

southernconnect



Iki Taimi, *director, Senior Youth & Young Adult Ministries*

The Act of Reverence

Have you ever revered something or someone? A riveting teacher? A mammoth mountain? A massive wave? A gnarly animal?

There is this cumulative idea in the Old Testament between two Hebrew terms that gives birth to the wonderment of reverence. In

context, it could be an experience that exclusively or cumulatively causes fear, awe, or even deep respect and wonder. It is a practice of humility. In these moments, we embrace our finiteness, turning away from ourselves and giving some expressed form of respect or homage to the *other*. Thus, disrespect or irreverence can be interpreted as the lack of concern, honor, or awe for the *other*, equating our importance with or above the *other*.

However, the act of reverence is a concession to our humility, respecting and honoring and lifting up that which is sacred to us. As Christians, when we talk about reverence, we are referring to things we believe deserve our admiration and worship.

It is seen in the prophets' position of prostration before God as they pray on behalf of the people. It is that moment when Moses removes his shoes because God said that he was on holy ground. It is my parents' hearty "amen" to the ancient text, and my kids' hearty hand claps to the same text.

While the concept of reverence is universal and timeless, its expression is temporal and always needs context in order

for it to be meaningful. When my parents were growing up, saying "amen" was the respectful thing to do. For my kids, it's clapping that gives a sign of respect and agreement. Today, it is respectful to wear "church shoes," but Moses was commanded, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5, NIV). In some cultures, it is respectful for men to wear pants and for women not to, while in other cultures, both men and women wear skirts to church as their respectful attire. In times past, and even still in some cultures today, a sign of respect is for members to accept everything the pastor or elders say without question, while in other cultures, asking questions and sharing dialogue is a sign of respect for the process of spiritual growth and interest.

"WE MUST NOT CONFUSE IMMUTABLE REVERENCE FOR GOD WITH OUR TEMPORAL EXPRESSION OF THAT REVERENCE."

We must not confuse immutable reverence for God with our temporal expression of that reverence. Otherwise, we are in danger of mis-valuing respectfulness or reverence based on whether people appropriately express it according to their definition.

If the expression of reverence is temporal and contextual, then we must recognize that it changes over time, as well as from one cultural group to another cultural group.

So why is this important at all? Well, here comes my bias as the young adult ministries director. Because if we are to validate the next generation's love and reverence for God and the church, we must be sure to not devalue their expression of reverence and respect for God and the church. It may not look like our working definition, but that does not mean it is any less respectful or meaningful. When you look at young

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INSIDE



Evangelistic Series

Four SCC churches hosted evangelistic series this summer, resulting in baptizing 20+ new members



Oshkosh Recap

SCC Pathfinders represent at 2019 "Chosen" camp-oree in Oshkosh; 98 from SCC are baptized

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Evangelism Efforts Flourish

BY LAUREN LACSON

ShareHim is an evangelism initiative with an ultimate goal “to empower and mobilize lay men and women to be active in a lifestyle of evangelism.” This year, a team of nine missionaries from SCC, representing all five regions, took a mission trip to Kenya. These lay members preached for 11-14 nights, and 150 souls were baptized as a result.

SCC participates in a ShareHim mission trip every year, organized by the SCC evangelism department and inspired by the GC global mission initiative. Thanks to Vice President James Lee and Greater L.A. Region Director Royal Harrison for their leadership. To learn more about this ministry, visit www.sharehim.org. ●

Four churches hosted summer evangelistic series, resulting in more than 20 baptisms. Smyrna, 54th Street, Sunland-Tujunga, and Palmdale churches shared messages of hope with their communities, and people came to understand and experience God’s love.

Palmdale’s series included 10-minute health nuggets before the study on prophecy. At Sunland-Tujunga, it was clear that, while Satan is never happy to see God’s Kingdom grow, God will always be victorious!

We praise God for the the precious new members of these congregations. Stay tuned for more about these series in an upcoming issue of the *Recorder!* ●



SAY HELLO

THIS SPOTLIGHT IS PART OF OUR ALL-NEW SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN! LEARN MORE AT SCC.ADVENTIST.ORG/SAYHELLO.



“My mother became Adventist when I was 3 years old. She began raising me in the church, and I was baptized at the age of 7. I never fully understood what it meant to have a relationship with Jesus until I was 15 and my heart was completely converted. At the age of 19, I was re-baptized because I wanted to dedicate my life to Christ all over again as an adult. I've been a member ever since.”

MICHELLE NOLAND, MEMBER AT TEMPLE CITY CHURCH

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people, be intentional and careful not to put them down or discourage them for not doing things the way you do it. Don't mistake their innovation and creativity for a lack of respect for "how we've always done it." Model to them what reverencing God could look like. Show them that we are committed to the idea of lifting God sacredly above ourselves, even as this task may look different for each generation. It is a Goliath task for you and me to be multi-lingual in the area of reverence for our mighty God, but it is worth the growth of us all. We can say "amen" and clap, too. We can wear suits and jeans.

"IF WE ARE TO VALIDATE THE NEXT GENERATION'S LOVE AND REVERENCE FOR GOD & THE CHURCH, WE MUST BE SURE NOT TO DEVALUE THEIR EXPRESSION OF REVERENCE."

We can proclaim with our voices, "Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go" and "I'm a child of God, yes I am." We can rely on tradition while at the same time looking forward to innovation. Maybe our young people are not disrespecting our ways and our process. Maybe, just maybe, with respect to our purpose, they are bringing us into something new and awesome that God has in store for His people. And if the things that our young people are doing *in* and *for* the church feel just a little frightening, don't worry. Fear is an experiential part of reverence. ●

in transition

NEW EMPLOYEES

Voted June 27, July 11, 25 and August 8, 2019

Chona Tupas-Torres | Executive Assistant, SCC Treasury, as of July 1, 2019.

Nellie Tassy | Teacher, Conejo Adventist Elementary, as of July 1, 2019.

Ashton Hardin | Administrative Assistant, SCC Education, as of July 22, 2019.

Frederick Greg Schaller | Pastor Part Time, Community Adventist Fellowship, as of July 20, 2019.

TRANSFERS OUT OF SCC

Voted June 27, July 11, 25 and August 8, 2019

Christopher Perez | From Teacher, Conejo Adventist Elementary, as of June 30, 2019.

Mickey Smith | From Teacher, Los Angeles Adventist Academy, as of June 30, 2019.

Carlos Acosta | From Pastor, Spanish American church, as of August 3, 2019.

Renee Lacson | From Senior Accountant, SCC Treasury, as of July 11, 2019.

Rahshan Wall | From Associate Pastor, Tamarind church, as of August 31, 2019.

Denilson Reis | From Pastor, L.A. Portuguese / Highland Park Spanish churches, as of August 31, 2019.

TRANSFERS IN SCC

Voted June 27, July 11, August 8 and 22, 2019

Michael Johnson | From Associate Pastor Part Time, Berean church, to Pastor Full Time, Pasadena church, as of July 1, 2019.

Gustavo Mendez Pineda | From Pastor, Lancaster church, to Seminary Student, Andrews University, as of July 27, 2019.

Javier Casas | From Seminary Student, Andrews University, to Pastor, Lancaster Spanish / El Faro churches, as of August 18, 2019.

Iki Taimi | From Pastor Part Time, Gardena Genesis Community Church & Director Part Time, SCC Senior Youth & Young Adult Ministries, to Director Full Time, SCC Senior Youth & Young Adult Ministries, as of August 1, 2019.

Sergio Caishpal | From Pastoral Intern, Santa Monica church, to Seminary Student, Andrews University, as of August 4, 2019.

Nicolas Perez | From Junior Accountant, SCC Treasury, to Senior Accountant, SCC Treasury, as of August 19, 2019.

RETIREMENTS

Voted July 11, 2019

Javier Caceres | From El Sereno Spanish / Eastmont Spanish churches, as of September 30, 2019.

SPOTLIGHT

SCC Takes Oshkosh

More than 1,700 SCC members attended Oshkosh 2019, which was more than in previous years. According to SCC Youth Ministries Director Bob Wong, the main purpose of this event was to draw all attendees into a closer walk with Jesus, developing a solid relationship with Him.

Our conference was represented well by the 63 SCC clubs at this year's camporee. There were 98 baptisms among the SCC attendees. SCC President Velino A. Salazar even baptized some of our Pathfinders whose pastors were not present.

With more than 55,000 youth in

attendance, it was an opportunity for new friendships. Activities included pin trading between clubs, earning honor patches, and participating in drilling demonstrations.

"Pin trading is like having Jesus," noted Andrew Sewell from the Pasadena church Pathfinder club. "When other people see what you have, they want it."

When asked what is his favorite part of this camporee, Wong responded, "Seeing the change in the lives of individuals."

The next camporee will be held in 2024 in Oshkosh, Wis., themed, "Believe the Promise." For more info, visit www.camporee.org.



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Lauren Lacson

Submit a story

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REGION NEWS

Greater L.A. Region

Summer is always an exciting time because many of our GLAR churches conduct evangelism crusades.

This July, 54th Street church hosted a Revelation seminar presented by James G. Lee, Jr., SCC vice president. Visitors and members attended faithfully every evening. Senior Pastor Adolphus Garnett shared his joy at seeing people who had never stepped foot in his church not only attending the meetings but experiencing genuine hunger for God's Word.



Smyrna church hosted an evangelistic campaign for the entire month of August. Senior Pastor Trevor Stewart conducted an old-fashioned tent effort in the church parking lot. When I asked how long had it been since there has been a tent effort in this conference, I was told it's been at least 20 years. Pastor Stewart preached the gospel every night, and the Lord blessed with 19 souls added to the kingdom of God.

There is an electricity in the air for evangelism in this region, where even more churches are preparing to host evangelistic campaigns. I'm thankful for these faithful men who are committed to fulfilling the gospel commission.

by Royal L. Harrison, Region Director

West Region

The West Region is active! Northridge church is undergoing a restoration and reviving campaign. Sylmar church is shifting their focus to ministering to a younger generation. Van Nuys church is freshening their facility. Simi Valley church fellowships with summer vespers, worshipping together with up to 150 attendees. The Place Adventist Fellowship Company became an organized church on August 24, 2019 (stay tuned for more on that in the November issue of the Recorder). West is on the move!

by Greg L. Hoenes, Region Director

