

# southernconnect



**Danny Chan**  
L.A. Metro Region  
Director

## The Root of *Disappointment*

**S**o where does disappointment come from? That is precisely what Elijah was trying to figure out shortly after God led him to call fire from heaven to prove to the people that Yahweh was the one true God. What he did next was just as impressive as he prayed earnestly until rain began to fall, ending a three-year drought. Psalm 104:3 (NASB 1995)

reads, "He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters; He makes the clouds His chariot; He walks upon the wings of the wind." In those days, many believed that God was traveling from place to place in the clouds and wind. Yet, during the three-year drought, the belief was that God was quite absent from Israel. So, when the rain started to fall, it was a powerful confirmation that God's presence had returned.

Elijah believed that this strong showing of God's power would be enough to change the heart of King Ahab, who had allowed the evil Queen Jezebel to lead the people astray. 1 Kings 18:45-46 (NKJV) says, "Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel. Then the hand of the Lord came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel." As heavy rain fell and he led the king's procession back to the palace, Elijah began to believe that Ahab would now become faithful

to God and stand up to the queen. Unfortunately, when the king caved in to the queen, Elijah became very disappointed and ran away, fearing for his life. His disappointment with the king, and likely even with God, led him to run away from a pivotal moment.

In a little-known passage, Ellen White laments Elijah's decision to run away. She says, "Had he remained where he was, had he made God his refuge and strength, standing steadfast for the truth, he would have been shielded from harm. The Lord would have given him another signal victory

by sending His judgments on Jezebel; and the impression made on the king and the people would have wrought a great reformation" (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 160).

Elijah's disappointment caused him to miss his big moment that would have led him to fulfill his mission to cause revival throughout the land. The important work he was doing got derailed because his assumptions about how things should have gone did not happen as he wished they would. That is where disappointment with God often comes from. Disappointment with God stems from misalignment with God and

His ways. Sometimes things don't happen as we think they should and we allow disappointment to creep into our lives. We need to remember that God is able to work all things together for good. We need to abide in Christ so that our will and His will becomes aligned as one—until our vision of life is transformed into seeing things from God's perspective and not just our own. ●

DISAPPOINTMENT

WITH GOD STEMS

FROM MISALIGNMENT

WITH GOD AND

HIS WAYS.

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Vinh Nguyen transitions from pastoral role to Asian-Pacific Region Director



**Welcome Salvador Garcia**  
This fall, Salvador Garcia joined the SCC office as Youth Ministries Director

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# SCC Welcomes Vinh Nguyen as Asian-Pacific Region Director

BY LAUREN LACSON



PHOTO PROVIDED BY VINH NGUYEN

*Nguyen's wife, Cynthia, is a senior accountant at Adventist Media Ministries. Their four sons, Timothy, Samuel, Daniel, and Joseph, are currently attending different Adventist universities. "We enjoy traveling, going on adventures in nature, and doing ministry as a family," Nguyen shared.*

"I feel that God is calling me to expand my experiences to help other Asian churches."

After 27 years serving as pastor of the El Monte Vietnamese church, Vinh Nguyen joined the Southern California Conference office team as the director of the Asian-Pacific Region in November. In this role, he

will oversee the 33 churches representing 11 languages (including English) within our Asian-Pacific Region.

Nguyen's number one passion in ministry is to reach the local Asian-Pacific immigrant community, a work to which he has dedicated many years.



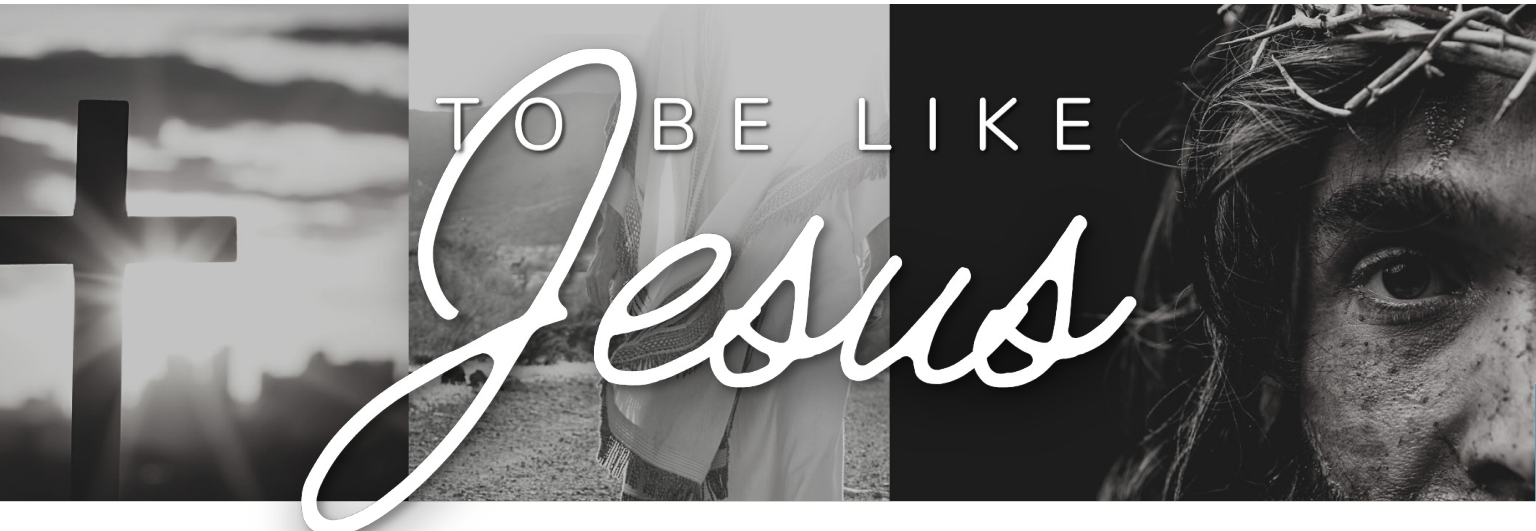
PHOTO PROVIDED BY VINH NGUYEN

"My greatest passion in ministry is to evangelize the Asian-Pacific refugees and immigrants throughout the greater Los Angeles area," he shared. "For many, this will be the first time to ever be exposed to Christianity."

Nguyen has been active in ministry for the Vietnamese community for decades in various capacities with many innovative projects. "I currently serve as a Vietnamese Coordinator for all the Vietnamese churches in NAD territory," Nguyen shared. "I started the Vietnamese Voice of Hope Ministry, which is comprised of the printing press work and the media ministry. I also developed a tutoring center (Vietnamese Adventist Education Center) to connect with the community. I developed the first Vietnamese evangelism school in North America."

His greatest hope for his work in this position is "to see lay people, especially young adults, equipped and mobilized to witness in every moment and everywhere for Jesus Christ."

"I hope that God will bless our Asian-Pacific region to be united in one mission to share the everlasting gospel to every language in the Los Angeles area," Nguyen continued. "Through this process, I would like to see church planting among the unreached people groups." ●



# SCC Welcomes Salvador Garcia as Youth Ministries Director

BY LAUREN LACSON

**A** Los Angeles native, Salvador Garcia is no stranger to Southern California Conference (SCC). He has pastored 12 churches in SCC and also shared youth week of prayer with multiple other churches and SCC schools. His greatest passions in ministry are children's and youth ministry, followed by health ministry.

"After spending four years as a D.Min. student and participant in the family ministry cohort at Andrews University, learning more about children and youth ministry from Claudio and Pamela Consuegra's class Family Discipleship, and reading George Barna's book, *Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions*, I got a 'holy itch' for becoming more involved and intent in discipling children to be reached with the everlasting gospel."

This November, Garcia joined the SCC office as the incoming director for Youth Ministries. "My goal is help disciple children through the best leadership and discipling program that the Seventh-day Adventist Christian

church has," Garcia shared. "That program is Pathfinder leadership. We also hope to create God-seized opportunities through youth vespers, community service experiences, and mission trips to help children connect with God and be youth on fire for God's kingdom."

In his new role, Garcia hopes to impact the youth of our conference "We plan to build positive relationships with the youth in our conference and territory by supporting local churches to help each youth have three things to help them grow spiritually and remain an active member of their local church. One, receiving a Christian education; two, participating in regular family worship; and three, being a part of a dynamic youth ministry in a local church."



PHOTO BY LAUREN LACSON



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SALVADOR GARCIA

Salvador Garcia and family. Wife Cindy, daughter Aviellie, son Daniel.

"By God's grace, we hope to partner with local churches to see many children and youth become involved in the leadership of the local church," Garcia said. "For too many years, we have had easy access to the back door of the church, with children and youth leaving the church. Our motto must be, 'If you invite them, they will come. But if they build it, they will stay.' Our hope is to have young people and children build the church of today and tomorrow, and to decide to stay to serve Christ and their community for a church of today and tomorrow, and to decide to stay to serve Christ and their community for a very long time." ●



**FEB. 4-11,  
2023**



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**7 PM**

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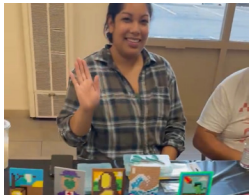
The Southern California Conference Senior Youth & Young Adult Ministry—ONE House—has been busy this year! From tech and digital ministry training for local leaders to the annual worship gathering with valuable breakout sessions and a powerful message, there's been no shortage of programming.

"This year has been bitter-sweet for the ONE House Senior Youth and Young Adults committee," shared Eustace Laurie, ONE House interim co-leader. "The transition of former director Iki Taimi leaving

was tough; however, it did not stop our commitment to ministering to SCC's young people. This year, along with our regular events, we planned three unique events: a blood drive and two music fests! These new events allowed for greater participation, interaction, and the highlighting of local artists in SCC. The ONE House leadership trusts that God will put the right person in to serve as the director. Please keep this process in prayer and know that the ONE House will be ready with exciting, meaningful, and spirit-led events for 2023." ●



Scan to read recent stories about ONE House at [scc.adventist.org/onehouse](https://scc.adventist.org/onehouse).



## EDITOR

Lauren Lacson

## Submit a story

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## in transition

## TRANSFERS IN SCC

Voted September 8 &amp; 22, 2022

**Lizelle Oreño** | From Youth Rush Leader to Assistant Literature Ministries Coordinator, SCC Office, as of August 29, 2022.

**Izraias Uribe** | From Ministry Director, Long Beach church, to Associate Pastor, Eagle Rock church, as of July 31, 2022.

**Kristina Gaitan** | From Assistant Treasurer to Registrar, Newbury Park Adventist Academy, as of September 25, 2022.

**Salvador Garcia** | From Pastor, Panamericana Spanish and Long Beach churches, to Youth Ministries Director, SCC Office, as of October 30, 2022.

**Vinh Nguyen** | From Pastor, El Monte Vietnamese church, to Asian-Pacific Region Director, SCC Office, as of October 30, 2022.

## RETIREMENTS

Voted October 13, 2022

**Samuel Lee** | From Asian-Pacific Region Director, SCC Office, as of September 30, 2022.

## NEW EMPLOYEES

Voted September 8 &amp; October 13, 2022

**Terry Benson** | Interim Senior Pastor, Vallejo Drive church, as of August 28, 2022.

**Justino Jorge** | Associate Youth Pastor, Tamarind Ave. church, as of September 25, 2022.

**Shantane Marshall** | Pastor, Fifty-Fourth St. church, as of September 25, 2022.

**Andrei Toma** | Departmental Assistant, SCC Office of Education, as of October 3, 2022.

**Fabio Campos** | Pastor, Rolling Hills church, as of October 30, 2022.

## LEAVING SCC EMPLOYMENT

Voted October 13, 2022

**Greg Schaller** | From Pastor, Community Adventist Fellowship, as of October 31, 2022.