

southernconnect



Velino A. Salazar
SCC President

Living God's Love

Some years ago, I went to Cuba for church meetings, and the hosting pastor arranged for me to stay in a modest hotel downtown. As we traveled to the hotel, he said his wife had also arranged for me to stay in their home, and it was up to me to decide where to stay. I accepted without hesitation. When we arrived at their home, his wife greeted me and said, "Make yourself welcome." That statement was very meaningful for a stranger from a different country, culture, and race. It was enough for me to feel welcome and accepted. After one week of living and interacting with this wonderful family, we developed a beautiful friendship which has lasted for more than 17 years, even across the vast distance between both countries.

We Seventh-day Adventist Christians find in Scriptures our reason for living. We find a God who is the creator of our lives and our environment, Who created us to be loved by Him and to love others. We find a relational God who wants to be closer to us in spite of a myriad of separating factors.

Most Christians know John 3:16 from memory: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." And, as recipients of such love, we enjoy His love as a Father who wants to see His children value and love one another. This means that we need to relate with others in a loving way to understand the fullness of God's love.

Historically, the Seventh-day Adventists have promoted the demonstration of this love in our relationships. In other words, living God's love for everyone, everywhere.

In our homes — It is in this intimate habitat of the family that Bible instructs us to express our love in a very personal and private way, by loving our spouse as Christ loved His church and gave His life for her. We also have the opportunity as parents and children to express our love, admiration, affection, and respect. This ought to be the first place where we experience God's love.

In our schools — In this environment, God-fearing educators also have the opportunity to share God's love with students collectively. The Seventh-day Adventist educational system was established to teach children how to know and love God, and to serve in our society with compassion and fairness. More info here:

In our work — In this framework, many times our Christian values are tested, and our relationships are put at risk if not handled appropriately. The apostle Paul declares in his writings the high standards for Christian employers and employees. We are invited to consider our employment relationships "as to the Lord," working wholeheartedly. What a difference it would be in our work.

In our hospitals — In this setting, we have a unique opportunity to be healing agents who display God's love to the suffering. For 150 years, Seventh-day Adventists have promoted health, hope, and wholeness based on biblical principles. In Southern California, there are three hospitals that carry on this healing ministry. Visit www.adventisthealth.org.

In our communities — In the insecure environment in which we live, in the fearful and distressful atmosphere created by different factors, we can find peace, hope, and comfort in Jesus Christ who is the Master Peacemaker.

I invite you to consider living God's love by having a close friendship with Him. ●

"FOR GOD SO LOVED
THE WORLD"

INSIDE



Branden Stoltz Is Ordained

*In recognition of
God's calling for his life,
Branden Stoltz is ordained*



Eunice Winston Retires

*SCC honors Eunice
Winston's 34 years
of service*

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 3 In Transition
- 4 Ministry Spotlight
- 4 Region News

Branden Stoltz Is Ordained

BY LAUREN ARMSTRONG

"God is funny, isn't He?" asked Branden Stoltz, pastor of Hollywood and Burbank churches. "To see us wherever we're at and say, 'I want to use you.'"

On August 4, 2018, Stoltz celebrated how God has done just that in his own life. He was ordained at the Hollywood church. The service was attended by colleagues, church members, family, and friends.

The meaning of the service was clear in all the carefully constructed details. Stoltz chose "Make Me a Servant" as the opening song, and Proverbs 16:9 as the Scripture reading. That verse says: "A man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." Elder Greg Hoenes, West Region director,

confirmed the fulfillment of that verse in Branden's life. "He is a magnificent human being, but not only that, he is one called of God for a very special service," Hoenes noted.

Elder Velino A. Salazar, SCC president, addressed Stoltz directly in his homily. "Brother," he said, "you have been called to speak on His behalf." He continued by confirming the calling placed upon Stoltz's life, adding that we have each been called to serve God in unique and important ways.

In the ministerial charge, Elder James G. Lee, Jr., SCC vice president, urged Stoltz to draw near to Christ in this work of ministry. "As a servant, make the master your daily study," he counseled. "No one involved in warfare



Ordained pastors lay hands on Stoltz as Elder John H. Cress prays. Photo by Jose Quinones.

entangles himself in this life."

Stoltz expressed humble appreciation for God's call bringing him into ministry. "I'm overwhelmed because of His goodness. I know I don't understand everything He has in store for me. It's wonderful and rare — and I get to do this for a living." ●



Eunice Winston began her career at SCC 34 years ago. She graduated from law school in 1966 and held many positions with the City of San Diego prior to joining the SCC team as Trust Association Director in 1984. She became the Asset Management

Conference Icon Retires

BY CONNIE JEFFERY

Director in 2015 and held that position until her retirement in June.

"Due to her educational background and experience, Eunice Winston was considered an icon in this conference," said Velino A. Salazar, SCC president. "She is knowledgeable in her field, and her counsel was taken seriously and valued. I worked with her for 22 years and witnessed that she is a woman of integrity, always pursuing doing the right thing. For that, she earned my respect and admiration."

Little-known facts about Winston? She's the seventh of 13 children; she was baptized in the Colorado River in 1949; she has one daughter, Angela; her favorite preachers are Eric Ward, Calvin Rock, and Byron Spears; and her favorite flower is the hydrangea.

At her retirement celebration,

family, friends, and co-workers gathered to pay tribute to her faithful service. "Your passion for the Church and for the organization has been appreciated," said John H. Cress, SCC executive secretary. "You have approached your position not as a job, but as a ministry that impacts so many individuals for the Kingdom of God."

"Guiding churches, schools, and SCC in being faithful stewards in the acquisition, development, leasing, selling, and management of His property was a privilege," she said. "My goal was to perform to His glory and honor."

"Now as you enter this new stage of your life, we pray that God will bless and guide you each step of the way," said Elder Cress. "You may be retired, but He still has plenty for you to do as you serve Him into eternity." ●

in transition

NEW EMPLOYEES

Voted May 10, July 12, 26, and August 9, 2018

Elizabeth Ann Negrete | Teaching Principal, East Valley Adventist School, as of July 1, 2018.

Trevor Stewart | Pastor, Smyrna church, as of July 1, 2018.

Timothy Cress | Pastor, North Hills church, as of July 1, 2018.

James Kyle | Pastor, Vallejo Drive church, as of June 16, 2018.

Raquel Mentor | Teacher, South Bay Junior Academy, as of July 1, 2018.

LEAVING SCC EMPLOYMENT

Voted June 28 and July 26, 2018

Eunice Winston | From Director, Asset Management, SCC Asset Management, as of June 28, 2018.

Bethania Diaz | From Undertreasurer, SCC Accounting, as of July 19, 2018.

Pamela Forbes | From Associate Superintendent, SCC Education, as of June 30, 2018.

Jonathan Fox | From Teacher, South Bay Junior Academy, as of June 30, 2018.

TRANSFERS IN SCC

Voted June 28, July 12, 26, and August 9, 2018

Carol Todd | From Teacher, Los Angeles Adventist Academy, to Principal, Los Angeles Adventist Academy, as of August 1, 2018.

Deborah Baroi | From Science Teacher, San Fernando Valley Academy, to Vice Principal/Science Teacher, San Fernando Valley Academy, as of July 1, 2018.

Brett Poynter | From Pastor, Hacienda Heights church, to Pastor, Temple City church, as of August 4, 2018.

John Aitken II | From Pastor, L.A. Metro Region, to Pastor, Living Stones and Sunland-Tujunga churches, as of August 4, 2018.

Nancy Garcilazo | From Principal, Glendale Adventist Academy, to Associate Superintendent, SCC Education, as of July 1, 2018.

Renee Lacson | From Staff Auditor, SCC Auditing, to Senior Accountant, SCC Accounting, as of July 16, 2018.

Jeff Rosenthal | From Pastor, Living Stones and Sunland-Tujunga churches, to Pastor, Hacienda Heights church, as of August 4, 2018.

James Ayars | From Pastor, Ventura church, to Pastor, Thousand Oaks and Ventura churches, as of August 1, 2018.

Larry Meager | From Pastor, Thousand Oaks church, to Associate Pastor, Ventura church, as of August 1, 2018.

OCTOBER 31, 2018

3 WAYS YOU CAN GLOW IN THE DARK

1. PASS OUT TRACTS WITH YOUR CHURCH OUTREACH TEAM
2. PASS OUT TRACTS TO TRICK-OR-TREATERS WHO COME TO YOUR HOME
3. PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE GIVING & RECEIVING TRACTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED, VISIT **SCCGLOW.ORG**

EDITOR
Lauren Armstrong

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Connie Vandeman Jeffery

Submit a story
[scc.adventist.org/
submitastory](http://scc.adventist.org/submitastory)

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

President
Velino A. Salazar

Executive Secretary
John H. Cress

Treasurer
Orville Ortiz

Vice President
James G. Lee

1535 E. Chevy Chase Dr.
Glendale, CA 91206

818.546.8400

info@sccsda.org

@SCCAdventists

scc.adventist.org

This summer, 40-plus young people canvassed for 10 weeks as part of SCC Youth Rush. "Something God has taught me through Youth Rush is that I will never be good enough to earn my own salvation," said Carolina Cruz. "Through Youth Rush, I was able to see that I can't do anything to be good enough. And that everything is through Christ and His Son and His

sacrifice that he gave for Me."

God still uses literature. "I realized how unimportant the things of this world are compared to the work we are able to do for Jesus Himself and being able to reach out to others," said Travis Blech.

Visit scc.adventist.org/youthrush for more testimonies, statistics, and more about the work of SCC Literature Ministries. ●



REGION NEWS

Greater L.A. Region

We are excited about what God is doing in our region. Under the leadership of Pastor Eugene Hamilton, Breath of Life hosted its second annual block party on Sabbath, August 18, entitled "Back 2 School." More than 1,000 people attended and 700-plus backpacks were given to children. Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor for the 2nd District, the Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas, was present.

On July 14, Smyrna church welcomed Pastor Trevor Stewart from the Northeastern Regional Conference. The installation was well attended, and the church is gearing up for evangelism and outreach.

Pastor Roger Frazier is preparing Delaware church for a satellite evangelistic meeting with Shawn Boonstra.

They will be one of the host churches in the Santa Monica area.

The University church celebrated its 110th anniversary on August 11, with 300 people in attendance. Pastor Lawrence Dorsey Sr. received a "Letter of Recognition" from Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson.

by Royal L. Harrison, Region Director

L.A. Metro Region

The L.A. Metro Region is busy with evangelism and community outreach. Here are just a few examples:

Eagle Rock church had a full summer of outreach programs. Forty-50 weekly neighbors continue to visit the soup kitchen, and several are continuing with the Celebrate Recovery groups. This year, a Jump Start program was added with the Glendale-based Communitas ministry, which has been helping those in need with jobs, housing, and legal representation. The

yearly National Night Out Block Party outreach hosted 38 community vendors and 350 attendees.

El Monte church held several outreach ventures, including a cooking class complete with demonstrations that emphasized healthy living principles. The community center serves those in need with clothing and food on a weekly basis.

The Whittier church spent 2018 in evangelism and encouraging members to become involved in some form of outreach — Total Member Involvement. From Sabbath afternoons spent handing out GLOW tracts to a three-week evangelistic series to a Vacation Bible School packed with 60 children, Whittier church is focused on implementing their mission statement: "To prepare the Whittier church and community for the second coming of Jesus."

by Gerard Kiemeny, Region Director