

southernconnect



Kathleen V. Diaz,
Treasurer / CFO

Love By Serving Others

Reading the Scripture, we see numerous times Jesus stopped to help and assist those in need, healing not only their physical pain but also their spiritual needs. Jesus set an example for us on how to reach our community through love and service.

We see that Jesus participated in common events, such as a wedding He was invited to in John 2:1-12. He would immerse Himself in the people's day-to-day life so He could understand the community to which He was reaching out, and, at the same time, He was creating empathy with those who suffered. What better way to understand how we can be of help than being active in our community.

We may find opportunities if we expand our social circle and prepare ourselves to serve. Mark 12:31 says: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these" (NIV).

To love others, we first need to love ourselves; we need to have something to give—otherwise, we are empty vessels. 1 John 4:7 says: "Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God" (NIV). God wants us to be born again in Him so we can have love within us and be able to share that love with others. What a powerful full circle! We are born again in Christ, and He provides love so we can share that love with others.

But, where do we start? Serve with all you have and

let God guide you, showing you how you can be of help to your community.

We often find stories in Scripture of Jesus preaching to great crowds. In John 6, we see there was a large group of people who wouldn't leave because the message they were listening to must have satisfied their hearts, so much so that they forgot about time and any other activities they had pending and stayed to listen. But as the day was progressing, people must have been hungry. Jesus asks Philip what I would consider a comical question: "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" At that moment, the question was even unreasonable when heard by His disciples. They heard the question and considered what they could physically see, and they knew they did not have enough resources. The monies they may have had for their ministry had most likely been already distributed to cover their expenses for that week.

Paraphrasing John 6:7, the response we see from Philip is a response we often hear: "There are not enough funds available." Following the text, we see a little boy who is not physically described in the Scripture, but I can picture him curious, active, and trying to help someone who needed food. As he approaches the disciples, these could've been his words: "This is all I have. If it can be of help, take it." The story tells there were 5,000 people, not counting women and children. In the statistics of those days, counting women and children was not relevant.

Even more amazing is that a boy was the one who brought forward his lunch. He was part of a group not considered and seen by society. That did not stop him from coming forward

WHEN YOU SHARE WHAT
YOU HAVE, GOD SEES
YOU AND MAKES SURE
YOUR CONTRIBUTION
IS MULTIPLIED IN A WAY
IT WILL BE ENOUGH.

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INSIDE



Vallejo Drive Outreach Sabbath

This summer, Vallejo Drive church spent a Sabbath being the hands and feet of Jesus in the community, visiting hospitals, greeting service men and women at the police station and fire station, visiting Scholl Canyon Retirement Estates, and more.

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Vallejo Drive Church Outreach Sabbath

BY LAUREN LACSON AND AUDREY ZOREK

This summer, Vallejo Drive church spent a Sabbath being the hands and feet of Jesus in the community.

Preparation for the outreach began days before Sabbath. The church got together on Thursday and Friday to create care packages for those experiencing homelessness and to bake cookies for the local police officers and fire fighters.

On Sabbath morning, Pastor James Kyle preached a short message about reaching the community.

After the sermon, different groups

of the church got together and hit the pavement heading out to four separate areas:

- 1 Visiting local hospitals to minister to those who are hurting
- 2 Giving care packages to those experiencing homelessness
- 3 Giving cookies to the service men and women at the local police station and fire station
- 4 Visiting the elderly at Scholl Canyon Retirement Estates

At the last location, the Vallejo Drive Kids Connection department prepared songs and cards for the

elderly. At the end of the outreach day, the volunteers all met back at church to share testimonies of what every group experienced and how God led the groups as they shared Jesus's love with others.

As Adventists, we often talk about God's love, but living it out is something entirely different.

This quarterly event provides an opportunity to make God's love tangible by meeting the felt needs in the community. Kids Connection has already committed to make this visit to Scholl Canyon a monthly event! ●



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY AUDREY ZOREK

COMING UP

AUGUST 5-7, 2022

Eagle Rock Church 100-Year Anniversary Celebration Weekend.

Join for a weekend of celebrating a century of sharing God's love.

Friday, August 5 | Vespers

Sabbath, August 6 | Sabbath school, church, Sabbath afternoon program, and vespers

Sunday, August 7 | Pathfinders international food fair

For questions or more information, call the church at (323) 257-5803 or email office@seektobefamily.org. Visit <https://scc.adventist.org/eaglerock100> to view the flyer and for more details.

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and saying: "I want to be part of this project. I don't have much, but I am willing to give what I have."

You may see a project that needs your help, but as you evaluate the time you can give and the resources you can share, you consider them as insufficient to support it. When you share what you have, God sees you and makes sure your contribution is multiplied in a way it will be enough to feed the 5,000 and even have leftovers.

Ask in your church, "What is a project I can serve in? How can I help my community?"

Finally, this is my prayer: "God, I want to be used by you. I would like to exalt Christ by serving my community. I do not have much time or money available, but I know that everything I share, You will multiply it in ways we will know it was done by Your power."

Stop waiting and go find an opportunity to serve. There is a community around you waiting to hear about Jesus. Let the Holy Spirit point you in the right direction toward a project for which you can be of help with your time, resources, and prayers. ●

in transition

NEW EMPLOYEES

Voted May 12, June 9 & 23, 2022

Ki Seung Jhang | Pastor, Rosemead Korean church, as of May 4, 2022.

Tammie Lindsey | Associate Pastor, Berean church, as of April 10, 2022.

Christian Botello | Associate Pastor, Eagle Rock church, as of May 22, 2022.

Robert Emil Cabrera | Pastor, Lancaster Spanish church, as of April 10, 2022.

Evelyn Ricketts | Teacher, Ridgcrest Adventist School, as of July 1, 2022.

Joseph Fralick | Teacher, Conejo Adventist Elementary School, as of July 1, 2022.

Amanda Johnston | Teacher, South Bay Christian School, as of July 1, 2022.

Oscar Olivarria | Principal, Glendale Adventist Academy, as of July 1, 2022.

LEAVING SCC

Voted May 12, June 9 & 23, 2022

Cherise Gardner | From Pastor, Eagle Rock church, as of April 24, 2022.

Choonsoo Kim | From Pastor, Rosemead Korean church, as of May 21, 2022.

Edwin Arevalo | From Teacher, Newbury Park Adventist Academy, as of June 30, 2022.

Grecia Campos | From Teacher, South Bay Christian School, as of June 30, 2022.

Yaneth Cruz | From Teacher, Newbury Park Adventist Academy, as of June 30, 2022.

Jeison Escalante | From Teacher, Newbury Park Adventist Academy, as of June 30, 2022.

William Gile | From Teacher, Linda Vista Adventist Elementary School, as of June 30, 2022.

Benjamin Guerrero | From Associate Pastor, Vallejo Drive church, as of June 30, 2022.

Lisa Molina | From Teacher, San Gabriel Academy, as of June 30, 2022.

Ruth Perez | From Teacher, South Bay Christian School, as of June 30, 2022.

RETIREMENTS

Voted May 12, June 9 & 23, 2022

Simeon Rosete | From Pastor, Central Filipino church, as of April 30, 2022.

Ruth McCalman | From Teacher, Los Angeles Adventist Academy, as of June 30, 2022.

Harold Crook | From SCC Vice President for Education, as of June 30, 2022.

Cheri Dawson | From Teacher, South Bay Christian School, as of June 30, 2022.

Stuart Morgan | From Teacher, Glendale Adventist Academy, as of June 30, 2022.

TRANSFERS WITHIN SCC

Voted May 12, June 9 & 23, 2022

Gustavo Cruz | From Pastor, Glendale Spanish church, to Pastor, El Monte, La Puente, and Temple City Spanish churches, as of May 8, 2022.

Sam Del Pozo | From Pastor, Monrovia, Glendora, and Pasadena Spanish churches, to San Fernando Spanish church, as of May 8, 2022.

Oliver Enriquez | From Pastor, El Monte, La Puente, and Temple City Spanish churches, to Pastor, Van Nuys Spanish church, as of May 8, 2022.

Carlos Granados | From Pastor, Van Nuys Spanish church, to Pastor, Glendale Spanish church, as of April 10, 2022.

Edgar Sanabria | From Pastor, Mid-City Spanish church, to Pastor, Mid-City Spanish and East L.A. Bilingual churches, as of April 1, 2022.

Moises Sanabria | From Interim Pastor to Pastor, Hidden Treasures company, as of April 10, 2022.

Moises Benitez | From Pastor, San Fernando Spanish church, to Pastor, Monrovia, Glendora, and Pasadena Spanish churches, as of May 26, 2022.

Michelle Cortner | From Teacher, White Memorial Adventist School, to Teacher, Antelope Valley Adventist School, as of July 1, 2022.

Terry Tryon | From Teacher, White Memorial Adventist School, to Teacher, Adventist Education Simi Valley, as of July 1, 2022.

Asian-Pacific Region

On July 2, 2022, Chino Valley Chinese church Pastor Paul Cho, Ph.D., celebrated his retirement after 51 years of ministry. He served in the education system for 35 years as high school principal, college professor, academic dean and president for Taiwan Adventist College, president for Griggs University Asia, and treasurer for Chinese Union Mission.

"The most rewarding experiences for the last 16 years is with Chino Valley Chinese church," Cho shared, "as church planter, from 11 members to 305 members, from no 'church home' and able to build a church with total cost of \$6 million and without mortgage. God is good."

"In the past 16 years, I have witnessed God's leading hand working in our church," Cho continued. "I have also seen miracle after miracle happen in this church. That year, a group of 11 brothers and sisters started this church with a vision in prayer and in unity, we began this impossible mission. From being a fellowship to a company, to an organized church, from Hacienda Heights to Chino, each step of the journey has testified the greatness of God. We give glory to our Heavenly Father for all these."

More than 250 people joined to commemorate the occasion and recognize Cho's ministry, and Cho received more than 150 appreciation cards from members and friends. His sermon was entitled, "The Longer I Serve Him, The Sweeter He Grows."

SCC Executive Secretary John H. Cress shared a tribute and presented a special crystal award to Cho to commemorate his 51 years in ministry. "Today, you shine in our hearts for the impact you have made on



us," Cress said. "And we can hear the Master saying to you, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!' The applause of heaven is with you my friend, and we join with them today in recognizing you."

By Lauren Lacson

West Region

This newsletter, we're celebrating our West Region (WR) pastoral team!

First, education is a vital aspect of pastoral, personal, and intellectual development. We congratulate:

- West Region Director Greg Hoenes for completion of his Ph.D. at Claremont School of Theology Spring of 2021.

- Pastor Paulo Oliveira for completion of his Ph.D. at Fuller Theological Seminary Spring of 2021.

- Pastor John Strehle, who marched this Spring (2022) at Andrews University having earned the Doctor of Ministry degree.

Second, while losses are difficult, whenever another conference or university calls one of our pastors, it's a profound affirmation. You've made us proud! Here are those accepting calls elsewhere:

- Pastor Will Sellers (Ridgecrest) and family are happily ministering in the Lawrenceburg church, Lawrenceburg, TN.
- Pastor Cameron Fitzgerald (The Place) has felt the call to leave paid ministry in favor of lay ministry, while engaging the world of business.

- Dr. Paulo de Oliveira (Northridge) has been called to serve on the Faculty of Andrews University, Mission Department, Berrien Springs, MI.

- Pastor Mike Stevenson (Santa Clarita) has been called to the Desert Valley church in Tucson, AZ.

- Pastor Simon Liversidge (The Place), with

EDITOR

Lauren Lacson

Submit a story

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19 years as pastor of The Place church, has accepted a call to the lead pastor position, College View church (connected with Union College) in Lincoln, NE.

Fortunately, it's not all exodus! We are delighted to welcome Pastor Ron Sydney and his wife, Frances Sydney, to our region! Pastor Ron will be serving Ventura church.

We thank God for the many ways doors continue to open as we celebrate both those whose callings find new fields, and those God has sent us. We celebrate a great team!

By Gregory L. Hoenes,
region director