

# southernconnect



**Harold Crook, Ed.D.,**  
Vice President for  
Education

## Highlighting Christian Education

In the month of April, we highlight Christian education in the Southern California Conference (SCC). Today, as SCC's Vice President for Education, I get the privilege of highlighting our principals, teachers, and school staff for a job well done!

As we all know, this past year has been very interesting and challenging for all of our churches and schools, but I want to say a special thank you today to our principals, teachers, and school staff for all of the innovation, adaptability, and ingenuity that they have combined to bring quality Christian education into the homes of our students so they could continue to learn through the educational process, even though they were unable to attend in person on our campuses.

"It is the nicest work ever assumed by men and women to deal with youthful minds. The greatest care should be taken in the education of youth to so vary the manner of instruction as to call forth the high and noble powers of the mind" (*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 15).

SCC principals have continued to lead with adaptability, creativity, and constant change. To our teachers and school staff, you've been in the trenches helping our students see

Jesus through a screen by providing worship, math assignments, music, Bible study, and all the other subjects that are part of the curriculum. We want to thank you for what you have done for all of our students.

"True education means more than the pursual of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of

service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come" (*Education*, p.13).

Principals, teachers, and school staff—thank you for preparing our students for the world to come. Thank you for spiritually presenting Jesus to our students in a virtual world that none of us were prepared for, but one in which you were able to power through and achieve success.

Our students have received quality Christian education from each of our teachers and principals through the ministry of education on each of our campuses.

Parents, we want to thank you for entrusting your children to our schools. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to bless the Christian education process in our schools. As we move forward, may we continue to serve your children in a way that may bring Jesus closer to them, that they might be prepared for the "higher service in the world to come." ●

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# SBCS At-Home STEAM Week

BY GARY SOTO

While distance learning is still in effect, middle school students at South Bay Christian School did not miss out on their end-of-quarter activities. Weeks before the quarter ended, their teachers prepared science kits for each student to enjoy STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics) lessons from the comfort of their homes.

During a normal school year, students work together in groups made up of different grades for STEAM week.

Students implement hands-on activities collaboratively; they discuss, problem-solve, and are able to enjoy various foods and snacks they wouldn't get to otherwise. The focus is on building community among students.

"At-home kits bring some of that creativity back into learning," said Diane Voigt, sixth grade homeroom teacher. "Students don't always get a chance to show their innovation in digital assignments. This gives them a chance to get messy, to break from the regular pattern of school, and to apply some

real-life skills, too."

Students learned about digestion and ratios and even got to make their own tamales after reading the story, "Too Many Tamales." One student even took the newfound knowledge to heart and made a yummy tamale dinner for her family.

"These at-home kits are a chance for connection, a chance to bring hands-on learning to our students while implementing rigor and excellence in learning, even from afar," shared Ruth Perez, seventh-grade homeroom teacher.

"In distance learning, I didn't expect my class to miss each other as much

## Pathfinder Convocation Goes Virtual

BY KEVIN MORRIS, WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ARAYA MOSS

This February, Southern California Conference (SCC) Pathfinders held their first virtual convocation. In years past, the event had been held in person at the White Memorial church.

This year's three-day-long convocation was pre-recorded and streamed over both Facebook and YouTube. The theme was "Hope and Joy," focusing on the hope and joy that Jesus offers in contrast to the fear and anxiety that many Pathfinders have experienced during the past year with this pandemic.

The convocation began with song service led by the White Memorial praise team, followed by the opening exercises by the Hollywood Spanish club. Special music was presented by

Pasadena, Central Filipino, Glendale Filipino, and Hollydale Pathfinders.

Johanna Amaya Dominguez from the Spanish American church was the convocation speaker. Her message was titled: "The Combo That Leaves You Full." Using a bag from In & Out as a prop, she described how In & Out Animal Fries would fill her up and pro-

people together," reflected Dominguez. "I profoundly believe in the limitless potential of our youth and their essential part in God's master plan."

At the conclusion of her message, Dominguez gave an invitation for the Pathfinders to make a decision for baptism. A QR code appeared on the screen, and the Pathfinders responded to the call by scanning the QR code and filling out the Google Form.

A service component of the event encouraged the students to bring canned goods to the church ahead of time for the White Memorial church food ministry.

"The virtual convocation wasn't the same as meeting in person; however, it did allow us to worship together as a conference Pathfinder family," Kevin Morris, SCC interim youth ministries director, said. "I would like to thank our conference coordinators team for everything they did to put this virtual convocation together." ●

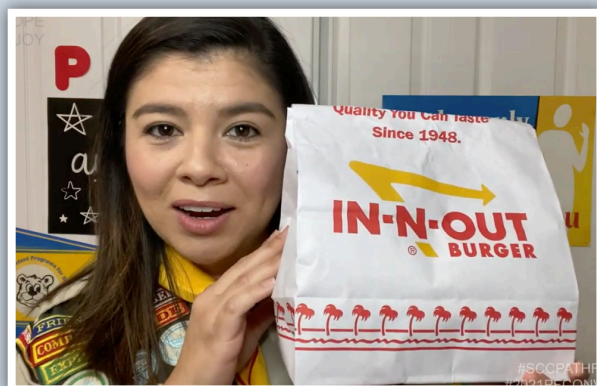


PHOTO PROVIDED BY KEVIN MORRIS

posed that when you invite Jesus into your life, you are satisfied and feel full.

"The Pathfinder convocation is a wonderful event that brings young

as we do," reflected Raquel Mentor, eighth-grade homeroom teacher. "I also see how students are willing to help each other through the process. They work together on homework and keep in touch with each other outside of school. It's hopeful to see how distance doesn't stop them from caring for one another."

While teachers and students alike hope to have more STEAM weeks in person, they feel incredibly blessed and thankful to have the technology to enjoy these small memories together. ●

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY RAQUEL MENTOR



## WATCH THE VIDEO & EXPERIENCE SBCS STEAM WEEK ON FACEBOOK:

<https://scc.adventist.org/sbcs-steam-week-2021>

# First Pathfinder Bible Experience in SCC

BY KEVIN MORRIS, WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ARAYA MOSS

The Southern California Conference (SCC) held its Area testing for the Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) on Sabbath afternoon, February 6.

The PBE is a Bible study program sponsored by the North American Division in which Pathfinders are tested on assigned books of the Bible. There are four levels of competition: Area, Conference, Union, and Division.

This was the first time that SCC has participated in the PBE. Javier Elenes, a retired SCC pastor and member of the SCC Pathfinder coordinator's team, served as the conference coordinator of the PBE. "We thank God for this opportunity our kids have to interact with each other in their endeavor to become better acquainted with God's Holy Word," Elenes said.

A total of 10 clubs and 11 teams participated in the Area testing. Through several months of preparation, Pathfinders studied the books

Whittier churches both scored higher than 90% and are eligible to move on to the Conference testing. "The first round was exciting, nerve-racking, and draining because it was so long," said Sydney Salelesi, Tamarind Pathfinder Club scribe, "but we persisted, and we ended up passing the first round. Praise God!" Gabriel Lopez, Whittier Pathfinder club member, added, "The Bible bowl was the first-ever Bible experience that was outside of just our Whittier church. I loved the experience, and I can't wait for round two."

"We pray that the Pathfinder Bible Experience will not only help the Pathfinders acquire a deeper understanding of God's Word," said Elenes, "but that this understanding will also lead them to a closer and more personal experience with Jesus." ●

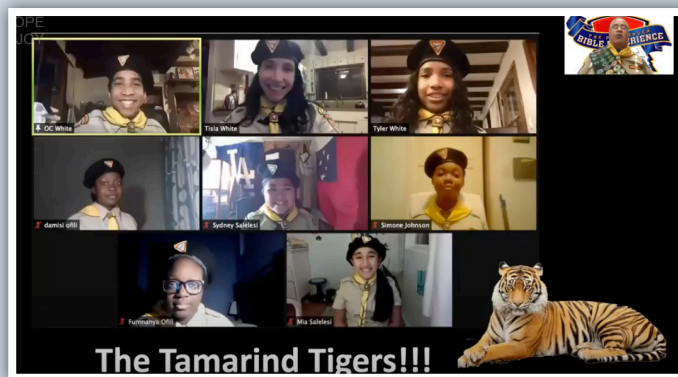


PHOTO PROVIDED BY KEVIN MORRIS

of Hebrews, James, and 1st and 2nd Peter. Held via Zoom, the test was 90 questions long. Each team had a maximum of six Pathfinders with one alternate and a scribe who would type their answers into the Nearpod platform. Teams were assigned to breakout rooms, with a monitor in each.

Teams from Tamarind Avenue and



# OFFICE OF EDUCATION

The mission of the Southern California Conference school system is to glorify God through academic excellence in nurturing Christian environments. Here, students establish a lifelong friendship with Jesus Christ while preparing for a lifetime of devoted service to Him and to humanity. The system pursues this mission by *educating for eternity*.

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## SAY HELLO



Say Hello is a social media campaign featuring SCC members and their stories, helping us to encourage one another and be better connected.

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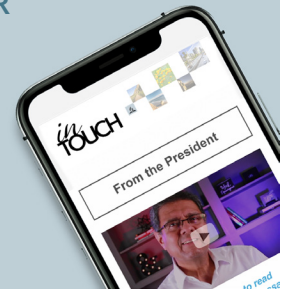
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## in transition

### LEAVING SCC EMPLOYMENT

Voted January 14, 2021

Moises Isaac | From Pastor, Bethel Church, as of January 12, 2021.