FOR TO US A
Child is Born,

TO US A S O N IS GIVEN,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
AND HE WILL BE CALLED

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty GOD,
Everlasting Father, PRINCE OF PEACE.

ISAIAH 9:6 (NIV)
PACIFIC UNION
Recorder

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The Christmas carol portraits in this issue feature the four verses of the beloved hymn “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” The lyrics, written by Phillips Brooks (1835–1893), were inspired by his visit to the village of Bethlehem during a tour of the Holy Land. An Episcopal priest, Brooks wrote the poem for the Christmas Sunday School service and asked his organist to add the music.

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The Value
A financial analogy I heard at a recent meeting really resonated with me. The speaker pulled a crisp $1 bill out of his wallet and showed it to the audience. He immediately had our attention. He challenged the audience to look in their wallets for the dirtiest and ugliest dollar bill anyone could find.

The audience started searching. One individual found a bill that was torn and taped together. Another person had a dollar with a burned spot on it. Yet another dollar had “Where’s George?” written across it. The winner was a bill that was very dirty, worn thin, faded, creased—overall, in terrible condition. It was one of those bills that make you wonder, “What in the world has this dollar been through?”

The speaker displayed the two bills side by side and asked the audience, “Which dollar is better?” Most preferred the clean dollar. He then asked, “Which dollar would you rather receive if someone handed it to you?” Again, most people preferred the clean one. Finally he asked, “Which dollar has more value?”

He then pointed out that each bill had been made by the same maker. The bills had the same stated value. They both bore the markings and identity of the maker. They both served the purpose intended by the maker. Each bill had the same value to the maker. The condition did
not affect the value. One bill simply had more experience in serving the maker. But as to their value to the maker, there was no difference—whether the dollar bill was perfect or imperfect.

As God reminded Samuel: “The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7, NIV).

And as He told Isaiah: “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow” (Isaiah 1:18, NIV).

Isn’t it wonderful that Jesus Christ sees us with the value of His righteousness? God has determined our value. Jesus covered our imperfections when He laid down His life on the cross.

It makes me think of the hymn:

"Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow."

The dollar bill analogy that I heard at my meeting clearly illustrates this truth. Jesus covers our sin and unworthiness; He makes us clean and pure. He places full value in us, and His righteousness covers our own sinful unrighteousness. Our thoughts may be worn and thin, our actions may be faded and creased, but Jesus paid the price for all of our imperfections by dying on the cross. We have received a marvelous gift—we live by faith that our sins are forgiven. Our lives have been washed white as snow.

We still have full value in the eyes of our Maker because “Jesus paid it all.” That doesn’t mean we can do or say anything we want and not be accountable. Instead, it means we have the freedom to live a life that is pleasing to God without the burden of guilt and shame. It means that His righteousness maintains our value while we live in this sinful world, where we are prone to get battered, dirty, worn, and damaged.

We don’t have to live in fear that the Maker
We still have full value in the eyes of our Maker because “Jesus paid it all.”

will not honor our value. When we fail, we can go to Christ, our Righteousness. We can confess, repent, and purpose in our hearts to let God complete the work He began in us. We are redeemed by the Maker; we are covered by His righteousness.

Ellen G. White urges us to share this wonderful message with others: “All power is given into the hands of Christ, in order that he may dispense rich blessings to men, and impart to them the priceless gifts of his own righteousness. But many, blinded by sin, have lost sight of Christ, and are groping in the dark shadows of discouragement. Go to them with a heart filled with love and tenderness, and tell them of the uplifted Saviour, who is the sacrifice for the whole world; invite them to receive the righteousness of Christ, to claim justification through faith in the divine surety; direct them to the all sufficient atonement made for their sins, to Christ’s merits, and his changeless love for the human family” (“The Uplifted Saviour,” The Review and Herald, Sept. 29, 1896; emphasis added).

The value of righteousness? Priceless!

Stephen Mayer is the treasurer of the Pacific Union Conference.
God's Way of Righteousness:
Night and day, the earnest young man struggled to find peace with God. Torturing his body, he fasted and prayed, racking his brains to confess every sin he had ever committed. Nothing worked. After hours spent in confession, he would awake in the middle of the night with a terrifying thought: What about the sins he could not remember, those that still lay unconfessed and would condemn him before an angry God?

The struggling soul was the monk Martin Luther. His life-and-death quest to find righteousness gave birth to the Protestant Reformation. Luther tried every path to peace that the church of his day offered, but it was all in vain. At last, however, he found what he desperately craved through the study of Paul’s letter to the Romans.

“Night and day,” he wrote later, “I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that ‘the just shall live by his faith.’ Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise.”

Luther’s liberating discovery was an idea utterly foreign to human thought to this point. We do not earn righteousness by our human striving; instead, God freely reckons His righteousness to us as we trust Him. Not our efforts, but God’s gift. Not because of our good works, but through

Simple, Easy, Uncomplicated

BY WILLIAM G. JOHNSSON
faith—this is God’s way of righteousness.

The book of Romans rings with this glorious affirmation. It is indeed the gospel, good news. “For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith’” (Romans 1:17, NIV). "But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe” (Romans 3:21-22, NIV).

The teachings of Jesus

Long before Luther discovered the liberating good news of righteousness by faith, Jesus had emphasized the concept. He did not employ closely reasoned arguments the way Paul did but used disarmingly simple, profound illustrations and parables.

The religious leaders of Jesus’ society had constructed an elaborate theology that centered on the law. They counted 613 commandments in the Pentateuch, and to them they added a series of oral traditions designed to establish a hedge around the 613 stipulations. Thus, to the plain Sabbath commandment in the Decalogue they had added a long list, specifying what activities were permitted and what were not.

Jesus clashed sharply with the scribes and Pharisees over their view of religion. In the Sermon on the Mount, He told His hearers: “For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:20, NIV). Disputing with them over their rules concerning ceremonial purity, He said: “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!” (Mark 7:9, NIV).

Jesus raised the bar of righteousness so high that the whole system of attempting to please God by scrupulous attention to detailed observances collapsed under its own weight. He taught that in God’s eyes righteousness is more than not committing murder, adultery, and so on: God’s righteousness embraces even our thoughts and motives so that hate and lust make us transgressors of the law. (See Matthew 5:21-47.) This was a righteousness of an altogether new order, a righteousness beyond human achievement, a righteousness that Jewish religious teachers never attempted to embrace. This was a righteousness so demanding that humans can never attain it, a righteousness that only God can provide as a gift.

Over and over, the parables of Jesus surprise, even shock, the reader. They reverse the way the world functions. Here someone who works only
one hour receives the same pay as the person who labors the whole day (Matthew 20:1-16). Here two men go to the Temple to pray—one a Pharisee who gives his whole life to strict observance of the law, the other a tax collector, someone despised by others because he serves the interest of the hated Roman overlords and grows rich by unscrupulous practices. The Pharisee as he prays thanks the Lord that he isn’t like other people, certainly not like the tax collector standing nearby. By contrast, the tax man simply bows his head and says, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner” (Luke 18:13, NIV). And surprise! God accepts the prayer of the tax collector, not the Pharisee’s.

In another parable Jesus tells about a king who prepares a huge banquet. He invites a list of guests, but for one flimsy excuse or another they all refuse to come. Then the king orders his servants to go out on the streets and into the lanes and bring all whom they find to the celebration. These new guests are a motley lot, but for every one of them the king provides a wedding garment. Later, however, as he greets the guests, he discovers a man who isn’t wearing wedding clothes. He orders that person thrown out of the party (Matthew 22:1-14).

Jesus’ mode of teaching differs from Paul’s, but the ideas are the same: we do not earn God’s righteousness; He gives it to us. Our part is to trust Him and accept His gift.

In the Old Testament

Some Christians draw a heavy line between the Old Testament and the New Testament,
asserting that the former is the era of works, the latter the era of grace. Not so: righteousness by faith runs like a golden thread from Genesis to Revelation.

We read that “Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness” (Genesis 15:6, NIV). The apostle Paul underscores this passage in both Romans (4:1-4) and Galatians (3:6-9). Jeremiah calls Yahweh “The Lord Our Righteousness” (Jeremiah 23:6, NKJV), a wonderful name that gives hope to despairing sinners. In the book of Zechariah, the prophet sees a vision of Joshua the high priest clothed in filthy garments. He represents the people of Israel in their great need. But then a comforting word comes from heaven: “Take off his filthy clothes…. See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you” (Zechariah 3:4, NIV).

Many additional examples of righteousness by faith might be cited from the Old Testament. One passage, however, is so outstanding that we cannot leave it unmentioned. In Isaiah 52:13-53:12 we find a powerful description of the Suffering Servant who “bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors” (Isaiah 53:12, NIV). He was “despised and rejected by mankind…. He took up our pain and bore our suffering…. He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities, the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed…. The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all” (verses 3-6).

Here, approximately 700 years before Jesus’ birth, we find encapsulated the ministry of our Savior. Here we gaze into the heart of God’s plan to save a lost world: God’s own Son, His Suffering Servant, takes upon Himself our guilt and shame.

In Adventist history

In every age the gospel has seemed too good to be true. Whenever it is proclaimed, it arouses opposition, just as it did when Paul brought it to the Galatians. Not surprisingly, therefore, Adventist history presents a mixed picture with regard to righteousness by faith.

Early Adventist preachers, feeling called to declare the importance of the Sabbath, tended to focus on the law rather than the gospel. They preached the law to such an extent that Ellen White stated that their sermons were “as dry as the hills of Gilboa” (Review and Herald, March 11, 1890).

Matters came to a head at the General Conference Session of 1888, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Two young ministers, Ellet J. Waggoner and Alonzo T. Jones, sounded the theme of righteousness by faith alone. Leaders of the church, thinking that this emphasis weakened the arguments for the law and the Sabbath, opposed them strongly. So Waggoner and Jones stood alone against George I. Butler, president of the General Conference; Uriah Smith, editor of the Review and Herald; as well as other stalwarts.

Not quite alone! One leader publicly espoused the cause: Ellen G. White. In a sad turn of events, however, she found her counsel rejected.

But the gospel was unstoppable, just as it has been in every age. Following the 1888 General Conference Session, especially under Ellen White’s leadership by pen and voice, the message of righteousness by faith slowly advanced, wider and wider, further and further, until it became an established teaching of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Ellen White penned some of the loveliest
expressions of
the gospel found
anywhere. Echoing
Isaiah’s prophecy
of the Suffering
Servant, she wrote:
“Christ was treated
as we deserve, that
we might be treated
as He deserves.
He was condemned for our sins, in which He
had no share, that we might be justified by His
righteousness, in which we had no share. He
suffered the death which was ours, that we might
receive the life which was His. ‘With his stripes we
are healed’” (The Desire of Ages, p. 25).

Commenting on Jesus’ parable of the man
without a wedding garment, she noted: “Only the
covering which Christ Himself has provided can
make us meet to appear in God’s presence. This
covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Christ
will put upon every repenting, believing soul. ‘I
counsel thee,’ He says, ‘to buy of me...white raiment,
that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame
of thy nakedness do not appear.’ This robe, woven
in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of
human devising” (Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 311).

During Adventism’s struggle over the gospel,
editor Uriah Smith wrote a series of editorials in the
Review in which he argued that we need Christ’s
righteousness to be justified, but after we accept
Christ we must develop a righteousness of our
own by keeping the law. Ellen White rebuked him
sharply in a letter. She stated that she had read
Smith’s editorial and that a “noble personage” had
stood beside her and told her that Uriah Smith “is
walking like a blind man into the prepared net of the
enemy, but he feels
no danger because
light is becoming
darkness to him and
darkness light” (Letter
55, 1889, in The
Ellen G. White 1888
Materials, p. 336).

Of all Ellen
White’s numerous
gems on righteousness by faith, here is my favorite:
“To him who is content to receive without deserving,
who feels that he can never recompense such love,
who lays all doubt and unbelief aside, and comes as
a little child to the feet of Jesus, all the treasures of
eternal love are a free, everlasting gift” (Letter 19e,
1892, in Ellen G. White, Manuscript Releases, vol. 8,
p. 186).

**A question**

Friend of mine, I leave you with this question: Are
you content to receive without deserving? Are you
willing to admit that all your righteousness—all your
work, all your service, all your good living—counts
for nothing before God’s holiness, that it is only filthy
rags? Will you, leaving aside every human boast and
all pride, simply accept God’s righteousness as the
free gift of His marvelous grace?

1 Roland Bainton, Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1940), p. 68.

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Celebrate
When I attended a childbirth class, we were encouraged to write a birth plan. “Let your medical team know the type of environment you’d prefer, what you want for pain relief, how you feel about interventions, who else you want in the room, etc.” When I asked my OB-GYN about it, she smiled and said it wasn’t necessary. After three decades of deliveries, she knew that very little goes according to plan. I chose to write one anyway.

When Mary got the call to deliver God’s Son into the world, I wonder how she imagined his birth. Mary’s plan probably included giving birth at home in Nazareth, attended by her midwife and surrounded by her female relatives and lifelong friends. Her plan may have sounded something like: “Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.... Sleep in heavenly peace.”

And she could have included in her plan: “The baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.”

Instead, Caesar Augustus decreed a census and Mary ended up giving birth in Bethlehem. Luke 2:7 (NKJV) says, “And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Jesus’ birth sounds a lot more like the Point of Grace song, “Labor of Love.”

It was not a silent night.
There was blood on the ground.
You could hear a woman cry
In the alleyways that night
On the streets of David’s town.

The song goes on, imagining “the cobblestones were cold,” “the girl on the ground in the dark,” “noble Joseph at her side,” “no midwives to be found.”
Kenneth E. Bailey challenges this picture in his book *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels*. He says the homes would have had a guestroom and a family room. At the end of the family room was an area where the family’s animals would be brought in for the night, to protect them and also to help keep the family warm. He argues that hospitality would have demanded someone take in a descendant of David and find a midwife—even if their “inn” or “guestroom” was full. The idea of Mary arriving on a donkey in the nick of time and giving birth in a cave without a midwife is from a novel written about 200 years later (“The Protevangelium of James”). While that makes me feel a bit better, this was likely nowhere near Mary’s plan.

Whatever the plan, birth is messy, bloody, and painful. And I’m not just talking about the event itself. Sometimes, like with Mary’s cousin Elizabeth, there are years of waiting without answers. There are multiple losses, often before anyone else knows there’s a life to be lost (10-20% of pregnancies end in miscarriage). Sometimes the painful path to parenthood includes IVF treatments and injections, home studies, and birth moms. And that’s just to get to the place where you can hold that little human in your arms. Along with the call to nurture new life in the world come unexpected aches—like postpartum depression, or the pain of separation when maternity or paternity leave is nonexistent or way too short, or the longing to go back to work and get out of the house. Many times the only way to get our daughter to stop crying was to lift her up in the air, again and again, like Simba in The Lion King. When that didn’t work, I just held her and we both bawled. Silent night? Yeah, right.

For Mary, along with presenting Jesus in the Temple came these words from Simeon: “yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also” (Luke 2:35, NKJV). Along with the wise men came the necessity of fleeing as refugees to Egypt, and the eventual horror of learning that their salvation had led to the slaughter of countless others in the city they had just fled.

It seems that every calling we receive to cradle new life comes with a cross to carry. And I’m not just talking about having kids. Calls
to ministry of every type come with crosses, whether the call is to a new church, business, position, or responsibility. There are moments of disappointment and loss, times we just can’t stop crying, situations that make us want to give up or call it quits.

My husband and I are incredibly grateful to be expecting another baby, due mid-April, just after Easter. While loss is certainly not part of our plan, at some point, it’s guaranteed. We could choose not to name our joy, because we know that Good Friday, a cross, is coming. But we choose to celebrate anyway, because, whatever happens with our precious gift of life, Christmas and Easter give us hope.

Many fret that we’re celebrating Jesus’ birth on top of a pagan holiday, but I love that we’ve chosen to celebrate the birth of the “Sun of Righteousness” (Malachi 4:2) close to the time of the longest night. When we celebrate Christmas, we’re saying that there may be many dark nights yet to come, but you can’t stop the dawn. A sword may pierce your soul, but salvation is at hand. It may look dark now, all may look

lost now, but new life is coming, resurrection is coming. All won’t go according to plan, but we can choose to celebrate anyway.

Raewyn Hawkins is the pastor for discipleship and nurture at La Sierra University church.

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**Christmas Comes Once More**

**For Christ is born of Mary!**

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,

While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondrous love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,

And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!

—Verse Two, O Little Town of Bethlehem

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When we celebrate Christmas, we’re saying that there may be many dark nights yet to come, but you can’t stop the dawn.
Some people refuse even to use the word “Christmas” because of its ecclesiastical background. Others say that it is wrong to pay any attention to it because nobody knows the exact date of Christ’s birth—which is, of course, true. However, to the average person, Christmas has come to mean something very definite. No matter what its ecclesiastical origin may be, whether in paganism or in early Christianity, and no matter if it comes at the right time of the year or not, Christmas is a reminder of the fact that God once came to this earth.

It is true that the Christmas season is now greatly commercialized, and many people take advantage of it merely for selfish gratification, drunkenness, foolishness, and sin. But, in spite of all this, millions of people do think, at least once a year, about the incarnation—the fact that God became flesh. He came as a babe in Bethlehem to live and die and rise from the dead and ascend to heaven. Jesus Christ was born. The actual day is not so important. The fact is immeasurably important. Whenever it was, I am glad He came.

Think of the long centuries that passed after the first promise of the Redeemer was made until He came. In Genesis 3:15 we have that first precious promise that the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent’s head. From that time onward, the faithful of all ages looked for a Redeemer; they waited for the Messiah. It seems that even Mother Eve thought that her firstborn was the promised King, the Redeemer of men. When he was born she named him Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man from the Lord” (Genesis 4:1, KJV). But he proved to be not the Redeemer but the world’s first murderer.

And so, hope after hope was broken, century after century went out in darkness, nations rose and fell, and the sad years moved into sad millenniums. God’s people lived by faith and died in faith, not having received the promise.

But at last the sad, old world moved on to
God's appointed time, and suddenly it came. In one star-studded night, the promise was fulfilled. There was a baby's cry in Bethlehem of Judea. Virgin-born, He was. And they called Him Jesus, for He was to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). In spite of what seemed like failure, God's promises were fulfilled. They came true on time. As Ellen G. White writes, "Like the stars in the vast circuit of their appointed path, God's purposes know no haste and no delay" (The Desire of Ages, p. 32).

The events of that night when God came to earth to live and die will never be forgotten. They are sweet beyond compare to every believing heart. But they are in the past—glorious, wonderful, but in an age from which we are always drawing farther away.

Even more wonderful is the certainty of a still greater Christmas—using the word in the sense of its general acceptance—the second coming of God to this earth. He's coming back again. Long, weary centuries have passed since He was here. The weary world has plunged through many dark days. Troubled centuries, one after another, have marched into oblivion since the apostle wrote those words, "Behold, I come quickly" (Revelation 3:11, KJV), a definite promise of our Lord.

Let us all be happy and rejoice in the fact that our Lord was here on earth. He paid the price of our redemption on the cross. But our eyes must be fixed on the future, on a time ahead, the day when He will come to earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. We have His own solemn promise for it in John 14:2-3: "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (KJV).

If the value of a Bible doctrine is measured by the number of times it is repeated from Genesis to Revelation, then the doctrine of the second coming of Christ should easily be of supreme and all-compelling importance. In the New Testament alone, it is mentioned...
nearly 300 times with all its promises. No other subject of the Bible approaches it in frequency of repetition. If we should cut out every reference to the second coming and the truths connected with it, we would have but a fragment of the Bible left.

In what we have called in its popular meaning, "the Christmas yet to come," our Lord and Savior will not appear in a lowly stable, but in the clouds of glory. It will be the most spectacular of all events.

His coming will be like lightning. "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:27, KJV).

He will come in power and glory. "And they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30, KJV).

And when our Lord returns, He will not come alone. We read in Matthew 25:31: "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory" (KJV).

It is then that something takes place that all historians, students, politicians, statesmen, and every human being on earth should be thinking about today. It will be a sudden end of something. What is it? Let us read the answer in the Holy Word of God, Matthew 24:3: "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (KJV).

My friend, whether we believe it or not, it will be the end of this present world order. It will be that event to which all history points, of which the prophets have spoken, and for which all true Christian hearts are longing. Not only will it be the end of this age, it will be the beginning of another, for we read in Hebrews 6:5: "And tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the age to come" (ASV).

Talk about great expectations, explorations, discoveries! The age to come holds us spellbound as we think of the things that shall be. And yet to millions, the coming of Christ will be like a thief in the night—unexpected. "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5:2, KJV).

But it will not come as such to those who study and believe God's Word, to those who are brothers and sisters of Christ. "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thessalonians 5:4-6, KJV).

So, friends, we should be looking forward to that great Christmas yet to come. You know, we really live in two worlds. When we try to live in just one, something always goes wrong. As one of our great modern religious thinkers has said, our race is like the migratory birds. They cannot live and perform all their functions in one climate. They must go from one climate to another in periodic flights. They must find another homeland. And so must God's children. Soon we are to have another homeland.

Bethlehem:
Yet, here He was. Prophecy fulfilled. Destiny in action. Hope reborn.

It wasn’t supposed to be like this. Where were the flashing swords? Where were the marching armies? Where were the fleeing enemies of God’s people? Instead, there appeared a baby in Bethlehem, wrapped in swaddling clothes, keeping company with farm animals.

Where there should be a royal crown, there rested a few stray strands of straw. No scepter, no robe, no gilded throne. His lullaby was the sound of the lowing of cattle. There had been no official human birth announcement.

Yet, here He was. Prophecy fulfilled. Destiny in action. Hope reborn. And no one, except for a few shepherds and a young couple from Nazareth, knew He’d arrived and why.

Christ’s first appearance on earth since Eden fulfilled a promise made millennia ago. It represented a new chapter in the God/human relationship—God would actually condescend to physically dwell among us. Evil would be challenged head on. This grand event would showcase the character of our Heavenly Father and give us a sneak peak into the second coming of Christ.

The people representing the nation of Israel had lost their way one too many times, and a governing power running contrary to their firmly-held beliefs had taken over their very existence.

The Jewish leaders longed for the political punch necessary to regulate the country and its citizens back into strict obedience to God’s laws. Those who went about preaching or teaching anything contrary to what was perceived to be God’s principles were held in contempt, and efforts were constantly made to silence them.

God’s Sneak Peek at the Second Coming

BY LEON BROWN, SR.
Lost in the shuffle were the people themselves. They felt worthless and abandoned in a land that had been promised by God. Worship had become nothing more than a series of ceremonies designed to remind them of just how sinful they were.

And, most telling of all, the people longed for a Messiah who would fight their battles for them. They longed for one who would change the world from what it was to what they wanted it to be. What they got instead was a baby in Bethlehem.

**Why He came**

Time has revealed that the confusion surrounding the life of Christ stemmed from a gross misunderstanding of why He was there. It began immediately. As soon as His presence was made known to the king, Herod, Jesus became a marked soul. His first few years on earth were spent living as an immigrant in a foreign land.

The Romans worried that Christ was someone sent to usurp their political power. They were convinced that this “King of the Jews,” as they would later label Him, was a potential threat and needed to be watched carefully. They figured He came to make trouble.

The Jewish leaders regarded Him as dangerous simply because He wasn’t on board with how they ran their religion. They believed He came to lead the people astray.

The ordinary man on the street regarded Jesus as an interesting—and very generous—teacher blessed with the uncanny power to heal people. They were certain He'd come to fight their battles for them.

And even Christ's disciples weren't exactly sure of who He was and why He was there. They figured it probably had something to do with the future, and they each determined to have an elevated place in whatever kingdom was to come.

Christ's primary mission in life was to reveal, through words and deeds, the true character of God. He knew the Father and understood His will. The power to overthrow evil—temporal or otherwise—was a byproduct of that understanding. The courage to overcome, the understanding of what true worship looks like, and the tools necessary to build a better life stem from a clear knowledge of who God is and what God does.

Evil’s most potent tool is its ability to cloud minds. It fills all the spaces in our thoughts with error and misconceptions, so that when truth finally does show up—and it always does—we don't recognize it.

Such was the case in Bethlehem. Such will be the case at the Second Coming.

**Take two**

Today, we, God’s people, are searching the skies for that small cloud that will bring big blessings. We know from our reading of Scripture that angels—perhaps some of the

*Christ’s primary mission in life was to reveal, through words and deeds, the true character of God.*
same ones who announced the first coming to the shepherds—will fill the sky with glory.

So, what exactly are we waiting for? We, too, are struggling to live in a world separated from God's original design for us. We long for a world where we feel part of something pure and uplifting, where what we say matters. Political power isn't powerful enough to bring sinners into line with what God had in mind. And social and community interaction alone will not bring relief to the marginalized and dispossessed. We all wish for a better day, where all of God's children will stand together in peace before the throne of God.

Will the Christ for whom we're waiting make all of these things possible? Did He the first time?

Jesus' Bethlehem arrival opened the door to salvation, allowing those with pure hearts and a desire for something better to live a life free from the constraints—and eternal results—of sin. His Second Coming will simply change the venue for that sin-free life.

The armaments of battle He provided two thousand years ago consisted of a deep understanding of God's character. His message was personal, not corporate. He came to melt hearts with love and forgiveness, not regulate actions through legislation. The kingdom He built was designed to reside within individual hearts, not in the halls of some earthly power.

When we contemplate His impending second appearance, we're tempted to dwell on the fires of hell and the final and complete destruction of evil people—especially those who've mistreated us here on earth. That's exactly where people of old focused their attention.

Perhaps it would be more in line with what Jesus taught here on earth for us to dwell on the fact that someday soon His appearing will give everyone a chance to enjoy a salvation far beyond anything this world has to offer—and that we'd better get busy telling folk that. Perhaps it's time that we put our differences aside and find common issues that bring us together, not variances that tear us apart. Perhaps it's time to get to know the Baby in the manger so we'll recognize Him when He returns all grown up with scars in His hands.

Christ appeared in Bethlehem in order to teach us how to love as God loves. He'll appear the second time to celebrate those among us who've taken the time to learn those lessons and fearlessly put them into practice.

Each Christmas can represent a future day when the sky will once again be filled with angels. Because of His first coming, we'll be able to fully recognize the returning King and say with breathless joy, “This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation” (Isaiah 25:9, NIV).

Leon Brown is the president of the Nevada-Utah Conference.
We Celebrate Immanuel

BY ALBERTO VALENZUELA
For some reason it was decided that we would spend Christmas at my grandparents’ house that year. We traditionally spent the Christmas holidays at home in the city. My maternal grandparents lived in the small town of Santa Rosa, Yécora, in the mountains of northwestern Mexico. We usually spent spring break and summer vacations with them. The weather was much cooler there than down in our city, which was nicknamed “La ciudad del sol” (the city of the sun), during the summer months. Plus, it was a chance to get reacquainted with our distant cousins and “help” with the work around the small farm. We had a great time swimming in the clear water of the small creek by their house and eating fresh produce straight from their garden: watermelons, cantaloupes, peaches, figs, corn on the cob, sugarcane, wild berries, prickly pears—as well as the incredibly delicious milk candy made by my grandmother.

But this Christmas, instead of staying at home, we traveled for several hours on mostly dirt roads to the mountains. During that journey we had the first of several new experiences. A few miles before we got to the little town, the road wound through a small forest of pines, alders, and oaks. The oaks and alders were already bare and looked ready to hibernate. But the pines looked crisp
and invigorated by the cool temperatures. All of a sudden, my dad stopped the pick-up truck we were riding in. We had no idea what was going on.

Smiling mischievously, he reached under some boxes and pulled out a small ax. Our faces lit up as we realized we were going to cut down our Christmas tree! We were used to going to the Christmas tree lot to pick the one we thought would look best in our living room. It had never occurred to us that those trees must have grown someplace. We all took turns with the ax, and the small tree was soon nestled among us.

Our grandparents welcomed us with open arms and all the foods our family traditionally prepared to celebrate Christmas, from savory to sweet: homemade bread, fresh cheese, sour cream, pumpkin empanadas, squash candy, and on and on. My mom’s older sister—of five sisters, the only one who never left the little town—always fed us the most wonderful meals, baking empanadas and sugar cookies second to none, which we could never have enough of.

Our cheeks had turned pink, both from excitement at seeing them and from the weather, which had begun to turn cold. The sky had clouded over completely, and we experienced another first-time experience: snowflakes! It wasn’t snowing much—just a few flakes fell here and there. But for us, coming from a city in the middle of the desert, those flakes turned the farm into a Christmas wonderland.

We ate a splendid supper and were sent to bed. We could hardly sleep, wondering what it would look like the next day if it continued snowing.

The next day was Christmas Eve. The sky had cleared and, to our disappointment, it hadn’t continued snowing. But here and there we could still see bits of snow, and the air was clear and crisp, and the smell of piñon burning in the stoves of most of the houses gave the town a Dickensian quality that I found enchanting.

We spent the day visiting with the family. It’s a small town, and most of them are related to me in one way or another. I could probably walk into any of their homes and be welcomed and called by my nickname. One way or another, they were all my uncles and aunts and cousins. They had known me since I was a baby. During the afternoon we all played baseball and the local version of hide-and-seek.

That year, Christmas Eve was on a Friday; before we knew it, it was time to head back to my grandparents’ home to get ready for Sabbath. I helped out by taking my grandfather’s horse to a nearby pasture. After another simple but wonderful supper, we gathered to receive the Sabbath.

My grandfather was outside taking care of the cows and the calves. While he finished up,
we gathered to read a few Bible verses. Then we started to sing a hymn.

A few stanzas into the song, my grandfather came in. He looked around and exclaimed, “Wait a second! That’s not the right melody!” And he began to sing with a deep, rich voice that surprised all of us. We had never heard him sing before! His voice was clear and strong. His eyes were shining, and he enjoyed seeing the surprise in our faces. That was first-time experience number three.

After we finished singing, he opened his Bible. Because it was Christmas Eve, I expected he would read the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke, his favorite.

Instead, he started reading from Isaiah: “Then Isaiah said, ‘Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel’” (Isaiah 7:13-14, NIV).

We were listening intently. “Immanuel,” he said, looking at his Bible. “Immanuel,” he repeated. “Do you understand what that means? We are celebrating Christmas, but we are really celebrating Immanuel. We are celebrating ‘God with us.’ Christmas is Immanuel, God with us, coming to save us, coming to die for us. Christmas is Immanuel.” His eyes filled with tears and he said, “Let’s give thanks for Immanuel.” And he led us in prayer.

That was another first—my grandfather talking about Immanuel, so deeply moved.

My grandfather passed away long ago. Of the many Christmases I have celebrated, that was my favorite—for the many “firsts,” for the memory of my grandfather with his deep, clear singing, and for his reflections on the meaning of Christmas, Immanuel coming to be one with us.

Alberto Valenzuela is the associate director for communication and community engagement at the Pacific Union Conference.
God's Relentless Love
Revelation Today with It Is Written Speaker/Director John Bradshaw

BY KAREN MATAMBO AND PHIL DRAPER

The Revelation Today series with It Is Written Speaker/Director John Bradshaw opened at the Mesa, Arizona, Convention Center on October 4, 2019. Highlights included hundreds of excited attendees, children of all ages, a wave of Arizona Conference lay volunteers in orange team shirts, live streaming by Good News TV to audiences all over Arizona, powerful music led by Scott Michael Bennett and talented local musicians, and translation offered in Spanish, Korean, and ASL.

Months of planning took place in advance of the meetings: a rally, training events in the participating churches, planning committees, and more.

Arizona Sonshine hosted a major humanitarian event specifically to attract attention to the Revelation Today meetings. On August 24 and 25, more than 800 residents of Mesa received 5,500 free medical, dental, and vision services valued at $475,000. There were 96 professionals and 513 support staff who volunteered their time to make this event a success. Guests were also prayed for and given personal invitations to attend Revelation Today.

The stories of changed lives are numerous and continuing as area pastors provide careful follow-up with those who are still making decisions. Tom, originally reluctant to attend the meetings, finally agreed to go with his wife. He was hooked. Bradshaw explained the Bible truths with such clarity that even a child could understand, and Tom’s heart was struck to the core. Previously an infrequent churchgoer, Tom didn’t miss a single meeting. He gave his heart to God, surrendering his life to Christ with a longing to serve Him.

Although Tom was on top of the world, his heart finally connected with Christ, there was one big issue. In just a few short days, Tom was going to prison for a past crime. What would he do now? God had fast-paced Tom’s conversion experience, but they were only a few days into the meetings. The urgency in his heart told him he couldn’t wait. “Give your heart fully to Me now,” he sensed the Holy Spirit telling him. Tom needed to be baptized.

Pastor Ed Anderson asked It Is Written Bible worker Karen Matambo for a possible date for baptism and was told the baptismal service was scheduled for October 17. Anderson explained the dilemma. “I have someone who can’t wait that long. He wants me to baptize him at the next meeting and he’s ready.”

The team quickly made preparations, and the night before he went to prison, Tom fully gave his heart to Jesus through baptism. He shared a powerful testimony of God’s grace and of his desire to minister when he is released. Even now he’s ministering to those in prison with him.

After Tom’s baptism, several people approached Anderson requesting baptism. Among them was the Miller family, who had received a flyer in the mail inviting them to the series. They called to request more information and said, “We’re looking for a church that will accept us.” Their biggest
desire was for a family ministry that could counsel them. They were encouraged to attend the meetings where they could meet with several area pastors who could help them find a suitable church home.

At the last Friday meeting, Mr. Miller said, "I know if I bring my family back to God our lives will get better." And that's exactly what happened. On the eve of the series closing, an audience of attendees, now friends, looked on as the entire Miller family gave their hearts to Jesus through baptism.

Minerva, an evangelical pastor, heard that Pastor Robert Costa of Escrito Está was coming into Mesa to share the Word of God. Minerva loved watching his programs and didn't want to miss hearing him in person, but she was booked to go on an international trip. Minerva sacrificed her trip, attended all the Spanish meetings, and was baptized. Now she's taking what she's learned back to her congregation to teach them.

Cole felt like he wasn't doing enough for the kingdom of God. All he wanted to do was bring one soul to the It Is Written meetings. A week before the series began, however, Cole still didn't have anyone to bring. That same day, Allen, his friend from years ago, visited him.

Allen told Cole, "I've been observing your walk with God all the way from years ago when we were attending the Baptist church together until your conversion to Adventism. I followed closely what you wrote about the Sabbath on social media, and now I'm also keeping the Sabbath. Recently I came back in town and asked God to lead me where he wants me to go. He told me to call you."

For years God had been preparing Allen for the It Is Written series through the consistent testimony of Cole. Now God reconnected the two friends and allowed Cole to reap what he had not knowingly sown. On the final Sabbath of the meetings, Allen was baptized and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

By the conclusion of the It Is Written series, 200 had been baptized, and many more are preparing to be baptized in the upcoming weeks.

Filled with gratitude after months of planning, Arizona Conference President Ed Keyes exclaimed, "Evangelism is an exciting work. And working for Jesus is the best!"

Some names have been changed.
The journey started in 1994, with just a handful of women attending a retreat. Now in 2019, Central California Conference (CCC) Hispanic women celebrated the 25th anniversary of Hispanic Women’s Ministry. More than 450 women attended this year’s retreat from March 29–31 at Tenaya Lodge in Yosemite National Park. In homage to humble beginnings, the attendees paid tribute to the pioneers who established this much-needed ministry within the Hispanic community.

“Celebrating His Grace and Love” was the theme for the weekend. Liz Enid Polanco, internationally renowned speaker and evangelist, blessed listeners with her interactive and God-inspired perspective on the incredible value of women since creation. She shared God’s original plan in the Garden of Eden: for woman to become a partner with man in relationship with God. She described how this original plan can be continued today by re-establishing a true relationship with Jesus. Using the story of Nicodemus, Polanco showed how we can be born
again in Christ to regain a deeper relationship with Him.

Devotion and prayer sessions are an integral part of these spiritual retreats. Nohemi Escamilla and Gladys Rodriguez shared practical tips for studying the Bible, along with strategies to strengthen one’s communication with the Father. Participants also had the pleasure of being blessed through music and song. Violinist and singer Margie Salcedo-Rice shared her musical talent in a concert and in special music, impressing on attendees’ hearts the unending love of God.

For attendees and leaders alike, the entire weekend was a celebration of the theme “Celebrating His Grace and Love.” Participants celebrated the depth of God’s love and praised Him for the abundant grace He pours out. They then asked one another, “How can we respond to such a gift? We must celebrate how much He has done for us.”

As the weekend was coming to a close, the atmosphere of celebration concluded with a modern-day miracle—many women made decisions to accept Christ into their hearts. Pastor Ricardo J. Viloria, CCC’s Hispanic Ministries director, was present and gladly baptized more than 50 women. What a wonderful way to culminate this grand celebration of God’s love!
W
omen’s Ministries Inspires to Look Inward and Reach Out

Hawaii Conference’s Women’s Ministries has been abuzz with several outreach activities during 2019—not to mention the various WM activities going on in our local churches.

The year began with training for Hawaii Women’s Ministries leaders during the first weekend of March. Dorothy Means, Pacific Union Conference’s Women’s Ministries director, and Linda Poellnitz trained over 20 women in the areas of leadership and evangelism. Women’s Ministries International Day of Prayer took place during this event, and it was celebrated that weekend at the Honolulu Central Church. Means was the special guest speaker for the Women’s Ministries International Day of Prayer church services.

A couple of weeks later, this special training session segued into a Women’s Ministries evangelistic effort hosted by the Women’s Ministries Committee at Honolulu Central Church. Pursued, a book written by Pastor Lola Moore-Johnson, was the basis for this two-week series, which was entitled “Treasures from the Alabaster Box” and centered on the life of Mary Magdalene. Faithful WM leaders from five local churches and one from Santa Barbara, California, each presented a heart-touching message on various aspects of the life of Mary Magdalene and how she became one of Christ’s most loyal followers.
During the final week of the series, we heard from Pastor Jennifer Hernandez, a young woman who was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, and is now the associate pastor of the Plantation church in South Florida. Health talks were also presented by several health professionals, and each night concluded with delicious snacks prepared by several of our health-conscious ladies.

We have just finished a moving Fall Week of Prayer. "The Legendary 'L's of a Samaritan Woman" was presented by guest speaker Elsie Frisbee, Women's Ministries Leader for Kaneohe church. In her special presentation, we learned how Jesus gently revealed what He knew about the Samaritan woman. Though taken by surprise, this woman learned to listen, and she discovered that she could drink living water and never thirst again. By listening, she learned that there was no secret in her life that the Lord did not know. With love, she rushed to tell her community about the One who knew of her sins but did not condemn her. Rather, He offered forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. By drinking this living water, she was freed from condemnation and began to live.

Our 2019 Fall Week of Prayer was concluded with a sumptuous prayer breakfast on Sunday morning, crowned with a special message from our speaker. During the years of His ministry here on earth, Jesus drew people to Him so they too could drink of the living water of eternal life, freely given to all who love Him and follow in His footsteps.

The goal of Women's Ministries is to share the good news that we too can be freed from our heavy burdens by giving them to Jesus as we listen, learn, love, and live.
When Quentina first came to Holbrook Indian School (HIS), she was having a hard time. Students bullied her, but they were careful to not get caught. When Quentina would react, she’d get sent to the principal’s office. During her first year, she spent more time at the principal’s office than any other student. She was often so frustrated with schoolwork that she would tell her teacher, “Just give me an F!”

You would hardly recognize her today. She loves to read! She no longer is being sent to the principal’s office, and she has made the honor roll.

Students at HIS often come from disadvantaged backgrounds. In their world, almost half of students do not graduate from high school. Only 8 out of 100 hold a college degree. Sixty-three percent of students on the reservation never talk to a school counselor to figure out what courses to take in high school or about what they want to do after high school.

At HIS, we want to break this cycle. We want to provide an environment in which our students can thrive. To reach that goal, we created our mentorship program with students like Quentina in mind. The HIS mentorship program is one of the reasons Quentina is doing so well today.

Students are assigned or recommended a mentor, who will be a role model and confidant for...
that student. Mentors encourage and assist their mentees in setting and reaching their mental, academic, physical, and spiritual goals.

The students benefit from having someone they can speak to about themselves without fear of judgment. Many students have not been told that they can dream about a future beyond the reservation. A mentor is someone who is there to remind students that they don’t have to be stuck in a rut. God has a plan for their life.

Teachers and staff volunteer to mentor students. They take them out to eat, help them get their basic needs met, and teach them life skills. Hailey, one of our student mentors, shares this insight into the program.

“I’ve noticed that my mentee is going through a lot of the same struggles I have—things like struggling with not wanting to admit that people can hurt you, drama with friends, or even body image issues. These are all things I’ve worked through or am still going through now. It’s amazing to hear my mentee say something that I had only just prayed about a few weeks before for myself. I think it’s strategic on God’s part. I think God works to put specific people together in this program because we have a specific vantage point and can see how hard these kids are working to better themselves. We can be the encouragement they need because we know how hard these topics can be.”

Quentina was recently baptized. She studied each week with her mentor and even brought friends to study with her. Mentorship is a valuable investment in our students. When you make a gift to Holbrook Indian School, you are also investing in our students.

We believe that these children are meant for so much more. They are the future leaders and mentors of their communities. They were made to flourish. The students of HIS were made to thrive. Our goal is to help them understand this truth.
Ethan Davis, a graduate of Escondido Adventist Academy, had often heard of NBA Hall of Famer Bill Walton while growing up in Walton’s hometown of San Diego. On Oct. 23, Davis got the chance to meet Walton and learn from him.

Davis, a La Sierra University Health and Exercise Science major and forward on the Golden Eagles basketball team, was among university student-athletes who attended La Sierra’s 2019 Frank Jobe Memorial Gala at the Riverside Convention Center in Riverside, Calif. Walton, noted as one of the NBA’s 50 greatest players of all time, served as keynote speaker.

The gala is named in memoriam for famed sports orthopedic surgeon and La Sierra alum Frank Jobe and serves as a fundraiser.
for athletics scholarships. The first Frank Jobe gala was held in 2017 and featured Major League Baseball pitcher Tommy John, on whom Jobe performed the first ever ulnar collateral ligament reconstruction surgery in 1974—a groundbreaking procedure that has saved the careers of many athletes. John also attended this year’s gala.

Walton’s career includes leading the UCLA Bruins under renowned Coach John Wooden to two NCAA championships, an NBA Most Valuable Player award, two NBA championships with the Portland Trail Blazers and the Boston Celtics, and induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. He appeared at this year’s gala through his friendship with former UC athletics director and current Golden Eagles Athletics Advisory Board Chair Stan Morrison, who celebrated his 80th birthday during the Oct. 23 fundraiser.

Walton passed along to an attentive audience of nearly 450 university and community members lessons learned from his parents, from business leaders, from the renowned Wooden, and from his immense struggles with multiple injuries.

He riveted the audience with stories of his college basketball days under the influential Wooden and of the inspiration of his father—“absolutely the best dad ever,” he said—a social worker and music teacher who sacrificed all of his free time to drive a young Walton to play basketball. “In basketball, like in life, you have an opportunity to make a positive contribution to the goal, to what the dream is, what the mission, what the purpose is,” Walton said. “That’s what this is about tonight, trying to develop that level of honor, sacrifice, and discipline for what’s coming next.”

His love for basketball took root in the fourth grade and became the passion of his life. “I just fell in love with it from the beginning because it was perfect. Basketball was the most surreal and excellent game of all,” Walton said. “Basketball was the easiest part of my life, and second was academics.”

His life, however, was challenged by a stuttering impediment, which he overcame during his late 20s, and by multiple injuries and 37 orthopedic surgeries during his career, including surgery on his spine. He recounted a four-year period during which his body stopped working and despair drove him to suicidal thoughts. He credited the support of his wife, Lori, and others who encouraged him. “I’m here tonight to say thank you… Tomorrow is worth living for and worth fighting for,” he said.

Walton noted the lessons on leadership he learned from his coaches, which include “the illumination of the path forward,… the ability to never ask anyone to do something that you haven’t already done or are not willing to do yourself, to pull the team together, to define the terms of the conflict, to do what others can’t and won’t do,… and the ability of the leader to say no.”

Walton’s presentation was an inspiration to La Sierra’s Davis. “He’s a cool guy, a funny guy,… He motivates me because he never gave up on his career,” he said.

La Sierra psychology major and gala attendee Duane Darrett plays guard and forward with the Golden Eagles basketball team. He noted Walton’s down-to-earth demeanor. “He’s just a cool guy,… and he has a lot of wisdom,” Darrett said. “He’s such a great personality to be around.”

Darrett enrolled at La Sierra on an athletics scholarship after graduating from Newbury Park Adventist Academy and commented on the importance of scholarships to students seeking to join an athletics program. “It means I’m wanted and I can add some value to the team,” he said.
Loma Linda University Medical Center and Loma Linda University Children's Hospital were recipients of the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's 2019 Get With The Guidelines® – Resuscitation quality achievement awards, designating both facilities as exemplary in implementing high standards of resuscitation care.

Both entities took home four awards combined—one Silver and three Gold. Children’s Hospital received the Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award for the Pediatric Population and the Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award for the Neonate Population. The Medical Center received the Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award for the Adult Population and the Stroke Silver Plus Quality Achievement Award and also qualified for recognition on the Target: Stroke Elite Plus Honor Roll.

Loma Linda University Health’s chief of quality and patient safety, Ilhab R. Dorotta, MD, says these recognitions prove that employees are getting it right with pre-determined procedures they deploy to quickly respond and save lives of both adult and pediatric patients experiencing cardiac arrest.

“The standard of care our employees offer day in and day out has proven to be a measurable difference for patients who come to us for their care,” Dorotta said. “We are grateful for the hard work our team does daily to save lives at a moment’s notice.”

In May, LLUMC – Murrieta was presented with the 2019 Get With The Guidelines® – Stroke Gold Plus and the Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association. It marked the third year LLUMC – Murrieta has been recognized by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association for quality stroke care.
Today, 36-year-old Jade Devis’s hands are full with diaper changes, walks, and cooing at her newborn son. Devis is juggling what she calls her gift: motherhood.

“My baby boy is my miracle child,” Devis said. “It is surreal to remember that my pregnancy had an element of extraordinary fear. I am blessed when I look at my son, and I cannot ask for more than that.”

In March 2019, Devis noticed a large lump on her breast that was hard to the touch. She saw a physician in Pomona, who sent her to a radiologist. That radiologist said the lump was likely a symptom of the pregnancy. But Devis wasn’t satisfied with the answer and asked for a biopsy.

“If I had ignored it, I would have been dead,” Devis said.

The biopsy confirmed her fear: she had Stage 2 triple negative breast cancer—one of the rarest forms of breast cancer. Her doctor at the time told her that she was too early in her pregnancy to guarantee giving birth to a healthy child. Her doctor said if she wanted to keep the baby she would need assistance from a specialist.

“I did not know how I felt about the pregnancy until I was told I should not continue my pregnancy,” Devis said. “That is when something rose up inside of me—I wanted to keep my baby because I would not allow a stranger to tell me my child’s fate.”

Knowing that she was a single mom on this journey, Devis searched for a provider who was compassionate and equipped to handle her condition. She found herself at Loma Linda University Cancer Center under the care of breast cancer specialist Gayathri Nagaraj, MD.

She learned that this was the beginning of her journey—she would need to undergo several rounds of chemotherapy because of the triple negative nature of her breast cancer, which has a high risk of cancer recurrence in other organs.

“Going through chemotherapy is tough for anyone, and we do our very best to support our patients at Loma Linda University Cancer Center,” Nagaraj said. “In Jade’s situation we had to be doubly cautious to ensure the safety of the patient and the baby. I am glad to be working with an amazing team who all came together to make this possible.”

Devis’s care team at Loma Linda University Health included a pharmacist, dietitian, nurse, social workers, and high-risk obstetricians. Loma Linda University Health breast cancer team nurse navigator Amanda Edwards ensured Devis had the support she needed to continue her treatments and remain encouraged.

“Many patients come to our hospital asking for us to just treat the cancer,” Edwards said. “What they do not know is that they’ll need more support on their journey. That’s what makes Loma Linda University Cancer Center unique—we take a multidisciplinary approach to making all of the patient whole.”

Devis gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Bradley, at the end of July 2019, thanks to the orchestrated care at Loma Linda University Cancer Center. Devis finishes her final rounds of infusion therapy at the end of November, but she’s grateful to have her son. Her doctors are confident she will be cancer-free at the end of her treatment.

“Loma Linda University Cancer Center team gave me more than my son,” Devis said. “They picked up my spirit and rejuvenated my soul.”
Richie Silie (pronounced SEE-lee-eh) grew up in the Dominican Republic and spent his childhood running around with his friends, going to the river, and climbing trees. His mother was originally a school secretary, but “she did it all,” Silie said, and she and Silie’s father, a plumber and builder by profession, worked hard to allow their children—three boys—to attend the local Adventist school.

Silie graduated from Washington Adventist University with a degree in education, having spent every moment he could spare in the athletics department. He was a volleyball walk-on (his favorite sport) and had found a second love in gymnastics.

“Gymnastics taught me more than how to tumble, spot, and lead,” he said with conviction; “it taught me how to coach and how to help people learn things, and pushed me hard into the world of leading sports and athletics.”

Silie has spent his career teaching Spanish and coaching various acrobatics and volleyball teams at Adventist academies. In September 2019, he began his new role as athletics director (AD) for Pacific Union College.

“I tend to shy away from administration,” Silie admitted. “I don’t want to be behind a desk; I want to be out there with the kids.”

To Silie, sports and athletics aren’t just about the games. He recalls the motto of his childhood school on the island: mano, mente, corazón—hand, mind, and heart. All are part of the whole.

“Sports speak to specific people,” he said. “We worship Christ through music, writing, and speaking; sports are another way to honor him. We help athletes become their best selves and give the glory to God for making them who they are.”

Often, we focus on the negative aspects of competitiveness, Silie pointed out. However, there’s so much more to it that is positive—teaching athletes teamwork and mission, and how to overcome challenges and handle adversity.

“My vision is to emphasize the Christian in our athletics program,” he said. “When students get here, they need to see Christ pulling on His sneakers to play basketball, grabbing cleats to play soccer, and serving a volleyball.”

A healthy spiritual life is important to Silie, and he’s making it important to his teams as well. They have named team chaplains, and he is in the process of establishing Bible studies in the gym, knowing that for some athletes, the gym is one of the few places they feel comfortable gathering.

“I aim to provide a place where we’re not afraid to talk about our journeys,” said Silie, “whatever they may be.”

“What I want people to know about PUC athletics is that our teams pray before and after every practice and every game,” Silie said, “and that our students get baptized and become closer to Christ because of relationships forged here on the PUC campus.”

He added, “God has used athletics in my life to keep me focused and to keep me serving Him. I’m here to pass on that passion to my students.”

(Top) Richie Silie and his family—Jari, Sebastian, and Marcus—moved to PUC this fall to manage the athletics program. (Left) Sports have always been a part of Richie Silie’s life, whether playing or coaching. He started as PUC’s new athletics director this fall.
Nevada-Utah Conference Awards
Club Director and Pastor of the Year

By Darriel Hoy

Across the Nevada-Utah Conference, adult volunteers are sharing their time, talent, and resources to minister to youth in Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs. Volunteers lead weekly meetings, give Bible studies, help youth coordinate evangelism and outreach projects, chaperone field trips, organize arts and crafts activities, give up modern conveniences for sleeping bags and port-a-potties at campouts, counsel youth through the ups and downs of life, and model Christ daily for the young people they serve. “Volunteers are the pillars of Adventurers and Pathfinders clubs. Without their generosity and leadership, our clubs simply wouldn’t exist,” explained Isoroku Vernon, Pathfinder director for Nevada-Utah Conference and a volunteer. “Being a club director is like having a part-time job. That’s why it was so difficult for us to select a Club Director and Pastor of the Year.”

The Club Director and Pastor of the Year awards recognize the exemplary service of leaders who go above and beyond the duties of their individual clubs and churches to offer support to other clubs and the entire conference. The awardee for Club Director of the Year is selected based on submission of a monthly report, record of service, and a list of criteria to establish who qualifies for the awards. There is also a list of criteria for the Pastor of the Year honor—the most important of which are support of conference club ministries leadership and involvement in conference activities.

The 2019 Club Director of the Year award was presented to Toilose Moungaafi, Pathfinder club director for the Tala Ki Mamani church in Salt Lake City, Utah. Toi’s exemplary service includes enlisting her club to lead praise and worship for conference events, organizing games and recreational activities for conference events, and being available to handle last-minute details at conference events.

Pastor Calixto Ruiz received the Club Ministries Pastor of the Year Award. He pastors the New Jerusalem church in Salt Lake City. Pastor Ruiz was honored for attending all conference events, serving in an advisory capacity, and teaching honors at the Utah fair.

Nevada-Utah Conference Youth Ministries is grateful for each Adventurer and Pathfinder Club director and the many pastors who offer their support to club ministries. We salute each director and pastor who contributes to our mission of making lifelong disciples who make other disciples.
It was like “old home week” at the recent Nevada-Utah Conference (NUC) town hall meetings held at the Sparks church in Sparks, Nevada, and the Maranatha Spanish church in North Las Vegas, Nevada. In an effort to inform, inspire, and bring a sense of unity to its members, the NUC administration has plans to hold semi-annual meetings in all three of its large metropolitan areas—Reno, Nevada; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Salt Lake City, Utah.

Executive Secretary Carlos Camacho shared his excitement about the meetings: “For years the NUC administrative team has dreamed of the possibility of bringing the office to the members. The town hall meetings are doing that and more. Two main things are being accomplished. One is to report to the members the exciting things that are happening around the conference, and the other is to provide a venue to respond to some of the concerns or questions members may have between constituency sessions. These meetings have been very well received.”

With a membership of more than 10,400 members spread over a territory of nearly 220,000 square miles, meeting with each church individually has become a daunting task for the NUC officers. These town hall meetings seem to offer a means of bringing members together to learn of the vision and initiatives for the promotion of the work of God’s kingdom throughout the vast expanse of the conference.

After registration and a light breakfast, meetings began with the introduction of officers, pastors, teachers, and support staff. It was fun for some of the members to meet the “voices” they had talked with on the phone, sometimes for years.

After sharing an encouraging devotional thought, NUC President Leon Brown presented thoughts on the NUC mission and vision through a thoughtful and beautiful video presentation. Throughout their presentations, the speakers reiterated the five-point NUC vision: transform churches into safe, welcoming places for the community; increase church member involvement in relevant community ministries by 20%; engage at least 50% of our youth in church leadership and ministry; mobilize an increase of 20% of church members in outreach efforts, planting two new congregations per area; and increase enrollment of new students in NUC.
Camacho shared some interesting membership highlights, including ethnic distribution throughout the churches, as well as by employee presence. One interesting fact listed the third most prevalent language: Tagalog in Nevada and Chinese in Utah. To God’s glory, the membership has increased by over 20% in the last 10 years.

The presentations closed with a treasurer’s report from Karen Schneider. She shared the financial hurdles that have been overcome by the conference, but the emphasis was on the use of the finances to finish the work. Schneider is a visionary, and she didn’t hesitate to share her dreams and plans for the NUC.

The highlight of the morning seemed to be the question-and-answer sessions. Questions, which had been written and submitted to the team earlier, were read and responded to. As time ran out for the Q&A period, attendees were promised an answer to their questions directly from the office in the near future.

Fallon church member Denise Cole shared about the meeting: “I loved it. It was great getting to know the officers a little better. I’m convinced they do not get enough pay for the job they do and the sacrifices they make. I also learned a lot more about the jobs at the local church.”

In true Hispanic hospitality style, participants at the Las Vegas session were treated to a wonderful outdoor lunch under the trees, preceding the afternoon training session for local church officers. In spite of the sudden drop in temperature and light winds, this was a delightful time.

The group then separated for position-specific training for elders, church clerks, and church treasurers. Judging by the interest of the attendees, these training sessions have been helpful to those working in the local churches.
The NCC Ordains
Three Pastors This Fall

By Julie Lorenz

In September and October, the Northern California Conference (NCC) ordained three pastors to the gospel ministry, confirming the Holy Spirit’s calling in their lives.

Melissa Howell
Carmichael church Associate Pastor Melissa Howell was ordained on Sabbath, Sept. 28, at her church in Sacramento. Her husband, Greg, and their children—Caleb, Toby, Brooke, and Wyatt—participated in the program.

Born in Glendale, California, Howell attended Crescenta Valley Adventist School, and she was baptized in the sixth grade. During her four years at Thunderbird Adventist Academy in Arizona, she first sensed a calling to ministry, which was confirmed by teachers, friends, parents, and church members.

Next, Howell enrolled at Union College in Nebraska to study theology with a youth ministry emphasis. While in college, she served as a student missionary in the Marshall Islands. During her freshman year, Howell met Greg in Greek class, and they married four years later. In the meantime, they built a traveling youth ministries team, which presented spiritual emphasis weekends at churches and academies.

Following graduation, Howell served as assistant girls’ dean, Bible teacher, and Sabbath activities coordinator at Auburn Adventist Academy in Washington State. After two years, the conference sent Howell and her husband to the Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Michigan. While there, she led an evangelistic campaign in Bermuda when her first baby was only three months old.

Howell finished her Master of Divinity long distance in Washington, where Greg pastored a number of churches. Although she decided to stay home with her children, she continued to minister in a variety of ways—teaching part-time, preaching, writing, giving Bible studies, and leading two evangelistic series.

Howell is the author of two devotional books: Fusion and You’ll Laugh About This Someday. She served as a columnist for Adventist Today and Signs of the Times and writes for other publications.

In 2015, Howell became family life pastor at Carmichael. “I don’t know where this journey of ministry will lead me,” she said, “but I know Who leads me, so I say in full confidence: ‘Forever, Lord! Lead on—my life is Yours, forever.’”

Zach Reiber
Yuba City church Pastor Zach Reiber was ordained at his church on Sabbath, Oct. 12. His wife, Yvette, read the Scripture for the service.

Born in Loma Linda, Reiber spent most of his childhood in Roseville. Some of his favorite memories involve the Roseville church, where he was baptized. His first job was a summer position leading youth activities, and his first sermon was preached for a Youth Sabbath.
After graduating from Pine Hills Adventist Academy in Auburn, Reiber enrolled at Pacific Union College. During his freshman year, two special events took place. The first was meeting Yvette, and the second was his call to ministry. For Reiber, the call wasn’t immediate or dramatic but rather a gradual realization that God had a purpose for him. During college, he led a weekly worship ministry called “Lift,” and he spent a year at River Plate Adventist University in Argentina.

Following his graduation with a bachelor’s degree in theology, the Sunset Oaks (now Gracepoint) church in Rocklin hired Reiber as a local-funded youth pastor. For two and a half years, Reiber grew the youth ministry there by organizing activities, strengthening the Sabbath School program, and eating lunch with public school students. He and Yvette were married during this time.

The NCC then called Reiber to serve as assistant pastor at the Pleasant Hill church. He was tasked with organizing the worship service, giving Bible studies, and running the youth ministry. After two and a half years, the couple moved to Michigan so Reiber could attend the Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

After earning his Master of Divinity in 2017, Reiber was called to his current ministry. “I couldn’t ask for a more loving community in which to learn and grow in leadership,” he said. “Looking back on my journey, I am constantly reminded that we can trust God with our life on earth and through eternity.”

Brandon Kharns

Placerville church Associate Pastor Brandon Kharns was ordained at his church on Sabbath, Oct. 19. His wife, Michelle, and two of their children, Orion and Zoe, participated in the service, while baby Jaden sat in the audience.

Although Kharns was born in Utah, within a year his family moved to California, and he spent his childhood in Camarillo and Escondido. After being involved in church music with his family, participating in Bible studies, as well as attending and leading youth conferences, Kharns was baptized.

After his graduation from Escondido Adventist Academy, Kharns worked at Timber Ridge Camp in Indiana before enrolling at Southern Adventist University in Tennessee, where he was an outdoor education major. During those years, he served as a student missionary in New Zealand, founded the university’s Outdoor Adventure Club, and acted in Destiny, a touring drama team.

Following graduation, due to some research he had done, Kharns made a presentation at an international rescue conference and was offered a job in the rescue industry. Though this was a dream job, he felt like he was being called to something else. During this time, he and Michelle were married.

Then Kharns had ministry recommended to him—a surprise to him and his wife—but they saw the Lord clearly guiding, and he began studying at the Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Michigan. After two years, the Nevada-Utah Conference called him to the Riverview church in Reno, where he completed his Master of Divinity online and served as associate pastor.

In 2016, Kharns came to the Placerville church, where he is the family life pastor. “Though I am certainly not where I once imagined myself, I am amazed at God’s working in the background to lead me to ministry,” he said. “It’s never easy, but I am incredibly humbled to be called to build His kingdom in this way.”
In October, the Northern California Conference (NCC) Executive Committee voted to appoint Laurie Trujillo as NCC director of communication and development. She began her new role on Oct. 28.

“We are delighted to welcome Laurie,” said NCC President Marc Woodson. “Her many years of professional experience in both the public and private sectors—and her heart for our mission—will help advance God’s work in our territory.”

Trujillo came with 16 years of experience working in the areas of development, public relations, and communication for both nonprofit and governmental organizations. In addition to her work in the public sphere, she has served as director of philanthropy at Pacific Union College and as director of development for a local Adventist Community Services organization in Denver.

Her new position combines the responsibilities of former Communication Director Stephanie Leal with the added duties of development director. “I want to maintain the high standards that Stephanie set in addition to taking on the new challenges that NCC administration has given to this role,” she said.

Earlier this year at NCC ministerial meetings, Trujillo shared her expertise in development with the attending pastors. “I heard the challenges they faced in fundraising,” she said. “I shared how basic philanthropic principles and ethical practices can be effective and useful at the church level. I believe these same principles can support the conference as a whole.”

She was excited to begin her new duties. “I look forward to meeting the challenges in this position, the new direction it is heading, and how it can further the mission of our church as well as support NCC members, pastors, and educators to achieve their goals,” she said. “I am also eager to support the administrators with the three initiatives in their strategic plan, especially community engagement.”

Trujillo grew up in the Adventist church. Her parents are Arnold Trujillo, retired Pacific Union Conference vice president, and Deloris Trujillo, retired human resources director at the Adventist Media Center. After graduating from Escondido Adventist Academy, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in organizational leadership and a Master of Science in human resources from Chapman University.

During her college years, Trujillo served as a student missionary in Russia and Colombia, and she has enjoyed teaching English as a second language in the United States to various cultural groups from Asian, European, and Middle Eastern countries. A fluent Spanish-speaker, she spent eight years working in Colombia. “The Adventist church in Northern California is blessed to have many diverse cultures represented in its membership,” she said. “I look forward to developing strategies that will celebrate our diversity and remove barriers to communication.”

She currently lives in Angwin with her three-year-old daughter, Katie. “We love to be outdoors—gardening and hiking,” said Trujillo, who also enjoys camping, backpacking, and skiing.
Hope and healing: A day of remembrance for employees and community members of Paradise

Hundreds of former employees and community members gathered for a Camp Fire Day of Remembrance in Paradise, California, on November 9, 2019.

BY JILL KINNEY

The devastation of the Camp Fire ravaged the Paradise community and adjacent areas a little over one year ago, causing residents to flee and businesses, including Adventist Health Feather River, to close. While much has happened in the ensuing year, it seemed fitting to pause for a Day of Remembrance. It was an opportunity for friends, family, colleagues, and community members to join together to reflect on Adventist Health Feather River’s history, legacy of healing, and specifically the acts of heroism that occurred during Camp Fire.

The day started with a worship service featuring keynote speaker Alex Bryan, mission identity executive at Adventist Health, who provided heartfelt words of wisdom and healing. Other guest speakers included Scott Reiner, chief executive officer of Adventist Health; Congressman Doug LaMalfa; Senator Jim Nielsen; Assemblyman James Gallagher; Wayne Ferch, president of Central California Region, Adventist Health; Rick Rawson, president of Adventist Health and Rideout; and Ryan Ashlock, operations executive, Adventist Health Castle. Each brought a different perspective on Adventist Health Feather River’s journey of heritage, healing, and hope.

“Paradise will never be the same place it was, but a new version of this community will emerge,” commented Scott Reiner. “Adventist Health has been living our mission of inspiring health, wholeness, and hope in Paradise and throughout Butte County for nearly 60 years and remains committed to continuing this legacy for generations to come.”

At the afternoon gathering, held at Adventist Health Feather River campus, hundreds of people were able to reconnect with colleagues and friends, participate in self-guided reflection, and stop by interactive stations—including a reflection pond, surrounded by flowers, representing all of the patients who got out safely because of the heroic efforts of the brave employees of Adventist Health. Other stations included a prayer garden, an interactive art station, and an overlook area where one could reflect on the ravaged destruction below.

It was a day to be remembered by all who attended. It reaffirmed how special the people are at Adventist Health and how firmly rooted they are in their faith and their principles, which extend beyond the boundaries of medical care. The employees and community members showed enormous dedication to each other and to those most in need. It was a day of healing in the truest sense of the word.

For those who couldn’t attend the worship service or attend the day’s event, images and the service can be viewed at AdventistHealth.org/RemembranceDay.
Rafael (not his real name), a middle-aged man with a history of psychiatric problems, was in despair over conflicts with his son, in whose home he had been living. He was taken by ambulance to a homeless shelter for men. While eating dinner at the shelter, he met Kelsy Escalante from Fusion San Bernardino ministries, which is comprised of young people from churches in the Loma Linda area who volunteer on Thursday evenings.

“I just want to die,” he told Escalante. Three weeks later, after many conversations, hugs, and prayers, he was a totally different man, she said.

Rafael is one of about 50 men at the shelter who are served every Thursday and then invited to Friday vespers at San Bernardino Community church. The ministry is an outgrowth of a young adult group called Praxis, which began at Loma Linda University church early in 2018. About 25 volunteers from surrounding Adventist churches also come to serve.

“Every Thursday night is beautiful,” said Bo Kim, the ministry’s primary leader. “We have dinner with the men, talk with them, finish with a prayer circle, and then tell them where we go to church.”

In August, the team, which includes university students, started a special vespers program for the homeless men. A church van or bus picks them up and brings them to the church. Attendance by volunteers and men from the shelter approaches 100 some Friday evenings.

“There are little veins of love going to their hearts,” said Escalante of the homeless men. “But some of them have never experienced it. They ask us if we are doing this for a class or volunteer hours, and we say no.”

Kim said the ministry has seen a surge of interest in volunteering in recent months, with psychologists, dentists, physicians, and other professionals offering their time and financial support.

By 2021, the group hopes to build “a mini Drayson Center in the ghetto,” said Jerrold Thompson, pastor of San Bernardino Community church, referring to Loma Linda University’s wellness center.

Upcoming events include the “King’s Table” meal, with a hired chef and black-tie attire. A new program called Fusion is set to begin in January, with plans to offer the homeless men cooking classes, physical and occupational therapy, laundry help, haircuts, showers, clothing, music activities, and eventually an English class.

For more photos and information about the ministry, visit their Facebook page: Fusion San Bernardino ministries.

Young Professionals
Profess Their Faith Through Service

BY GREG RUMSEY

(Left) Residents from a men’s shelter in San Bernardino are invited to Friday night vespers at the San Bernardino Community church by volunteers from Fusion San Bernardino ministries, who visit the shelter every Thursday evening. (Right) Volunteers from Fusion San Bernardino ministries pray with residents of a men’s homeless shelter in San Bernardino. The group visits every Thursday evening.
The Azure Hills and Redlands churches joined forces to present a program for teens called Swipe Right: God, Love, and Dating. It was designed to help high schoolers approach relationships and sexuality from a healthy place.

In a world where media and dating apps are prevalent, teens are inundated with various peer and social pressures.

“We thought it was time an event like this was done to share God’s perspective,” said Nick Snell, youth pastor at Azure Hills church.

On Friday, Sept. 27, the young women gathered at Azure Hills for their part of the programming with Jessie Lopez, young adult pastor at Azure Hills church. The young men met at the Redlands church on Sabbath the 28th.

“We did this to increase the sense of safety for participants,” explained Snell of the decision to carry out the meetings separately. “We wanted them to be able to hear and share without feeling embarrassed in front of the opposite sex.”

“Most of the time when a kid comes to my office under stress, it has something to do with a relationship,” added Chris Stanley, youth pastor at Redlands church. “So we wanted them to speak openly and honestly.”

Various presenters visited both groups to discuss everything from marriage and a healthy self-image in God to more taboo topics, such as pornography.

“You don’t want to create shame or public embarrassment, but these topics do need to be addressed,” said Stanley. The youth pastors were aided by Julie Estrella, family and sex therapist, as well as pastors, various chaplains, and a married couple.

It quickly became evident that the attendees in both groups wanted conversations like these to take place more often.

“They can handle it,” said Snell. “They need to decide what they think about such matters, rather than defaulting to what is common in culture.”

Event organizers all agreed that it was successful and said they hoped it would be repeated next year.

“It tapped into a real need,” Stanley asserted. “At the end of the weekend, there was a real acknowledgement that they’re going to help each other be wiser, treat the opposite sex better, and care for their relationships. They want to hold each other to a higher standard.”
This fall, Central Filipino church (CFC), the oldest organized Filipino church in North America, celebrated 62 years of ministry.

The celebratory weekend was comprised of worship, fellowship, music performances, and cultural presentations. Southern California Conference President Velino A. Salazar delivered the Sabbath morning message, acknowledging that this church is the “great-grandmother of all Filipino congregations we have in the North American Division.”

CFC was formed in 1957 to nurture the spiritual needs of Filipino immigrants in the Los Angeles area and to reach out to those who had not yet experienced a personal relationship with God.

As the church began to grow, its location moved from Wilmington to Compton, then to Highland Park. The congregation quickly outgrew each location, and in the 1980s, they saw a need to relocate to a larger facility.

“The biggest challenge the church had for many years was the church building project,” reflected Simeon Rosete, CFC’s senior pastor of 27 years. “God allowed us to finish the building project despite strong advice to sell the church to an interested buyer.”

In 1991, the building project was complete, and the church settled into its current location in Eagle Rock.

Throughout the years, the congregation has seen members come and go. Fernando Sapigao first joined the congregation in 1980, becoming a deacon shortly after. His family moved to a different church during his son’s formative years but returned permanently to CFC in 2006. “I came back because I missed the friendships I made here,” said Sapigao. “What I like about Central Filipino church is the mixture of different cultures from the different regions in the Philippines: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, for example.” Sapigao added, “We also have members who are not Filipino. It’s a melting pot.”

Currently, the challenge is to get the whole congregation involved in the worship, fellowship, and discipleship programs of the church; however, Rosete chooses to acknowledge the smaller victories.

“This 62nd anniversary was special, because in the past we were only celebrating the major milestones: 50, 55, and 60,” said Rosete. “The success of this event convinced everyone that we should be celebrating every year.”

The weekend’s festivities concluded with a health fair on Sunday, which included blood pressure and cholesterol screenings, free haircuts, and a food fair that allowed various church ministries to raise funds for different outreach activities.

As CFC moves into the next 62 years, Rosete is excited to “see kids develop into mature adults and help carry out the message of salvation to the world.”

Participants of all ages showcase their musical talents during the anniversary celebration. CFC youth play “Bahay Kubo,” a Filipino folk song, on ukuleles.

PHOTOS: SIMEON ROSETE
(Far left) CFC’s ukulele group performs during the Saturday evening cultural program. This group goes out on designated Sabbath afternoons to sing and play for patients in hospitals and nursing homes. (Left) Salazar shares a message highlighting CFC’s history and mission moving forward.
North Hills Embodies Innovation

BY LAUREN LACSON

What comes to your mind when you think of innovation? Perhaps you think of new ideas, fresh perspectives, creative processes, and unique projects.

At North Hills church, innovation is about all this and more. In fact, just three months after Pastor Tim Cress joined this congregation in July 2018, he took the board on a retreat to examine their purpose and context. This retreat was the springboard for a new mission statement, supporting values, and standard operating objectives for the church. “It’s nice to have clear direction,” Cress shared. “When you know what you’re all about, it makes all the other decisions easy.”

“My experience with North Hills has been very good,” shared Bob Thomas, a regular attendee and volunteer since May 2019. “Coming from Denver, they welcomed me with open arms, telling me, ‘Welcome home.’ To me, that’s huge, given what I’ve been through over the last 20 years.”

Every four to six months, one of the standard operating objectives becomes the church’s “thematic goal,” guiding their focus and effort in a specific area. The thematic goal that was the main focus this spring revolves around community groups, and 100 people became involved soon after the launch. “People grow best in community—in small groups, not in large groups,” Cress asserted. “We as a board said, ‘Our mission is to develop passionate disciples. If the best way that happens is in small groups—and we think it is—then our goal is to get people into groups.’”

Another new and exciting possibility is that of an online campus, which will potentially launch in early 2020. Some people who do not live locally, but participate in the livestream of the church services, have requested membership at North Hills. “What attracts people to North Hills is the friendliness of the congregation,” Thomas said. “We are still learning new ways of dealing with this life, leaning on the Holy Spirit to guide, and are eager to learn more, to be able to pass that information and experience to others who are struggling with this life and with God.”

“We want to be able to disciple and support members online in effective ways, just as we do for those who are here with us in person,” Cress continued. “So, we are trying to create our ‘online campus’ as a place to take classes online, download small group curriculum with the rest of the church, experience workshops to help people grow, and experience accountability with others.”

“The one thing you can’t get unless you’re at a church is a ministry for your kids—something that is effective that can engage them in faith,” Cress noted. “Next Gen is the most important thing that any church does.” That’s why the church decided to give extra attention to the children’s ministry rooms earlier this year; these spaces had opportunities to be improved to better suit the ministry being done within their walls.

“The church doesn’t just have a mission statement—we have things we actually want to do,” Cress said. “Whatever it takes. In the end, we want to say, ‘Hey, we tried everything we could.’”

A complete revisioning of the children’s ministry wing has started with the preschool clubhouse and elementary laboratory. Next up is the middle school surf shack and the high school beach house. “The themes just make it feel fun and engaging so that the kids want to be present each week with their small groups,” Cress noted.
PUC's newly christened Community Speaker Series (familiarly called “Community”) held its opening convocation in the PUC church in early October. Previously called Colloquy, the goal of Community is indicated in its title: to build a network of close-knit relationships between students and faculty across the campus. Essentially, it seeks to build “ONEPUC.”

After a Community Brief video featuring athletic director Richie Silie detailing the upcoming week’s events, President Bob Cushman took to the stage to welcome new staff, faculty, and students, as well as recognize members of this year’s graduating senior class. Each group was asked to stand for applause as he recognized their role on the PUC campus.

As the audience settled into their seats, Student Association President Megan Belz read from Matthew 22:37-39 and prayed over the church family. With the message of love at the forefront, a video of chaplain Kent Rufo played in which he reminded the campus that they are all members of one body who are committed to each other as the PUC family.

President Cushman then returned to the stage with a short but impactful message that spoke to the heart of PUC’s goals as it looks toward a new academic year. He reminded listeners that humanitarian issues sit at the forefront of the college’s concerns and that PUC has a specific place in today’s time and culture.

He affirmed there is, indeed, a place for “everyday superheroes,” saying, “Love is a superpower we need in our world today…. We can serve as guardians and stewards of love.”

“Who is our neighbor today? Who do we need to take care of?” he asked. “Jesus is calling us to love without respect to our differences…. Love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting anything in return.”

He closed by recounting the various ways in which staff, faculty, and students have found recent opportunities to serve their community members, and then he invited contemporary Christian performing artist Elias Dummer to the stage for a final song, which he performed accompanied by members of PUC’s Vox Pro Musica.

Students were then invited to gather on the expansive lawn in front of the church to form the letters PUC, and an aerial photograph was taken by an overhead drone. As the school year unfolds, there is no doubt students and staff will remain committed to building a stronger community throughout all their campus relationships.
Biology Grad Lands National Cancer Institute Research Training Post

By Darla Martin Tucker

Jennifer Yoo was one of the lucky ones. At age five, the diagnosis of a rare illness by an insightful physician saved her from potentially devastating health problems. The experience also sparked her interest in the field of medicine.

Yoo, who graduated in June from La Sierra University with a Bachelor of Science degree in biomedical science, is a Cancer Research Training Awardee with the National Cancer Institute. She recently recalled her childhood ordeal with Kawasaki disease, a form of vasculitis involving inflammation of the blood vessels, which left unchecked can cause significant heart problems in children. The illness, for which there is no specific test, relies on physicians’ intuition and knowledge for a timely and accurate diagnosis. “Without that doctor’s help, I may have had serious health complication or not even be here today,” Yoo said. “She gave me my future and I would like to do the same for others.”

Yoo, who has won multiple honors and awards during her college career, is on the fast track to becoming a physician and researcher. She applied in February for the Postbaccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award at the National Institutes of Health, of which the National Cancer Institute is a part, and was accepted as a research training awardee in April. She completed her biology degree course requirements at La Sierra in March, participated in La Sierra’s commencement in June, and presented research at the American Society of Virology 38th Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, where she was one of three undergraduate poster awardees. In June, Yoo flew to Maryland to begin training at the NCI, where she is currently working with Dr. Wei-Shau Hu on characterizing the mechanism by which HIV replicates.

The Postbaccalaureate Cancer Research Training Award Program provides recent college graduates who are planning to apply to graduate or professional school an opportunity to perform full-time biomedical research working side-by-side with some of the leading scientists in the world, according to a description of the program.

Under Dr. Hu’s direction, Yoo is studying genomic ribonucleic acid, or RNA, packaging into HIV-1 virus particles as well as the mechanism by which a particular viral protein drives the packaging of the HIV RNA into virus particles. “The study of the retroviral life cycle, specifically the transfer of viral genetic information, has profound implication for questions that are fundamentally important to HIV replication [which] can lead to the generation of new strategies to block the spread of HIV,” she said.

Yoo grew up in Irvine, California, and enrolled at La Sierra in 2015, attracted to its biology program. “I knew when applying for college that I wanted to be a physician, and from others’ anecdotes I knew La Sierra University could help me get there,” she said.

Read the rest of this story online at lasierra.edu.

Biomedical science graduate Jennifer Yoo at work in a biology lab at La Sierra University. She is now a Cancer Research Training Awardee with the National Cancer Institute in Maryland.
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GIVING HOPE FOR TOMORROW

AdventistGiving allows you to return your tithe
and give your offerings online while you do your
online banking, are on a long business trip, on
vacation, or even if you are unable to attend
church due to an illness.

But most important of all, if you desire to give
back to the Lord all of your firstfruits as soon
as you have them, you can do it immediately
through AdventistGiving.

AdventistGiving
FIND YOUR CHURCH:
HTTPS://ADVENTISTGIVING.ORG/#/

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

La Sierra University will hold its 72nd Annual Candlelight
Concert Friday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec.
7 at 4:30 p.m., both at the La Sierra University church,
4937 Sierra Vista Ave. Limited paid reserved seating will be
available. Info: https://music-
events.lasierra.edu/2019-2020-season/, email music@lasierra.
edu, or call 951-785-2036.

CAMELBACK CONCERT SERIES

Camelback Concert Series

featuring international recording artists
Ullanda Innocent Palmer and
Michael Harris (Dec. 21) 6:30
p.m. Camelback church, 5902
E Camelback Rd., Phoenix.
Free admission. Info: Merv Williams,
480-834-7450.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE

Surviving Eden: Young Adult Retreat (Dec. 13-15) is coming
to Sugar Pine Christian Camp in Oakhurst, Calif. Young
adults (ages 18-35) are invited to join keynote speaker, David
Asscherick. Space is limited. Email: yet@cccsda.org for
reservations.

LIFE HOPE CENTERS

Life Hope Centers (Jan. 11-12)
for the Sonora community in
Sonora, Calif. Volunteers are
needed for this free, two-day
event. The more dentists,
medical professionals, and
optometrists that volunteer,
the more community
members can be served. Sign
up at LifeHopeCentersCentral.
com.

WOMEN’S RETREAT

Women’s Retreat (Jan.
24-26) at Tenaya Lodge
with Melody Mason and
Leah Page. Registration
deadline: Dec. 31. Info:
CentralCaliforniaAdventist.
dom/womens-ministries,
call 559-642-2396, email
2patcurtis@gmail.com.

ARIZONA CONFERENCES

Arizona Conference
Annual Christmas in the
Air Concert (Dec. 7) 7 p.m.
Featuring musicians from
throughout the conference
plus guest musicians from
the community. Camelback
church, 5902 E. Camelback Rd.,
Phoenix. Info: Jerry Brizendine,
480-388-4783.

Adventist Church Employees
Retirees Christmas Luncheon
(Dec. 8) 12 p.m. Tickets $15.
Arizona Conference office,
13405 N. Scottsdale Rd.,
Scottsdale. Retirees President
Jae Colon. Reservations or info:
Cynthia Riffel, 480-991-6777 ext.
107.

Thunderbird Adventist
Academy Christmas Concert
(Dec. 14) 7 p.m. The TAA music
department will be celebrating Christmas with an annual
concert for the community.
TAA auditorium, 7410 E. Sutton
Drive, Scottsdale. Info: Tanna
Allison, 360-977-8298.

Scottsdale Top Raw Food
Potluck (meets once each
month, second Saturday) 5:30
p.m. Natural Grocers, 13802 N.
Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale. Bring
your gluten-free raw food dish
already prepared and ready
to eat—enough to feed 8-10
people. Recipes appreciated.
Bring eating and serving
utensils. Info: Mary Russo: 602-
214-9423.

Glendale’s 44th Annual
Christmas Concert (Dec. 21)
with choir and orchestra. Two
performances: 4 p.m. and 7
p.m., Glendale church, 6801 N.
43rd Ave., Phoenix. Info: Dennis
Marsollier, 602-697-6844.

Paradise Valley Annual
Christmas Cantata (Dec. 21)
10:45 a.m., Paradise Valley
church, 2727 E. Cactus
Rd., Phoenix. Info: Claudio
Marsollier 623-261-6303.

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edu, or call 951-785-2036.
Community & Marketplace

Brandstater Gallery presents Woven Threads: The Migration of Myths & Metaphors (Jan. 13-Feb. 13) featuring paintings, prints, and sculptures of Alison Saar, Iva Gueorguieva, Mei Xian Qui, and Fatemeh Burnes representing, respectively, the United States, Bulgaria, China, and Iran. Reception (Jan. 26) 6 p.m. Free.

The La Sierra University Orchestra will perform (Jan. 25) 7:30 p.m., under the direction of Maestro Dean Anderson. Hole Memorial Auditorium. Info: https://music-events.lasierra.edu/2019-2020-season/, email music@lasierra.edu, or call 951-785-2036.

Northern California Conference
Drive-thru Nativity (Dec. 6-7) 7-9 p.m. Sacramento Capitol City church, 6701 Lemon Hill Avenue, Sacramento. Experience nine scenes from the birth of Christ from your car or with a guided walking tour. Drive-time is less than 10 minutes. Hot chocolate, apple cider. Free! Info: church office, 916-381-5353.

Church Treasurer Training (Dec. 8) 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. NCC Headquarters, 2100 Douglas Blvd., Roseville. Bring your laptop computer. Lunch provided. RSVP. Info: NCC Treasurer’s Office, 888-434-4622, ext. 232.


Health Secrets for the 21st Century with Tim Riesenberger, M.D. (Jan. 10-12). Redding church, 2828 Eureka Way, Redding: Fri., 6 p.m.; Sab., 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. Anderson church, 2769 Balls Ferry Road, Anderson: Sun., 4 p.m. Free; meal each night. Info: 530-524-0400 or bonny.46@hotmail.com.

Pacific Union College Christmas on the Hill: Join Pacific Union College for their annual concerts honoring the holiday season. The same candlelight concert will take place at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6, and at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, both in the PUC church. Email music@puc.edu with any inquiries.

PUC Now: Sign up to receive monthly emails from Pacific Union College with news, announcements, photos, and more. Visit puc.edu/newsletter.

Visit PUC for College Days Feb. 9-11; visit puc.edu/collegedays for more information on this and other visit opportunities.

Southeastern California Conference
25th Annual Community Christmas Celebration and Presentation of Handel’s Messiah (Dec. 1) 3 p.m. Doors open 2:30 p.m. 620 South Sunrise Way, Palm Springs. Full orchestra, chorus, soloists, and audience choir. Refreshments following the concert. Info: palmspringsadventist@gmail.com, 760-327-5112.

Candlelight Concert/Crèche Festival (Dec. 4, 6, and 7) 6-9 p.m. Norco church, 3621 Corona Ave., Norco. Featuring violinist Jaime Jorge on Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. The Creche Festival, sponsored by the La Sierra University Stahl Center for World Service, will be held in conjunction with the concert. Over 120 Nativity scenes from around the world will be on display. Info: Robert Roth, roth@lasierra.edu, text 951-870-0178.
Til You Believe Christmas Musical (Dec. 14) 7-10 p.m. Mt. Rubidoux church, 5320 Victoria Ave., Riverside. Everyone is invited for a Hamilton-style retelling of the redemption story featuring Lloyd Mallory, the Loma Linda Academy orchestra, and Mt. Rubidoux’s Dance Academy. Proceeds will benefit efforts to fund a Loma Linda Academy student trip. Info and tickets: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/til-you-believe-tickets-79534625205.

Steve Green Christmas Concert (Dec. 14) 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. La Sierra Spanish church, 5885 La Sierra Ave., Riverside. General admission is $15; VIP admission is $40. Info: church 951-689-1919; Veronica Mendez, 951-323-0124, mendezveroniquita@yahoo.com.


Southern California Conference Anthony J. Kelly Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament (Jan. 27). The 2nd annual tournament is sponsored by the Greater Los Angeles Region. Breakfast and lunch provided, plus an awards dinner. Palos Verdes Golf Club, 3301 Via Campesina, Palos Verdes Estates 90274. Info: 818-730-5094.

Save the date: Greater Los Angeles Region (GLAR) Health Network 2nd Annual Leadership Training Retreat (Jan. 25-26). Location TBA. For more info: sali.glarhealth@gmail.com.

BHIP (Barbershop Hypertension Improvement Program). Training and toolkits available for health ministry teams to set up in barbershops to screen males 18 and over for hypertension. Free digital fitness bands for every man who gets screened. Contact: sali.glarhealth@gmail.com.

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.SDacreditUnion.com for updates on all that CAFCU has to offer. Call our office and speak to our friendly staff or manager for additional information: 818-246-7241.

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

SDA Realtor: Relocating, selling, or buying in California? Allow our network of trusted agents to make your local and regional transition plans worry free. Contact Padmini at: Interstate Realty, DRE #02084028, 909-240-0966,Pkellywalsh47@gmail.com. Ask me about California first-time buyer programs.

Bulleting Board Canvasback Missions accepts vehicle donations of all kinds. Your tax-deductible donation of a running or non-running vehicle can help us share the love of God through health and...
healing. 707-746-7828 or info@canvasback.org.


Employment

Child Impact International is seeking a General Manager. Applicants must have management skills, including experience in marketing, fundraising, planning, effective communication, and church events; a passion for education and orphans/underprivileged children; the ability to lead a small but growing ministry based in Collegedale, TN. Applicant works closely with CEO in strategic planning and operations. Domestic and international travel required. Application deadline is January 31, 2020. For more details: support@childimpact.org.

Fletcher Academy, Inc. seeks experienced Director of Information Technology, responsible for all IT functions enterprise-wide. At least a bachelor’s in relevant field, plus technical and leadership experience required. Must be comfortable leading a team from a highly visible position, be a member of the SDA church in good standing, and enjoy working with young people in a boarding academy setting. Position is salaried exempt with full benefits package. Send cover letter and resume to Gary Carlson, CEO, at gcarlson@fletcheracademy.com.

The La Sierra University Provost Search Committee is seeking a distinguished scholar and administrator to guide the university’s academic programs, services, and activities with vision and vigor. Additional details and application instructions available at https://lasierracareers.silkroad.com/. Position open until filled.

Southern Adventist University is seeking qualified candidates for the following positions: Public Services Librarian-McKee Library; Teaching Faculty-English; Teaching Faculty-Physics. For full description and qualifications please visit: southern.edu/jobs.

Wanted: Couple to manage estate home in Rolling Hills, CA (south of Los Angeles, Calif.), manage staff vendors, housekeeping, animal care, bird care (parrots), light “handyman” duties, some light garden duties. Hours flexible, 4-5 hours per day. Furnished apt. provided in home. Owner travels and needs someone to take charge. Must have a car, be organized, and be meticulous in duties. Call Myrna Frame, 310-613-9549 or email: curtismymna@verizon.net.

Wanted: Experienced, adventurous radio broadcaster! This mission field is not overseas. Details here: www.radioofhope.org/production.

Events


Join Timothy R. Jennings, MD (Jan. 17-19) in Texas for the life-changing Power of Love seminar. Revitalize your heart, faith, and witness for these last days! Learn more and secure your spot now at events. comeandreason.com.

Missing Members


Reunions

Los Angeles Adventist Academy 12th Alumni Homecoming (March 13-15). Honor Class: ’00. Theme: “We are One: Spirit, Purpose and Vision.” Info: ask4legalalservice@gmail.com or 916-672-8072.
Vacation Opportunities
2020-21 Adventist Tours.
Israel in Jesus’ Steps, May 25- June 2, 2020 and June 9-17, 2021 (optional Jordan/Egypt); Africa Safari & Service, May 18-25, 2020; Thailand, July 14-24, 2020; New Testament Alive (7 Churches, Patmos, Greece, optional Rome), June 17-27, 2021; Germany 500; Lutheran to WW2, June 27-July 7, 2021. All tours are Adventist-led. $1750+/person. For full info, contact tabghatours@gmail.com or facebook.com/TabghaTours or call 423-298-9091. TabghaTours or call 423-298-9091. Email: mavilista1125@gmail.com or call Mark 909-800-9841.

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

ADVENTIST owned AirBnB
2169. TabghaTours or call 423-298-9091. Email: mavilista1125@gmail.com or call Mark 909-800-9841.

Maui Vacation Condo in Kihei.
Relaxing and affordable. Only a 3-minute walk to the beach! 1-bdrm w/king bed. Clean, comfortable, well-maintained. Sleeps 4. Fully-furnished kitchen, washer/dryer and more! Free parking, Wi-Fi, and calls to U.S./Canada. Friendly Kihei SDA church nearby. Visit us at: http://www.vrbo.com/62799. Email: mauivista1125@gmail.com or call Mark 909-800-9841.

AT REST
Axt, Faith (Fubano) – b. May 13, 1933, East Orange, New Jersey; d. April 23, 2019, Hemet, Calif. Survivors: husband, Mel; daughters, Michelle Zenz, Bonnie Heald, Leslie Smith; stepson, Lonnie; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

Buller, Dora (Schubert) – b. Sept. 28, 1922, Santiago, Chile; d. Sept. 11, 2019, Mariposa, Calif. Survivors: son, James; daughter, Tamera Carr Pineda; two granddaughters; four great-granddaughters.


Gaver, Elsie M. (Schneider) – b. July 5, 1931, Bakersfield, Calif.; d. Sept. 4, 2019, Yountville,
Welcome Home to...

SILVERADO ORCHARDS
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Affordable, All-Inclusive Monthly Rent
No Lease, Buy-ins or Add-ons

- Three Nutritious Meals Every Day
- Delicious, Fresh Salad Bar • Vegetarian or Clean Meat Options
- Activities & Excursions • Housekeeping • Transportation
- Health & Wellness Program • Hope Channel, LLBN and 3ABN
- Beauty Salon • Guest Rooms • And Much More...

“We’re all about Family!”

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601 Pope Street, St. Helena, CA 94574

Johnstone, Joan M. –
b. Dec. 8, 1937, Sheboygan, Wis.;
Survivors: son, Joe Johnstone;
daughter, Esther Miller; two
grandchildren.

Little, Alice Lavina (Van Cleve)
– b. Aug. 12, 1927, Ocheyedan,
Iowa; d. Sept. 12, 2019, Ooltewah,
Tenn. Survivors: son, Jeff;
daughters, Tereasa Parenteau,
Cynthia Ford. She worked for the
Review and Herald and Loma
Linda University.

Lonnstrom, Donald Frederick
– b. June 8, 1931, Virginia, Minn.;
Survivors: wife, Lois; daughter,
Cynthia; four grandchildren;
three great-grandchildren.

Love, Georgia May (Snively)
– b. Feb. 4, 1941, Berkeley, Calif.;
d. March 20, 2019, Monterey,
Calif. Survivors: daughters,
Cheri, Ramona Thurman; two
grandchildren.

Martadena, Jean Luckey –
b. Aug. 10, 1925, Los Angeles,
Calif.; d. Sept. 16, 2019, National
City, Calif. Survivors: son, John
Luckey; six grandchildren; 11
great-grandchildren.

Miller, Astrid Irene
– b. May 9, 1943, Posen, Germany;
d. Sept. 24, 2019, Oakhurst,
Calif. Survivors: sons, Chuck,
Mike, Steve; daughter, Reneé;
one grandchild; one great-
grandchild.

Prior, Donald G. – b. Dec. 29,
22, 2019, Loma Linda, Calif.
Survivors: wife, Lois; daughter,
Cynthia; four grandchildren;
three great-grandchildren.

1945, Glendale, Calif.; d. June
19, 2019, Exeter, Calif. Survivors:
wife, Suzanne Pierpoint-Rich;
son, Darren; daughters, Darla
Rich, Laurienne Norton; seven
grandchildren.

Robbins, Alice – b. Jan. 25,
1914, Cincinnati, Ohio; d. Oct. 17,
2019, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivor:
daughter, Joann.

Siemens, Dorothea (Dottie)
Mae – b. Sept. 10, 1918,
Springfield, Mo.; d. Aug. 28, 2019,
Oroville, Calif. Survivors: son,
Robin; daughters, Beth, Boni;
seven grandchildren; 10 great-
grandchildren.

Sutherland, Laura Susan (Holt)
– b. June 24, 1951, Albuquerque,
N.M.; d. Sept. 26, 2019, Chico, Calif.
Survivors: husband, Loren; sister,
Shirley Wilson. She worked as a
nurse at Feather River Hospital.

Wilson, Kathy B. (McGann) –
b. May 7, 1952, South Lancaster,
Mass.; d. July 18, 2019, Ukiah,
Calif. Survivors: husband, Mike;
son, Jim; daughter, Crissie
Engelman; three grandchildren.
Served with her husband as a
pastoral couple in California,
Oregon, and Brazil.
Nondiscrimination Policy Statement

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

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

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

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

Nevada-Utah Conference
Abundant Life Christian Academy
Bishop Adventist Christian School
Deamude Adventist Christian School
Fallon Adventist Christian School
Las Vegas Junior Academy
Riverview Christian Academy
Summit Christian Academy
Susanville Adventist Christian School

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

Southeastern California Conference
Calexico Mission School
Desert Adventist School
El Cajon SDA Christian School
Escondido Adventist Academy
Hemet Adventist Christian School
Laguna Niguel Junior Academy
La Sierra Academy
Loma Linda Academy
Mentone SDA School
Mesa Grande Academy
Murrieta Springs Adventist Christian School

Southern California Conference
Adventist Union School
Antelope Valley Adventist School
Conejo Adventist Elementary School
East Valley Adventist School
Glendale Adventist Academy
Linda Vista Adventist Elementary School
Los Angeles Adventist Academy
Newbury Park Adventist Academy
Palm Desert Adventist Elementary School
San Fernando Valley Academy
San Gabriel Academy
Simi Valley Adventist School
South Bay Junior Academy
West Covina Hills Adventist School
White Memorial Adventist School

Pacific Union Conference
Operated School
Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School
¡Bienvenida!

Welcoming a new member to the Recorder family.

The Recorder has been arriving at the homes of Adventists in the Pacific Union since 1901. During the first part of the 20th century, the Recorder contained inspiring messages from Ellen White and other Adventist pioneers. Today, the Recorder continues to bring inspiring articles, news, and information from our churches, schools, hospitals, and ministries to our members in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah.

2019 marked a new milestone: The Recorder is now published in Spanish, reaching the more than 50,000 Spanish-speaking members of our great Adventist family here in the Pacific Southwest. The quarterly Recorder en Español is being sent directly to the Spanish churches in our conferences. It contains the same kind of quality articles and information as the English version—all suited for the Spanish readership.

To read the last issue, please go to: https://issuu.com/pacificunionrecorder/docs/oto_o_fall_2019

Recorder en Español.
Inspiración y noticias para la Iglesia Adventista en la Pacific Union Conference.
Pacific Union College is a vibrant and Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist community where you will discover and prepare for your calling. For over 130 years, PUC has produced creative, socially responsible graduates who are ready to represent Christ in a vast and changing world.

FAST FACTS 2018-2019

Student/Faculty Ratio: 12:1
Average Class Size: 19
Full-Time Faculty: 99
Honors Societies: 11
Student Clubs: 30+
Alumni Worldwide: 27,000+
Varsity Sports Teams: 6
Financial Aid: Over $30 million awarded in PUC scholarships, grants, and discounts each year

90%+ MFT
scores for physics & psychology students in 2017

100% of students receive financial aid

1,400 students missionaries