To Walk Humbly

Perspectives on Christian Humility from:
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Careers in the Seventh-day Adventist Tradition.

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MANY STRENGTHS. ONE MISSION.

Part three of a three-part series from Elder Ricardo Graham, president of the Pacific Union Conference, on the seminal words of Micah 6:8.
In our consideration of the powerful words of Micah 6:8, we come to the last of the three characteristics, or “trilogy of requirements,” that the prophet, speaking for YAHWEH, urges upon his contemporaries. Though these are ancient words, I believe they form the basis of what is non-negotiable with God. Remember: they are requirements.

“And to walk humbly with your God.” Some biblical commentators suggest that this passage could have been translated “walk obediently with your God.”

The prophet is speaking to a people who have been willfully disobedient to their Creator, Liberator, and Sustainer. And in their disobedience, they have misrepresented Him. In the view of many, that misrepresentation of God continues to the present day, even though we are not living in a theocracy with a government controlled by priests and prelates.

While obedience is required, we must admit that however exacting our obedience may be, it is not enough to earn salvation. Obedience as a “work” does not balance the scales of any disobedience.

The apostle Paul reminds us: “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8, NASB).

And Ellen White writes: “We do not earn salvation by our obedience; for salvation is the free gift of God, to be received by faith” (Steps to Christ, p. 61).

Praise God! Hallelujah. A precious unparalleled gift! While obedience is a requirement of God, we don’t earn anything by our obedience. In faith, as we trust in Christ and are hidden in Him, the merits of His perfect life are accredited to the believer.

Why obey then? I think it is a matter of, among other things, allegiance and love. We show our allegiance to the true God of the universe by obeying His commands. The audience of the great controversy being played out in this planet includes angels who are present and observing, as well as beings on un-fallen worlds.

Humble obedience is a token of our love and appreciation for the gift of salvation. It is a sign to the universe that we love God, who sent His only begotten Son to die to redeem us from sin.

My observation is that humility seems to be a vanishing characteristic in our contemporary society. I don’t intend to be judgmental, but so many in our Western society seem to be about “spotlighting” themselves. When it comes to our walk with God, it isn’t about us: it is about Jesus.

Humility is just one of a plethora of honorable, praiseworthy virtues embodied in the life of Jesus.
Just think: the God of Creation came as one of His creatures, enshrined in fallen humanity. The Holy Son of God was born into the family of a carpenter. What humiliation!

Jesus revealed a constant and consistent presentation of humility. I think that obedience—God pleasing—is facilitated by our humility. To be humble requires the first rule of discipleship: self-denial. (See Matthew 16:24.)

Discipleship is, at its core, following and reproducing the Christ-like life—following God without regard to self-interest. To be a disciple is to be a Christ follower.

Jesus was focused on serving humanity—other people, not Himself. He poured out His life as a humble offering on the cross of Calvary and ended that phase of His ministry by rising from the tomb. He served until He died, and He continues to serve in the courts of heaven as the Risen Lord!

Not only that, God has gifted us for humble ministry or service. We all have been given gifts to use in humble ministry and service to others, in a reflection of His ministry.

How are we to reach such an experience with God? Glad you asked!

Paul wrote: “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took on him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Why God also has highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:5-11, KJV).

Could it be a matter of choosing to deny self, surrendering daily to the Holy Spirit? Allowing His mind, ideas, and thoughts to reside in us? Resisting the evil influences of our society, which have been planted by satanic entities? Is it a matter of the human will to simply yield to God the Holy Spirit? I think so.

I strive to accept God’s ideas as superior to mine and as “best practice” for all humanity. But while I daily choose to follow Christ in all things, I admit that I have failed many times. Yet I return to Jesus, and He always accepts my plea for forgiveness and encourages me to re-focus my mind on Him.

Years ago I heard this simple illustration used by an evangelist: “Faith means Forsaking All, I Take Him.” I believe that choosing to forsake all, including self-interest, aligns us with God. God takes the first step, and the next, and the next, and it always facilitates this. All the way through, it is God working in us. “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13, KJV).

To summarize this three-part series, I quote from the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, volume 4, page 1028:

“To do justly, and to love mercy” is to act with justice and kindness. These are manward virtues and sum up the intent of the second table of the Decalogue (see on Matt. 22:39, 40). “To walk humbly with thy God” is to live in harmony with the principles of the first table of the Decalogue (see on Matt. 22:37, 38). This is Godward virtue. Love expressed in action with respect to God and to our fellow men is “good;” it is all that God requires, for “love is the fulfilling of the law” (Rom. 13:10).

We must do the right thing, at the right time, for the right reasons. We must love to give mercy to others, not just receive it. And we must humbly obey God, by His grace. As we live this God-directed, grace-enabled life, our churches, schools, and other institutions can be outposts of humility from which humble servants of God embark—reaching people for God with the kindness of heaven, inviting others to join us in the walk of grace.

I believe that whatever God calls us to do can be achieved in the Spirit of the Lord. I am calling on Him today to continue to work His work in me. How about you? ■
Walking with God
By Bradford Newton

Seventh-day Adventist pastors across North America were recently asked, “What is the most pressing need in your congregation these days?” You might be surprised at the answer.

Local churches struggle with reaching their monthly church budget, finding volunteers for the children’s Sabbath schools, resolving conflict between church members, as well as dozens of other challenges. Interestingly, pastors didn’t focus on any of these matters. Some 75% of those who know Adventist churches best said “spiritual renewal among members” was the most pressing need.1 Are you surprised? Do you agree? How should we respond?

Micah 6:8 is the divine prescription for spiritual renewal: “He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8, NKJV). This verse is foundational for Micah to describe an authentic relationship with God. Here is a rebuke from heaven when—while carefully following the rituals, theology, and dietary regimens of the faith—we avert our gaze from suffering, poverty, and injustice. (Jesus later places Micah’s command in the context of the second coming with the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats found in Matthew 25:31-46.)

How does Micah 6:8 speak to us now? Is there found in these words the solution for “the most pressing need” that Adventist pastors long for? God’s Word contends with our present reality through these five declarative words: “walk humbly with your God.” Imagine a dynamic life that finds you, your family, and your congregation transformed. Picture the current dilemmas of financial worries, scarce volunteers, personal conflict, petty theological arguments, and an aging membership all transfigured by a dawning of spiritual rejuvenation. God calls us to put aside the old cynicism that this could never happen and grasp by faith the hope that with God “all things are possible.”
Where do we start? Understanding comes by examining what the prophet means when he calls us to “walk humbly.” What image enters your mind with the word “humility”? For most of us it is a dictionary definition that includes uninspiring synonyms like “shy, docile, self-abasing, timidity, and servility.” Is this what Christians aspire to when they “walk humbly with God?”

Not at all! The word translated “humbly” in Micah 6:8 is not the common word rendered “humility” in other Old Testament verses. The best translation is “walking carefully with God” or, more precisely, “living the way God desires.” A wholly different image emerges. This is a robust, proactive leaning into our lives that is exciting and compelling. We’re not standing off at the sidelines with eyes fixed on the ground. Rather, to walk humbly with God means looking upwards to heaven and bravely seeking His direction to face today’s world with courageous service.

This is a compelling call to action. Rather than surrender passively to the wrongs around us, “walking carefully with God” in the Micah 6:8 context requires specific, deliberate activity. Justice and mercy are to be applied like powerful medicine to the broken circumstances being endured by others. Micah 6:8 is very direct with religious people like you and me. While careful worship of God is important and adhering to truth is essential, we must account for our actions and face forward towards our culture and community.

History tells us that in every generation there were Christians who aligned themselves with heaven’s priorities. Often this required course corrections and remedial action from themselves, their church, and their nation. We are no different today. The work of “walking carefully with God” is a never-ending project for believers and the Body of Christ. Indeed, sanctification is the work of a lifetime, not
only for individual disciples but also for the organizations bearing His name.

How can we experience the transforming power of walking carefully with God? I find these four questions essential in applying Micah 6:8 to myself and the church I love:

• Will I choose daily to cultivate the presence of God in my life? This means putting quality time with the Lord at the top of my list of actions for the day.

• Am I ready to ask God the hard questions about my attitudes, motives, and actions towards others? It takes courage to pray for God to reveal my faults to me. But in doing so He also offers deliverance and the power to change.

• Will I ask God to open my eyes each day to see those that need justice, mercy, and care from me? The heavenly cure for selfishness is service.

• Can I choose to leave other people’s behavior and choices with God? The great challenge for human beings is to stop pushing other people to do what we want and leave the results to God.

Ellen White reflected on Micah 6:8 and offered this profound conclusion to the matter of our walking carefully with God: “What a man is has greater influence than what he says... A man’s worth is not measured by the position of responsibility that he occupies but by the Christlike spirit that he reveals.” (In Heavenly Places, p. 237, emphasis supplied).

1Monte Sahlin and Paul Richardson, Pastor Opinion Poll (Milton Freewater, OR: Center for Creative Ministry, 2011).
Dear Brother and Sister Haskell:

I pray that the Lord will give you courage in the Lord. I am deeply interested in the work that you shall do in the state of Maine. Let it be carried onward and upward. “Seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not. But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth, commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.” [2 Corinthians 4:1, 2.]

I am instructed to say to our ministering brethren, Let the messages that come from your lips be charged with the power of the Spirit of God. If there was ever a time when we needed the special guidance of the Holy Spirit, it is now. We need a thorough consecration. It is fully time that we gave to the world a demonstration of the power of God in our lives and in our ministry.

For years there has been creeping into the church an element that is educating many professed believers to resist the teachings of the Holy Spirit. In their efforts to make of no account the Word of God, many array their strength on the side of the deceiver. I am instructed that we are to cherish as very precious the work that the Lord has been carrying forward through His commandment-keeping people, and which, through the power of His grace, will grow stronger and more efficient as time advances. The enemy is seeking to becloud the discernment of God’s people and to weaken their efficiency; but if they will labor as the Spirit of God shall direct, He will open doors of opportunity before them for the work of building the old waste places. Their experience will be one of constant growth in assurance and power until the Lord shall descend from heaven with power and great glory to set His seal of final triumph upon His faithful ones.

The Lord desires to see the work of the third angel’s message carried forward with increasing efficiency. As He has worked in all ages to give victories to His people, so in this age He longs to carry to triumphant fulfilment His purposes for His church. He bids the saints advance unitedly, going from strength to greater strength, from faith to increased assurance and confidence in the truth and righteousness of His cause.

Let us ever bear in mind that our work is to be one of advancement. We are to follow on to know the Lord. God understands the actuating principles of every mind. He has witnessed the persistent, rebellious course of some whom He has warned and counselled repeatedly. His all-seeing eye has noted the determined following of human devisings.
“The way of man is before the Lord. He knoweth the thoughts.” [Proverbs 5:21; Psalm 94:11.]

“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.” [Proverbs 15:3.] He looketh to the ends of the earth, and He seeth under the whole heavens. The Lord searcheth the hearts.

We are to stand firm as a rock to the principles of the Word of God, remembering that God is with us to give us strength to meet each new experience. Let us ever maintain the principles of righteousness in our lives, that we may go forward from strength to strength in the name of the Lord. We are to hold as very sacred the faith that has been substantiated by the instruction and approval of the Spirit of God from our earliest experience until the present time.

I long for strength to do the work that must be done at this time. I would speak daily at this Long Beach camp-meeting if I could; but I have not strength to do this. I dare not consume all my strength in this meeting; for there is other important work before me.

Lately I have given considerable time and effort to the work of completing the book on the Acts of the Apostles. This book is now nearly finished, and I am very thankful for this.

I feel that decided efforts should now be made to give this message at Long Beach. The congregations during this meeting have been large, and there is a good interest from the outside. My heart is deeply stirred for these places where so much is at stake. May the Lord direct us, is my prayer.

Every believer in present truth should be deeply in earnest now; for there is a great work to be done. As the enemy sees an interest in the truth being awakened, he will bring forward many discouraging features; but heed them not. We must press the battle to the gates and beyond. Let us be determined to succeed.

Let no time be wasted, but do not overwork. Teach the truth as it is in Jesus. When the power of truth is felt in the soul, the principles of truth will be brought into the daily life. Then true godliness will appear. Use your ability to accomplish decided movements of reform in the churches. Gather about you those who are true as steel to the principles of the third angel’s message, and the Lord will be glorified in the work that is accomplished. Let every worker resolve that he will not fail nor be discouraged.

Arouse the people to the importance of the times in which we live, that they may be led to place themselves under the discipline of Christ. In His human life Christ revealed a divine nature; no defect appeared in His character. Beholding His life of self-denial and sacrifice, that He might minister truth to the world, they may be changed in life and learn to reflect His likeness.

We are to [be] perfect in our sphere as Christ is perfect in His sphere. Let us not be unconcerned regarding our responsibility to form righteous characters, but let us place ourselves under the molding influence of the Holy Spirit, that we may form characters that will reflect the divine life.

Ellen G. White
If the Twitterverse is any indication, we live in an age in which everything—everything—is the best, the greatest, the largest, the longest, the hugest (or very huge).

Politicians and other public officials seem obliged to announce that not only are they doing their jobs, they’re doing their jobs better and more efficiently than they’ve been done in 20, 30, or 50 years.

When televangelists and megachurches number their followers in the thousands, their viewers in the millions, and their income in billions of dollars, you have to wonder if anything resembling Christian humility is still part of their ethos.

What is humility? Perhaps that is the question we should ask.

It’s more than a little ironic that the Creator, from whose hand came the marvelous power, beauty, and complexity of the cosmos that surrounds us, came as a baby born of humble parents in a remarkably humble setting.

Nothing in Jesus’ life and ministry suggests that He wanted anything more than to serve ordinary people. The clothes He wore, the food He ate, couldn’t be categorized as “the best.” The people with whom He associated were generally those who didn’t have fancy titles or pedigrees. Most of us would’ve felt quite comfortable in His presence. That’s because most of us have to admit that we’re not the smartest, the prettiest, the richest; we’re just…us.

Because of being so normal, most of us on some level carry around feelings of inadequacy, humility’s wicked stepsister. Feelings of humility and feelings of inadequacy are not the same, not even close. We feel inadequate when we compare ourselves with others: with their education, their financial portfolio, their physical appearance. Unmanaged, our inadequacies make it impossible for us to truly reflect Christ’s character to the people around us. Why would anyone listen to us? We’re so…average.

But that’s precisely the point. We can afford to be humble because at its most basic level the kingdom of heaven is populated with average people, described by Peter Marshall as “disciples of the rank and file.” For every brash, outspoken Peter, you have an Andrew, working behind the scenes to rustle up some food to feed a crowd of thousands (John 6:7-9). For every duo nicknamed “sons of thunder” (James and John [Mark 3:17]), you have two sisters, Martha and Mary, working humbly to provide a place where Jesus and His disciples were welcome to rest and relax (Luke 10:38).

Humility enables us to serve without a spotlight, to be a supporting player, a member of the cast, knowing that our contribution is just as important as is the person’s who stands at the podium—and that even if our role gathers no attention now, it is part of God’s overall plan for the salvation of humankind.

The Bible tells dozens of stories about individuals who served humbly and without fanfare before they entered center stage. Joseph was a servant and prisoner before he became a counselor to Pharaoh. Ruth was a daughter-in-law before she became one of Jesus’ ancestors. David was
a shepherd before he became king. Amos was a farmer before he was a prophet. Peter, Andrew, John, and James were fishermen before they turned the world upside down through the power of the Holy Spirit. Before they stepped into the spotlight, all these people made their livings in noble, albeit ordinary, professions.

What set them apart was that while they waited off-stage, God was developing in them the character traits that would eventually advance His plan of redemption.

The question the prophet asks is a serious one: “With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God?” (Micah 6:6, NIV). He asks further if God can be satisfied with burnt offerings, whether animal, vegetable, or human.

Then this conclusion: “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8, NIV).

Interesting. In this context, humility is as important as justice and mercy. Without humility we come off as arrogant, proud, self-righteous. The world is already populated with enough people who believe that the sun rises and sets on them. Christians, on the other hand, model their lives after the One who said, “I am among you as one who serves” (Luke 22:27, NIV). It takes more than a little humility to say that.

Stephen Chavez was a pastor in the Pacific Union Conference for almost 20 years. He is now an assistant editor of Adventist Review.
The interview was going great. He had the experience, achievements, and references. His posture and diction were impeccable. It was clear he was qualified and competent. The job was his, until they heard him say, “My greatest personal characteristic? That’s easy. I’m the most humble person I know.”

Are you humble? That may be a trick question. To be humble is to have a modest opinion of yourself. Those who profess great humility, by this definition, do not possess great humility.

Let me ask an easier question. Have you ever been humbled?

Was it when you were chosen last, or not at all?

Was it when you made a huge mistake and everyone knew?

Was it when you were ashamed and did not want anyone to see your face?

Was it when you thought you were boldly risking everything, only to find you were foolishly losing everything?

Throughout Scripture God calls people to be humble. The promises of God for the humble are many: they will be saved, they will be guided, their prayers will be heard, their sins forgiven, and their land healed (Psalm 18:27; 25:9; 2 Chronicles 7:14). For those who refuse to humble themselves, Scripture promises a day when God will do it for them (Isaiah 2:9–12).

Scripture records how the call of God demands a response. Those who hear the call cannot be unchanged. We have stories of how an encounter with God inspires acts of obedience, reverence, and submission. Abraham leaves his home and becomes a vagabond. Moses removes his shoes and hides his face. Jacob, unwilling to admit defeat, pleads for a blessing.
We have stories of others responding to this same God with hardened hearts, disobedience, and anger. God calls. Some are humbled. Some are humiliated.

Often these polarizing encounters are woven together, like the story of Jonah and the Ninevites. Their story begins with, “The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: ‘Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.’ But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish” (Jonah 1:1–3, NIV).

Jonah has much to be proud of. He is an Israelite, part of God’s chosen people. He is a prophet, entrusted with specific calling. He has a message of truth. Jonah then demonstrates that he may be the most insecure, precarious prophet in Scripture. He decides to run away from God.

Why would he run? The reasons are many.

Nineveh was a wicked city, not a place a righteous person would tour. Our children’s stories often focus on this, and for good reason. Their sport, entertainment, worship, and warfare all devalued human life.

Nineveh was a great city, not a place a lone messenger could make a difference. It was a center of trade, learning, and political power. A huge city by biblical standards, Nineveh had a population of 120,000 people and required a 3-day journey to tour.

Nineveh was a pagan city, not a place a prophet of the Lord would be welcomed. The people of Nineveh were pagans who worshipped the god Dagon, depicted by a fish.

Nineveh was the capital city of the Assyrian Empire, enemies of Israel, and no place for an Israelite to visit.

These are all valid reasons why any prophet of Israel would not want to go to Nineveh, yet none of these are the reason Jonah gives.

If we fast-forward through Jonah’s bumpy boat ride, lottery indictment, and 3-day fish gut rescue operation, we would think a lesson of humility had been thoroughly learned. If Jonah had another chance he would surely be a different person, right? However, all we have to do is read further to see that, even for a prophet, humiliation and humility are not the same thing.

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.” Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown (Jonah 3:1–4, NIV).

This time Jonah obeyed, proclaiming the message God had given: Forty more days and Nineveh will be destroyed. Many of us want to add “unless you repent,” but that’s not the message God gave to Jonah. We want it to be. That makes it easier for us to justify what happens next.

“The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. When Jonah’s warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

“By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish” (Jonah 3:5–9, NIV).

The Ninevites believed. The wicked, opulent, enemies of the people of God believed. They heard the message of Jonah that they would be destroyed, but they believed that the God of Jonah may yet relent.

A city-wide act of repentance is instituted, fasting and sackcloth are mandatory, all in the hope that they will not perish. Do they have a chance? Their humbled king said it best: “Who knows?”

Jonah knew. Yet, rather than be in awe, he was indignant.

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, He relented. But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity (Jonah 3:10–4:2, NIV).

Jonah knew of God’s grace and compassion. Jonah knew of God’s love.

Jonah knew—and rather than be humbled by God’s call, Jonah was humiliated by it.

Jonah was afraid to go to Nineveh—not because of its wickedness but because of God’s graciousness.

Jonah was angry—not with Nineveh’s stubbornness but with God’s abounding love. No wonder Jonah thought he had a chance to run away. Jonah ran from a God who relents from sending calamities, not from a God who sends them. Perhaps Jonah thought God’s grace was just for himself.

If this could happen long ago to a prophet of God who had been given a clear message and mission, it could happen today to a prophetic people who have been given the same.

Humility in me
All of us have had humbling experi-
ences, and most of us can quickly recall them. These moments sting and leave a lasting mark. Just remembering them brings us down, so we begin to think that reliving these moments is a practice of humility. We begin to teach others humility in the same way, bringing them down and reminding them of how shameful they should feel. If our lessons in humility require our most embarrassing and shameful moments, we may be confusing humility with humiliation.

This is easy to do. Our ego and self-esteem are brought low when we are ignored or mistaken, or when we lose. That is easy and quite natural. It will happen again and again.

The greater challenge is to be humble in situations in which one would find pride. Can we have humility when we are right and when we overcome? Can we be humble when we are chosen? Can we be humble when God has given us a message to share? That would be miraculous and supernatural.

**Humility in message**

Adventist have been given a last-day message: Jesus is coming soon. Just because we have the message, it doesn’t mean it’s about us. Even when we are entrusted with it, that doesn’t even mean it’s ours. The message is not our word, but “the word of the Lord.”

The message somehow reaches the king of Nineveh. Jonah never meets him. How it is passed on must be inferred, but it’s clear the message is greater than Jonah. Jonah can’t contain it and neither can we. We can take pride in our understanding of prophecy, Sabbath, and health. We can pretend it’s ours. Or we can be humbled by the truth that God is working beyond our reach to take His message to the world.

This humility allows us to celebrate when others find biblical truth, the Sabbath rest, and health without ever meeting an Adventist.

This humility allows us to see that God is not calling us because He needs us—He is calling us to save us. Surely Jonah was not the kind of prophet God needed. Jonah was the kind of person God loves. Would we be humbled if we realized God has labored so long with us, just so He can save us? Or would that be humiliating?

**Humility in mission**

Adventism arose in a humbling experience. The Millerite moment of the 1830–1840s was as exhilarating as it was disappointing. To be convinced that Jesus was coming in just a few years was a message that seized every aspect of one’s life. And yet by daybreak of October 23, 1844, there was nothing but heartache and sorrow. They got it wrong. This could have been the humiliating end of the movement. Thankfully, a few humbly returned to Scripture to see if there was more to God’s call than they first thought.

Was Jonah’s prophecy wrong? Was it true? Was it fulfilled?

Our answers depend on what we consider to be the function of prophecy. It’s easy to reduce prophecy to a set of data points and interpretations. Prophecy has factual objective aspects to it, no doubt, but prophecy is more than information about God. Prophecy is an invitation to participate with God.

If God gave Jonah a message so that Jonah would know when Nineveh would be destroyed, Jonah is a false prophet. If God gave Jonah a message so that the people of Nineveh would turn to Him in a new, lasting relationship, then Jonah, even in his broken self-centeredness, is fulfilling God’s mission, even when he gets it wrong. In fact, if God’s mission is to save the lost, then Jonah becomes the best person to take on this mission, for without God’s grace, Jonah is lost too.

If God gave our church a message so that we would know details of the future, every time we get the information wrong we would be a false church.

If God gave us a message so that people would turn to Him in lasting relationships, every time a child learns...
that God hears their prayers, a parent learns of God’s patience, a spouse learns God’s forgiveness and faithfulness, His mission is fulfilled.

Sometimes, through the grace of God, humility can be acquired through a path of shame. While shame can come before humility, shame cannot ever be confused for the source of humility. God calls us to humility. God does not call us to humiliation. There is a much better way. Great humility does not come from being ashamed of ourselves. The greatest humility comes from when we are in awe of God’s grace.

**Not a shot, just a poke**

I got the call. My 4-year-old son had fallen off the school’s monkey bars and had a dislocated wrist. I’m not a doctor, but I have a gift: when I see an injury, my stomach can tell how bad it is. With one glance I knew that his wrist wasn’t broken. My stomach told me the problem was he had an extra wrist: his arm was broken.

With the help of my older son, we loaded and buckled him into the back seat, big tearstains running down his sweaty face.

“I want to go home,” he said.

“Daddy has to take you to the hospital, buddy.”

“But I don’t want to go.”

“But you have to.”

“Because my arm is crooked?”

“Yes, because of that.”

“But I don’t want a shot!” He pleaded, tears running full speed.

“Don’t worry!” I exclaimed, “You are not getting a shot!”

“Really, no shot?” he whimpered, as the tears began to stop.

“None. I’m sure of it.”

What I wanted to say was, “They are probably going to do way more than a shot! Look at your arm!” I didn’t.

We walked into the ER and the nurses immediately had us in a room with a splint loosely wrapping his arm.

Sitting on the bed, my son was all smiles. He began to play with me and ask about various things in the room. We took a selfie and sent it to his teacher to let her know he was all right. Of course he was; he was not getting a shot.

The doctor on rotation came into the room, noticed us having a good time, and asked, “What brings you to the ER today?”

“He broke his arm.” I said.

“Could you elaborate?” He asked somewhat skeptically.

“He fell off the monkey bars and broke his arm.”

“Before we know his arm is broken, we will have to do an x-ray.” He said knowingly. “Let’s take look real quick.”

As he unwrapped the splint, he immediately changed his tone and said with authority, “The arm is broken. We will have to do an x-ray to see how broken it is.”

I wanted to say, “That’s what my stomach told me.” I didn’t.

Things really started to move. An orthopedic specialist was just down the hall. He was kind and unhurried, explaining in detail how the break was bad but would heal well with a cast. The nurses checked on us continually, making sure we had everything we needed. The care was excellent. Everything was smooth. Until they rolled in the cart with the various items needed to reset the break.

My son took one look at the cart and looked at me with the feeling of ultimate betrayal.

“You lied to me! You said no shot!”

I had no idea what he was taking about, until I saw what he had already seen. He was going to be given an IV. I stuttered and stammered, “I’m sorry! I didn’t know!”

I wanted to say, “Come on, get over it. I’m not a prophet. How am I supposed to know. I’m not even a doctor.” I didn’t.

Then it came to me, “Wait, that’s not a shot. That is not a shot.”

“Then what is it!” he demanded.

“It’s a poke,” I whispered. “It’s a poke.”

“What’s a poke?”

“It’s like a baby shot that doesn’t hurt.” I proclaimed with hope.

“Oh…” he grasped, “it’s not a shot, just a poke.”

And it worked.

I stayed by his side as he humbled his little self and said thank you for every poke and prod. I held him on that bed as I watched someone greater than I take his brokenness and make it right.

We can get it wrong, but we can also get it right. Not because we know what is going to happen. Not because we know exactly what to do. Simply by seeing those who need healing and humbly giving them a message of the One who healed us. We can do this, knowing that we serve a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

God may have more to tell us than we have already heard or said, and who knows, perhaps He will save more than we expected. Wouldn’t that be humbling? ■

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**GOD CALLS US TO HUMILITY. GOD DOES NOT CALL US TO HUMILIATION.**
When last October’s fires raged across California, the loss of homes and lives devastated communities and left them in a state of slow recovery. On the heels of this devastation, even more loss has resulted from the fires that began this July. Collectively, the Ferguson, Carr, Cranston, and Mendocino Complex fires have consumed over 550,000 acres, destroyed thousands of homes, and displaced thousands of families. Conferences across California were affected in various ways, and as community members began putting the pieces of their lives back together, Adventists worked to respond to the needs.

Redding community hosts clothing giveaway

During the first weekend of August, churches in the Northern California Conference rallied to support those affected by the Carr fires. At Redding Adventist Academy, over 60 community and Adventist church members from around the area gathered to set up an expanded God’s Closet clothing giveaway in the school gym. On Sunday, August 5, 420 people, including victims of the Carr fire, walked through the gym doors to receive clothing for their families.

“I had two individuals thank me with tears as I loaded their bags of clothing into their cars,” said Bill McVay, pastor of the Redding church. In addition to support from...
all the local church pastors and many volunteers, several organizations were also there to provide aid to the fire victims. Simpson University, a Christian university just down the road from the Redding school, had recently hosted their own clothing drive. Seeing the Redding church’s God’s Closet event on Facebook, the university decided to donate the clothes they had left over. “We received an amazing answer to prayer: 50 boxes of gently used kids clothes, all sorted and labeled,” said Sigrid Pitman, one of the God’s Closet volunteers.

During the clothing giveaway, the Red Cross brought a van with relief supplies to the Redding school parking lot. According to the volunteers, it was truly a community event.

**Palo Cedro members open their homes to fire victims**

When Palo Cedro members Roy and Mary Stephens learned of how the fires had affected church members in their area, they decided to take action. Mary, a Red Cross nurse manager and disaster response volunteer for over 25 years, presented the Palo Cedro church with the needs of the members and started coordinating with those who could open their homes to host fire victims. According to the Stephens, all the evacuees they know are now staying in church homes, including those in their community who aren’t church members. In addition to housing, other needs are being met as well. “A small group of women decided to feed the families and pray with them and hear their stories,” Mary said. “I started sending out a list with daily updates, including sharing, ‘this is what we need, this is what we bought,’ and we have helped families replace what they’ve lost. Our community is wonderful. Very giving. Not just our churches, but our community.”

**Redding area pastors map out long-term plan to aid community in recovery**

Seeing the need for long-term recovery efforts, the Redding area pastors met together in early August to map out how their churches can make an impact on the community. “We as pastors are in the stages of planning strategies for how we can provide a united front,” said Kevin Kuehmichel, pastor of the Palo Cedro church.

“The major threat [in this area] is over and we’ve moved into the recovery phase. Now we are figuring out how to pick up the pieces and help people back into some semblance of normalcy.” The Palo Cedro church reached out to several disaster relief agencies and is also working closely with Adventist Community Services in the Pacific Union.

Visit NCCSDA.com to find ways you can help the victims of the Northern California fires.

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When Celeste Ashworth, a member of the Palo Cedro church, saw the needs of the families around her, she quickly got to work baking breads, cookies, and cinnamon rolls to bring to the families who had lost homes.
Wawona Campground closes for the summer

As fires continue to blaze in Yosemite, many portions of the national park have closed, including Wawona Campground and Wawona Road. Wawona summer camp was cancelled for the remainder of the summer. In a press release issued by the Central California Conference, Norma Villarreal, youth and camp ministries director, said, "It is never easy to interrupt the summer camp ministry. Campers and staff plan their entire year around it; nevertheless, as we faced this unfortunate predicament everyone was very supportive and has expressed their desire to return next year for another summer camp season. Please keep Camp Wawona in your prayers as we continue to deal with this situation." Updates on the camp can be found by visiting Camp Wawona's Facebook page.

Staff members at Pine Springs Ranch believe that the camp was spared from being destroyed by the Cranston Fire due to how much land was already cleared by the Mountain Fire of 2013. PSR re-opened in late August.
**Pine Springs Ranch reopens camp**

Near Pine Springs Ranch, evacuation notices for the Cranston fire were lifted on August 2 for residents and August 4 for the general public. “Not one flame came through the property,” said Carmen Ibañez, Pine Springs Ranch executive director. According to Ibañez, nothing on campus was affected. Camp staff are recognizing blessings in disguise. “We believe the Mountain Fire from 2013 saved the camp from being completely destroyed,” Ibañez said. Clean up of the camp was completed in early August, allowing PSR to begin hosting groups again.

**Fires ongoing**

As of the time of publication, no church or school structures have been lost in these big fires, although reports are that some fires won’t be out until September. In the middle of August, Adventist Health reported that two hospitals—Adventist Health Ukiah Valley and Adventist Health Clear Lake—had 24-hour incident commands where staff were working closely with frontline firefighters and local law enforcement to coordinate relief efforts.

“We couldn’t be more proud of our teams at both Adventist Health Clear Lake and Adventist Health Ukiah Valley,” said Jill Kinney, executive director of marketing and communications for Adventist Health’s Northern California network. “Despite personal challenges posed from the recent fires and, in some cases, displacements from their own homes, our staff remains strong, is working together with our community partners and is committed to doing whatever it takes to meet the needs of the community.”

We pray that as you receive this Recorder in September, the fires have been contained and are extinguished. More updates will be posted on the Pacific Union Recorder’s Facebook page. If you would like information about how to help, please visit: www.nccsda.com.
love. This is the theme of the Gardena Genesis Community church’s decades-old food bank ministry, Mama Rosa’s Pantry. It’s clear in the ministry’s unique implementation and dedicated volunteers—and it’s clear in the emotion in Food Bank Director Jami Levy’s voice.

“There’s no reason anyone should go hungry,” Levy stated.

The food bank, which is open from 2-5 p.m. on the first and third Saturdays of every month, serves 400-700 people each month. Shelves are stocked with staples like canned goods, beans, rice, and cereal. The farmer’s market area is stocked with 500-1,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables. About a year ago, the team implemented a bodega model, which allows guests to shop around and choose items versus being handed a prepackaged box. Guests can also find recipes using items offered in the food bank.

The food bank receives a great deal of support from the City of Gardena and local community organizations. Partnerships include the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, the Feeding America program, and Gardena Community Services; plus, it receives donations from Trader Joe’s, Smart & Final, Amazon, Whole Foods, Panera, and more.

It’s about meeting needs—like giving a cake to someone whose child’s birthday is coming up. “We want to feed and clothe, but most importantly befriend them,” Levy said. “Frequently, they say, ‘This is an answer to prayer. They’re able to do extra stuff for their children that they maybe wouldn’t have been able to do otherwise.”

According to Levy, 50 percent of the food bank’s major volunteers are from the community—people who started as customers and now volunteer to work with the food bank. “I love how there are a mix of church members and community residents that volunteer to serve,” said Iki Taimi, pastor of Gardena Genesis Community church.

“It creates an opportunity for people to experience service that reaches past just our church. It also allows our church to be part of the lives of residents from all over Gardena.”

The most recent outreach development was the opening of a thrift store run by the church, named ReGenesis: Restore. Repurpose. Reuse. “We have prayed about this service opportunity for quite some time and are really excited about opening a thrift store to complement our community ministries,” Taimi said. The grand opening was held last month, and the thrift store is now open 1-4 p.m. on Fridays.

These community service ministries have allowed the church to live out its motto: “Where Loving God Is Serving People.”
Breath of Life Church Hosts
a Baby Shower of Blessing

By Nicole Prillerman

In May, the Breath of Life church hosted a Community Baby Shower, in partnership with three local organizations: Great Beginnings for Black Babies, Claris Health, and the City of Inglewood Police Department. More than 50 new and expectant mothers, along with their families, attended the event.

As the mothers entered the church's open doors, they were met with inviting smiles and warm hugs. Greeters ushered guests to the fellowship hall where the shower was being held. No small detail was overlooked—from the elegant décor to the charming diaper cakes, delightful gift bags, generous gift cards, and delicious food. Each mother was shown how special she is.

The shower activities included a “Baby Shop” where the mothers could select items for their baby, a prize giveaway of baby essentials (strollers, diapers, and walkers), and an opportunity to engage with two licensed lactation specialists in an informal question and answer session. As an additional service, free childcare was available during the shower, so the mothers could give their full attention to the festivities.

“Christians have a duty to be Jesus’ hands and feet,” said one guest. “Your congregation choosing to open your doors to bless people on the Sabbath with no obligation is what Jesus did and would have done.”

Although the Breath of Life church set out to serve others, the community is also serving church members with the opportunity to get to know growing families. “We look forward to the community ‘baby blessings’ in the near future so that we may continue to connect with and minister to these mothers,” said Eugene J. Hamilton, pastor of the Breath of Life church.

The congregation wants to be sensitive to the needs of the community and to partner with local entities to provide appropriate services and resources to meet those needs. The church’s mission and greatest desire is to know Christ and make Him known through loving service, ultimately preparing all for His soon return.

Under Hamilton’s leadership, the church embarked on a new adventure called the Year of Service and committed to #BOLSERVES in 2018. The year started with a Community Outreach Day, where the entire congregation separated into small groups to serve the elderly and homeless communities.

“It is our desire and prayer to keep #BOLSERVES thriving well beyond 2018,” said Hamilton.
Love for Learning
Grows at San Gabriel Academy

By Bonnie Iversen

Exciting things are happening at San Gabriel Academy, where almost 100 percent of the teachers in transitional kindergarten (TK) through grade 12 have been designing curriculum to better correspond with how the brain works. This effort is at the heart of Adventist education.

Cutting-edge teacher training in brain-based learning is being implemented throughout the curriculum this year. “This training enhances education by providing better diagnostics of student learning, curricula alignment, and stronger instructional practices,” said Andrew Carpenter, vice principal.

Learning begins in the earliest years, as TK and kindergarten students explore robots and their functions. The tiny robots used are unique in their ability to track motion and lines that the students make with a marker. Students are discovering that their robots can also be programmed to respond to different colored lines, and they are learning how to write code. This introduction to coding and robotics is sparking an interest in all things mechanical and electrical.

Mazes and obstacles, which the robots can navigate, are being built by these 5-year-olds! Through coding, drawing, and building, students learn shapes and measurements, and even improve their handwriting.

A self-sustaining aquaponics system shows the relationship among living things by circulating water from a fish tank to a bed of growing plants. The fish provide waste materials that convert to food for the plants, while the plants act as a filtering mechanism for the water. Students enjoy feeding the fish, caring for the plants, and watching the rapid growth of both. They have tasted fresh mint leaves, smelled fresh basil, and observed changes in water temperature. Organic learning is a kindergarten highlight.

One day each week, students in grades 1 and 2 are introduced to the topic of discovery. Time is spent in the lab to prove or disprove their findings. They measure distance and learn about chemistry, the periodic table, and single displacement chemical reactions using phenol red, road salt, and baking soda. They take turns recording each step, and each group produces a video to show the other groups what they have learned. Brain-based learning continues in the elementary STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) lab through grade 8.

High school biology classes conduct weekly water quality tests with an aquaponics system, built by students and faculty, to ensure optimal plant growth and fish health. “The biology research projects give students the opportunity to use the scientific method to further explore any topic in science that interests them,” said biology teacher Alyssa Cheung.

There are 15 ongoing projects, including testing the efficacy of essential oils against antibiotic-resistant bacteria and testing the memory of fish. The next phase includes an aquaponics/greenhouse center.

The goals of “serving others, growing in Christ, and aspiring to excellence” are always on the minds of San Gabriel Academy’s administration and faculty, and through these objectives and strategies, students have found a love for learning.
After the Haiti earthquake in 2010, Fedly Bonneau, former pastor in the Southern California Conference, discovered his passion for helping provide access to proper medical care for people who cannot otherwise obtain it.

A month after the earthquake, Bonneau stopped at a Red Cross office and asked how they were able to help people. “The response from a Red Cross volunteer was, ‘even though our doors are open, we haven’t had any supplies to help anyone,’” Bonneau recalled. The group he was traveling with took all their supplies and gave them to the Red Cross office. “I knew then that I needed to do something that would help us to react quickly in times of emergency.”

With this motivation, Bonneau and Austin Adobasom-Anne from Ghana founded Bottles 4 Life, Inc. (B4L), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing holistic health care and aid to the 10/40 Window.* B4L uses donated money from recycled plastics to provide medical supplies and transportation to and from local medical centers. Recycling also helps people to make a major impact in their community.

The ministry’s first stop was Mae Sot, Thailand, where there is an influx of undocumented Burmese migrants. “We wanted to start there,” Bonneau said, “because we discovered the Thai taxi drivers were charging inflated amounts to transport the migrants to medical centers.” After converting a donated 1997 Toyota van into an ambulance, Bonneau and his team were able to provide free transportation to and from the medical facilities. They partnered with local clinics and villages who know they can call B4L whenever someone needs medical care.

In addition to transportation, B4L provides two vegetarian meals a day for parents who have children in the intensive care unit at the general hospital. In the evening, they have worship with the parents who sleep in an outdoor seating area. “They know we are coming,” Bonneau said, “and they sit in a circle waiting for us. We sing songs, pray for them, and share Scripture with them. Some have even visited the local church on Sabbath.”

One father said, “I cannot believe someone is willing to pray for my child, encourage us during this time of crisis, and provide food for us so we don’t have to worry about what we will eat. God must have sent you guys.”

A grateful mother who lost everything trying to help her sick son said, “Having transportation to the hospital is one less thing for me to worry about.”

Since January, more than 400 patients have been transported, and more than 3,000 meals have been served. The ministry has touched a cross section of people and faiths. Muslims, Buddhists, Christians, and atheists; women, men, children, young adults, and the elderly; Ghanaians, Thai, Karen, Burmese, Chin, and Rhoyingas—all have been served by B4L’s ministry.

“God has truly blessed us because we are reaching people with Jesus’ method,” Bonneau said.

To learn more, visit bottles4life.org or like the organization on Facebook @bottles4life.

*The region between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator, where people are the poorest and have the least access to the gospel of anyone in the world.
They endured biting flies, achingly hard work, and lots of rain, but Ashton Hardin, Alefa Afalava, and Elyssa Nuñez would go back to the Amazon in a heartbeat.

The La Sierra University students, two seniors and a junior respectively, spent July 8-22 with approximately 200 other Adventist college student volunteers from North and South America participating in an extreme adventure project sponsored by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). Ensnconced deep in Brazil’s Amazon jungle, the students lived on double-decker river boats, where they slept in hammocks at night and spent their days completing the construction of a school campus nearby.

Any hardships the La Sierra students endured during their mission adventure paled in comparison to the beauty they witnessed, the cultural experiences they gained, the friendships they forged, and especially the fulfillment and life direction they derived from helping to significantly improve the lives of others.

“This trip really opened our eyes as to what we want to do in the future and what God’s calling us to do, and we know that it’s service,” said Hardin, a business management and legal studies major, and this year’s student association president. “Regardless
of whatever we’re doing, it’s about giving back and helping others.”

In total six students from La Sierra University, along with assistant chaplain and Center for Outreach & Mission Service leader Linda Biswas, joined the mission trip titled ADRA Connections Extreme. Their Brazilian adventure began with a 25-hour boat ride from the ADRA base in the city of Manaus up the mighty Amazon to reach the construction site of the new Adventist Technical School of Massauri (ETAM). Several boats ferried the volunteer students and ADRA coordinators to their destination.

La Sierra’s group rode the river with a media team, coordinators, and translators from ADRA. “Within those 25 hours we started to bond with everybody on the boat. We shared stories and experiences and had worships together,” said Nuñez.

“That was so cool,” said Afalava, an art major and musician. “It was so fun because you got to see the stars at night. And we had pink dolphins follow us.”

Once docked at their destination, the student volunteers were assigned construction tasks. In all, the volunteers worked on classrooms, a dormitory, a cafeteria, a library, and houses for missionaries. The La Sierra students painted the inside and outside of several two-bedroom, one-bath mission houses where school faculty will live. They also installed tile and grout, helped dig four-foot-deep holes for light poles, and performed other tasks. It was hard work, Afalava said, “but it was fun and so fulfilling.”

In the midst of all the construction work, the students were also able to experience the exotic abundance of the jungle—a jaguar’s paw prints in the mud, a baby crocodile in the river, massive lily pads many feet wide, and spider moneys, some of which climbed onto Hardin’s back.

On Sabbath, the students traveled a couple of hours downriver to reach a remote village of short, tin-roofed homes, where their arrival as the community’s first outside visitors in many years attracted curious and warm-hearted children who clambered around them. Many of the children would soon attend school at the ETAM campus, which was scheduled for completion that month.

“That was the highlight of the trip for me,” said Nuñez. “We spent all of Sabbath with them. We had Sabbath school with the kids, and we went to people’s houses and sang to them; they told us their stories, how they lived. They were very touched by the experience. Several of the women cried.”

The villagers told the students their arrival and the construction of the school for their children was an answer to their prayers. The university students also experienced life-changing impact.

“I definitely want to do another mission trip,” said Nuñez. “It’s something I don’t think I’ll stop doing. I felt like I was called to help.”

Said Hardin, “I just came back really thinking that the mission doesn’t end. That even though we completed the work, God’s work is actually not done. We wanted to go back. We didn’t want to leave.”

For more on this story, visit www.lasierra.edu.

La Sierra University students were among more than 200 student volunteers who traveled down the Amazon river on several double-decker boats, which also served as sleeping quarters while they constructed and remodeled a school campus near the river.

(Below left) La Sierra University students’ primary tasks involved painting two missionary houses inside and out and installing tile. (Below right) La Sierra University students pause from school construction for a fun photo. Front: Alefa Afavala, Ashton Hardin, Lauren Caballero, ADRA translator Adriell Araújo, Ellysa Nuñez. Back, Lazarus Valenzuela and ADRA translator Danilo Reis.
Recounting the details of a traumatic event is never easy. Many people have experienced close calls and losses that have caused them to feel fear, shock, and grief, but Shawn and Angela Willson have turned a brush with death into an outreach mission.

Together, the couple has been recounting their dramatic story of Shawn’s near-death heart attack since it occurred on April 20, 2015. Shawn had been experiencing some early warning signs of his heart disease, but he thought they were just symptoms of a panic attack. On that Monday morning, stabbing chest pain caused him to realize he needed to get to an emergency room immediately.

Angela drove him to the nearest hospital, Adventist Health Simi Valley, where it was confirmed that he was indeed having a heart attack. As he was transported to the cath lab, his heart stopped. The medical team rushed into action, shocking his heart and starting CPR.

Adventist Health Simi Valley team members shocked his heart 16 times and provided CPR for 52 minutes until they could get a heart rhythm established. All of this happened in the hallway of the ER and in front of his wife and father-in-law. Shawn’s life was saved, and his heart and brain both survived.

What do people do with their lives after such a terrifying event? Shawn and Angela found healing in reaching out to others and forming a heart patient support group hosted by the hospital. They have retold their story countless times to people in the support group, to reporters and writers, and—most recently—to the creative team at Pathfinder Films.

Adventist Health Simi Valley asked Pathfinder Films to help tell Shawn and Angela’s story in a way that could help others learn how to pay attention to the early warning signs of heart disease. Filmmakers Leif Ramsey and Chris Stiles interviewed the couple for several hours, drawing out the story in their natural, unscripted voices. The film’s creative team was inspired by the loving camaraderie and humor expressed by Shawn and Angela as they recounted the events that led up to his heart attack and how they have lived in the aftermath.

The team felt the best way to depict the story was through digital animation, which resulted in a four-minute film titled “Life After.” The film uses the unscripted and uncoached voices of Shawn and Angela, telling their story in playful yet emotional tones. The film was released in February 2018, and it is being utilized by the hospital and community groups for heart health education and awareness.

On May 22, 2018, “Life After” won a prestigious national award, The Gold Telly Award, beating out other animated submissions by Google, Amazon, FoxSports, Harvard, PepsiCo, and others. This award is a tribute to the story and the relationship of Shawn and Angela. As the film gets recognition, everyone involved in the project hopes that many others will recognize early signs of heart disease and seek help.
Who is My Neighbor?

PUC introduces new missions emphasis in religion

BY BECKY ST. CLAIR

Mission and service have always held prominent roles in the curriculum at Pacific Union College, and now the department of theology has a new missions emphasis.

“I found myself asking God what project I should tackle,” said Jean Sheldon, professor of Old Testament, “and mission is what came to mind—and a flood of ideas with it.”

Sheldon harbors much devotion to the mission field, having taught at Hong Kong Adventist College for several years, where 90 out of 100 students she taught were non-Adventist. When she attended a global community development conference held by Southern Adventist University (SAU), she fell in love with the missions model they described. “Instead of going to ‘fix’ people, we go to partner with them,” Sheldon said. “We go to make what they dream of doing a success.”

A partnership with SAU allows PUC students to take online prerequisite courses in missions for PUC course credit. These courses supplement and complement the courses already in place in PUC’s department of theology. Together with six credits of field service abroad and PUC’s theology prerequisites, these courses provide students with a degree in religion and an emphasis in missions.

Students choose which region of the world they wish to focus on: South America, Central America, Asia, or Africa. “They can use these skills anywhere in the world,” Sheldon said. “Taking just one of these courses will give students additional opportunity to partner with people and do it well.”

“Employers want to know where you stand on ethical issues,” Sheldon explained. “Are you well-versed in those issues? Have you grappled with them? Do you have a strong core for justice? This isn’t a unique approach anymore, but it’s still new to Adventism.”

The Christian Ethics and Society course is focused on the concept of justice, and Sheldon, who teaches the course, requires students to develop an ethics of service and justice portfolio for just this purpose.

Sheldon intends to adopt the model developed by Adventist Frontier Missions, which adapts local folk traditions and stories into traditional mission methods, such as door-to-door Bible studies and evangelism seminars to explain the gospel, as well as simply becoming one with the people—living among them long-term, learning the language and the culture, and making friends. Once relationships have been built, doors to introducing the concepts of the gospel will open easily.

“We are in a global world, in a global community,” Sheldon said. “We’re neighbors with almost anyone in the world. The Great Commission has not gone away, and we cannot simply inspire our young people to go and serve; we must also prepare them to do so.”

For more information about the department of theology and the missions emphasis at PUC, visit puc.edu/admissions, or call (800) 862-7080, option 2, to talk with an enrollment counselor.
In April, 55 volunteers from Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, New Mexico, Oregon, New York, and Pennsylvania arrived at Camp Yavapines in Prescott, Arizona, to tackle some major projects before camp meeting and summer camp began.

Maranatha Volunteers International is a non-profit organization that coordinates short-term mission trips and volunteer projects throughout the world, including an annual project at Camp Yavapines. Nineteen first-time Maranatha volunteers worked on this project.

Volunteers renovated the camp’s swimming pool in a major way. Years of winter freezes had taken their toll on the aging pool. Volunteers cracked the cement deck with jackhammers and chipped away the blue tiles by hand. They constructed a new stem wall and a new patio with overhead sun shades, and also added new wrought iron fences after removing the old fencing.

They energetically painted the cabins, fixed the bunk beds, hung drywall, replaced window frames, and repaired doors. Some built and painted new picnic tables. Other projects included pouring 285 feet of sidewalk, trimming trees, removing underbrush, and planting flowers throughout the camp.

Carolyn Houghton served as the project’s leader. “When my husband,
“I AM HERE BECAUSE I HEARD THE CALL.”

Abby, a Maranatha volunteer from California

John, and I saw the pool project on April 1, we couldn’t believe what we were going to be doing. It was a huge project,” she said. “I called six friends in RVs to come a week early to help with prep work. God sent the people we needed. Two came who knew how to lay tile for the pool, both first-timers with Maranatha.”

Each team member made a unique contribution to the project with a willing heart and an eagerness to work on tough projects. Steve from California works in a district attorney’s office, but he learned how to spray paint, hang drywall, and trim trees. Mary, a God-sent worship leader, took a year off from her job to volunteer around the world with Maranatha and another rebuild and restore group. A couple from California have led the landscape and tree trimming projects at the camp for three years. Two women drove from Florida to help paint and plant flowers. One volunteer had the necessary skills to help repair bathrooms. A Christian family from Colorado heard about the project from a chance meeting with a woman in Mexico. They came and enjoyed the fellowship and vegetarian food.

Leaders emerged who took charge and made the work go quickly. Several of the volunteers have worked on 50-75 Maranatha projects in the United States and around the world.

“About 20 of us return [to Camp Yavapines] each year, work in hot or cold, rain or snow, to enjoy Maranatha volunteer camaraderie,” said Houghton. “We love meeting again in some random place during the year, totally by chance. We work hard, eat extremely well, and leave exhausted, but happily satisfied with a job well done.”

The team praised Scott and Angie Blake, the camp’s directors, for their leadership and hospitality, as well as for challenging the volunteers with incredible projects. The Blakes were grateful for the work that was accomplished. “Words cannot adequately express our appreciation for these incredible Maranatha volunteers who provided much-needed help to our camp!” said Scott Blake.

Houghton is recruiting volunteers for next year’s Camp Yavapines project. “Join us next year around the same time,” she said. “It’s what we do in April. Challenge yourself. Learn new skills. Make new friends. See God at work every day.”

To volunteer next year, contact Carolyn Houghton at (541) 261-6901. She will be thrilled to have you on her team!

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The Hand of God

One recent story illustrates how God is leading in the hiring process at AC schools. For many weeks the position of teacher/principal at Yuma Adventist Christian School had been advertised, but no one had responded to the posting. Former teacher/principal Joan Collins reminded the school board members that God would provide the right person.

A month later an email arrived from Angie Benitez in Spain. Her husband, stationed at the U.S. military base, was going to be relocated during the summer to Yuma. She asked if there were any teaching openings available. She was an educator and wanted her own children to attend an Adventist school. Immediately a phone interview was scheduled. This resulted in the Yuma school hiring Benitez. She loves the Lord and is passionate for Adventist education.

Thunderbird Adventist Academy

Jeff Rogers is the new principal of Thunderbird Adventist Academy (TAA). He brings a wealth of experience to his role, including his five years of service as principal of Thunderbird Christian Elementary School. He has also served in other positions within the denomination. His passion is working with high school students, teaching history, coaching, and seeing the academy succeed. Rogers wants students to create memories — academic, spiritual, athletic, and social — that they will cherish forever.

Valbert Francis is the new business manager for TAA. He has served the conference as the executive administrative assistant in the ministerial/evangelism department. Previously he served the conference’s Regional ministries department. He has also worked in the Florida Conference as the treasurer for Beryl Wisdom Adventist School. Francis holds a business/accounting degree from the University of Phoenix, and he has a strong commitment to Adventist education.

Nic Reichert is the new TAA registrar, tasked with providing guidance to students so that all academic requirements are met for graduation. Reichert has been working at the school as an English teacher, as well as coaching various sports. He has demonstrated strong academic expectations for his students and possesses great organization and communication skills.

Other Arizona Educators

New AC faculty and staff for this school year include:

• Adobe Adventist Christian School — Paula McElvania, teacher/principal
• Glenview Adventist Academy — Cody Blake, middle school teacher
• Maricopa Village Christian School — Patrice Laura, teacher/principal; Ila Rice, teacher’s aide
• Prescott Adventist Christian School — Jennifer Montalban, teacher assistant
• Saguaro Hills Adventist Christian School — David Smith, teacher/principal
• Thunderbird Christian Elementary School — Rochelle Stanton, principal; Nicole Handysides, Lisa Heisey, Teresa Greene, Landon Banks, teachers
• Yuma Adventist Christian School — Angie Benitez, teacher/principal; Justine Dixon, teacher

Please keep all the AC educators and school staff in prayer as they minister to the spiritual and academic needs of the students.
Retiring from the NUC

After serving the Nevada-Utah Conference for three years, Eileen White has retired from her role as superintendent of schools. “Dr. White has been a valuable part of our team,” said Leon Brown, NUC president. “She leaves a legacy of Christ-centered philosophy and her commitment to excellence in education. She will be truly missed.”

White taught and served as a senior administrator for over 35 years. “I always thought that Adventist education had an edge, academically and spiritually,” she said. “In addition to these strengths, we also help develop students’ characters. Seeing the need for this type of education has had an impact on me.”

While orienting the incoming superintendent of schools, Fernando Lista, in late June, White remarked that Lista is the gift that will keep on giving. “He is committed to Adventist education, to quality instruction, and to our young people,” she said. “I believe the strides we have made for ‘something better’ will continue.”

Now in retirement, White enjoys travelling and going on mission trips with her husband.

Joining the NUC

Starting in early July, Fernando Lista joined the NUC as the new superintendent of schools. Lista previously worked as principal/teacher at Hawaiian Mission Academy, Windward Campus (HMA). “My family and I were not expecting this opportunity,” he said. “When God calls, we must respond.”

Lista has a BA in education and in theology from River Plate Adventist University and a Master of Science in Education from Southern Adventist University. He is currently finishing his Ph.D. in leadership from Andrews University. His experience in education includes serving as both teacher and principal of HMA, Glenview Adventist Academy, and Atlanta Adventist International School.

From opening a brand-new school from scratch, to working in a multigrade classroom setting, Lista’s experiences have given him a broad scope of the needs of educators. “I think God sends us out to different places and allows us to experience different opportunities as a preparation for what comes next,” Lista said.

He is excited to meet and work with the educators in the conference. “I believe there are truly devoted and spiritually driven teachers and administrators in our conference,” he said. “I pray that we will be united in purpose and mission to prepare our children for a life of service in this world and in the world to come.”

A native of Argentina, Lista is married to Cristine. They have two boys, Dallan, age 7, and Kian, age 5.

Support the Ministry of Adventist Education!

Three ways you can get involved: 1. Support the worthy student fund or conference advance. (See tithe envelope for details.)
2. Save box tops for your local school.
3. Pray for NUC schools.
After over 40 years of preaching sermons, baptizing, and sharing the gospel, Randy Barlow has retired from pastoral ministry. Barlow, who served at conferences in both the Pacific Union and North Pacific Union, feels grateful to have experienced what he considers the biggest blessing of his life: a journey in ministry.
When Barlow stepped into his first role as a pastor for the Upper Columbia Conference in January of 1978, he anticipated only serving short term. He planned to obtain a doctoral degree in Old Testament studies and teach Bible at an Adventist academy. What he didn’t plan on was how much he loved pastoral ministry. “Once I started pastoring, I never even gave my Ph.D. a second thought,” he said.

Barlow’s first job was an internship under Pastor Marlo Fralick, who became a life-long mentor. Encouraged by mentorship and heartened by camaraderie with other pastors, Barlow immersed himself in his work. “I really love prayer meeting and teaching from the pulpit,” he said.

He also enjoyed fellowship with his congregations. From leading hikes and backpacking trips in Yosemite, to spending countless hours supporting local schools, Barlow always found ways to include members in his favorite pastimes, as well as make a difference in causes for which he cared deeply.

Not only did his congregations appreciate his active participation in church activities, such as outdoor trips and local outreach efforts, they also felt blessed by his leadership. “He encouraged the church’s talents and leadership. He trusted us and empowered us to do the work,” said Nina Harris, secretary for the Quincy church. “Through his Christ-like and humble example, he brought us closer to Christ.”

Barlow’s members say he has a soft-spoken nature and a calm demeanor. They also describe him as having a steady character. They knew that if they needed him, rain or shine, Pastor Barlow would be there. “Once we had to beg him not to come because of bad weather,” Harris said. “The roads were extremely unreliable, and we knew he would try to come.”

Barlow’s dedication was a trademark wherever he went, including South Korea. In 2003, he joined the General Conference as a mission appointee and served as an academic dean for a school in South Korea. Though health challenges required Barlow to move back to the United States in 2007, he didn’t lose his optimism, but rather looked to God for His next plan. That year, Barlow joined the Nevada-Utah Conference as a pastor for the Susanville, Quincy, and Greenville churches.

“Looking back on how God has worked in my life, I am just in awe of how He has led me,” said Barlow. “Despite my weaknesses and failings, He still has blessed.”

Barlow retired in mid-July. After over four decades in God’s service, he is looking forward to seeing what God has planned next. His journey in ministry has convinced him that God’s plans are the best ones.
Beyond the Classroom:
Fred Bruce Teaches HIS Students Lessons for Life

By Katie Freeland

Confidence. Perseverance. Accomplishment. Knowledge. These are all words to describe the kinds of lessons the students at Holbrook Indian School (HIS) learn, not only in the academic setting but also in vocational classes taught by Fred Bruce.

Bruce does a lot at Holbrook. He's a jack of all trades, who happens also to be a master of them, too. He teaches horsemanship, welding, woodworking, and auto mechanics, along with maintaining all of the vehicles on campus. Growing up on a ranch, Bruce had first-hand experience with the trades he now teaches. He graduated with a degree in industrial education from Southwestern Adventist University.

Eight and a half years ago, he moved to Holbrook, bringing with him a wide variety of professional experiences. “I’ve taught vocational or industrial classes at different schools at different times and worked at summer camps,” said Bruce. “Prior to coming [to Holbrook], we were at Cohutta Springs [Youth Camp]...
for about six and a half years, and I was in charge of all of the outdoor recreation.”

Asked about his most rewarding experience, he said: “Seeing the kids succeed—that's what teaching is all about. It’s helping them learn.”

Bruce’s students not only learn valuable vocational skills, they also learn life lessons in some unexpected places.

**Building Confidence with Horsemanship**

“Probably the biggest thing that everybody gets from [horsemanship] is that it boosts their confidence,” said Bruce. “I like to talk to them about how this horse that weighs 1,000 pounds is stronger than you are, it can run faster than you can, it’s bigger than you are, but yet it works for you. Why does it work for you?”

Bruce talks to the students about the creation story in Genesis when God gave man dominion over the animals. “He made us smarter so that we can use our minds to work with their minds,” he said. “By God giving us dominion over them, He gave us the authority to use them, but not to abuse them. I stress the fact: ‘How cool is this? You take this horse that’s 1,000 pounds and ask it to do something, and it obeys!’”

Bruce reflected on a young man named Adrian who recently graduated from HIS. At first, Adrian wouldn’t take a horsemanship class because he was afraid. Yet he was still
interested. One day, during the HIS summer program, he decided to try to ride a horse. “So we started really basic, talked about how the horses think, see, and react, and taught how to approach the horses safely, how to put on the halters, tie them up, groom them, work around them, and get more comfortable,” said Bruce.

But Adrian was still scared. “Do you know what the definition of bravery is?” Bruce asked him. “It’s being scared but doing it anyway because that’s what you want to do or feel you need to do.”

Eventually, Adrian was able to work his way up from riding a very small horse to one of the bigger horses. “He felt really good that he was able to be brave and to conquer his fear,” said Bruce. “And now he loves riding.”

**Learning Perseverance through Welding**

“One of my favorite things is seeing the kids realize what they can accomplish,” said Bruce. “Then they come in and see how much time and practice it takes to develop a skill.”

The students get discouraged, but Bruce encourages them by saying, “You can do it; you just have to go slowly, step by step, and build up your skill and achieve.”

Eventually the student will make a nice weld and be proud of it. Many of these students have been demoralized in the past by their home lives. “To see them hang in there, persevere, accomplish, and then realize that they can do these things is a pretty good feeling,” said Bruce.

**Feeling Accomplishment with Woodworking**

Bruce realizes the importance of creativity in woodworking. He teaches the students the basics of quality woodworking, helps them learn how to use the tools, and gives them options for what to build. But the students come up with their own plans.
“I tell them that I want them to make the dimensions, decide exactly how they want to design it, and then follow the plan and accomplish it,” he said. “I want them to realize that they can set a goal, make a plan, and stick with that plan.”

This, obviously, applies to much more than just woodworking.

**Shaping Knowledge in Auto Mechanics**

Along with maintaining the vehicles on campus, Bruce also teaches auto mechanics. “I try to approach them with the idea that if you want to fix it yourself, you can save money, but if you don’t want to fix it yourself, at least you have some knowledge [to prevent] getting taken advantage of,” he said, referring to dishonest mechanics.

In addition to learning how to fix cars, students also learn to maintain them to have the best performance possible. Bruce stresses that learning how a vehicle works will help prevent mistakes in the future. This encourages the students to take care of the things they are blessed with now and in the future, and to prepare them for car ownership when they’re older.

**Passing the Torch**

Bruce looks forward to passing on his legacy. “One boy that I think of in particular went all four years in high school to HIS. He took welding, he took woodworking, he took mechanics, and he took horsemanship. In fact, he took woodworking and horsemanship more than one year,” said Bruce. “The last couple years he was here, he ended up being my helper with the other kids. He graduated last year, and he told me his goal is to come back to Holbrook and ‘be me’ when I retire. I hope he does do that, and he seems to be working that direction.”

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Holbrook Indian School (HIS) is a first-through twelfth-grade boarding academy operated by the Pacific Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. HIS also manages a first-through eighth-grade day school on the Navajo reservation in Chinle, Arizona. Eighty percent of funding comes from individuals who have a desire to support Native American ministries and Christian education. Your generosity makes a difference in the lives of our students, their families, and the communities they serve.

Thank you for your support.
Nearly 4,000 people at more than 1,100 campsites registered throughout the week, and more than 10,000 were in attendance each Sabbath.

Celebrating History
The 10-day event was designed to take camp meeting goers back to the campground’s founding year, 1948. Attendees enjoyed daily historical Did You Know? video segments, a commemorative postcard of the Main Auditorium, interviews with historians, banners highlighting yesteryear, and testimonies from those who attended the original camp meeting. They also got to see a 1940s-era living room, complete with historic furnishings and Adventist memorabilia.

As a salute to Soquel’s legacy, the daily television broadcast segments featured historians, retro black and white video openers, and a voiceover from the late George Vandeman, keynote speaker at the 1948 meetings. In addition, John Leopold, first district supervisor for Santa Cruz County, provided a video tribute to Adventism within Santa Cruz County.

Keynote speakers were José Rojas, director of MOVementum, and Henry Wright, long-time pastor, now retired. Revelation of Hope praise team performed songs from previous
camp meeting decades. Recording artists Michael Harris and Steve Darmody presented Sabbath concerts.

**Prayer Warriors**
Before camp meeting, Joyce Mulligan, CCC Prayer Ministries director, led a prayer walk throughout the grounds, attended by more than 120 lay people. Main Auditorium programming strategically made room for all types of prayer, and the prayer team met together daily throughout the event.

**Adventist Book Center**
Adventist Book Center (ABC) manager Trevor Louw and his staff displayed a large selection of Christian books for sale. More than 400 people attended Sunday’s annual ABC Auditorium Sale. Louw also arranged for a midweek treat: the showing of *Hell and Mr. Fudge*, a Christian movie addressing the doctrine of a non-everlasting hell.

**Youth and Young Adult Divisions**
During the 10 days, Michael Kelly, Joshua Nelson, David Machado, Amie Register, Subodh Pandit, and others spoke to the young people. Rojas was the speaker for CCC’s first-ever Youth and Young Adult joint service, attended by more than 600.

During the week, youth teams went door to door offering free yard work. Their outreach to the community was based on Life Hope Missions (LHM), a new CCC initiative aimed at reaching out to neighborhoods utilizing practical tools such as hammers, paint, and lawn mowers.

One community neighbor was expecting guests but had no one to help her with her yard. Distraught, she began praying. Within an hour a group of teens knocked on her door and soon had her yard in shape.

Many young people made decisions to follow God’s call during camp meeting. Multiple baptisms took place at Soquel and at the nearby Monterey Bay Academy beach. “Overall, this camp meeting rates as one of the best in Soquel history,” said Anil Kanda, CCC Youth and Young Adult director.

**Children’s Divisions**
Lisa Plasencia, CCC Children’s Ministry director, and volunteer staff worked tirelessly with more than 1,382 registered children in four divisions.

The Beginners Tent had two new centers. One encouraged kids to show God’s love through play activities, and the other taught sign language.

The Kindergarten Tent helped preschoolers learn to be strong by equipping...
themselves with a Bible verse a day. These verses came alive with skits, elaborate backdrops, and crafts.

The Primary Tent featured an interactive maze, including a rock wall, a slide, and a waterfall. Each student received a free children’s Bible labeled with a reminder of God’s love.

The Junior Tent offered Bible studies with various pastors, daily robust hikes, and community outreach projects.

Hispanic Tent

This year brought the largest-ever crowds to the Hispanic Tent, with more than 2,000 in attendance each Sabbath. Attendees appreciated speakers like Arnaldo Cruz, senior pastor of the Pilgrims Spanish church in Florida. The Hispanic Tent also featured recognition of those serving in the Armed Forces, a youth-driven praise team, and an anointing service. Many young people were involved in various aspects of the programming.

In all, nine people were baptized.

“We praise God for what He did in and through the Hispanic Ministries Department,” said Antonio Huerta, Hispanic Ministries director.

Evangelism

Soquel Camp Meeting, known for its emphasis on evangelism, has brought in over $690,000 for evangelism since July 2018. Near the end of the convocation, a donor made an open-ended pledge promising 10 percent of the future earnings of a newly formed company. This pledge has the possibility of becoming a significant gift.

A new evangelism initiative titled “One Dollar a Day” was launched at Soquel, challenging members with limited finances to pledge a dollar a day for a year.

Noemi Gallego, a CCC CROSS trainer (Bible worker) from the Visalia (English) church, gave her testimony. Last year, she and her husband pledged three times more to evangelism than they had
originally planned. Heavily in debt, they stepped out in faith. Shortly after making that pledge, Gallego was offered a new job as a hospital chaplain. Not only did the couple pay their pledge in full, God also helped them pay off all their debts.

Culminating testimonies like this one and other evangelism efforts resulted in a number of baptisms, including those during camp meeting and at the Main Auditorium. At the latter service, seven people made decisions for Jesus.

Life Hope Centers
From July 16–20, Dr. Ed Urbina, Life Hope Center (LHC) director, and his team of volunteer medical professionals ran health clinics, providing vision, dental, and medical services for underserved, underinsured, and non-insured members and guests. Also, Urbina offered a free dental assisting training class each weekday.

During a Sabbath panel urging members to volunteer, Betty Lara’s testimony was shared. Two years ago Lara was served at the LHC Hollister Clinic. She was so impressed by the dental staff who helped her that she enrolled in a dental assisting program in her area. When she discovered that LHC was coming back to Hollister, she encouraged her program director and entire class to volunteer.

Adventist Singles Adult Ministries
Adventist Singles Adult Ministries (ASAM) hosted a tent that provided a place for singles to relax throughout the day. ASAM also invited singles to download a Soquel Camp Meeting frame for their Facebook profiles.

The communication department also unveiled a new app: CCC SDA, featuring online giving, live streaming, a video archive section, a public prayer wall, and a plethora of features yet to come.

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The theme of the recent Black Ministries Camp Meeting 2018 was “Homecoming.” The event featured speakers Eldeen King, Abraham Jules, Rebecca Davis, Kyle Crawford, Marc Raphael, and Samuel Green—a 12-year-old from Jackson, Mississippi, who led the children’s services.

The Southeastern California Conference held its first-ever Black Ministries Camp Meeting (BMCM) on the campus of La Sierra University in 1991. Heading the charge alongside Gerald Penick, vice president for Black ministries, was Brian Neal, then associate youth ministries director for senior youth ministries at the conference. Over the years the event grew, finally coming to its current home, the Riverside Convention Center.

“Camp meeting is an opportunity for church members to step outside the walls of their regular week-to-week church and meet 3,000 other members from all over Southern California,” said Neal, now SECC commitment director. “We sing, pray, and cry together and realize we’re not alone as individual churches—we have a whole organization walking and worshiping alongside us.”

A highlight this year was the Gospel Jubilee, a throwback to it used to be an annual inclusion. The event honored George King, current vice president for Black ministries, and Neal—both of whom plan to retire this year.

Additionally, BMCM’s first-ever Adventist Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN) health clinic provided speakers who gave presentations on current issues in women’s health, the connection between dental health and heart disease, HIV, and human behavior and personality types. The clinic also offered health services such as dental exams, dental cleanings and extractions, eye exams, health screenings, and medical consultations.

“Ellen White encourages us to use the health message to draw the interest of the people and then educate on how to take care of our bodies,” said Del Grace, Black ministries health services volunteer.
coordinator and pediatric nurse practitioner. “This ensures better health and a greater service for the Master,” she said.

AMEN clinics increase the community’s awareness of health issues impacting minority groups, such as heart disease related to obesity, stroke, hypertension, and lack of access to health care. The clinic was the final stop in a month-long health expo throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

King and Neal both plan to retire on Oct. 1. King has been vice president for Black ministries since 2002, but has served the church for 46 years—29 of those in SECC. Neal is perhaps one of the longest-serving employees in the conference’s history, having served for more than 40 years.

During Neal’s 25 years of working with young people, he developed a relationship with the founder of the Crystal Cathedral in Orange County, allowing the conference to hold several youth rallies there. “We worked hard to create a non-traditional event to engage today’s young people,” Neal said. “It seemed to work because we saw many people attend the rallies who had not been regularly attending church.”

Neal took his experience with young people into his work as commitment director, starting with the basics. “I always felt like asking people to give money, but not helping families manage money well didn’t make sense,” he said. “So I did a lot of financial training, helping people understand how to partner with God financially. When the family is healthy, the church is healthy—in all aspects.”

King said the most important lesson he learned during his career was to empower others to lead. During the course of his leadership, SECC Black ministries started two new churches, purchased three church buildings, upgraded or remodeled all its church plants, and increased membership and tithe in its churches.

King was especially supportive of camp meeting, believing its purpose is to enlarge the church’s vision of what it means to be part of the family of God. “This major yearly event brings our people together,” he said. “It’s a time for them to recharge their spiritual batteries, make new friends, and rededicate themselves to God.”

Despite their upcoming retirements, both men still see ways to improve their ministries. They would like to continue to plant new churches and enrich the ones they have, as well as to engage and equip young people to lead.

“George is a wise leader,” Neal said of his longtime friend and coworker. “He trusts and is trusted; he is patient, collaborative, and respected. He is a good man to have as a friend, and many people will tell you this. It has been an honor to serve alongside him.”

King reciprocated, saying, “All leaders need a friend like Brian. He is knowledgeable, a wise counselor, and a faithful friend.”

For information on SECC’s Black ministries, visit secblackmin.adventistfaith.org. For information about AMEN clinics, including how to host one at a church, school, or business, visit amenclinics.com.
Yucaipa Valley Spanish church members celebrated making their final church mortgage payment with a symbolic mortgage burning ceremony on Sabbath, June 23.

It was an accomplishment 10 years in the making.

Located on 4th Street in Yucaipa, the 18,000-square-foot property was acquired in 2007. Since then, the congregation has been working diligently to pay off the total mortgage and interest amount of $1.2 million. While there were various other sources of funding, much of the money was raised through fundraising concerts, yard sales, walkathons and, most of all, the heartfelt personal sacrifice of members of the congregation.

When Harold Guizar became pastor of the Yucaipa Valley Spanish church in 2016, he focused on continuing the efforts to pay off the mortgage. His initial thought was that it would take another three to four years, but God had other plans. Within 17 months of his arrival, the final payment was made in February 2018. “There is a real sense of gratitude that the Lord has really blessed them,” Guizar said of the members and their happiness at having paid off the debt.

Through the years the church not only had to pay the mortgage but also operational expenses, a total of approximately $9,000 a month. “As I listen to the stories of faith challenges and financial sacrifices, I can see that the Lord provided every month,” Guizar said. “We call these stories ‘monthly miracles.’”

The mortgage payment journey was one rich in God’s providence. When the members began a search for their own building in 2004, the initial plan was to purchase a 10,000-square-foot piece of land on Bryant Street and build from scratch. But those plans did not come to fruition. Shortly thereafter, they came across the 4th Street property with all the necessary buildings, including the church, gym, and multipurpose room.

According to Guizar, when the church was just under $7,000 away from paying off the mortgage, a member of the congregation offered to pay the remaining balance from her personal savings. “I think this is the time to use it,” she said.

Guests at the June 23 celebration included Sandra Roberts, Southeastern California Conference president; Jonathan Park, executive secretary; Alberto Ingleton, vice president for Hispanic ministries; and other friends and supporters of the congregation. The ceremony included the burning of a sheet of paper, symbolizing the mortgage.

Members of the Yucaipa Valley Spanish church are now focused on other important projects, including updating their media technology system to be able to focus on more evangelism, as well as lighting and blacktop for the parking lot.

“We feel profoundly thankful to God for this blessing,” said Tulio Peverini, a retired pastor and longtime member of the Yucaipa Valley Spanish church who was part of the project from the very beginning. “We feel great joy. God was so good to us,” he said.
Leaders Take New Education Roles
in the Southeastern California Conference
By Rebeca Salcedo

The Southeastern California Conference Office of Education has a new associate superintendent, and two large SECC schools have new interim leaders this school year.

Datha Tickner, Associate Superintendent, Office of Education
Datha Tickner has 34 years of experience in education, having been a dean, principal, and teacher at a number of elementary, junior high, and high schools. Some of her fondest memories in education include going on field trips with students and helping schools solve problems. Asked what she will miss about her former work, she said, “It will take time to get used to not being on campus interacting with students on the first day of class and during the school trips I used go on with them.”

She said she enjoys “being a problem solver and working things out.” Some of her first priorities in her new role include addressing safety issues, building up teachers, and overseeing the early childhood development centers.

During her time away from work, Tickner enjoys reading, eating tasty food, spending time with family, and going to the beaches of California.

Michael Conner, Interim Elementary Principal, La Sierra Academy
No stranger to the role of administrator, Michael Conner has worked as principal of schools in California and Oregon. He has also been associate superintendent of education in SECC, working alongside local principals and school boards to advance the educational goals of schools in the conference.

Conner hopes to utilize his skills to give effective guidance to faculty at the school and also to promote La Sierra Academy’s excellent legacy. For him a significant emphasis is to continue “building up the school spiritually and academically.” This upcoming school year, Conner looks forward to one-on-one interactions with his students.

Some of his hobbies include watching Clippers basketball games, doing yard work, and relaxing on the swing in his yard.

Donald Krpalek, Interim High School Principal, Loma Linda Academy
Donald Krpalek is an experienced administrator and teacher with 40 years of experience in education. He is a former high school Bible and history teacher, elementary math teacher, principal, and superintendent.

Krpalek is proud of Loma Linda Academy’s first-class education, which offers AP classes, multiple foreign language classes, advanced math, and a hands-on curriculum that includes field trips.

He believes helping students know Christ personally and become lifelong learners is the evidence of a successful school.

“Adventist education is a wonderful first-class education that benefits children by helping them build a moral compass,” he said. “God has students at the school who need to be there. If we let God lead and we follow, amazing things happen; I have seen this many times.”

Constituency Session Notice
Notice is hereby given that the Second Quinquennial Session of the Southeastern California Conference is called to convene as follows:

La Sierra University Church
4937 Sierra Vista Ave.
Riverside, California
9 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, 2018

The purpose of this meeting is to receive reports; elect conference officers, vice presidents for ethnic ministries, the executive committee, and the bylaws committee; and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session.

Sandy Roberts, president
Jonathan Park, executive secretary
Verlon Strauss, treasurer
The final night of camp saw teens taking the stage, speaking about what Camp Wai`anae meant to them. “When I came to this camp, I didn’t think I would like a place like this. But I was wrong. This week I have learned to trust God with all my struggles,” one camper said.

“I am so thankful I came,” declared another. “This camp has really showed me a different perspective on Christianity,” said another teen. “You guys showed me a new perspective that brings truth about myself and who I am.”

The next morning, the various groups of campers parted ways—some to their homes around Oahu, others to Kauai and Maui. Some teens returned to Tent City in Wai’anae, and others returned to evacuation shelters away from the lava flow areas on the Big Island.

The camp staff was excited to witness the friendships that had developed during camp. “I expected campers with such diverse backgrounds to clash, but instead I saw them open up, learn from one another, and just be kids,” said camp counselor Jeff Bradburn. “People often say, ‘you never really know the seeds that were planted’, but that last week, Teen Camp, was something special. At the end of the week, those kids were different. Laughing together, exchanging tearful goodbyes—all I could do was sit back and feel...”
proud that I could witness that transformation.”

For the majority of camp staff, the summer began with a Love Reality Tour (LRT) at the Wahiawa church. LRT is a presentation of biblical truths in a way that engages every generation.

Each night, the Wahiawa church and community, along with young adults from across the islands and North America, came together for food and fellowship, and to soak in the gospel message—a message of identity, purpose, and worth as sons and daughters of God. More than five people were baptized at the conclusion of LRT, and attendees spoke of having a clearer image of God, a stronger belief in His love, and a renewed confidence in sharing that love with the world.

LRT was not only a blessing to the Wahiawa church, it was the perfect beginning to a summer of ministry for the camp staff. “Experiencing LRT made me feel more confident about what I wanted to share with the campers,” said camp counselor Erica Goodrick. “I felt prepared and ready to share the message of God’s love.”

Along with serving the campers from the church communities around Oahu, the staff had the opportunity to minister to kids from many different walks of life across the islands. Thanks to generous donors, 53 kids displaced by the Kilauea volcano’s lava flow were able to experience a week of camp. Many of them had no idea what to expect when they arrived at Camp Wai’anae. At the end of Adventure Camp, several of these kids talked about loving the bunk beds, the food, and the staff.

Each week brought enough campers to fill every cabin, growing the Camp Wai’anae population to the largest it has ever been and showing the desperate need for additional cabins in the near future.

Bradburn hopes that church members will continue to make ministry to young people a priority, including the work at Camp Wai’anae. “Keep supporting youth ministry, keep pouring into young adults,” he said. “The youth aren’t the future; they’re the present—present leaders, present seekers, agents of change in this world that is hungry for meaning. And whatever you do, don’t miss out on an opportunity to journey alongside a young person and let the Holy Spirit do the rest.”

(Left) Jordan Layo teaches campers how to build a long board. (Above) Erik VanDenburgh and Jonathan Leonardo baptize Madelyn Swelstad from LRT.
Urban Camp Meeting Provides Fellowship, Inspiration, and Training

BY JULIE LORENZ

About 1,200 people gathered at Christian Life Center in Stockton for the third annual Urban Camp Meeting, held June 21-23. The Northern California Conference African-American Ministries Department sponsored the event. This year the camp meeting focused on the theme “F.I.T. [fellowship, inspiration, training] to Ignite.”

“We’re trying to inspire our urban city members to be more involved in making a difference in their communities for the Kingdom of God,” said Willie Johnson Jr., NCC urban ministries director/African-American ministries coordinator. “People in today’s society are not interested in what we know until they know that we care about what is important to them.”

The main speaker was Abraham Jules, senior pastor of Community Worship Center church in Queens, N.Y. “Dr. Jules provided a tremendous blessing to all those who heard him,” said Johnson.

Other speakers included Ricardo Graham, president of the Pacific Union Conference; Marvin Clarke, associate pastor of the Oakland Market Street church; and Imelda Hatchett-Mitchell, health and wellness presenter.

Edwin McBride, associate pastor of the Kansas Avenue church in Riverside, spoke for the youth meetings. Younger kids enjoyed Vacation Bible School led by Ayanna Johnson, Valley Community church member. The littlest children had meetings of their own, led by Kathy Slater, Oakland Immanuel Temple church member.

A variety of seminars provided practical knowledge and training. Edward Woods, director of public affairs and religious liberty for the Lake Region Conference, presented three seminars on social justice. Curtis Hall, founder of the Atlanta-based Sabbath school training program “Hit the Mark,” conducted a workshop on ways to increase the value of Sabbath School. NCC human resources director Kathy Batchelor, Veg Hub Chef G.W. Chew, and Hatchett-Mitchell presented health seminars.

“People were very excited about the material that was presented in the seminars,” said Yolanda Frazier, administrative assistant for NCC urban ministries/African-American ministries, who helped to organize the camp meeting. “They were happy to receive practical knowledge they could use in their homes, churches, and communities.”

Just before camp meeting began, 17 teens from 10 NCC churches, along with their young adult leaders, spent two days helping to build a home in Stockton with Habitat for Humanity of San Joaquin County. Not only did the youth make new friends, they learned some construction skills. “They were able to say, ‘Look, this is what I helped build,’” said Moises Ramirez, locally hired youth pastor at the Grand Advent church, who led the group. Although the work was hot and tiring, “at the end kids came up and gave me a hug and said, ‘Let’s do this again,’” he said.

The focus of the project was serving others in a practical way—like Jesus did. “This is definitely something that Jesus would have been doing, having an impact on the lives of others,” said Ramirez.

Johnson hopes that NCC Urban Camp Meeting inspired people of every age to bring Christ into their communities. “We need to put a face on Adventism in the community, letting them know that we care,” he said.
Chanda Nunes Is Ordained to the Gospel Ministry

On Sabbath afternoon, June 23, Chanda Nunes, associate pastor of the Sacramento Capitol City church, was ordained to the gospel ministry during Urban Camp Meeting. “I was overwhelmed by the love and support of so many who chose to attend in person and online,” said Nunes. “I had many moments of reflection, and my heart was full to recount the journey that God has brought me on.”

Born and raised in Toronto, Canada, Nunes recognized her call to ministry at the age of nine. She credits many church leaders who acknowledged her calling and provided her with various leadership roles when she was young.

She is a graduate of Burman University, formerly Canadian University College, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in religious studies, with a minor in biblical languages. She holds a Master of Divinity from the SDA Theological Seminary. She also holds associate degrees in private investigation and paralegal studies and is a certified life coach practitioner.

Nunes began her pastoral ministry in 2003, serving at the College Heights church on the campus of Canadian University College. From 2008-2015, she served at the New Haven church in Kansas City before coming to her current pastorate. She was commissioned to the gospel ministry in 2011.

“While there are several aspects of ministry I enjoy—administration and preaching—there is no greater joy than leading someone through study into baptism,” said Nunes. “This is truly what ministry is about, leading someone into a relationship with Christ.”
This summer Redwood Camp Meeting once again provided an oasis of beauty and inspiration for campers from throughout Northern California, Southern Oregon, and beyond. About 500 more people attended this year than have in recent years, according to Harry Salvini, camp director.

Speakers in Pepperwood Pavilion included Shawn Boonstra, Voice of Prophecy speaker/director; Brad Newton, Pacific Union Conference executive secretary; and Ivan Williams Sr., North American Division ministerial director. In the Adult II tent, speakers included Kymone Hinds, pastor of Overton Park and Journey Fellowship churches in Tennessee, and Sam Leonor, La Sierra University chaplain.

The main presenters for Campestre Hispano were Salatiel Álvarez García, secretary of the Soconusco Conference in Mexico, and Gabriel Velazquez, a pastor from the Baja California Conference.

Other highlights included seminars, concerts, a Fun Run/Walk, and the annual Community Service Day. New this year was Summer on the Run, the NCC’s mobile youth program, which brought a giant waterslide, an archery range, and other fun activities for kids.

This was the last summer that Will Bowlby will serve as camp caretaker. He, his wife Kim, and their children RyAnn and Seth have moved to Oregon after living and working at the campground since 2012. (Kim served as the teaching principal at nearby Fortuna Junior Academy.) “Will has given everything he’s got for so many years,” said Salvini. “We really appreciate everything Will has done behind the scenes to make the campground a great place for camp meetings, Pathfinder camporees, and other activities,” said Jim Lorenz, NCC ministerial director.

The new camp caretaker is Monty Parks. He and his wife, Terri, are members of the Eureka church.

Many campers are counting the days until next summer! “There’s just something about Redwood,” said Salvini. “I feel so much closer to God there, and I take that feeling with me throughout the year.”

Keep up with Redwood news at www.facebook.com/redwoodcamp.

Don’t miss next year’s event, July 18-27, 2019!
(Left) Voice of Prophecy Speaker/Director Shawn Boonstra preaches in Pepperwood Pavilion. (Below, from left to right) Gabriel Velazquez, pastor from the Baja California Conference, preaches for Campestre Hispano; Willie Johnson, NCC African-American Ministries coordinator/urban ministries director, speaks for Sabbath school; Melissa Howell, Carmichael church associate pastor, and Kevin Miller, NCC planned giving consultant, lead song service in the Primary Division; Kymone Hinds, a pastor from Tennessee, speaks in the Adult II tent.

(Far left) Eddie Heinrich, NCC youth director, stands in front of the giant waterslide. (Left) A camper tries out the archery range as part of the Summer on the Run program.

(Left) A young camper participates in the fourth annual Redwood Community Service Day. (Right) Community service volunteers help at an animal rescue shelter, package hygiene kits, use their sewing skills, and beautify the landscape.
The National Institutes of Health Awards $500,000 to Loma Linda University Researcher

Christopher Wilson explores sepsis prevention for preterm infants through vagus nerve stimulation.

By Genesis Gonzalez

The National Institutes of Health has awarded Christopher Wilson, PhD, associate professor in the department of physiology at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, a $500,000 grant to explore sepsis prevention through vagus nerve stimulation (VNS).

The two-year grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development is a first for Loma Linda University and lends itself to a new direction in treating infection that can lead to sepsis in babies — typically affecting preterm infants.

“One of our major goals is developing non-invasive therapies that have minimal complications and improve long-term outcomes for infants,” Wilson said.

Infants born prematurely are particularly susceptible to bacterial infection and are much more likely to develop sepsis, according to Wilson. Sepsis is a whole-body infection that can occur after an individual sustains a bacterial infection that is not treated, or one that is not adequately helped by antibiotics. “Approximately 1.3 million babies die due to neonatal sepsis each year,” Wilson said.

Through the grant, Wilson will explore how VNS offers a safe, non-invasive alternative to anti-inflammatory drugs and antibiotics, which can cause further complications in preterm babies. This includes taking a closer look at the short-term changes associated with an acute inflammatory challenge to the airway — a common source of infection in newborns. The goal is to determine the mechanism by which sepsis can cause death by identifying early changes in breathing patterns that are hallmarks of airway infection.

Wilson and his team of three researchers, including a graduate student, medical student, and technician, hope to ultimately answer the question: what are the optimal parameters of stimulation to combat infection? “This project will provide foundational understanding of the mechanisms by which VNS can block early infection in preterm babies,” Wilson said.

He believes the grant’s focus ties into Loma Linda University Health’s philosophy of caring for the whole body by using the body’s innate anti-inflammatory response and by stimulating it for improved outcomes.

VNS is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration and is currently being used in clinical trials for treating refractory epilepsy.

Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital treats an average of 80 preterm infants a day in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), Wilson said. Many of these babies are in the NICU for weeks or even months. More than 700,000 preterm babies are born throughout the U.S. and Europe each year.

In the future, Wilson aspires to work with his colleagues in the adult intensive care unit and determine if the same stimulation can be applied to adult patients at risk for sepsis.

For more information, visit the Lawrence D. Longo MD Center for Perinatal Biology’s website at medicine.llu.edu/longocenter.
Loma Linda University (LLU) has been honored as one of the 2018 “Great Colleges to Work For” by The Chronicle of Higher Education, a leading trade publication for colleges and universities, in partnership with Modern Think.

The list is designed to recognize institutions that have successfully created great workplaces for their employees and to further the research and understanding of the specific factors, dynamics, and influences that impact an organization’s culture.

“This honor speaks highly to the dedication and passion our employees and faculty demonstrate each day,” said Richard H. Hart, president of Loma Linda University Health. “Their commitment to the mission to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ is truly inspiring for the entire institution.”

The results were released on July 16 in The Chronicle of Higher Education’s 11th annual report on The Academic Workplace and are based on a survey of more than 50,000 people from 253 academic institutions. Of that number, 84 institutions made the list as one of the “Great Colleges to Work For.”

LLU won honors in seven of the 12 recognition categories, including collaborative governance; confidence in senior leadership; facilities, workspace, and security; work/life balance; professional/career-development programs; job satisfaction; and respect and appreciation.

The survey results are based on a two-part assessment process: an institutional audit that captured demographics, benefits, communication, and workplace policies, and a survey administered to faculty, administrators, and support staff. Employee feedback was a primary factor in deciding whether an institution received recognition.

Participating institutions receive a survey that measures the extent to which employees are involved or engaged in their organization. Results are categorized by small, medium, and large institutions. LLU was included among the medium-sized institutions with 3,000 to 9,999 students.

The university was also selected for the 2018 Honor Roll distinction, which is awarded to institutions that are recognized most often across all of the recognition categories.

“Our institution comprises a family of extraordinary people who live to serve and make a difference,” said Ronald Carter, provost of Loma Linda University. “I am inspired by the teamwork of our faculty and staff and their commitment to academic excellence, spirituality, and service.”

“Great Colleges to Work For” is one of the largest and most comprehensive workplace studies in higher education.

For more information, visit llu.edu. To begin a career with Loma Linda University, visit jobs.llu.edu.
Pacific Union Conference Office of Education

Announces Teacher Education Scholarship Winners for 2018-2019

BY BEVERLY BENSON

The Pacific Union Conference Office of Education offers a four-year Teacher Education Scholarship to worthy grade-12 students who want to become teachers. In order to qualify, the applicants agree to continue their education at a Seventh-day Adventist institution of higher education with the goal of becoming an Adventist educator. This year, Annjanette Figueroa, Audry Guzman, Pricila Hernandez, Rachel Molander, and Joli Weber are the recipients of the award. These five join nine previous winners who are currently working toward becoming teachers.

The students’ reasons for choosing to become teachers and the benefits of receiving the scholarship speak for themselves:

Becoming a teacher isn’t because of the money, but because of the passion I have for working with little kids. Every child needs to be able to have a teacher by their side helping them succeed. Throughout my education life, I have had teachers who were really excellent at their job. I would love to be able to make a huge impact on the Seventh-day Adventist education system in a very special way. Not too many teachers are willing to have the students connect to God. I want to allow the students to even get closer to God, and perhaps I will become closer to Him through the process of achieving the goal of becoming a teacher. **Annjanette Figueroa**, a graduate of Thunderbird Adventist Academy who will be attending La Sierra University

I have always viewed teaching as being one of the most impactful things a person could do. The task is something that holds a lot of weight for me and something I’ve always admired. I would love to be

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Image: Terry Loeffler, associate director of secondary education, presents the scholarship to Annjanette Figueroa.
“Teaching is one of the most underestimated professions, but teachers are an important influence in people’s lives.”

A teacher to help positively shape the minds of upcoming generations. I want to help learning become more impactful and interactive, to help students to apply what they’ve learned in a classroom to their personal lives. **Audry Guzman, a graduate of San Fernando Valley Academy who will be attending Pacific Union College**

Being a teacher is a very important job because a teacher helps shape the future leaders of our world. I want to become a teacher because I have the patience to teach students who have trouble learning or who have problems going on at home that conflict with their learning process. Most importantly, I want to become a teacher because I believe the Lord has called me to become His servant by being a teacher. I would like to impact students through the love of Jesus. I want to make sure students are learning about the Bible and how much God loves them. **Pricila Hernandez, a graduate of Orangewood Academy who will be attending La Sierra University**

Teaching is one of the most underestimated professions, but teachers are an important influence in people’s lives. I want to be a teacher because I want to help children grow—grow in God, and blossom into amazing people. I have worked as a teacher’s aide and teaching Pathfinder progressive classes, and I love seeing children’s faces excited when we discuss Jesus. I have attended a Seventh-day Adventist school all my life, and the teachers have made a lasting impact on my life, and I want to also impact my future students. My grandmother, who taught in Adventist schools for nearly 30 years, has often told me that our schools are our biggest mission field and our life can be the best sermon. **Rachel Molander, a graduate of Glendale Adventist Academy who will be attending Walla Walla University**

The main reason I aspire to be an elementary school teacher is because in my early elementary years, I had some challenges but with extra help was able to succeed. Because this happened to me, I know the struggle of what it is like to have to work a little harder compared to other kids my age, so by being an elementary school teacher and having this experience, I can tutor and guide them to their full potential. **Joli Weber, a graduate of Mountain View Academy who will be attending Pacific Union College**

The purpose of this scholarship is to inspire the members of the next generation to achieve their dreams of becoming Adventist teachers and fulfilling the mission God has put on their hearts. The Office of Education will continue to provide these funds each year as more students strive to become “something better” to benefit the Adventist school system and the children in it.
**Arizona Calendar**

**Arizona Conference Jail/Prison Ministry Training**  

**La Sierra University Start of classes.** La Sierra University will commence the 2018-19 school year with the start of classes on Monday, Sept. 24 and university convocation on Sept. 25. For additional information visit www.lasierra.edu.

**Church Treasurer Training**  
(Oct. 14) 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Anderson church, 2769 Balls Ferry Road, Anderson. Bring your laptop computer. Lunch provided. RSVP. Info: NCC Treasurer’s Office, 888-434-4622, ext. 209.

**Church Elder Training**  
(Oct. 14) 9 a.m. to noon. Fairfield Community church, 1101 East Tabor Avenue, Fairfield. Theme: church health. Several pastors will be presenting. Info: NCC Church Growth Department, 925-603-5089.

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**Northern California Conference**  

**Women’s Koinonia Retreat**  

**Church Dedication Service**  
(Sept. 29) 3-7:30 p.m. Dedication and grand opening of new sanctuary and multi-purpose building, Chino Valley Chinese church, 4136 Riverside Dr., Chino 91710. RSVP: Pastor Paul Cho, 626-217-5782, or email CVCSDA@gmail.com.

**SCC Women’s Ministries Retreat**  
(Oct. 5-7). Theme for the 38th annual retreat is “Identity Theft.” Camp Cedar Falls, 39850 CA-38, Angelus Oaks 92305. Info: Dr. Beverley Martin, 661-810-9350 or Dimple Fields, 323-336-3919.

**Second Saturday Series Concert**  
(Sept. 8) 5 p.m. Featuring Adriana Zoppo, viola. Admission is by free-will offering, reception to follow. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave., Glendale 91206. Info: 818-244-7241.

**Annual Ladies Tea**  
(Sept. 2) 2-4 p.m. Hosted by Temple City church Women’s Ministries, 9664 Broadway, Temple City 91780. Info: 818-244-7241.
At Your Service
California Adventist Federal Credit Union, your “One Stop Finance Shop,” serving our Adventist Community for over 65 years with financial products and services, along with wealth-building education. Please visit our website at www.sdcreditunion.com for updates on all that CAFCU has to offer. Call our office to speak to our friendly staff or manager for additional information: 818-246-7241.


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The Clergy Move Center® at Stevens Worldwide Van Lines is The Way to Move from state to state. Through our national contract with the General Conference, we extend our moving services to all Adventist families. Contact our dedicated Move Counselors for a no-cost/no-obligation estimate at 800-248-8313. Learn more at www.stevensworldwide.com/sda.


Bulletin Board

Canvasback Missions needs three vehicles to transport volunteers and supplies as well as pull a food trailer delivering healthy produce and meals on the island of Majuro. Your tax-deductible donation of a running or non-running vehicle can help us share the love of God through health and healing. 800-793-7245, info@canvasback.org.

Hilltop stone house located on Riverview Adventist Church campus with breathtaking view of Truckee River. Available for TV productions, cooking schools, retreats, seminars, conferences, workshops, reunions, etc. Hotel accommodations off site are nearby. Sunday-Thursday $150 per day. Security deposit $350; refundable if left clean and undamaged. Call Laurie Sayre, 775-322-9642.

The Advent God Squad needs you. You can bring paper sunshine totally risk free using our address. We screen and forward letters and an application from inmates who are aware this is a ministry. Share Christ’s love and wishes to deal with inmates. Be a pen friend through this 40-year-old ministry. To join, call Don or Yvonne at 260-387-7423, or email sdapm@someonecares.org.

Southern Adventist University seeks Vice President for Enrollment Management to be responsible for meeting the enrollment goals of the university. The vice president oversees the functions of undergraduate and graduate recruitment, admissions, financial aid counseling for prospective students, and the Assist/PFE programs. Full job description: southern.edu/jobs.

Southern Adventist University seeks CIRC Lead Programmer/Analyst in the School of Computing. This position oversees/coordinates work of students/staff engaged in software development/analysis. B.S. in Computer Science or similar and 5 years work experience required. Full job description: southern.edu/jobs.
The Nevada-Utah Conference is seeking to fill two treasury department positions. Looking for exceptional individuals with a degree in accounting, church-work experience, and strong problem-solving skills who can provide references and work samples supporting these qualifications. Interested individuals should send resumes to Karen Schneider, treasurer of the NUC, at kschneider@nevadautah.org.

Union College invites applicants for an Accounting faculty position. Qualified applicants will have an MBA or Masters in Accounting, a certification, and should be a committed member of the SDA Church. A doctorate is preferred. Find more information at www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings or contact Barry Forbes at barry.forbes@ucollege.edu.

Union College seeks full-time professor of communication with strong experience in emerging media and public relations beginning July 2019. Doctorate is preferred. Please submit a curriculum vitae to Dr. Mark Robison, Humanities Division chair, at mark.robison@ucollege.edu.


For Sale

Missing Members
Hemet SDA church, 27025 Girard St., Hemet, CA 92544 or call 951-929-2632; hemetadventist@gmail.com: Ron Pardez, Raymond Patterson, Ardatha Pederson, Kristina Penn, John Perez, Lindsey Perez, James Pierre Perez-Greek, Ramona Perez-Greek, Gloria Pillor, Maria Pina, Mendoza Ubisel Pina, Ashley Shaunetae Power, Austin Ryan Power, Ricky Power, Maria Quillin, Ida Mae Rahn, Perla Ramos, Martha M. Rawson, Lesa Marie Razo, Virginia Richards, Crecesia Richardson, Lynda Roberts, Donna Robinson, Magdalena Robles, Miguel Robles, Elizabeth Maier Roth, Karen Rowden, Monica Sanchez, Lila May Sanders, Jesus Sandoval Jr., Jesus Sandoval Sr., Mary Sandoval, Patricia Schrefper, Johnny Scoggins, Jane Morrell Seed, Kristin T. Selway, Thomas Selway, Mervin Shaffer, Christine E. Smith, Isaac Nathaniel Smith, Marlene Lania Smith, Michele Smith, Ronald R. Smith, Tyson Douglas Smith, Josephine Martin Sobery, Richard Spear, Crissy Steadham, Patricia June Stein, Jean Stoney, Brett Stucker, Joe Itong Sufi, Flora Swoboda, Vasile Tavoc.

Real Estate


Reunions
Welcome Into This Place (Sept. 14-15) Oakland Immanuel Temple Church, Community Open House, 2411 55th Ave, Oakland. Friday: fun, food, and activities for the family; health and wellness screening in our Mobile Health Clinic. Saturday: Worship, lunch, and praise concert.

Standifer Gap School, Chattanooga, Tenn., 70th Anniversary (Sept. 28-29). All alumni and former staff are invited to attend our celebration. Contact 423-892-6013, or for further details visit: sgsdaschool.org.

Vacation Opportunities
Israel Tour with Pastor Jim Gilley, 3ABNs Pastor C.A. Murray, and friends. Two trips this fall (Nov. 11-19) $3,095 and (Nov. 18-27) $3,395. Includes all tips, taxes, air, and breakfast and dinner buffets daily. From New York, Chicago, or Los Angeles; other departure cities available. Call Jennifer, 602-788-8864.


Sunriver, Central Oregon. Four-bedroom vacation home on the North Woodlands golf course. Two master king suites, two queens one bunk set, hot tub, loft, Jacuzzi bath, gas log fireplace, BBQ, W/D, bikes, all resort amenities, sleeps 10, no smoking, no pets. For rates, photos, and reservations call: 541-279-9553, or email schultz@crestviewcable.com.

AT REST


Blaine, Cyril D. – b. May 4, 1928, Los Angeles, Calif; d. May 28, 2018, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Doris Cook; son, Roy; daughters, Carol, Verna; stepdaughter, Kathy Cook; stepson, Lyndon Cook; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren. Served as a physician, including mission assignments to Congo, Nyasaland, Tanzania, and Kenya; stateside for Adventist institutions, including Paradise, Glendale Adventist, White Memorial, and LLUMC.


Cluff, Georgia Isabelle (Balz) – b. June 29, 1942, Queens, N.Y.; d. May 1, 2018, Greenbrae, Calif. Survivors: sons, Robert, David; four grandchildren. Served as teacher and principal at Whispering Pines SDA School in Greater New York Conf, principal of Chico Oaks SDA School in NCC, teacher at West Valley Christian School in CCC, and instructional aide at Hilltop Christian School in NCC.

Low, Ariz. Survivors: wife, Dorothy; son, Tyler; daughter, Andrea; one grandson; mother, Wanda; brothers, Darren, Kevin.


Ketting, Samuel – d. Dec. 18, 1927, Rotterdam, Netherlands; d. May 24, 2018, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Case; daughter, Ginger Kettering-Weller; two grandchildren; sisters, Tine, Co Hagendijk. He served over 20 years with his wife, Effie, as a mission doctor.


Kamm, Kenneth (Ken) – b. Sept. 29, 1931, Seattle, Wash.; d. Aug. 19, 2018, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Mary; sons, Brian, David, Matt; daughters, Kathy, Pam; 10 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren. Served as a radiation therapist at Loma Linda University Medical Center for 39 years.


Pontynen, Burton A.  – b. May 3, 1924, Finland; d. June 10, 2018, Angwin, Calif. Survivors: wife, Carol; son, Curtis; daughter, Cyndie; two grandchildren, one great-grandchild. Served as a professor of industrial arts at Pacific Union College.


Stiles, Kenneth Gordon  – b. March 17, 1941, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. May 12, 2018, Yuba City, Calif. Survivors: son, Kevin; daughter, Kellie Bertain; seven grandchildren.


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