

March/April 2021

What's Happening at  
Calimesa Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

# Calimesa Connections

## Avoiding the “Doorway Effect” and Cherishing the Meaning of Easter

by Darrin Thurber, Senior Pastor

It happened to me again last week. My wonderful wife, Beamy, asked me to pick up milk at the grocery store. I quickly ran into the store and grabbed several items—everything except the milk.

What's even more bizarre, is that I only remembered that I forgot to get milk when I walked through the door.

Now I'm not trying to make excuses, but this is an actual phenomenon psychologists call the “Doorway Effect.”

This theory contends that memories are contextualized to where you first had the thought or experience. If you walk through a doorway, you may be apt to forget that experience.

I'm sure I'm not the only one who has experienced the doorway effect. I'm talking about those times you get up from the tv to grab something from

the fridge...only to stare in it blankly, wondering what in the world you were going to grab!

It's easy to forget once you leave the place of your original thought.

I wonder if we suffer from a Doorway Effect type problem when it comes to the powerful truth of Easter. We're about to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We'll reflect on how He conquered the grave and gave us eternal hope. We'll sing songs about how “life is worth the living just because He lives!”

Our hearts will be full of hope, courage and peace. But then we exit the doorway of Easter and enter back into the messiness of life.

And as we get exhausted from the daily grind of work and family demands, we may forget the One who can give us perfect peace and rest.

As we feel stuck and ashamed of a bad habit, we may fail to recall that our Redeemer offers us forgiveness and strength to overcome.

As we're wrapped up in the news of a recent diagnosis, sometimes we can't seem to see the Conqueror of death and sickness standing beside us.

It's hard to imagine when we're in that moment, but our human nature can cause us to forget the powerful truth that we serve a living God, once Easter passes.

The Apostle Paul reminds us just how central this truth is:

“And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless, and so is your faith” (1 Corinthians 15:14).

There is nothing more important for us to remember than the fact that we serve a living God! As we look forward to celebrating Easter together, let's not just remember this precious truth one day of the year, but be firmly planted in it every day of our lives.



# How have you found ways to keep an active

compiled by Damaris Matthews

## Richard Meader



**Janice** and I read the daily portions from the Sabbath School Quarterly. The SSQ app on my cell phone makes it is

easy to access each day. We also enjoy Calimesa Church Services each Sabbath morning since we've climbed the Zoom learning curve. Janice is better at connecting on the internet, and if we run into snags, our son can help.

As part of the church Prayer Team, I meet with five or six other members every Wednesday morning to pray for the sick and other requests. In these days of COVID shut-in, we connect by phone and pray with a partner. Ministry Leader, **Betty McAllister**, says we could use a few additional members on the team.

## Lynn Haddad



I read the Bible every day. I actually spend about 15-20 minutes every morning, reading at an unhurried pace, and find

that I can read through God's book in about nine months. Each year I try a different version and this year I'm reading The Message Bible. This year I have a new appreciation for the warnings of

doom God gave through the minor prophets and the promises of restoration. I also watch several church services online. Besides the Calimesa service, **Ed** and I enjoy "attending" Crosswalk, a church in Oregon and another one in Colorado.

## Chuck Haenny



**Terri** and I really enjoy Dialogues class, the small-group Sabbath School class led by **Chris Church**.

This quarter we're studying

the gospel of Mark to go along with **Pastor Darrin's** sermons.

With Zoom we're able to make comments and ask questions, so it's *almost* like being there together. We also share a daily devotion, like Sarah Young's *Jesus Calling*, which heightens our awareness of God's presence and care.

Then, too, many of our friends are believers and when they pay us visits, we strengthen each other and pray for each other.

## Irma Carpenter



Since I am in a senior care facility where residents must stay apart in their rooms during this COVID scare, it could be so

easy to grow despondent. But each day I make sure to focus on the positive, counting my blessings.

I'm grateful to whoever arranged to have Sabbath School Quarterlies dropped off at this facility. I watch church services on my computer and use it to stay in touch with family—which helps a lot. I'm thankful that sometimes my son takes me to his home overnight, and one of my grandsons stops by to leave little packages for me. I'm blessed to have a loving family.

## Judy Hart



This has certainly been a year like no other. What I am grateful for: A computer and TV to watch Sabbath worship

services, connection with family and friends via FaceTime, text messaging, our mountain community where **Dick** and I can take walks free from most noise, blessed with what nature affords. I know not the future but I know GOD IS in control of the future!

## Carolyn Stuyvesant



I don't have internet in my home. I don't own a TV. I've not had anyone except a few maintenance people in my home for a year.



# spiritual life while unable to worship together?

It might be easy to think I lead a desperately boring life—but far from it!

During this pandemic I've been led to look closer at Elijah in *Prophets and Kings* as well as the Bible, and I see many parallels to today. For months he was utterly alone by the brook Cherith then sheltered in the widow's house, and communed with God in both places.

I have also watched Cami Oetman's entire DVD series, "Unlocking Bible Prophecies" and I listen to Bible lectures on cassette tapes.

My phone prayer partner and I spend an hour in prayer one night a week, especially for specific missionaries. I also give a phone Bible study twice a week to an acquaintance out of state. This takes much prep on my part as the "student" raises many questions.

One more thing: Every day I walk

in nature and this always lifts my spirits towards the Creator. There is no reason we cannot maintain spirituality even though we do not congregate in a building. Nevertheless, I long for the day we can go to church again!

## Tsvety Levterov



There are several things I do to deepen my spiritual connection with God. First, I read my Bible every day. Then

throughout the day I pray for wisdom and strength in my decisions. I also communicate with people who love God and with whom I can have meaningful conversations about His presences in our lives.

## Sean and Laura Gil



The number one thing that keeps us spiritually strong is praying together and for each other. Family prayer has been our biggest help in keeping our spirituality strong in these times. We've also enjoyed spending weekends in nature and exploring new trails in our Jeep!

We've also been blessed to meet a couple at work with similar values and hobbies. Their friendship has been foundational in keeping our sanity intact! We miss our church family, and it will be wonderful to be able to be together again soon.

## Book Review—*What We Believe: For Guide Readers*

by Bonnie Parker

*Guide's* managing editor, Laura Samano, has included 28 true stories from the pages of the *Guide Magazine* to introduce juniors to the new book, *What We Believe*.

This book, through stories and accompanying questions at the end of each chapter, is helpful to use for family worship as it brings kids to know their church, and Jesus, better than ever before.

Some of the questions that the

stories answer are:

"What if you don't feel that you're good enough to be saved?"

"Can you be hopeful when your loved one dies?"

"Should you save someone else's life if it means ending your own?"

"What if the government threatens your religious freedom?"

What a great way to help kids explore the reasoning behind the things they believe.





# Outreach Visits Provide Gift Bags to Members' Neighbors

by John Parrish

Volunteer greeters from the Calimesa Church rang doorbells in their home neighborhoods and presented each household with a gift bag from the church during the second week of February.



More than 30 of those good-will ambassadors—some accompanied by other family members—repeated the visits with a second, different gift bag one week later.

“It was a great way to meet our neighbors, some of whom are new to the area,” longtime Calimesa

member **Betty McAllister** and her daughter, **Cherie Bolyarde**, reported in a video interview during the February 20 church service. They delivered 40 of more than 600 church gifts distributed in the outreach activity organized under the leadership of **Associate Pastor Kazar Ackerman**.

Some of the gift bags were augmented with additional children’s toys, books, and other items provided by the church members making the deliveries.

“Every door was opened to us, and those with whom we visited were gracious and appreciative of the





church’s neighborly gesture,” the two interviewed women reported.

Pastor Kazar says consideration is being given to another gift-distribution activity in the months ahead. Any members who’d like to participate and get better acquainted with their neighbors are encouraged to contact Pastor Kazar by calling the church office.

Thanks again to the Calimesa youth for the assembly and distribution of the gift bags!



**ALFRED'S  
RIDDLE**

What kind of bow  
can't be tied?

(answer on page 7)

# Random Acts of Kindness

compiled by Bonnie Parker

*The reason for this section is to encourage each of you to find little ways to make every day a special day in your corner of the world.*

*If you experience one of these unexpected blessings, jot it down and send it to Bonnie Parker: [rlpbrp@roadrunner.com](mailto:rlpbrp@roadrunner.com).*

## Greg Mitchell

As part of a church outreach, I hosted a class on understanding your car and performing basic maintenance. We had a great group of people representing all ages and backgrounds that came each week to share food, fellowship and to learn a little bit more about their cars.

Many friendships and relationships grew, but sadly due to COVID we were cut short and unable to officially finish the program.

To some that didn't matter. I've had them come by for me to check something on their cars, to make sure they were making the right decision or that they were not being taken advantage of by an unscrupulous mechanic.

Some wanted to tackle their own repairs but just weren't sure they could do everything themselves. They'd come over and I'd just keep an eye on them while they worked, giving a hand if they got stuck.

Just having someone there gave them confidence to try something they wouldn't have attempted otherwise. Their sense of accomplishment once the job was completed was very gratifying to watch. I feel blessed to be able to share my workshop to help others and have enjoyed every bit of it.

## Judy Rentchler

My husband Bob goes almost every day to the PAW Mission on

7th Place in Yucaipa to make sure all the cats are warm enough and have food and water. If a cat is dying, he stands by them, talking softly to them as he pets them.

In the cattery, Bob oversees adoptions, trains volunteers and enters all the cats in a computer program. Judy, who goes each day with Bob says, "It is his life and he is my hero!"

## Art Earll

It has been 15 years now, but I well remember these acts of kindness. We had moved my father down from Northern California to live with us. He was 99 years old, mentally sharp but his heart was getting tired.

I had taken him several times to cardiologist Dr. Gary Marais. My dad and Gary hit it off well, no doubt due to their sense of humor, which fit well with each other's personalities.

After several years my father's health worsened. I called the Beaver Clinic for an appointment but the schedule was full. Dr. Marais heard of our situation and came to our home to see my father after leaving his office.

He told my father his heart was getting weaker. The following week both he and his wife Janeen stopped by our home to check in on him. He explained that a certain medication was needed and Janeen would bring it by later that day. My father was

overwhelmed by their kindness and amazed they would do this for him! He talked daily about this event until he passed away a month later.

## Bonnie Parker

When I wake in the morning I pray the prayer, "Lord make me a blessing to someone today." Then in the evening, when reviewing the day's activities, I am often surprised how many times the prayer was answered!

One morning several months ago, I had the strong impression to call an acquaintance and check how she was doing after she had surgery. When she answered, it sounded like she was in the car driving and I asked where she was. She said, "I'm somewhere on Bryant Street and I'm just out for a drive and don't know where I'm going. I've been cooped up in the house for so long and the doctor just gave me the go-ahead to drive so I just had to get out and go somewhere!" I told her to keep driving as "you're almost somewhere—my house!"

In a few minutes she drove up and we had a masked conversation in the driveway and I gave her a fresh loaf of banana bread. It was a miracle I was impressed to call her at the exact timing of her "almost-to-my-house moment" so I could encourage her as she emerged from her COVID depression. Thank you God for miracles!



# Bits 'n Pieces

compiled by Damaris Matthews

## NEW MEMBERS

**Manuel and Marianne Alamo** are originally from the Philippines. Manuel was a missionary kid, having lived with his family serving in Indonesia and Sudan. Marianne had been a Baptist prior to converting to Adventism.

When they got married they taught at the Adventist school in Thailand. They were then called to serve as missionary educators (Manuel as the school principal and Marianne a teacher) with the Guam-Micronesia Mission (GMM) of Adventists in the Federated States of Micronesia in the islands of Chuuk and Yap. They served there for four years, then moved back to Thailand for four years before being called back to GMM to serve in the Marshall Islands for two years, then on the island of Kosrae for a year.

They have now settled locally as students at the California Preparatory College in Redlands.

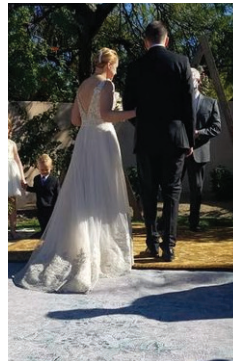


They have two sons: **Levi**, who is attending PUC studying nursing, and **Dean**, who attends Mesa Grande Academy. They have an adopted daughter who is currently

with her biological family and her older sister is living with the Alamo family as their foster daughter.

## WEDDINGS

**Brian Haddad**, son of **Ed and Lynn Haddad**, married **Libertie Miller**



January 17, 2021, at her grandparents' home in Rancho Mirage. **Pastor Jon**

**Ciccarelli** officiated and **Pastor Darrin Thurber** provided lovely music on the classical guitar.

## AT REST

**Dale Huff** (November 1, 1930 – December 31, 2020), former long-time member who served on the Calimesa Church Board and Finance Committee, died at home in Sonoma, following advanced dementia and CHE.

## ACHIEVEMENTS, MILESTONES and HAPPY OCCASIONS

**Karina (Mayagoitia) Siguenza** successfully defended her thesis on March 3, 2021, to complete her



Ph.D. in Anatomy at LLU School of Medicine. Her topic dealt with whether or not high cholesterol levels are associated with cognitive loss with implications for Alzheimer's Disease (Mechanisms of Cognitive Loss Associated with Hypercholesterolemia). Proud parents are **Sergio and Elizabeth Mayagoitia**.

## WE WILL MISS YOU

For nearly 50 years, Charles and Arline Slattery have embraced worship as part of the Calimesa church family. Reluctantly, they've



realized it is now time to move. In the near future they will relocate to Ooltewah, Tennessee to live near

the younger of their two children, Coleen Slattery Martin. Their son, Scott lives a bit farther away in Chattanooga.

Both Charles and Arline have been very involved at Calimesa Church over the years. Charles served as Pathfinder leader, Deacon, Elder and Sabbath School teacher. Arline organized cooking for Pathfinder campouts, served as Head Deaconess and Coordinator of Greeters.

They will both miss the Calimesa Church fellowship and the members and friends they have come to love.

# Upcoming Church Retreat!

We are excited to announce that on **Saturday, May 15th**, we will be hosting a 1-day church retreat at **Pali Mountain Retreat Center** in nearby Running Springs.

Come prepared to fellowship and worship together in the beautiful San Bernardino mountains!

**Guest speaker will be Karl Haffner**, Vice President for Student Experience at Loma Linda

University.

Rest assured the church will be following whichever health precautions remain in place at the time of the retreat.

Stay tuned for more information by checking the church website ([calimesasda.com](http://calimesasda.com)) or subscribe to the weekly church email



newsletter for updates.

And don't forget to mark your calendars for May 15! We can't wait to worship together again.

## New Features Coming Soon to Kitchen, Meeting Rooms by John Parrish

Improvements to the church kitchen and adjacent meeting areas have long been needed and acknowledged. After months of prayer and planning by many members and a virtual church business meeting, the board voted to proceed with new equipment/construction, using funds raised in continuing voluntary campaigns, such as the Christmas offering.

The successful construction bidder is Carl A. Thornton Construction, the Beaumont firm whose recent projects include the upgrading of the Fireside Room.

Preparatory steps at the kitchen worksite, known as the Myrtlewood renovation, has begun and will continue over the next few months, according to **Senior Pastor Darrin Thurber**.

"Construction costs of \$420,000 and equipment purchases will come together at about \$500,000, the amount targeted when we began our fundraising appeal last year," the pastor continued. "We now have a building fund balance

of \$380,000. By reaching our \$500,000 goal we'll meet those costs without taking loans or dipping into capital reserves."

Members and friends who may have waited for the final go-ahead before joining to support the campaign may do so now, campaign leaders advise.

"Some who made gifts/pledges last year may consider renewing their support in 2021," they suggest.

Gifts can be made to the "Property Building" fund by mail, online, or drop-off through the mail slot at the pastor's office door facing Myrtlewood Drive. Pledge forms and information are available online or by calling the Church Office at (909) 795-9741.

Special thanks go to Pastor Isaac Kim; to Pam Emerson for chairing the equipment and decorating plans; to Darrell Peterson for administering the bidding process; and—especially!—to all our members and friends who have or will sacrifice to make this achievement possible.

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**We need you!** Write for *Calimesa Connections* or help us stay current in your area of ministry as a beat reporter. Don't want to write? No problem! Just provide the information.

## ALFRED'S RIDDLE



**Answer: A rainbow!**





# Youth Ministry Update

by Pastor Mark Recalde

## *Step Into Our World of Worship:*

*Listen to the Songs Through Which the Holy Spirit is Speaking Into Our Lives*

Throughout Christian history, the styles in how we worship through music changes with every generation. I am always amazed at how so many styles can be used by God to speak hope, joy, and love into our lives.

Our youth have taken some time to share our generation's music that inspires us today. I encourage you to listen to these songs and worship with us! (There's a link to our playlist on Spotify at the end of the article.)

### **Ben Allred**

*"Call My Name" by Third Day*

This is one of my favourite songs. Whenever we are at a low and hopeless point in our lives, we need only to call out to God and he will be there. He will slowly work His way into our lives and gradually smooth out our problems.

### **Sofia Gil**

*"Quiet (Stripped)" by Elevation Rhythm*

This song represents how we need to pause in life and be quiet in the presence of God. At times, life's busyness takes us away from that peaceful presence and we need to remember to make time for Him.

### **Reiley Logan**

*"Communion" by Maverick City*

This is one of my favourite songs because it's sweet, sad, and uplifting. It is moving and beautifully written. The bridge talks about how you BELONG in this world, and how it's only you and God. You don't have to prove anything to him, he already approves and loves you. These are words everyone needs to be reminded

of, and they certainly save me.

### **Emily Allred**

*"God Be" by Chris Renzema*

This song talks about wanting to be with God all the time, wanting Him to be in everything we do. It means a lot to me because it shows the importance of having a relationship with God.

### **Ashlyn Bennie**

*"Here's My Heart" by Casting Crowns*

I love this song because the words are simple and healing. It is a great reminder that we are truly loved and accepted by God, and that we can be at peace when we simply let go and give our worries to God. This song reinforces us to let go of our shame and our pride, and to remind ourselves that we are strong because we are God's children.

### **Madison Smith**

*"Glimmer in the Dust" by Hillsong United*

I love this song because it shows us that no matter where we are in our lives or in our walk with God he will always meet us there and be with us.

### **Jackson Benavides**

*"Reckless Love" by Cory Asbury*

I like this song because first of all it sounds great, but the message is better. God's love is reckless! It may seem like too much and we don't deserve it, but he will do it for us anyways because he does love us and will do anything for us.

### **Pastor Mark**

*"Champion" by Dante Bowe*

I often find my life in constant shadows. Giants of busyness, temptation, or depression often tower over me, making it easy to forget the ways God has brought me this far and how he continues to lead me. When I listen to this song, I am reminded that my life goal is only to praise God, and He will be the champion miracle worker in my life!

### **Ethan Haglund**

*"You Never Fail Me (All My Life)" by Mosaic MSC*

I love this song because it talks about how God has always been and will always be in our lives. It also mentions how beautiful and complex Gods love for us is.

### **Lizzy Frykman**

*"Grace Upon Grace" by Matthew West*

I resonate with this song because there are so many things we have that we don't deserve. We are sinful, broken people filled with shame and don't feel deserving of any love, yet God gives us "wave upon wave of grace upon grace." No matter what I have done, Jesus' endless and perfect love and grace will always be there for me, and that is truly the greatest gift I will ever receive.

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*Download the free Spotify app on your computer or phone so you can listen without having to search each song on YouTube. To open the playlist, "Calimesa SDA Youth Worship," on your computer, enter the following address:*

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5Tao2SCu4WEjcks5lOaAlZ?si=C8F-S0XpTEikWZdl1vMYyQ>