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L.A. Metro Region Director

A Yet Unfolding Story

It is with great excitement and gratitude to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, that we present this ongoing report and story of the L.A. Metro Region to the 65th constituency session of the Southern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. It is with great appreciation to dedicated pastoral and lay leadership that the story continues to unfold of God's unfailing love and sovereignty in the ministry of all of the churches in the L.A. Metro Region and that we are living in the hope of Jesus' soon return!

During this past quadrennium, all of the churches in the L.A. Metro Region accepted Jesus' discipleship mantra to go into their surrounding communities with the good news of Jesus Christ. Most of them utilized the "Percept First View" community assessment report to understand their specific communities before venturing into a ministry plan. They followed Jesus' ministry model in the *Ministry of Healing*, p. 143: where Jesus met with the people in His community, mingled with them as one who considered their good, ministered to them and invited them to accept His Lordship into their lives — making new disciples. We refer to this method as the "4 Ms": Meet, Mingle, Minister and Mentor.



Angeline Matiko
Administrative Assistant



Below we have listed some of the creative ways in which our churches have reached out:

Community Involvement

The following churches have found their calling in the community. Glendale City church with its cross-denominational Communitas initiative, Eagle Rock church with its annual block parties, community educational seminars and homeless ministries, Gardena Genesis Community church with its permeation into domestic affairs and community activism, El Monte church with its community feeding program and Sunland-Tujunga church with its innovative community yard sales. In each of these cases, the local church has made a significant impact with both residents and civic leaders. Many of our pastors are recognized by city councils as active change agents in the communities they serve.

Lifestyle Issues Initiatives

South Bay church has continued to flood the local and surrounding community with vegan nutritional seminars. Thousands of people have attended the seminars during the last few years. Vallejo Drive and White Memorial churches continue to explore ways to maximize joint ministry opportunities with the medical institutions on their campuses.



Church Reimagined Initiatives

Many L.A. Metro Region churches have existed for decades, and several pastors have identified the “lifecycles” phenomena of their churches and have encouraged their church leadership to reimagine new ways we can “do” church. Journey church in Glendora is completely restructuring their outreach, North Hills church is redesigning its ministry models, All Nations church spent considerable time creating a five-year strategic plan to “Bridge the Gap” between itself and the local community, Living Hope church set its sights on campus ministries for USC, Alhambra church is redesigning its facility to better serve its community and young adults and the Russian-American church continues outreach to the vast Jewish population in the surrounding Los Angeles community.



Pastoral Networking Initiatives

Pastors continue to discuss how they might work together to reach their local communities. As a result, one initiative in 2017 called “Clinic in a Box” maximized the efforts of the Long Beach, Downey, Hawthorne, Bellflower, Norwalk, Rolling Hills, Gardena Genesis Community, Temple City and South Bay churches. Hundreds from the community attended the two-day health outreach serving dental, vision and social needs. City officials enthusiastically supported and attended the event.



Steady but True

Downey church continues to blossom under its small group model and underdeveloped models of lay leadership. Whittier church continues to foster its mentorship of young people with a focus on consistent training of young people for ministry. West Covina, Living Stones, Hacienda Heights and Temple City churches continue to develop along more traditional ministry models.

All of the above outreach endeavors are rooted in the ministry philosophy to make Seventh-day Adventism, under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit, more vibrant and relevant within the local community. We continue to solicit your prayers. Maranatha, may Jesus come soon!

Blessings in Christ,

Gerard Kiemeney

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