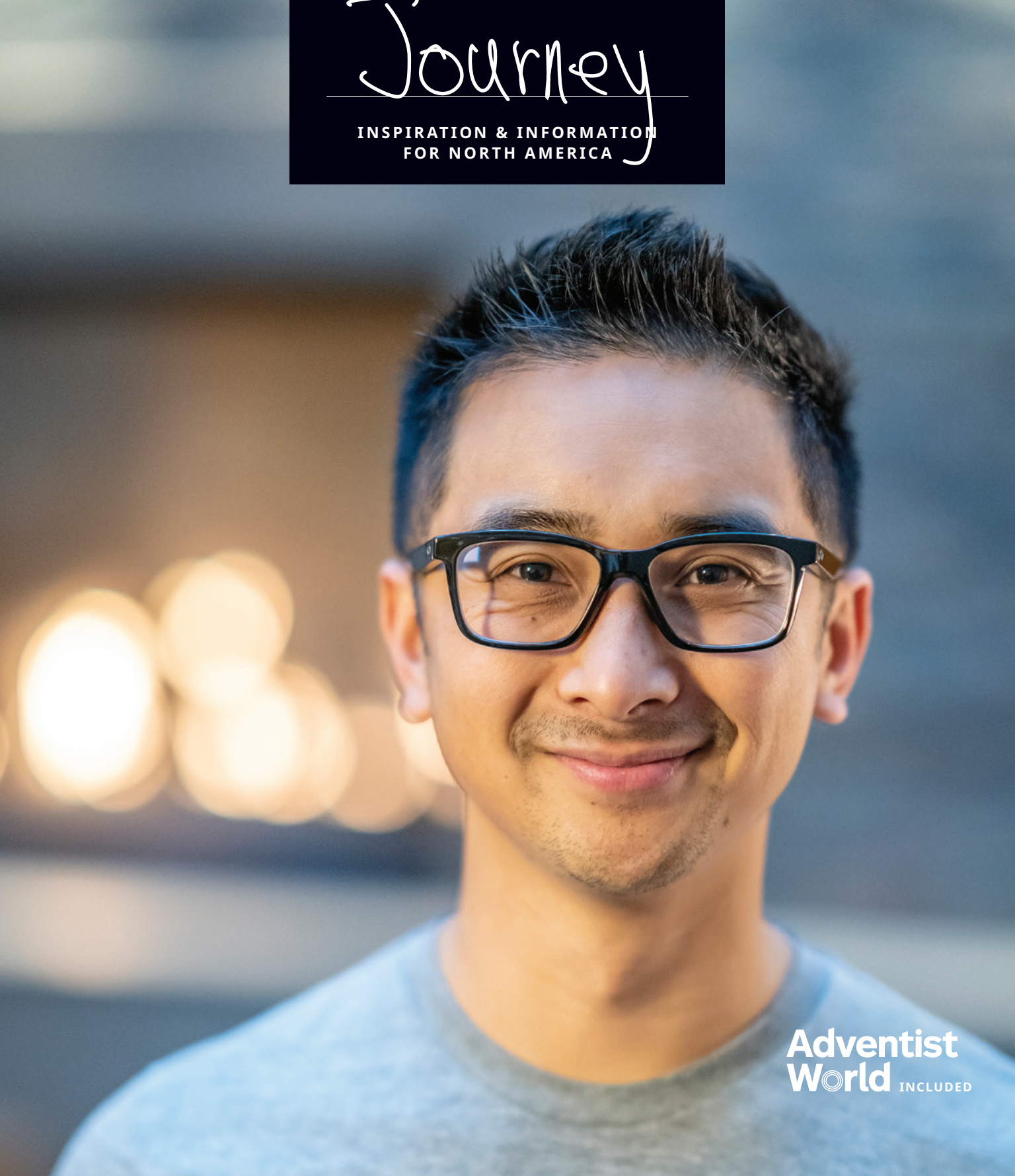
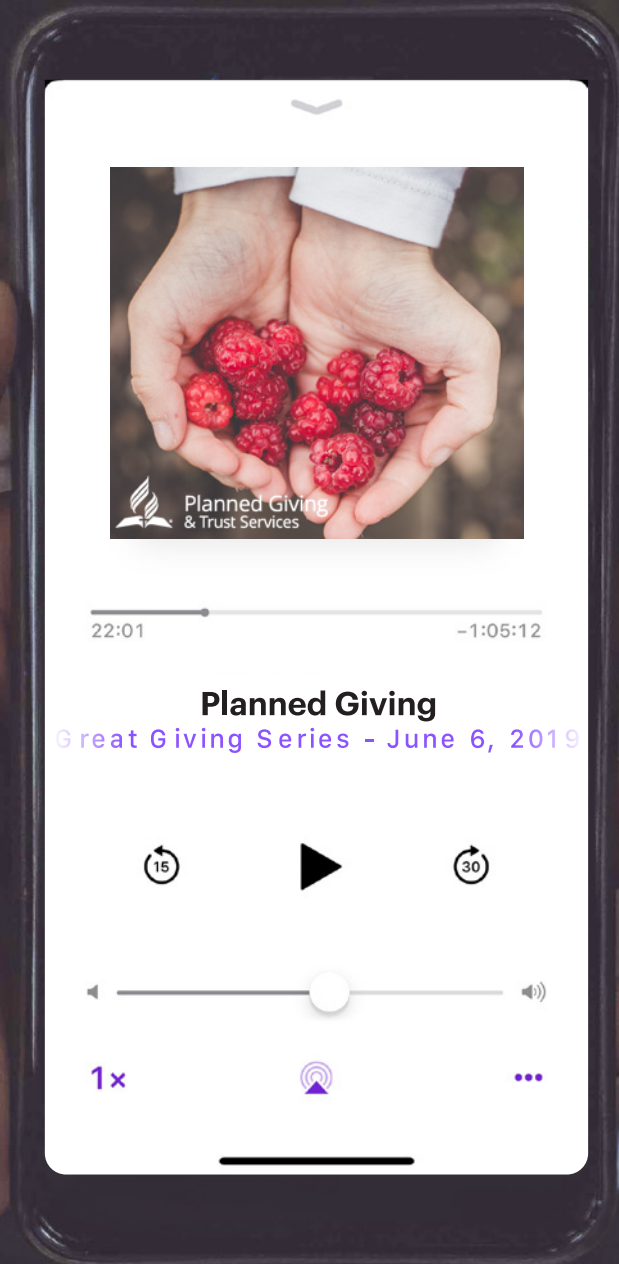


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My Journey

I want to help that proverbial “Justin” who is in high school trying to piece it all together, trying to understand why this all matters. Young people want to live a life of meaning, to fight for those who have no voice, to impact the world. . . . That’s the whole reason Jesus started the church. Visit vimeo.com/nadadventist/ajjustinkhoe for more of Khoe’s story.

JUSTIN KHOE,

*digital missionary utilizing social media
and YouTube, creator/host of That Christian Vlogger*



Cover Photo by Dan Weber

Dear Reader: The publication in your hands represents the collaborative efforts of the North American Division and *Adventist World* magazine, which follows *Adventist Journey* (after page 16). Please enjoy both magazines!

Adventist Journey (ISSN 1557-5519) is the journal of the North American Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The Northern Asia-Pacific Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is the publisher. It is printed monthly by the Pacific Press® Publishing Association. Copyright © 2018. Send address changes to your local conference membership clerk. Contact information should be available through your local church.

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A. Vol. 2, No. 9. September 2019. **Adventist Journey Publication Board** Daniel R. Jackson (chair), G. Alexander Bryant (vice chair), Kimberly Luste Maran (secretary), Curtis Randolph Robinson, Tony Anobile, Paul Brantley, Debra Brill, Alvin M. Kibble, Arne Nielson, Gordon Pifher, Kenneth Denslow, Daniel Weber, Julio Muñoz, Karnik Doukmetzian, legal advisor **Scripture References** Unless otherwise noted, all Bible references are taken from the *The Holy Bible, New International Version*. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

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ADVENTIST JOURNEY

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LISTEN, Get Involved, *Make a* DIFFERENCE

Adventist students from public colleges and universities dialogue with the North American Division's three officers.

BY KIMBERLY LUSTE MARAN

The warm, sunny spring weather of northern California was the backdrop as church pews were hauled out of the Life Adventist Church in Berkeley; and lightning tresses, cameras, stage furniture, and 165 folding chairs were hauled in. In a matter of hours the church was transformed into a stage and studio audience for the fourth episode of "Is This Thing On?" (ITTO).

On May 22, 2019, ITTO broadcast on Facebook and YouTube during the Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) Institute. Midway through the institute, which ran May 20-25, college and university students from public

campuses, as well as some young adult local church members, asked and answered questions during the 90-minute conversation with North American Division (NAD) officers Dan Jackson, president; Alex Bryant, executive secretary; and Randy Robinson, treasurer.

"Having this type of dialogue with Adventist young people from public colleges and universities is a first for us, and we are really looking forward to hearing what they have to say," said Bryant before the event.

Participants asked questions ranging from church policy, budgets and funding, social issues, and how young adults can have a voice within the different areas of

church structure, from the local church level to the division. The live-streamed event was hosted by Julio C. Munõz, associate director of communication for the NAD, and Mylon Medley, assistant director.

Student Leadership

About 80 students from the U.S. and Canada attended the 2019 ACF Institute. While most were new to the institute, some had participated in previous years. Newly elected ACF vice president of logistics, Yolanda Chigiji, is part of the latter group.

Chigiji, an international student from Zimbabwe, is a junior pursuing a bachelor's degree in engineering at Smith College in

Photos by Pieter Damsteegt,
NAD Office of Communication

we're doing and knowing that we're not alone, that's big."

With a big smile as she gathered her items for the next meeting before ITTO, Chigiji added, "I'm also someone who really loves policy and doing things according to the church rules and structure. So I like having that platform to share ideas on how we can both work together to spread the gospel to those who don't know Christ."

New Format

In a departure from the previous events, ITTO Berkeley was broken into four segments. Each NAD officer conversed alone with the audience of more than 120 during the first three segments. Jackson went first, followed by Bryant and Robinson.

"We have traditionally focused the 'lion's share' of funding on our Adventist institutions," said Jackson in answer to an early question on financial allocation. "Yet the generation has changed. People are far more interested in mission, and mission on the campus. We're waking up and seeing this. You all are giving us that awareness."

Jackson gave his thoughts when asked how young people can contribute in a church that seems unwilling to welcome them in leadership roles. "God's work on this earth is not going to be finished by my generation; it will be finished by yours. That means you should ask, 'How do I get involved in the local church?' That's really where it's at."

dialogue, which says *we support you, we really appreciate your work, and we want to work with you, is something that I appreciate.*"

During the institute's lunch break, Chigiji shared what the dialogue with the NAD officers meant to her. "Where I grew up, church structure is important, so having this opportunity to talk to someone who is a leader is really important. . . . They can be helpful in terms of how they can equip us to interact with people who are not of our faith and integrate campus ministries into the church structure."

The opportunity to dialogue with church leaders is rare for Chigiji. "I grew up in southern Africa, where we rarely get to see these people. Just having that dialogue with them—just knowing that they do care for us as students and the ministry that

western Massachusetts, where she is active in campus ministries. She wanted to go to an Adventist school, but didn't get the opportunity to do so. She feels that God was calling her to share her faith on a secular campus. "But at times you really feel alone. You feel as if there's no one else who's like you," she said. "But it's a good thing when you know that the church supports you, and, having this

"This event is a good platform for people to be able to ask their questions and feel like they're being heard."

← Hosts Mylon Medley and Julio C. Muñoz prepare the audience and NAD officers for the "lighting round" segment of "Is This Thing On?" at Adventist Christian Fellowship Institute Berkeley on May 22, 2019.

Jackson added, “My greatest desire—and this is true for the whole church, but specifically for young adults—is involvement. Don’t be afraid to be involved in the work of the local church. I know that’s difficult in some churches because ‘Brother Jones’ has been the elder for 212 years and doesn’t want to give the job up to you. But get involved. Do what you can, whether it’s involvement in Sabbath School, in outreach, in compassion ministries. Whatever it is that God has given you a passion for, put your needs before God and do it. . . . Every single one of us is a minister.”

Questions continued to revolve primarily around finance, and church structure and politics during the next two segments. “I do not apologize for the millions of dollars we put into Adventist education,” said Robinson when asked about more financial support for campus ministry on public colleges and universities.

“That said,” he continued, “we have to address your question. You have my commitment that I will address the need for funding for public campus ministry.”

Audience members gathered at microphones positioned at the ends of the seat rows for the final segment of the afternoon. Dubbed “lightning round,” those asking questions were encouraged to keep it short as all three officers waited onstage to give 30-second answers. At least a dozen young adults gathered in lines to ask questions—some of which required answers longer than 30 seconds.

One of the questions that came back to all three officers in the final round was: “How can the church show young adults that they are valued and important members of our denomination?”

“Number one, you are needed in the church; your ideas are needed,”



Student leaders join in the conversation with the North American Division officers during the 2019 ACF Institute Berkeley ITTO event.

“I like having that platform to share ideas on how we can both work together to spread the gospel to those who don’t know Christ.”

answered Jackson. “What can the church do to help you? . . . We are trying hard at the North American Division, not only in our employment practices, but also as we work through our various governance issues. We are trying very hard to bring young people into the equation. We must hear [*sic*]. There’s a balance needed there, but we must hear.”

“We have struggled. . . . What are your ideas on how we can attract young adults to the church?” Alex Bryant asked the university student who posed the question.

The answer: “Get involved in social issues.”



Feedback

Izhar Buendia is a software product designer in San Francisco who attends the Life Adventist Church of Berkeley. As an undergrad he went to Henderson State University, a small school in Ar-

ITTO 4 STATS

150 young adults and church members in live studio audience

400 views on ITTO's first YouTube broadcast

16,429 reached online via Facebook

2,482 online engagements

729

online audience evenly split between gender

Facebook reactions, comments & shares



Randy Robinson, North American Division treasurer, answers a question during the May 22, 2019, *Is This Thing On?* Live Facebook Event.

kansas. "I was the only Adventist there, and I started a group," Buendia said, standing on the church steps after the broadcast. "I literally would go around asking people if they wanted to study the Bible. Several people got baptized. I worked closely with a youth director from the conference, and we got funding for a retreat. We got a big group. It was really awesome."

When Buendia graduated and went to the University of Michigan for graduate school, he passed the baton on to a new Adventist who attended Henderson State. He became president of the campus ministries group at Michigan. "I worked closely with the church, and it was different than undergrad. There were more Adventists, so it was more about how to create a group that felt they could come together, like an Adventist group, where in my undergrad [experience] there was just no Adventist presence.

"I've attended ACF institutes, but now I've been transitioning to the young professional world, trying to see how we can help those leaving the ACF background."

Buendia attended the ITTO event at his local church to "hear and listen." Previously he had watched the ITTO Oakwood University broadcast on December 2, 2017. "We're in an interesting place in history with our church and society, and it's—we don't get to hear a lot from leaders and how they are responding to a lot of these hot topics. As a young person I'm curious to know where our church stands in response to a lot of questions that I have myself."

Buendia is glad church leaders participate in events such as ITTO. "It makes young people feel as if they're being heard, a forum that they can ask questions or share frustrations. Another way I think it's good for a leader is to know—not lose touch of what's happening at the ground."

Maria Eguiluz, a software engineer in San Francisco, agreed. "This event is a good platform for people to be able to ask their and feel like they're being heard. That's a big thing right now: people don't feel like they're being heard, so being more proactive in that sense is good."

With social issues on the radar of young adults, life-long Adventist Eguiluz said, "It's time to have this type of dialogue. . . . It should be expected for leaders to want to hear what we say. It shouldn't be that we think of this as something special. As leaders in this church, they should be asking for feedback."

As the evening sun slipped westward, Eguiluz added, "I know they're a little on the spot, but that's good too, because just having them be honest and not have to preplan their answers—and just us knowing what they really think in that moment—is important. It makes them a lot more human."

Kimberly Luste Maran is editor of Adventist Journey.

USING ROBOTS TO BUILD KIDS

Adventist Robotics National Championship breaks previous attendance records

BY KIMBERLY LUSTE MARAN

The Adventist Robotics program has been in operation for the past 15 years. It began with 13 teams in the first tournament in 2005 and has grown to more than 200 teams this season (2018-2019 school year).

This year the teams competed in one of seven regional qualifying tournaments to be eligible to compete in the championship tournament held at Forest Lake Academy in Orlando, Florida. This year's final tournament, on May 5, brought together the largest number of teams competing for the championships. Adventist schools and homeschooled students from across the U.S. and Saipan were represented through 37 teams.

Adventist Robotics is privileged to be a partner with FIRST (for inspiration and recognition of science and technology), the world's leading youth-serving nonprofit advancing STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education, which operates high-quality robotics events around the world. Adventist Robotics is involved in three



programs: FIRST LEGO League Junior, for ages 6-10, FIRST LEGO League, for ages 9-14, and FIRST Tech Challenge, for junior high and high school students. FIRST programs teach design thinking and twenty-first-century skills by building robots to compete in a fun, engaging sports program. FIRST LEGO League and FIRST Tech Challenge were both present at the championship tournament.

At the tournament, awards were given for core values, community engagement, projects, robot design, and programming.

"We had an exciting championship tournament with 30 FIRST LEGO League teams, more than 200 team members, as well as seven FIRST Tech Challenge teams," said Mel Wade, director of Adventist Robotics and technology coordinator for the Florida Conference. "What's exciting about this

program is all the real-world skills the kids learn. We don't use kids to build robots; we use robots to build kids."

Team Response

Beltsville Adventist School in Maryland started its robotics program four years ago. In their fifth year, the team, with coach Suzy LeBrun, a science and math teacher at the school, decided that middle schoolers needed to "take it to the competition level."

Said LeBrun, "In our club's first year out we received third place in robot performance, third in place core values, and second in place robot design, which qualified us for nationals. At nationals we received an innovation award and second place in projects."

Several of the students from the team shared their thoughts after the championship tournament.

← A team at the Adventist Robotics Championship Tournament on May 5, 2019, works on “Genesis.”

Photos provided by Adventist Robotics

Kyle Hardinge, who recently graduated from eighth grade, was happy to qualify for the Florida tournament. “Participating in the National Robotics Competition was exciting and challenging,” said Hardinge. “It was inspiring to see what the other teams were doing and what our team could accomplish.”

Seventh grader Alex Masih said, “The things I enjoyed about robotics the most was coding and building the robot with my friends and meeting the deputy engineer of the Goddard Space Flight Center [while at the tournament].”

“More than learning about problem solving, code, and engineering, robotics taught me that science is about failure. . . . But afterward, good scientists bring home all that failure and keep improving. We don’t give up,” said sixth grader Rachel Unnikumaran.

A team that isn’t new to the circuit, Hinsdale Adventist Academy (HAA) Robotics Club, is looking forward to future division-wide Adventist Robotics League competitions. The 2018-2019 10-person Hinsdale team earned first-place wins in the space project and robot design categories.

According to Fawn Scherencel, HAA’s principal, in a Lake Union *Herald* article published in May, students receive tremendous benefits in participating in the robotics tournaments. “Besides being loads of fun, our students learn critical thinking and team-building skills, basic STEM applications, and even presentation skills.”

In the Future

“I look back to 15 years ago when we first approached the FIRST organization about partnering. We approached them saying that we’d love to have Sunday tournaments and extend our season, knowing that we were going to incorporate into schools and classrooms and have our qualifying tournaments during the school year,” said Wade.

“What’s exciting about this program is all the real-world skills the kids learn. We don’t use kids to build robots; we use robots to build kids.”

“They said they’d love to partner with us. And we [have been able to] run official first tournaments with all their resources. This is a huge, well-run organization, and we are so privileged to be partners with them and have their support. This gives us opportunities we would not have otherwise,” he explained.

“We are excited about next season with the focus on futurist architecture,” said Wade, sharing that Disney is partnering with FIRST. “I look forward to seeing what the students create!”

For more information about starting a team or volunteering, visit www.adventistrobotics.net.

↓ The Space Llamas team cheers for their robot during the 2019 Adventist Robotics Championship Tournament.



NAD NEWS BRIEFS



Joy Fehr Photo by Natan Vigna

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES SELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

The La Sierra University board of trustees announced on May 30, 2019, the selection of a new leader as president Randal Wisbey retired at the end of June.

Joy Fehr, La Sierra’s provost, will serve as the university’s next president. She took office effective July 1. Fehr has held the provost’s position since 2016 following one year as associate provost. She arrived at La Sierra University from Burman University in Alberta, Canada, where she

served as vice president for academic administration from 2010 to 2015.

“As La Sierra University moves into the future, I look forward to discovering with the campus community how we can continue to ensure our students are best served, best educated, and best prepared to be positive change agents—the conduits of God’s grace in their worlds,” said Fehr when she received the news of her appointment.

—Darla Martin Tucker, director of La Sierra University Public Relations

Harold W. Baptiste, Former NAD Secretary, Passes Away

Harold Wilson Baptiste, former secretary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America (NAD), passed away May 25, 2019, in Baltimore, Maryland, at the age of 81. Baptiste’s special burdens for urban ministry and training the next generation of church leaders guided his ministry.

Baptiste was the longest-serving executive secretary of the NAD, active from 1990 to 2002, before taking the position of general vice president at the General Conference from 2002 to 2005.

“Harold Baptiste was a Christian gentleman,” said Daniel R. Jackson, NAD president. “His work and relationships were marked by dignity and integrity. He was a careful steward of God’s business. To me personally, he was always friendly and open.”

—Georgia Standish, NAD Office of Communication

Canadian Church Transforms Homes and Lives

Ledell Kendall is a single mother to 16-year-old Francis, who is autistic. She was nominated for the Church in the Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church’s eighteenth Acts of Kindness Extreme Home Repair by her sister. Caring for her son full-time and trying to provide food, household expenses, and car repairs left Kendall with little time or extra money to put toward maintenance. Several

significant repairs were needed to make their house a safe and healthy place to live.

The renovation began on May 3, 2019, with more than 150 volunteers and more than 85 businesses donating time and construction materials. The home makeover was complete in just two weeks, a renovation that would’ve cost nearly Can\$100,000 if it weren’t for community support.

When the family saw their home for the first time on May 20, they were completely shocked.

Michael Dauncey, the media and outreach pastor for the Ad-

ventist church in Langley, British Columbia, Canada, shared that, in Kendall’s words, “she didn’t think it was her house [at first]. She loved the decorating and was blown away by all the new appliances. She felt extremely blessed.”

Dauncey continued, “Being a part of this ministry allows you to witness God working through people. It’s exciting for me to see community people, Christians from other churches, atheists, you name it . . . helping us make life better for a family in need.”

—Beth Thomas, freelance writer

Pacific Union Conference Hosts NAD Asian-Pacific Pastors' Convention

Pastors from across the U.S., Canada, Guam-Micronesia, and Bermuda gathered in Ontario, California, from May 13 to 16, 2019, for the 2019 North American Division (NAD) Asian-Pacific Pastors' Convention. About 400 pastors and spouses registered for the convention.

"The convention brought our pastors a renewed passion for study of the Bible and helped them embrace the relevance of planting and growing healthy churches," said VicLouis Arreola, director of Asian-Pacific Ministries for both the NAD and Pacific Union Conference. "This gathering was an upper room experience that prepared them to meet the challenges of these end-times and finishing the work."

"It was a wonderful experience to bring the [pastoral] team together," said Tony Anobile, NAD vice president for Multilingual Ministries. "The speakers were really focusing on the journey that pastors have and their relationship with Jesus. VicLouis and [his team] brought in people to provide training seminars and education on how to better their personal lives, their ministries, and their families. The event showed that in the NAD

there is diversity, but also unity of purpose and spirit."

According to Arreola, this is the third NAD-wide Asian-Pacific pastors' convention. As the host of conventions in years past, the Pacific Union Conference extended invitations to other union conferences. Now NAD Asian-Pacific conventions bring Asian-Pacific pastors together once every three years, and conventions in the Pacific Union Conference continue to be hosted yearly.

This NAD convention is a time to celebrate the diversity of and ministry to 33 different cultural language groups. The convention is also an opportunity for Asian-language advisories to meet, plan, and renew their mission and vision for reaching their communities.

Pastors who attended the convention earned five continuing education units through attendance at various sessions hosted by professors from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and the H.M.S. Richards Divinity School at La Sierra University, as well as other guest presenters.

—Faith Hoyt, with NAD Office of Communication

↓ Attendees at the 2019 NAD Asian-Pacific Pastors' Convention *Provided by the Pacific Union Conference*



↑ The journal cover for the new Sabbath School Bible Study guide for collegiates.

A NEW SABBATH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY EXPERIENCE

InVerse is the new Sabbath School curriculum for young adults beginning 4th quarter 2019.

"Engaging young adults in Sabbath School is essential," stated Dale Galusha, Pacific Press Publishing Association president. "And with InVerse, everything from the content to the format has been designed to engage young people deeply and broadly in Scripture."

InVerse has its own unique curriculum written for young adults. Churches currently getting the Collegiate Quarterly will automatically begin receiving InVerse for the 4th quarter of 2019.

Watch InVerse on Hope Channel TV at <https://www.hopetv.org/inverse> to experience the lesson through an online roundtable discussion.

— Pacific Press Publishing Association

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BY CARL McROY

Partners in Preparing the Harvest

In a recent video, John Bradshaw, speaker/director of the It Is Written media ministry, shared his personal story of how literature changed his life.

“I was a young man searching for God. Trying to find meaning in life,” said Bradshaw. “Someone sent me a [copy of] *The Great Controversy*, three times, over a period of eight years. That third time I read the book. The entire book. I put it down. I picked up the phone, called the operator, and asked for the number of a church. I’ve been in church ever since.

“I have also been a literature evangelist. Never have I sensed the voice of God more clearly than when I was involved in canvassing. Being on the front lines with God is exhilarating. Being used by God to impact a life is a thrill that can’t be beaten. Literature ministry isn’t simply a matter of getting books out. It’s a matter of sharing Jesus and winnings souls. Sharing literature changes lives.”¹

Literature mission work in the NAD is changing lives.

Hope for the Nones

This September 27 through October 26, It Is Written will be conducting an evangelistic campaign called Hope for the Valley in Phoenix, Arizona. If there is a mission field with people in need of the type of life change Bradshaw experienced, this is it.

Phoenix is the fifth-largest city in the U.S. and is the seat of the nation’s fourth most populous county.² Of Maricopa County’s 4.4 million people, more than 60 percent are “nones”—a term for the religiously unaffiliated. If Maricopa’s 2.3 million nones were convened at the 63,000-seat State Farm Stadium, home of the NFL’s Arizona Cardinals, it would have to expand its capacity by 36 times!

Given Bradshaw’s testimony, and the religious environment of Greater Phoenix, it’s no surprise that this multifaceted media ministry is partnering with literature evangelists in the area. Just as it took someone with a perseverant spirit to reach him, Bradshaw knows it’s going to take a lot of persistent, personal effort to win the nones of Phoenix.

A Biblical Blitz

From April 19 to May 10, SOULS West (Pacific Union Conference’s School of Evangelism, which prepares students to share

their faith) sent 19 students on a short-term mission trip they call a blitz. Students enact their classroom training by canvassing communities with books, praying with people, and generating Bible study interests. The Phoenix Blitz, led by Mike Long, resulted in about 45,000 doors knocked on; the distribution of 2,407 magabooks and 1,368 dropdown books; the generation of 50 Bible study interests; and the collection of more than \$37,000 in donations.

A magabook is a cross between a magazine and a book. This repackaging of books such as *The Great Controversy* makes them slimmer and more colorful, thus more appealing to the eye and easier to carry. Collecting donations for magabooks is the bread and butter of these self-supporting student missionaries. If someone doesn’t receive a magabook, students seek to leave a dropdown (small sharing book), such as *Steps to Christ*, in the home.

The Call to Collaboration

This four-week mission was based at the Phoenix Camelback Seventh-day Adventist Church, under the leadership of pastors John Stanton, Mark Sulger, and Melanie Cruz. The cheerfully synoptic center who keeps all the people and details connected is Cherie Oberlick. Anthony Baca, Arizona Conference literature ministries director, keeps the momentum going through book sales and overseeing the distribution of thousands of flyers for Hope for the Valley. Karen Matombo, the It Is Written Bible work coordinator, has an immense field to prepare for this reaping meeting. Fortunately, laborers with different specialties and passions have heeded the call to collaboration from the Lord of the harvest (Luke 10:2).

Literature mission work in the NAD is changing lives.

¹ www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-hP4z7hxc.

² worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/ and worldpopulationreview.com/us-counties/, accessed on July 2, 2019.

Carl McRoy is Literature Missions director for the North American Division.

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