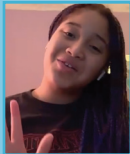




IN THIS
EDITION



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Conference PRIORITIES

Our Team in the Office of Education

This issue of the Recorder is focused on Adventist Education, something we are passionate about in Southeastern California Conference. It is one of our four strategic priorities as we remain committed to carrying out our mission: *We will continue to EDUCATE as we strengthen a grace-oriented school network that is a model of academic excellence, sustainability, and accessibility, and is distinctly Seventh-day Adventist Christian.*

I wanted to use my space in this issue to introduce you to our amazing Office of Education team. They work with all 19 schools, providing support and guidance. They are loved and valued for the leadership and service they provide.

I am deeply grateful for each one and the unique gifts and skills they bring to our conference. I asked colleagues to give me words that best describe them.

Education Superintendent of Schools

Don Dudley

Servant leader, diplomatic, calm
under pressure, spiritual



Associate Superintendents

Bill Arnold • Caring, social, hospitable, humorous

Rob Smith • Relational, visionary, patient, efficient

Datha Tickner • Encouraging, detail-oriented, compassionate, visionary

Steve Zurich • Pastoral, a friend to all, supportive, passionate about SDA education



Director of Enrollment Strategy

Treva Osborn • Strategic, courageous, creative thinker, committed

Director of Instructional Coaching

Amy Cornwall • Resourceful, hopeful, innovative, trail blazer

Small School Instructional Coach

Rachel Romero • Patient, caring, positive, hard-working



Registrar/Administrative Assistant

Rabel Ortiz • Brave, conscientious, caring, helpful

Senior Personnel Assistants

Kathi Christiansen • Generous, creative, hospitable, kind

Audra Garcia • Organized, helpful, kind, competent

Teresita Vasquez • Detailed, speedy, informed, committed

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Sandra Roberts, President
Jonathan Park, Secretary
Verlon Strauss, Treasurer



LEFT: Elementary zoom choir singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing." BELOW: 11th grader Dario Lafontant hosts high school chapel and 8th grader Micha Boyce speaks for Junior High Chapel. INSET: 9th grade Black Student Association member, Nina Richardson, recites a poem by Pastor Jeremiah Green.



Loma Linda Academy Honors Black History Month

By Tricia Murdoch Zmaj

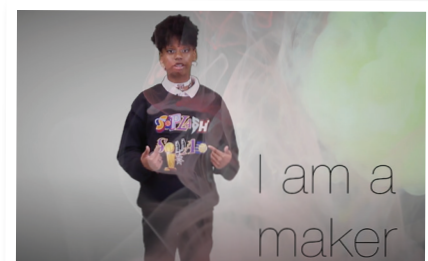
Loma Linda Academy (LLA) is the largest TK-12 school in the Southeastern California Conference and is blessed with a vibrant and diverse student body. For the month of February, the administration, faculty and students celebrated Black History Month with an intentionally-designed curriculum, inspiring conversations with Black leaders, and chapel services that represented the Black experience

When planning a special elementary curriculum with an emphasis on Black history and culture, Elementary Vice-Principal Clayton Koh met with a leadership committee of Black parents and pastors. This team created a full experience for all of the elementary age groups. The youngest students explored books on Black historical figures with their teachers while the older students discussed the themes "I am Royalty", "I am a Voice", "I am a Maker", and "I am a Leader" based on poetry written by Pastor Jeremiah Green of the Mt. Rubidoux SDA Church and recited by members of LLA's Black Student Association (BSA). During the week, students benefited from virtual interviews with Black American leaders, including Deborah Robertson, Mayor of Rialto, and Niles Heron, Co-Founder of online gaming firm, Popdog.

At the Junior High, JO Cordero, Campus Chaplain for the Junior High and Academy, planned the chapel programs with the students and staff. Students, local pastors and teachers shared their experiences, including their family histories and their Black role models. The Junior High students have been active in the planning of Black History Month

chapels since last year when Cordero announced a planning meeting on the campus loudspeakers. "Almost all of the Black students from the junior high showed up," says Cordero. "This really helped me understand that students value representation and they need to be given a space to create."

For the Academy students, the Black Student Association, under the guidance of faculty club sponsor, Dr. Andy Sandiford, planned a four-part virtual series titled "For the Culture." The first three weekly discussions focused on a different theme: cultural appropriation vs. appreciation, the effects of skin color, and stereotyping based on gender. The last virtual session focused on experiences of young alumni while they were students at LLA. Faculty, staff, alumni, and parents joined the students to learn from these alumni's experience. Throughout the month, Dr. Sandiford was impressed with the student's maturity when discussing the Black experience in America today. "I was a guide to these students but they were the ones who planned and led out with the programs," says Sandiford, "Because of today's social climate, these students have a relationships



and awareness with cultural issues in academy that I did not develop until my last years in college."

Academy chapels featured praise music performed by local Black church groups and student spotlights about Black heritage and culture. Students also benefitted from the LifeCast podcast that Cordero started with Baron Sovory, Pastor of the Valley Fellowship SDA church. This podcast focuses on creating a better world through the power of the Holy Spirit and can be found online at llaministry.com.

When sharing how Black History Month shaped the campus this February, Koh, Cordero and Sandiford are unanimous in their appreciation of the student's candor, maturity, and excitement when discussing social issues. "This month there were honest and authentic conversations on campus with the support of the school," says Sandiford. "These can't end here. These students are just getting started."

Southeastern California Conference Invites Northern and Central California Conferences for Virtual Training

By Tricia Murdoch Zmaj



"Virtual Church 101: Less Stress, More Worship" presenters (from top left) Enno Mueller, Bryant Taylor, Laurie Trujillo, Sergio Cano, Baron Sovory, and Danilo Brago.

Over the past year, Southeastern California Conference (SECC) pastors and church media teams have navigated the challenges of producing virtual worship services. To help churches continue to grow effective streaming programs, SECC created the training seminar "Virtual Church 101: Less Stress, More Worship."

Enno Mueller, former SECC communications director, designed the event as an educational tool for livestreaming and video production. "Some churches are doing well, while some are struggling with the virtual platform," Mueller said. "This training aimed to empower pastors and audiovisual teams to connect meaningfully with church members, guests, and audiences."

Recognizing that churches in other conferences might need assistance as well, Mueller invited the Northern California Conference (NCC) and Central California Conference (CCC) to join SECC

for the virtual training. The seminar was livestreamed on Sunday, January 24, and was featured on the three conferences' Facebook sites and YouTube channels.

During the livestreamed event, Mueller presented "Basics of Video Shooting and Editing;" Laurie Trujillo, NCC director of communications and development, presented ideas for "Engagement;" Baron Sovory, pastor of Valley Fellowship church in Rialto, presented "Streaming 101;" and Danilo Brago, video engineer at Loma Linda University church, presented "Advanced Livestreaming."

After the four formal presentations, Sergio Cano, CCC media arts director, and Bryant Taylor, pastor for worship and media at Azure Hills church, joined to answer audience questions. Pastor Taylor also presented gadgets that churches could buy for less than \$100 to enhance the quality of their productions.

During his message, Pastor Sovory emphasized that streaming church services are here to stay, even after social

distancing restrictions are lifted. He highlighted that even small media teams can make a big impact. "You can grow your church online and connect with people from all over the world," Sovory said. "Small churches can do big things. You can make it happen."

This virtual session marks the first time that the three conferences have partnered for a training program, and participants recognized that this type of teamwork will continue to be important in the future. For the past year, Pastor Taylor has produced a streaming check sheet to help churches with smaller media teams manage the new frontier of media ministry. He has heard a lot of positive feedback from the "Virtual Church 101: Less Stress, More Worship" event. "Many of the churches felt isolated and were thankful that this collaboration between the conferences and churches created a wider community," Taylor said. "We are growing through this as we go through this."

VIRTUAL

Sabbath, May 22, 2021 • 3:00-5:30 p.m.

Game

CHANGERS

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Join us for a general session and two workshop sessions focusing on evangelism, outreach, and church growth. Registration information will be available through your pastor.

Sponsored by the Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



The Warmth of Community:

Bible camp brings youth together

By Becky St. Clair

Like all stories these days, the tale of the SECC's 2021 Jr. High Bible Camp begins with a pivot from in-person to virtual. Without their standard option of Pine Springs Ranch, the youth ministries team, led by Aren Rennacker, decided to embrace the new format, rather than try to adapt their traditional one to a virtual platform.

"One of the biggest things for us was making sure the kids would still be interested in engaging with us," Rennacker said. "We believe wholeheartedly in the importance of community and connection, and we didn't want to lose that."

Seventh- and eighth-grade students submitted videos of themselves offering prayer, doing scripture readings, and doing a favorite home hobby—something they'd enjoyed while being mostly at home for the previous 10 months. They were also encouraged to send in "pet-selfies." Because interacting with each other and making new friends is one of the greatest parts of Bible Camp, attendees were rewarded with prizes throughout the weekend for being active in the chat.

"The conference was by necessity innovative and creative," pointed out Lindsey Haffner, youth pastor at Redlands Adventist Church and

speaker for the weekend. "But the unconventional nature of it somehow made it feel all the more intimate and meaningful. I had a great time."

The theme for the weekend was "Influencers: Becoming today's change-makers," and highlighted ways in which our lives touch those of others around us. To demonstrate creative and unique ways of influencing people, on Sabbath afternoon Patty Maruffo, associate youth ministries director for the conference, interviewed Kevin Wilson, youth pastor at Oceanside Adventist Church. Wilson has a very successful social media presence using his love of good chai to connect young people to God.

"We want these kids to see the kind of influence they can and do have," Rennacker explained. "Pastor Kevin has over 155,000 followers on TikTok, and he's using it for good. We wanted the young people to ask themselves how they could use their own influence for good."

Attendees also connected with each other through a virtual reality app called Avatar Adventures, featuring a map of Pine Springs Ranch. Each person's avatar wandered

around the virtual camp, meeting other attendees, doing scavenger hunts together, and joining their group around a virtual campfire.

"We wanted to continue to provide a space for our junior high students to connect and grow even in the midst of the pandemic," Rennacker said. "While I do think they desire spiritual and personal growth at this age, they also want to be part of something. They want the warmth of community. Throughout this event, it felt like we were doing something together, and that's what makes church so special—in person or online."

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Southeastern California Conference

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