

# News Notes

January 2020



## Praying for Our Church and School

Please join your PAC family in praying for our church and school at 6:00 pm each day. Pray for our pastors, teachers, students, boards, ministries, etc.

## Maranatha Sheds Project Update

More than 190 sheds have been delivered, thanks to many dedicated individuals who have helped with this important aspect of the project. We received more than 800 applications for sheds. With so many in need, it is important that we create a Phase II for this endeavor. Maranatha is scheduled to return to Paradise for this second phase and will be building sheds from April 12 – May 1. Plan now to help if you can. Skills are not necessary, but a large team is critical for timely completion. For more information and to volunteer, go to [maranatha.org](http://maranatha.org).

A variety of news outlets have covered or will be covering our Shed Project story. They include Redding Searchlight, Chico Enterprise-Record, KNVN Chico, KRCA Sacramento, KHSL Redding, Spectrum Magazine, Adventist Journey-Feb issue, Pacific Union Recorder-Jan & Feb, Maranatha Minute, NCC Northern Lights, 3ABN (2 hour special), and USA Today.



## Summary of Actions From the December 9 Joint Constituency Meeting for Chico and Paradise Churches/Schools

In our shared meeting, two important actions were taken: (1) To reaffirm the action taken in the Chico and Paradise Church Business Meetings to be co-constituents for Paradise Adventist Academy grades 9-12. (2) For PAA grades 9-12 to spend the 2020-2021 school year on the Chico campus.

To get a copy of the full minutes, please call the church office

## Summary of Actions from the December 17 PAC Business Meeting

(1) To re-establish a K-8 school on the PAA campus for the 2020/2021 school year. (2) To respectfully decline the Chico Church invitation to become a co-constituent church for the Chico Oaks Adventist School. We are open and desirous of further discussion of ways that both churches can work together to support elementary education in both Chico and Paradise. (3) To purchase two acres of land adjoining the north border of the PAA campus for \$107,000. This purchase will be paid through a grant from the Tonn Foundation, a private donation, and money from PAA fire insurance. This purchase brings with it the opportunity to create safer traffic patterns on our campus and the space to develop a pre-school in the future. (4) To create a new PAC staff position: Disaster Relief and Development Director. Areas of responsibility will include communication, development, grant writing, managing donor lists, communication with donors. The church has been given \$25,000 in pledges to cover initial costs. Fifteen percent of raised funds will be used to cover administrative cost thereafter.

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## Paradise Town Update Shared at Joint Constituency Meeting

Invited guests Paradise Mayor Jody Jones and Town Manager Lauren Gill shared some important updates about the current status in Paradise.

Air Quality: During debris removal, monitors were all over Paradise. There was no exceedance of the safety levels

during this time - other than the Fire Department's barbeque!

Water Quality: PID has a great plan for getting clean water. They are concentrating first on standing buildings and rebuilding sites. Service lines are the main problem. 900 sites have been cleared. If a line does not pass, it is being replaced. It is anticipated that every standing building will have clean water by March 2020.

Fire Department: They are now back to pre-Camp Fire staffing.

Police: Paradise PD has recently hired two new officers and are hoping to bring in a couple more officers by March. With fewer residents in the town, the officers now have the opportunity to know everyone in town through a strategy called Community Policing.

Paradise Schools: All of the public schools in town are back as well as a few other small church schools.

Rebuilding: Rebuilding Paradise is occurring much faster than first anticipated. They have nearly 600 applications for building permits. To date, 382 permits have been issued. Nineteen (19) families have completed their rebuilds, obtained occupancy permits, and have been able to move back in!

It's amazing what has been accomplished in just one year's time! Paradise Town leaders are hoping that PAA will be able to move back to the community. They are anxious to have the kids back in town.

Lauren Gill shared specific thanks to both the Paradise Adventist Church and the Academy for all that they have done for the Town over the past several years.

The town is asking all property owners in town to sign the Standing Burned Trees Document to make sure the town is safe.

In addition, town officials would like to know how best to communicate with our members on things happening in Paradise. They would love to have a representative from the Paradise Adventist Church serve on the Town Council (there will be three positions available at the next election cycle).

## **PAA Progress Report**

By Rich Cochrane

A number of projects are happening simultaneously to restore our academy campus.

The Gym is getting a new metal roof, the entire gym ceiling is being repainted, new HVAC units are being installed, the doors and the gym floor are being upgraded, and the entrances are being given new carpet tiles to support keeping the building clean.

The middle school building is getting a new 20-year roof, and new HVAC units with improved heat distribution. All asbestos has been removed and a new drop ceiling is being installed in each classroom with improved LED lighting. All the windows and doors are being upgraded and new cabinetry with a natural wood finish and new countertops will combine with new carpets and paint to complete these elementary school classrooms.

The Music Room has a new ceiling with LED lighting, new carpet and paint along with custom shelving. In addition, monetary resources are being utilized here to replace all band and choir music.

The Shop area is receiving new AC units, new doors and paint, and will also be provided with monetary resources to purchase new tools and equipment.

The kitchen has a new ceiling, new commercial kitchen hood, a three-compartment commercial sink and more.

The cafeteria will have new ceilings, new carpet, and new paint.

The lower level rooms in the gym will get new window AC units and a new ceiling along with carpet and paint.

In general, all new electrical service is being provided, internet access in all classrooms will be added, as well as exterior painting and a thorough cleaning of all rooms not already mentioned.

### **Free Books**

We have a number of free books at the church office, including books on prayer, children's Bible story books, Ellen White books, etc. Please stop by and help yourself.

## Spring 2021 Israel and Jordon Tour

Join PAC and Chico Church friends in a tour of Israel and Jordon March 16-29, 2021. Walk in the steps of Jesus, turn your Bible story pictures from black and white to color, share fellowship with fellow believers. Brochures are attached with the news notes email. More information is available at <https://www.madisontravel.com/martella/> or through Pastor Dan.

## January Calendar

- 1 | Church Office Closed
- 4 | Speaker: Pastor Steve
- 11 | Speaker: Bill Keresoma
- 18 | Speaker: Dan Appel
- 18 | Fellowship Dinner
- 20 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Office Closed)
- 23 | Finance Committee | Elders | Church Board Meeting
- 25 | Speaker: Pastor Steve
- 30 | Church Business Meeting

## Instant Pot Class

Jenni Harris, the owner of Curves in Paradise, attended one of our first Instant Pot classes after the Camp Fire destroyed her home. She is so grateful for the Instant Pot and has recognized how valuable this is to fire survivors who are living in small spaces. Jenni hosted an Instant Pot class in her newly reopened business on Dec 8, after requesting funding from the Rotary Club of Paradise. The class was taught by Nancy and Nick Matthews.

What's so amazing is what Jenni is doing is paying it forward. This is a direct ripple effect of God's work that started with a gift provided by a giving church!

## New Sabbath Service Times Begin January 4

Sabbath School will be from 10:00 – 11:00 am, and the Worship Service (church) will be from 11:15 am – 12:30 pm. We appreciate your support and understanding with this change in our schedules.

## Lights

A number have expressed concerns about the lights being dimmed soon after the worship services, as if indicating that it's time to leave. We want to clarify why this is happening. The lights in the sanctuary are not dimmed because we are trying to get you to leave; the lights are dimmed because it's the first step in the technical process of shutting down. Please do not feel rushed when this happens! We want to encourage this time of fellowship in our church community, not stifle it.

## In the Pacific Union Recorder

The December 2019 issue of the Recorder has two articles of interest to the PAC family. One article features a tribute to Elder Gordon Bullock. The other is a recap of the November 8 Remembrance Day at AHFR. Check out this issue at [pacificunionrecorder/docs/1219recorder](http://pacificunionrecorder/docs/1219recorder).

## Sharing Our Story

Pastor Dan and Linda Martella will be at our North American Division headquarters January 19-24 to film a vignette on the Camp Fire story and personal resilience that will be shown at the NAD Ministerial Pastors' Family Convention in Lexington, Kentucky next June.

## Inter-Church Recovery Committee Report

*By Randy Waring*

In January the announcement that more than a million dollars had been donated to benefit our community came as very painful news since significant financial relief had not been distributed to those of you in greatest need.

Thirteen and a half months have passed since the Camp Fire trauma and tragedy. Here is an updated financial aid report so that you will know what has been happening in our community.

I am very grateful for the generosity of our world-wide church. Members far and near have provided the bulk of the funds disbursed to relieve some of the financial and emotional pain inflicted by the largest natural disaster of 2018 when measured in financial damages.

Most of the donations have come from outside this county. The human power necessary to develop processes, envision how best to meet needs, vet applications, recommend financial awards, account for the dollars, and provide the personal touch— has been provided almost exclusively by local volunteers from each of the area SDA churches and PAC office staff. Engaged oversight has been provided by Pastor James Lim, the newly minted Adventist Community Services director of the Northern California Conference of SDA.

I am grateful for the many hours that have been volunteered by the members of the 6 area churches who have worked together on the Inter-Church Recovery Committee. They have processed more than 100 applications to date. The IRC has been the NCC designated channel through which funds and funding recommendations have flowed.

I want to thank our Paradise Adventist Church office staff for their significant contribution to this effort. All funds not disbursed directly by the Conference have flowed

through our PAC bank account and been disbursed and accounted for by Julie Kitto, and Kathy McFarland.

Immediately after the Camp Fire, gift card donations flowed into our community. These were distributed by PAC, Upper Ridge, and Oroville churches, primarily. These gifts totaled over \$30,000.

Financial assistance has flowed to our community through direct distributions from the Northern California Conference to Pastors and Teachers, PAC, and PAA. In additions, funds have flowed from the NCC through PAC in 2 phases.

NCC Directed payments: \$415,382

Phase 1: Emergency Recovery Relief | \$186,839

Phase 2: Long Term Stability assistance | \$805,941

Phase 1 funding to date: \$186,839.06

- RV Park Infrastructure
- Grants to displaced families (up to \$750 per family)
- Buying food for fellowship meals for 6 months

More than \$43,000 of expenses related to installing infrastructure - water, sewer, gravel, Porta-Potty rental, generators - for temporary RV parks at Cochranes' and Nelsons' - were covered by Disaster Relief funds as part of Phase 1.

Phase 1 benefited those displaced from their homes by the Camp Fire for more than 10 days. It provided \$150 per person, up to \$750 per household. This benefited members of area SDA churches as well as members of the larger community. With the loss of all records and check books at the Paradise Adventist Church it was necessary to replace computer hardware and software as well as check books. It took 6 weeks after the fire to receive the first \$100,000 from the NCC and to be able to start writing checks for phase 1.

Disaster Relief funds purchased groceries for weekly Fellowship meals held at the Chico Oaks gymnasium for the first 6 months after the fire. Church members from Carmichael SDA church and Auburn SDA church also generously provided several complete Sabbath meals for 350 people.

## **Phase 2: Stabilizing households for Long Term Recovery**

### **Breakdown of Phase 2 beneficiaries:**

- Individual family grants (up to \$5,000 each). |\$650,000
- Walla Walla Mission Trip expenses | \$10,000

- 10 Instant Pot classes (co-funded with \$12,000 from Adventist Health) | \$45,972
- PAC produced/distributed Kitchen Kits | \$5,000
- PAC marriage seminar | \$2,500
- Community Outreach Trailer/tools grant | \$10,000
- Sheds Project | \$50,000
- (The bulk of funding for the Shed Project totaling over \$300,000 came from community organizations)

### **Grants to other organizations:**

- Sol Sanctuary (Counseling Grant) | \$1,500
- Magalia Community Church community meals | \$5,000

During Phase Two we have sponsored the following activities to benefit survivors of the Camp Fire.

1. We have processed applications for additional financial assistance for those in the church and the larger community who had no insurance, or were significantly underinsured. The applicants have been directed to tap the resources of case managers so that we are not their only recourse for financial support. The purpose of case managers has been to help traumatized people develop a plan for recovery. Our funding has been directed toward assisting in long term stability, rather than just funding to delay or extend the current crisis situation.
2. Walla Walla University Mission Trip for Camp Fire Relief. Community outreach and improving WiFi service on the Chico Church campus to benefit the church and PAA staff.
3. Instant Pot classes to benefit about 450 families. Adventist Health provided \$12,000 of the total costs of \$45,972.20 associated with planning, staging, and providing Instant Pots to about 450 families. Classes for Camp Fire survivors were held in Paradise, Chico, Oroville, Gridley, Yuba City, and Red Bluff. These classes demonstrated healthy, tasty recipes that can be completed using an Instant Pot as many Camp Fire survivors have limited space and limited cooking options. We are very grateful to Jean Aldridge for pioneering the organization of this ministry for Laura Sutherland and Linda Martella for carrying on in her footsteps. We are grateful to the Nick and Nancy Matthews for providing the recipes and cooking demonstrations at each site. They have been aided by a number of volunteers.

4. We were one of the sponsors who helped to underwrite \$26,439.58 of the costs of California Care Force ([www.californiacareforce.org](http://www.californiacareforce.org)) who provided free medical,



eye, and dental services to our community at the Silver Dollar Fair Grounds on August 3 and 4, 2019.

5. We have dispensed \$5,000 to underwrite the costs of building about 150 Kitchen Kits that Pastor Garrison has put together with your volunteer help. These kits have been distributed to families affected by the Camp Fire disaster. This local activity was required when it was clear that the kits purchased by Pacific Union ACS were specifically available to benefit only those Camp Fire survivors living in FEMA trailers, but not to those living in our immediate community

**Total disbursements Phase 1 & 2 through IRC and via PAC staff: \$992,780.39**  
(as of December 27, 2019)

People helped through phase 1 and 2— more than 5300

**Camp Fire Funds disbursed through the NCC directly:**

1. Paradise SDA Church Fund | \$79,000
2. PAA Fund | \$63,400

3. Pastor/Teacher Fund | \$126,000
4. PAA Tuition Assistance | \$27,500
5. Paradise Pathfinders | \$6,482
6. Paradise Church/School Van pool | \$80,000
7. Other NCC Camp Fire disbursements | \$33,000

*Total NCC disbursements: \$415,382*

Grand Total distributed to Butte County: \$1,408,162.39.  
Does not include the more than \$30,000 worth of gift cards received as donations from churches and schools far and near that were distributed through the area SDA churches in the first 3 months after the fire.

We are here to support each other in recovery. Our world wide church community financial assistance has faded over the past 5 months. I hope that the recently hired NCC Communications Director may be able to present our ongoing need in a manner that inspires renewed support for the ongoing recovery of our community. We will also be contracting for expertise in telling our story to fill the significant void in church publications.