

# HAYWARD HERALD

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## KEEPING OUR YOUTH INVOLVED

Many churches are seeing their young people lose interest during high school or college and stop attending church. Recognizing this trend, our church is working hard to engage young people in the church and respond to their questions and needs, so they stay involved and feel connected as they move into their young adult years. Several church ministries are focused on these efforts, and it's inspiring to see so many church members committed to connecting with our youth and helping them grow.

**Pathfinders** is one such ministry at our church, which reaches out to young people from age 10 through their teen years. They learn the joy of serving through taking part in a wide range of outreach activities, such as visiting a local nursing home or handing out flyers, inviting neighbors to church events.

During March, Pathfinders members were responsible for planning and presenting an entire church service, known as Pathfinder Sabbath. Focused on the theme of prayer, they led the music, collected the offering, and read Bible verses. Highlights included a dramatic presentation by Nicole Nieto about the real meaning behind the Lord's Prayer. Then the whole group presented a dialogue about what prayer is really all about and why we benefit from spending time in prayer.

Taking on the responsibility for presenting a church service builds confidence in the young people and reminds them that they are an important part of the church community, while also reminding the whole church that young people are our future.



**Hayward Pathfinders**

Young people are also a big part of the **Friday evening services** at church. While people of all ages are invited to attend, the young people help to lead out in the evening service by presenting music and even delivering a "mini-sermon". The more casual format of these services, including music that connects with young people, provide a place where they can feel plugged into the church and know that the church cares about meeting their needs.

*Read more  
about programs  
for our youth  
on page 3.*

**In this issue of our church newsletter, we focus on the many reasons why we have been blessed with amazing church growth over the past year.**

**We also invite you to share in the conversation by visiting our new online church blog at:**

[HaywardAdventist.  
Wordpress.com](http://HaywardAdventist.Wordpress.com)

## IS THERE A SELF-PROPAGATING GOSPEL?

FROM THE PASTOR

BY PAUL PENNO, JR.

*“...they had their own built-in power-pack .. they sensed a motivation fueled by something special they saw in the sacrifice of Christ....”*

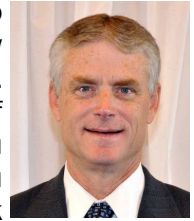
We work hard, energetically to proclaim the gospel. But is there a yet-untried method of soul-winning? Not merely by pushing electronic buttons, but a method that has such a built-in power pack that common people who believe the message can watch conversions take place?

You’ve heard the pleas: “Do more, work harder, win souls! Look how the Jehovah’s Witnesses and the Mormons go door to door; why don’t we do more?”

When one reads the letters of the apostles in the New Testament, there seems to be little pressure put upon the early Christians. Instead, it seems that they had their own built-in power pack. It motivated people even to the point of being thought extravagantly zealous: “If we are out of our mind . . . [or] in our right mind, . . . Christ’s love [agape] compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves” (2 Cor. 5:13-15, NIV).

In other words, the early Christians sensed a motivation fueled by something special they saw in the sacrifice of Christ. Once you grasped what had happened, you just couldn’t sit still.

The tongue-tied had to talk, and the timid grew bold (Isa. 32:4; Zech. 12:8). That meant—if He had not died, you would be dead. You could no longer think that you belonged to yourself, or that anything you possessed was yours. The cross did it.



This understanding of what the cross meant first burst on people’s minds at Pentecost. “You denied the Holy One and the just,” cried Peter.” “You . . . killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. . . . Repent therefore and be converted” (Acts 3:14, 15). And they did repent, and they were converted. “The truth in agape” compelled multitudes to respond—3,000 in one day.

This was “the former rain.” Today we await “the latter rain.” That self-propagating gospel at Pentecost accompanied Christ’s beginning work in heaven as High Priest. Now His closing work in the cosmic Day of Atonement will be accompanied by a fully developed “everlasting gospel” that will “lighten the earth with glory.” The same cross-exalting motivation will fuel that final burst of soul-winning.

If you have questions regarding church events or programs,  
please feel free to call the church office at 510-782-3422,

or send an email to

[Hayward\\_SDA\\_Church@att.net](mailto:Hayward_SDA_Church@att.net).

## NEW MINISTRY FOR YOUNG LADIES

One of the newest programs at our church is known as the “Young Ladies Ministry.” It’s designed to reach out to girls ages 8 to 18, provide them with caring young adult mentors, and offer opportunities for fellowship and nurturing of spiritual growth.

For example, when the group is gathered together, discussions focus on issues important to this age group, such as dating, social skills, self-esteem, and purity – reinforcing the need to seek God’s will in all their decisions. They learn how God can help them navigate through life and how to honor God with what they wear, what movies they watch, and how they spend their money.

Another goal is to help the young ladies build deeper relationships with friends from church and learn to share their thoughts and feelings in a spiritual dimension. The young ladies will also be encouraged to be a positive influence on their peers at school, rather than allowing peers to be a negative influence on them.

One of the exciting aspects of this new ministry is that it is being led by young adult women from our church, who can connect with pre-teens and teens. The leaders are Desryn DeVent, Gem-mabele Manuel, and Kennisha Jones.

According to Desryn, God will be at the center of all of the group’s activities, which include a sleep-over held during April and swim parties planned for the summer.



Ministry leaders  
Desryn,  
Gemmabelle,  
and Kennisha



*If you know of a young lady who wants to get involved in this new program, or if you would like to host an event, contact Desryn DeVent.*

## WOMEN’S MINISTRY BUILDS CONNECTIONS

Ladies who are “too mature” to join the new young ladies’ ministry are welcome to enjoy our church women’s ministry events. The first event of the year was a tea, which took place during February. It provided time for the ladies of our church to get to know each other better and make new friends.

In a larger church, these types of small groups are critical to helping people feel connected with their

church family. They also provide an excellent opportunity to invite friends who don’t attend our church and may be hesitant to attend a church service. Thus, the tea provided a time for conversation, wonderful food, special gifts for the ladies who attended, and of course, a wide variety of tea to sample and enjoy. The focus of the event was on prayer, including a chance to share prayer requests and stories of answered prayer, as well as time to pray for each other.

*Ladies:  
Watch for  
announcements about  
upcoming events.*

*Questions?  
Contact Kate Edwards or  
Maggie Abbott*

## CHURCH RETREAT AT THE LEONI MEADOWS CONFERENCE CENTER

Many individuals from our church took the opportunity to get away from their busy schedules, enjoy the beauty of snow-covered mountains, and get to know each other just a little better by spending a weekend at the Leoni Meadows conference center during the last weekend in January. It was a weekend of spiritual renewal, fun, and incredible food and fellowship – just the prescription to build closer relationships and nurture church growth.



**Three generations serving God.**  
Left to right: Manuel Castillo, Steve

*...the perfect place to gather for pause and reflection.....*

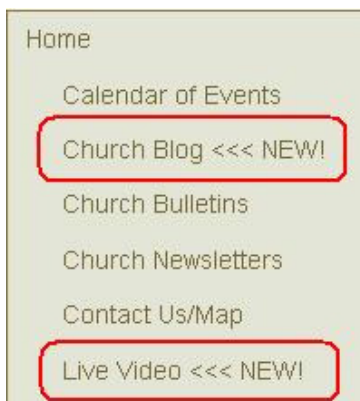
Leoni Meadows is about a four hour drive outside the Bay Area, tucked away in the Sierras just outside Placerville. When Hayward church members arrived, they found more than two feet of snow, proving ample opportunities to build snowmen, go sledding, and have snowball fights. In this beautiful setting, visitors enjoyed a time of rest and refreshment, and all-you-can-eat amazing vegetarian cuisine.

What was even more nourishing was the spiritual food offered by Joshua Mura, who shared inspirational messages throughout the weekend. Newly back in the United States after spending time ministering in the Philippines, Joshua's energy and insight were a real blessing. The fireside room was the perfect place to gather for pause and reflection.

The weekend also included time to visit the Nature Center, ride the "Polar Express" train around the camp, and tour the historic Leoni Meadows house. Highlights included chatting with old and new friends in the dining hall and crunching through the snow, tracking coyotes by their telltale paw prints.

The weekend was over far too soon. But if it sounds like fun, please consider joining the group next year. Watch for announcements in the fall, and save a weekend in January 2011 to join in the mount of blessings you'll find on the annual church retreat.

## CHURCH WEBSITE WITH NEW LINKS



With one click from our website home page  
You can go to

**<— Our new church blog**

(See page 6 about a discussion on church growth )

or to a

**<— Live streaming video of our worship services!**

(With selected recorded videos)

For more information or to get to these links, go to

**[Hayward.AdventistFaith.org](http://Hayward.AdventistFaith.org)**



# TAKING CHURCH GROWTH OVERSEAS

Church growth in Hayward has translated into church growth overseas. With the growth of our church's own Fil-Am Sabbath School class, they were inspired to reach out and help establish a new church in the Philippines.

A Sabbath School lesson back in 2008 first inspired the class to think about helping build a new church. They held a brainstorming meeting and set a goal for raising the funds needed to finance a church building project in the Sanghan Village, which is in the poorest and most remote area on the island of Mindanao. A group of Adventist individuals in this village were worshipping in the small home of a farmer, which can only hold 20 people. They cannot afford to travel (or walk long distances) to the nearest church outside their village. They had been praying for a church building for over two years.

A year ago, in May 2009, two members of our church, Ernesto and Lisa An, visited the village. They talked with the pastor, who is responsible for 15 churches in the region, as well as the members, discussing their needs and the cost of building a church.

When they returned home, the Fil-Am Sabbath School class started a fundraising campaign, which included hosting a Valentine's Day banquet at church, selling lumpia, and hosting a concert. Their efforts were so successful that they raised twice as much as their original fundraising goal.

The funds they raised helped to build the church, plus provide Bibles, song books, and pews. In addition, four members of the Fil-Am Sabbath School class traveled to the village in February 2010 to celebrate the completion of the church. They included Ernesto and Lisa An, Esther Chong, and Lerhroy Querol. During their week in the village, they were involved in presenting evangelistic meetings, which more than 100 people attended. They also helped meet medical needs, including dental work, vision care, and preventive care, such as blood pressure checks and blood sugar screenings.

The new Adventist church is the only church in the village, and it serves as a community center, providing a place for residents to gather. Funds raised also went towards purchasing medical supplies for the community, as well as a Bible worker who spent several months in the village, reaching out to residents prior to the evangelistic meetings.

*What's next for this ambitious group?*

*Raise money to build a church in Fiji two years from now!*



Before



After



Hayward Seventh-day Adventist Church

26400 Gading Road

Phone: 510-782-3422  
E-mail: Hayward\_SDA\_Church@att.net

We're on the web!  
[Hayward.AdventistFaith.org](http://Hayward.AdventistFaith.org)

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**Newsletter Team**

- Gwen Yee Condap  
[gcondap@gmail.com](mailto:gcondap@gmail.com)
- Paul Penno  
[penno@sbcglobal.net](mailto:penno@sbcglobal.net)
- Judith Valdez  
[Hayward\\_SDA\\_Church@att.net](mailto:Hayward_SDA_Church@att.net)
- Lisa Valdez, Lead  
[lvaldez316@comcast.net](mailto:lvaldez316@comcast.net)

Photos courtesy of Ernesto An , Kevin Thio, and Eugene Valdez

Printing courtesy of Norman and Gail Reitz

# WHY IS OUR CHURCH GROWING?

Several of our church leaders shared their thoughts recently regarding why our church is growing (see below). Clearly, it's not the work of just one or two people, but the result of God working through numerous church members. If you have thoughts and ideas about why our church is growing, please visit our new church blog and leave your comments:

[HaywardAdventist.Wordpress.com](http://HaywardAdventist.Wordpress.com).

Our church is growing because Pastor Penno preaches the gospel message each Sabbath and more members are choosing to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit by being actively involved in various ministries.

- Kevin & Alice Thio



There are several reasons for our church growth at this time, but what stands out is the dedication of Pastor Penno. In addition to teaching his Sabbath School class, the pastor is also leading out with the "Faith of Jesus" study right after the service. There is also a study during potluck, and also even Sunday afternoon. Also, we have many active members who are sharing the Gospel with the masses, have stepped up, and are exercising their individual gifts.

- James LeBlanc



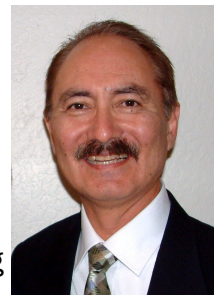
The Hayward church is growing because the Holy Spirit is present and is blessing the church and its members. The Spirit is unifying our members, who are bearing the fruit of the Spirit, which we studied in Sabbath School last quarter. Hayward has always been a loving church, filled with dear saints who reflect love, patience, meekness, goodness, kindness and joy.

- Doug Abbott



First, I believe that the Holy Spirit is being poured out to the Hayward church body. I can personally feel the love for Jesus in everyone, especially the young people of our church. Second, we have an abundance of ministries that are driving participation by all members and keeping them involved.

- Steve Grappone



*"Then the church ... was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers"*

Acts 9:31