

THE



entral onnection

A publication of the Sacramento Central Seventh-day Adventist Church



Your Neighbor Thrift Store - Ministering to The Masses

By Aline Henda
Editor-in-Chief

About a month ago a woman with her three children went to Your Neighbor Thrift Store looking for help. She had lost everything in a fire and now was homeless, with no clothes or food. After trying other organizations, our store was the first to help her. They clothed her family and sent them to Sacramento Central church to get some food.

This was one of the many cases that Your Neighbor Thrift Store (YNTS) has offered assistance.

Continue on page 10

Photo: Aline Henda

Lavinia Sitima, from Woodside SDA church, makes frequent trips to Your Neighbor Thrift Store

In this issue:



**CHRISTMAS CONCERT
AT SAC CENTRAL**



**ART SALE FOR MEDIA
MINISTRY**



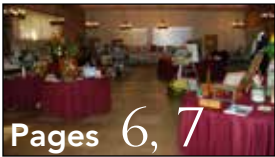
**ADVENTURES AND
PATHFINDERS PROGRAM**

IN THIS ISSUE:

4 **Baptisms**

5 **Adventures and**

Pathfinders' Caroling



Pages 6, 7

8-9 **Ministries in Sacramento Central**



Page 10

12 **Interview**

13 **About Love**

14 **We asked**

15 **Pastor's Corner**

16 **Birthday Calendar**



Page 11

LETTER

Dear editors of Connection Sac Central,
Perhaps you can use some words of Sac Central members who live in The Netherlands

Photo: Wikimedia Commons



Sac Central in The Netherlands.

My name is Dick and I was born in the SDA-church. Till I was about seventeen years old I always went with my grandmother, mother and sister to our church each Sabbath. The childhood in our church was the best time a child can wish. Children's Sabbath school, SDA mandolin orchestra, the choir, selling magazines for the mission, camp, events around the harvest, Tabitha (Dorcas) evenings and visits to prisons, retirement homes, and hospitals.

As a child I thought it would always stay that way and it would never change. However, puberty came, my father died and I left the good old path of our precious Lord. Fortunately I did not neglect the study of economics. After some dark years I met in our little village Marion, a school teacher. She lived not far from my house but I did not know her. We never spoke about the Bible, church or religion.

Her father even was an atheist. Years went on and there was commercial success in Holland and Germany.

After a long period of working seven days in a week we sold the business. It was on my birthday, the 4th of July, a Saturday. Marion asked me what I wanted to have for my birthday. She was very surprised when I asked her to accompany me on that special day to the SDA church in Amsterdam that I had visited when I was a child. So we went to that church after approx twenty years, and at the door there stood a pastor (we call it a brother) who exactly knew who my sister was because she once was a friend of his daughter. Later he visited us at home and he gave me Bible lessons. At a safe distance Marion listened to our conversations, but slowly her interests became into bloom.

Coming Home

I started to study theology at our SDA academy and at the university of Amsterdam. I was baptized in 1988 and for us it is still a wonder that Marion gave her heart to our Lord too, in 1989. A fruitful period of working for the Lord started in Amsterdam. A brother of the General Conference called me at home and asked me to meet him in a hotel in Amsterdam. He asked me to work for the church in Russia but that was not possible due to health problems of Marion.

The SDA church in The Netherlands changed. It was not the church of my childhood and the times of our baptisms anymore. The liberalism, ecumenism and the shortage of preaching about the Spirit of Prophecy made us "searching orphans" without a congregation. We prayed and prayed. Then God led us to Sac Central. In 2009 was the first sermon we saw on Internet. It was like coming home. We heard all the things we strongly believed in. Then in 2011 we had contacts with the office of Sac Central.

The first mail we received was from Melissa Martin. Words of her so warm and tender, direct from her heart and inspired by the Holy Spirit. In the last years we build up a very close friendship with Melissa and her family and they are very precious to us. With Harold White, Dan and Cathy Salyers too, we have very good contacts and that is something to be very thankful for.

God is good. It is a blessing to be members of Sac Central. We will stay loyal to Sac Central and hope to see all members soon in heaven.

Kind regards, Marion and Dick Hutter Verschut (The Netherlands).



One of my childhood dreams was to be the daughter of a missionary in Africa. I loved to read books and stories about missionaries overseas, facing all those challenges and adventures. Knowing my dad – a remarkably mission-minded and charismatic person – I would think how great it would be if he were a missionary. I wouldn't dare dream about going to live there by myself when I grew older, though. But I could picture our family doing a great work together far from home! However, I was so shy when my dad would take us to visit and sing, with my brother and sister, just in our neighbor's houses...!

Eventually I came to understand that I could still have a mission, anywhere, with whatever talents God has given me. It doesn't have to be like the brave and beautiful mission stories I knew. It doesn't have to be in Africa. I can still bring someone to Jesus, even though I'm not a foreign missionary. Among so many different ministries in our church, there is at least one just right for me. We can each be a missionary—right here, right now.

You know, the theme for our church this year is "Each One Reach One" and that's something we are focusing on in this issue of the Connection. Read what pastor Chris has to say about this, on page 15. Speaking of ministries, we have an interview with a couple who



really like to be involved in ministries (page 12), a story about Sac Central's thrift store ministry, (front page and page 10) and how a woman's artistic talent is being shared to help the media ministry in our church (pages 6 and 7). And since we are talking so much about this, check out some of our church's ministries listed on pages 8 and 9, and see which one you would like to get involved in this year!

We each have a great opportunity to reach someone for Jesus in 2015, and that's something truly meaningful we can pray for.

As Jonathan Dukes says in his prayer "For another year":

"Precious Father...

Thank You for the year just ahead...

For the opportunities You'll give me to

Bless others and for others blessing me."

Aline Henda
Editor-in-Chief

alinehenda@gmail.com

THE **C**entral **Connection**

The Central Connection is a publication of the Sacramento Central Seventh-day Adventist Church
6045 Camellia Avenue
Sacramento, 95819
www.saccentral.org

Sacramento Central Church

SENIOR PASTOR
Chris Buttery
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Mike Thompson
YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT PASTOR
Michael Buttler

The Central Connection

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Aline Henda
MANAGING EDITOR
Tyra Taylor
LAYOUT AND DESIGN
Aline Henda
PHOTOGRAPHERS
Aline Henda
Marilee Walker
Keith Collier

COPY EDITORS
Ruthie Flynn
Chrystal White
CONTRIBUTORS FOR THIS ISSUE
Aline Henda
Karen Medeiros
Kaya Maldonado
Marilee Walker
Michael Buttler
Pastor Chris
Ruthie Flynn
Silvia Ballesteros
EMAIL
connection@saccentral.org

Baptisms

Photos by: Joy Assu-
men and JeAnn Davis



Dennis Mitchell
11/22/2014



Ellen Warren
11/22/2014



Lillian Thai
11/22/2014



Linh Nguyen
11/22/2014



Manuel Morteo
11/22/2014



Wesley and
Ipa Whitley
12/20/2014

Also congratulations to
Marjorie Whitake
01/03/2015



Angelica Cisneros
12/20/2014



Yeni Zenteno
11/22/2014



Melissa del Villar
12/20/2014



Kaya Maldonado
11/22/2014

Adventurers and Pathfinders Go Caroling

By Kaya Maldonado
Staff Writer



Photos: Aline Henda

Crafts and magazines were distributed at the end of the program

Smiling faces could be seen everywhere as even the angels listened to the praises sung by more than 55 voices during the caroling event organized by the Adventure and Pathfinder clubs of Sacramento Central Church. Children ages 3 to 16 gave glory to God as they provided a Christmas gift for two retirement communities in Sacramento.

On the Sabbath before Christmas, the Adventure Club and Pathfinders combined their talents to tell others a little about Jesus. For this occasion, the kids had put in hours of rehearsal to practice songs and even formed a small orchestra. Instrumental talent that included piano, guitar, flute, violins, and clarinet

stepped forward and did not disappoint. The orchestra supported the choir with their praises. Scriptures and quotes from Ellen G. White were read between songs.

"Our purpose was to tell the story of the plan of salvation, as Jesus was sent here on earth and how we can look forward to heaven one day by staying faithful and obedient" said Amapola Francisco, director of the Adventure Club.

Each service began and ended with Pastor Chris BATTERY giving a prayer thanking the Lord for the delight of sharing the gospel with others and making a difference in people's life. Just before closing prayer, a woman at one

of the homes spoke to the group, thanking them for bringing joy and to continue to do what they were doing.

"I thought that was pretty amazing how everyone, including the little ones, got to hear that from them firsthand and know that they can make a difference despite being young," said Francisco.



Adventures and Pathfinders sang at two retirement communities in Sacramento

HEAVEN CAME DOWN

By Ruthie Flynn
Copy Editor



Photos: Keith Collier

Fountain View Academy choir and orchestra performing in a Christmas concert at Sac Central

"Heaven and earth are no wider apart today than when shepherds listened to the angels' song. Humanity is still as much the object of heaven's solicitude as when common men of common occupations met angels at noonday, and talked with the heavenly messengers in the vineyards and

the fields. To us in the common walks of life, heaven may be very near. Angels from the courts above will attend the steps of those who come and go at God's command." The Desire of Ages, p. 48.

This Christmas we were again given the gift of heavenly music, shared

with us by the Fountain View Academy choir and orchestra. They have given us a foretaste of the glorious anthems of praise to our God that we can all share in singing someday soon on the Sea of Glass. Their Christmas concert at 7 pm on Sabbath evening, December 20, was live streamed from

Sacramento Central, so we hope that countless people all around the world were able to enjoy it as well.

These cold-hardy students seem to thrive through the frigid winters at Fountain View Academy. They are all musically gifted, some of them playing more than one instrument. As they sing individually or in various groups, they make the arches of heaven ring with their powerful praises to our God. May God continue to mightily bless their ministry for Him.



Sharing God's Gifts To Reach The World For Him

By Aline Henda
Photos by Marilee Walker



Less than three months after Sacramento Central church began fundraising \$75,000 for the purchase of new media equipment, we reached the goal and surpassed it! It was one of the fastest fundraisings ever for our church, according to Pastor Chris. Now the total offering received toward the Media Ministry is getting closer to the \$100,000 mark. That's the new goal, said treasurer Alfredo Pacheco in the last church business meeting on January 14.

In addition to the generosity of the church collectively donating for this ministry, one of the events that contributed to this project was the art sale on November 2, 2014. Hundreds of paintings by Dorothy Angell were sold in a silent auction, and raised about \$6,000 that day. The sales are still going on and all proceeds go to our media ministry.

Dorothy Angell, a gifted artist, teacher, and friend of God

*Excerpts from the handout of the Art Sale
By Marilee Angel Walker, the artist's daughter.*

Mom was born with good genes for art. She started drawing as a young child and would often get into trouble in school, as she would rather “doodle” than listen to the teacher.

Her career in painting started when my childhood friends all wanted to paint and I asked her to teach them. She taught my friends how to paint, then their mom's wanted to paint... and their friends... and friends of friends...

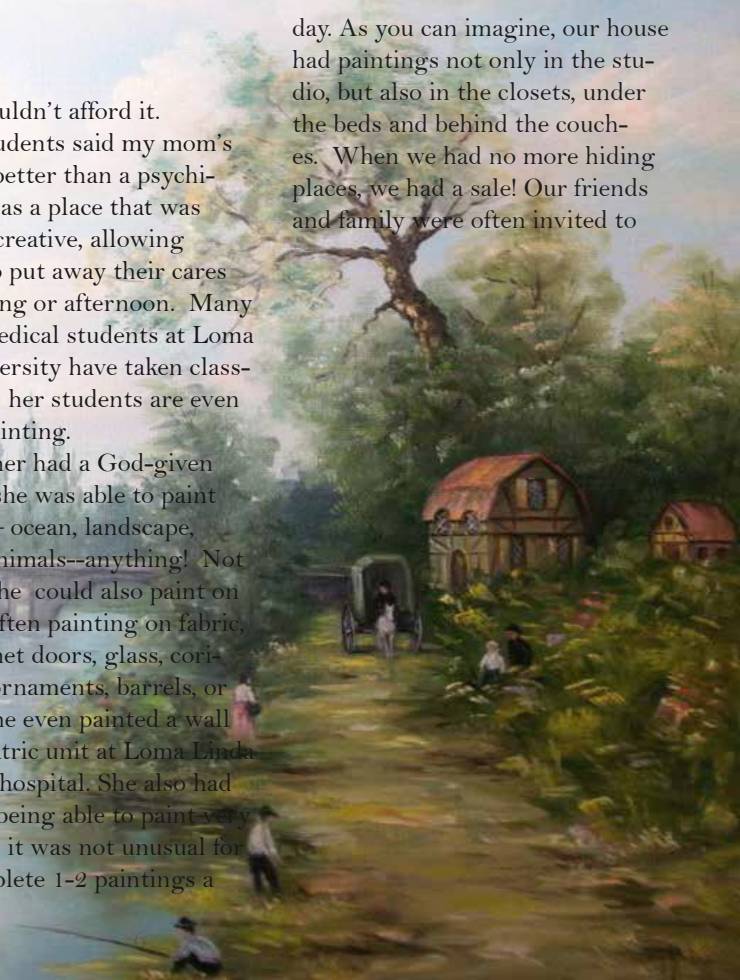
My father turned our garage into a painting studio for my mom, allowing her to work from home. She taught as many as 3 classes a day, up to 4 days a week, with 7-10 students in each class – and this is how my college tuition was financed. It was important to her to keep the cost of classes reasonable so that anyone could take her class, and there were times when she provided free classes to some-

one who couldn't afford it.

Many students said my mom's class was “better than a psychiatrist.” It was a place that was happy and creative, allowing everyone to put away their cares for a morning or afternoon. Many wives of medical students at Loma Linda University have taken classes. Some of her students are even teaching painting.

My mother had a God-given talent and she was able to paint any genre – ocean, landscape, portraits, animals--anything! Not only that, she could also paint on anything, often painting on fabric, wood, cabinet doors, glass, corian blocks, ornaments, barrels, or ceilings. She even painted a wall in the pediatric unit at Loma Linda University hospital. She also had the gift of being able to paint very quickly and it was not unusual for her to complete 1-2 paintings a

day. As you can imagine, our house had paintings not only in the studio, but also in the closets, under the beds and behind the couches. When we had no more hiding places, we had a sale! Our friends and family were often invited to





The Art Auction in November last year raised about \$6000 for Central's Media Ministry

“pick a painting” to take home with them, and I have friends who tell me how much the paintings have meant to them over the years. She definitely had a generous heart!

I learned from my mom to see beauty in everything, from a flower to a bunch of grapes, an old door or a barn. She always said, “God must have had a lot of fun creating all these beautiful things!”

My dad was an important part of my mom's career, and he supported her each step of the way. When he retired, he would make lunch for her while she was teaching and when class was about ready to be over, he would stroll

out to the studio and start picking up trash, a nice little reminder that it was time for everyone to go. My father was supervisor of the grounds department at Loma Linda University, and he loved a beautiful yard and flowers. He would often pick some flowers and bring them home for my mother, and although many of us would have just put them in a vase and enjoy them, my mother would always paint them.

After my father passed away, painting classes were the best medicine for my mom, as it allowed her to keep busy. The many students she had taught throughout the years supported her through this difficult time. She had had some of the same students for over 30 years, and they had now become her friends. My mother taught oil painting until 6 months before she passed away at the age of 83. Her attention to detail never faded until the last week of her life... What a gift she had!

After my mother passed away, I didn't know what to do with all of her paintings, as they meant so much to me. I have many happy memories of watching my mother paint throughout my life. She had

asked me about 4 months before she died, what I was going to do with all of her paintings—and not wanting to address it, I just said “I don't know - maybe I will give them away!” I have had these paintings in my home, unsure what I wanted to do with all of them. I recently felt impressed to “give them away” to Sacramento Central and donate the money from their sales to the Church's media program. My mother and father were life-long Seventh Day Adventists, and I am sure they would both have loved knowing this money will help support a media ministry that will allow others to learn about Jesus.

Lots of canvas paintings by Dorothy Angell are still available for sale, and all profits go to Sacramento Central's media ministry. For more information call (916) 457-6511 or email office@saccentral.org



The author, with a painting of her mom working

GET INVOLVED!

Ministries at Sacramento Central Church - Part 1

By Silvia Ballesteros / Staff Writer
Photos by Aline Henda

Approximately 27 years ago I came to Sacramento Central Church because I wanted my daughter to grow up with God in her life. I felt lost in the middle of all the members until I became involved with the Media Ministry in the tape ministry room. Do you know there are over 30 active Ministries in our church? Pray and ask Jesus where He would use you with the gifts He has given you.



Adventurer Club: Supports parents/guardians with the challenging task of developing children (ages 4-9) to be followers of Christ. The program provides children with spiritually centered activities, and strives to strengthen parent-child relationships. Contact: Amapola Francisco – afrancisco102@yahoo.com

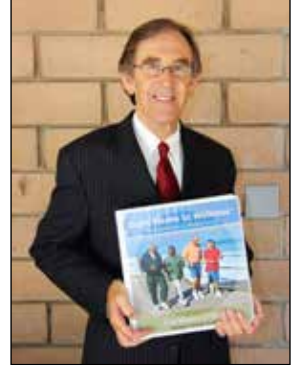
Bible Work Ministry: Engages our members in one-on-one soul-winning and Bible studies. Contact: JeAnn Davis – (209) 200-6138 or jeanncherie@sbcglobal.net



Book Ministry: Meets the first Sabbath of every month immediately after church service. Prepares hundreds of truth-filled books for distribution on Sacramento's streets, and to stock three book racks throughout the city. This ministry also supplies the Food Closet Ministry with reading materials to give away, and provides church



members with books to hand out to those they meet on a day-to-day basis. Contact: Ruben Cantu – rcantu@surrewest.net



Health Ministries: Hosts vegetarian cooking classes, offers seminars on disease prevention, conducts health fairs, and provides other health-related events throughout the year. Contact: Pastor Mike Thompson – (916) 765-0190 or mjt1844@yahoo.com

Children's Ministries: Teaches our children how to be followers of Jesus while engaging them in church-related outreach and activities. Programs range from Sabbath School (which is held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. each Sabbath morning) to Vacation Bible School (which runs for a week each summer). Contact: Shirley Hope – shope3888@gmail.com





Family Life Ministry: Assists youth, singles, couples, and families with a variety of issues. Shares effective ways to communicate, strengthens marriages, teaches parenting skills, and how to live a victorious life as a Christian single. Contact: Tyra Taylor – taylor15@gmail.com

Media Ministry: Broadcasts monthly training sessions. Each volunteer is taught the fundamentals of television production and given the tools necessary to ensure our weekly media ministry's success. We are always looking for new volunteers to help with camera operation, audio, stage management, and operating in-studio equipment.

No experience is necessary to join the media ministry, just a willing attitude and teachable spirit. Contact: Pastor Chris Buttery –(916) 457-6511, ext. 101



Religious Liberty Ministry: Our mission is to ensure that the doors of freedom that are now open, stay open, and do all we can to pry open the doors that are currently shut tight. Contact: Lawrence DeFehr – larry_defehr_esq@hotmail.com

Young Adult Ministry: Our ministry is for college students or young adults between the ages of 18 and 30. Our goal is to be a family for young adults, and help them grow in their relationship with God. We provide weekly fellowship opportunities to connect.



Pathfinder Club: Focuses on the “physical-mental-spiritual triad” to provide activities with a specific emphasis on religious programming, in order to meet the needs and interests of children and adolescents between the ages of 10 and 15. While our Pathfinder Club exists primarily for the youth, one of its purposes is to include parents and church members through an active involvement with the club. The purpose of this involvement is to reduce the gap between generations; allowing youth and adults to work and have fun together in a bond of common experience. Contact: Stacey Jaaskela – pathfinders@saccentral.org

The Central Connection: It's our church's magazine. Our mission is to be a medium of communication, sharing church news, providing inspiring articles and helping to connect our worldwide church family. Contact: Aline Henda – connection@saccentral.org



Your Neighbor Thrift Store (YNTS): A non-profit organization operated by Sacramento Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. Supports the community through various humanitarian programs, like the Winter Sanctuary, which feeds and provides shelter for Sacramento's homeless, and through CWEX (Community Work Experience Program), where eligible participants may fulfill their Community Service Hours.



Stay connected! More ministries featured in the next issue!

Thrift Store: striving for success in 2015

“Homeless people walk into the store with nothing and walk out with clothes on their backs,” said Richard Anger, YNTS steering committee chairperson.

That’s one of the store’s goals – to be a ministry to the neighborhood. This primary objective is continually being achieved. According to Buddy Harper, Central Community Service leader, the store offers free literature, CD’s, DVD’s, and educates the public about the Sabbath. It’s also a training center for welfare recipients to learn a trade, and helps rehabilitate injured people to overcome their problems



and become productive.

What the store is needing now is more support from the members of Sacramento Central church. The first three months after the store opened in September 2012, YNTS was very successful, with many customers and volunteers. But things started to slow down.

“This past year has been a hard one financially,” said Harper.

The financial issues are setting back the other goals of the store: to be a self-sustained ministry, and even providing funding for other Central ministries that need financial support. Pastor Chris hopes

Photos: Aline Henda



that Your Neighbor Thrift Store will do well financially to achieve this purpose. He also envisions the store model being used as a template for the opening up of more Adventist owned and operated thrift stores across the conference.

“I’m so glad the church operates Your Neighbor Thrift Store,” he said. “It provides some of our members with work, it ministers to our community and the homeless, it gives our church recognition in the area, and is another avenue for the distribution of truth-filled, Christ-centered books and magazines to the masses. Although 2014 was a financially difficult year for the store, I’m optimistic about its future.”

The goal for 2015 is to grow the business by advertising, and involving our church and the surrounding SDA churches in this ministry, according to Harper.

Lavinia Sitima, from the Woodside SDA church, is already involved. She lives close by and makes regular trips to the store.

“The store is nice and clean. I find a lot of good things here. The stuff is good and cheap, and I love the veggie roast! It’s closer getting it here than going to the ABC,” she says.

She is referring to the new selection of vegetarian foods offered in

the store in partnership with the Adventist Book Center in Carmichael. They are sold for the same price and there is a large selection.

“Some church members, especially from the Fiji group, are pretty regular,” said store manager Teri Harper. “But mostly our customers are the neighborhood people.”

“We would like to see more Central church members,” said Anger. “We are trying to do everything we can to enable the store to be more successful, as well as be a ministry to our community. We are always open to suggestions for improvement.”

Your Neighbor Thrift Store is located on 6700 Folsom Blvd Sacramento, CA 95819 (916) 457-6500

Store hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 AM to 7 PM, Friday from 10 AM to 4 PM, and Sunday from 11 AM to 6 PM.



A wide varied of vegetarian food is now offered at the store, in partnership with the ABC

RECIPES

They are easy, delicious and, yes, vegan!

Chili and Cornbread for a winter's dinner is a great source of protein when eaten together. They are plant based, no meat or dairy - that's truly a "healthy thing".

Now for dessert, how about a healthy and delicious chocolate mousse? This recipe uses non-dairy chocolate chips which are easy to find in most Health Foods sections of your local grocery store. Bon Appetit!



By Karen Medeiros
Photos by Marilee Walker

Cornbread

(serves 9)

- 1 1/2 c. soy milk
- 1 1/2 T. lemon juice
- 1 c. cornmeal
- 1/2 c. unbleached all-purpose flour

- 1/2 c. whole wheat pastry flour
- 3 T. Raw Sugar
- 3/4 t. salt
- 1 t. baking powder
- 1/2 t. baking soda
- 2 T oil

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Combine soy milk and lemon juice and let stand. Mix dry ingredients in a large bowl. Add the soy milk mixture and the oil to the dry ingredients and stir until just blended. Spread the batter into a nonstick or lightly oil-sprayed 8 inch square baking dish and bake for 25-30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Serve hot.

Can't Believe It's Vegan Chili

(serves 10)

- 2 T. olive oil
- 1 C. chopped onion
- 1 C. red bell pepper
- 1 T. chopped garlic

Saute above ingredients in the olive oil for 4 minutes, then add the next 4 ingredients:

- 2 c. diced canned tomato with juice
- 1 t. dried grown sage
- 1 t. crushed red pepper
- 1 T. oregano

Bring to a boil: Cook until liquid is

reduced by half (about 2 minutes). Add 6 cups of vegetable stock.

Beans:

- 3 (15 oz) cans cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 (15 oz) kidney beans, rinsed and drained

Use a potato masher to mash two cups of the cannellini beans and 1 cup kidney beans. Add the mashed beans and

the remaining whole beans to the pan. Bring the mixture to a simmer: Cook 5 minutes. Add 2 cups chopped kale and simmer another 5 minutes until the kale is tender.

Add salt and pepper to taste.

You can add any vegan sausage, Morningstar or Quorn Burger Bits or TVP (Textured Vegetable Protein).



Chocolate Mousse

(serves 8)

- 1 c. semi sweet, non dairy chocolate chips
- 1/2 c. soy or other non-dairy milk
- 1 package Mori-Nu brand silken Tofu (firm or extra firm)
- 1/3 c. sweetener of your choice (maple syrup can be used)
- 1/2 t. vanilla or coconut extract

Combine the chocolate and non-dairy milk in a double boiler or heavy saucepan and melt using gentle heat and stirring often.

Remove from heat.

Crumble tofu in a blender or food processor. Add melted chocolate and non-dairy milk, sweetener, and vanilla or coconut extract. Process until completely smooth, pausing the blender or food processor to scrape down the sides and under the blade as necessary.

Chill the mixture in serving bowls or if desired, a low fat graham cracker cookie crust or nut crust for at least 1 hour before serving. Garnish with fruit or mint.

Variation: Add a chopped banana to the food processor when you process the tofu and chocolate together.



INTERVIEW

Building Ministries

Kris and Joy Assumen-Carpenter share more than just a passion for traveling – they include a mission in their destination. From overseas to their own living room, this couple is involved in different ministries. Here they tell us something about their work for the cause of God.

By Kaya Maldonado
Staff Writer

Tell me a little bit about yourselves.

Joy: I was born in the Philippines, speak four of the native languages, and I have one younger brother and an older sister.

Kris: Well I'm the youngest in my family, my parents work in the medical field, and I'm a cyclist.

Both of you are involved in many different places -- not just around our church. What are some of the ministries you're involved in?

Joy: We are involved in so many different ministries it's sometimes hard to keep up with them. We like to start ministries that others give us ideas for, so they will want to

participate.

Kris: I've helped in Gideon Rescue Company, I'm an Earliteen teacher at Central, and I've been to Haiti on 5 different occasions. The first time was for Earthquake relief, the second to help rebuild and distribute tents, the third time was for rescue training and the 4th and 5th trips were for education. I previously also worked in a bike shop and there I used my homeless ministry to help those in need with their bike repairs.

Joy: Speaking on Kris behalf, when he went to Haiti the people there also helped where they could. I'm a Deputy Director in Pathfinders at Sac Central, I used to lead Children's Choir but right now we're taking a break. I help with ARME



Photo: Debbie Thomson

Photography, GYC for the Western region, and I've taken many mission trips for medical reasons. We also both help with the Acts of Mercy ministry. Acts of Mercy is a group from Sac Central that goes out to feed the homeless. The idea was kind of given to us by Pastor Ivor Myers who is one of the participating pastors in ARME. He said we should be doing 'Acts of Mercy' and thus it inspired the name of the group. The Pathfinders at Sac Central have helped with this ministry as well.

You together host Vespers on Fridays. What made you come up with the idea to start this?

Both: We knew there were a lot of young adults around church, but none of them really seemed to come together. So our Vespers was inspired by them actually, as an attempt to get them all together and



Kris and Joy in a Haiti mission trip

Continue on page 14

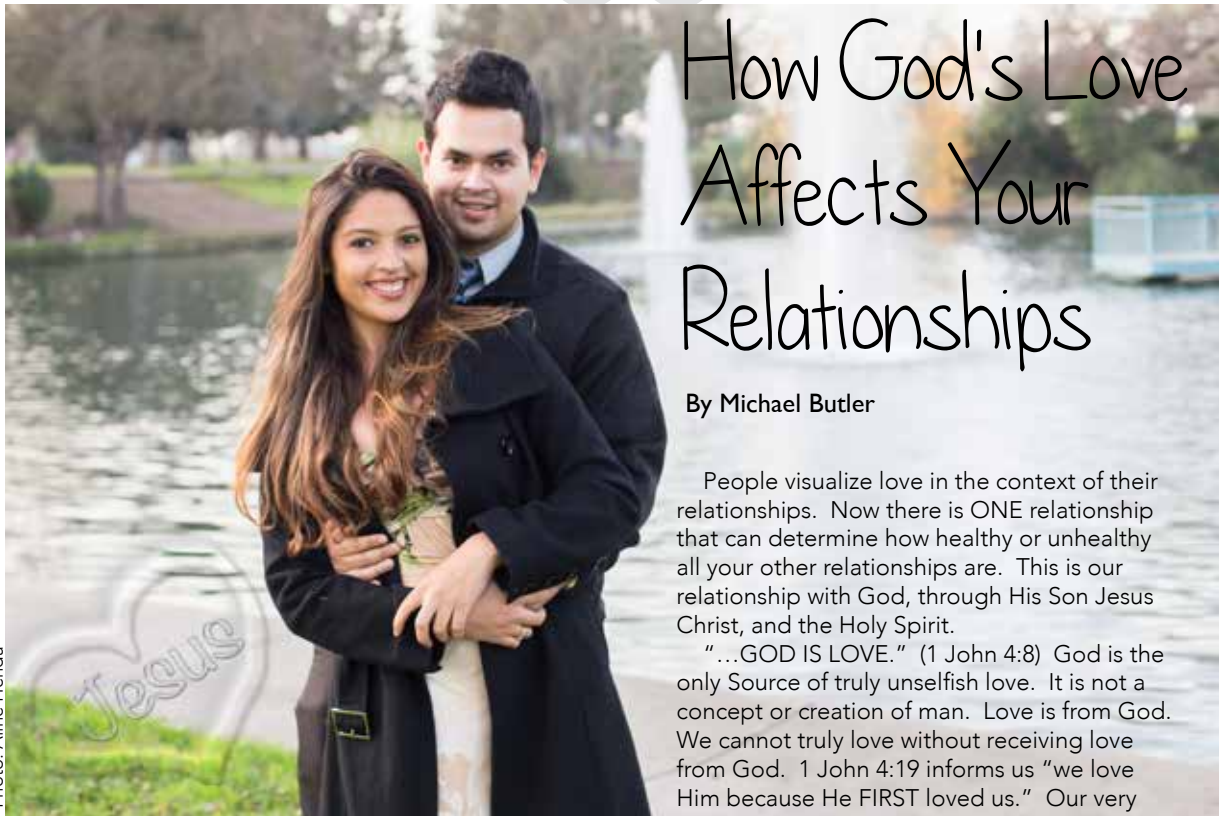


Photo: Aline Henda

How God's Love Affects Your Relationships

By Michael Butler

People visualize love in the context of their relationships. Now there is ONE relationship that can determine how healthy or unhealthy all your other relationships are. This is our relationship with God, through His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

"...GOD IS LOVE." (1 John 4:8) God is the only Source of truly unselfish love. It is not a concept or creation of man. Love is from God. We cannot truly love without receiving love from God. 1 John 4:19 informs us "we love Him because He FIRST loved us." Our very

capacity to love is based upon our understanding of His love for us and our acceptance of that love. Since our relationship with God affects ALL our relationships we have with one another, wouldn't it be wise for us to develop our relationship with God, the only Source of pure, unselfish love?

You may be wondering, "how can my relationship with God affect all my other relationships?" Since God is Love, and true love is a gift from Him, we need to believe and receive the love that God has freely given to us through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Only then are

we enabled to love others deeply and truly, including our enemies. Without being connected to the Source of love, our relationships with each other become selfish, self-seeking, and self-serving.

God is truly SELFLESS LOVE. Jesus revealed His Father to us by His unselfish life of service to others, and then by dying our death on the cross for us. Jesus said, "My food is to do the will of Him Who sent me and to accomplish His work." (1 John 4:34) "For God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." (2 Corinthians 5:19) Jesus came to reveal to us

the compassionate, deep, Divine, self-sacrificing love of the Father. If you are willing, the same God Who dwelt in Christ will also dwell in you through the Holy Spirit.

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

(1 John 4:7) Will you invite God to live His life of unselfish love in you today?

Michael Butler is the Youth/Young adult pastor at SacCentral



Joy and Kris' Interview

it worked out well. We have Vespers every Friday night in our home and it's not just for young adults -- we have a few parents come in with younger children as well.

On average how many people are in your Vespers group?

Joy: Our Vespers group can differ in size from one time to the next. The smallest group we've had is 4 and the largest was 24.

Do you have a goal for your

group or some type of outline for it?

Both: In our Vespers group we read through multiple chapters in the Bible, showing that everything points to Jesus. We also look for understanding the Great Controversy message in the Bible.

Is there anything you would like to share as an inspiration to others from you?

Kris: If you say you don't have a talent, you might have buried it in the ground.

Joy: 1 Corinthians chapter 12 says we are all the body of Christ and if

one part of it isn't working then we aren't sufficient to do God's work.



We asked

Why did you choose SacCentral to be your home church?



"I wanted to choose a spiritual church that I could grow into. I come from Chicago and there the churches are very segregated. I like that this church is very diversified and I think that's the message -- to spread the gospel to all different cultures."

Coby Cobb, attending SacCentral since 2013



"I like that this church is more conservative, they keep it more old style. They preach the truth, what God's says."

Ivana Topchiy, attending Sacramento Central for the last 11 years



"I have a variety of reasons! It's very organized, the kid's program is very good, there are good after-church service programs, good speakers, good messages, and the people are very warm."

Juliet Yoon, attending SacCentral since last year



"I was Catholic and my wife had left the church for 20 years. After getting married we decided to come back. We tried here first and we liked the message because it was related to the Bible. I got to know God a lot better by reading the Bible."

Robert Aguilar, attending SacCentral since 2006

PASTOR'S CORNER



Pastor Chris Buttery

Each one reach one

Photo: Aline Henda

This year's church theme is, "Each One, Reach One." I'm excited about this, not because the words have a nice ring to them, or because we've cooked up a catchy little phrase like this. I get excited when I think of the terrific potential this has if we were to catch onto its significance. Think about this with me for a minute, if you would.

In Gary Gibbs' book, *Winsome Witnessing*, he shares some observations that are rich with importance. He asks us to compare an evangelist who baptizes 1,000 converts a day (which admittedly is somewhat challenging, but you'll see where this is going in a moment) to a person winning one person to Jesus the first year, then discipling that one person to win someone else the second. It would look something like this: Evangelist after one year – 365,000 converts; one person reaching one person

the first year – 2 converts. Evangelist after two years – 730,000 precious people; two persons each reaching one person the second year – 4 precious people.

Not excited yet? I understand, but hang in there just a few more moments. On the twenty-third year the evangelist has 8,395,000 converts to Christ, while each one reaching one that year brings in 8,388,000 converts to Christ. The next year the "each one, reach one" method doubles the number the evangelist brings in, and by the twenty-sixth year the discipling method gathers in seven times the number of converts compared to those won by the evangelist! And all of this comes from just one dedicated follower of Jesus focused on reaching one person a year for Jesus.

Now can you understand why I see this year's theme as an exciting proposition? But before we see these wonderful results, we

need to individually think and pray about that "one" that the Lord has in mind for us to bring to Him this year. So who is he, who is she? Do you know? Has God put someone on your heart to reach for Him? If not, that's okay, He'll show you if you ask Him. If you know who that person is, then don't be afraid or ashamed, just be willing and make yourself available, and God will teach you what to say, when to say it, and how to say it in order to bring that "one" to Him.

Right now, let us simply pray the prayer Jesus taught us to pray. As we do, we will see what the Lord can do through one individual, who putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit in his or her life. "Lord of the harvest, I earnestly plead that you will send out laborers into your harvest, and I give you permission to begin with me." (Luke 10:2 - paraphrase)

BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

1	William Bailey Michael Slater	6	Samantha Morehouse	13	Mickie Babij Anna Banks Daysi Escamilla Katherine Laberinto	20	J Vaselenko Daniela Ghioalda	Orben Sobrepena	
2	Jackie Ball Karen Nanez (Felix) Erika Rypich Chrystal White	7	Cheryl San Filippo-Draunika	14	Eliana Brantley Florina Ilyes Soledad	21	Tracy Archbold Todd Hampton	Wilhelm Johannes van der Veen	
3	Nathaneal Bognet Cristina Hibbert Jonathan Rainbolt	8	Sharon Fowkes Maria Gomez Brenda Lafontsee Haydee Rivera Mercado	15	Geary Gomez Francisco Renteria Tom Schwartz	22	Jonathon Baldwin Roderick Hall George McCracken	26	Curtis Yates Marsha Amorfini Joe Calise Gordon Hodges Pamela Howard Frank Ramirez Andre Randolph Dorreen White Martha Zellitti
4	Deborah Cunningham Aaron Grush Franklin Kilgore Adrian Simpson	9	Geneva Davis Patrick Condon Jesse Crumpton Alejandrina Trejo-Labra	17	Walter Aldrich Rhonda Packard	23	Lusiana Nabakewa Benjamin Escobar	27	Isei Draunakamila
5	Ruth Bahta Erik Drinkard Troy Jurach Suzanne Lovell Vivian Winston	10	Patrick Condon Jesse Crumpton Alejandrina Trejo-Labra	18	Julio Silva Harold White	24	Nancy Aquino Neal Archbold Patricia Atwell Victoria Balderas Shweta Devi Conrado Laberinto	28	Winnie Comstock-Carlson Marquis Morgan Ann Olson Ana Poroch
		11	Akash Singh Pancho Sokolov Vicki Taylor	19	Joann Petunis Noemy Rosa Daniel Satoshi Thiele			29	
		12	Albert Colmenares Gary Spainhower Joanna Vance						

MARCH

1	Marilyn Calise Joseph Chansa Sergio Juca Victoria Teppone Bobbie White		Michael Glasser		Robert Gloyd Rose Johnson		Rosy Contreras		Patrick Cotham Tori Fode
2	Mile Fa'aiu Ron Frank Deante Millard	8	Duane Abbott Shari Thompson	15	Lila Concannon Raquel Fame-Allen William Fuller Anna Gomes	20	Briana Sanchez Bonnie Ensminger Charissa Karn Yolanda Price Anita Williams		John Husby Maraia Ratabua Maria Yahuaca Vargas
3	Ana Kramer Maria Pena	9	Pho Phongmany Lydia Ramirez Nikki Sanchez Brian Simon	16	Earnest Hill Claudio Stanko	21	Pearl Anger Robert Barnard James Lang	27	Cindy Anthony Lotus Fabian Emmanuel Corpuz Jr
4	Jim Laicovsky	10	Ana Volitilevuka Nichole Valdivia	17	Adriana Fuica Ariel Rodriguez Patty Gonzales Peter Poroch	22	James Beal Silvia Ballesteros Tammy Wagner	28	Amy Maldonado Jose Reyes
5	Stacey Baudoin Susana Martinez Candace	11	Danny Cordos Evica Raduc Marite Ugarte	18	Horace Adams Regina Fuller Jesse Gabriel Karen Koehler	23	Blanca Chavez Duane Moye Jacqueline Clark Leonardo Angel	29	Dennis Allen JeAnn Davis David Stover
6	Davidson Sonja DeRose Joy Wasson	12	Michelle Brown Jaime Esparza Arne Jambert Sue Shultz	19	Carie Battistone Jose Galvez Martinez	24	Norman Barron	31	Boris Vrbeta
7	Jaime Arechiga Brian Boone	14	Harvey Clark III Josephine Ezenduka			25			

