

Pacific Union Recorder

September 2001



Adopt a Church

Foreign Experience

**Students learn
"cell" science**

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*"Sing to the Lord,
you saints of His; praise
His holy name."*

PSALM 30:40

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Off the Shelf

Reviews of today's best-selling books from Pacific Press®



\$50,000 given towards evangelism
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Adopting students
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New LSU Alumnus
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I Will Fear No Evil
C.A. Murray

What I liked about this book is its realness. Not everybody who gets a terminal illness gets healed. There isn't always a storybook happy ending for the followers of Jesus in this life. Can we find inspiration from those who suffer unfairly and still cling tenaciously to Jesus despite their circumstances? Absolutely!

C.A. Murray has done the church and Christians in general a great service by bringing the stories of three remarkable women, whom he pastored, to public notice. Murray is a great storyteller and is able to pull profound lessons in life, loss, and faith from his gritty experiences in urban ministry. I was "hooked" from the first words and Murray didn't let me go until I finished. And when I was done, I was exhausted and inspired at the same time.

I highly recommend *I Will Fear No Evil* to everyone who has ever been touched by suffering (that would be all of us), and to those who are trying to minister to someone going through a "valley" experience.

Randy Maxwell,
Author and speaker

Gritty, true stories of uncommon faith

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by C. A. Murray
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Guest Editorial

How you can improve your church's spiritual life

by Lynn Mallery,
president, Southeastern California Conference

Most of you look to your pastor to encourage and inspire your congregation's spiritual life. But have you ever wondered where your pastor turns to get spiritual enrichment?

I have a suggestion for you. Minister to your pastor. One of the best ways to improve your church's spiritual life is for you and your fellow members to help your pastor improve his or her own spiritual life.

How can you go about this? Let me answer by sharing something that the Southeastern California Conference has learned during the past seven years.

We began by focusing on how to attract Baby Boomers back to church. A group of pastors volunteered to participate in the project which included spiritual retreats three times each year for three and a half days each under the guidance of an experienced small-group leader. During these retreats, our pastors entered into deep, reflective Bible study, prayer, and meditation. The process included intense group discussion as well as time for solitude. Beyond that, the pastors commit themselves to on-going study and meditation.

This experience has been a great blessing. Yes, I believe it helps our pastors be more effective with Baby Boomers and Busters. But it doesn't stop there. They are

more effective in reaching everyone. They are better pastors. Period. We now call this retreat experience by a new name, the "Journey Project." About 40 of our pastors are involved in this program voluntarily.

This specially planned time, away from the nearly constant demands of their pastoral work, has helped re-charge pastors spiritually as well as grow spiritually.

Don't take my word for it. Let pastors speak for themselves.

— "I have participated in many conference programs that improved my pastoral skills and gave me new information," said Sandra Roberts, then an associate pastor of our Corona church. "But rarely have I experienced something that is transformational.

**"THIS IS
THE BEST
THING THAT
HAS EVER
HAPPENED
IN MY LIFE."**

The "Journey Project" is transformational. It has changed my relationship with God, and this sustains me in ministry."

— "This is the best thing that has ever happened in my life," said Justin Singh, pastor of the Colton/Fontana Church. "It is an ingenious project. I've learned how to spend time alone with God, to be vulnerable, to be shaped by the Spirit. And my church members tell me my ministry has changed—for the better!"

At one time, seminary training for



our pastors centered on study of the original Bible languages, exegesis, theology, preaching, and church history. These are very important tools. Only recently, however, has seminary training also included time for "spiritual formation,"

or the spiritual growth of pastors.

I believe that local congregations that invest in their pastor's spiritual growth will reap many benefits. How can you help make this happen?

First, encourage your pastor to participate in retreats that foster spiritual growth.

Second, allocate the time for this to happen. Realize that the days your pastor is involved in this kind of planned retreat is not the same as a vacation. Retreats are demanding as well as refreshing.

Third, understand that quality retreat programs of this kind cost something. In our conference we have been fortunate to have an executive committee that believes in the "Journey Project" and has allocated several thousands of dollars to make it available to 40 or more pastors each year.

All of us are eager for Christ to return soon. We want our pastors to preach and teach this message with all their hearts. I encourage you to support them in this mission by providing concrete ways to help them grow spiritually.



Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Support the World Mission work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in telling the story of Jesus. World Budget offerings support World Mission and other specialized outreach such as radio and television ministries, Christian Record Services, inner city ministries, and Adventist colleges.

You can give to the World Budget offering on the second Sabbath of each month, or place an offering for World Budget in a tithe envelope any Sabbath.

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**ADVENTIST
MISSION**

Seventh-day Adventist Church
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904

Adopt a church and watch it grow!

by Ken Wade

When the Camarillo Church adopted Grant and Anna Agadjanian in 1997, they got more than they bargained for. They got a whole city—maybe even a whole country—Agadjanians were new Adventists who only recently had moved to the US from the tiny former Soviet republic of Belarus.

“We lived in Vitebsk, a large university city with a long history of greatness, for all our lives and never heard of Seventh-day Adventists,” said Anna. “But because of

health concerns I was looking for good ideas to change my lifestyle. On vacation in Ukraine I bought two books, *The Adventist Home* and *The Ministry of Healing*.”

But only after moving to Glendale did the Agadjanians learn that the author of those books was a Seventh-day Adventist. Then they met a Russian pastor who began giving them Bible studies, and soon they joined a church in Loma Linda, Calif.

But their hearts remained in their home country, and they hoped that somehow they could help to bring the message they

Grant and Anna Agadjanian help Pastor Tim Garrison to get a perspective of the Vitebsk church's location in Belarus.



had learned to love to the relatives and friends they had left behind. In 1999, they encouraged the Camarillo Church to adopt a sister church—in Vitebsk.

At that time there were about 300 members meeting in three churches in a city of 400,000. With the aid and encouragement of Camarillo members, one congregation of 150 began to reach out to their community.

The first step was to build new, larger quarters for the congregation. The new church building was finished in December, 1999, and the very next month they launched into an evangelistic campaign. By the end of February the church had grown by 50 percent with the baptism of 82 new members.

The Camarillo Church then raised more funds to help hold a major evangelistic campaign, which was held in November, 2000, and again resulted in nearly 50 percent growth with 129 baptisms!

This amazing church growth in Vitebsk has encouraged the Agadjanians to dream big for their whole country. "There are six counties in Belarus," Grant said. "And each of them has an Adventist church. But the people there are so poor—many living on only a few dollars a month—that they can't even buy Bibles or Bible studies to share. Our dream is that there may be five more Adventist churches here in America that would each adopt one of

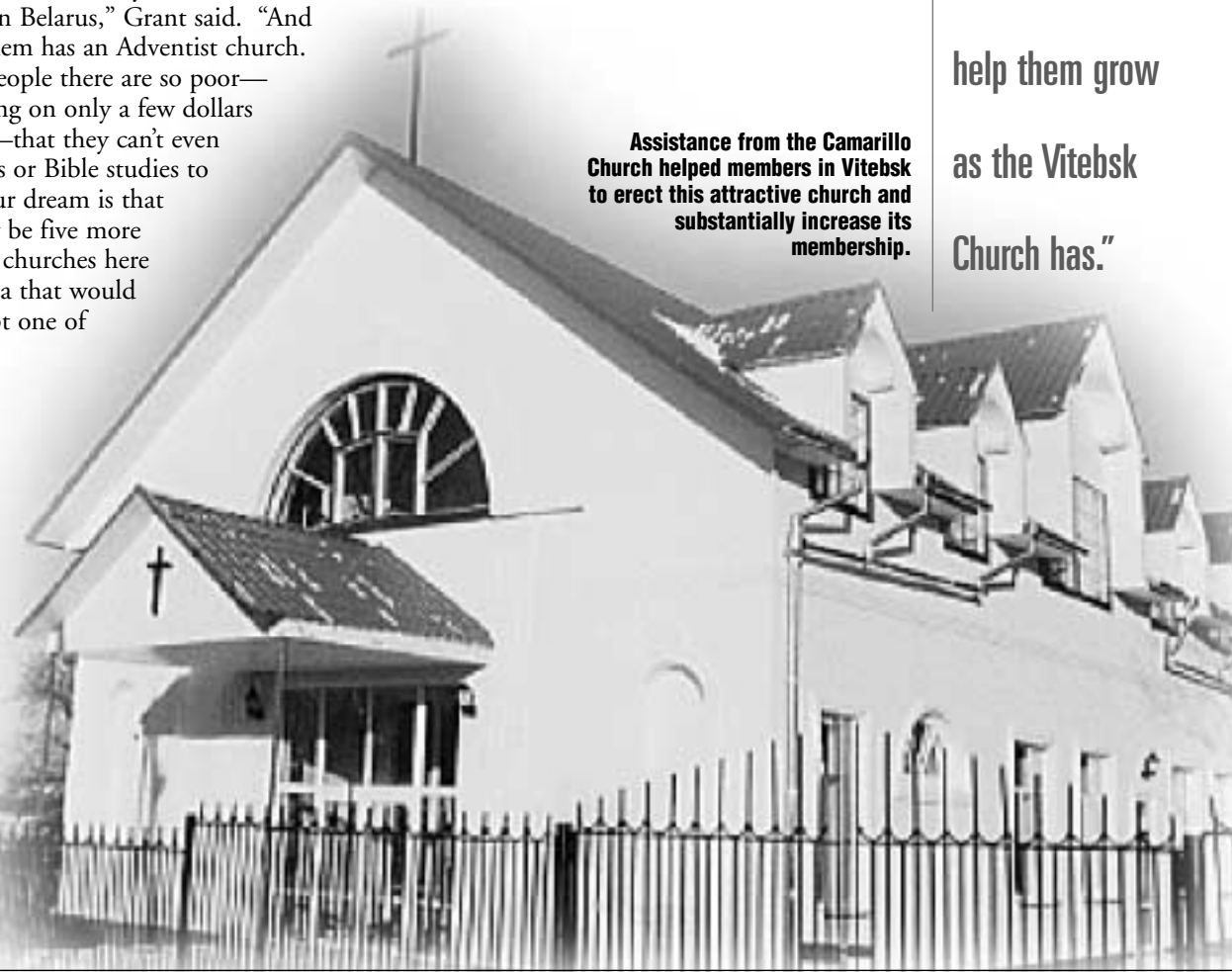
these other churches and help them grow as the Vitebsk Church has."

There are tremendous opportunities for spreading the gospel in this tiny country that has been largely overlooked in the Adventist evangelistic efforts in the former Soviet Union. Anyone who is interested in making a difference in Belarus can contact the Agadjanians by calling them at 805-499-4527, or by contacting the Camarillo Church at 805-482-4632. They are hoping that there will be more churches who can get excited about adopting a sister church and helping it grow.

If you're interested in the area where Vitebsk is, check the back of your *Sabbath School Quarterly*. You'll find Belarus on the map of the Euro-Asia Division, which is the focus of the mission offerings this quarter.

"Our dream is that there may be five more Adventist churches here in America that would each adopt one of these other churches and help them grow as the Vitebsk Church has."

Assistance from the Camarillo Church helped members in Vitebsk to erect this attractive church and substantially increase its membership.



PARABLE MAKER PRODUCTIONS, A CHRISTIAN media production company, recently received a grant from the Pacific Union to fund a longstanding dream—to produce a Christian video magazine that captures the real-life struggles and triumphs of youth and young adults conducting ministries around the world.

“Anyone, Anywhere”

by Rebecca Kendall

Few are as inspired or qualified to do the job as the owners of Parable Maker Productions, Edye Campos, 31, producer and production manager, an Atlantic Union College alumnus, and Mark Phillips, 27, producer and director, a Pacific Union College alumnus.

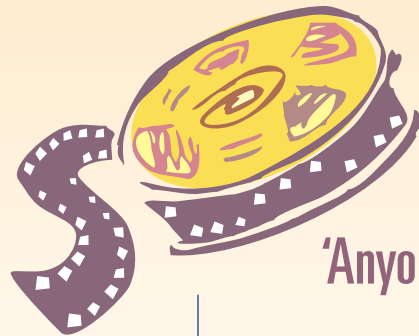
Based in their home and studio in Loma Linda, Calif., they combine progressive filming techniques and cutting-edge technologies to reach an audience some wryly refer to as the “MTV generation.”

“When Christ was on earth, he spoke in parables because it was the language that people could understand,” Campos explained. “Similarly, through film and video, we are striving to reach our peers in a language they understand—the visual media.”

Campos and Phillips believe that the world will be changed through Christian media, and incremental steps such as a video magazine and the production of films with powerful, yet subtle Christian story lines will ultimately reach the masses.



Mark Phillips and Edye Campos



Titled, "Anyone, Anywhere," the video magazine hopes to capture and inspire the idea, as implied by its name, that God can use the talents of young people no matter 'who' they are, or 'where' they are.

"Studies show that many young people leave the church and don't come back until they have children," Phillips explained. "God only knows how that void affects our mission as a church. If you look at the secular world, the opposite is true—18 to 35-year-olds are the most prevalent and sought after creative work force. We hope 'Anyone, Anywhere,' will replace some of the void and tap into the young energy to help finish God's work."

To complete their mission, Parable Maker plans to join forces with many youth and young adult resources. "A vital component for this video magazine will be the work of Bailey Gillespie and the Hancock Center at La Sierra University to help us research the themes, trends and the needs of young adults," Campos added. "And much of the soundtrack will be produced by some of our own Adventist musicians and friends like Big Face Grace, Catch 77, and Michael Priebe."

Parable Maker also plans to look to academies, college students, and even independent producers for stories and creative input.

"Many of our schools have state-of-the-art cameras and editing facilities, and a few have fantastic graphics programs," Phillips commented. "We hope young people all over the world will grab their fathers' DV cameras to capture their friends doing outreach and then send the tape to us to be incorporated on 'Anyone, Anywhere.'"

For young people across the world, "Anyone, Anywhere" will provide an opportunity to expose what is happening in their neighborhood and the exciting ministries they are conducting. Parable Maker hopes as the video magazine grows so will demand, forcing local churches to provide their

youth group with the video tools necessary to begin a religious media campaign in their area. In turn, the youth group will become more excited about taking an active role in ministry and reaching the secular world.

"It's a form of ministry that interests them," Campos adds. "Adults might hold an evangelistic campaign, and the youth will promote it by producing a commercial for broadcast on local TV."

Stories needed

Parable Maker also hopes that young people will recycle ministries and outreach ideas featured on the video magazine in their own community. The goal of "Anyone, Anywhere" is to not only portray young adult Christians in ministry, but to get a glimpse into the real life of each individual. "And hopefully," Phillips said, "What we capture will be contagious."

The first edition of "Anyone, Anywhere" will be titled, "Changing the Face of Church," and will feature innovative outreach programs and how they are reaching young people and the un-churched. Other components of the video include short story segments, documentaries, comical skits and interviews with music artists.

The "Anyone, Anywhere" video magazine will be available for purchase through subscription by spring '02.

"The key here is to get enough subscriptions from teachers, parents and pastors," Campos adds with a smile. "If we get that, then syndicating "Anyone, Anywhere" on network television or satellite is a baby step away."

The Pacific Union was the first to offer the necessary financial support to make the production a reality. Through the specific support of Thomas Mostert, Jr., Brian Neal, and Wayne Shepperd, "Anyone, Anywhere" can finally take flight.

Parable Maker has produced numerous youth and young adult resource materials which are listed on its Web site. For more info or to share a story idea, call Parable Maker Productions at 909-796-3504 or visit its Web site at parablemaker.com.

'Anyone,
Anywhere,'
will replace
some of the
void and tap
into the
young energy
to help finish
God's work."

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DOES HE CARE?

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Adventist Health News Notes

Adventist Health logs another successful JCAHO survey

Adventist Health hospitals logged an average 91 percent with scores ranging from 86 to 97 percent in its recent system-wide survey by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

Home care agencies averaged a record 97 percent with scores ranging from 92 to 100 percent. A variety of other services were also surveyed, including long-term care, partial programs and laboratory. All scored in the 90s.

"We're very pleased that our hospitals, home care agencies and other services did so well on their JCAHO surveys," said Wynelle Huff, RN, PhD, vice president of Delivery of Care for Adventist Health. "Our high scores represent a continual and focused effort toward providing excellence in health care demonstrating that our system and its facilities are leading competitors in the health care industry."

JCAHO accredits almost 20,000 health care organizations worldwide to ensure quality and compliance with national standards. There are many advantages that go along with receiving JCAHO's "stamp of approval" including the fact that it enhances community confidence, stimulates quality improvement efforts, aids in staff recruitment and provides a report card to the public.

White Memorial Medical Center implements newborn hearing test

White Memorial Medical Center has implemented one of the first Newborn Hearing Screening Programs in California. Earlier in the year, the hospital received the Department of Health Services approval to be a certified provider of infant hearing screenings. The screenings only take a few minutes, are painless and very reliable. Both Glendale Adventist Medical Center and Paradise Valley Hospital have already implemented similar programs.

Paradise Valley Hospital participates in local asthma initiative

The Respiratory Care Department at Paradise Valley Hospital has teamed up with the San Diego County Childhood Asthma Initiative to provide education and treatment for asthmatic children five years of age and under. Asthma Coordinators will make home visits and carry a caseload of families who will be educated on environmental control and home asthma management.

The hospital and mid-city Family Resource Center are the "home base" for the Asthma Coordinators, a group of respiratory therapists who are extensively trained in the diagnosis, treatment and management of chronic lung diseases.

St. Helena Hospital debuts "HealthSource" on its web site

Want to learn more about your mom's heart disease diagnosis? Need to find out how to lose weight safely? Thanks to St. Helena Hospital, important health information is now just a mouse click away. The hospital's web site, www.sthelenahospital.org, recently introduced HealthSource.

The information resource, updated daily, includes breaking health news, a searchable health library, health topic and action centers, and weekly health features. HealthSource also provides links to other relevant web sites and points users to hospital resources such as classes, seminars and ongoing programs that can help users maintain good health.

Nigerian dignitary visits San Joaquin Community Hospital

Bishop Margaret Idahosa, from the Church of God Mission International, recently made a special stop at San Joaquin Community Hospital (SJCH) as part of her tour of the United



Left to Right – Mabel Stevens, administrative assistant to Bishop Margaret Idahosa; Jarrod McNaughton, Marketing Coordinator at SJCH; Bishop Margaret Idahosa; and Rick Jolliff, project coordinator at SJCH.

States. During her stay a luncheon was held at a local hotel to highlight the ministry's global activities and to thank local organizations throughout Bakersfield, Calif., for their support.

Each year, SJCH and other local organizations send medical supplies and teams of volunteer professionals to help meet the needs of this ministry. In addition, Bishop Idahosa and her assistant took a tour of SJCH and were inspired with ideas for the ministry's hospital facilities in Nigeria.

Glendale Adventist Medical Center's newsworthy addition

Glendale Adventist Medical Center recently purchased state-of-the-art equipment that will assist radiologists in the early detection of breast cancer. The new R2 ImageChecker®, purchased with help from the hospital's Charitable Foundation, is drawing much attention and has been featured in several area media outlets. The hospital is the only facility in Los Angeles County to have an advanced computer aided detection system.

Executive changes throughout Adventist Health

The following are recent executive changes and/or appointments within Adventist Health: Sharlet Waters was named director of Health Information Management for Adventist Health; Dale Northrop was appointed CFO for Castle Medical Center; Susan Perry was named vice president of Patient Care Services at Simi Valley Hospital & Health Care Services; and Ellen Tryon has appointed interim vice president of Patient Care for Sonora Community Hospital.

Camp meeting— a Foreign Experience

by Deborah Gorbenko

This would be the beginning of my summer communication internship with the *Pacific Union Recorder* and I didn't know what to expect. Utah was a foreign place to me and the reason I was going to was foreign as well, I had never worked at a camp meeting.

Once I entered Hobble Creek Canyon near Springville where the Nevada-Utah Conference holds their annual camp meeting I knew the experience would be one to learn from and remember.

The grass-covered campsite was a pleasant surprise and the small atmosphere endearing. As I talked with people I found I was not the only one who had been charmed by the camp meeting.

A praise team arrived from Loma Linda, Calif., Monday, June 18, hoping to touch hearts during their six-day mission of leading the youth tent.

The team was also delighted with the camp atmosphere and the helpful staff and young people. "I'm very impressed with the youth here, they are very responsive," commented team member Amanda Hall.



Tahoe juniors signed a song for the adult Sabbath school.

The theme for the Youth tent, *Walking on Water*, brought the apostle Peter's story of faith alive. The praise team focused the young people on their relationship with God. "We want to help young people understand that God is a personal God and active in their life," said Iki Taimi, team member.

To show the importance of a personal and community relationship with God, they used drama, trust falls and testimonies to.

"Throughout the week kids kept telling us how blessed they were from the services," said David Ocegüera, another team member, "but I think we were as blessed, if not more blessed, from the experiences there."

When my work in Utah was over I left with new friends, friends who had taught me a little more about faith. Some of these friends I will see again and some I will not, but we all learned. Still foreign

Later in July as I drove through

Springville youth leaders from La Sierra Praise Team challenged the youth to let their faith grow.

Sacramento on my way to Tahoe Camp Meeting, I began to get excited about another week of camp meeting ahead of me. Though it would be my third camp meeting for the summer I knew it would be different from Springville and Redwood.

A New Beginning was the camp meeting theme, partly because this would be the first time the Nevada-Utah Conference would be unable to help organize or fund the Lake Tahoe Camp Meeting.

I was only vaguely aware of the relationship between laypeople and church workers, and I hadn't even known there was a camp meeting at Lake Tahoe. But on July 30, I was introduced to both of these unknowns.

Preparations dated back to September 2000, when both California and Nevada church members began working on the camp meeting plans from their states. Even though there was no conference involvement in organization and funding, the laypeople did have their support.

A big part of working on the

committee was accepting responsibility and following through. All were counting on one another. "Each individual had specific responsibilities and took ownership," explained Pastor Al Tilstra, chairman of the planning committee.

As I worked in the Information Station, those who were aware of the "changing of hands" would stop and ask what changes had been made, because the changes were not easy to see. "When you start something new, you don't want to reinvent the wheel," Tilstra remarked.

As the week continued, I began to see God more clearly. Not only through the people, but also through their actions..

When the camp meeting tree decorations were loaned to us by "chance," the youth saw the practical application of Rom. 12:14-21 and 2 Samuel 9 because their kindness was

rewarded with a day of free bowling. The primary children received a second chance to witness in the community.

This close Adventist family that arrives every year for their "reunion" at Lake Tahoe closed the week with "Reflections." Jane Poynter, a member of the planning committee, took on the task of putting together a slide show of pictures during the week.

With the help of volunteers the tents were taken down and the camp cleared by 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 5. "I think the pastors were really surprised we got it done so fast," commented camper Dan Myers.

As I left the campground, I found myself smiling. I have been blessed by my experience there. I felt less naive, and I knew that if I have the chance to help next year, I will.

Nevada-Utah's 10th Anniversary Women's Retreat

in Reno, Nev.,

October 12 to 14.

Guest speaker: Carla Gober.

Workshops by Ginger Church, Carla and Mae Gober and Linda Pennick.

Vespers concert by recording artist, Amy Reich.

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Jan Lloyd recognized by Utah governor

Utah Governor Mike Leavitt recently recognized Jan Lloyd, a member of the Price, Utah, Seventh-day Adventist Church, for her dedication as a volunteer at San Rafael Junior High School in Ferron, Utah.

Lloyd received a special certificate from Leavitt on May 10, recognizing her as "Point of Light" number 27 in the governor's effort to recognize outstanding volunteers from around the state. The governor's office selects an outstanding volunteer for each week and then recognizes them in a special ceremony at the Utah state capitol building.

For the past two years, Lloyd has been volunteering in Tim Farr's Spanish classes. She attends all the classes, helps Farr prepare materials, encourages students to complete their assignments, and aids students who fall behind and need special attention. There are times when she has even delivered materials to students' home on days they've been absent.

"Her service is a great help to

students, parents, and faculty. She is mentor for students and a valued teaching assistant," said a faculty member.

Lloyd was one of four volunteers honored at the May 10 in the gold room of the state capitol building. Governor Leavitt talked about the service Lloyd has given and expressed

his appreciation to her for sharing her time.

Jan started volunteering in the Spanish class not only to facilitate the classroom but also to learn the Spanish language. She wanted to be able to communicate and teach English to local Adventist Mexican immigrants who had moved into the area to help them become acculturated into Utah and to actively include them into the Price Church. As result of her hard work in the classroom, Lloyd not only became functional in Spanish to successfully bridge language barriers, but was also a powerful Christian witness in the classroom, sharing her doctrinal lifestyles and values when opportunities were available.



Utah Governor Mike Leavitt expresses appreciation to Jan Lloyd for her dedication as a volunteer.

Pathfinder teen river trip features baptisms

by Carol Benton,
assistant Pathfinder coordinator for South San Diego County

For Pathfinder teens, just the words “river trip” bring up memories of water fights, tipped canoes and sunburns. This year was no exception, but there was more—a Master Guide Investiture and a baptism in the river when 432 teens and their adult counselors—the largest group yet—gathered April 5 to 8, at the Colorado River.

For 32 years the river trip has been a reward for teen leaders in Southeastern California for their leadership in the Pathfinder Clubs.

For the past couple of years three Rocky Mountain Pathfinder Clubs of about 40 teens have also joined them. Their leaders, Cindy and Zeck Santana, were former Pathfinders leaders at the Redlands Church.

On Friday the teens floated from Needles to Park Moabi, a 12-mile trek, and then on Sunday floated 17 miles from Park Moabi to Castle Rock. Friday evening, four Pathfinders were invested as Master Guides:

Nathan Ascroft, Janelle Moreno, Cory Downs, and Don Gwinn.

The young people themselves led the spiritual emphasis of the weekend presenting the music, devotionals and sermon. Five youth were baptized in the river Sabbath morning. Those participating were Antonio and Angel Andrade, from the Fallbrook Spanish Church, and Cory, Zack, and Joanie Downs, from the Campus Hill Church.

“In 1996, we had our first baptism during the river trip weekend,” Rudy Carrillo pointed out, “and every year since then, there has been at least one baptism. It is a wonderful witness to the other campers in the area.”

Carrillo, youth director for the Southeastern California Conference, concluded the Sabbath services by calling for those who had never dedicated themselves to the Lord to



Teens from the Tierrasanta Trekkers Pathfinder Club and the Indio Spanish Pathfinder Club navigated almost 30 miles of the Colorado River during their river trip weekend.

come forward for a special prayer service. More than 50 individuals came forward.

“Our young people went home with many blessings to share with their individual clubs,” added Carrillo. “Pathfinders is an important ministry of our church. Only in heaven will we see the real impact of Pathfinders. There will be people there that saw a little bit of Jesus in their leaders and staff.”

Yucca Valley Pilots “Team School”

by Kit Watts

To provide Adventist education for eight children this past year, the members of the Yucca Valley Church forged a successful and unique combination of home-schooling and formal classroom education.

“It was an outstanding success,” said Marilyn Beach, who worked closely with the school as an associate superintendent of education for the Southeastern California Conference. “Parents agreed to home-school their children for three days each week. A retired teacher was hired for two days

a week to teach classes, answer questions, prepare assignments, and do testing.” What emerged is known affectionately as a “Team School.”

Yucca Valley Church had operated a traditional school in 1999-2000. When the number of potential students dwindled to four, however, the families involved began to look at new options.

“I guess you are never too old to learn,” quipped Mel Kurtz, who came out of retirement to teach in the innovative school. “I was intrigued

with the idea. If it could work for us, maybe it can be used in other small churches who want Christian education for their children.”

One of the mothers had home-schooled her children before but saw advantages to augmenting this with classroom-based study. A second mother had volunteered in the classroom but was concerned about becoming her children’s sole teacher at home.

“The Team School has been successful for several reasons,” Beach said.



To enhance a unit on disabilities, the students received a personal tour of the Braille Institute by a blind guide. Diana Jacques, along with her classmates, has a chance to try reading Braille with her fingertips.

the year with her Team School classmates; her Navy chaplain father was transferred to Florida.

- Also, classroom space was readily available in the area previously used for the church school. Parents could bring their children to the school anytime during the week to use resources.

- A sixth factor in the school's success was that the price was right. Tuition was \$100 per

month. The school never went in the red.

- Finally, the parents have been very imaginative in setting up educational fieldtrips—16 in all. By choice, they scheduled the trips for home-school days.

“Recently we had a unit on weather,” explained Tami Jacques, one of the home-school moms and a nurse practitioner. “Our studies culminated in a trip up the Palm Springs Tramway to observe the five climate zones between the desert floor and the summit on Mt. San Jacinto. Everyone enjoyed the contrast in weather patterns. At 8,516 feet we were having

a snowball fight while later, in Palm Springs, we soaked up the sun.”

During a unit study on disabilities each child chose a handicap and wrote a report on the way that disability would affect his or her life. They visited the Guide Dogs of the Desert and watched seeing-eye dogs being trained. At the Braille Institute, the next stop of the day, a blind lady served as their guide. “The children were fascinated at how well she could get around using her white cane,” said Jacques. “They also got to try their hands at reading Braille.”

When studying birds, the children traveled to the Salton Sea to observe wintering flocks. They enjoyed a tour of the Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center that rehabilitates injured birds of prey. Finally, the students made lists of the many bird species they had seen and drew pictures of their favorites.

How successful has the Team School experiment been?

All children who are in third grade or above took achievement tests. “We learned that each child has had more than a year’s growth. And all are working above their grade level,” reported Beach. “Some are as much as three years ahead of what we normally expect.” Overall, Beach added, it has been a very positive experience.

- First, the teacher provided structure. The children used the same textbooks that are used throughout SECC schools. Like other traditional students, the children meet for school 180 days per year. A church-nominated school board manages the Team School. The teacher is paid according to the conference wage scale for his two-day week.

- Second, the group is small enough that the teacher can provide individualized assignments for each child, even for those in the same class. This is satisfying to both the teacher and the students.

- Third, the schedule is flexible on home-school days. One mother explained that she and the children began about 11 a.m.—and continued until they’d finished the day’s assignments. Another mother found her child working on an assignment at 5 a.m. “He had other things he wanted to do later in the day,” she said.

- Another important ingredient in success was the children themselves. They were willing to try something new. Asked his opinion about Team School, 11-year old Caleb Carpenter said, “It rocks!”

For two students who have been home-schooled before, having classmates is new and fun. Joanna Arnott, who had always been in a classroom before, missed seeing her friends each day. But she readily agreed that not having to be at school at 8:15 every morning was very nice.

Katie Fredrickson, 12, was disappointed that she couldn’t finish



On one of 16 field trips taken by the Team School in Yucca Valley, the students capped off a unit focusing on thermal activity in Southern California by hiking into Amboy Volcanic Crater and then visiting the Desert Hot Springs Spa Hotel. Left to right the students are Joanna Arnott, Jennifer Channer, Jon Arnott, Diana Jacques, Katie Fredrickson, Laura Jacques, Caleb Carpenter, and Sara Arnott.

MVA students learn the cell science

by Amanda Anguish

If someone were to ask the average high school student what a cell group is, the student would probably talk about protons, neutrons, nuclei, and so on. On the other hand, if someone were to ask a Mountain View Academy (MVA) student what a cell group is, they'd probably ask you to be more specific. MVA students know a cell group can also be a small group of Christians coming together to learn to lead other small groups to God's Word. After all, MVA students aren't average.

When Myronie Talento, Sunnyvale's new Young Adult pastor, came to the area, she definitely had a passion for starting something in the Silicon Valley. That something was to nurture and train teenagers and adults to lead others to Christ. Not only has she begun that process in the Sunnyvale, Calif., church, she is now

working with the students of Mountain View Academy.

"I really believe it's vital. This is the nourishment of our church," said Myronie. "I believe there are two wings to the church. One is congregational worship and the other is [cell] groups."

Each cell is nurtured and, as the individuals are able to start their own cell groups, the cell multiplies. This idea goes back to the original church talked about in Acts chapter 2. Not only did the disciples get together in the temple on Sabbath, but they met in each others' homes and in the temple during the week.

"We often separate our secular lives from our spiritual lives, depending on the day of the week," said Myronie, "but cell groups help bring our spiritual lives into every day, just like they did for the disciples.

This sharpens and reminds us, and makes it a habit to live each day what we believe."

So far the only successful cell churches are outside the United States. Some individuals have left successful engineering and medical positions to start cell groups. Cell groups take a lot of time and a lot of dedication, but once done they manage to keep refueling the fire in so many who are brought to the church, but don't know what to do after they've been baptized.

Like any other student of God's Word, Mountain View Academy students are learning and growing in their faith. Although only just begun, cell groups will help MVA students find meaning and purpose to their Christianity and give them the training they need to bring their friends to Christ.



Pastor Myronie Talento (left) and MVA Bible teacher Curtis Wright meet with MVA students each week for Bible study and training. Participating students are learning to be cell group leaders.

How Cells Work

From www.cellgroup.com by Ted Stump

There are two primary focuses of student-led cell groups:

A. Evangelism

Equipped with well planned strategies, student leaders reach out to their well defined circle of friends. The outreach cell includes three types of students: 1. Seekers, 2. Hurting or New Believers, and 3. Healthy Christians. In each cell there's a student leader, a student co-leader and a key adult to help ensure the success of the cell.

B. Leadership development and edification

The primary role of adult youth workers and volunteers is to pour their lives into the student leaders, not into every member. The adults encourage, equip, hold accountable, mentor, disciple and edify the student leaders. The student leaders, in turn, work with their cells. (That's the structure of the cell model at work; An adult mentor can disciple a few student leaders much more easily than every member of several small groups.)

Cell groups reach out to youth in the context of love, care and support. In a world that is void of meaningful relationships, youth are drawn to Christ by their peers, and in the group, they can often experience unconditional love for the first time— the love of Jesus. Some non-negotiables for teen cell groups Youth ministries can tailor their cells to their own particular needs. But there are a few essential things each cell group must do in order to be successful.

1. **Meet in homes.** There's something special, intimate and safe about meeting in different homes each week. Plus, it makes more sense and is easier for kids to attend meetings in homes they're probably visiting on a regular basis anyway.
2. **Multiply.** If the cell doesn't split in two by the time it reaches 15 members, the numbers will actually start to decline as the kids observe how much more

unmanageable the group has become with more than 15 of their peers in it. Student-led. This is a must! Adults have to give teens the responsibility of leadership while mentoring, encouraging, teaching, and yes, if necessary, allowing them to fail. The group has to be the student leader's baby completely.

Even mix of spiritual maturity. If there isn't a good balance of kids, the group can't work properly. The group needs non-Christians or it becomes a holy huddle. But the right combination of non-Christians, new Christians and mature Christians can cause a unique dynamic. The lost can find life. The hurting believers can grasp hope. And the mature Christians realize, "God can use me."

African-Americans give \$50,000 for evangelism at convocation

When pastors and members of the African-American Region churches met for their annual Convocation earlier this year following a week of revival meetings, they affirmed their belief in evangelism with an offering of \$50,000. Of that amount \$3,000 was donated by Region youth.

The offering was the largest in the region's history and is bolstering its annual evangelism budget.

Region director James G. Lee said, "We praise God for this offering, which will basically be used by our churches planning to conduct major evangelism in the remaining part of 2001

and for lay evangelism. God's Holy Spirit blessed mightily in a three-church crusade, even before funds from this offering could be made available."

Some 52 persons were baptized initially, with baptisms of several more candidates in subsequent weeks.

The early summer crusade was coordinated by Pastors Homer Hart, Howard Small and Sam Boynton of the respective Philadelphian, Compton Community and Miramonte Boulevard churches.

Some 52 persons were baptized initially, with baptisms of several more candidates in subsequent weeks, and many others are taking Bible studies.

Pastors and members praise God for His blessings on the series.

"The evangelist who was scheduled to speak for the meetings became ill and Howard Small, pastor of the Compton



Pastor-Evangelist Howard Small

Community Adventist church, stepped in on very short notice," Lee said. "He and all of us who were praying through this emergency situation were clear that God answered our prayers and blessed the speaker and members as they moved forward in faith."

The series launched a "New Life" church group that is now meeting at the Long Beach Adventist School auditorium, 4951 Oregon Avenue.

A series Bible worker (r) embraces a baptismal candidate.

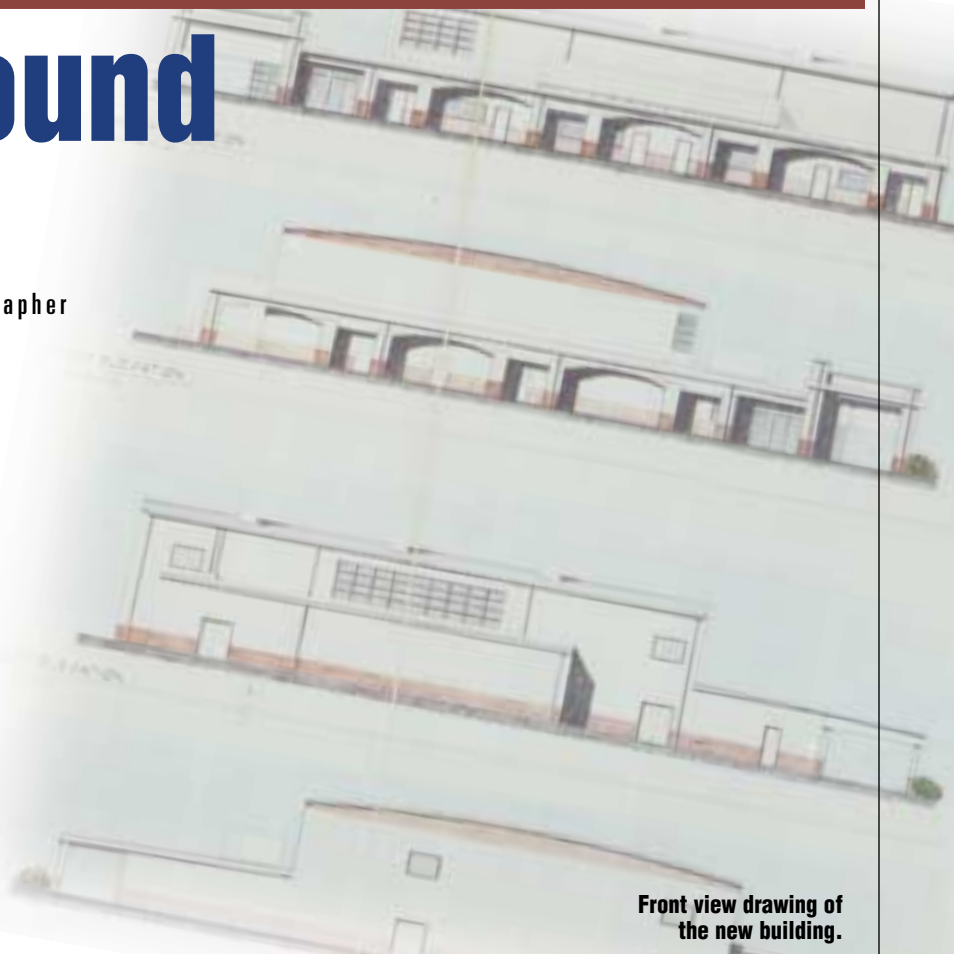
LAAA ground breaking

Barbara Hart, Reporter-Photographer

Construction began in June on a new multipurpose building at Los Angeles Adventist Academy and is expected to be completed before the end of the 2001-2002 school year.

The new structure will include classrooms for students in grades 9 to 12 and a gymnasium.

Constituent churches need to raise another \$45,000 to complete the project. Additional funding is needed to help purchase other equipment and supplies. For more information about the project, contact LAAA's business office at 323-321-2585.



Front view drawing of the new building.

L to r: Lorenzo Paytee, vice president, Southern California Conference, James Clizbe, Superintendent of education, former board member, William Taylor, Jasper Saunders, construction manager, and Larry Caviness, president, Southern California Conference. Three students (l to r),

Sean Todd and Marquitta Watts also took part in the ceremonies.



Redwood camp meeting - a different perspective

by Deborah Gorbenko

It was like going home. Only this time I would not be playing in the creek bed or cliff jumping at the river with friends. I'd be working.

Redwood Camp Meeting is the third largest camp meeting on the west coast, so I was a little nervous about the work I'd be doing with the *Redwood Gazette*, the campground newsletter.

As the week began I attended all the younger divisions. I was impressed with each program. Though the themes were different, it seemed the main emphasis was the importance of a personal relationship with God. Each department's theme produced many interesting analogies and insights linking God to the things we know—the physical or logical things of this earth.

Redwood camp meeting has always had a very large group of booths that make up the camp meeting "Mall." When I was younger and still playing in the creek, I remember passing by

each booth with friends, not spending much time at any one booth but looking for food or free gifts. However, as with everything this year, my experience at the mall was different.

There were ministries and opportunities that went beyond food and free gifts. Pollywog, BCSS, Gospel Outreach, community service, literature evangelism, St. Helena Hospital, Adventist Historical Village and so many other ministries. For most of the representatives their job was to increase awareness about their particular ministry and they really enjoyed doing it. As I listened to the enthusiastic reports of each ministry, it became apparent that I had it all wrong as a kid.

Earth Geodome exhibit

A highlight of this year's Redwood camp meeting was the Mission: Earth Geodome. Adventist World Radio has designed and equipped this structure to celebrate its 30th anniversary and to inform people of AWR's existence.

The exhibit arrived on Thursday and was operational by Friday. As I entered the spherical room, I was amazed at the complicated electrical equipment that was being set up. While talking to Rodney Bowes, team leader, I found that this two story circular attraction would be set up 10 times by the end of its summer tour—no easy task.

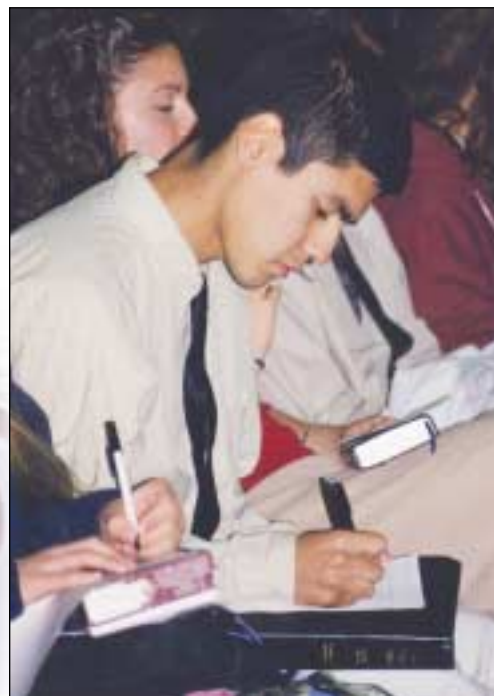
The dome was filled with information including a continuous count of the world population and a count of those who have not yet heard about the gospel. "I've gotten the most comments about the incredible numbers," said Bowes, "The miracle of the exhibit is the world population number goes up as the unreached by the gospel number goes down."

Also featured inside was a quiz game show "Who wants to be a

PACIFIC UNION RECORDER ■ SEPTEMBER 2001



Baptism: Pastor Chris Hagen and Tommy Shewmake watch as Josh Volkov welcomes Allison Cox into the Family.



Youth participating in Sabbath School activities.

Adventist World Radio Geodome Fast Facts

- AWR target audience 10/40 window
- Broadcasting in 55 languages
- More shortwave radios in operation today than any other time in history
- 20 million listeners
- Every day 260,000 people die without hearing the work Christ
- 11 percent of the world population know about Jesus
- 229 countries in the world, 204 countries with Adventist presence
- 84% of the world is closed to missionaries
- 53 studios around the world
- AWR broadcasts 1200 hours per week
- AWR first broadcast was on March 6, 1987
- Programs produced by nationals in their own tongue
- Largest Adventist congregation is in China with over 5000 members



Mission service opportunities were available in the GeoDome.



The GeoDome's attractive displays drew all ages.

missionary" with interactive multimedia mission information, flags from more than 100 countries and Pioneer Missionary Overview.

Computers were set up allowing access to online service opportunity listings and the chance to email a missionary. It was a dome of information.

While I explored the exhibit I saw a quote from a five-year-old girl named Gabi flashed across one of the T.V. screens: "Missionaries help people—they are life savers." Many of these quotes revealed children's ideas of missionaries and what they do. As I watched, the pictures and quotes touched my heart and made me realize the impact we have on the world and the enormity of the task ahead of us.

The Geodome received a positive response and many people were interested in what they could do to help.

This year's Redwood camp meeting was a new experience for me, though I'd been there many times before. I will always remember the cliff jumping and the river, but to me, Redwood camp meeting will always a social event.

Deborah Gorbenko was this year's Pacific Union Conference's summer communication intern.

The 24th Annual African-American Convocation

OCTOBER 12 & 13, 2001 • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

When & Where

Friday, 6-9 p.m.,
Capitol City
Adventist
Church, 6701
Lemon Hill Ave.

Sabbath, 8 a.m.
- 9 p.m., St. Paul
Missionary
Baptist Church,
3996 14th Ave.



Rear Admiral Barry Black

Theme:

"Lord, Enlarge Our Territory"

Featured Speakers:

Friday evening: Elder Edwin F. Brown, Pastor of the Richmond Beacon Light Church in Richmond, Calif.

Sabbath: Rear Admiral Barry Black, highest ranking chaplain in the United States Navy, from Washington, D.C.

Special Features:

Question and Answer Session with Rear Admiral Barry Black, Mass Choir, Afternoon Musical, Guest Instrumentalist

Information: Contact your pastor or the NCC Black Ministries Dept.: 925-685-4300.

Arizona Men's Retreat

coming Sept. 28 - 30

Featured speaker for this fall retreat at Camp Yavapines in "Peaceful Prescott" will be pastor Terry Darnall, with a message titled "Men? High Priest?" Saturday evening brings a concert by the Ambassadors Quartet. More than 40 men attended the

afterglow mini retreat at the Phoenix Central Church gym in March.

All men are invited to attend this retreat. More information is available through Frank 602-954-0246 or Dennis 602-431-1585 or e-mail: sdamensretreat@att.net



Some of the attendants of the March retreat pose for a memory photo.

Arizona State Geographic Bee finalist

Abigail Medina was a finalist in the Arizona State Geographic Bee Friday, April 6, in the Tucson Convention Center. Medina represented Glenview Adventist school in the final round after the preliminary round was narrowed down to ten finalists out of the 100 participants and the only girl to make the final round of the competition. Even though she was eliminated in the third round, she is truly a winner.

Medina was in Mrs. Hendrix's eighth grade class and graduated from Glenview May 30. She also received the Presidential Award.

Mrs. Hendrix said, "This is an achievement for which any student might feel justifiably proud." Medina has earned the respect and admiration of her teacher and classmates for her outstanding performance.



Abigail Medina, with her teacher Adelaide Hendrix, displays her finalist certificate in the Arizona State Geographic Bee.



(center) Peoria-Sun Cities church member Mel West and his "granddaughter" Eva Yakx enjoy some cool refreshments at the Seattle Mariners - Chicago Cubs spring training.

Peoria-Sun Cities church "adopts" freshman class

by Dudley Snarr

The Peoria-Sun Cities church members haven't chosen to "adopt" the freshman class of 2004 at Thunderbird Academy. Individual "grandparents" have selected a freshman to be their "adopted" student.

This provides students, many of whom are dormitory students away from home, with a friend. Others are day students who also enjoy the "grandparenting" support through phone calls, cards, visits and their "grandparents" attending special programs.

Recently the Peoria-Sun Cities church took the freshman class to a spring training baseball game to see the Seattle Mariners play the Chicago Cubs.

Plans are being made for a special Sabbath and pot luck dinner where the freshman will be guests.

The new relationships which are developed between the church members and students also fosters a closer interest in Thunderbird Academy. "We hope to give these students a positive image of caring by their denomination in this effort,"

says Alice Nash, current personal ministries committee chair.

Pastor Eddie Ferdinand General ordained

by David A. Pendleton

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” – JEREMIAH 29:11

Pastor Eddie Ferdinand General was ordained as a Seventh-day Adventist minister of the gospel Sabbath, June 23, at Lahaina church in Maui.

Before friends and family and surrounded by enthusiastic members of his Lahaina congregation, he solemnly vowed to “undertake to be a faithful pastor to all whom [he is] called to serve, laboring with them to build up the family of God” With the laying on of hands of Conference President Arnold Trujillo and a host of conference administrators and ordained clergy from the Hawaii Conference, Pastor General became the most recent and the youngest ordained minister in the Hawaii Conference.

The eldest of four children, Pastor General was born in Sagrada, Iriga City, Philippines. He was born into the Adventist faith but did not make it his own until he was in academy. In fact, during his elementary years he joined the thousands of “lost street children,” roaming about Manila on his own. His parents were worried sick, and no one knew his whereabouts. But God placed his providential hand over him and eventually returned him to his family.

As a student at the Adventist University of the Philippines (then called Philippine Union College), in Silang, Cavite, he recognized that God was calling him to serve as a minister of the Gospel.



“Pastor General with his wife Liza and daughter Angela”

He studied theology and met a fellow student, Liza, who was majoring in biology. They eventually married.

“I did not have my heart set on marrying a preacher, but God had other plans for me,” she confided with a smile. “It has been a wonderful experience, ministering here in one of the most beautiful places in the world. God has blessed.”

Upon graduation from the Adventist University of the Philippines, Pastor General pursued further professional development in the Clinical Pastoral Education Training program in Manila. This led to work as a hospital chaplain and eventual employment in what became Pacific Health Ministries, which is based in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Sometime later a call from Elder Lynn Martell, former president of the Hawaii Conference, resulted in a stint as a stipend pastor for the Lanai Adventist company. Then in 1998, the Hawaii Conference asked Pastor General to serve as pastor of the Lahaina Church where he presently serves.

Liza and their daughter, Angela, join Pastor Eddie General in his ministry.

Pastor General enjoys reading, music, singing, music composition and computers. He has implemented the Conference’s Ohana Groups program and shared his experiences at a church-planting seminar this summer at Andrews University.

Hawaii Conference evangelizes the Philippines—

73 Baptized

The Hawaii Conference recently partnered with the Northern Luzon Mission in the Philippines to hold an evangelistic crusade in the town of Alcala, Pangasinan.

Spanning three Sabbaths, the evangelistic crusade was a “reaping crusade” which built upon months of preparatory work and culminated in three major baptisms and two smaller baptisms. Seventy-three persons accepted Christ and were baptized by June 23.

Pastor David Pendleton of the Waiola Worship Center and one of several Hawaii Conference pastors with a Filipino background used a state-of-the-art PowerPoint presentation and a powerful video projector to deliver 13 evangelistic lectures and eight sermons during the crusade.

“I had the benefit of interpreters, but for the most part I preached in English without need of an interpreter,” Pendleton explained. “Interpreters were most needed during Bible studies and home visitations. Three dialects are spoken in Pangasinan – Ilocano, Tagalog, and Pangasinanese. But the love of God communicates well in any language.”

“We prayed for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit,” commented Pastor Rodol Roduta, the twenty-something pastor of the Alcala SDA Church. “We got that and more.” Referring to the rainy season, Pastor Roduta observed that often attendees would show up drenched from the rain. They came because of their hunger for Christ.

Alcala is a quaint little Filipino town about 200 kilometers north of Manila. It is the birthplace of retired pastor Alfredo Reyno, who has personally adopted the Alala Adventist Church and was instrumental in forming the partnership between the Hawaii Conference and the Northern Luzon Mission for this evangelistic crusade. Reyno also accompanied Pendleton to Alcala and assisted with logistics and interpretation.

“With the 73 baptisms, we more than doubled the Alcala church’s membership,” mused Pastor Reyno. “The real work begins now, the task to retain and nurture the new members.”

General Conference President becomes La Sierra University alumnus

by Christy Robinson

At its 79th annual conferring of degrees ceremony, La Sierra University bestowed the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree upon Jan Paulsen, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

“Dr. Paulsen is the Adventist denomination’s first world leader to come from such a strong academic background,” said Dr. Lawrence T. Geraty, La Sierra University president. An alumnus of Washington Theological Seminary and Andrews University, he earned the Doctor of Theology degree in New Testament from Tübingen University. As a teacher of theology and an educational administrator he has served with distinction in Ghana, Nigeria and England, in addition to his native Norway and now in the United States.

“His academic training and experience have contributed to the characteristics of open-mindedness and balanced judgment that have marked his career in church leadership,” said Geraty. “Dr. Paulsen has been a consistent advocate of the denomination’s theological maturation and has worked to enhance formal participation for educators in the church’s decision-making processes.”

“As a result, in his well-recognized style of judicious balance, his quiet integrity, and his work for mutual respect among all of the church’s diverse participants, he continues to set a tone that is influencing the positive direction of the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” Geraty added.

“Dr. Paulsen is the denomination’s first president with an earned doctoral degree,” said Geraty, “and a Doctor of Theology from no less a university than Tübingen in Germany. It is because of his honest attempt to lead the church away from narrowness and rigidity and to the light of present truth, and in appreciation of his moves in the direction of inclusivity,

collegiality, and trust, that I, on behalf of the trustees of LSU, confer on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa. We will work to make sure he can be rightly proud of his associations with us, and may God continue to lead him and use him to His glory.”

At La Sierra’s baccalaureate worship service in the University Church, Dr. Paulsen’s homily challenged the graduates to “A Bit of Adventure.” He said that life is often unfair, even for those who believe in God, but to do what one knows is right, to check one’s basic attitude to people and love them, and to try to be



Jan Paulsen and Dr. Lawrence T. Geraty.

creative and adventurous.

“Don’t get right into your career track,” he cautioned. “Take a year, and let God lead you into adventure and your personal discovery of the identity of Jesus, not your parents’ discovery, yours. The Holy Spirit will reveal Jesus to you.”

PUC invites academy students on campus—to pray

by Mike Mennard

Without a doubt God is doing something extraordinary. Simply put, He’s changing the world. And He’s doing it through and with academy and high school students who have rediscovered the power of prayer.

Some time ago, the Prayer Ministries Department of the North American Division launched a new conference, encouraging young people to do something absolutely radical—pray. As the conference has moved throughout the country, the response has been tremendous and life-changing.

On Oct. 11 to 13, Pacific Union College will host the event. It will provide tools and training in the areas of prayer, Bible study and ministry for young people of the Pacific Union. According to Mike Dunn, Pacific Union College chaplain and the event’s organizer, participants at the conference “won’t merely talk about

prayer. They’ll experience it.”

The conference is geared toward young people in high school and academy (grades 9-12) who have a desire to learn more about prayer and about how God can use them in ministry. The conference is ideal for church youth groups and academy Bible classes, Dunn said. Sponsors are expected to accompany all student groups.

All meetings will take place at Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif. Registration includes food and lodging for all three days of the conference.

To receive registration and housing forms, or simply to receive more information, contact the chaplain’s office at Pacific Union College by phone 707-965-7190, by e-mail at prayerconf@puc.edu, or by fax at 707-965-7290. Space is limited to 400 participants, so register as early as possible.

Columbia Union College wins appeal

A Federal Appeals Court ruled in June that Columbia Union College (CUC) is entitled to participate in a Maryland grant program, upholding a lower court ruling that the college is not “pervasively sectarian.” The Court accepted both of the college’s arguments, first, that schools should not be excluded from receiving aid because they are “pervasively sectarian,” and second, that in any event, CUC is not “pervasively sectarian.”

Funds were sought for mathematics, computer science and nursing programs. The court found that there was no evidence that the curriculum in these areas was “infused with religious content or significance.”

Instead, the appeals court upheld the lower court’s finding that there was “affirmative evidence indicating that secular education is the primary goal of” the school. Moreover, the court found that the grant program had sufficient safeguards to insure that the funds were used only for “secular courses of instruction.”

This ruling is a sharp repudiation of the historic principle that direct aid not flow to religious schools and colleges. While it may result in more aid becoming available to religious schools in the short run, the long term implications are troubling.

If religious schools are not really all that religious, then why should their religious freedom be protected? Why should they have the right to use religious criteria in hiring and admissions policies? These freedoms are being challenged today, especially here in California, where the state Supreme Court has accepted a case to determine whether religious institutions may use religious criteria in employment decisions.

A second appeals court ruled recently that the California Constitution does not provide any more protection for the free exercise of religion than the US Constitution, whose protections were greatly diminished in the infamous “Smith” case.

In Congressional battles over funding of faith-based organizations, liberals insist that if religious organizations want more government money, they must forfeit the right to use religious criteria in hiring. If that principle were applied today, our colleges and hospitals would no longer be able to prefer Seventh-day Adventists in hiring.

Colleges depend on student grant funds while hospital patient care is increasingly funded through Medicare and MediCal. If the liberals have their way, these funding sources could be cut off, jeopardizing the survival of religious institutions.

Maryland is expected to file an appeal to the US Supreme Court in the CUC case. Although the Court has discretion whether to accept the case, scholars close to the case believe the Court is likely to take the case. If it does, this case could become a major milestone on the road to the destruction of the separation of church and state.

Jeopardy of Conscience

The Seventh Day Adventist Church State Council is breaking new ground with a new set of radio spots going to 500 stations nationwide. They are public service announcements (PSA) designed to warn the people about the rapid loss of rights and religious liberty and the deterioration of rights of conscience in America today.

The PSAs inform and encourage people to know their rights, to think for themselves, question what they are being told, and support religious freedom and individual rights. The CD is titled “Jeopardy of Conscience.”

In our commercialized, consumer-driven society, the American public often acts as though it doesn’t understand the meaning or value of freedom of conscience or religious

liberty beyond the concept of selfish consumer choices. One spot hits this on the head by stating that religious liberty is not like choosing between “chocolate or strawberry” but that real religious liberty is defined as “your right to interpret reality for yourself. It’s about reality, not religion”.

As an offer in response to these announcements, the Church State Council has designed a new brochure titled “A Quick Guide to the religion clauses of...YOUR FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS”.

The Quick Guide is an excellent introduction to the First Amendment and religious liberty. It deals with current topics such as “faith based” funding, Free Exercise, and the notorious Supreme Court case in 1990 in which dissenting Justice Blackmun made his famous comment that “free exercise of religion” was

becoming “a luxury we can’t afford.” This is also both the title and subject of one of the radio spots—“A Luxury we Can’t Afford?”

Both the guide and the new PSAs are available for your use. One religious liberty leader has already expressed his eagerness to play the PSAs in church.

Besides the 500 stations which will receive the PSAs, you may wish to send them to your own local stations. The Quick Guides may also be ordered for families in your church, for public distribution, the names on your *Liberty* magazine list, or to other leaders in your community, including lawyers, government officials and media.

More information: 805-497-9457 ext. 396.

News Notes

Don Hevener, education superintendent and vice president of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference has been appointed vice president for education for the North American Division. He succeeds Dick Osborn who recently became president of Pacific Union College.

Nellie Vandeman, widow of the late television evangelist George Vandeman, who was speaker for the *It Is Written* program, died on Wednesday, July 25, after a prolonged illness.

A Pacific Union member, **James Pedersen**, Napa, Calif, was one of

five finalist in the recent Worthington Foods "Taste of Goodness" Recipe Contest. The cook-off was held in Battle Creek, Mich., July 2. His winning recipe entry was pesto, alfredo chicken and broccoli pasta.

To qualify for the contest, the contestant's original recipes had to use Worthington®, Natural Touch® and/or Loma Linda® veggie food products. The recipes were judged on taste, consumer appeal, appearance and creativity and must contain no more than 15 ingredients.

The Cook-Off was judged by **Jeanne Jarnes**, author of the *Sabbath Dinner Cookbook*, **Susan Harvey**, vice president of marketing and sales for

Pacific Press and two Kellogg sensory representatives, **Collette Sedivy** and **Alice Ping**.

The North American Division will hold its second annual one-day marriage commitment conference, **"From This Day Forward,"** Oct. 6, from 10 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. at the General Conference headquarters in Silver Spring, Md. Speakers: Family Life and Marriage Specialists, **Elaine and Willie Oliver** and **Gayle and Michael Tucker**. Information: Call 1-800-732-PLUS or visit www.plusline.org.

Two Reno students win Student Healthy Lifestyle Contest

by Deborah Gorbenko

Temperance is an issue that kids learn about in school and in the home, but how many of them actually take the time to understand what it means and what the effects are?

Contestants in the 2001 Student Healthy Lifestyle Contest involved students from Adventist schools and churches in the North American Division (NAD), grades one to 12. The contest is sponsored by NAD education and health ministries departments and *Listen* and *Winner* magazines.

Kelsey Belcourt won first place prize of \$1,000 and Sarah Tyman won second place prize of \$500 in the category of computer generated power point presentations. Both first and second prizes will be shared equally with their school, Silver State Adventist Academy in Reno, Nev.

"We found that the school was more enthusiastic about the contest if

it received a portion of the prize," said Frank Baker, contest coordinator, "When we first began the program, the first-place winner would receive the entire amount. That was often a very large prize. And we discovered that there usually was a teacher or principal behind the good performance of the students. And that's why we share the prize now."

Health ministries department provided all the prize money which totaled \$13,200 for 34 winning entries from 18 schools across the Division. Each entry was sent to the local conference office and then sent to NAD health ministries department for judging.

The contest is intended to help



Sarah Tyman won second place prize of \$500 in the category of computer generated power point presentations.

young people become more aware of temperance and commit to a healthy lifestyle. "The decisions that students make when they are young oftentimes stick with them throughout life," said Dr. Dewitt Williams, NAD health ministries director.

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