

In the Churches...

Out West



WEST
REGION
OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
CONFERENCE

Richard Roethler,
Director

C. Elwyn Platner
Editor

2015
Winter Edition

Winter 2015

BURBANK

2014 ended with some great programs that generated a lot of excitement in the church. They had a cooking demonstration with five members (Emily and Derek Tanghal, Rachelle Dunn, Chris Kaatz, Greg Primm, and Jan Kaatz) showing how to make their favorite food for Thanksgiving. Following the demonstrations they had a Thanksgiving meal. •Curtis Castro and Zach Dunn coordinated the Christmas program. •Burbank's new logo and website (burbanksda.com) were launched this month to introduce the church and its classes and events. •"Jesus In The Book of Revelation" is a 10-night seminar series on weekends beginning Feb. 21. It will be followed by a health class series, Eight Weeks to Wellness, which will begin in the spring.

CAMARILLO

Camarillo members celebrated the church's 40th anniversary, Jan. 3, with Elder Dan Matthews as the featured speaker. •During 2015 a wholistic approach to evangelism is being promoted addressing mind, body and soul. "Goodbye Diabetes, Heart Disease and Cancer Risk" was a lecture series Jan 9 and 10, presented by Dr. Wes Youngberg. •On March 7, Dr. Hans Diehl, Lifestyle Medicine Institute director in Loma Linda, will present a lecture series titled "Life at its Best." •"Health Lectures and Vegan Cooking Demos" is slated for Feb 22, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information: www.wholeconference.org. •The Joseph Kidder Seminar will be May 15 and 18. •"The Experiencing God Seminar" will be held in the fall. •A special Christmas concert was presented by church members and friends on Dec. 19.

The focus of Camarillo's Christmas concert was the Christ child for whom both children and adults sang.



CANOGA PARK

Canoga Park Community had a packed church on Christmas Sabbath. •They now have an adult choir, a children's choir, a youth chorus, and a small orchestra. They also had a Christmas Eve program for the community. •Members participated in the "Ten Days of Prayer" program. "I has been a spiritual bonding experience for us," said Pastor William McCall. •Plans are underway for a Share Him program. •Tim Rosenberg spoke about Islam and Christianity in Prophecy of Daniel 11 on Jan. 27.

CULVER CITY

Kathleen Diaz will coordinate a two-part health outreach for the community on Sabbath afternoons beginning Feb. 7. It begins with cooking demonstration by church member Janet Morales. This is followed by Eight Weeks to Wellness. Several church members will teach the seminar. •Sharon Chase is leading the church through the 10 Days of Prayer.

GRACE COMMUNITY

On Jan. 8, Grace Community participated in a pre-screening of the movie, "Selma." This was a great opportunity for Grace Community members to have an impact by collaborating with the Santa Barbara community, various political and religious organizations and individuals. An elder at Grace Community, Akivah Northern, was instrumental in arranging the pre-screening event. It was sponsored by more than one dozen organizations and groups including UCSB, churches, political and social justice groups. Following the viewing of Selma at the historic Arlington Theater in Santa Barbara the crowd of more than 1,000 who attended were treated to a panel discussion with scholars and community leaders. Time was given for the audience to engage in questions and answers. The evening ended with a moving challenge to continue working toward justice and equality for all. One Grace Community member commented after the event, "As a church member participating in this event, I felt like I was on holy ground."



HOLLYWOOD

The question, “Who will save?” has been on the lips of countless people throughout the ages since the world’s fall into the pain of sin. In reflecting on the anticipation of the first advent of Jesus, the Hollywood church considered a few of the individuals recorded in Scripture—those who longed for the coming of the One who was promised. These December Sabbath messages concluded with a presentation of original monologues prepared by church members, each depicting the experiences of the earliest “adventists” – Eve, Isaac, David, Isaiah, and Mary – as they looked forward to the One who would come to save. To view these recorded messages, visit the Hollywood church page on YouTube.

LANCASTER

The Lancaster church’s sermon series for January is “I Serve: Loving God and Loving Others,” focusing upon God’s expectation that all Christians serve God and others. This series will culminate with a Community Services Sabbath providing an opportunity for church members to sign up to volunteer and to serve in church and community outreach ministries. •From late January through February Lancaster Adventist will offer an outreach project called Life Skills University. It will be a weekly seminar that will include seminars on Finances, Cooking on a Budget, Conflict Management, Dealing with Depression, Parenting on Purpose and Dealing with Grief. •The Lancaster Adventist Church has assisted the Lancaster Homeless Shelter on various projects over the years. So, aware of Adventism’s emphasis upon healthy lifestyle and wellness, the shelter director approached the church in January to assist them in building a nutritious menu to serve their clients.

MALIBU

“A Salute to Canada Day” at Malibu church was Dec. 6, when the speaker for the Sabbath service was Elder Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division and former president of the Canadian Union. Special music program was presented by the Melashenko Singers.

LAKE OF THE WOODS

Youth in Frazier Park are participating in a weekly outreach program during January and February.

MOJAVE

Bible studies are being given to four individuals who attended evangelistic meetings in Lancaster. •Sabbath School department is growing.

MOORPARK

Regular services are held each Sabbath at 5 p.m.

OJAI

During the holiday season church services included a special Christmas program with music and readings using local talent. Musician and composer Calvin Taylor presented the church service and a concert in the afternoon of Dec. 27. •This January a three-day class on raw food preparation was led by Catalina Sira for church members and a number of visitors from the community. •Church members are presently solidifying their mission and vision statements and setting our one- and three-year goals with David Gardner.

OXNARD

On Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day members participated in a prayer service and then went out into the community to feed the homeless and give away clothing. Members will do another outreach to the homeless Feb. 28. •A prayer vigil will be held during Friday evening Feb. 6 from 7 to 10 p.m. •A week of prayer will begin March 29, and conclude on Easter Sunday April 4.

RIDGECREST

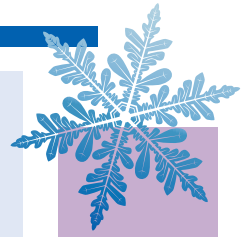
Church members participated in the Landmarks of Prophecy program by Amazing Facts in November. •In December they distributed holiday baskets and did a Christmas Cantata and had a Living Nativity scene at the church. •In January a one-week stress seminar was sponsored. •In February a month-long health bootcamp is planned. Also scheduled is a Reconnect Activity with social and game activities on Saturday nights. •Elder Lee Venden is scheduled for a Jesus Seminar for a Week of Prayer in April.

SANTA BARBARA

Pastor Mike Brownfield held a mission-focused small group leaders training at the Santa Barbara church. Mission-focused small groups are designed to care for church members who need spiritual encouragement and to reach out to the community. Group meetings are held in homes or some other location. They meet for prayer, fellowship and Bible study.

Out Reach

In the Churches...



SANTA CLARITA

For the late fall and early winter seasons the church's decorating committee made the house of worship warm and welcoming, beautiful and bright. •The congregation provided a \$2,000 sponsorship to the Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center for Thanksgiving Dinner and a \$1,000 gift to the local food bank in addition to the weekly Red Wagon Food Roundup. •Eight young people were baptized Nov. 22.

•Advent started in hybrid fashion, with services focused on thanksgiving and gratitude yielding to services anticipating the coming King through the songs of Mary, Zechariah, John the Baptist, the Angels, and Simeon. These are the highlights: Tim Hansen and the Glendale Adventist Academy Chorale presented a mini-concert embedded in the service Dec. 6. Maurita "Bunny" Thornburgh brought church and community together Dec. 13, through the Annual "Sing-Along Messiah."



Bunny Thornburgh, left, and instrumentalists led the Santa Clarita annual sing-a-long Messiah.

SANTA MONICA

In keeping with the holiday season, members of the Santa Monica church enjoyed a Christmas buffet on Dec. 13, followed by a children's special Christmas play written by a young lady in the junior class. •Monthly social activities are planned for 2015 for all ages. •Sabbath sermons are focusing on "Lifting Up Jesus" as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. •A monthly cooking class is planned for the first Tuesday of each month featuring vegan recipes. Next class will be held on February 3.

SIMI VALLEY

Elder and Mrs. Jack Sequiera, former missionaries in Africa, were featured speakers for the church's annual Week of Renewal and Revival. •The Simi Valley Adventist School children presented a Christmas program designed around the angel's visit to Joseph and Mary and the birth of the Christ child. •The church choir presented a Christmas concert on Dec. 20.



Simi school children appear angelic in their Christmas concert.

SYLMAR

Evening prayer meetings in March will focus on issues of concern for families.

THOUSAND OAKS

Dr. Benjamin Lau, professor of microbiology, an immunologist and a research scientist at Loma Linda University, was featured speaker for a community and visitors' Health Day, Nov. 8. He lectured on the positive effects of a plant-based diet for preventing and reversing cancer. Afterward he signed copies of his newest book based on his latest research of how fruits and vegetables help healing from cancer. Forty guests enjoyed friendship and fellowship with church members during the day. •Church youth were featured in a "Ten Days of Prayer" series. They led the music and then each one individually preached on one of the "Fruits of the Spirit" for 20 minutes. •Because of a large donation, the church will present several health lectures in the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza. "This is seen as a great way to brand the Adventist church in the Conejo Valley. Then once friendships and interested citizens are identified they will be invited to smaller lectures at the local church," said Pastor Larry Meager.

TEHACHAPI

Pastor Ervin Joham wrote a book on creationism versus evolution. A local newspaper article about the book resulted in people from the community coming to his lectures about the subject.



THE PLACE

Members participated in Christmas celebrations in December. •Pastor Simon Liversidge's current preaching series is on Leviticus, "Hearing God in the ancient words of Leviticus." •Extreme Mobility Camps (XMO) hosted a fundraiser event the evening of Jan. 10, with Nick Vujicic who was the featured speaker. Vujicic, who was born without arms and legs, has attended XMO events. XMO will host a week-long winter camp for blind and disabled people in Colorado in late February. •A Valentine celebration of love will be at Sherwood Country Club on Feb. 21.

Nick Vujicic assisted in raising funds for X-MO camps.



VAN NUYS

On Dec. 20, the second annual Candlelight Christmas Program at the Van Nuys Church featured vocal, instrumental and organ music, the nativity scene and the Christmas story. Participants included all age groups. Following the program, holiday goodies were served in the Fellowship Hall. Plans are underway for Buried Blueprints: Excavating the Prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, which will run Jan. 31 to March 7, Friday and Saturday evenings at 7 P.M. While focusing on prophecies currently being fulfilled, these intriguing multimedia presentations by Pastor Aitken travel back to the dawn of the universe and look forward to Armageddon and the end of the world. Special emphasis has been placed on each member praying for one specific person and inviting them to the presentation.

VENTURA

Three new members were baptized on Thanksgiving weekend. •Three weeks of lay led evangelistic meetings were held between Oct. 18 and Nov. 5. •An Evensong service was presented on Dec. 6. •A community-wide Interfaith Thanksgiving service was held on Nov. 24. Adventist members are providing breakfast for the homeless at the Harbor Community Church on Sunday mornings.

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IN THE CHURCHES

BURBANK

A cooking demonstration will be presented Nov. 22, by four members on their favorite part of a Thanksgiving meal. Audience will then sample these for our supper. *Dec. 6, is the first Annual Volunteer Appreciation Lunch hosted by the lay pastoral staff to honor and recognize the many volunteers that make the church run. *Christmas Program will be presented during the worship service Dec. 20. Program will include music, drama and many traditions of the season.

CAMARILLO

The weekly Depression and Anxiety Recovery Seminar series is going well. The eight-session seminar will conclude Nov. 13. *Garden of Eaten monthly follow-up to the CHIP Program features a vegan gourmet meal with recipes and is providing an excellent outreach to the community. *Men's Ministry Bible study is off to a great start. They meet Monday evenings at 7 p.m. Men from other churches in the area are welcome to come and join this disciple building study. *The Adventure and Pathfinder Clubs meet at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. *As part of their outreach to the community the teens and youth are preparing for a December outreach fundraiser. *Several individuals are preparing for their baptism. *The annual Thanksgiving Banquet for the community will be Nov. 9, 5 p.m. Members will bring their neighbor or a friend within the community. Attendance usually tops the 200 mark each year. *The 2014 Christmas Candlelight Concert produced by Logan Dickinson is planned for Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m.

CANOGA PARK

Canoga Park Church has developed a relationship with the LAPD Topanga Division via the Clergy Council that was set up by them and some of the community. Various community programs have been held at the Adventist church. The first one was held recently, called "The Truth about Gangs." This program was a wealth of information, from how to tell if your child is in a gang or at risk of joining or being forced into one, to the connections that Hispanic gangs have to the Mexican mafia inside the prison and even how to decipher graffiti and tagging (there

is a difference). The LAPD and Clergy Council have other programs to share as well. The church will also host "The Truth about Domestic Violence" and "The Truth About Drugs." They are also developing a program on human trafficking. "These programs have been a wonderful outreach to our community as well as our church family" said Pastor William McCall. *Members have done a direct mailing for a series "Thunder in the Holy Land." More than 23 people have requested the Bible study video series. *The church will host a Share Him program in February 2015.

CULVER CITY

A Christmas Program coordinated by Kathleen Diaz will be presented Dec. 20.

GRACE COMMUNITY

The leadership group at Grace Community has planned and promoted two performances of "The Ten Commandments" musical also known as "Love At Work". On Nov. 23, ten West Region churches and two churches from the Central California Conference will co-sponsor the musical's performances at the historic Lobero Theatre just off State Street in Santa Barbara. The main performance will be performed at 5 p.m. with complimentary tickets for church members who bring non-member guests. Another performance will be at 2 p.m. with tickets sold to those responding to a local advertising campaign. The musical is produced and directed by Yolanda Innocent-Palmer and Dr. Shubert Palmer. Much prayer is being invested in this "bridge" event for friendship evangelism. Members will follow up with those who are interested in studying the Bible. For information call (805) 680-9660.

HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood has potluck only once each month. On the weeks in between they have a simple, one-pot meal for those who would like to stay after the church service to talk, sing, read, pray and enjoy Sabbath in continued fellowship. Visitors may stay and mingle, and it affords our church more time to connect. Volunteers have popped up wanting to make their curried lentils or special family stew recipe. It's a wonder what a slow-cooker, a rice-cooker and prayer can do for a Sabbath afternoon. Everyone is full and satisfied and the invaluable fellowship can continue!

LAKE OF THE WOODS

Cross-Training program for youth will be presented at 5 p.m. on Sabbaths of Nov. 1, 9, and 15. More info could be found at www.youthofthewoods.weebly.com

LANCASTER

Church members used Lets' Move Day, Sept. 21, for a 5 K run and an excuse to do good. They not only raised awareness of the need for children to participate in regular exercise and a healthy lifestyle but took part in a 5K run organized by the Church at the Antelope Valley physical agility and running course, and they raised more than \$400 for the Antelope Valley Women's Shelter. *Adventists hosted a concert Sept. 27, for Christian vocal artist Charmaine. She presented inspirational music from her previous album *Love Reality* which was named in the top 10 CCM Albums for 2010, and her latest album *Love Some Body*. *The Lancaster congregation includes members originating from four continents and approximately 20 countries, not to mention a British senior pastor. With members from as far afield as Germany and Guyana, Kenya and Korea, the church family recognized and celebrated its cultural diversity and unity in Jesus Oct. 11. Church members were encouraged to dress in national costume and bring and share national dishes for a truly international fellowship lunch. This year's International Sabbath featured Pastor Greg Hoenes of the Santa Clarita Church, and Dana Lamon, a former Toastmasters World Champion, retired judge and the first blind graduate of USC Law School. The day's program included a concert from Christian Edition men's chorus. **The Blueprint*, a film about Adventist Education System, was shown Oct. 12, followed by a Q&A with award-winning producer/director Martin Doblmeier. The film is a collection of short features about students and teachers who form an extraordinary network of schools operated by Seventh-day Adventists. From the streets of the Bronx, New York, to an Indian reservation in Arizona; from a riverboat that a century ago dared to teach newly-freed slaves to a modern day outdoor classroom in the Rocky Mountains – each story shows how the “whole child” approach to education (teaching body, mind and spirit) is transforming lives. *Nov. 8, the Lancaster Church will host a concert from the Golden Gate Quartet at 2:30 p.m.

MALIBU

A baptism is planned for late October for a man who lives in Malibu and for a mother and daughter in November. *Dec. 6, will be CANADA DAY for Malibu congregation's worship service with Elder Dan Jackson, North American Division president, and the Melashenko

Singers for a concert at 2:30. *The church continues to do door-to-door visits on Sabbath afternoons. *Prayer meeting is held on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Calabasas Library.

MOJAVE

Final revival with the church is continuing with the end of the three angles messages of Revelation. “The church has the messages, but we haven't continued the work of the church,” said Pastor George Husband. “We're teaching chapters 15 and 16 on the value of bowls, understanding the beast image.” *Food drive for holidays is planned.

MOORPARK COMMUNITY

The annual Thanksgiving Agape Dinner will be held Nov. 22. *Although much smaller this year, the Christmas program will be on Dec. 21.

NORTHRIDGE

Every Friday and Saturday night during October the Northridge church has hosted the “Buried Blueprints” series developed and presented by Elder John Aitken, Sr., pastor of the Van Nuys church. Pastor Daniel Vaughn will continue follow up meetings in the book of Revelation.

OJAI VALLEY

The Ojai church is busy getting acquainted with their new pastor David Gardner. Members are continuing outreach to the community with a soup kitchen on Tuesday evenings followed by a Bible study. They also have a fellowship luncheon every Sabbath followed by an afternoon meeting. *They have an active Signs of the Times box ministry. *Members will have a church social Oct. 25, and are planning special services for Thanksgiving and Christmas Sabbaths. *World- renowned pianist Calvin Taylor will be featured on Dec. 27.

OXNARD ALL NATIONS

A series of youth/young adult meetings concluded with three candidates baptized and four re-baptized. *A family seminar series in September was led by Tina Aufio, a certified family counselor. *A city-wide End Time Seminar Sept. 6 to 20, was led by Pastor/Evangelist Art Bushnell. Among those who attended were 40 new visitors from the community. Five persons joined the church and 12 others are attending a baptismal class conducted by Pastor Manuel Avitia.

PALMDALE

The summer Vacation Bible School had a large number of children. *Pathfinder club members attended the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wis., and are participating



in a fall camping trip. *A special Christmas program is being planned.

RIDGECREST

The Landmarks of Prophecy satellite series by TV evangelist Dough Batchelor will begin on Nov. 1, and continue 21 nights. *A Christmas cantata will be performed on Dec. 8. *Pastor Riva Robinson will perform the wedding ceremony for his son and his bride in November. *As a community service, the Ridgecrest church will show the "Financial Peace University" video series by David Ramsey in the church. *Breakfast was served each morning for 40 children and their parents during Vacation Bible School.

SANTA BARBARA

Pastor Michael Brownfield has been serving as the interim pastor and assisted by Pastor Larry Meager. Both are regular pastoral staff members of the Thousand Oaks Church. *Vacation Bible School Aug. 11 to 15, was led by Ruth Ambriz and a large number of volunteers. Thirty children attended.

SANTA MONICA

Pastor Tom Schroer has been presenting a sermon series titled "Lifting up Jesus." *A Thanksgiving festival is planned.

SANTA CLARITA

Church members experimented with an "Old-Fashioned Camp Meeting" July 12 to 26. Each Sabbath the program was expanded to include a "Prayer Time" at 9 a.m., and "picnic style" potluck. The second Sabbath they did a "Reprise" Concert featuring Heritage Singers music and then added a Spiritual Gifts Seminar with Dr. Maury Jackson from La Sierra University for two weeks. The final Sabbath concluded with a vespers and game night. *Pathfinders attended the Oshkosh camporee in August. Pastor Hoenes and the Pathfinder director, Richard Guy, jointly baptized two Pathfinders. *Debbie Hittle, former local elder and children's ministries director at Santa Clarita, has become Children's Ministry staff director at Vallejo Drive Church. *Pastor Greg Hoenes has begun doctoral studies at Claremont School of Theology, pursuing his PhD in Practical Theology: Education and Formation. *New officers and volunteers are receiving orientation beginning a new cycle of ministry to the homeless of Santa Clarita through Family Promise and heavily supported the West Region Training Day with six different seminars Oct. 18! *Women's Ministry is gearing up for their annual Christmas Holiday Boutique Nov. 16. *Pastor

Hoenes is teaching a Baptismal Prep Class and planning for a baptism soon. *Advent/Christmas programming may include a "Sing-Along Messiah" Dec. 13, at 4 p.m. and their customary Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 11 p.m. Christmas Eve.

SIMI VALLEY

*The 10-member Simi Valley Miners Pathfinder club and eight adults traveled by train in August to the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisc., and on Oct. 11, the club had a camp out at Lake Piru. *On Second Sabbath Outreach Program, Sept. 13, more than 20 people met at the park to share literature and bottled water (with the church's logo and QR code). Visits included a group of Muslim young men, a homeless person, an atheist and other individuals. *The local church and Simi Valley Hospital Adventist Health cohosted the seminar "Eight Secrets of a Healthy and Everlasting Life." Church members presented short segments on the eight principals of health to a group of 50 people including community members. As a follow up, a Healthy Cooking School will be held in the campus center October 21, 28 and November 11 and 18, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. *Third Annual Women's Conference was held at the Pacific Union Conference Office and themed "Craving God." A trilogy of biblical characters shared their story of Hungering for God. Pastors Heidi Ford and Jan White presented inspirational messages. The Covenant Players added to the program by enacting scenes depicting the longing which people have for God. *Sharon, Art, David and Cheryl Kharns and Jenny Hunter led the praise and worship. *Sam Ocampo and Scott Reed presented a concert Oct. 25, sponsored with Simi Valley Hospital Adventist Health. *Annual Praise and Thanksgiving Sabbath will be held Sabbath, Nov. 29, and the Annual Christmas Program will be Dec. 20.



*Eight candidates have been baptized this year. The Holy Spirit stirred Cate Valargo to attend the Adventist church for the first time in February. She had worked at the Simi Valley Adventist Hospital for ten years but didn't know much about Adventists. Cate and her husband, Dave, were searching for spiritual belonging and meaning. They both began to attend regularly and became active in a Bible study and prayer group. Their daughter, Taffy, joined in the studies and later on their teenage daughter, Devin, joined the studies, also. All four have been baptized.



In the Churches...

THE PLACE

The members sponsored The Place Movin' Day 5K and "the toughest 10K in the USA" on Sept. 28, to raise money for two charities – Extreme Mobilities Camps and Hacienda House. *The Brazil mission project was in mid-August where they laid the foundation for a school in Castanhao, Brazil.

*The new fall series with many small groups focuses on "God calling: Hearing God in the ancient words of Leviticus." *Many Fall community outreach events have been scheduled: Christmas Shoppe; homeless feeding; visitations and more. *Annual Fall Fest – a Small Town Faire – will feature The Place band playing '80's music.

THOUSAND OAKS

The Thousand Oaks Church had a booth at the Thousand Oaks Street Fair Oct. 19. They advertised their upcoming EmpowerYour Health Lecture series and a Community Guest Day at church on Nov. 8. *The Newbury Park Academy and Conejo Adventist Elementary Principals were at the booth with information about the schools. *The Community Guest Day Nov. 8, will feature Dr. John Westerdahl as speaker. Pastor will interview Dr. Benjamin Lau, MD, PhD, who has recently written a book about Phytochemical treatment of cancer. A vegetarian luncheon will follow church. Dr. Lau's evening subject: Stopping Cancer with Phytochemical (plant foods). He will also sign copies of his book after the lecture. *The Reconnect Group has organized and will begin visiting inactive members.

VAN NUYS

The Van Nuys Church has been involved in sprucing up their campus and addressing areas requiring maintenance. Included was the much-needed refurbishing of the church kitchen making it a place where people now enjoy preparing meals for potlucks and church events. Portions of the Aug. 30, worship service were presented by the 12 Pathfinders who attended the Oshkosh Camporee and shared noteworthy aspects of the exciting week of events. *The men's chorus, Christian Edition, was featured on Sabbath, Oct. 11. *The Pathfinder Investiture service was Oct. 18, with Pathfinder Audry Guzman preaching the sermon. *A candlelit Christmas program celebrating the true meaning of the season is planned Dec. 21.

VENTURA

The Wedgwood Trio sang for worship Oct. 11, and then presented a full concert that afternoon. *The lay leaders of the Ventura Church are presenting a three-week evangelistic series which began Oct. 18, and ends Nov. 1. *The regular Evensong for the community will be presented Nov. 1. *Ventura will join other local congregations sponsoring Nick Vujicic (the man with no arms or legs) at the Ventura County Fair Grounds Nov. 8. *Ventura Church will host "Love At Work" — the musical presentation of the Ten Commandments Nov. 23. *A midweek series reading "God's Identity Protection" by Dr. Ervin Thomsen was a great read and study for all of us," said Pastor James Ayars. Several new deacons and junior deacons were ordained to replace others who had moved out of the area when the Adventist Media Center closed.



While the Adventist Media Center was located in Simi Valley many volunteers from area churches have helped in the mailing room to send out Bible lessons and literature around the world for the broadcast ministries. Their labors ended in September as the various ministries began moving their offices to other areas of North America. From left, seated, Kathy and Barbara Hollister (mail room staff). Standing: second row: Eva Thompson and Maria Platner; Back row: Raymond Chan, Ming Chan, Kathy Craig, Lillian Moore, Vienna and Bill Stone, Calvin Craig.



October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Wondering how to express your appreciation?
Appreciation ideas include letters, dinner for two,
weekend retreat, art, notes of caring, gift cards,
—anything that communicates your **LOVE** and **CARING**.

Surprise your pastor with a hug today!



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BURBANK

Burbank church's outdoor summer series began with an outdoor movie night on June 21. They scheduled Church-on-the-Lawn on July 19, followed by their second outdoor movie night. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the week of July 21. They are trying a different format of meeting Thursday and Friday evenings, with an extended time on Sabbath and Sunday mornings. •VBS is jointly sponsored by the Adventists and the St. David's Anglican Church which rents the Adventist church building.

CANOGA PARK

Using the *Thunder in the Holy Land* Bible study program enrollment plan, a dozen church members have received training and have already enrolled 16 people in homes around the northwestern San Fernando Valley for the weekly DVD Bible study series offer. Some have already received their second DVD.

CAMARILLO

Pastor Will Sellers led a mission trip to La Vida Mission made up of members from Camarillo, Lancaster, Palmdale, The Place, and Ventura Churches June 19 to 29. They spent the entire trip on location and provided a week long traveling VBS to the Navajo community and completed work on two tree houses for the mission. The traveling VBS or "Block Party VBS", as they named it, consisted of messages about Christ's parables about the Kingdom through story and puppets, games, crafts, food and fellowship with the community. "It was a first for us and the community to lead out in a VBS program like that," Sellers said. "Some of the Navajo communities were so impressed that they are making plans for us next year to come out and camp out with them in their communities as their guests." •Pathfinders are gearing up for Oshkosh Camporee. •Reconnect Seminar will be Sept. 6, 3 p.m. in the Camarillo church. For Info: 818-546-8405 •Joe Kidder is a fall feature in October.

*A contingent
from West Region
churches joined in
a mission trip to La
Vida Mission.*



CULVER CITY

VBS concluded with graduation on June 28. Kids had a blast while they learned of God's plan for their lives through the story of Moses. •July 12, was the 60th Anniversary Celebration. Former Pastor, Dr. Gerhard Pfandl, was a guest speaker for the worship service. Sheila Raye Charles was featured in concert that afternoon.

*Richard Roethler,
right, Southern
California
Conference West
Region Director,
presents a plaque
to Jason Whitley,
youth pastor, left,
and Pastor Jan
Katz, commending
the Culver City
church on the 60th
anniversary of its
opening.*



Early members of the Culver City church attended the church's 60th anniversary of its opening.

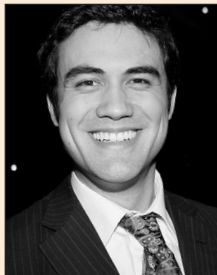
GRACE COMMUNITY

Grace Community, An Adventist Place of Hope, has moved to a new location for their services. They now meet every Sabbath at the First Baptist Church, 949 Veronica Springs Road, Santa Barbara.

HOLLYWOOD

Brandon Stoltz has been appointed senior pastor of the Hollywood church. Former assistant pastor of the Simi Valley church, Stoltz recently completed study at the Adventist Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. His education includes degrees in business management, elementary teaching, religion and pastoral ministry. Pastor Stoltz reflects that he is "deeply interested in understanding the life of each person I meet and value my relationships above most everything else."

Pastor Brandon Stoltz



LAKE OF THE WOODS

The Pathfinders will attend the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisc., in August.

LANCASTER

Church Connection Card - Starting in May the church began inserting a connection card into the church bulletin in order to provide a means of communicating with and tracking the attendance of church members, regular attendees and guests. The front side of the card provides a place for contact details and how they heard about our church. The reverse side provides an "I'm interested" section which serves as means to connect further with church and personal ministry needs. Items that can be checked include, I'm interested in: Beginning a relationship with Jesus, Information on baptism/church membership, receiving Bible studies, information on church events, transferring my membership and volunteering at the Lancaster Adventist Church. The cards are collected during the offering and then compiled by a ministry team into a database and then forwarded on to the Pastor. The use of the connection card has been tremendously helpful. As a result of using this card a dozen people have requested Bible Studies and baptism. People have metaphorically come out of the woodwork to volunteer at the church and many first and second-time guests have requested information on church events and information on beginning a relationship with Jesus.

•**Gospel Night** – Several community-based choirs, groups and gospel ensembles participated in an evening of gospel praise and worship May 17. It included the praise team from the Antelope Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church, soprano sax solo's performed by local musician and church member Wynell Montgomery; and performances from an ensemble from the Antelope Valley College Choir. Directed by John Crocker, the choir performed a number of negro-spirituals and choral arrangements which the choir will also perform at Carnegie Hall.

•**VBS Success** - It took about 4 months of planning: recruiting volunteers, building sets, making crafts etc., decorating classrooms and transforming the children's wing

of the church into a weird animal habitat. Each evening between June 23 and 28, the church became a hive of activity for Weird Animals VBS. More than 90 children registered, many of whom were attending the Adventist Church for the first time, and 60 volunteers involved in the programming. Jesus' one-of-a-kind love became embodied in song, dramatized Bible adventures, science experiments, crafts and games. A special graduation service was held on Sabbath. A number of children and their families and volunteers have made commitments to Jesus and connect to the church.

MALIBU

Church members made a mission trip to Rio de Janeiro. •Nine thousand copies of *History of the Great Hoax* and 9000 copies of *Taking Back of Life* by John Bradshaw are being distributed to all homes in Malabu. •July 19 is It Is Written Day at the Malibu church with guest speaker John Bradshaw, speaker/director for the telecast. A baptism will follow the service. •After Bible studies by the Malibu church leaders three men were baptized in a ceremony conducted at the Thousand Oaks church. They included Tony and Michael Arelano and violinist and retired actor Joset.



Three candidates were baptized after receiving Bible studies from Judith Miranda, left, and Job Miranda, right.

MOJAVE

Several people in Rosamond have been receiving Bible studies. •A series of revival meetings were held in March and April have been continuing through July and will conclude in August. •Travis Foster, a church elder, has been doing some remodeling and redecorating in the church sanctuary. Pastor George Husband remarked that it's making the church look like new inside.

MOORPARK

Sabbath services are held each week at 5 p.m.

NORTHRIDGE

VBS is scheduled July 28-August 2, 5:50 to 8:30 p.m., concurrent with a positive parenting class. •The outside doors on the church have been refinished. •Bible studies are continuing with two families. •Children's Church is presented once a month.



Get Out

In the Churches...

OJAI

Members of the singing band perform for the residence of a local facility once each quarter. This quarter it was presented on July 5. •An afternoon meeting every Sabbath follows fellowship dinner. •By conducting a community door-to-door survey church members have been getting acquainted and learning the needs of people in the community. So they are planning a cooking school as a bridge event.

OXNARD

Skye, the 11-year-old granddaughter of Pastor and Mrs. Manuel Avita, gave her heart to the Lord and was baptized. •Vacation Bible School is scheduled in July. •A week-long Youth Seminar will be presented by Elder Bobby Mitchell in August.

PALMDALE

A 17-year-old college student was baptized June 7. •VBS was held July 14 to 18. This year's theme was "Galactic Quest." Leaders Billie Odell and Jackie Climo prepared a program where *KIDS INVESTIGATE GOD'S WORD!* •On the fourth Sabbath of each month Palmdale's youth, led by Bambi Mick and Jackie Climo, continue a 20 year practice going to the Antelope Valley Care Center accompanied by the older youth of Palmdale Church (1-99 yrs.). Their program includes sharing scripture verses, singing and reciting poems to the residents and staff of facility. Both residents and staff join in when a song like *Amazing Grace* or *Onward Christian Soldier* is sung. Even the youngest member Diane Daza, four years old, recites a poem or sings a song! Usually an elder or deacon delivers a message of hope. The program ends as they hold hands with the residents and sing *Side by Side We Stand*.

RIDGECREST

Members presented an Easter Cantata on Easter weekend and invited the community to the church. Performing a second time at a nursing home the program turned into a praise testimony meeting. Church members hold weekly services in the nursing home. The services are conducted by Adventists and community lay members. •The school is taking their upper elementary grades to an outdoor education trip to Brice, Zion and Grand Canyons National Parks.

SANTA BARBARA

Elder Larry Caviness, Southern California Conference president, introduced a new *It Is Written* Bible study enrollment to Santa Barbara church members. The plan developed by Heidi Carpenter as a pilot program uses online communication with students who enroll. Each Santa Barbara member accepted a packet of 10 "Lift Up Jesus" enrollment cards for distribution. Card recipients may use the card to enroll and study the lessons online and maintain communication with the internet provider instructor John Bettis, at the church. •A search is underway for a new pastor for the Santa Barbara church. •International Food Day for the community in May was organized by Sheryl Bower. It featured vegetarian food.

SANTA CLARITA

The church has been busy with the annual Women's Tea held every spring. This was followed by the Annual Mothers' Day Brunch cooked and served by the men of the church. They always see friends and family members attend these events that aren't usually a part of our congregation.

We're looking forward to VBS to be held the last week in June. Always evangelistic, this is a wonderful time of involvement for our members and children. •The Pathfinders Club will go to Oshkosh in August. They already anticipate the two club members will be baptized at the camporee.

SANTA MONICA

Pastor is currently presenting a sermons series about "Rethinking Your Relationship with God" •Work is underway to renovate and repair: replacing three main air conditioning/heat pump units that are approaching 20 years old. •Members of the Women's Ministry attended "God's Chicks" seminar in Orange County in June.

SIMI VALLEY

Forty-five children attended this year's Vacation Bible School which was themed "Wilderness Escape." •Two candidates were baptized recently: Kristy Wu and Andrew Garcia. Kristy came under conviction that her career in Hollywood movies and entertainment was incongruent with her desired journey with Jesus and was baptized in April. Andrew was baptized on Pathfinder Sabbath in May. •Vespers continues every other Sabbath evening at various venues in Simi Valley and features fellowship, food and worship. •Pathfinders have raised enough funds to be able to attend the International Pathfinder Camporee in August.

VBS helps children when they're ready to learn the meaning of Jesus love.



*Simi Valley
VBS Leaders*



Out Reach

In the Churches...

TEHACHAPI

The church is hosting Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University between July 1 and Aug. 26. It includes Basic Budgeting, How to Handle Money God's Way, and Learning to Live (like no one else so we can one day live and give like no one else.) •Beginning Sept 4. •Beginning Sept. 4, church members will study the book of Revelation with focus on Greek text. The chapter-by-chapter study will use the Interlinear Bible.

THE PLACE

VBS was held July 14 to 18. •Beach vespers July 5 included a baptism for candidates. A mission trip to Brazil is coming up. Concerts by Doma Carta and Jonathan Thulin have been scheduled. •The church's annual camping trip at Sycamore Canyon is also scheduled.

VAN NUYS

June was jam-packed with kids' activities at Van Nuys. Investigation Station: Galactic Quest (Vacation Bible School) launched June 23. Sandra Guzman led out with more than 30 kids from age's four to 12 attending. Twenty-five church youth, ages 13 to 21, took leadership roles in making VBS a success! Many VBS visitors brought their parents back for Sabbath morning's mini concert directed by Juno Rada who led songs with motions learned throughout the week. •The Adventurer Club participated in the SCC Camp Cedar Falls Retreat June 20 to 22 where they earned honors in Stars, Kites, Baskets and Bread of Life. •Under the leadership of Orbel Lastima the Van Nuys Church begun AYA meetings Sabbath afternoon June 29, and had a lively time singing, playing Bible games and study. It was well attended by all age groups. •After working hard at fundraising, the Pathfinders are looking forward to participating in the Oshkosh Camporee August 11-16.



Meriam Barrientos teaches a craft class during Van Nuys Galactic Quest VBS.

VENTURA

Vacation Bible School was held in June. The Ventura church is partnering with other Ventura churches in opposing the tax assessor's assessment on church properties. •The church is also partnering with other Ventura churches to restructure the former Kingdom Center/City Center Transitional Living Facility. •The Adventists sponsored the showing of the *Hell and Mr. Fudge* movie to the community.



Get Ready

In the Churches...

West Region and Conference-wide Events:

West Region church member training day is Sabbath, Oct. 18.

Watch you church bulletins for more information.

Southern California Sabbath School training

will be Sabbath, Sept. 13. Featuring Elder Gary Swanson, North American Division Sabbath School director. Watch for more information: Call 818-546-8443 for details.

In the Churches...

Out West

**WEST
REGION
OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
CONFERENCE**

Richard Roethler,
Director

C. Elwyn Platner
Editor

2014
Spring Edition



Spring 2014

Easter Reflections

*God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!*

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!*

Bill Gaither



BURBANK

Burbank welcomed two new members into its family. Yaffet Matindas was baptized on March 29, and his wife, Fivia, joined by profession of faith. •"Irresistible" is the focus of the church leadership. Thanks to some special people, the aesthetics of the interior of the church are greatly enhanced.

CAMARILLO

Chip program is going super well with 17 participants. They are an exciting group of men and women who are celebrating weight loss, lower or normal blood pressure, relief from diabetic conditions and a joyful life. They have passed their second week and loving the healthy life changes. •"HOW TO USE YOUR BRAIN FOR HEALTH AND SUCCESS" seminars were presented by Dr. Arlene Taylor April 4 and 5. •Linda Vista Adventist Elementary will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Sunday, April 13, 10 to 2 p.m. •"Shadow of the Cross Easter Cantata, Sabbath, April 19. •Linda Vista Adventist Elementary will provide the church service April 26.

CANOGA PARK

CPC had an all-night prayer vigil, March 29, organized by the personal ministries committee.

Forty-two members participated at the church and others prayed in their respective homes. The facilitators were Fredrika, Roy, La'ise, and Pastor McCall. One of the key purposes was to pray for the success of their "Thunder in the Holy Land" outreach program.

CULVER CITY

This year marks the church's 60th anniversary and will be celebrated on July 12, with a full day of activities. •They are in the middle of Phase III of their remodeling project. The kitchen and restrooms of the fellowship hall are being updated. The classrooms windows along Washington Blvd will be replaced.

HOLLYWOOD

In addition to regular Sabbath morning services, the Underground Service is held each Friday at 8 p.m. in the lower level room. •Healing and sobriety support and healing program includes Al-Anon Tuesdays and Fridays in the Community Chapel, Adult Children of Alcoholics meet Thursdays in Community Chapel, Adult Children of Alcoholics meet Thursdays, and Narcotics Anonymous meet on Thursdays.

LAKE OF THE WOODS

Many lessons were taught at recent youth meetings and the youth responded well.

LANCASTER

Celebrated violinist Jaime Jorge will be appearing in concert at Lancaster Adventist Church April 12, 6:30. This is a free concert.

MALIBU

Thirteen people are attending a baptismal class in preparation for a baptismal service in May. •A Black Tie Dinner is scheduled on July 14, to raise funds for a mission trip to Brazil and for a health fair at Malibu Bluff Park in August.

•Church members are continuing to make door to door follow up at homes where they have distributed copies of the Great Controversy.

MOJAVE

Sabbath sermons are focusing on the importance of keeping the Sabbath. •Preparations are underway to texture coat the church's exterior.

MOORPARK

Shadow of the Cross, a small cantata with live voices will be presented April 19, at 5 p.m. at the church, 404 Los Angeles Ave., Suite 109.

NORTHRIDGE

Ministry to the homeless people is being done twice each month and the choir sings twice a month at rehabilitation centers. •A meeting for students at California State University, Northridge, every Thursday evening and a vespers program is held each Friday evening. •Preparations are underway for a summer vacation Bible School.

OJAI

Door-to-door witnessing using Amazing Facts Bible study literature has garnered 18 responses. •Following fellowship dinner each week, members are participating in Bible study and are learning to give Bible studies. •A Tuesday evening soup kitchen is made available to needy people of the community. •Three persons from Ojai have been sponsored to the Amazing Facts training program.

OXNARD

The All-Nations congregation will have a Week of Prayer beginning April 12. The theme of the series of messages by the speaker, Pastor Eradio Alonso, is the Holy Spirit.

PALMDALE

RIDGECREST

Dave Aldrich, the Religious Freedom contact person in Ridgecrest, participates in a one-hour church service each Sabbath at a local nursing home. For Christmas and Easter the church choir presents a complete formal music program. They also intermittently have a smaller 10-to-15 minute music programs by church children. The patients love children and

music programs. Sometimes a few home visitors or relatives attend the services. Pastor Riva Robison also does a small Bible Study at the home during the week.

SANTA BARBARA

The Santa Barbara Church is launching an eight point outreach ministry. •1. Shirley Brower leads a group who has been actively helping to feed the homeless and the first elder leads an effort that helps to wash the feet of the homeless and provide new shoes and socks to wear. •2. Michelle Lang and John Bettis are leading Connect Youth Ministry, a service for university students to enjoy fellowship and opportunities for witnessing. •3. Clara Palm heads a community disaster relief and community needs program. •4. Two hundred guests attended an international dinner to promote healthful lifestyle and vegetarian food March 30. During the event Paul Emerson told about the church's missionary outreach to Indonesia. •5. A tutoring-education program open to the community is headed by Gladys Cerna and Bill Catoi. •6. Chaplain Sam Geli and Dr. Sandi Geli guide a weekly Bible class. •7. Operation Blueprint is a community needs assessment survey and public contact to determine on-going needs and spiritual concerns which was begun as a result of the ARME Bible Camp. •8. A weekly interfaith professional chaplaincy training program is leading to chaplaincy.

SANTA CLARITA

The Santa Clarita's Little Patch of Earth Preschool will occupy two more large classrooms this fall, maximizing existing space and providing a fantastic asset for their community, their children, and a solid rental income for the church for years to come. •The church's massive re-roofing project is now complete. •On March 30, 25 people volunteered to lay 1,300 square feet of cement brick paving in an area now enhanced for church and preschool use. •The Adventist congregation will host joint services with their tenant church, Christ Church, through Easter Weekend. Adventists will host Maundy Thursday services at 7 p.m. with the Ordinance of Humility, a potluck soup and salad supper, readings from the gospels and the service of Communion. Both congregations will jointly officiate a Good Friday service at 7 p.m. when they will darken the room as the Light of the World enters His rest. Sabbath will be the customary Adventist services. Sunday morning brunch will be a 9 a.m. followed by Christ Church's Sunday Resurrection service at 10:30 a.m. •Pathfinder Club is gearing up for Oshkosh camporee. Two baptisms planned for there. •Pulpit ministry in Santa Clarita has been focused on members' stories in relationship to God's story. Testimonies are showing how God is moving in members' lives. We're hearing our members and friends stories. •On March 22, returned Walla Walla University student missionary Brennan Hoenes was interviewed regarding his experience in Malawi, Africa. The interview is available on the YouTube channel.



Let's

In the Churches...

SANTA MONICA

A candidate from Dubai will be baptized April 19. •Attendance at the "Connect" midweek service is growing (connect with God, each other and His Word) at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays. •A special Easter program is planned. •Three new babies been added to the congregation.

SIMI VALLEY

On Thursday, Feb. 20, and Saturday night, February 22, the Simi Valley Church hosted a showing of the movie Hell and Mr. Fudge at a local theater. The two nights had about 180 in attendance. In fact, the Saturday night showing brought the biggest box office revenue for the Simi Valley 10 Cinemas that day. The Saturday night showing featured lead actor Mackenzie Astin interacting with the audience. Literature regarding the biblical teaching on hell was given out at the conclusion of the showing. •The following Sabbath, March 1, the Simi Church had Drs. Richard and Jo Ann Davidson from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary to do a symposium on Death and Hell. Some who attended the Hell and Mr. Fudge movie attended that Sabbath. •The April 19, worship service will feature a dramatic presentation of music and the spoken word in the story of The Man of the Other Mile. This moving narrative depicts the final scenes of Christ's life with music by world renowned Christian musician, Jerry Nelson. •Then at 6:30 Nelson will present a concert at the Church.

SYLMAR

During March a special Sabbath afternoon health program hosted for the community and church members featured lessons on better living and eating. •Pastor Branden Stoltz has been preaching on the Biblical story of Noah, the very real applications to each person's life and church, and its intertextuality to the rest of the Bible. •The Sylmar church family has been renovating various parts of their church building with some beautiful results. A band of nurses has been presenting messages to the church and their community on better living and eating with more than the "no pork" prescription. Delicious and nutritious food samples are also provided with easy-to-make meals that are big for health and high on energy.

TEHACHAPI

"Self-improvement Seminars" speaker, Dr. Ruben Hubbard, began his series March 7. It continues at 7 p.m. every Friday for 10 weeks at the Tehachapi Church, followed by a lifestyle seminar and a series in the fall.

THE PLACE

Members will participate in a Maranatha Volunteers International project in Castanha, Brazil, in August. They will build an evangelism and education center. •The church will host an

Extreme Mobility camp for visually impaired and blind kids in July. •The church will sponsor an Easter in the Park on Sunday, April 20, at Borchard Park in Newbury Park. •The church campout will be at Sycamore Cove, July 31 to Aug. 2.

THOUSAND OAKS

Thousand Oaks has started mission-focused small groups who meet weekly to study, pray and plan ways to reach out to inactive members and the community. •Three youth recently returned from a school- and church-sponsored mission trip to the Dominican Republic where they helped build two churches, paint four churches, assist with a vacation Bible School, and find time for recreation. Will Giles, seventh and eighth grade teacher at Conejo Adventist Elementary School, planned and led the trip. •Star Halm, an actress, has planned an Easter worship service on April 19. It will combine elements of pageant, scripture and music.

VAN NUYS

A Pathfinder/Adventurer fundraiser co-sponsored with Goodwill Industries March 30, netted \$1,700 toward sending the Van Nuys Pathfinder Club to Oshkosh Camporee as well as for Adventurer activities. Members with loaded cars drove through the church parking lot where crews unloaded items for the sale. •Pastor John presented a seven-week multimedia evangelistic series titled Buried Blueprint -- The Search for Paradise. The series ended March 8. The meetings were well attended by members as well as visitors.



Pastor John Aitken uses a variety of documents and pieces from his museum from the Middle East to illustrate each night's message during Buried Blueprint evangelistic series.

VENTURA

During this year's first quarter five souls were baptized and more are planning for baptism •A study of the manuscript "The Theology of Ellen G. White" for our midweek service was completed. •Evensong Vesper series is continuing. •Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sabbath services with the community have been scheduled. The midweek service in Holy Week will be a Passover Seder. •Members have begun a study of the book, "Signed in His Blood," by Ray Beeson during their midweek service.



Outpost

In the Churches...

In the Churches...

Out West



WEST
REGION
OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
CONFERENCE

Richard Roethler,
Director

C. Elwyn Platner
Editor

2014
Winter Edition

Winter 2014 • Number 1

BURBANK

The Burbank church's leadership team had an initial meeting with leaders of St. David's Anglican Church (their new tenant) to brainstorm on ways they can partner in efforts to reach their community. They were able to quickly put together an event where they met on a Saturday evening and walked the community singing Christmas Carols. Afterwards they enjoyed refreshments as they continued to make new friendships. They plan to meet again in a few weeks to formulate plans for a CERT program and work jointly with their Celebrate Recovery Program. • Laura Villareal joined the ministry team and heads Children's Ministry. Since she began on Dec. 21, children's attendance has increased. Emil Kiev has joined the Worship team and plays the piano/keyboard for their worship service.

CANOGA PARK

Both the Children's and Adult Choirs participated in a Christmas special service in December. They are directed by Fe'ao and Sia Bloomfield. They also have a small band getting started.



Members are preparing to participate in the Thunder in the Holy Land project

CAMARILLO

Christmas Candlelight Program was on Dec. 13, thanks to Logan Dickinson and team who provided this spiritually uplifting lead in to the Christmas Season.

• The choir provided music and story on Dec. 21. George Swanson and choir brought the true meaning of Christmas (Jesus the Light of the World) programs. • The Youth have been raising money for their La Vida Mission outreach trip. They made and sold reindeer to raise more than \$1,500 for this ongoing project. They also had a well-attended post New Year's Eve sleep-over party on Jan. 1. • Parents, leaders and supporters make the Adventure and Pathfinder Clubs programs spiritually uplifting, fun and exciting. • Under the leadership of Dr. David Lowe three health ministry programs are scheduled:

- **Healthy Taste of Ventura**, Feb. 23, is an all-day event with health lectures and vegan cooking demonstrations. Call and register early for tickets: www.HealthyTasteOnline.com or call 800-481-6482.
- **Chef Mark Anthony**, March 8, 10:45 a.m., "Time to Wake Up!" and March 9, 3 p.m., Live Vegetarian Cooking Show.
- **CHIP Program March 23**. Two information sessions: March 9 & 11, 6:30 p.m.



CULVER CITY

Jason Whitley joined the pastoral team last October to preach when Pastor Jan Kaatz was preaching at Burbank. In January Whitley's position expanded to include Young Adult Ministry at the church. Jason is received very warmly by the church. •After church on Dec.14, Charlotte Yoshioka, Community Service leader, had several tables filled with "gifts" for worshipers as they left. The gifts included See's Candy donated by members of her family. It topped a great Sabbath after the Christmas Program of skits and songs coordinated by Kathleen Diaz.

GRACE COMMUNITY

Sabbath services are held each week

HOLLYWOOD

On Dec. 14, the Hollywood Church members held their annual holiday celebration/Advent service. This year's theme was based of the song "O come Emanuel" and featured readings and scriptural reflection with music performed by the band. •The Church is preparing for revival as they reflect on God's matchless love for each person. Currently the church's Purple Journal column is walking through a reflection on what it means to "Prepare for Rain." The Hollywood Thai Company hosted a sacred violin concert Dec. 28, featuring Miden LaiPang, a Redlands Academy alumnus who recently received a full four-year scholarship to the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY.

LAKE OF THE WOODS

An evangelistic series will be presented in February for the Hispanic community featuring the new Spanish Prophecy Study Edition of the Bible and slide presentations from Amazing Facts. •A Bible study class led by Mitchell and his assistant, Alex, will be held in a local residence in Frazier Park. •A potluck lunch is scheduled on the first Sabbath each month.

LANCASTER

With an attendance averaging around 50 children, Lancaster's Children's Church takes place every second Sabbath of the Month at the same time as the second service. So the church has its highest attendance of the month each Sabbath children's church happens. •In November an advertisement for Meet-Up Indoor Soccer every Tuesday Night at 7 p.m. resulted in around 16

players turning up each week, a dozen of whom are not connected to the Adventist church. •A 10-Week Evangelistic Series will begin Feb 12, "Finding Jesus in the Book of Revelation."

MALIBU

Malibu church members are continuing to knock on doors every Sabbath and Sunday as they follow up on the 9,600 Great Controversy books that were given to every home. They are finding a good response from people who are reading the books! The Malibu church members donated money to provide copies of THE SABBATH DVD so that it can be sent to every home in March. •They had another baptism Nov. 29.

MOJAVE

Services are held each Sabbath.

MOORPARK

Services are on Sabbath at 5 p.m.

NORTHRIDGE

"Let the Whole World Sing" Christmas Cantata, on Dec. 14, celebrated of Jesus' birth in sound and imagery. It featured the Los Angeles Central Youth Strings, Northridge Church Choir and the Northridge Church Youth Department. The benefit program was for a new sound system. •David Gardner is leading a weekly class for up to eight students who attend the nearby California State University, Northridge. •Church members are preparing food two Sundays each month to feed homeless people in Van Nuys and Canoga Park. •Joy Wyler coordinates a twice-a-month visit by choir members to provide music at a local rehab center.

OJAI

Maggie Garret has returned from the Amazing Facts College of Evangelism (AFCOE) to serve as a local Bible Worker. •Training is underway for church members in personal witnessing techniques including door-to-door literature distribution. In addition, the church members maintain six Signs of the Times magazine distribution boxes on the streets of Ojai. •A soup kitchen for the needy each Tuesday evening is followed by a Bible study class.



Out of the

In the Churches...

OXNARD

The Youth Class collected more than 700 canned goods that helped to make up food baskets for 25 church and community members for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. •Nineteen candidates were baptized during the last quarter of 2013. Pastor Avitia was able to do a baptism Dec. 28, even though he had recently been discharged from the hospital earlier in the month.

PALMDALE

Each Sabbath afternoon a potluck lunch is provided as part of the activities for youth of the church.

RIDGECREST

Members built and staffed a Bethlehem Village with various stations for the public to visit. At each station part of the Christmas story was presented. •A Christmas cantata, All is Well, was presented. •A Christmas holiday cooking class featured vegan treats. •A follow up CHIP program is planned to help people walk who have fallen off the good diet wagon. •An upcoming training class will help members reach out of inactive Adventist members as well as training on how to reach people of the Muslim persuasion.

SANTA BARBARA

For one hour each Sabbath, members are using the Amazing Facts GPS community survey to enroll residents in a six-lesson Bible course. Fifty-six recipients have responded and six are already on lesson two. •Sabbath services are uploaded online every Sabbath. •The Connect group presents a vespers worship in the home of one church member each week for Adventist students and others attending UC Santa Barbara. •Community services activities include feeding the homeless once a month and distributing clothing to the poor.

SANTA CLARITA

Sabbath services during December followed the Advent theme and began with a special Christmas performance by the Glendale Academy Chorale directed by Tim Hansen. •Service on Dec. 21, featured Children's Ministries. •Church elders prepared a Christmas Candlelight service held at 11p.m. Christmas Eve. •Guest speakers for services Dec. 28, included Steve Moseley, and Jan 4, Milton Hinkle. •Upcoming Sabbaths will focus on spiritual renewal with testimonies and ways to allow God to speak through each member to people around them.

SANTA MONICA

A special Visitors Day Nov. 21, included a Thanksgiving dinner following the worship hour. •A special Christmas Sabbath Visitor's Day Dec. 14, began with a breakfast brunch before the church service. •Loara High School Chamber Singers performed for worship service Dec. 21. •A communion-Agape Feast was held Friday evening, Jan. 3.

SIMI VALLEY

The annual Christmas concert featured the church choir and brass and string instrumentalists Dec. 14. •The church hosted its third annual Christmas Sabbath Brunch Dec. 21, prior to the worship service. •Members and friends participated in a New Year's Eve celebration in the gymnasium. •Speaker for the annual Week of Renewal and Revival Feb. 1 to 8, will be James Rafferty focusing on the Book of Revelation. •Drs. Dick and Jo Ann Davidson from Andrews University will host a Focus of Faith weekend on March 1. •Musician Jerry Nelson will be featured at morning worship hour and at an evening concert April 19. •For the Focus on Faith weekend May 3, Dr. Jon Paulien will present messages on God's End Time People.



James Rafferty

SYLMAR

The 2013 year ended with 3 baptisms including one young adult and two youth. (Members are currently finishing projects to beautify their church with reupholstering all of the pews, and updating the men's and ladies' bathrooms.

TEHACHAPI

Services are held each Sabbath.

THOUSAND OAKS

On Sabbath, Dec. 21, Star Halm and a group of church members presented "The Birth of Jesus Christ" through character narration and song. Star used her experience as an actress in Hollywood for many years to write and direct this Christmas service. •Sixteen members are taking a class on "Mission-Focused" Small



God Bless

In the Churches...

Groups to learn how to form groups that will minister to members and reach out to the community. New groups were forming in late January. •The Thousand Oaks Church participated in the Ten Days of Prayer, Jan. 8 to 18, led by Joy Johannsen and the PrayerWarriors. •Dr. Valerie Rhaney and the Health Ministries Committee are developing plans for community health lectures featuring well-known Adventist health educators.

THE PLACE

Members participated in the Christmas Exchange, an outreach by a large coalition of churches in Ventura County that allows under-privileged families to get Christmas gifts for their kids. •Church members celebrated beautiful Christmas communion, vespers and worship celebration. •Youth members went to San Francisco to be part of a Youth With A Mission (YWAM) outreach to the homeless. •A group of youth and junior high plan to go to Camp at Lake Hume for winter camp. •The church helped sponsor blind camp for visually impaired kids as part of X-MO (extreme mobility camps) by hosting a fund-raiser concert Jan. 25, at The Place with Steve Green performing.



served in the fellowship hall. •Buried Blueprints: The Search for Paradise began Jan/ 25. and continues Friday and Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. through March 8. This biblical adventure begins with a trip back to the beginning of time. The multimedia presentation by Pastor John Aitken focuses on archaeological finds relevant in the unfolding of the Great Controversy.

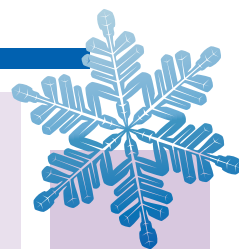
Frances Flores sings at the candlelight Christmas program at Van Nuys Church.

VAN NUYS

The holiday season at the Van Nuys Church culminated in a candlelit service on Saturday evening, Dec. 21. The singing of carols along with special instrumental and organ selections were combined with the Christmas story, an original millennial nativity featuring words and music written and directed by member Manny Estrella. Afterward refreshments were

VENTURA

Gospel singer Jim McDonald presented the Sabbath worship service, Jan. 18. •The Ventura congregation is organizing a new youth praise leadership team.



Let's Go!

In the Churches...

In the Churches...

Out West

WEST
REGION
OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
CONFERENCE

Richard Roethler,
Director

C. Elwyn Platner
Editor

2013
Fall Edition

Fall 2013 • Number 4

IN THE CHURCHES

BURBANK

Members from Burbank and Culver City congregations came together for a joint beach vespers Sept. 14. Roaster corn and hotdogs along with some tempting sweets were the menu. The event closed the Sabbath in a circle of prayer. Both churches have plans to do more combined activities. •*How To Give Away Your Faith* is a six-week theme that began on October 4 that includes a sermon series and small group curriculum. Members are learning how to inject faith into everyday experiences. The series will end with a Sabbath of sharing on Nov. 16.

CAMARILLO

An International Social with food and games was held Sept. 28. •The Linda Vista Jog-a-thon is schedule at 9 a.m., Oct. 20, followed by a Fall Festival at 11 a.m. •The second showing of the movie Hell and Mr. Fudge will be on Oct. 30 at the Roxy Theater. •The CHIP Alumni "Garden of Eden" meetings on second Thursday each month are growing as others join to learn how to eat and live healthier. •Annual Thanksgiving Banquet and community outreach will be at 5 p.m., Nov. 17. •Christmas Candlelight Program will be Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.. It's planned and coordinated by Logan Dickinson and his team. •The annual Choir Christmas Program will be Dec. 21, 10:45 a.m.

CANOGA PARK

Canoga Park has had eight people baptized this year.

CULVER CITY

An Adventure Club has been re-launched. Yanet and Art Morales have assumed leadership and have formed a team of good helpers. The club meets twice a month on Sabbath afternoon. •Jason Whitley will be assisting the ministerial staff as a "Preaching Pastor" filling in for Pastor Kaatz when he is at his other church (Burbank). Jason has preached several times already but officially begins on Oct. 19.

GRACE COMMUNITY

Akiah Northern was ordained as a church elder in September. •Church members partner with Santa Barbara church members to feed up to 100 homeless people of Santa Barbara on the second Wednesday each month. In addition, the two congregations are co-sponsoring seminars on creation/evolution, mental health and womens' health issues.

HOLLYWOOD

Dec. 28, Sacred Violin Concert, will feature young virtuoso Milden LaiPang, a Redlands Academy graduate with highest honors who was recently awarded a full four-year scholarship to the prestigious Eastman School of Music in Rochester NY and a recipient of the 2013 scholarship from the American Institute of Fine Arts in Los Angeles, 2:15 p.m. Hollywood Adventist Church. Sponsored and hosted by the Hollywood Thai Company. Info: Pastor Somchai Piromgraiakd, 323-428-6727. •Rockny Dahl is serving as transitional pastor for the Hollywood church.

LAKE OF THE WOODS

Normal services are held each Sabbath.

LANCASTER

"Experiencing God" is a ten-week study series which began Sept. 11. The weekly attendance is growing. •A prayer ministry to intercede for college students is conducted in the church's Ten Commandments Garden each day during their lunch time. The church is across the street from the Community College. •International Sabbath Oct. 12, featured Dr. Maury Jackson as speaker and an afternoon concert by the Golden State Quartet. •Overall church attendance has significantly increased during the last six months on each Sabbath on which Children's Church is provided. The special service for children is held during the usual second worship service.

MALIBU

When Hillary Cruz was baptized in September this brought to eight the number of souls baptized this year in the Malibu congregation. Another young adult also made a commitment for baptism following the ceremony.



MOORPARK

Agape Feast is scheduled for Nov. 23 during the service at 5 p.m.

MOJAVE

Sabbath sermons are focusing on the Triumph of Christians in a four-part series. •A group of members have been planning and preparing to involve local residents in Bible studies. • Mojave members participated in an all-night prayer meeting.

NORTHRIDGE

A Revelation of Hope series of meetings on Friday and Saturday evenings was held from Sept. 4, to Oct. 26. •Small groups are meeting every Thursday evening. •A Christmas program will be presented at 7 p.m., Dec. 14.

OJAI VALLEY

Dennis Priebe presented another in his Day of Revival meetings Oct. 19, the latest in a series. His presentations titles have included "Why is the Nature of Christ so Important," "O Lord Jesus, How Long?," "Higher Than the Highest," and "Sleeping on Enchanted Ground." Matthew Priebe presented "The God-given Gift of Animal Architecture" for the evening vespers. •The Tuesday evening Soup Kitchen and Bible Study serves local residents and attenders at 6 p.m. and is followed by Bible study at 7 p.m. •Linda Vista Adventist Elementary School will be featured at the Nov. 16, church service.

OXNARD

An evangelistic series featuring Pastor Arnold Trujillo was recently concluded with six candidates baptized and four more to be baptized later. •A Vacation Bible School in August was attended by 80 children.

PALMDALE

For years Palmdale Church like so many of our churches has been known for their Food and Clothing Distribution Program. On the first and third Wednesday of the month under the leadership of church elder Elizabeth Meno, those dedicated to the Community Service Ministry, affectionately distribute boxes of groceries. While the numbers vary they have distributed boxes to as many as 102 persons in the community. This year Community Service expanded their ministry, they decided to invite the community into the church's fellowship hall. On each month with a fifth Monday, they host a nutritious and tasty vegetarian dinner for the homeless in the area. Monday Sept. 30, they fed 69 persons. While the food they distribute is mainly provided by the LA County Food Bank, she says the success is because of the financial support from the church family, the Master Guides who set-up and ladies who cook and serve the food. She plans to have someone give a sermonette while they are waiting for the meal. Community Services' desire is to feed their spiritual needs while caring for their physical needs. The next dinner will be Dec. 30.

RIDGECREST

About half of those who attended the Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) seminar during August were visitors from the community. Some also continued by attending church services. Church women prepared food each evening to create a supper club atmosphere with a health twist. •At a Sabbath morning worship service for seniors in a local nursing home the church members provide choir music and other special features including participation by school children.

SANTA BARBARA

Open house facilitator for the Outreach Ministries will be at 6 p.m. Oct. 24. •Harvest Festival will begin at 6 p.m., Oct. 31, and include chili, combread, roasted corn and candy apples. Proceeds go to the Children's Christmas Nativity musical. •Following Jesus Through the Sanctuary is held every Sabbath 3 to 4:30 p.m. •The collegiate adult program, "Connect" is held Friday evenings in a church members home. From 15 to 20 attend each week. •College-age Sabbath School begins with breakfast weekly at 9 a.m. •Thanksgiving Musical will be Nov. 23.

SANTA CLARITA

More than 50 women attended the women's ministry-sponsored brunch featuring speaker Tracy Klehn who spoke on the value of friendships, particularly between women. Santa Clarita Church Women's Ministries will also sponsor the Christmas Holiday Boutique, which will be on Nov. 3, in the Christian Life Center. •Renovations have been recently completed, most notably, a major re-roofing project. They have replaced the flat roofs, lightening them and repairing damage from dry rot and termites. The facilities coordinator, Paul Cardey, has taken an extraordinary interest in efforts to complete the project, and forward the progress made on increasing the function and beauty of our facilities. •Children's Ministry programs have resumed with the start of school. Children's church was offered for two age groups again, and they planned an "Atrium" training the second Sabbath of October. •The music programs are back in season, too! Planning is underway for the holiday season to include the Advent-themed worship service which will culminate in a traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service, 11 pm to midnight, Dec/ 24.

SANTA MONICA

Much needed repairs and improvements to the church facility are underway. Current projects include window replacement and repair and installation of a new fence.

SIMI VALLEY

Fifty women attended the women's conference titled God's Love Song, Sept. 21. Ginny Allen was speaker. •A Women's Ministries Brunch will be on Dec. 1. •Michael Okeynik will present evangelistic meetings Oct. 18 to 26. •Pastor Joe Kidder will be featured speaker for the Focus on Faith Weekend, Nov. 2 and 3. It will focus on prayer. •A special Praise and Thanksgiving service will be on Nov. 30.



SYLMAR

Regular services are held each Sabbath.

TEHACHAPI

Dr. Ruben Hubbard has been presenting a series of lectures

THOUSAND OAKS

Pastor Larry Meager began a weekly "Wednesday Night Out" dinner and study time Sept. 25. Studies are focusing on Romans chapters 1 to 8. •A "Welcome Home Celebration" event Oct. 12, focused on reconnecting. •Dr. Wes Youngberg's subject Nov. 2, is "Good-bye Diabetes" and will focus on how to prevent and reverse some diabetes and reduce risk factors for cancer, heart disease and other lifestyle diseases. The program will include cooking demonstrations by Dr. John and Doris Westerdahl and book signing by Dr. Youngberg.

THE PLACE

More than 200 runners participated in The Place's Movin' Day 5K/10K and Family Fun Run Sept. 22. The event raised Thousands of dollars for Hacienda Oaks Estate in Moorpark...a house dedicated to helping autistic young adults have a place to live and grow. •Members participated in a Maranatha Church Builders project in August in Panama where they built a church. •Small groups for all ages have been formed to meet weekly or biweekly this fall.

VAN NUYS

International Sabbath Nov. 2, will emphasize the many cultures represented in this multiethnic church. Members are encouraged to come to services dressed as they would if attending church in their home countries. The evening's festivities will include taste-testing of many cuisines. •When school started, Dr. Kuk-Wha Won again began working with the children's choir which has grown each year and Pastor Aitken initiated the youth drama group, Gideon Players, which practices Friday evenings. The drama group draws youngsters, youth and young professionals in their early 20s. •Pathfinders and Adventurers helped with the church cleaning bee coordinated by lead deacon, Lee Azali in September. •Members are beginning lay training for reaching out more effectively to non-members during evangelism planned for early Spring.

VENTURA

•The church's community service has received a Proclamation of Commendation from Ventura County Board of Supervisors. •The church is coordinating the Community Thanksgiving Service. •The church's kitchen has been totally rebuilt.



October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Wondering how to express your appreciation?
Appreciation ideas include letters, dinner for two,
weekend retreat, art, notes of caring, gift cards,
—anything that communicates your **LOVE** and **CARING**.

Surprise you pastor with a hug today!



In the Churches... *Let's Celebrate*

In the Churches...

Out West

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IN THE CHURCHES

BURBANK

Church members participated in their second annual Church on the Lawn on July 20. It is held on the church's front lawn where friends and neighbors are encouraged to attend. A picnic lunch is served following the service.

CAMARILLO

On their mission trip June 20 to 30, a Camarillo volunteer team headed by Pastor and Mrs. William Sellers provided a Sports Camp/VBS and built two tree houses for the Navajo children. The program included morning and afternoon worship meetings, arts and crafts and various sports. On the return trip to Camarillo they spent three nights at Lake Powell where they had enjoyed water. •Five Camarillo hikers took a three-day trip to Kearsarge Lake and Kearsarge Pass (11,760 feet elevation) in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in eastern California. The inspiring atmosphere in God's natural cathedral was enjoyed by Dr. Steve Popkow, Matthew Popkow, Tony Crary, Shane Wright and William Sellers.



Camarillo hikers enjoy the view from the top of Kearsarge Pass.

CULVER CITY

Cars have run into the church buildings for the third time. "We must become a "drive-in" church," said Pastor Jan Kaatz. "Working with insurance adjusters and contractors is becoming a common occurrence," he added. "Discussions are underway with city officials to put in place protection to our property." •"Investigation Station, The Genesis Factor" was the theme at VBS in July.

HOLLYWOOD

During the interim while the congregation awaits a new pastor, the Sabbath service is coordinated by Neville Salvador, the first elder. •Special maintenance projects are underway on the church facility.

LAKE OF THE WOODS

Part four of the Health Seminar: Nutrition Lecture Series, "Fats", was presented July 13, for the community at the Lake of the Woods church. It focused on how to live a healthier life for the whole family. •The seminar was followed up in August with a cooking class Aug. 3. Pathfinders staffed a booth in the local Community Fair and handed out literature, balloon animals and cups of water. •Members are also planning monthly health lectures to be presented from September until the end of the year in the local library.

CANOGA PARK

The choir from Canoga Park Community Church, under the direction of Fe'ao and Sia Bloomfield, presented a public concert to celebrate Independence Day. The youth choir participated. Veterans from the community were honored. Some 400 people attended and the choir raised about \$1,000.

Youth choir helps celebrate Independence Day.



LANCASTER

It was 'moving' to see Daniel, Laila, Delaila and Dean Alles – an entire family--dedicate their lives to the Lordship of Jesus through baptism. •Pastor Chad Washburn of Lancaster church and Pastor William Sellers of the Camarillo Church led a youth mission trip to serve on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico in June. The trip was a blessing to the youth from both churches who went as well as to the Navajo people they served. •During the last week of July Lancaster enjoyed Kingdom Rock VBS. "With an attendance of 75 kids and 60 volunteers, this was perhaps one of the best VBSes that I have ever been a part of," said Pastor Ed Sammons. "It was a delight to see the Holy Spirit touch the lives of many children, youth and adults." •Experiencing God is the topic for a 10-week n-Depth study on Wednesdays, 7 p.m. beginning Sept. 11, in the Youth Chapel. •The Ten Commandments Garden in the church will be open during lunchtime on Mondays and Wednesdays for the public and Antelope Valley College students. Please pray for this outreach. •Church family members will come together weekly, bi-weekly and monthly in Life Development Groups for fellowship, food, Bible study and prayer. •Dr. Maury Jackson of La Sierra University will be speaker for the annual International Sabbath Oct. 12. The Golden State Quartet concert will follow the renowned International Sabbath potluck.

MALIBU

Members and friends celebrated the fifth anniversary Aug. 10, of the founding of the Malibu congregation. "Our church is growing and having a baptism just about every other month," said the congregation's leader Judith Miranda. She announced that a local friend of the church who had received The Great Hope, a condensation of the The Great Controversy book, has provided funding so that the book can be distributed to the 600 home in the community. "The distribution has already begun," she said, "and everyone has accepted it so far." Guest speakers at the celebration included Lonnie Melashenko, former speaker of The Voice of Prophecy radio broadcast, and Ricardo Graham, Pacific Union Conference president. Valley Crossroads Choral provided a special concert in the afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Miranda (far left and far right) accept a plaque of celebration on the Malibu congregation's fifth anniversary of its founding from William McCall, district pastor, and Rick Roethler, West Region director.



MOJAVE

Righteousness by Faith, a book by pioneer Adventist ministers, is the current focus of church services led by Pastor George Husband.

MOORPARK

Services are continuing at 5 p.m. every Sabbath.

NORTHRIDGE

Title of VBS this year was God's Backyard, Where Kids Have a Blast Serving Jesus. It was held each evening from July 15 to 19. Sandra Guzman was director. •Pastor Dan will hold evangelistic meetings in September and October.

OJAI VALLEY

The weekly Soup Kitchen changed its soup kitchen service from Wednesday to Tuesday at 6 p.m. A short Bible study for attendees follows the weekly meal. During the summer all none of the churches in Ojai Valley area provide shelter or meals for those in need. So this ministry has really had a positive impact on the community and helped give the Adventist church some good public exposure. •On July 4th the church hosted their annual potluck picnic and fireworks event. Members, friends and neighbors all joined in the fun with an excellent view of the Ojai fireworks display which is held at the local Nordoff High School just around the corner from the church. It's a wonderful way to enjoy Independence Day—food, friends, fireworks and no traffic.

OXNARD ALL NATIONS

Preparations are underway for evangelistic meetings in September with Elder Arnold Trujillo, Pacific Union Conference vice president, as speaker. Preceding the meetings the church will have a week of health emphasis and a week of family emphasis.

PALMDALE

A beach picnic and vespers is scheduled Aug. 31 at Sycamore Canyon with Pastor Rockne Dahl as speaker. •The Vacation Bible school in July was attended by about 50 children each day. •Pathfinder program is active •Both the Spanish and English congregations are growing.



Get Ready

In the Churches...

RIDGECREST/PRISON MINISTRY

The California Federal Prison has reopened and now includes female inmates, most of whom are American citizens. A team of eight Ridgecrest church women have volunteered to be trained at the prison to minister to the spiritual needs of the inmates. •West Region's Chaplain Dave Aldridge conducts and/or assists in conducting weekly services at a local assisted living home. Attendance varies from 10 to 30 depending on when the Ridgecrest church choir performs. Most patients are in wheelchairs and participate in singing with the performers. The theme is always "Jesus and His saving grace."

SANTA BARBARA

Fifty young literature evangelists worked for 2.5 weeks doing outreach. •Shoreline park fellowship will continue every Sabbath afternoon through the summer. •Training is continuing for members to learn how to approach neighbors and to establish friendships which will lead to sharing faith. •The semi-annual International Dinner will be held Sept. 15. The event is open to the community and will feature up to 10 nationalities.

SANTA BARBARA GRACE COMMUNITY

To deepen personal experience and broaden the church's understanding of sacred communion services, Grace Community has implemented several inspired innovations. At this year's first quarter communion service a member, Elizabeth Dexter, planned for several members to dress in first century period costumes and present dramatized readings of their roles in the way to Calvary. Each role exemplified new and more relevant ways that Christ and His sacrifice have impacted them. They included Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus, The High Priest, Simon the Cyrene and Mary the mother of Jesus. •The second quarter's communion service combined with a vocal duet sacred concert by teenage brothers Joseph and James Heams. Their songs focused on the love of Jesus, His death and resurrection. As members washed each other's feet Joseph and James close by singing "Sitting at the Feet of Jesus." The final communion of last year highlighted traditional breads from the Bible Lands with church members assisting each other tearing pieces of huge flat bread loaves—with a new understanding for "Let Us Break Bread Together." Only the Holy Spirit knows all the creative ways communion can be celebrated next.

SANTA CLARITA

On Sabbath, May 4, Greg and Jill Hoeness were welcomed back from his Sabbatical. Gifts of flowers placed at the pulpit and a Shepherd's Rod given as a symbol of Pastor Greg's leadership were presented. The elders of the church then prayed over them a prayer of renewal, committing to continued participation in and support of church leadership. •The "Kingdom Rock" Vacation Bible School was held June 24 to 28. Pacific Union College graduate Jason Whitley, who majored in theology, did the pastor's portion of the VBS during the week and preached Sabbath, June 29. He is the first ministerial student Santa Clarita has produced in more than a decade. •Sermons are available on the web at www.santaclaritasda.org.

SANTA MONICA

A reception for Santa Monica's new pastor, Tom Schroer, was held on July 13. He had been serving as interim pastor since the death of the former pastor, Allen Franzke. •A number of church repairs are underway. Pastor Schroer has been attending chaplain training sponsored by several civic agencies.

SYLMAR

Worship services are held every Sabbath morning.

TEHACHAPI

A ten-week certified professional counseling training program will be conducted at the Tehachapi church by Professor Ruben Hubbard to help church members become better listeners, facilitators and coaches in all kinds of church programs.

THE PLACE

A benefit concert by Faith First, a contemporary Christian singing group who are members of The Place church, was presented July 19, to benefit the XMO blind camp for young people. The camp features extreme sports for blind and visually impaired people. The singers include Andrea Judd, Marc Judd, Shani Judd-Diehl and Scott Reed. •Vacation Bible School was held in July and drew many children. •Several church members participated in the Panama Maranatha Mission church building project in August. •A picnic in Dos Viento Park included the church band and a BBQ. •Small groups continue to grow.



Let's Go!

In the Churches...

SIMI VALLEY

Recently Phil White, senior pastor at Simi Valley, was invited to be a guest lecturer for the Andrews University Doctor of Ministry program held at Zaoksky Adventist University in Tula, Russia. White, a certified Myers-Briggs Type practitioner lectured on understanding personality type in the context of Christian leadership and spiritual journey. In addition, on Sabbath, July 13, he spoke for the Sabbath services at one of the Moscow Adventist churches. One week later he spoke at the 20th anniversary celebration of a church established in Saratov, Russia, as a result of evangelistic meetings he held there. In 1993, shortly after the fall of the Iron Curtain, White led an evangelistic team of eight church members from the Skagit Valley of western Washington State to Saratov as part of the North Pacific Union Conference Operation Bear Hug initiative. Some 500 people were baptized in the campaign and a new church was established. •Tell It On the Mountain—During the week of June 24 to 28, Simi Valley church held its annual Vacation Bible School directed by Sue Romero and Jay Johnson. Fifty-three children enjoyed some of the Bible's mountaintop experiences enacted by local drama talent: Ken Wade, Joel and Abby Marenco, Max Taylor and Jay Johnson. Daren Kelly Gaines helped lead daily music portions. 15 other adults assisted. Romero is already planning next year's theme and program. •Sabbath School departments hosted a VBS After Party for all the participants and their parents on Sunday after VBS. Dr. Richard and Elaine Price opened their home for the event which included swimming under the supervision of a certified lifeguard and some initial scuba diving training from a master diver. •This summer the Simi church is hosting a series of Sabbath afternoon activities for fellowship and relationship building known as Simi on the Mount and Simi by the Sea. The program is held at various area venues.

On International Sabbath many members dressed in their national costume or of countries where they had served. Among them were Elaine Price, left, and Connie Owens.



THOUSAND OAKS

The church has begun a "reconnect ministry" to re-establish relationships with as many inactive members as they can. Urlene Tabor is leading this ministry. •Health Ministries Committee is planning a 50+ Fitness Class which will focus on improving flexibility, strength, endurance and balance. A pilot class was held the weekend of July 13. Dr. John and Doris Westerdahl are planning for a plant-based Thanksgiving dinner for the church and the community this fall to demonstrate that one can have a festive plant-based Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings that is not only healthier but delicious as well. •Pastor Mike and Debbie Brownfield led a seven-week grief support group for people who have lost a loved one in death. •Dr. Youngberg is scheduled to make a presentation on homecoming Sabbath, Oct. 12. He will present in the late afternoon and then move into the kitchen for a cooking demonstration conducted by the Westerdahls. Then at sundown Dr. Youngberg will make his book and tapes available.

VAN NUYS

Sandra Guzman directed this year's Vacation Bible School—Investigation Station: Where Kids Investigate God's Word—July 22 to 26. Special emphasis was placed on the creation week with a hands-on segment for age group. Each of these segments was presented in the Van Nuys

Church's archaeological and anthropology museum by Pastor John Aitken. Forty percent of VBS enrollment was from community non-member homes. Two brothers who attended have persuaded their parents to bring them to church every Sabbath. Another boy has begun attending Adventurers. This is the second consecutive year for VBS after many years without one. •Youth Pastor Arlene Estrada Chow planned and directed the third annual Zion National Park Retreat for the church.

VENTURA

The Ventura church continues its collaboration with two homeless outreach agencies: The Kingdom Center and Project Understanding. •Annual VBS was held in July. •As a result of an inheritance gift the church is renovating the kitchen. •On Pentecost Sunday, May 19, the church members participated in an ecumenical prayer service for the City of Ventura. •Midweek service, "Remembering God is Leading," continues with focus on the history of the Christian church.



Out There

In the Churches...

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Volume 5, Number 2 • Late Spring Issue

IN THE CHURCHES

BURBANK

In January a car smashed into a wall between the church and neighbor property. Construction of the new wall is almost complete. The building contractor offered to cut \$12,000 from the bid to repair the wall if church members demolished the old wall. So during Spring Break volunteers (Jan, Ellen, Chris, Amanda, Carlos, Zach, and George) came one Sunday afternoon and each day that week and tore down that wall. The contractor was so impressed with one member (Justin Abramson) that he hired him to help build the new wall. New wall includes appropriate lighting for the parking lot.

CAMARILLO

Choir and orchestra performed "In The Shadow of the Cross" on Easter Sabbath.* On May 18, they will perform their annual "Festival of Praise." *Camarillo's health series led by Dr. David Lowe began April 7, with "Healthy Taste of Ventura." More than 180 people from a wide area attended and learned the keys to healthy living. Dr. Hans Diehl presented the keys to a balanced life on April 13, emphasizing the importance of healthy living. The CHIP program began Sunday, April 21. The church's website details present and upcoming health programs: www.camarillosda.org *Children's Church was on March 23. *Adventurer Club will present the church service May 11. *Pathfinders was launched April 20. *Youth members have been raising funds for their June 20 to 30, trip to LaVida Mission. *The Puppet Ministry is currently creating and assembling a variety of new puppet characters.

CULVER CITY

In December an out-of-control car smashed into the side of the church causing about \$60,000 in damage. Repairs to the building have been completed. Pastor Kaatz will move into his new office next week.

GRACE COMMUNITY

A praise team under Vito Darudono, the newest ministry at Grace Community, has been leading in worship for the past two months. His wife Melissa sings with Danielle Dexter. Jonathan Cress completes the team with his guitar. In addition to leading church in worship, they also take their praise music to the local Rescue Mission for Sabbath evening worship. The team reported they "spend a lot of time in prayer over the selection of songs and the preparation of their hearts before they lead worship".

HOLLYWOOD

Worship service at the church was delayed until 11 a.m. April 6, because of the Hollywood Half Marathon run which caused Hollywood Boulevard to be blocked off.

CANOGA PARK

Church members planned to play a softball game with members of another church March 31. "But people from the other church did not come. So Canoga Park Adventists won! Then we played ourselves and lost," said Pastor Will McCall. More than two dozen people came out and had fun.



Canoga Park's winning team



LAKE OF THE WOODS

Preparations are underway for a health seminar in May. It will include vegetarian cooking recipes to share with the community and a local doctor as a speaker. Lunch afterward will feature the fruits of the cooking labors.

LANCASTER

Church on March 3, hosted a standing room only concert featuring current world champion choirs including the Oakwood University Aolians. The "Sunday Night Singers, a local choir which finished as runner-up in World Choir Games," was a taste of heaven on earth." *Easter Weekend: March 29, Agape Feast; March 30, Easter Sabbath featuring church orchestra; March 31, Easter Extravaganza in a park included an Easter egg hunt. *April 6, Paul Volk, speaker/director of food Newstart Plus, presented talks on health and experience rest on the Sabbath. *April 13, featured Children's Church. The week of April 14 to 20, included Prayer Ministry in the Garden at lunch time. *Members raised \$1,000 for Third World Feminine

MOJAVE

Efforts to reclaim missing members have resulted in several returning to the church. *Services have been featuring messages by Evangelist Doug Batchelor.

MOORPARK

Sabbath Worship services have continued with guest speakers every Sabbath at 5 p.m for the Moorpark congregation since the memorial service for Pastor Tim Garrison.

NORTH RIDGE

Vacation Bible School is slated for July. *Feed homeless and second and fourth Sabbath each month. *Two home-based Bible studies are ongoing.

OJAI VALLEY

May 4, will be a special day of reflection and encouragement with Dan Strever as speaker. *The children of the Ojai Valley Church will present a special Mother's Day concert during the morning worship hour on May 11. Then church members will sing for local shut-ins and nursing home residents. *Oct. 19, will be a special day of revival with Dennis Priebe.

OXNARD

Children's Church for kids ages 4 to 10 is being offered every first and third Sabbath. Already parents are bringing their children and many parents are staying for the service. *Violinist Merielle presented a concert April 20. *The Holy Spirit moved in a mighty way during the recent Week of Prayer. *Several people who have been receiving Bible studies are preparing for baptism.

PALMDALE

Pastor Rockne Dahl announced that he will retire on June 1. *Pathfinder Club is creatively raising funds for their trip to the 2014 International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisc. They raised \$1,500 at a recent banquet. *Paul Volk gave a NewStart Plus seminar March 31 to April 2. *Palmdale Church received many beautiful trees from Leland Nursery and Patio Supply Co., of San Bernardino. Pastor Dahl reports that the company, which has five acres of nursery supplies, has offered to donate trees and plants to any Adventist church which applies (909-889-7333).

RIDGECREST

Members participated in a revival series in April. *Members from the grade school band participated in a successful band trip to San Diego. *Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the summer.

SANTA BARBARA

A team from Souls West ministry coordinated an orientation and outreach weekend in the Santa Barbara church. It began with a Friday evening meeting at a member's home with worship and music. On Sabbath afternoon teams were formed and went out into the community for an hour to distribute Glow pamphlets and then returned to church to share their experiences. The Santa Barbara project continues until May 4. *A school fundraiser rummage sale was scheduled for April 28. *Santa Barbara's retired pastor, Elder and Mrs. Pete Geli, will be moving to a new location. So he will present his farewell sermon May 25. *Sabbath afternoon Bible study fellowship led by Dr and Mrs. Sam Geli continues. *Vacation Bible School will be June 17 to 21.

SANTA MONICA

While a search is underway for a new pastor, Elder Tom Schroer has officiated in Sabbath services.



Let's Go!

In the Churches...

SANTA CLARITA

Pastor Greg Hoenes has been away on Sabbatical for the past three months and returns to his pulpit on May 4. *The annual Women's Tea is on April 28.

SIMI VALLEY

Responding to Conflict Biblically, a seminar on reconciliation was presented April 20, at the morning worship hour and a four-hour afternoon session. Elder Charles Brown, president of Adventist Reconciliation Services and a conciliator certified by the Institute of Christian Conciliation, presented the seminar. Participants learned how to work through real-life conflicts using biblical principles. The material is applicable to the family, the workplace, the community and the church. *Pianist Jerry Nelson presented the worship service as well as an afternoon concert April 13.

SYLMAR

Two candidates were baptized April 20: Alber Tapia, 10, and Angelica Ignacio, 13. *The Day Care Center is a source of community involvement for the Sylmar church.

THOUSAND OAKS

Health and Longevity was the center piece of a cooking school recently at the Thousand Oaks church. Forty visitors from the community were introduced to the church through the event. Dr. and Mrs. John Westerdahl and numerous church volunteers shared with the visitors the church's desire to enable them to live long and healthful lives. Numerous visitors stated their desire to attend future events at the church.

TEHACHAPI

Tehachapi church recently concluded an inspiring, informational weekend health seminar with a health educator and senior Olympics silver medalist Paul Volk. In addition to emphasizing the NEWSTART principles and making them come alive, he also related experiences from his travels around the world. *Pathfinders and Adventurers led a church social at the Mountain Men Rendezvous in Caliente. People from all over the US came there to live the simple life of the 1700's and 1800's in tents and teepees. Most wear period clothes and tell stories and join in activities of the period. *Pastor Gomez from Bakersfield Academy will lead Spring Week of Prayer May 3 to 10. The series will start and end on Friday because of the speaker's busy schedule. Three of the seven meetings will be conducted via telephone. Anyone who wishes participate on the phone nights (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday) may call the church at 661-822-1174. *Dick

Shafer, official historian of the city of Loma Linda, will speak Sabbath morning, May 18, for the church service and at 2 p.m. His theme, "God's leading in establishing Loma Linda University," will detail God's miracles in the university's history.

THE PLACE

The discipleship journey with many small groups is continuing through this year. *The church camping weekend at Sycamore Cove will be May 17 to 19. *Two mission trips this year will go to orphanages in Honduras. *VBS week of be June 21 to 27.

VAN NUYS

"Excavating the Apocalypse: Unlocking Daniel & Revelation," a new evangelistic series produced by Pastor John Aitken began April 13, and will conclude May 18. Attendance in all age groups has been good. Shereen Walker, an Adventist student from the United Kingdom who faithfully attends the Van Nuys Church, invited six fellow students from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles as well as a friend from another college. From all backgrounds (including Jewish), these young adults have been faithfully attending. Armando Vasquez, who made a decision to join the Van Nuys church during the last series, "Excavating Jesus," is now part of the audio-video team and is controlling the sound system for the presentations.

VENTURA

The Ventura SDA Church has completed the first successful series in The Full Plate Diet program. People from within the church and from the community (who responded to advertising in the local newspapers) have enthusiastically embraced the principles and are visibly showing fantastic results. Future follow up meetings and continued series are planned. *In concert with First Christian Church, the Ventura Adventist Church has been importing truckloads of surplus vegetables from Mexico for the homeless and poor in the Ventura area. These truckloads arrive every two weeks during the winter/spring months. *Ventura Men's Ministries is continuing weekly small group meetings as a result of Life Renewal Seminars.



Full Plate Diet

In the Churches...

In the Churches...

Out West

**WEST
REGION
OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
CONFERENCE**

Richard Roethler,
Director

C. Elwyn Platner
Editor

2013
Spring Edition



Volume 8, Number 1

Simi Valley Associate Pastor becomes first ordained woman in West Region

Associate pastor Jan White was ordained to the gospel ministry Dec. 29. She is the first woman in the Southern California Conference West Region to be ordained since the Pacific Union Conference and the Southern California Conference provided approval for women's ordination. Union and Conference officials and other ministers conducted the service in the Simi Valley church. She has served in various ministerial positions in Washington and Georgia since the 1990s and came to the Simi Valley church in June 2011 to be Associate Pastor for Nurture and Discipleship



Photo by Gerry Chudleigh

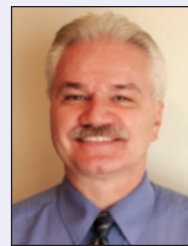
Southern California Conference President Larry L. Caviness, left, speaks with Elders Phil and Jan White as he presents to Pastor Jan her Certificate of Ordination and welcomes her as an ordained minister of the gospel of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Two West Region Pastors await the call of the Master

A memorial service for Elder Tim Garrison, pastor of the Moorpark Adventist Community Fellowship, will be held Feb. 23, at 4:30 p.m. in the Camarillo church. Pastor Garrison died at home Feb. 4. He was founder and pastor of the Moorpark Community Church and had also pastored congregations in Simi Valley, Camarillo and Northridge during his ministerial service in the Southern California Conference. And active supporter of Hope for Humanity, Garrison led members of his congregation on mission trips to help further the work of the program in Inter America. A website in Tim's memory has been set up at hopeforhumanity.fundly.com/garrisonmemorialfund



Funeral service for the Santa Monica church Pastor Allen Franzke was held at the church Dec. 1. He passed away after a lingering illness. Elder Franzke and his wife, Jill, came to serve the Santa Monica church in 2003 from Arizona where he had been pastoring since 1997. He had also previously pastored church in Southern California and Central California Conference.



CHURCH NEWS

BURBANK

Sunday afternoon, Jan. 13, a car struck the brick wall between the church and a neighbor churches. It left a 30-foot hole and did minor damage to neighbor's property. Estimate to repair is \$15,000 and will begin as soon as insurance money comes. *Lay leader for Outreach, LaViva Primm, preached on Sabbath, Jan. 26, on every person's responsibility to reach the community. She invited anyone to meet on Sabbaths after church to brainstorm and plan outreach for the coming months.

A group of 10 eager people met to pray and plan. *A growth spurt of Young Adults is happening. The Kaatz family hosted a potluck in their home for 22 young adults on Sabbath, Feb. 2. They had a great afternoon getting to know each other better as they shared stories. *Church members voted on Feb 2 to begin Phase II of their Building For Life remodeling project. They approved borrowing funds to make repairs to several exterior areas of the church (staircase, walkways, parking lot, broken glass and roof repairs).

CAMARILLO

Fifty community people came to the Jan. 13, health expo health screening. *Active Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) alumni (The Garden of Eatin') meets every second Thursday of the month.

**Forks Over Knives* was shown Jan. 19. *Full Plate Diet meetings began Feb. 10, at 5:30 pm for eight weeks (seven additional Sundays). *Women's Tea was held Feb. 10, at church and Men's Valentines Brunch was at Church also. *The Annual City Fundraiser "Crop Walk" will be on March 10. *For the first time Camarillo Adventist church will host the Camarillo ministerial associating meetings every Wednesday in March from 11:45-1:15.

CANOGA PARK

At Canoga Park Church the choir is booming. Not only do they have a growing adult choir, but a children's choir has about three dozen young people. This is all thanks to the music leader, Fe'ao Bloomfield and his wife Sia.

*In the Canoga Park cluster, half-a-dozen Muslims have been baptized in the last 10 years.



GRACE COMMUNITY

Once a month the members present a short music/homily program Saturday night in the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission.

HOLLYWOOD

For three Sundays in February and March members of the Hollywood Adventist church are serving breakfast and dinner to about 50 of their chronically homeless neighbors in Hollywood. This is the second year the faith community in Hollywood has organized a shelter to cover the coldest winter months. "It is a beautiful opportunity to hear stories of our neighbors and share God's love through friendship and food," said Pastor Ryan Bell.

LAKE OF THE WOODS

A March health seminar in the local community hall in March will include vegetarian cooking, a presentation by a local physician and community participation. *The annual prophecy seminar for English people will be in April.

LANCASTER

The February sermon series, "Raising Godly Kids," began with "How to Have a Family Worship" *Children's church is on the second Sabbath each month. *Young adult ministry began in January including Sabbath School, young adult Fun night and monthly fellowship. *Souls West Colporteurs spent five weeks in Lancaster going door-to-door throughout the Antelope Valley. *An outreach ministry began in February with targeting Filipino people. *Looking ahead – Pastor Chad Washburn is planning a youth mission trip in June.

CULVER CITY

About 12:30 AM on Dec. 31, a car struck the exterior wall of the Culver City Church causing major damage to the two offices and men's restroom. It was initially reported as a hit and run, but the driver and passenger were soon found with no major personal injury. But the damage estimate is more than \$60,000. Clean up and repairs started immediately. It will probably take six-to-seven weeks to complete. *A mid-week prayer meeting led by layman Anthony Tarvin brings approximately 20-to-25 each week to share and pray. Head elder David Laulile says it is a



highlight of his week. *At a business meeting Feb. 9, members approved Phase II of Building For Life remodeling project.

This includes replacing roof and windows on the Classroom side of campus and do major repair on main parking lot and resurface second a parking lot. This project will begin in mid-April.

Photo by Ruth Harvey-Dixon taken shortly after the accident at Culver City church.



Let's Go!

In the Churches...

MALIBU

The Malibu group ended 2012 with a bang and six baptisms! Judith Miranda and her husband, Jobe, have been doing a great job of reaching out to people in their community. Of the baptisms for last year, two had been Muslims.



MOORPARK COMMUNITY

Memorial service for Pastor Tim Garrison will be at 4:30 p.m., Feb. 23, at the Camarillo Adventist church.

MOJAVE

Since the beginning of December, the Doug Batchelor video series has been shown each week.

NORTHRIDGE

"How to have a dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ" is Pastor Dan Vaughn's current sermon series. *The youth chapel is being temporarily rented to Valley United Korean Adventist church for Sabbath services. *Wednesday night prayer bands and Friday night vespers.

OJAI VALLEY

The Ojai Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church has begun a new outreach project: A weekly Soup Kitchen. The Soup Kitchen ministry is a result of the vision of the non-Adventist spouse of one of the young members. When the vision was shared with others in the church, there was an outpouring of support and participation. The Soup Kitchen began operating in January serving 17 individuals the first night. Now, each Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. a hot meal is served to the Ojai and Meiners Oaks community members followed by a Bible study led by one of the church elders or deacons. *Dillon Vadez was guest speaker for the Feb 9, Sabbath worship hour.

OXNARD ALL NATIONS

A week of prayer and revival will be presented the last week of March by Elder Vic Louis Areolla, Pacific Union Asian Pacific coordinator. *Children's Church for ages 4 to 10 is beginning and will be presented on first and third Sabbath each month from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

PALMDALE

Pastor Jose Gutierrez and the Spanish ministry of Palmdale church have just concluded a three weekend evangelistic series with three persons planning on baptism. *A generous church member has donated the funds to pay for the installation of parking lot lights. *The Pathfinder group is busy selling donated items at a local flea market every Sunday and in order to raise money for a trip to Wisconsin next year for the International Pathfinder Camporee at Oshkosh. *Palmdale Community Services has joined a coalition of community churches to provide dinners for needy families. Palmdale will be covering the fifth Monday night of each quarter.

RIDGECREST

During the Christmas season a nativity scene with live animals was well received despite very cold weather. *Christmas Cantata was a big hit with the community as an annual event. *For the second year the Coronary Health Improvement Project program was presented and drew 50 enthusiastic participants, the church's biggest source of interests. *Ridgecrest church members are being permitted to present Bible studies to 20 male prison inmates. The prison is also permitting services for female inmates. *Worship services are also being presented at a Ridgecrest nursing home.

SANTA BARBARA

Finish the Work Ministries led a seminar on witnessing techniques in Santa Barbara Feb. 1 and 2. Young members of the group presented testimonies and music and told how to use Glow pamphlets in witnessing. *Inspirare, a 20-voice singing group, will present worship service with music and testimonials March 2. *"Connect," a ministry for University of Santa Barbara students and youth of similar age, which meets Friday evenings, will present the entire Sabbath service March 23. *The annual International Dinner is scheduled for March 24. Members from various ethnic backgrounds will prepare foods from their countries of origin. Neighbors and friends are invited to attend.

SANTA MONICA

Funeral service for Pastor Allen Franzke was held Dec. 1, at the Santa Monica church where he had been pastor since 2003.



Out Reach

In the Churches...

SIMI VALLEY

Church members have adopted a new mission statement:
“Our Mission: *To hear and follow the invitation of Christ...*”

COME SIMI: At the Cross...Renewing your life...

Transforming your world...For Eternity!

Our Vision:

Expanding His Circle of Friends Through...

Sharing the Life-changing Good News,

Igniting Intimate Spiritual Growth,

Manifesting Dynamic Servant Leadership,

Inspiring Christ-centered Worship”

*On Jan. 26, Simi Valley Church members celebrated the 60th anniversary of the formal organization of the congregation and the 50th anniversary of the opening of its present church building.

Several former pastors sent letters with memories of the years they had served.



Pastors who attended the anniversary celebration were, from left, Jan Kaatz, Will Sellers, Chuck Jensen, Jan White, Phil White, Bill Hull, Jeff Rosenthal and Brad Newton

SYLMAR

TEHACHAPI

A first for Tehachapi: they did **10 days of prayer** in their pajamas from home. One of the members hooked up the homes with a conference call. They could also check in at 6:30 a.m. from anywhere — some were on the way to work, other had just gotten up to start the day, some made a special sacrifice to get up a little earlier. Together they were able to read the devotional message and follow the outline suggested by ten-days-of-prayer.org. Spending time early in the morning was rewarding. Participants could spend whatever time he had and then just quietly slip away. *Feb. 22, Nico Hill will be the featured speaker for the **Heart-to-Heart meeting**, a regular spiritual growth feature of the youth department. *Feb. 23, Nico will be guest speaker at the Sabbath morning worship hour. *Pathfinders and Adventurers are organizing a field trip for the whole church to the Borax Mine in Boron. The visitor center and the Twenty Mule Team Museum is at one of only three significant borite mines in the entire world. Borites are found in most anything we use from day to day.

THOUSAND OAKS

On Feb. 2, the Thousand Oaks church hosted a screening of the movie, “**Hell and Mr. Fudge**,” the story about a Church

of Christ ministerial student-turned-pastor who discovered the Bible truth about hell and the challenges he faced as a result. Some of the cast and producers were on hand to answer questions. The movie was produced by Jeffrey Cordone, Gabe Videla of D’Artagnan Entertainment and Pat Arrabito of LLT Productions, with Jeff Wood. *The Evangelism, Health, and Prayer committees have teamed up to work together for 2013. Their first meeting was attended by 40 people. They will try lay evangelism meetings this year. *In March, Dr. John and Doris Westerdahl will present a cooking school followed by classes on the medicinal uses of herbs, bread making, The Full Plate Diet, hydrotherapy, smoking cessation, and Depression Recovery. *The midweek service, Wednesday Night Out, is finishing the study of The Story of Redemption by Ellen White. Then Pastor Larry Meager will lead a study on America in Bible prophecy, approaching it from a variety of perspectives: historical, constitutional, philosophical, and Biblical. A church dinner is served at 5:30 with the meeting following at 7 p.m.

THE PLACE

This is the church’s Year of Discipleship. Many small groups are being formed to grow as disciple-makers for Jesus. *YESS (kids soccer) will start again in a few weeks. *A Spiritual Gifts Seminar by Bill Liversidge began on the Feb. 11-12 weekend. *Several mission projects are coming in 2013 including two orphanages in Honduras.

VAN NUYS

Highlighting the Christmas season, special programming was presented during the Sabbath School and church service Dec. 22, featuring church musicians, soloists, the Hymn Singers, children’s choir and the church organist, Roger Eshlemen. The 20-member children’s choir (children aged three to 13), led by Dr. Kuk-Wha Won, has been instrumental in bringing several new families to worship at Van Nuys. *A special Pathfinder/Adventurer Sabbath Jan. 19, featured guest speaker Bob Wong. The clubs are growing and holding fundraising events so the club members can participate in more trips and camping events. Six Pathfinders were baptized in early December. *As the New Year began Pastor Aitken led in a special dedication of new church officers as they began to fulfill their roles.

Four-year-old soloist Frances Flores sings “Little Woolly Lamb” during Van Nuys Christmas Sabbath.



VENTURA

A series titled “Answering Objections to Faith” was well attended by more than 50 persons with positive, ongoing Bible studies and baptisms.



Out Reach

In the Churches...

In the Churches...

Out West

WEST
REGION
OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
CONFERENCE

Richard Roethler,
Director

C. Elwyn Platner
Editor

2012
Summer Edition

Volume 7, Number 3

Summer Evangelism at a glance

West Region Churches Schedule VBS Outreach

West Region churches have scheduled an active summer calendar of evangelism outreach for children.

Theme: **SKY: Anything Is Possible with God**

June:

June 18 - 22 at the **Conejo Adventist Elementary School** by the **Thousand Oaks** and **The Place** churches.

June 18 - 22, Santa Clarita Church. Contact Linda Scotto, childmin@santaclaritasda.org

July:

July 8 - 14, Culver City

July 9 - 13, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Northridge Church Info: 818-349-8770

July 15 - 20, 6 - 8 p.m. Ages 3-10. Simi Valley Church. Info: VBS Director Sharon Kharns, skharns@pacbell.net; or the church office, 805-526-0141

July 16 - 21, Van Nuys Church coordinated by Sandra Guzman.

July 23 - 27, 6 - 8 p.m. at the Camarillo Church. Includes activities, music, crafts and snacks. Info: 805-482-4632

July 30 - Aug. 3, 5:30 - 8 p.m. at the Lancaster Church. Info: 661-943-5725; sarahgrover@lancasteradventist.com

August:

Aug. 6 - 10, 4 - 7 p.m. at the Oxnard All Nations Church. Julia Santos, leader. It will be an outreach to the local community. Info: 805-486-7918

IN THE CHURCHES

BURBANK

Members will enjoy "Church Outdoors" Sabbaths, June 16 and July 21. They will move worship service to their lawn area under three giant trees.

CAMARILLO

Fifteen people attended a CHIP class, half of whom were people from the community and led by Dr. David and Flo Low and assisted by 15 volunteers. Graduation was May 3. *Chef AJ held a cooking class May 6, for a sold-out audience. *The end-of-the-year Choir Festival was May 19. *Three individuals were baptized during the first quarter. *Wednesday study groups at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. are studying The Great Controversy. *Camarillo is sponsoring a mission trip to La Vida Mission June 7 to 17. It will include a Vacation Bible School/Camp for the Navajo children at the mission and surrounding community. It is funded by contributions. More info: www.lavidamission.org. Twenty-seven youth and seven adults, representing schools in Ventura, Camarillo, The Place, Simi Valley and Lancaster will participate.





Members of combined choir for Canoga Park Community

CANOGA PARK

Music ministry is booming at Canoga Park Community. Under the direction of music leader, Fe'ao Bloomfield, they have formed a choir, a children's choir and a small orchestra.

On Easter weekend, all elements were on display for a special program celebrating Christ's resurrection. Fe'ao's wife, Sia, assisted with a liturgy and coordinated all the many details surrounding the program. "Parents regularly bring their young people to the practices, and all the choirs are growing. This is a wonderful aid to church growth and a great ministry to our church family," said Pastor Will McCall.



Members of the Children's choir stand in the wings

CULVER CITY

On June 2, members launched "Take Time 4 Health" that will continue the next 12 months. More than 30 members purchased pedometers and agreed to try to walk at least 10,000 steps each day as they endeavor to walk their way across America. *Vacation Bible School will also be open to the community July 8 to 14.

HOLLYWOOD

LAKE OF THE WOODS

Lake of the Woods has begun an instructional program for church members on how to give Bible Studies.

Adventurers club grew by 50 percent when an open enrollment brought two more members. Pathfinders and Adventurers clubs now stands at 25. A Spanish language Prophecy Seminar will be held in October.

LANCASTER

VBS is in July. *Several from Lancaster will participate in mission trip to LaVida Mission in New Mexico led by Will Sellers Pastor Chad Washburn and a group from Camarillo. They will help lead a VBS for Navajo children.

MOJAVE

For the past three months Mojave church members have been participating in a 24-hour prayer service each day. Each member has selected one hour during each day in which they will pray. They have already seen answers to their prayer including people who have been healed. One specific need for which they are praying is to resolve a land dispute regarding the property line between the church and neighboring property. Members request that churches throughout the West Region pray for God's intervention on the dispute.

MOORPARK

NORTHRIDGE

VBS is in July. A food drive was held to help feed the homeless. A family beach day is scheduled for the last Sabbath of the month.

OJAI

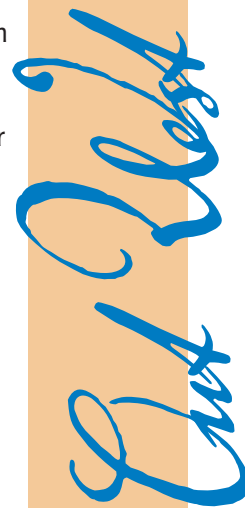
OXNARD

Vacation Bible School is in August. *Jack Sequeira, a retired minister from Washington, D. C. presented a weekend sermons series in May. *Pastor Abel Lopes from Los Angeles presented a series of messages June 8 and 9. *Pastor Bill Liversedge is slated to present a seminar on Spiritual Gifts in July. *Five individuals were baptized in April.

PALMDALE

RIDGECREST

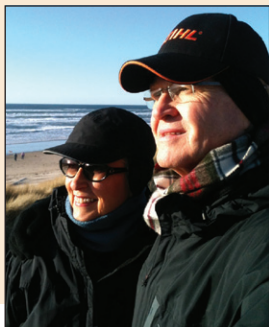
Up to 40 people regularly attended a CHIP program this spring. Another program will be offered again next winter. *Twenty people attended the recent Dave Ramsey financial seminar. *Members participated in a camp out in Death Valley. *Pathfinder club members went to the Pacific Union Pathfinder Camporee in April.



In the Churches...

SANTA BARBARA

Pastor and Mrs. Bob Taylor have come to pastor the Santa Barbara church from the Tillamook, Oregon church. Their first Sabbath was April 28.



SANTA CLARITA

Children returning from boarding academies and colleges will be an integral part of the summer ministry, including VBS which follows Group's "Sky" program, where "Everything is Possible with God." *Children's Ministry continues to expand with the new kids sports program which offers soccer and basketball on Sundays. Families that haven't been so involved with traditional programming are getting involved. It gives real options to those seeking to keep Sabbaths competitive sport free. *The cooperative ministry venture with "Family Promise" concluded its fourth family hosting week. It's part of a solution to challenging social problem and seems to bless everyone involved, especially the volunteers. *The City of Santa Clarita gave clearance to the church's preschool. "Thanks for your prayers as we have sought to get back the right to do Christian Education on our campus, said Pastor Greg Hoenes. "While we're not operating 'A Little Patch of Earth Preschool', it is based on many of the concepts E.G.White outlined in her writings on early childhood education and development."The school opened June 3.

SANTA MONICA

Three candidates were baptized recently and three persons were dedicated. *A group will go camping in San Diego.

SIMI VALLEY

The Simi Valley Church has established a Strategic Planning and Visioning Committee to develop a clearly defined mission and vision statement for the church as well as a strategic plan which will include evangelism, assimilation of new members and leadership development. Phil White, senior pastor, who is a certified Myers-Briggs Type Practitioner is currently doing a personality type profiling seminar with the congregation for the purpose of understanding interpersonal relationship and leadership development. *Vacation Bible School will be July 15 through 21. *Graduation for eighth graders and kindergarteners was May 31. *Elder Bob Wong, conference youth director, was speaker for the Pathfinder Sabbath May 26. *The 17 members of Adventurers club have been led by Daren and Kelly Gaines

SYLMAR

Vacation Bible School for Sylmar is planned for late July. *Members are participating in distribution of the Desire of Ages book.

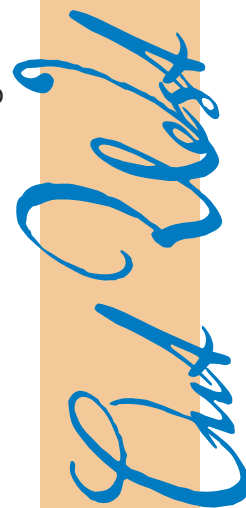
TEHACHAPI

THE PLACE

The members are conducting their YESS soccer league again this summer for 10 weeks on Sundays at 9:30 am for kids 3-11. *VBS will begin June 18, at 6 p.m. at Conejo Adventist Elementary School. *Members are doing a week of service—a local week of mission the first week of August and participated in ACTION Day along with scores of other churches in Ventura County on June 2.

THOUSAND OAKS

The Thousand Oaks Church and The Place Adventist Fellowship will co-host the Vacation Bible School, "Sky," at the Conejo Adventist Elementary School, June 18 to 22, from 6 to 8 p.m. Leaders Kay Meager, Jennifer Lew, and Karen Littell will lead the program, along with other volunteers, which teaches children that with Jesus, everything is possible and the sky is the limit of what He can do in and with us. *T. O. and The Place will also cooperate to present a fall lecture series starting Labor Day weekend and featuring Jon Paulien, Richard Davidson, Bill Liversidge, and Alan Reinach. This is an outreach series to engage the Conejo valley community with critical topics in today's world. *Already underway is a class titled "Give a Good Answer" to help members learn how to answer when they are asked about their faith. They are also learning how to give Bible studies. The pastors have also begun a college and young adult Sabbath School class. *Starr Halm produced and presented a Sabbath morning April 7, Easter Program of music and narration, followed by an invitation for people to come forward and place their burdens (on paper) at the foot of the cross. *Elder Lloyd and Donna Wyman, who have ministered to the Thousand Oaks Church for 35 years, were given two farewells, one by the seniors of Thousand Oaks Church, to whom Donna especially ministered, and one attended by 150 church members and friends. For the program, the Wymans were treated to a catered Indian dinner and each given a Kindle Fire since they had to pare down their libraries for their move. The Wymans moved to Paradise, Calif.



In the Churches...

VAN NUYS

The Van Nuys Church is encouraging Bible study and fellowship in small groups. Arleene Estrada, youth pastor, leads in Branches targeting ages 15 through 35 the first and third Friday evening of each month. Split into smaller age groups for Bible study, the groups then meet together for discussion, fellowship and refreshments, thus cohesively connecting the small groups together. *Summer activities planned include a camping trip to Zion National Park. *On Friday evenings Pastor John Aitken leads a study group of individuals who attended "Wisdom Keys to Lost Civilizations" that ran Saturday evenings Feb. 4, through April 14, and plan to be baptized. Several people attending the series have already been baptized. *The Pathfinder and Adventurer groups led by Doreen Sevilla meet most Sabbath afternoons and are rapidly growing. *A Vacation Bible School coordinated by Sandra Guzman is planned for July 16 to 21. The Van Nuys Church hasn't had a VBS in many years and is excited about reaching out to youngsters in the surrounding community.

VENTURA

Pastor Jim Ayars reports, "We have 20 interests of varying degree as a result of our recent *Foundations for Faith* evangelistic series. The series concluded with a short weekend seminar titled *Victory Over the Beast* by Dr. Ervin Thomsen from Sonora. *VBS is in June.

*Some members are going to Bangkok with David Smith of Garden Grove. And another member is going to Indonesia. *An eighth grader who recently graduated is going to La Vida Mission on the Navajo reservation.



Out Reach

In the Churches...

In the Churches...

Out West

**WEST
REGION
OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
CONFERENCE**

Richard Roethler,
Director

C. Elwyn Platner
Editor

2012
Spring Edition



Volume 7, Number 2

West Region hosts Worship Conference

By Betty Cooney

The Face of Worship in a Digital Age was the theme of the 2012 West Coast Worship Conference (WCWC), and the weekend's meetings zealously lived up to that theme. Statistics shared throughout the meeting, both verbal and online, revealed the "Why" of the conference planners' zeal. "Ten million people live within an hour away of these meetings," said Rick Roethler, West Region director. "How can we reach them? It will take the priesthood of all believers, using every possible tool."

The Sabbath-morning speaker, Dan Jackson, North American Division president, reflected on the ever-increasing speed of change, and encouraged listeners to ask the question, "What is enough?" Noting the speed and output of today's world, he said, "By 2015, there will be enough video produced online to stream 674 days of video every second. We are convinced that we are living in the days just before Jesus' coming. We and the church need to answer the question, 'Is Jesus enough?'" Jackson presented the sufficiency of Jesus to meet every need.

About 200 pastors and members attended the conference, with several coming from other conferences. The worship conference program was varied, covering a wide range of practical, worship-related topics, including why we worship, practical prayer, and worship leading and planning. Groups from The Place and Santa Monica churches and individuals provided music for the conference.



Pastors from SCC's West Region, which sponsored the West Coast Worship Conference, appear here at the conclusion with Elder Dan Jackson, NAD president (holding Bible).

In a number of social media workshops on the program, pastors and members shared experiences in outreach via Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. "I use Twitter for prayer requests," said one pastor, "and Facebook for people not attending church."

In the WCWC program notes, MIT professor and author Henry Jenkins stated his view that digital and social media are changing American popular culture. "We are in an age of media transition," he noted, "one marked by unclear directions and unpredictable outcomes." It was to deal with those changes in today's world—brought about largely by the phenomenon of social media—that pastors and members came together for the Conference.

Worship Conference praise singers from Santa Monica church.



SABBATH, APRIL 21

Journey of Faith

Women's Conference at Adventist Media Center from 10 am to 4 pm.

Guest speaker: Linda D. Penick • Registration Fee \$18.

Mail to Simi Valley Adventist Church by Monday, April 16.

IN THE CHURCHES

BETH SHALOM

Beth Shalom Seventh-day Adventist Congregation will have the traditional symbolic meal telling the Passover story from a Jewish-Christian perspective. They will have two venues this year: **1)** Sunday April 8, 2012 from 6:30 to 8:15 at the Canogo Park Seventh-day Adventist Church 20550 Roscoe Blvd, Winnetka CA 91306. RSVP Paul Lippi 805 512-79. BSSDATHousandOaks@gmail.com. **2)** Tuesday April 10, 2012 from 6:30 to 8:15 at the Vallejo Drive SDA Church 300 Vallejo Dr, Glendale CA 91206. RSVP Erin Stone: 818 625-2909 or egstone@earthlink.net Tickets at either venue will be \$10 per adult \$6 per child.

BURBANK

The addition of two little children is contributing to attendance growth at Burbank. •Pastor Jan Kaatz is on medical leave.

CAMARILLO

A five-week lifestyle improvement program directed by Dr. David Lowe began March 11.

CANOGA PARK

For four weeks beginning in January Canoga Park Community church hosted a CHIP program (Complete Health Improvement Program). This lifestyle program helps people to lower their cholesterol, blood sugar and other risk factors for disease. Tho not billed as a weight loss program numerous people experience significant weight loss. Thirty-two people graduated from the program including several non-Adventists. Attendance was almost perfect and morale was high for the whole session. Program was directed by La'ise Galnag and assisted by Rose Miller, Brian Williams and Ana Cabral. Among other helpers were Peter Luedke, Sherlyn Luedtke, Anny Galang, Gina Patoa and many others.

CULVER CITY

During the pastor's medical leave the first elders have coordinated church services.

HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood church has been a one of several denominations in Hollywood which have provided temporary winter shelter for the homeless. Adventist members have provide and prepared breakfasts and dinners. For nearly two years our church has been befriending and mentoring a family as they have transitioned from homelessness to housing. Just last month members participated in a community-wide collaboration to create a temporary winter shelter for those who are homeless.

More than 20 members and friends came together to provide meals and develop friendships with the most vulnerable members of the community.

LAKE OF THE WOODS

Pastor Jose Gutierrez presented a Spanish seminar in January. He is currently presenting a series on the book of Revelation for church services. •A recent Pathfinder recruitment event yielded three more club members. •Two prophecy seminars will be presented this spring and summer. •A bike-a-thon is planned for Pathfinders.

LANCASTER

Youth recently completed a 30-hour famine in which they raised about \$1,000 to be divided between local Church Community Services and a feeding program for disadvantaged children in Africa. •Two teams are playing in an Antelope Valley Church Volleyball League hosted at Antelope Valley Adventist School. •New Sabbath School Classes: At the end of February a Parenting Class began and a New Believer's Class for regular visitors and new members. •Easter weekend services will include a Good Friday Agape Feast. Participants will enjoy a meal followed by a communion service. The church orchestra will play for special Sabbath Easter service. •Then on Easter Sunday: Easter Egg-stravaganza will be held at Rowley Dently Park and include fun and games for Children and a family friendly Easter message. •Kindergarten room was remodeled with a Safari theme.

MALIBU

Gary Gibbs, vice president, Hope television ministry vice president, provide an update on the scope of the world-wide television ministry.



Elder Gary Gibbs with Judith Miranda, lay leader of the Malibu church, on Hope TV ministry day.



Let's

In the Churches...

OJAI VALLEY

The Ojai church teamed up with the Ventura church to bring fresh produce to local communities via the Mercy Food Bank. Residents from several government housing projects as well as migrant workers have been blessed by the food distribution efforts every two weeks. Recent guest speaker for church services have included Will Fults from Christian Media Ministry, Neil Congello from Truth for Today, Pastor Dennis Priebe from Amazing Facts, and Gary Hess from Adventist Revival Movement for the End Time. •Communion Sabbath will be March 31st. Ojai church has finally started uploading sermons to their website.

OXNARD ALL NATIONS

A Week of Prayer will be held March 31 to April 7. •Youth Week of Prayer will be held in July.

PALMDALE

The church has designated 2012 as the Year of Evangelism for Palmdale church. May 12 to 19, will be a Week of Revival and Evangelism for the Spanish language congregation. •From July 28 through Aug. 25 both the English and Spanish members will join in a month-long crusade with Pastor and Mrs. John VanDenburg for the fourth campaign that Pastor Rockne Dahl and the VanDenburgs have worked together in soul-winning. During January and February a state-of-the art bathroom renovation was completed at the church.

SANTA BARBARA



Santa Barbara members bid farewell to Pastor and Mrs. Pete Geli in January during a special retirement recognition program. Among those participating in the event with

the members were Richard Roethler, right, West Region director, and Velino Salazar, Southern California Conference secretary.

SANTA CLARITA

The Santa Clarita church members participated in an interchurch celebration at Christmastime with a candle lighting service on Christmas Eve. •Special meditation will be observed in celebration of Christ's resurrection. •Members will hold the annual Progressive Dinner and White elephant Give Exchange. •Women's Ministry events are planned. •Preparations are underway for the Family Promise Program, Santa Clarita chapter, in of 23 churches will be responsible for caring for families in need. •The church has received permission to resume the operation of the Little Patch of Earth Preschool and appreciates the prayers of support for this effort.

SANTA MONICA

Several new Adventist students attending UCLA have been attending the Santa Monica church.

SIMI VALLEY

Pathfinder campout was held near Sycamore Canyon State Park on the Pacific Coast Highway. •A Victory in Jesus Seminar with Pastor Bill Liversidge will be held March 30 and 31, at the church. •Easter drama will be presented April 6. •Leaders of Simi at the Garden have scheduled ribbon cutting for the community garden on April 22.

April 6 and 7 — Easter programs — Friday evening, special drama on the crucifixion by Ken Wade; Sabbath morning, special musical presentation.

SYLMAR

A Sustainable Preparedness Seminar was presented Feb. 18 and 19. It focused on economic instability, natural disasters, extended power grid failure and other end-time events. Presenters explained how to obtain water, food, heat for the family and other needs and included live demonstrations.

TEHACHAPI

For several years the church has had no Pathfinder club because their once active youth group had grown up and/or moved away. So when members began worshipping in their new sanctuary the members began praying for 20 children and young people age 20 and younger. By the end of 2011 they had an average of 15 youth attending so they could start Pathfinders (Mountaineers) and Adventurers clubs again. •Because of the current harsh economic climate church members recognized a need for providing a warm meal at least once of month for community people. Church women began a Community Dinner Ministry to serve a meal to as many as 50 people each month. "This is not just a soup kitchen," said Kristin Freed, the ministry director. "We try to create a warm, caring atmosphere and take time to talk to the people and get to know them. Some have already attended church".



Christmas Eve interchurch candle lighting service.



Out Reach

In the Churches...

THOUSAND OAKS

Health Ministry Day, March 10, featured Vicki Griffin, Michigan Conference Health and Temperance director and Lifestyle Matters director. The afternoon session focused on the need for a health ministry model providing infrastructure appropriate for a postmodern society.

THE PLACE

YESS (Youth Enjoying Sunday Soccer) began March 11. The 10-week soccer league is open to the public for kids ages three to 11.

VAN NUYS

Solomon's Wisdom Keys evangelistic program each Saturday night will continue to April 14. The Wisdom Keys to Lost Civilizations: In Search of Solomon's Treasures to provide meaning, purpose of life. It features a unique multimedia program designed and presented by Pastor John Aitken and designed to reach the postmodern generation with archaeological insights. •The Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) begins March 25.

VENTURA

Church members participated in an interfaith food share program under the auspices of Mercy Food Bank and Mercy Airlift, Inc., by which a truckload of fresh produce was shared among jobless, homeless, the underprivileged as well as service agencies in the community. Participants included a broad spectrum of Christian groups as well as non-Christian (Jewish, Bahai Buddhist) groups.



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A pastor had this ad created for their church in Burbank, California:

www.youtube.com/embed/D2_c81Nnsc0



Out Reach

In the Churches...

In the Churches...

Out West

WEST
REGION
OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
CONFERENCE

Richard Roethler,
Director

C. Elwyn Platner
Editor

2012
Winter Edition

Volume 7, Number 4

CHURCH NEWS

BURBANK

In this season of Thanksgiving the church members are thanking God for their 49.8 percent tithe increase this year. They are thankful for the three persons who committed for Christ and baptism that were added and three people continuing Bible studies during the recent reaping meeting. This places Burbank at the top in Southern California Conference tithe growth percentage and near the top for baptism growth within this Region. *The Christmas program will be led by the worship coordinator, Alex Glaze, and the drama coordinator, Zach Dunn, during the worship service on Dec. 15.

CAMARILLO

The choir will sing Christmas carols at Disneyland on the first Sunday in December. *Members participated in a Thanksgiving banquet at the church Nov. 4. *For the first step in a two-year master plan for evangelism, Pastor Tom Schroer will be guest speaker for a church leadership seminar in team building. *Adventurers and the church's Pantry Program staff will assemble care kits for the homeless on Nov. 10. *The Candlelight Christmas Concert will be presented Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. in the church. *The Christmas church service will be presented Dec. 22

CANOGA PARK

Sarah Dawoodjee, a student at Newbury Park Academy, attends the church services in Malibu. As a member of the academy's cross-country team she participated in a rigorous 5-K race with students from many other schools. The trail led through the mountains. During the race, Sarah heard a cry for help. So she left the race to help a young girl who had fallen into a ditch and stayed with her until medical help arrived. But the remarkable part of the story was that when Sarah rejoined the race after helping her fallen competitor she went on to win it! Way to go, Sarah!



Sarah Dawoodjee and her mother, Naomi.

CULVER CITY

Five new members have been added through baptism so far this year and three more are preparing for baptism around Christmastime. *The church has a new organist, Haesung Park, who joined the worship team Oct. 13. She brings renewed energy and spirit to the worship service. *Two church elders, Kathleen Diaz and Moises Garcia, have been added from the young adult members. Church leadership better reflects the diversity of the membership.

GRACE COMMUNITY

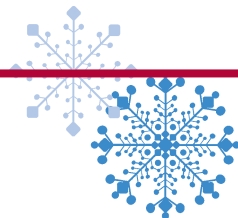
Over the last two months Grace Community, an Adventist Place of Hope, has experimented with a new approach for the congregation. They ask their guest speakers on the first Sabbath of each month to participate in a question and answer dialogue following potluck lunch. So they meet at the local state park beach for one hour while the speaker fields questions and dialogues. Members have learned more about the sermon topic and grow in their understanding. The first two speakers were Dr. Jon Paulien, Dean of the School of Religion at Loma Linda University, and Nico Hill from God's Soldier Ministry.

HOLLYWOOD

Befriending neighbors in Hollywood is a staple of the church's life year round. Especially at this time of year there is no shortage of opportunities to serve God in the person of the poor and homeless neighbors. This year, as in many years past, members will partner with the good folks at My Friends Place, Blessed Sacrament Social Services and Gett Love to serve the poor and homeless of the city. *Hollywood church is also ramping up their efforts to mentor a new family through Imagine LA.

LAKE OF THE WOODS

Youth have been going door to door doing community surveys and handing out tracts. *Youth plan to do a Christmas program Dec. 22, at 7 p.m. at the church.



LANCASTER

A Fifties-themed Fall Festival was held at the Antelope Valley Adventist School Oct. 27, to raise funds for the school and for community services. *International Sabbath Nov. 10, featured Elizabeth Talbot, speaker/director for JESUS 101. *Members are participating in a 10-week in-depth study series on Questions of Life.

MOJAVE

Members are distributing The Final Moments, a book by Shawn Boonstra, to the Mojave community. *Preparations are underway for a two-week series of revival meetings around the end of 2012.

MOORPARK

Moorpark Community Fellowship gathered around a table in the form of a cross for its annual Thanksgiving Agape Feast Nov. 10. The sacred worship experience includes scripture reading, prayer and a simple meal reminding worshippers of Christ's last meal and His ultimate sacrifice. "Christ asks us to remember when He and His followers gathered around a table and celebrated the symbols of His body and His blood and each year we look forward to this intimate gathering," said Moorpark Church leader Edie Hughes. *Maitland DiPinto, North American Division Hope for Humanity director, presented the Partners in Mission Award to Pastor Tim Garrison and the church members during the Oct. 13, worship service. "This award recognizes the significant support for Hope for Humanity's world-wide Literacy Learning program provided by Pastor Garrison's leadership and the Fellowship members," commented Pastor DiPinto. Moorpark members have traveled on four mission trips to

Central America and donated more than \$8,000 in support of the Literacy Learning Circles.

"Your support of this vital ministry has helped more than 800 people learn to read, write and do simple math for the first time, and changed their lives forever," said Pastor DiPinto.



Maitland DiPinto presents award to Pastor Garrison.



OJAI

Soprano Mareyah Datan provided special music during the worship hour Nov. 3, and then gave an afternoon concert. *Linda Vista Adventist Elementary School presented the morning worship service Nov. 10. Thanksgiving worship service will be Nov. 10. *Concert pianist Calvin Taylor will provide special music during the worship hour Nov. 17, and then give an evening concert.

OXNARD ALL NATIONS

Almost 30 people have been regularly attending the Fall Revelation Seminar which ends Nov. 24. *The annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service and Breakfast are scheduled for Thanksgiving morning.

PALMDALE

Palmdale church has welcomed three more people into church fellowship following the July evangelistic meetings making a total of 18 new members. *Our Community Services group will be partnering with St. Stephens of the Valley Lutheran church on Wednesday Nov. 14 in offering an early Thanksgiving Dinner for needy families. *Pastor Dahl invites anyone interested in going with him to Israel and Jordan in November 2013 to call him at 661-992-6592. A number of new sites will be visited.

RIDGECREST

The Adventist Christian School will present an outdoor nativity pageant with live animals, costumed kids and adults Dec. 20. *The school band will lead caroling in Ridgecrest neighborhoods and at the Walmart parking lot. *The health ministry will share a DVD seminar on the Immunity Solution by J. Fuhrman, M.D., which was seen on Public Broadcasting System in late October and early November. *Holiday Baking class will be presented Dec. 3. *A CHIPS seminar will be held Jan. 11 to Feb. 7.

SANTA BARBARA

Thanksgiving program Nov. 24, will include scripture reading and music featuring Bryan Lane, a student at UCSB majoring in opera. *Christmas program will be presented Dec. 22. *The Collegiate program, *Connect*, resumed again with the fall season meeting alternately at homes and the church on Friday evenings at 6:30. Headed by Michelle Clark, the meetings include a home-cooked meal. Students who attend the University of California and other area colleges lead in the devotional message and songs. *Fall Festival was on Oct. 31



SANTA CLARITA

Some of what is new is largely unseen at Santa Clarita church. The tech team, Birkir, Travis, and Steven, have been doing miracles. Check out Santa Clarita's website, www.santaclaritasda.org, for their numerous changes and upgrades. They include the addition of UStream, which allows the weekly sermons to be viewed live by webcam, and watched through the week before being archived. Some past sermons are also available by web, and most are available as audio files. Giving portals, a member directory and other features have been added. The church is now completely wired for wireless access. Members may log onto "guest", and pay their tithe with their iPad or notebook. *An elder ordination was held Nov. 3. *After an intensive class on the 28 fundamental doctrines of the Adventist church, six people are scheduled for baptism Nov. 17. *A baby dedication will be on Nov. 24. *December highlights include another Baby Dedication Dec. 1, and the Glendale Academy Chorale led by Brenda Mohr will kick-off the Advent Season. The church will be specially decorated for the season. *Festivities continue Dec. 8, with Children's Bell Choir and the Adult Bell Choir. The Annual Sing-Along Messiah Concert happens at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This will be directed by Maurita "Bunny" Phillips-Thornburgh and accompanied by a small orchestra, and will include key solos. Bring your scores! *Festivities Dec. 15 and 22, leading up to Christmas Eve.

Put the following in a shaded box

The annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at Santa Clarita will include a family service with a Young Person's Liturgy beginning at 6:30 p.m. with a light supper. Families with small children are especially invited. Christ Church will host an Oxford University-style "Nine Carols and Lessons" format from 9 to 10 pm. The 11 p.m. service includes lighting the Christ Candle. This year's program will be less formal, and warmer in feel and tone. Join them for any or all! (Please check the church's website for any late changes in this schedule.)

SANTA MONICA

SYLMAR

TEHACHAPI

Members of the Tehachapi church took part in the Wellness Coach Training Workshop hosted by Betty Cooney, Southern California Conference communication director, and presented by Dr. Lorayne Barton. They learned that wellness coaching is an important part of medical missionary work that points people to Jesus and helps them to keep the resolve they have in implementing healthy habits into their lifestyles. They plan to use the skills they learned at the workshop as a follow up tool at the next health program they will present to their community.

THOUSAND OAKS

A four-part film series, "The Weight of the Nation" about the national epidemic of obesity, was presented for the public as a community service event. Many local church members attended as well. Each presentation included an exercise period led by Tillie Sakai and a Q & A led by John Westerdahl. Then people were invited to enjoy healthy food and drinks. Each night the health leader, Valerie Rhaney, presented gifts to attendees by drawing names. The last night's grand prize was a Vitamix blender.

The Thousand Oaks and The Place churches have co-sponsored a community lecture series titled, "Something to Chew On." Each weekend guest lecturers speak at the churches Friday night and Sabbath morning, and then gave a presentation for the public in a local library. Sept. 28 and 29, Richard Davidson from Andrews University Seminary spoke on "Biblical Sexuality in the 21st Century." Nov. 9 and 10, Jon Paulien, chair of the religion department at Loma Linda University, will speak on "Similarities in Islam and Christianity." Paulien's schedule is as follows: Friday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m., The Place; Sabbath, Nov. 10 at 11 a.m. at the Thousand Oaks Seventh-day Adventist Church; Sabbath afternoon at 3 p.m. at the Newbury Park Library, 2331 Borchard Road, Newbury Park. The afternoon lecture is geared to the public. For more information and to register, go to: <http://www.s2co.org/>. On Facebook go to "Something to Chew On" and "like" us.

SIMI VALLEY

Women's Ministry sponsored a Journey of Faith Women's Conference Oct. 13, at the Adventist Media Center was attended by about 60 women. Presenter Linda D. Grimes-Penick focused on the spiritual, physical and emotional transformation of one's life. *A Christmas Choral Concert will be presented Dec. 15. *Ty Gibson will present a week of renewal and revival from Jan 5 to 12. *More than \$1,500 was raised at the annual International Food Fair to benefit the Simi Valley Adventist Elementary School. *On Jan. 26, the church will celebrate its 60th anniversary since the church was founded as well as its 50th anniversary of the opening of the present church and will feature several former pastors who have served the congregation over the years.



By wrapping a participant in toilet tissue, Mrs. Penick illustrates how a woman's daily responsibilities can totally absorb her time.



VAN NUYS

Youth ministry is flourishing at the Van Nuys Church. The Oct. 20, worship service featured an Investiture Service for Pathfinders and Adventurers planned by Doreen Sevilla and followed by a sermonette by Arlene Estrada, Youth Pastor. There has been an enthusiastic response to a children's choir directed by Dr. Kuk-Wha Won and a special baptismal class for Primary and Junior aged kids. *"Excavating Jesus," a multimedia evangelistic outreach produced by Pastor Aitken, ran Friday and Saturday nights from Sept. 29, to Oct. 27. This unique series featuring archaeological sites along with an in-depth look at Christ's life was well attended by all age groups. *Skip and Sheree Smith spearhead a large feeding program from 2 to 4 PM each Sabbath at the church. Originally designed to feed the homeless, the program also helps many families affected by a tough economy. They receive not only a good healthy meal, but grocery items including fresh fruit and vegetables.

VENTURA

The Ventura church presented a multi-denominational seminar titled Objections to Faith Nov. 3 to 7. It will deal with such questions as "Why So Much Suffering?" "Why a Good God When There's Evil?" and "Why Christianity Over Other Faiths?" The discussions leaders include Jim Ayars, (Adventist), Rick Kline (Presbyterian) and Ray Beeson (Baptist). *The church is leading in planning a city-wide Thanksgiving Service Nov. 20, which will include music and an inspirational message. Pastor Ayars was asked to play a Highland bagpipe for the service.



In the Churches...

In the Churches...

Out West

WEST
REGION
OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
CONFERENCE

Richard Roethler,
Director

C. Elwyn Platner
Editor

2011
Fall Edition



Volume 5, Number 3

San Fernando Valley evangelistic meetings begin Sept. 17, in Granada Hills



Evangelist J. B. Boles

There is great enthusiasm among the members and pastors of the San Fernando Valley Cluster of churches as they prepare for the prophecy series beginning Sept. 17. *Search for Certainty* and *Discover Bible* courses are being used in preparing interests, and *Happiness Digests* distributed.

Literature has been shared with about 3,000 people in the area, and many Bible study response cards have come in, with each area church receiving from a dozen to 30 responses; additional responses have also come in from Seminars Unlimited literature. More than 50

members have been trained by pastors as Bible workers and are working to prepare for the series.

Evangelist J. B. Boles will present the ***Prophecy Reveals the Future*** series that will be held **Sept. 17, to Oct. 15**. The meetings begin nightly at 7:30 p.m. at the **John F. Kennedy High School, 11254 Gothic Avenue, Granada Hills**. The meetings will continue nightly through September 25, after which they will continue each Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday until October 15.

Pacific Union Conference officers re-elected

At the Pacific Union Conference constituency session in August the delegates reelected all four officers: Ricardo Graham, president; Arnold Trujillo, vice president; Bradford Newton, secretary; and Theodore Benson, treasurer.

La Vida Mission trip

A group of 23 youth and adult sponsors from Newbury Park and San Fernando Valley Academies and area church's (Camarillo, Simi, Northridge and Vallejo Drive) participated in a mission trip to La Vida Mission in June. They took 2,500 pounds of donated clothes, bedding and school items which again came from area church's including Thousand Oaks.

The work done ranged from painting the mission schools bathrooms, campus clean up, building a classroom's bookshelf, demolition and construction of new swamp cooler support stands for the cafeteria and boys dorm, cutting and stacking the missions fire wood for the winter, cleaning and organizing school library and donations and moving of a family from one housing unit to another.

Kings Canyon Men's Hike

Seven hikers (Zack & Steve Mayer, Brett Dickinson, Brandon Swartz, Lucas Mitchel, Chad Washburn and William Sellers) took five days to hike the Rae Lakes loop (some 47 miles). Associate pastors Chad Wasburn (Lancaster) and William Sellers (Camarillo) put the trip together as a devotional and growth experience for young men and boys. One hiker, Zack Mayer, 11, was the youngest. Worship and devotion focused on the experiences along the trip and the natural beauty of the Sierra's.

IN THE CHURCHES

BURBANK

"Year of Health" is this year's theme and is focused on physical health by emphasizing walking 10,000 steps per day. Fifteen members have joined the "Walk Across America" program. By mid August they had walked 6721 miles. They emphasize spiritual health by corporately memorizing a scripture each month. They also plan to include a program on financial health and dietary health before the end of this year.

CULVER CITY

The church experienced one of the best Vacation Bible Schools in years. The director, Mirna Ceron, and her staff put together five days of excitement for the children of the community. In addition to the spiritual themes presented each night the program included a petting zoo, pony rides and ATV rides. Smiles were seen on every child as they learned about Jesus in a fun way.

CAMARILLO

Friends of the Camarillo Church Pantry who serves 80 to 100 individuals and/or families groups each Tuesday afternoon raised funds to supply back-to-school Jansport Backpacks to school-age child. More than 130 children (pre-school through college) got to choose their backpack and fill it with back-to-school supplies. They were then treated to ice-cream sundaes. Caren Silvestri coordinated the event. • From Sept. 18 to Nov. 6, members will host "The Full Plate Diet Weight Loss Program. A • "Mad About Marriage" seminar will be held Sept. 23 and 24. • Eighty-five enthusiastic (Son-Surf) children and teens learned about "Who Jesus Is at this year's VBS. The week wrapped up with the church service July 23.

HOLLYWOOD

"This summer the Hollywood Adventist Church has been elbow deep in dirt! Church members, local students and friends gathered to learn how to grow fresh, healthy food in the Just Food Community Garden located on the church property. These new farmers are growing lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, radishes, artichokes, okra, spinach, kale, rhubarb, eggplant, melons, strawberries, collard greens and much more. • One of the church members organized a cycling fundraiser called Love 2 Bike 2 Eat to benefit the gardening program. Participants from the church came early on a Sunday morning to ride their bikes, eat a pancake breakfast together and tour the garden."



LAKE OF THE WOODS

The Spanish Prophecy Seminar will begin Sept. 30, and continue to Oct. 30 in the Lake of the Woods Church. Meetings will begin at 7 PM each Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. Residents receive the following invitation to the meetings:

LANCASTER

Fifty volunteers helped to make VBS exciting for the 65 children who attended. • This year's booth at the Antelope Valley Fair featured a health check and promotion for the September Coronary Health Improvement Project program. Thirty people have signed up for the CHIP program, at least half of them are non-Adventists. • Members will observe Muslim Ministry Sabbath Sept. 24. It is themed: The Crescent

and the Cross and will focus on the Islamic faith in the morning and includes an afternoon session on how to build bridges with the Muslim community. • The Oct. 22, Adventist Heritage Sabbath will include an evening concert with The Christian Edition in concert. • Dr. Bryan Bull will be featured on the Oct. 29 International Sabbath. • Fall Festival will be on Oct. 30.

MALIBU

Friends from around the metro area gathered to help Malibu members celebrate the third anniversary of its founding on Aug. 20. Among featured guest presenters for the service were Lonnie Melashenko, guest speaker and former Voice of Prophecy speaker, and other VOP staff members; the Valley Cross Roads Chorale, and Yolanda Palmer, soprano vocalist, the pastor and members of the local Methodist church. Pastor Rick Roethler, West Region director, presented a plaque in recognition of the occasion to Judith Miranda, leader of the congregation. • Members continue their community outreach ministry throughout Malibu each Sunday between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.



Judith Miranda, left, receives recognition plaque from Methodist church leaders.

MOJAVE

Last year the church acquired a bus which is now being used to circulate throughout the community and bring up to 20 members and visitors to church each Sabbath. This is causing residents in the area to inquire about the Adventist faith. As a result four people have been baptized and another eight are preparing for baptism in September. Church members have been conducting the Bible studies throughout the week as well as before and after church. • Pastor George Husband is currently presenting a stewardship seminar.

NORTHRIDGE

The youth department is sponsoring a seminar on relationships—How to succeed in everyday life. • Members will participate in the evangelistic meetings beginning Sept. 17 in the San Fernando area.

OJAI

Ojai church members have been updating their facility with a new library and clerk's office. Soon there will also be an additional classroom for the children's Sabbath School division. • Recent guest speakers have been Alex Martinez and Elder David Melilli. • Sabbath afternoon studies have resumed being led by Elder Gary Hess. • On Aug. 28, the Olivas Adobe Historical Park honored one of the former Ojai Church members, Marguerite



Just West

In the Churches...

Hardeman, with a free art exhibit. Mrs. Hardeman was the former organist for the Ojai Church and is well known in Ventura County for her mural paintings depicting the history of Ventura before and during the rancho period of California history. The exhibit will be open every weekend from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. until October 16, 2011.

OXNARD ALL NATIONS

A fellowship Bible Study Class by the pastor for newly baptized members and new students is underway. Plans call for three more baptisms this year for persons who attended the recent evangelistic meetings and have attended Bible studies by group leaders. • Groups of members are doing door-to-door search for new Bible study interests.

PALMDALE

During July, Palmdale church enjoyed its most successful VBS in years. Billie Odell and Jackie Climo were the leaders. • Pastor Matias Solis from Puerto Rico was the featured speaker for Palmdale church's first "All Nations Sabbath". St. Stephen's of the Valley Lutheran church, located right across the street from Palmdale Adventist church, graciously allowed the Adventists to use their beautiful sanctuary for the service. The "All Nations" buffet was so crowded that rented tables had to be taken outside the church facility for the event. The "Gran Programa Musical" lasted three hours and featured groups such as The Brown Brothers, Maranatha, "Voces de lo Alto" and many individual artists.

RIDGECREST

VBS in July served at least 30 kids every night. • The members have been gearing up for seed sowing by training for "secret agents," Jesus Way. They are learning to look for what the Holy Spirit is looking for.

SANTA CLARITA

This year's VBS again enjoyed significant youth and adult volunteerism, as well as a strong response from parents, grandparents and community. • Members are mobilizing to get their preschool partnership going, having signed a lease with "Little Patch of Earth Preschool." The owner/operator of the preschool is a church neighbor and was instrumental in the effort last summer and fall to regain the church's Minor Use Permit for education. The preschool will concentrate on "outdoor classroom" concepts in harmony with Adventist perspectives on early childhood, many drawn directly from Ellen White. • They've had a youth baptism and expect five more in September. More baptism are anticipate through efforts at child evangelism as the "Kids In Discipleship" (K.I.D.) ministry program and baptismal preparation classes bear fruit. • From Sept. 4 to 11, the church will host up to 14 people, constituting up to four families, who are homeless in the Santa Clarita valley. The church is working through the Family Promise Ministry for structure, city relations and programming, as well as 22 other local Christian and Jewish congregations.

SANTA MONICA

The annual Labor Day community BBQ was held Sept. 4

SIMI VALLEY

This year's Vacation Bible School was attended by 34 children and directed by Sharon and Art Kharns. Held Aug. 1 to 5, with "Nazareth" as its theme, the motif set construction was coordinated by Jay Johnson and Ross Labben. Class activities were led by several church members.

SYLMAR

Work continues on repairing damage to the church from rain storms earlier this year. • Members plan to support the upcoming evangelistic meetings in the San Fernando area. *Church property improvements are continuing.

TEHACHAPI

Vacation Bible School drew 25 children and was conducted by 11 directors and staff. • Bible study classes for church members and visitors begin Sept. 9. • Community outreach dinners Sunday mornings have continued to be good pathway events into the church for visitors.

THE PLACE

The Place members combined their efforts with Thousand Oaks church members to conduct VBS for 80 children in June. *Members will join in a Maranatha Volunteers International project in Lisbon, Portugal, to build a medical mission building in September. • The church will sponsor a new youth soccer Sunday league in September for kids ages 3 to 11 and will sponsor a 5K run for a "Get Out and Move Day" on Sept 25, at 9 a.m. at Newbury Park Adventist Academy. Proceeds from the event will benefit a local charity which will build a new home for autistic young adults. • A new collegiate ministry has been launched.

THOUSAND OAKS

Panda Mania, this year's theme for VBS was popular among the 80 children who attended. • The congregation's focus for the coming year for both the membership and the community will be health. The health team is developing various "out-of-the-box" ideas for implementation including counsel ranging from finances to weight loss.

VAN NUYS

Members are gearing up to participate in the fall evangelistic thrust in the San Fernando Valley.

VENTURA

Health van ministry has begun using the New York City Model. • Members have started "Breakfast Connections" fellowship for breakfast together on Sabbath morning before services.



In the Churches...

In the Churches...

Out West

WEST
REGION
OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
CONFERENCE

Richard Roethler,
Director

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Editor

2011
Summer Edition

Volume 5, Number 2

West Region news and report update—2007 – 2011

BY RICK ROETHLER, DIRECTOR



Rick Roethler

God has blessed in our West Region of more than 6800 members, 22 churches, nine companies and groups. Our churches are active in reaching their communities; 669 people have been baptized. The Pastors of our churches have a deep passion and commitment to share the love of Christ in their churches and communities

Our Tehachapi Church has recently completed a brand new sanctuary building. Our Burbank and Culver City Churches have totally remodeled sanctuaries. Our schools also have been blessed. The brand new elementary schools of Antelope Valley and Conejo are fully paid for. Every day our dedicated teachers provide Christian education for our children in our elementary schools and academies.

Our West Region Churches are actively engaging in evangelism. The churches of the Antelope Valley worked together with It Is Written and 126 people were baptized during a valley-wide meeting. The churches of the San Fernando Valley area are working together and preparing for evangelistic meetings in September 2011. Our other churches have hosted more than 75 local meetings. Our Pastors also frequently have opportunities to attend and to speak at national and international conferences.

Our local congregations are reaching into their communities through a wide range of ministries

including: family ministries, social justice, health seminars, C.H.I.P. programs, Kids Discipleship, lecture series, community gardens, mentoring programs, Pathfinder Clubs, Adventurer Clubs, Vacation Bible Schools, youth ministries, film making, providing for the homeless, women's and men's ministries, Jewish ministries, Persian ministries, Korean ministries, Hispanic ministries, television, radio, internet ministries, grief recovery, S.O.S., addiction recovery groups, P.A.D.S, singles, and other ministries. Our Prison Ministries have baptized more than 120 individuals.

Our churches are also supporting and working with our World Church via mission trips, sponsoring literacy learning circles through Hope for Humanity, evangelism meetings through the Share Him international outreach. Our first West Coast Worship Conference was co-sponsored with the NAD Creative Center of Evangelism in 2009 with more than 325 attendees. Our next West Coast Worship Conference is scheduled for February 2012.

Our Members, our Pastors, and our Teachers have a deep desire to share the amazing love and grace of Jesus with our communities. They are deeply committed to advancing the mission and purpose of our church. It is a joy to see how God has blessed! Please pray for our Pastors, Teachers, and Members as we serve together.

IN THE CHURCHES

BURBANK

Year of Health continues. For Physical Health they emphasize walking. Fifteen members are "walking across America" by recording the number of steps taken each day. So far they have logged more than 3,500 miles. For Spiritual Health they are memorizing a passage of scripture each month which they incorporate into the worship service.

CAMARILLO

A group of about 20 young people and adult leaders headed by Pastor Will Sellers will leave June 16, for a 10-day mission trip to La Vida Mission in New Mexico. They include students from Newbury Park Adventist Academy and San Fernando Adventist Academy and adults from Simi Valley and Camarillo. They will do light construction, maintenance and painting.





CANOGA PARK

Benjamin and Susanna Souders were baptized in late April. Pictured with them are Pastor Will and Bright Olukaikpe, the young adults class teacher. In late April, 12 members were added to the church.

- Rose Miller has conducted a Micro-C.H.I.P. training class in preparation for upcoming Coronary Health Improvement Classes.
- Evangelistic meetings May 18 and 19, were presented by David Asscherick.



Rose Miller

CULVER CITY

Members have enjoyed several concerts in their newly remodeled sanctuary. Hugo Yin provided the worship service in February and Jim McClintock performed in May. Rather than a Mother's Day and Father's Day celebration they have a Parent's Day in June where they honor and recognize the parents in their church.

HOLLYWOOD

The church hosted a community project for a regional event called Big Sunday May 15. Over this weekend over 400 projects are happening around the city benefitting local communities and non-profit organizations. The church had more than 60 volunteers signed up to help beautify a piece of Caltrans property adjacent to the church. In addition we painted the guardrail along Canyon Avenue outside the property and the block wall in their community garden where a mural will be painted. Eventually they will work with the community to turn this Caltrans property into a 'sliver-park' serving neighbors who have no park available within walking distance. The church has organized this project with the help of the local neighborhood council, city council offices and state assembly office. This is the second year the church has hosted a project for Big Sunday.

- Every year, at the start of the season of Pentecost, they have one of their most popular social events of the year – Beach Vespers. This year it will be on Saturday, June 25.

LAKE OF THE WOODS

The church's first Adventurer Club was started with seven kids and their current Pathfinder Club increased from last year

only having five to this year having 12. Nine of the club members are from the community and three of them are now preparing for baptism.

LANCASTER

College-aged youth attended a young adult retreat.

- Planning is underway for a Coronary Health Improvement Project series in September.

MOORPARK

Pastor Tim Garrison's May sermon series was titled "The Jesus Model." Services are at 5 p.m. at Moorpark Gateway Plaza, 484 Los Angeles Ave., Suite 109 in Moorpark.

OJAI

June 19, Weimar chef, Kelly Bonner will hold a vegetarian cooking class at the Ojai Valley Church June 19. For more details contact David Melilli at elriomesa@yahoo.com, or 805-350-5161. (Church- 805-640-0358).

- Michael Harris presented song and testimony for the worship hour on May 7.
- Members handed out roses to community moms after church, May 7. On Mother's Day they had a church picnic and walked up to the waterfall at Nojoqui Falls Park, then went into Solvang.

OXNARD ALL NATIONS

Evangelist Tim Jones of the Amazing Facts television ministry has been conducting meetings. An average of 32 visitors have attend each meeting.

PALMDALE

Palmdale church has been blessed in a remarkable way with the revival preaching of Pastor Macias Solis from Puerto Rico. Fifteen people, mostly youth and young adults were baptized at the end of the two week crusade. Pastor Solis will return to Palmdale church Aug. 13, as the featured speaker for the First Annual "All Nations Sabbath".

- Rockne Dahl is now pastoring Palmdale church on a part-time basis with the assistance of Manuel Gomez who is assistant for pastoral ministry for the church.

RIDGECREST

Preparations are underway to conduct a C.H.I.P. seminar.

- Members will participate in a Pentecost Agape Feast.
- Preparations are underway for a Vacation Bible School.

SANTA BARBARA

Winning friends and influencing people for Christ is more than a slogan for the Santa Barbara church. With a burning desire to do all they can to hasten the coming of Jesus, the members are actively reaching out to the community. In their recent International Dinner, they had a group of neighbors and friends join in the fellowship and this culinary delight in enjoying different foods from around the world. One member shared some food with a neighbor who was not able to attend, and she



Let's

In the Churches...

accepted it with gratitude and tears. She then commented to her visiting daughter, "These Adventists are really caring people." Then the community was invited to a special musical program April 23. With these special programs designed to reach the community by winning friends, the members opened the way to invite the community to a Creation-Evolution Seminar May 4 to 8. • In September a Prophecy Decoded evangelistic series is planned. With their active Signs program, the Discover Bible School, and the Internet outreach with the growing Virtual Church, they hope to reach as many people as they can for Jesus.

SANTA CLARITA

Two programs are coming this summer: First, the Pandamania VBS program. They expect lots of local church member participation, but they're reaching out with mailings to a 1000-foot radius around the church as well, and hope to have more community participation. Second, we're gearing up for "Family Promise", a program that provides housing and support for one week a quarter at the local church for homeless families. The success rate is very high, and the population is one that is growing in Santa Clarita – families evicted or jobless, who "couch surf" from one home to another as guests, or have parted out children to some friends, and are living in cars. Jan Kaatz and the Burbank Church are already involved in the Burbank chapter. "We're excited to be reaching out in the name of Christ to families that are in such need," said Pastor Greg Hoenes. • Members joined in a rich season through Easter, with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Resurrection services. In the weeks leading up to Pentecost, they focused in services on how to live out Christ's resurrection life! Sermons are available on our website.

SIMI VALLEY

Simi Valley's new pastors have arrived and begin serving in June. They are Phil and Janet White. They succeed Pastor Chuck Jensen who is now serving in Nepal. • In a fundraiser gala for the grade school supporters raised more than \$4,000 in April. • Adventurers and Pathfinder clubs are growing. • Sharon Kams will lead the VBS program in July.



Pastors Phil & Janet White

SYLMAR

Sylmar church will be hosted the "Bible Bowl" on May 14, • Reconstruction is continuing. Two classrooms are finished after complete rehab. The five rooms that were damaged by heavy rain are coming along, but will take another three weeks to finish. Trees have been cut down or trimmed in both the front of the church and in the parking area. • Attendance at a series being conducted by Mr. Phillip James at prayer meeting was very good.

TEHACHAPI

Internationally acclaimed gardening expert Brad Neeley conducted a weekend seminar tying together gardening and growing our spiritual lives. His delightful and at times humorous presentations warmed the listeners and his hands-on advice and demonstrations. • Members participated in a 40-Days-of-Praying adventure. They used the book by David Smith by the same title. The object is to experience a closer walk with the Lord and to seek the outpouring of His Holy Spirit. • Over the past eight to 10 months the members have been praying for 20 children to join their church family. The Lord has blessed with more than that.

THE PLACE

The church's annual camping retreat weekend was May 12 to 15, at Sycamore Canyon. Because this was an all-church weekend away from our home church, no services were held at The Place May 14. • Members participating in various community outreach events: on Sabbath afternoon for mother's day and as part of ACTION'S Ventura County Serve weekend, on June 4 and 5. Members will join in two mission projects this year: Honduras orphanages and building a health education center outside Lisbon, Portugal. • VBS in June is Pandamania.

THOUSAND OAKS

On Christian Education Sabbath, April 16, the seven and eight-year-old children played the handbells for the first time. • Repainting and redecorating the education wing of the church has begun.

VAN NUYS

The Buried Prophecy Codes evangelistic series concluded on May 7. • "We are seeing a revival in the church and new contacts are joining," said Pastor John. "The Natural Church Growth model is working." • Community Services continues with feeding of more than 50 families each Sabbath afternoon.

VENTURA

Members participated in a united Good Friday service and did a joint Easter service with First Christian Church. Pastor Jim Ayars helped lead in the 60th annual National Day of Prayer at the Ventura County Courthouse courtyard. • Members are currently putting together a series of outreaches – a cooking school, a medical information van, experimenting shortly with an evangelistic Webinar ("Foundations for Faith"), exploring possibilities of broadcasting church services via radio and local cable television.



Out Reach

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