assistant, so he never had a chance to reunite with him. But he looks forward to the day when he can see his mother and siblings, who are currently at a refugee camp in Uganda. He hopes to bring them to the U.S. and set up a foundation of his own to educate refugees.

Ayuen lives in Hanford with his wife and six children.

Amanda Jaurigui



Jacob Ayuen working as a physician assistant at an Adventist Health Behavioral clinic in Hanford, Calif.



The Lost Boys of Sudan is the name given to the more than 20,000 boys who were displaced and/or orphaned during the Second Sudanese Civil War.

First Nevada-Utah Teen Training Inspires Future Leaders

Nine teens and their mentors traveled from all over the Nevada-Utah Conference to Las Vegas, Nev., for their first ever Teen Leadership Training event, held in conjunction with the conference's annual Pathfinder/Adventurer Leadership Training Conference Feb. 5-8.

The purpose of the training is to give youth a strong foundation for future church and Pathfinder leadership.

Conference TLT Coordinator Desiree Tomlinson

older, I thought of Pathfinders as more boring. So, when I attended the TLT meeting, my eyes were opened, and I was so excited."

The teen leaders arrived on Thursday, Feb. 5, and joined the adults for a short worship session with guest speaker Vandeon Griffin, youth director from South Central Conference.

Friday morning, the training sessions began in two tracks, administration and teaching. Those only able to attend on Sabbath and Sunday were given training in only one track.

As part of their training, the teen leaders helped plan song service for Sabbath morning, and in true Pathfinder tradition, they planned a last minute evening induction and pinning service. All nine TLTs were pinned Saturday evening and three of the TLTs who've been



Nevada-Utah Conference Teen Leadership Training inductees with Iso Vernon, conference coordinator (left). (L. to r.) Sarah Palmarezzo, Kayle Dunham, Keyona Paddock, Leo Tomlinson, Sarah Grindstaff, Annelissa McKenzie, Trisha Goday, Samantha Eller and Kathryn Eller.

put the training together. She believes strongly that teens need to be given a place in leadership, or they will grow bored and leave the church.

"When I started going to Pathfinders, I thought it was such a great experience where we get to learn about God and about 'life tricks,'" said a Zion club member. "However, as I started to get

working within their clubs for a year or more were pinned with their one-year TLT stars. At the end of the service, Pastor David Hall baptized Kathryn Eller from the OWAPAMO club.

"The TLT program is designed for teens who no longer desire the status quo," said Hall. "For young people who want to grow and reach



Pastor David Solomon Hall Sr., Nevada-Utah Conference youth director, baptizes Kathryn Eller.

their full potential. Those are the type of young people we need in our conference. We need more 'homegrown' leaders who can carry the torch of leadership throughout our respective churches from an earlier age for a longer period of time."

Sunday morning, the teens planned the next six months of the club year, then worked on two honors, waterfalls and geocaching, while the adults finished their respective trainings. The TLT retreat is scheduled for Oct. 30 to Nov. 1 in Cedar City, Utah.

Nique Bulson

Ten Days of Prayer Initiative Reaps Souls in Sparks

Pastor Omar A. Palmer and the Sparks church members are celebrating after seven people committed their lives to Jesus on Jan. 17 following a Ten Days of Prayer event, a special initiative of the General Conference.

As the seven baptismal candidates were introduced to the church, they each received a white rose of welcome. "We have 12 roses, like the 12 disciples," said Palmer, "and we would like to present the remaining five roses to anyone that would like to take a stand for Jesus and possibly be baptized in the near future." Five hands raised to accept the flowers.



New members and those committed to baptism are surrounded by members willing to guide, support and encourage them in their new walk.

Nancy Albin

Abundant Life Begins “A Time for Change”

Abundant Life church is home to people of varying ages and ethnicities who demonstrate an array of passions, skills and talents, and who are willing and eager to lend those skills to the wider Las Vegas and world community.

In 2014, Pastor O’Neal Madden announced a new initiative for 2015 — for its members to become more like Christ and to have more of Christ in each of their lives.

Madden and his team have been developing this plan, guided partly by the Dennis Smith book, *10 Days: Prayers and Devotions to Experience the Baptism of the Holy Spirit*. The initiative, which they named “A Time for Change,” launched in January and is divided into four, three-month phases.

“We need to raise our spirituality because the spirituality of the church at large will go no higher than that of its leaders,” says Madden. “I am encouraging the leadership to first take the initiative to be more spiritual and to be the catalyst to bring about change in the church through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Phase One focused on Christian spirituality and featured several activities, worship services and programs to prepare people’s hearts for the Holy Spirit. Wednesday night prayer meetings included Bible study



Abundant Life church members Virginia Hodges and Edna Perkins reflect on book study session during prayer meeting.

and a topic from the Smith book, plus discussion and homework.

“The law is an expression of God’s idea,” says Associate Pastor Marvin Clark. “When we receive it through Christ, it becomes our idea. You can’t get close to God and not be filled.”

Members gained a greater understanding of what being spirit-filled truly means to Christians after discussing topics such as, “An Observable Difference,” “Receiving Christ in Fullness,” “Walking in the Spirit” and “Obedience from the Heart,” among others.

“Reading this book, I am renewed in my desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit,” said Clarence Brown.

Wednesday night prayer meeting attendance has greatly increased. Classes ended in March during the March Madness evangelism effort which also marked the end of Phase I.

Doretha Morris



O.C. White and Dr. Eileen White co-teach the week’s lesson.

Lake Tahoe Camp Meeting

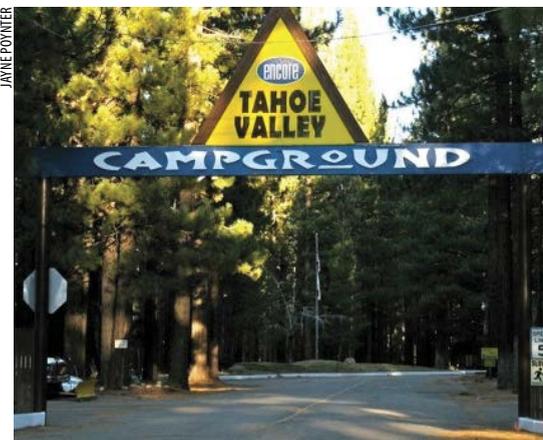
The 2015 Lake Tahoe camp meeting will be held Aug. 3-8, at the Tahoe Valley RV Resort, 1175 Melba Drive, South Lake Tahoe, Calif. Make your reservations directly with the resort at 530-541-2222, letting them know you are attending Tahoe camp meeting.

This year’s speakers include Brian Bilbrey, former pastor of the Heavenly Valley church; Ingo Sorke, professor of religion, Southwestern Adventist University; Ralph and Darlys Robertson, former Nevada-Utah Conference president; Jean Ross, administrative director of Granite Bay church and vice president for evangelism for Amazing Facts; and Larry Siemens, chemistry professor and chair of the science department at Simpson University in Redding, Calif.

Cradle roll through youth will enjoy their own sessions. A Sabbath afternoon concert, ABC bookmobile and vegetarian dining options will also be available.



Ingo Sorke, professor of religion, will be the evening speaker at the Lake Tahoe camp meeting.



Tahoe Valley Campground will be the site of Lake Tahoe camp meeting, Aug. 3-8.

Jane Paynter

Tongans and Samoans Share Communion Service as a Witness

For the first time, the Los Angeles Tongan and the Compton Samoan churches united their communion services during the fall of 2014. This was done in response to shootings that occurred in late September outside a Long Beach home, injuring a Samoan Christian pastor, his wife and another church leader.

This attack came days after a Tongan man was fatally shot in Hawthorne. Although the cases remained unsolved, there was much discussion through social media websites of the incidents being part of a war between Tongan and Samoan gang members. In an effort to bring a positive light to this matter, Pastor Eliu Lafo of the Compton Samoan church, and Pastor Sonatane Vunileva of the Los Angeles Tongan church, used their leadership to unite their churches as an example to their communities.

"This is not a cultural issue, but a community gang issue, and the violence needs to stop," said Lafo as he prepared for the service.

"We've never done this before. This is the first time our churches combined our divine services," said Terence Maiava, the Compton Samoan church Pathfinder director. "I hope it is not the last."

The morning began with a combined Sabbath school, followed by songs in each native tongue. Vunileva gave his pulpit to Lafo to preach the morning sermon.

"We should have done this a long time ago," said Vunileva as he introduced Lafo to his



Tongan Pastor Vunileva kneels to wash Samoan Pastor Lafo's feet.

congregation. "You often wonder why people always ask, 'Are you Tongan or Samoan?' Why? Because we are no different —we are one.

"We are here today to show everyone that we are ready to make a stand. We are tired of seeing our people fight each other. It is time to come together and to commune with each other." The congregation nodded their heads, agreeing that change needs to take place for the sake of their children.

Next, a communion service allowed Tongan and Samoan members to wash each others' feet and to take part in the bread and wine together, symbolizing their unity. The women sang as they knelt on the floor to gather the basins and towels.

A huge feast followed, allowing for fellowship and discussion. During the afternoon youth program, two guest speakers talked about the situation that had taken place weeks prior.

"I am very pleased to see that the Polynesian church leaders have decided to do something like this," said Vaka Faletau, founder of the P.I.L.O.T. program (Pacific Islanders Leaders of Tomorrow). I just pray that this will encourage the surrounding community to do the same."

Los Angeles County has the most diverse community in the country and guess what? We don't always get along," acknowledged Ray Regalado, County Senior Intergroup Relations Specialist, who has an extensive background working with at-risk youth members and gang intervention. A local Methodist Tongan church has been a target for some time. What happened to church being a place of refuge? As parents, we need to ask ourselves, "What can we do to keep our kids off the streets and out of trouble?"

The congregation left that evening understanding that the responsibility lay in their hands. If change is to take place, it is up to each individual to make it happen. Faletau and Regalado encouraged parents and youth to get involved in community/city meetings.

Felicia Tonga Taimi



Samoans and Tongans receive communion together in a special service.

Pathfinders Celebrate Oshkosh “Afterglow” at 2015 Convocation

The White Memorial church’s 2,000 seats were all filled on Feb. 7 for the annual SCC Pathfinder Convocation. The sanctuary hummed with energy as Pathfinders, leaders and friends came together to worship and express gratitude for God’s leading during the past year and look forward with excitement to the next Oshkosh camporee in 2019.

Ron Whitehead, North American Division executive director of the international camporees held in Wisconsin every five years, was the featured speaker. His message encouraged Pathfinders, sharing memories of the 2014 camporee while looking ahead to the 2019 event.

who wish to be baptized in 2015 to come forward,” she said. “As I sang and talked to the young people, I was taken back to 1967, when I was an 11-year-old Pathfinder at Spencerville Jr. Academy in Maryland.

“As I sang several songs, more than 80 young people reverently came forward to sign a card indicating their decision to be baptized. In the coming months, they, too, would spend time studying the great truths of Scripture and then be baptized later this year.”

In her personal testimony about attending the 2014 camporee, 15-year-old Anett Pajuelo reflected on her fun and faith experience there. “God had to have had a part in the weather

scheduling, because we put up our tents before the rain came,” she recalled. “Later, when it started to rain, one of our guides looked at his phone. It said it was sunny, though it actually was raining cats and dogs!

“Pin trading not only helped me learn new things about friendship and being nice to each other,

but also helped me ‘travel the world,’ meeting new people. We also went to the special night worship programs — all 47,000 Pathfinders worshipping God every night. If you like to walk, the night program was for you. Imagine 47,000 people walking together, like a giant Adventist can of sardines.

“We also participated in the Southern California Conference parade. It was awesome, seeing the spectators cheering at every club passing by. We met people from SCC that we did not even know. Sabbath morning, every Pathfinder was in uniform, walking, singing, talking, cheering. Some Pathfinders gave out free hugs!

“That week was wonderful — praising God, knowing that everything done there was to



Connie Vandeman Jeffery sang during appeal songs for Pathfinders to come forward to indicate their desire to be baptized.

glorify and honor our Lord. It was like heaven in the Forever Faithful camporee. There is no way this event could have been made by man alone. Man contributed, but God did the work. Now it is our turn to help have more people baptized, being forever faithful to Him and loving Him. I would like to express thanks to the Bellflower Pathfinder club and God for all the fun that we had at the camporee and for being the inspiration for us to continue being Forever Faithful to him.”

Betty Cooney



The Riverwalk Tongan Pathfinder Club provided one of the special musical numbers on the convocation program.

During the service, Bob Wong, SCC Pathfinder director, called 127 Master Guides to the front for prayer and recognition of their achievements in reaching the Master Guide level. More than 100 of them had been invested at Oshkosh; the remainder during the year in their churches. Three more — Mireya Aguilera, Van Nuys Spanish; Terence Maiava and Tatyanna Falefitu, Compton Samoan — were invested at the convocation.

Some 100 Pathfinders who had been baptized in 2014 were also called to the front for affirmation and prayer.

Connie Vandeman Jeffery spoke near the close of the convocation. “I was given the sacred responsibility of making an appeal for all those



Anett Pajuelo, a fifth-grader from the Bellflower Pathfinder Club, shared her personal reflections about the 2014 “Forever Faithful” International Pathfinder Camporee.

Highland Park Spanish Church Inaugurates Building

After 38 years of renting, the Highland Park Spanish church congregation finally owns its own church building.

"We believe that being able to buy our own church is a blessing from the Lord," said Roberto Vela, a local elder. According to him, in the past there had been one unsuccessful attempt made to buy the building in which they worshipped. "We were not discouraged, because we knew that at the correct moment, God would act for His people."

After their proposal to purchase the building was turned down, they decided to consider moving to another available property. First, they had to find church that would work for them, and then they needed to raise enough money for a down payment. They established a building committee called "Pro-Temple."

The committee moved ahead with fundraising plans. They promoted events, concerts, trips to national parks, international food fairs and varied programs to raise funds. Many members promoted individual campaigns to try to raise donations and financial support. "We had the participation of all members in the congregation," said Vela. "Some members donated funds or their time in the execution of our events."

The committee was not able to find a suitable church within Highland Park. In 2013, Pastor Denilson Reis received a phone call from committee member Albert Moran regarding a church building that was for sale. After seeing the property, the pastor invited the congregation to look at it. The property was 18 minutes away from their current church, outside Highland Park, but a majority of the members approved. Once again, though, the transaction was unsuccessful. The members persevered and prayed.

That same year, during a week of prayer, Pastor Guillermo Garcia came as a guest speaker. He encouraged the congregation to put their need for a church building in God's hands. Reis and Garcia had a private conversation about the church's desire to own a church building. "Let's pray about this issue right now," Garcia said. "Maybe the Lord will give your church family



(L. to r.) Sung Oh, Larry L. Caviness, Velino Salazar, SCC treasurer, president and executive secretary, respectively; and Pastor Denilson Reis participate in the ribbon cutting for the Highland Park church's inauguration.



Pastor Claudiner Mockiuti, former Highland Park church pastor, poses with conference officers and Denilson Reis, current pastor of the church.

the honor of buying this temple in which you have been worshipping."

"Right there in the sanctuary, we knelt and prayed to the Lord for a new door to be opened so the church eventually would have its own building," said Reis.

Two days later, the pastor of the congregation that owned the building called Reis and asked if they were still interested in buying it. "This question was like soft music to my ears," said Reis, and the church immediately made an offer. After nearly seven months of negotiations, the

sale was finalized. "It is important to know," said Reis, "that the Lord is still answering the prayers of His children. All honor and glory be to the Lord our God!"

"My dream," added Reis, "is to build a community church where the local people can receive more than food and clothing from us and where the members can each jointly participate in the growth of Jesus' kingdom."

Denilson Reis and Betty Cooney

Hundreds Attend “Watch and Pray” Weekend

The Watch and Pray Religious Liberty Weekend on Feb. 20-22 offered a varied menu of presentations and resources in addition to religious liberty issues. A major theme was using the time that we have freedom of religion in this country to reach out into our communities.

Co-sponsored by the Central Filipino church and the Southern California Conference religious liberty department, the event drew hundreds to the San Gabriel Academy gymnasium for the weekend meetings.

On Sabbath, Tim Riesenburger, M.D., an emergency room physician in the Seattle area, told stories of young patients he had treated for severe trauma. Though heroic efforts were made to save them in the Intensive Care Unit, they each passed away. According to Riesenburger, whether the parents had been caring or harsh with their children, each expressed sorrow that they could not have taken their child's place so the child could live instead.

Drawing a parallel between the trauma cases and deaths with God's love for every person in this world, he said, “God is in the ICU with His dying, sinful children. He is not willing that any child perish, but that all be saved. The message of salvation is just your Dad trying to get you back,” (COL 415-416). It's the last message — shall we share it?”

Before the 11 o'clock service, meeting coordinators led ministry leaders to the front for brief reports about their ministries, encouraging participants to visit their booths to learn more about their resources for outreach.

Randy Skeete, currently an evangelist for Campus Ministries in Ann Arbor, Mich., titled his presentation, “How Supreme Is the Supreme Court?” referring to Christ's reaction to questioning before His crucifixion (“Thou wouldst have had no power except it were given thee from above.”) Skeete noted, “Christ was not intimidated by Pilate's questioning. When we do not understand who has the power, we begin to stress. We serve a God who controls every earthly power. The universal Sunday law, which Adventists believe will be put in place — that's a decision between heavenly and earthly powers.”

A first for the religious liberty-themed event was a Sunday brunch featuring Michael T. Moreland and Rohida



Some of the ministry leaders shared about their evangelistic outreach ministries and resources.

Khan from the Department of Homeland Security. Their presentations provided insights on the serious loss-of-liberty issue of human trafficking. “Human trafficking is a crime that involves as many as 800,000 young people in the U.S. alone,” said Moreland.

“This is a terrible plague,” Larry L. Caviness said, citing Albert Schweitzer's well-known quote, “Man's inhumanity to man is our greatest sin.”

Betty Cooney



Michael T. Moreland, supervisory special agent for the Department of Homeland Security, speaks on human trafficking at the brunch.

Notice of Constituency Session

Please take notice that the 64th regular Constituency Session of the Southern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene as follows:

- Place: White Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church, 401 North State Street, Los Angeles, Calif.
- Date: Sunday, May 17, 2015
- Time: 7:55 a.m. – 1 p.m., or until business is completed.

The purpose of this session is to receive reports, to elect conference officers, the Superintendent of Schools, the Executive Committee, and the Bylaws Committee; and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session.

Delegates are invited to join with the SCC Prayer Team for prayer from 7:00 – 7:50 a.m.

Larry L. Caviness, President
Velino A. Salazar, Executive Secretary

Reinvented Honors Program Continues Tradition of Excellence

ALLISON REGAN



Professor of English Cynthia Westerbeck facilitates discussion during a session of "Analyzing the Arts."

The Honors Program at Pacific Union College provides an alternative to traditional general education requirements, enrolling students in classes that depart from a traditional lecture format to encourage a lifetime of critical thought, aesthetic appreciation, and spiritual prosperity. Recently, the program was reinvented to meet the needs of more pre-professional students while still retaining its great books legacy and liberal arts tradition.

Since its inception, the PUC Honors Program has maintained its status as an excellent educational route by offering semi-weekly seminars, each with a different focus. The Honors Program has always offered students a variety of opportunities to work closely with professors, especially on the senior-year capstone honors project; study abroad to learn about art, history, architecture, etc.; hone leadership abilities as well as scholastic skills; seek truth by engaging in a journey of personal growth and spiritual

development; and raise their academics to a distinguished level in preparation for graduate school applications. The program director, professor of English Georgina Hill, says Honors provides "a stimulating, alternative environment, focused on in-depth understanding through lively discussions."

According to Hill, the program underwent its makeover in the fall of 2014 to create scheduling flexibility, add more variety, provide cross-cohort classes, and offer the opportunity (but not the absolute requirement) of an abroad seminar.

While the program has been a success since its inception, students occasionally faced challenges meeting the required number of seminars alongside the rest of their course requirements. "The previous curriculum required an evening seminar every term for four years," explains Hill. "Some students had terms where major class requirements left no room for an honors seminar, but if they got out of the

seminar sequence, it was very challenging to make up the missing seminar. Students returning from an Adventist Colleges Abroad year struggled to fit in the requisite seminars without adding an additional year of study."

The flexibility of the new program has already met with approval by pre-professional students with science emphases. "[The Honors Program] allows time in my schedule to graduate in four years without compromising my passion for both the sciences and the humanities," says

Glorianne Besana, a sophomore history major and pre-med student. "My schedule is built around my laboratories, which usually run over the designated three-hour period — time that could interfere with my late honors classes. Now that there are classes offered at different times (most importantly, not in the evening) I can spread out my schedule throughout the week and not worry about being rushed for either class."

Though significant changes await the Honors Program, there are several aspects that will remain unaltered: the program will continue to provide a core sequence of seminars that focus on deep understanding of serious issues through reading, writing, and discussion. Likewise, the summer seminars abroad and the senior capstone honors project remain integral to the new program.

Current students have welcomed the transition to the reinvented schedule. "I really like the changes to the Honors Program," says Tara

Hattendorf, a junior pre-law student and political science major. "I like the variety and choices of honors classes we can take now. It's fun to take classes with people from different departments as well as people from different years, so I get to meet a lot of interesting people."

Though the number of required seminars has been reduced, the deficit is made up with electives called H-courses. H-courses are open to PUC's entire student body, so the program has a chance to become less encapsulated and evolve into a more diverse community, while providing more schedule flexibility and giving all students access to unique, in-depth courses. Honors students are also required to take several cognates to round out their studies, which include a lab science, statistics, and two physical activity courses.

"I love that the new program is expanding into areas that the old program didn't focus on as much," shares junior history major Gisella

Navarro. "Another upside is that the new program calls for professors to create new classes, so I think it's going to be exciting for both the students and the professors to see what will be offered. And, because new classes are going to be created in the years to come, it'll be really nice to have more professors be a part of the Honors Program."

Regardless of the changes to the Honors Program, current and future students can rest assured that the program will continue to live up to its mission to

educate seekers of truth, distinguished scholars, and capable leaders.

Emily Mathe

Notice of Constituency Session

An official session of the Constituent Membership of Pacific Union College will be held in PUC's Fireside Room at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday May 13, 2015. The members will elect trustees to replace those whose terms will expire at that session, review the audited financial statement of the previous period and transact other such business as may properly come before the Constituency. The meeting will adjourn at or before 5:30 p.m.

*Bradford C. Newton, Chair
Heather J. Knight, Secretary*



The capstone honors project gives students the opportunity to showcase scholarship and creativity. Samantha (Angeles) Peralta presented her project, "The Vashiti: The Cost of Answering the Call" before receiving bachelor's degrees in communication and theology.

Building Bridges for Freedom

Religion can create walls, but the Adventist church's religious liberty ministry has long been in the business of building bridges of friendship. This has proven to be an effective way to protect religious liberty for all, and in so doing, demonstrate God's commitment to human freedom.

Recently, the General Conference filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the Supreme Court case of EEOC v. Abercrombie and Fitch. The case is enormously important for Adventists applying for jobs who wish to faithfully observe the Sabbath. An appellate court ruled the employer was not liable for religious discrimination when it rejected a Muslim job applicant because she wore a head-scarf. It didn't matter to the court that the employer knew she wore the scarf for religious reasons, the applicant had not been asked, and did not explain, why she wore the scarf, or even whether she wanted to continue wearing a scarf if hired.

If the ruling is upheld by the Supreme Court, employers can easily insulate themselves from religious discrimination claims by not giving those who say they are unavailable seven days a week a chance to explain if it's due to their religious observance.

This is exactly what many employers already do.

Fourteen other groups representing an extraordinary diversity across the religious and political spectrum joined the Church's brief. Such a broad base of support speaks powerfully to the Court about the issues in the case. It is noteworthy that Jews and Muslims, religious conservatives

and the ACLU, all joined on the same brief. This brief represents decades of quiet diplomacy and bridge building — making friends before you need them.

Similarly, when the Church State Council worked for passage of AB 1964, the California Workplace Religious Freedom Act in 2012, our success was due to the friends we had made among civil rights groups as well as in the religious community.

Last fall, the Church State Council commemorated 50 years of ministry with a banquet in Sacramento. Lutherans, Catholics, Jews, Protestants, Muslims, civil rights lawyers, Adventist attorneys, and many others were on hand to join us in celebrating this important milestone, and in marking the importance of working to protect and defend religious freedom for all. All are friends we had made in working together to protect religious freedom for all.

The awards presented at the banquet reflected the bridge building efforts of the Church State Council. Those honored included Hon. Mariko Yamada, the assembly member who authored AB 1964; Alan E. Brownstein, a U.C. Davis law professor who was honored for a lifetime of scholarship and advocacy on behalf of religious freedom; Mariko Yoshihara, legislative director of the California Employment Lawyers Association, whose support was critical to passage of AB 1964; Lincoln Steed, editor of *Liberty* magazine; Kent Hansen, General Counsel of Loma Linda University; Kwasi Opuku-Boateng, a Seventh-day Adventist whose perseverance through 15 years of a lawsuit resulted in an important legal precedent that has helped hundreds of church members obtain Sabbath accommodation. I also received an award from NARLA commemorating 15 years of broadcast of Freedom's Ring radio.

In the 1940s and 50s, Dr. Jean Nussbaum set the example of building bridges of friendship with presidents and

DEBBIE THOMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY



Ricardo Graham presents an award to Kent Hansen, Esq.

kings on behalf of the church. He was a close friend of Eleanor Roosevelt. His ministry inspired those who came after, including Dr. Bert Beach, whose attendance at Vatican Council II as an observer for the Adventist church began a lifetime of making friends with leaders of other churches; and Dr. John Graz, who has tirelessly organized conferences, festivals, and meetings of experts for two decades, bringing together government officials and religious leaders to promote religious freedom.

These men have inspired those of us in the Pacific Union to make bridge building the priority in our ministry. Our motto: make friends before we need friends.

Now it's your turn. Your church can make friends in your local community. You can invite elected officials to church for a religious liberty Sabbath. You can honor those who work for civil and religious freedom. You can sponsor interfaith events to get acquainted with your neighbors who worship differently.

Religious liberty ministry is not just a means of preserving the freedom to evangelize: it is an excellent way to live the gospel and demonstrate the character of a loving God who gave His Son to die so that we might worship Him freely, in love, if we choose to worship Him at all.

Alan J. Reinach, Esq.

DEBBIE THOMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY



Award recipients (back row, l. to r.) Kwasi Opuku-Boateng, Lincoln Steed, Prof. Alan E. Brownstein, (front row, l. to r.) Mariko Yoshihara, Alan J. Reinach, Esq., and the Hon. Mariko Yamada pose for a photo.

Career Services Center Helps Students Find Career Opportunities

La Sierra University's new Career Services Center officially opened with two events in February 2015 — an open house introducing the center's services to students and faculty, and a dedication ceremony attended by members of the university's board of trustees.

Elke Hardt has joined La Sierra University to serve as Career Services Center director. She comes with more than 20 years of career development and counseling experience. She comes to La Sierra from Accomplish, a career consulting practice located in Dallas, Texas, where she has been both the owner and a career strategist. Prior to that post, Hardt worked as a career advisor at Tarrant County College, Fort Worth, Texas, and Southern Methodist University.

"I like to consider the Career Services Center a 'one-stop shop,' where students of all classifications and all majors can be served at any stage of their career development journey," Hardt says. Center offerings will include assessments for those students still unsure of their career path; résumé and cover letter assistance; search strategies, including mock interviews for those students seeking an internship or full-time position; workshops and other events designed to give students tools and skills necessary to set career-related goals.

While starting a Career Services Center from the ground up may seem like a daunting task, Hardt's previous experience has her ready for the challenge.

"What excites me about my job, that I have an opportunity to create what I believe will work best for the La Sierra students. I spent 14 years in a career center that started small and grew over time. I've learned that every student has a unique career journey. I believed I was called to help students along that journey."

Hardt's goals for the center include:

- Make it an inviting space where students will feel welcome and comfortable
- The services and resources offered will facilitate the career development process of every student who enters
- Assist the students in recognizing what God designed them to do, and how that plays into their choice of major and career

She also envisions close collaboration with La Sierra's Center for Student Academic Success. "There is a natural partnership that occurs between advising and career services," Hardt says.

Hardt also looks forward to developing a significant role for La Sierra University alumni in the Career Services Center's development.

"Alumni can support these efforts in several ways," Hardt says. "In the role of employers they can post jobs and internships. They can participate



Elke Hardt, Career Services Center director explains the services students will be receiving to members of the university board of trustees.



The Career Services Center is designed to be a welcoming, inviting space. Hardt's goal is to offer the services and resources necessary to facilitate the career development of every student who seeks help.

in career fairs and related events. As special guests, they can speak to their job search experiences within their majors and industries. Students much prefer listening to alumni rather than a career counselor!"

The Career Services Center is located in the Tom and Vi Zapara School of Business building. For more information on services available, contact the center at 951-785-2964, or e-mail careerservices@lasierra.edu.

Larry Becker

Music and Arts Festival Features 270 Musicians

The second annual Arizona Music and Arts Festival attracted 270 students in grades 5–12 from Arizona, California and Nevada to the campus of Thunderbird Adventist Academy in Scottsdale Feb. 5-7.

Event organizer and string instrument clinician Susan Byers, pleased with the success of the three-day festival, said, “This was perhaps the most rewarding music weekend of the year because of the friendships made, music learned and obvious growth gained. My elementary and high school musicians all benefited from the experience. Truly this was Christian education as its best!”

Most Arizona participants were from Thunderbird Adventist Academy and Glenview Adventist Academy. In addition, student musicians came from Calexico Mission Academy in Calexico, Calif., near the border of Mexico, and Las Vegas Junior Academy in Las Vegas, Nev.

Thursday and Friday, participants received personal tutoring in professional band, bells, strings and vocal performance with Byers, Ben Purvis, Gale Murphy Jones and Steve Hall. Byers and Purvis are on the faculty at Thunderbird.

Hall, a retired music professor from Union College in Lincoln, Neb., now living in San Diego, Calif., was guest clinician for the second year.

Jones is a former music educator at Forest Lake Adventist Academy in Orlando, Fla. She quickly won the hearts of the students with her attentiveness, humor and pleasant though strong demands for the best musicianship possible.

Sabbath services were held in the Scottsdale-Thunderbird church. The students were given the opportunity to praise God together before an audience of enthusiastic students, friends and family.

“Hearing the students uplifting their instruments and voices to God allowed those present to feel how heaven is going to be,” said education superintendent Gus Martin.

On Sabbath, students were given the opportunity to praise God together in front of the congregation. In the afternoon, various schools



Thunderbird senior Joseph Frates enjoyed playing with the orchestra.

showcased their talents before being treated to a mini concert by Murphy. Saturday evening’s program was in the gymnasium in order to accommodate the 270 performers and their instruments.

“Music is a powerful tool that can reach even the most difficult heart,” said hand bell clinician Purvis. “Just imagine if all of our young people would use it to glorify God. How many more people would come to know Him? We are already looking forward to having this event next school year with the ultimate goal of preparing our young people to lead out in their local



Clinicians Susan Byers, Gale Murphy, Ben Purvis and Steve Hall set standards of excellence for their students.



Vocal clinician Gale Murphy dazzled the students with her style, personality and high standards in music.

churches, as well as experiencing a foretaste of heaven.”

Phil Draper



The 270 young participants had lots of performance opportunities during the three-day event.

Glendale Church Dedicates Rodgers Trillium 968 Organ

The choral ministry of the Glendale church in Glendale, Ariz., has been growing for the past 39 years. It began under the leadership of Rene and Giomar Marsollier, and is now continued by their son, Dennis, and his wife, Claudia. Besides providing choral music for the weekly worship services, well-organized and advertised concerts at Easter and Christmas attract friends and visitors from all over the state. These music extravaganzas feature the sanctuary choir, hand bell choir, and orchestra, and require two shows to accommodate the crowds.

DENNIS MARSOLLIER



Glendale members consider the Rodgers organ a gift from God.

Over the years, it had become more and more apparent that the aging Rodgers organ needed to be replaced. "Our prayer (and belief) was that God would keep our old organ going until He brought us a new one," said Senior Pastor Gary Venden. "And He did!"

Last spring, the church shopped for and settled on a basic, decent new organ. The very day that option was to be presented to the church, news came that a well-known organist, Dr. Robert Tall, was planning to sell his personal organ that had been in his Glendale, Calif., home for the past nine years. The Rodgers Trillium 968 had been custom built to Tall's specifications, but would not fit in the new home he was building.

Venden requested that the church members ask God one question, "Is this the organ You have in mind for our church?" After two weeks of listening for God's voice, 32 reported hearing God say YES, while 16 said they heard nothing.

Meanwhile, the Marsolliers met Tall and played the organ. It was a dream instrument — an organ Glendale could never afford, available at half the price. On top of that, Rodgers agreed to extend a full 10-year new-organ warranty.

Glendale is a semi-inner-city church with no deep pockets. If this was God's will, members decided, He would provide the funds. To seal the deal, they needed to raise 50 percent (\$28,000) in 60 days. That much came in during June alone. By the end of August, the church had raised 110 percent of its goal. "Our amazing church family, feeling the endorsement of God, raised a total of \$62,184 to pay cash for the organ — all without a significant drop in regular giving," Venden reports.

Marsollier says, "It appears clear God had our organ built for us nine years before we started looking. He placed it in safe storage at Bob Tall's home where it was preserved flawlessly new. Before we asked, God had already set aside for us twice the organ we could have dreamed of, and He had it waiting for us at half the price — with a full warranty."

Tall, well known for his compositions, arrangements, publications and recordings,

FLORENCIA LINEUR



Music directors Dennis and Claudia Marsollier stand with Pastor Gary Venden before the Rodgers organ at the Glendale church.

traveled to Glendale in September to personally install the organ. (For more about Tall, visit RobertTall.com.)

On Nov. 1, 2014, Dr. Kimo Smith, associate professor of music at La Sierra University and organist at the Loma Linda University church in Loma Linda, Calif., presented the official organ dedication concert.

A shiny brass plaque above the organ keyboard reads, "This organ is an amazing gift from an amazing God — November 1, 2014. This organ has been dedicated to be used always and only for the glory of God."

Phil Draper

CALENDARS

Arizona Conference

PATHFINDER CAMPOREE Camp Yavapines Prescott (April 10-12). Info: Lisa Anderson, 480-991-6777, ext. 125.

WELCOME HOME TAA alumni (April 10-12). Special activities begin Friday evening and activities for all ages are planned through Sabbath and Saturday night. All aviation lovers are welcome to join the Choppers Club for Sunday Brunch with AWA. Info: thunderbird-academy.org.

RAW FOODS POTLUCK Supper (April 11) held the 2nd Sat. of each month, 6:30 p.m. Central church, 777 W Montecito, Phoenix. Newcomers, please bring a vegetable or fruit salad without dressing. Info: stanhowerton@yahoo.com or call 480-430-5492.

BULLHEAD CITY ANNUAL Church, Lunch and Ride "Laughlin River Run" (April 25) Come and worship, have lunch and go on a nice motorcycle ride enjoying God's creation. Info: Tim Journey, text 503-348-9985; email timcar4@gmail.com.

"FROM THE GARDEN to the Table," (April 26) learning session demonstrating how to grow and harvest your own food and prepare delicious healthy meals, the last Sunday of each month, 11:30-1 p.m. Community of Hope Center, 1320 N. 15th St., Info: denisemsanderson@msn.com or Louise Harlan email wezlouise@me.com or 314-255-8027.

CAMP YAVAPINES Prescott, Ariz. Info: Lisa Anderson, 480-991-6777, ext. 125.

CAMP MEETING at Camp Yavapines Prescott, Ariz. (June 12-20) with GC President Ted Wilson, and Stephanie Dawn, special music, June 12-13; Dick Duerksen, June 14-18; VOP speaker/director Shawn Boonstra, and Steve Darmody, special music, June 19-20. RV and camping reservations: Angie Blake, 928-445-2162; cabin reservations, Sandra Leski, 480-991-6777, ext. 147.

ARIZONA SONSHINE MEDICAL Mission opportunity (June 17-18) in conjunction with camp meeting. Volunteers are reaching out to provide free limited medical services to the indigent, underserved, college students and homeless population. Dentists, medical personnel and volunteers in many areas needed. Info: arizonasonshine.com.

Central California

INSIDE OUT RETREAT (April 10-12) Clovis Seventh-day Adventist church.

Info: Leah, 5569-347-3182 or ljordache@cccsda.org.

AREA 1 ARES & HAM Radio Training (April 11-12) San Francisco, Calif. Info: Wendell, 559-310-7546.

NAD URBAN MINISTRIES Training (April 11-12) & (April 18-19) Fresno Westside church. Info: Steve, 559-347-3142.

TEEN GUYS RETREAT (13-17 years) (April 17-18) Monterey Bay Academy. Info: Sandra 559-347-3174 or spasillas@cccsda.org.

TEEN GIRLS RETREAT (13-17 years) (April 17-18) Soquel Conference Center. Info: Sandra 559-347-3174 or spasillas@cccsda.org.

AREA 4 HAM RADIO Training (April 18-19) Arroyo Grande, Calif. Info: Wendell, 559-310-7546.

FRESNO UNION ACADEMY/Fresno Adventist Academy Alumni Reunion (April 24-25) Golf Tournament, Friday; Sabbath speaker, Ernie Castillo. Call 559-251-5548 or www.faa.org.

PATHFINDER BIKE-A-THON (April 24-26) Castle Airbase, Atwater, Calif. Info: Sandra, 559-347-3174 or pathfinders@cccsda.org.

HISPANIC MEN'S RETREAT (April 24-26) Wawona. Info: Florina, 559-347-3144 or fmorales@cccsda.org.

FEJA—HISPANIC YOUTH Retreat (13-17 years) (May 1-3) Soquel Conference Center. Info: Sandra, 559-347-3174 or spasillas@cccsda.org.

MR. & MRS. RETREAT (May 1-3) Camp Wawona. Info: Wanda, 559-347-3169 or wflowers@cccsda.org.

GOD'S GIRLS GETAWAY (May 1-3) Discover Life Seventh-day Adventist church Sonora, Calif. Info: Rosa, 559-347-3181 or rgillham@cccsda.org.

GLOW LEADERSHIP TRAINING (May 2) Central California Conference, Clovis. Info: Joel, 559-906-6460 or jmoutray@cccsda.org.

AREA 5-8 HAM Radio Training Drill (May 3) Central California Conference, Clovis. Info: Wendell, 559-310-7546.

PATHFINDER FAIR (May 15-17) Central Valley Christian Academy, Ceres. Info: Sandra, 559-347-3174 or pathfinders@cccsda.org.

AREA 1-4 HAM Radio Training Drill (May 17) Soquel Conference Center. Info: Wendell, 559-310-7546.

DISASTER RELIEF/Donations Operation Training (May 31) Soquel Conference Center. Info: Steve, 559-347-3142.

La Sierra University

ALUMNI HOMECOMING (April 17-19) Honor class: '65. Annual homecoming banquet with alumni Friday, Worship, Sabbath, 9:30 a.m. A Fun&Fitness 5K, Sunday, 8 a.m. Info: alumni office, 909-785-4LSU, or www.lasierra.edu/alumni.

DEDICATION CEREMONY for the HMS Richards Library (April 18) 4:15 p.m., Library, lower level of the Commons.

THE HMS RICHARDS JR. Lecture (April 18) 3 p.m., features Elizabeth Talbot, speaking on the topic "Bread for All." La Sierra University church.

SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK (April 22-24) La Sierra University church.

LA SIERRA MUSIC DEPARTMENT presents the 57th Annual Concerto concert (April 18) 8:15 p.m., Hole Memorial Auditorium. Info: 951-785-2036.

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

Northern California Conference

EL DORADO NATURE CLUB CAMP OUT (April 3-4) Almond Tree RV Park, 3124 Esplanade, Chico. Friday 6 p.m.

soup and sandwich potluck supper. Sabbath service: 9:30 a.m. Reservations required. Wagon Master: Mel Ferguson, 707-965-3504.

TEEN PATHFINDER ROCK Climbing (April 16-19; 23-26) Yosemite. Info: Youth Department, 925-603-5080.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES SABBATH (April 18) Pleasant Hill church, 800 Grayson Road. Speaker: Tatiana Hodges. Info: phwm@nccsda.com.

Pacific Union College

COLLEGE DAYS (April 9-12). Prospective students are invited to experience life at PUC. Info: 707-965-6336 or www.puc.edu/admissions.

NAPA VALLEY DIRT Classic (April 12) 8:30 a.m. The annual 22-mile mountain bike race draws athletes from around the country. Info: www.puc.edu/nvdc

VINIFERA TRIO (April 12) 4 p.m., Paulin Hall. These young award-winning musicians specialize in both classical and contemporary performance and have performed in many venues along the West Coast. Info: music@puc.edu, 707-965-6201.

RAG: STUDENT ART Exhibition (April 16) Opening Reception, 7 p.m., Rasmusen Art Gallery. This exhibit features new work from students in PUC's visual arts program and will run through May 8. Info: 707-965-7362.



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Leonard Grado

HOMECOMING WEEKEND (April 17-19) PUC alumni are invited to a special weekend. Jon Dybdahl and James Appel speak, with a special concert by the Wedgwood Trio and retirement celebration for Lary Taylor. Honored classes: '55, '65, '75, and '85. Info: 707-965-7500, www.puc.edu/alumni.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONCERT (April 18) 4 p.m., Paulin Hall. The department of music presents a concert featuring pieces performed by the many talented student musicians and ensembles. Info: music@puc.edu, 707-965-6201.

STUDENT WEEK OF PRAYER (April 20-25) PUC Church. Student speakers present each morning and evening, sharing personal testimonies. Info: 707-965-7190.

PUC POST (ONLINE) Stay connected with Pacific Union College by signing up for our email newsletter. Info: www.puc.edu/post

Southeastern California

SECC JR. HIGH BAND Festival (April 8) 7 p.m., Loma Linda Academy Junior High gymnasium, 10656 Anderson St., Loma Linda. All are welcome to enjoy the concert. Info: Teri Vasquez, 951-509-2313.

LOMA LINDA ACADEMY Annual Alumni Homecoming (April 11) 10:30 a.m., Loma Linda Academy, Chan Auditorium, 10656 Anderson St., Loma Linda. The honored classes will be the 50-year class of 1965 and the 25-year class of 1990. The worship service will feature speaker, Jesse James, class of 1965. A potluck lunch is to follow. Info: visit www.lla.org, or call 909-796-0161, ext. 3313.

LSA ALUMNI WEEKEND April (24-26) La Sierra Academy, 4900 Golden Ave., Riverside. Alumni Reunions Friday evening April 24 and all day Sabbath 25th; Ladies' Gala Charity Tea Sunday April 26th 10 a.m. LSU School of Business. Info: Judith Nelson, 951-351-1445 or email JNelson@lsak12.com.

UPLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH 20th Anniversary (April 25) 1722 E 8th St., Ontario. Info: 909-556-5030.

ANNUAL RETIREES RETREAT (May 18-20) Pine Springs Ranch, 58000 Apple Canyon Rd., Mountain Center. SECC will host the annual retreat. Info: Mario Perez, 951-509-2236.

Southern California Conference

HEATING AND AIR-CONDITIONING (HVAC) Technician Training Class starts (April 1) University church, 1135 W.

Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Los Angeles 90037. Free. For men and women wanting to be certified in air-conditioning, heating repairs. Call 323-766-9889 or 323-734-1276 leave a message or email: charlesdolcey23@yahoo.com.

"CAN U HEAR ME NOW" Youth Mini Camp Meeting (April 3-4) Fri. & Sabbath, 7 p.m. Free. Speaker, Pastor Alvin Maragh, Central Filipino church. School of Evangelism and Resource Center, 1501 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. Info: 818-549-4147, www.endtimeslikethese.org.

ALUMNI SABBATH SAN FERNANDO Valley Academy (April 11) 9:30 a.m. 17601 Lassen St., Northridge 91325 Continental breakfast, fellowship luncheon and choir rehearsal. Info: 818-349-1373.

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION (April 11) 10:45 a.m., White Memorial Church 60th Anniversary of the Sanctuary and 97th anniversary of the congregation. Guest speaker, Alejandro Bullon.

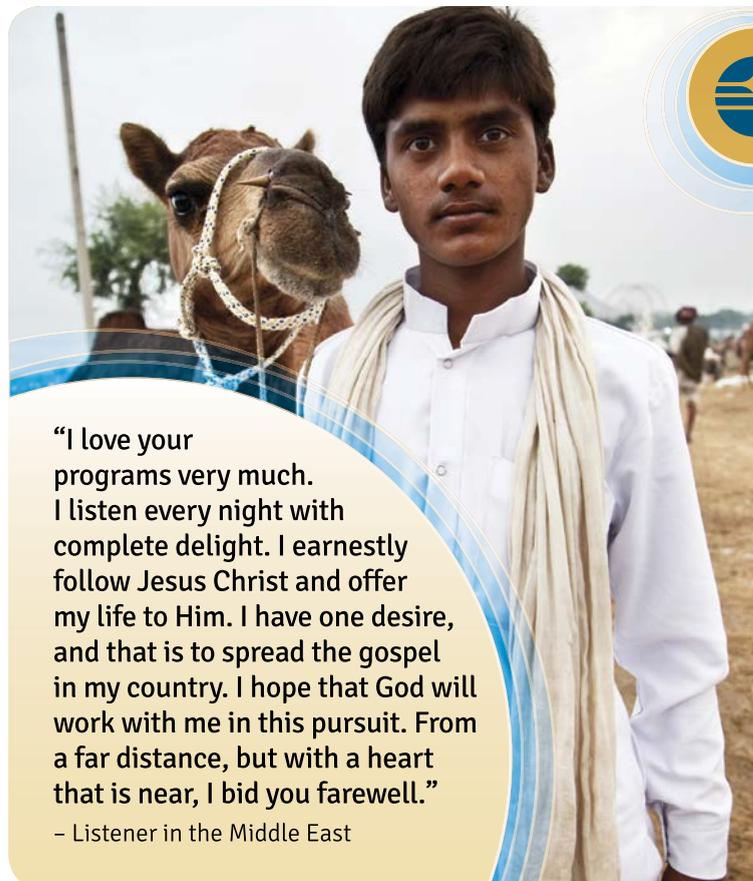
ALUMNI WEEKEND San Gabriel Academy, 8827 E. Broadway (April 24-26) Fri., 7 a.m., Golf, Pacific Palms, Industry Hills; Sabbath full schedule including Alumni Concert, 4 p.m., Temple City church, 9664 Broadway. Sun., 5K run, 1K run and SGA/Alumni Basketball. Spring Festival. Info: 626-292-1156; advancement@sangabrielacademy.org.



GLAR 2015 CONVOCATION (April 15-19) April 15-17 at Breath of Life Worship Center, 7 p.m.; Sabbath, April 18 at White Memorial church; Sunday, April 19, Annual GLAR Family Picnic at Kenneth Hahn Regional Park, \$6 parking, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING SYMPOSIUM (April 25) 4 p.m. Breath of Life Worship Center, 425 S. LaBrea Avenue, Inglewood.

LOS ANGELES FORUM (April 25) Speaker, Gil Valentine, Ph.D., chair, Admin/Leadership, School of Education, La Sierra University. Topic: "The Voice Falls Silent: Ellen White and the Crisis of World War I." 3:00 p.m. Glendale City Adventist church, Chapel of the Good Samaritan, 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241.



"I love your programs very much. I listen every night with complete delight. I earnestly follow Jesus Christ and offer my life to Him. I have one desire, and that is to spread the gospel in my country. I hope that God will work with me in this pursuit. From a far distance, but with a heart that is near, I bid you farewell."

- Listener in the Middle East



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Employment

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time faculty to serve as Director of the DNP program. This individual will provide the administrative/management direction for this graduate program with a focus in FNP preparation, or DNP preparation or those who are already advanced practice nurses. Qualified person should have a DNP prepared, FNP certified, FNP experience, formal academic teaching experience, experience with accreditation, evidence of scholarship, experience with online teaching. For more information and to apply, visit www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_10.

CHRISTIAN RECORD SERVICES for the Blind is seeking a full-time field rep for Central Valley, Calif. Sales experience necessary, excellent benefits. Call, 530-559-3658.

NURSING DEPARTMENT at Southwestern Adventist University seeks full time educator to begin Fall 2015. Master's degree required, doctoral degree preferred. Focus areas include mental health, community health or pediatrics. Must have previous teaching experience and an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at arosenthal@swau.edu.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking a full-time carpentry foreperson to begin immediately. Ideal candidate will possess training and applied experience in construction, general carpentry, concrete work, roof repair, cabinet making, and floor coverings. Candidate must be able to manage multiple projects and work well under pressure. For more information or to apply, call 707-965-6231 or visit www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

RADIO STATION MANAGER Needed: A new full-power, commercial, Adventist radio station is in need of a station manager. Submit your resumé and wage requirements to: MCBC, 1134 N. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401 or call 970-856-4948.

SEEKING TRUSTWORTHY, caring person to live with Adventist couple in Fresno. Duties include driving, some cooking, light housekeeping, grocery shopping, helping with day-to-day life. Prior nursing or caregiving experience a plus. Contact Todd Warner, 559-289-7878, or todd@warnerca.com.

SHARE GOD'S REDEEMING LOVE while teaching Bible and conversational English at Korean Language Institutes. koreanmission.ok@gmail.com or 405-761-0655.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks educator to serve

as Chair for Nursing Department beginning Fall 2015. Doctoral degree required with three years of university/college teaching experience. Must have an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at arosenthal@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S Business Department seeks faculty to begin Fall 2015. Master's degree required, Ph.D. preferred, with emphasis in Finance, Marketing and Accounting. Position includes instruction in multiple areas, undergraduate and graduate courses and providing service to the university and community. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses at mosesa@swau.edu.

THE COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT at Southwestern Adventist University seeks full-time professor in Advertising/Public Relations or Radio/TV to begin July 1, 2015. Master's degree required; doctoral degree desired. Must have teaching experience. Send cover letter and CV to Michael Agee at magee@swau.edu.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE Office of General Counsel is accepting résumés for a full-time attorney. Required: good standing/member of a U.S. state bar, licensed to practice in the U.S., and a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing. Maryland bar membership is preferred. Preference for an attorney with experience in Intellectual Property, Media law, and other transactional law. Location: Silver Spring Maryland. A wide range of benefits included. Submit resumé to Karnik Doukmetzian, General Counsel, karnickd@gc.adventist.org.

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seeks full-time physical education professor to begin July 1, 2015. Master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred. Must have some teaching experience. Submit CV and cover letter to Mr. Vesa Naukkarinen at vnaukkar@swau.edu.

APMOA. Registration, \$65; limited space. Info: Betty Kelley, coordinator, Pacific Union Prison Ministry, 559-348-3223. To register, contact AdvtSource at 800-732-7587 or www.advtsource.org.

PLEASANT HILL. Contact: Lisa Moreno, clerk, Pleasant Hill Adventist Church, 800 Grayson Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523; 925-934-5803; office@pleasanthilladventist.org; Maria Apaza, Maria Correon, Esteban Ortiz, America Gastelum Salgado.

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Events

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY Festschrift to George Knight (April 21) 11:30 a.m. in honor of his distinguished teaching, research, editorial and publishing career. The recently released book, *Adventist Maverick: A Celebration of George Knight's Contribution to Adventist Thought*. Seminary Chapel at Andrews University; reception will follow in the Seminary Commons. All are welcome.

BUTLER CREEK HEALTH Education Center. Diabetes Reversal, Permanent Weight Loss, Overcoming Depression. (May 10-22) & (June 14-26). Prevention and recovery from lifestyle disease amidst the beauty of nature. Cost: \$975. Register online or call: 931-213-1329. www.butlercreekhealth.org.

PRISON EVANGELISM Region-wide Convention (Sept. 11-13) Nevada-Utah Conference office, 10475 Double R Blvd., Reno, Nev., sponsored by the Pacific Union and APMOA. Attend all sessions and receive certification from the Pacific Union, Nevada-Utah Conference, and

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Missing Members

HAYFORK. Contact: Sarah Brandauer, clerk, Hayfork Adventist Church, P.O. Box 1146, Ruth, CA 95526; 707-574-6408; clerk.hayfork@staff.ncsda.com; Carolyn Anderson, Jason Anderson, Justin Bailey, James Clark, Bob Grenz, Gregory McQuilliams, Kimberley McWilliams, Brian Mercill, Nick Morgan, Samantha Myrick, Rachele Tice, Jessica Waggoner.

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Reunions

ALUMNI WEEKEND (May 1-3) Golden Gate Academy, 3800 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. Celebrate GGA's 80th anniversary with life-long friends. Friday night vespers, church service, Sabbath dinner, Saturday evening banquet, golf tournament, pancake breakfast, basketball and volleyball tournaments. Info: Erin@goldengateacademy.org.

LODI ACADEMY Alumni Reunion (April 10-12) Friday, Fellowship, 7:30 p.m., Library. Registration, Sabbath 9:30 a.m., Gym; Worship 10:30 a.m., speaker, Pastor Dale Galusha. Alumni golf tournament, Sunday. Info: www.lodiacademy.net or call 209-368-2781.

MADISON COLLEGE Alumni Association wants to include any graduates, attendees or friends, who may not already be on our mailing list, to receive the quarterly newsletter and other communications. Write P.O. Box 1735, Madison, TN 37116 or email: madison-collegealumni@gmail.com.

"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY Reunion (June 6-8) for alumni and schoolmates of 1964 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar

Lake, Mich. Honor classes: '34, '44, '54, and '64. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For further information, you may contact GLAA Alumni office at 989-427-5181 or visit www.glaa.net/.

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AT REST

Correction: ABRAMS, CAROLA – b. May 18, 1920, Omaha, Neb.; d. Dec. 8, 2013, Stockton, Calif. Survivors: son, Robert Garrett Jr.; two grandchildren; sister, Harriet Hooper.

BENDERMAN, LAVERNE – b. Dec. 23, 1925, Dallas, Texas; d. Jan. 29, 2015, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: son, Randy; daughter, Ronda Bowers; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

Correction: BENTON, BOB – b. March 12, 1934, Hanford, Calif.; d. May 17, 2014, Porterville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Carol; sons, Barry, Richard, Donald; daughter, Susan; four grandchildren.

BESEL, HILMER WALTER – b. July 2, 1915, Winnipeg, Canada; d. Feb. 8, 2015, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Tanya Stotz, Sinka Michelle Razzouk, Radmila Bailey.

BORK, PAUL FRANZ – b. Jan. 8, 1924, Christiana, Brazil; d. Jan. 24, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Norma; sons, Paul, Terry.

CHEATHAM, WILBERT AUGUSTUS – b. Feb. 14, 1942, Dover, Del.; d. Dec. 22, 2014, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: wife, Ida (Anderson); son, William; daughters,

Marta Cheatham-Lott, Nicole; seven grandchildren.

Correction: FISCHER, ROBERT MAURICE – b. Nov. 16, 1932, Covina, Calif.; d. Nov. 22, 2014, Napa, Calif. Survivors: wife, Sandra; sons, Randy, Steve; daughters, Linda Bradas, Cheryl Porter; 13 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

COYL, NED – b. May 18, 1953, Toledo, Ohio; d. Jan. 27, 2015, Germany. Survivors: wife, Joy Lynn; sons, Ned Leland II, Scott Everett; daughters, Starla Marie, Tamara Coyal Gunsman; nine grandchildren.

ENGELKEMIER, BETTY – b. Aug. 20, 1935, Newkirk, Okla.; d. Jan. 21, 2015, Phoenix, Ariz. Survivors: brother, Bob. Worked as secretary to the presidents of Kansas, Louisiana, Indiana and Arizona conferences.

ENGEVIK, JANINE – b. Feb. 23, 1938, Glendale, Calif.; d. Jan. 17, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Craig; daughters, Jennifer, Ann.

GILLENWATER, SHIRLEY – b. July 28, 1932, Topeka, Kan.; d. Jan. 21, 2015, Hilmar, Calif. Survivors: sons, Steven, James; three great-grandchildren; brother, Gary Weaver; sister, Rita Owen.

HAAS, GERTRUD E. (WIEDEMANN) – b. May 5, 1921, Bremen, Germany; d.

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

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

April issue: February 24
 May issue: March 31
 June issue: April 28
 July issue: May 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.

Jan. 5, 2015, Napa, Calif. Survivors: son, Gerhard; daughter, Erika Haas-Bauer; one grandchild; one great-grandchild; brother, Willi Wiedemann; sister, Margret Reinhard. Worked as a nurse.

HANSON, RUSSELL T. SR. — b. April 4, 1926, Veradale, Wash.; d. Nov. 5, 2014, Avondale, Ariz. Survivors: wife, Joyce (nee Westerhout); son, Russell T. Hanson Jr.; daughters, Tamera Phillips, Terrese Hanson, Karol Reina; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sisters, Elvene Wilson, Roberta Chitwood; nieces and nephews. Worked in construction for SWCC, CCC and SECC.

HINESTROZA, ELENA — b. April 5, 1911, Ciudad Lerdo, Durango, Mexico; d. Jan. 22, 2015, San Diego, Calif. Survivors: son, Roberto Reyes; daughter, Esperanza Lopez; 23 grandchildren; 55 great-grandchildren; 49 great-great-grandchildren; three great-great-great-grandchildren.

HUGHES, CHARLES LEROY — b. Jan. 8, 1933, Fountain Head, Tenn.; d. Feb. 3, 2015, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: wife, Joan; daughters, Debbie Clausen, Judy Hanson, Susan Gilbert, Jeanine Griffith; five grandchildren. Served at Southwestern ColorGraphics in Keene, Texas, mentoring many students from Southwestern Adventist University; worked as layout and design artist for the Southwestern Union Record.

LUTMAN, RONALD E. — b. Dec. 2, 1932, Grants Pass, Ore.; d. Dec. 16, 2014, Santa Rosa, Calif. Survivors: wife, Janet; sons, Ron Jr., Raymond; sisters, Dorothy Harty, Anita Ward, Althea Strack, Carolyn Walstrom; 10 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild. Served as a medic during the Korean War; served as a Bible worker in Texas.

MEDFORD, LESTER — b. Aug. 14, 1928, Michigan; d. Jan. 10, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: seven children; 18 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren.

MONCRIEFF, ROBERT EUGENE — b. Nov. 11 1926, Chengdu Province, China; d. Jan. 27, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: sons, Melvin, Scott.

NELSON, BARBARA ANN (EHLER) — b. Dec. 17, 1938, Mountain View, Calif.; d. Jan. 13, 2015, Adin, Calif. Survivors: husband, Bob; son, Jeff; daughter, Debbie Bauer; two grandchildren.

NELSON, ESTHER MAAS — b. June 9, 1913, Saskatchewan, Canada; d. Feb. 4, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Rollin (Karen) Mallernee; stepson, Steve; stepdaughter, Myrna Odom; three step-grandchildren; one step great-grandchild.

O'SULLIVAN, TWILA (DILLINBERG) — b. Feb. 24, 1921, Fleming, Colo.; d. Feb.

6, 2015, The Villages, Fla. Survivors: sons, Michael, Dennis, Neal; daughters, Julie Emanuel, Mary Margaret Jenkins; 13 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren.

ROJAS, EUNICE — b. April 3, 1948, San Francisco, Calif.; d. June 23, 2014, Mountain View, Calif. Survivors: husband, Jose Rojas.

SEQUEIRA, WANDA I. (MITCHELL) — b. Nov. 22, 1923, Berwick, Iowa; d. Jan. 24, 2015, Concord, Calif. Survivors: husband, Mario; stepson, Mike Collom. Served with Adventist Community Services.

Correction: **TAN, ROBERT "BOB" CHENG HAI** — b. Oct. 8, 1936, Singapore; d. Dec. 16, 2014, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: brothers, Donald, Newton, Vincent, Rodney; sisters, Queenie Chuarta, Betty Khoo. Composed words and music for the Union College hymn; taught music at Fortuna Junior Academy and Pleasant Hill Junior Academy; served as choir director, piano/voice teacher, choir and chorale director for Lodi Children's Choir and Lodi Academy.

TESTERMAN, MARY RUTH "POLLY" — b. Sept. 22, 1919, Kingsport, Tenn.; d. Jan. 28, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: sons, John, James; daughters, Judith Nicholas, Carol Leonhardt; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

WAREHAM, BRIAN SCOTT — b. Jan. 9, 2015, Glendale, Calif.; d. Feb. 16, 2015, Phoenix, Ariz. Survivors: parents, Ellsworth, Barbara; brothers, Martin, Robert, John; sister, Julie Yegge.

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

SUNSETS

	4/3	4/10	4/17	4/24
Alturas	7:30	7:38	7:45	7:53
Angwin	7:35	7:42	7:49	7:55
Calexico	7:04	7:09	7:14	7:19
Chico	7:34	7:41	7:48	7:55
Eureka	7:44	7:51	7:59	8:06
Fresno	7:23	7:29	7:35	7:42
Hilo	6:36	6:38	6:40	6:42
Honolulu	6:47	6:49	6:51	6:54
Las Vegas	7:05	7:10	7:16	7:22
Lodi	7:30	7:37	7:43	7:50
Loma Linda	7:11	7:17	7:22	7:28
Los Angeles	7:16	7:21	7:27	7:33
Moab	7:43	7:49	7:56	8:03
Oakland	7:34	7:40	7:47	7:53
Phoenix	6:50	6:55	7:00	7:06
Reno	7:26	7:33	7:39	7:46
Riverside	7:12	7:17	7:23	7:28
Sacramento	7:31	7:38	7:45	7:51
Salt Lake City	7:55	8:02	8:09	8:17
San Diego	7:10	7:15	7:20	7:25
San Francisco	7:35	7:41	7:48	7:54
San Jose	7:32	7:38	7:45	7:51
Tucson	6:45	6:50	6:55	7:00

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