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Heidi Carpenter
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A Greater *Thirst*

At Jacob's well, Jesus stops to rest. He is tired from his travels, hungry and thirsty. His disciples have left to find food in the nearby city of Samaria while Jesus asks for a drink of water from a local Samaritan woman. After a simple life-changing conversation with

Jesus, the Living Water, this woman leaves her water pot and runs back into Samaria to bring others to Jesus! In *The Desire of Ages*, we read, "This woman represents the working of a practical faith in Christ. Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver" (p. 195). When you have met Jesus, you share Jesus — it's just that simple.

Meanwhile, the disciples have returned with food. "Rabbi, eat something!" is their urgent request. Jesus looks at them and simply says "I have a kind of food you know nothing about" (John 4:31-32, NLT). The disciples begin to wonder if someone else had brought Him food, completely missing the point. Jesus makes it even more clear to them: "My food is to do the will of Him who sent me, and to finish His work" (John 4:34, NKJV). Jesus had a greater hunger for more than physical food. It was a hunger for people to experience the water of life! "He saw her drinking of the water of life, and His own hunger and thirst were satisfied. The accomplishment of the mission which He had left heaven to perform strengthened the Saviour for His labor and lifted Him above the necessities of humanity" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 190-191).

Then Jesus says, "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the field, for they are already white for harvest!' (John 4:35, NKJV). Here, Jesus seeks to open the eyes of his disciples to the field of labor the woman had already begun to work in. "As soon as she had found the Saviour the Samaritan woman brought others to Him. She proved herself a more effective missionary than His own disciples. The disciples saw nothing in Samaria to indicate that it was an encouraging field. Their thoughts were fixed upon a great work to be done in the future. They did not see that right around them was a harvest to be gathered. But through the woman whom they despised, a whole cityful were brought to hear the Saviour. She carried the light at once to her countrymen" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 195). The disciples were waiting for a future work, missing the opportunities directly in front of them!

In John 4, Jesus calls out to humanity, claiming that while everything else in the world will leave you thirsty, He will truly satisfy. The passage further illustrates the fact that you can't experience Jesus without sharing Him. Has the living water satisfied your thirst?

Seeing Jesus in this story makes me stop and think, *Do I have a hunger for souls like He has?* Even though Jesus was tired and hungry, this encounter was more satisfying than physical food. He looked around Him and saw an immediate harvest. *Am I focusing so much of my time planning for some future work that I neglect the harvest of today?* While plans for the future are good, opportunities to share the Living Water are right around us. Let our prayer be: *Open our eyes to see the harvest of today. Fill our hearts with You and a hunger for souls like you had, Jesus!* ●

THIS STORY MAKES ME
STOP AND THINK, DO
I HAVE A HUNGER FOR
SOULS LIKE JESUS HAS?

INSIDE



Building Appropriations
SCC Makes Progress Toward Satisfying Building Appropriations



Liz Remboldt
Vallejo Drive Church Celebrates Liz Remboldt's Music Ministry Upon Her Retirement

IN EVERY ISSUE

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

SCC Satisfies Building Appropriations

BY LAUREN ARMSTRONG

When a church buys their first building, they receive what is referred to as a building appropriation from the conference office. The purpose of this non-tithe money is to assist churches throughout the process of purchasing their first building.

The appropriation sum awarded to the church covers the purchase or construction of the church's first building facility.

The list of churches with outstanding building appropriations has grown over the years, and those still on the list have been patiently waiting. There have been small sums given to some of the churches while they are waiting for the appropriation to be satisfied in full.

"We are developing a plan to satisfy several per year from the list," said Orville Ortiz, SCC treasurer. In 2016, 28 churches

in the conference had unsatisfied appropriations. Many of these appropriations have been unsatisfied for more than 10, sometimes even more than 20, years. In the last two years, though, more than five churches have seen their building appropriations satisfied as they have received the last of the outstanding sum.

Earlier this year, Ortiz visited Paramount Spanish church to deliver the remaining \$60,000 of their promised appropriation. The congregation had been waiting since 1995 to receive their full appropriation, and Ortiz delivered the check to the church pastor and treasurer during the morning worship service.

Also satisfied within the last two years were building appropriations for West Hollywood Spanish church, Temple City Spanish church, Altadena church and Valley Crossroads church.



(l. to r.) Treasurer Marta Sarabia, Ortiz and Pastor Claudiner Mockuiti pictured at Paramount Spanish church as the final building appropriation is delivered. Photo provided by Orville Ortiz.

The remaining churches will see their appropriations satisfied from the oldest to the most recent in the coming years. To the churches still waiting, Ortiz says, "We are fulfilling the commitment we've made to you."

Please contact the treasurer's office at 818-546-8413 with any questions. ●



(l. to r.) John St. Marie, Liz Remboldt, Ladd Thomas, and Mark Papendick celebrate Remboldt's ministry and present her with an award of excellence on behalf of the church. Photo by Audrey Zorek.

Elizabeth Remboldt, fondly known as Liz, is the longest tenured employee at Vallejo Drive church, where she was the organist for 29 years.

During her tenure at Vallejo Drive church, Remboldt accompanied 1,150 worship services, 2,300 congregational

Celebrating Liz Remboldt's Ministry

BY LAUREN ARMSTRONG

and choir accompaniments, 3,400 solos and 29 Christmas programs.

Remboldt was honored by her colleagues and congregation on March 24, 2018, during the Sabbath morning worship service. Those who have worked closely with Remboldt, both from within and outside the church, shared comments about their experience serving with her in various capacities.

Ladd Thomas has served as the organist at the First United Methodist Church of Glendale for 58 years. He proudly shared the bench with Remboldt for 10 years, saying, "I always thought, 'Liz is going to have a beautiful ministry,' because you love it so much, and that love is freely given." Thomas and Remboldt often filled in for one another at their respective churches during vacations or other absences.

During her 29 years of ministry at Vallejo Drive church, Liz commuted from Hanford, Santa Maria, and Simi Valley. Driving from Simi Valley, Remboldt would wake up at 4 a.m. to make it to the church at 7 a.m. to practice. This is evidence of her dedication and love for the ministry.

John St. Marie worked alongside Remboldt for the last five years of her tenure after he joined Vallejo Drive church as the choir director. "She chooses pieces with such devotion because she wants to make worship here a beautiful space," he commented.

The emotional tribute was an appropriate "thank you" for Remboldt's years of service. Remboldt quoted the famous baseball announcer Vin Scully, who said, "Don't be sad that it's over, be glad that it happened." Her take? "I'm very glad the last 29 years happened." ●

COMING UP

JUNE

8-10 | Graduation Weekend for SCC academies. Check the SCC Education department website for more info at scc.adventist.org/edu.

16 | Second Saturday Concert at Glendale City church.

JULY

Vacation Bible School programs are in full swing this month! Learn more about a program near you on our website at scc.adventist.org/vbs.

14 | Second Saturday Concert at Glendale City church.

15 | Planned Giving: Sunday Brunch Seminar at School Canyon Estates.

in transition

NEW EMPLOYEES

Voted March 8, 2018

Danielle de Asis | Human Resources Generalist, Southern California Conference, as of March 1, 2018.

Voted April 12, 2018

Gabriela Bruno Park | Secretary, Education Department, Southern California Conference, as of April 9, 2018.

Kathleen Diaz | Chief Accountant, Southern California Conference, as of April 9, 2018.

CONFERENCE CHANGES

Voted March 22, 2018

Rodney Balmes | From Pastor, Central Filipino Church, to Student, Seminary, as of April 22, 2018.

Peter Baptiste | From Pastor Part Time, Vallejo Drive Church, to Pastor Full Time, Vallejo Drive Church, as of March 18, 2018.

James Dok | From Pastor, Cambodian Ministries, to Pastor, Hawthorne Church and Cambodian Ministries District, as of February 11, 2018.

Gustavo Mendez Pineda | From Pastor Part Time, Lancaster Spanish SDA Church, to Pastor Full Time, Lancaster Spanish SDA Church, as of March 1, 2018.

Takuma Shinasue | From Pastor, Gardena Japanese SDA Church, to Student, Seminary, as of April 15, 2018.

Introducing SCC's *In Touch* E-Newsletter

SCC's brand-new e-newsletter is published on the first and third Tuesday of every month. It features a message from the president, the latest stories from our churches and schools, details about upcoming events and more. Subscribe on our website today!



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Community Services

Adventist Community Services (ACS) is a vital ministry. Disaster response is a portion of ACS that provides assistance in the event of a natural or manmade disaster or unforeseen tragedy. This assistance takes many forms, including volunteer clean-up and rebuilding services as well as supplies and food distributed to those who have been affected by a tragedy. Disaster could strike at any time, and we must be prepared to offer immediate assistance to those in need.

Last year, we distributed yellow ACS Disaster Response plastic buckets at pastors' and Executive Committee meetings and requested that these buckets be filled with the following items and returned to the conference office: bleach, sponges, scrub brush, cleaning towels, laundry detergent, dishwashing soap, clothesline and clothespins, dust masks, gloves,



trash bags, insect repellent spray, air freshener and more. Many of these items can be found at the Dollar Store. Visit <https://scc.adventist.org/cleanupkits> for details on quantities needed.

We must have these clean-up kits on hand now, before a disaster happens. If your church has one of these buckets, please call SCC ACS at 818-546-8405 or bring it by the office. Thank you for your assistance in this ministry!

Lastly, please stay tuned for details regarding a future Disaster Response training. Our goal is to have more than 2,000 members trained throughout SCC in the event of federal disaster. Because the certification expires after two years, it is important to become retrained regularly. For those who have never been trained and are interested, please watch for more information about this event. ●

by *James G. Lee, ACS Director*

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REGION NEWS

Greater L.A. Region

by *Royal L. Harrison, Greater L.A. Region Director*

"It was the best convocation yet." This sentiment was shared by many of the 1,500 who experienced the 2018 GLAR Convocation. I shared four critical areas of focus for the next few years, one being re-focusing on the family — the 2018 convocation theme. The event was power-packed with the dynamic preaching of pastors Keith Morris, Gamal Alexander and Eugene Hamilton, a concert with gospel recording artist Byron Cage, and the



Elder Harrison honors Barbara Spence for her faithful work to GLAR. Photo by Donald McPhaull.

talents of Christian comedian Broderick Rice. "I can't wait until next year's convocation" shared many attendees. I am grateful to work with pastors and lay members who are dedicated, committed and faithful to work together to provide a spiritual atmosphere where our 19 churches come together in one accord to worship and praise the mighty name of Jesus.

Hispanic Region

by *Luis Pena, West Region Director*

This Spring, 35 churches hosted AWAKE evangelistic series. So far, we have been blessed with 125 baptisms! Praise the Lord for these precious souls.

West Region

by *Gregory L. Hoenes, West Region Director*

This year, pastors who are not yet ordained were required to attend the WestPoint of Evangelism. What's remarkable about this? Eight of West Region's 24 pastors were in that category. That's one third of the pastoral workforce! Two

of these eight are young women; one is a gifted layperson who has begun a second career; another served in the military and did colporteur work; two are earning masters' degrees; one just returned from the seminary; and one is on the cusp of ordination. This team promises a bright and diverse future for the West Region.

Asian-Pacific Region

by *Samuel Lee, Asian-Pacific Region Director*

The Asian population is growing faster than any other race group in the U.S.; 14.9 percent of Californians and 14.7 percent of the greater L.A. population are Asian. To meet this growth, the Asian-Pacific Region pastors and committee members have committed to study and discuss a strategic mission plan to more effectively reach the Asian community, with the help of leadership consultant Karen Cress. We hope and pray the Asian-Pacific Region will be better equipped to proclaim "the everlasting gospel" to "every nation and tribe and tongue and people."