

# NORCO CHURCH TIDINGS

NEWSNOTES FROM THE NORCO  
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



Our Church Family Newsletter

July-Oct 2017

## Pathfinder Area Coordinator Racobs Awarded for 50 years of Service!



At the Pathfinder Leadership Retreat in September, our own Frances Racobs received recognition for 50 years of service to the youth of the South-eastern California Conference.

We congratulate Frances and want to thank her for her dedication, commitment, and the years of sacrifice. Frances is often away, serving as the Riverside County Area Coordinator for the Pathfinders in our region. What a legacy of service, and what a blessing she is to our young people!



*Farewell Pastor Pressley—after 9 months of interim service to our Norco Church, Pastor Pressley accepted a call to serve at the Loma Linda University Church. We were blessed by his leadership with our evangelistic series and through his music ministry and messages. We bade him farewell at our July Potluck, with prayers and gifts from the church family.*



# Member Spotlight—Nelson Morales

Interviewed by Judith Nelson

I was an altar boy helping the priest with mass and all that. When I was 10-12 years old, around 1935, in Lajas, Puerto Rico. There's nothing but rocks there, to quarry. They used to use ropes to pull the rocks. I helped the priest, and graduated eighth grade and took some courses that were established there. Then we moved to San Juan because a cousin of my father's was an attorney and he wanted my father to run his ranch, so we did.

From there on, when I was 18, and I got to San Juan the Capital, I joined the Army in April of '45 and had Basic Training in Puerto Rico. They sent 1,200 of us Puerto Ricans by boat – we stopped at Guantanamo and then New Orleans, and from there we got on a train to El Paso, TX, where we were stationed at Fort Bliss. There we stayed about a week and from there they shipped us clear to San Diego CA, where we stayed a week then went to Los Angeles. In LA we had a Camp, where we were stationed – sent to the Mojave Desert near Barstow to learn maneuvers and how to use tanks, guns and ammunition to help with the invasion of Japan. While we were in the training, I'd been in the army about a year, and it so happened that Germany surrendered. And when Germany surrendered and we were still in maneuvers they stopped the maneuvers and sent us to a camp in Los Angeles and told us to prepare to be 'shipped out.'

By then I had met a cute Mexican girl in San Diego. They'd since moved to LA and I called her and said, hey they're shipping us out—although I had just known her six months. She had two choices to wait to get married, or get married right then because I had to stay in the Army another year. We waited....

The military began to discharge more soldiers and sailors but I lacked about a 100 points. So I was one of the lucky ones sent all over the United States. We went from LA to El Paso TX, and then heard about the atomic bombs in Japan and there wasn't going to be an invasion there.

When that happened the Army started moving us all over the nation! I went to Chicago, to Wisconsin. There in Wisconsin I was a clerk-typist—and from there we went to Seattle WA. And from there we went to Tacoma where I stayed one whole year waiting to get enough points to get out of the Army. When I had 'my time,' they offered for me to stay in Seattle area, but I wanted to go back to Puerto Rico so we took a train to San Antonio, waiting a few weeks for transportation to Puerto Rico! Then they sent us to New Orleans—believe me I got to know the United States! Then we went to Panama

and then Trinidad. And then straight back to San Juan where I got my discharge: two years and five months in the Army—most of that time I was polishing my English during

all my travels. I learned a lot! Previously in Puerto Rico I had worked in a club where doctors and lawyers spent time, so I had learned some English.

Since then, my fiancé was still waiting for me. I flew to Miami and then to Los Angeles and then El Paso. The girl I was engaged to came from a family of business people; she was an American citizen. Her brother had a wheat mill business to make flour for wheat tortillas, and another brother who served in the South Pacific and was wounded, and then later killed in a car accident. We married and settled in Los Angeles. My daughter Virginia was born in LA—she's now Virginia Minder who lives locally—and my other daughter lives in Sausalito near San Francisco and she's in business. When my girls were ready for

academy, we sold our family property in San Gabriel because we heard about La Sierra Academy and thought that would be a good place to put our girls—they first went to the Academy in San Gabriel but then to LSA where Virginia and the younger daughter Carol graduated .

After the Army I was entitled to two and a half years of school, I nearly finished three years of college. I helped with my grandchildren in academy and college.

By the way, my wife was a cook at the famous Clifton's Cafeteria in Los Angeles—she was such a good cook!! She spoiled me! She was a lovely person, and although some times I blew it with family situations (I felt) my wife was a great person, a beautiful Christian godly woman! She brought our girls up with good training and education.

About my interest in Adventism: when I came out of the Army, I was with my wife and she was living next door to an Adventist family—they invited Elizabeth, my wife, to visit their church. I honestly was looking for another church. I had been an altar boy and I saw a lot of shenanigans the priests were up to, activities that were not good—I walked in on some and I was so embarrassed that I left and lost all interest in that church. My Army dog tag listed me as 'Roman Catholic,' but I didn't believe in that church anymore! But here were these neighbors of my wife who invited us and that church we visited was so friendly, so welcoming, we were tickled pink and we decided that would be our church! I was baptized into that little church that liked us so well.





## Nelson Morales

I've had a long association with Norco Church. When my wife and I moved from San Gabriel we visited other churches in the La Sierra/Riverside area—we weren't happy with what we found and kept looking until ONE DAY, I was talking to Pastor E. Toral Seat in Norco. We came to visit, it was a lovely little church! That room (now the Kinder room) was our original church, nothing else was built around. We had a lovely, talented, smart pastor, who knew a lot of people in Hollywood and he went over there and they gave him enough money, found 5 acres of land he bought, built the little chapel. After that we kept building, finished the 'L' shaped area, and then from there we finished the bigger church building.

Pastor Seat went to Los Angeles to see his friends over there and came with enough money to build more. When we got through we owed NOTHING, we were free and clear—until the City decided we needed a better parking lot. And when we started digging it we found huge rocks and by the time we finished the parking lot we were in a big debt. We didn't have that Pastor Seat any more to go to his friends in Los Angeles to give us money! I mean, we had a parking lot but it wasn't paved—we had to blow up new land, dig it up—expensive! And our church got stuck with that bill! The conference lent us the money – not a gift.

I've been in THIS church about 55 years. I came when that one building, the beginning building was there. This church is on 'the street of the churches'-- on this side of Sixth St there are three, and on the other side are five more!

Now you have to understand, this church here was PACKED!! But our attendance went down—there was a recession—but you couldn't believe how many young people and families were here! When they couldn't find jobs they moved away and left us here with the older people. I remember many times I was the only one here, we didn't have a pastor—and for Sabbath School—I was the new Adventist teaching the SS lesson so I really studied and learned the Bible.

My wife and I bought two lots in La Sierra—we only paid \$5,400 for two lots in 1962—quarter acre lots. Later on because I was in Real Estate, I was selling houses and learned a lot about prices. Those lots were selling for \$125,000 in a few years! We got some plans and put a house there, 1,800 square feet (I just sold it) and planted trees around it. And I hoped we'd get \$300,000 for that property but we didn't. We put the house in my daughters' names and then, they sold it.

But before then, we sold oranges and avocados from my La Sierra property, and we sold fruit the year around! Just that first year, when we moved 1962, we sold a lot of fruit. Before then I was working for United Parcel. But then I worked

for La Sierra University 27 years. If you've heard of Ace Drill Bushing, near the Southeastern California Conference office building there was Ace Drill Bushing. I applied to that company and worked for two years, and after two years, I felt they were cheating me of my wages so I found out that La Sierra University, in 1987, they were looking for more workers in Physical Plant.

They were gracious to send me to York, Pennsylvania to take a course in Air-Conditioning! The blessings of the Lord—I went there, trained and came back and worked 27 years at LSU; I retired from there about two years ago. At the University campus I specifically worked on air conditioning and I learned a LOT there. There were mechanics and plumbers working for Physical Plant. I worked on so many of the campus buildings. I think the biggest tonnage was at Sierra Towers, two huge compressors for that whole building. Then I worked at the Home Ec Building and I took care of that building, and the big compressors for the cafeteria—huge one. After they sent me to York PA that was my first job—work on the AC for the cafeteria! I figured out what to do, it had to do with water. And at the beginning I helped with the AC for this church, but I don't trust myself climbing around doing that anymore!

Now I live with my daughter Virginia Minder. My wife passed away at 92 years old, she died three years ago. We were quite a happy family.

Meanwhile, in this Norco Church we have stayed close to each other, as family. I gave Josias Bible Study Lessons and brought that family in. Oh, the church grew so fast back then—we had so many youth socials!

I was Head Deacon for some time here, but I declined being an Elder, I wasn't sure I could do justice to that. But I've been retired for many years and have more than enough in retirement. I've enjoyed my experience as an Adventist; I accepted the teachings and beliefs completely. Before, as a Catholic—I was told to pray to saints. I didn't know about the Sabbath or the Bible. And I have a favorite Bible verse: Psalms 46:10. 'Be Still and Know that I am God.' I use that text and it tells me no matter what the problem, the Lord will take care of it—I don't have to worry, it's in His Hands.

My favorite hymn is probably 'Mas Alla Del Sol,' once I started learning SDA hymns. But just before I go to bed at night, I listen to three hymns very quietly—and I sing these hymns to myself—three hymns, and then I fall asleep: 'My Jesus, I Love Thee' – I memorized that one! 'All the Way My Savior Leads Me,' and 'Wonderful Words of Life.' And I fall asleep singing these hymns I know by heart, and they keep me going. The Lord has been more than gracious to us, my wife and my family! We didn't know how things would end up, and here I am 92 years old!

# Pathfinders and Adventurers—Growing in Numbers!



*Under the leadership of Susan and Jaime Sanchez-Pathfinders, and Juliana Jaklich, with Cindy Rivas and Sisilia Manu-Adventurers, both clubs have grown in number this year with two new Pathfinders and six new Adventurers.. We are blessed with the life, fun and activities they share with us— Camporees, field trips, pancake breakfasts, and lots of smiles!*





# Adventurer Field Trips and Pathfinder Camporee



Top left– Adventurers visit local fire station

Top right—Adventurer Day at the Beach!

Left—Sister Morena firing up the stove for lunch

Bottom left—Norco Pathfinder campsite at the Pacific Union Camporee at Lake Skinner in October

Bottom right—breaking camp and packing up to go home after a spiritually fulfilling and fun weekend







## Healthy Holiday Foods and Decorating Workshops

Invite your friends and neighbors!

1-3 p.m.

Sunday, November 5—Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 26—Christmas

Recipe samples/demonstrations

Food, fun, and fellowship!

## Contact Us

Have a story or announcement for the newsletter?  
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## Where Your Treasure Is...

Our recent sermon series on the Treasure Principle kicked off with a children's story that involved the kids digging for "buried" treasure! Here's what we learned:

### **The Treasure Principle**

#### **God owns everything; I'm His money manager**

We are the managers of the assets God has entrusted—not given—to us

#### **My heart always goes where I put God's money**

Watch what happens when you reallocate your money from temporal things to eternal things

#### **Heaven—the New Earth, not the present one—is my home**

We are citizens of "a better country—a heavenly one"

#### **Giving is the only antidote to Materialism**

Giving is a joyful surrender to a greater person and a greater agenda. It dethrones me and exalts Him

#### **God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving**

God gives us more money than we need so we can give—generously



During the course of this series we have seen our tithes and offerings increase, and we are blessed by the generosity and commitment of our Norco Church Family.