

southernconnect



Royal L. Harrison,
Director, Greater Los Angeles Region

Hope That Anchors the *Soul*

The word *hope* is one of the most powerful words in the English language. But more than just a word, it has been said that “hope is a powerful force. It can pull you from the depths of despair or fuel your dreams. With hope, anything is possible. Without it, life is a dull prospect.” Charles Spurgeon

once said this about hope: “Hope itself is like a star—not to be seen in the sunshine of prosperity, and only to be discovered in the night of adversity.”

The Bible has much to say concerning our hope. It reminds us that there is “one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope” (Ephesians 4:4, KJV). “For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God” (Hebrews 7:19, KJV). “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1, KJV). “Who by him do believe in God, that raised him from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God” (1 Peter 1:21, KJV).

The Bible is replete with scriptures that speak of hope, however there is one particular passage in God’s Word, that I find to be both inspirational and meaningful, and it is found in Hebrews 6:19 (KJV): “Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil.” Another version says it this way: “This hope is like a firm and steady anchor for our souls. In fact, hope reaches behind the curtain and into the most holy place”

(CEV). Scripture tells us that our hope is like an anchor for our souls that holds us firm and steady, and that it reaches behind the curtain and into the most holy place. That excites me, and it should excite you!

Have you ever wondered how an anchor works? When I was a child, I could never understand how a little anchor was able to hold a boat or a ship many times its size and keep it from drifting out to sea with the current. That was perplexing to me, but I did some study and discovered that a cruise ship weighs between 150,000 to 250,000 tons, and the anchors

on those giant ships weighed only 60,000 pounds. There are normally two anchors on those humongous ships: one on the port bow and the other on the starboard bow.

But the question that baffled me and perplexed me was: How do two 60,000-pound anchors keep a ship that weighs 150,000 to 250,000 tons steady in the water? That was head-scratching to me, but then I discovered that the anchor is built in such a

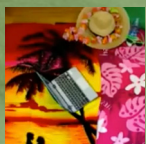
way that it’s designed to grab hold of something and the chain that connects the anchor to the ship is strong enough to hold the ship in place. So when a ship comes to port in the harbor to drop anchor, the captain must make sure that the anchor reaches to the ocean floor, and when it does, the captain then puts the ship in “astern,” which simply means he puts the ship in reverse. Why? So as to drag the anchors and to cause them to grab hold and dig into the ocean floor. And the reason why anchors, which are 8 times lighter than a ship, are able to hold it steady and firm is because they grab hold of something that is bigger, stronger, heavier, and more immovable than itself, and that’s the earth.

What I hear Paul saying is that our hope is just like that.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

EVERY CHRISTIAN
WHO CARRIES THE
DNA OF GOD LIVES
SACRIFICE & SERVICE.

INSIDE



SBCS Beach Day Goes Virtual

South Bay Christian School students celebrate annual beach day...via Zoom!

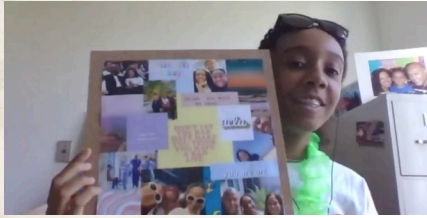


SGA Hosts Virtual GAP

SGA didn't let COVID-19 prevent their annual Get Acquainted Party.

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 3 In Transition
- 4 Region News



SBCS Students Spend Day at the Beach...Virtually

BY LAUREN LACSON

Instead, they gathered via Zoom!

The day reflected plenty of pre-planning from Mrs. Voigt, 6th-grade teacher; Mrs. Perez, 7th-grade teacher; and Mrs. Mentor, 8th-grade teacher. Before the event, every student was given a giftbag with all kinds of goodies for the occasion, including bubbles, a corkboard, and more.

Does a “virtual” beach day sound impossible? Think again! The day included an exciting—and packed—itinerary. Activities included an ice-breaker, at-home scavenger hunt,

social hour, and more. Students also created dedication boards, a special way to dedicate the school year to people and ideas that would motivate them to succeed.

“Students shared plenty of laughs and had fun trying the challenges,” Mentor said of the event. “Teachers had a great time building rapport with students.”

Although COVID-19 has changed many things, SBCS staff found a creative way to keep this fun tradition alive. ●

Every year, South Bay Christian School (SBCS) students enjoy a day at the beach. This year, the sixth- to eighth-grade students experienced the tradition even during a pandemic—but they didn’t take a field trip.

Watch the video at <https://scc.adventist.org/youtube.sbcs> or scan here:



Annual Get Acquainted Party Goes Virtual at SGA

BY BONNIE IVERSEN

Here’s the thing about San Gabriel Academy (SGA)—we love our students! At the beginning of every year, SGA enjoys a social event called the GAP (Get Acquainted Party), hosted by the Student Association.

Distance learning did not stifle that event this year. In August, students had the opportunity to play online get-acquainted games via Zoom, followed by an in-person drive through (think Chick-fil-A). Almost 60 families came by (many with two or three students in the family) to pick up delicious

pizza, mango and strawberry sorbet, boba, and water before driving to the next booth to have their picture taken and pick up their yearbooks that they were unable to get in June.

At the last drive-up station, students were given water balloons to toss at Principal Paul Negrete, Vice Principal Andrew Carpenter, Coach Kevin McCloskey, and science teacher Aaron Hays, all of whom were sitting targets.

We study hard, and we play hard... currently from a distance. We’re looking forward to a productive year! ●



Photos provided by Bonnie Iversen.



in transition

TRANSFERS SCC

Voted August 13 & 27, 2020

Isaac Nevarez | From Half-Time Pastor, Pomona Valley Spanish Company, to Full-Time Pastor, Palmdale church, as of July 5, 2020.

Claudia Stylc | From Payroll Jr. Accountant, SCC Treasury, to Payroll Jr. Accountant & HR Assistant, SCC Treasury & SCC HR, as of June 30, 2020.

LEAVING SCC

Voted July 9 & August 13, 2020

Danielle de Asis | From HR Generalist, SCC HR, as of August 24, 2020.

Dileanny Jimenez | From Auditing Assistant, SCC Auditing, as of August 27, 2020.

Kathleen Roberts | From Departmental Assistant & Administrative Assistant, SCC Asset/Risk Management & Greater Los Angeles Region, as of September 3, 2020.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It's not that our hope is so big, so strong, or so enormous, but it's because our hope is anchored to Someone who is strong, Someone who is bigger, Someone who is enormous, who can hold us in the midst of our storms, keep us steady in the midst of crashing waves, and keep us grounded when everything seems to be up in the air. Our hope goes beyond the veil into the Most Holy Place and grabs hold of Jesus.

The hymnwriter Edward Mote penned, "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus' name." Hope is a powerful force, and when that hope is anchored in Christ, we can sing like Mahalia Jackson, "Dark clouds may rise and strong winds may blow, but I can tell the world wherever I may go, that I have found a Savior and he's sweet, yes he's sweet I know."

Hope is more than simply a word; it becomes a force in our lives that can change our lives when we anchor them in Christ Jesus. ●

stay in touch

Subscribe to receive the latest news & updates from the Southern California Conference right to your inbox!

- 1 Text SCC SUBSCRIBE to 33777.
- 2 Visit scc.adventist.org/subscribe.
- 3 Scan this QR code.
- 4 Send an email request to communication@sccsda.org, including the name, email address, and church of the member who wants to subscribe.



EDITOR
Lauren Lacson

Submit a story
scc.adventist.org/
submitastory

**Southern California
Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists**

President
Velino A. Salazar

Executive Secretary
John H. Cress

Executive Vice President
James G. Lee, Jr.

1535 E. Chevy Chase Dr.
Glendale, CA 91206

818.546.8400

info@sccsda.org

@SCCAdventists

scc.adventist.org

SHARE YOUR STORY

[HTTPS://SCC.ADVENTIST.ORG/SAYHELLO](https://scc.adventist.org/sayhello)

REGION NEWS

Greater L.A. Region

As we continue to navigate and find new ways to worship and stay connected to our members, three of our churches in the GLAR Region have taken their worship outdoors. Smyrna church, Philadelphian church, and the Compton Community church have taken worship to another level. These three churches have decided that if we can't worship inside, we'll worship outside, and all three hold worship services outdoors in their parking lots.

See what these three pastors have to say about their recent experiences. "We have several visitors each Sabbath that simply come and worship with us who have never been inside the church," shared Compton Community church pastor Gamal Alexander.

Similarly, Philadelphian church pastor David Zaid shared, "We have seen an increase in the number of visitors who just stop by for the music and the preaching." As for the shift to outdoor church, Smyrna church pastor Trevor Stewart shared that "people are energized and excited about worshipping in person, even though it's outdoors."

We believe you don't have to be in a building to have church, but the church is wherever God's people are.

By Royal L. Harrison, region director

L.A. Metro Region

Our L.A. Metro Region churches continue to be creative in ministry. From community service to children's ministry, these churches have not let COVID-19 slow them down.

The Vallejo Drive church food pantry has been active during this pandemic to provide food for those in

need. Now, they've started a partnership with Adventist Health Glendale to continue feeding the community. Through this program, the church will receive 1,700 pre-packaged 20-lb. boxes of mixed fruits and veggies every week through December!

North Hills church found a fun way to fellowship together with a sidewalk painting contest, which provided a safe way for the church to gather outdoors and share messages of hope with their neighborhood.

Health ministry is also a top priority for many of our region churches. A new virtual health ministry launched at Community Adventist Fellowship in August, with the first Zoom meeting welcoming 75 attendees!

We are eager to continue finding creative ways to serve our communities in this new "normal."

By Danny Chan, region director