



James G. Lee, Jr.
Vice President

About the Vice President

As vice president, my responsibilities include overseeing a variety of ministries, including community services, disaster response efforts, religious liberty issues, both local and global evangelism and more.

These ministries encapsulate Christ's method, and they enable us to meet the needs of the people within our local communities in our vast territory of Los Angeles and Ventura counties and parts of Kern and Santa Barbara counties. Our goal is to equip our churches here to serve and build strong community relationships.

I want to thank Barbara Hart for helping me to manage our six departments. Her duties include scheduling quarterly meetings, workshops and training programs. She prepares reports, records meeting minutes, designs flyers and PowerPoint presentations for various programs. She also makes travel arrangements and helps to maintain our yearly calendar. These are just a few of the many duties she tackles as we strive to keep our departments up and running and keep our churches informed of the various programs we offer. Thank you for your hard work, commitment and dedication to excellence!



Barbara Hart
*Executive Assistant
to the Vice President*

My prayer is that these ministries will be a blessing to you as we minister together for the Lord. In the following pages, you will find information about the ministries we have conducted and their results during the past four years.

Adventist Community Services (ACS)

ACS is really the foundation of public evangelism. “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me’” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143.3).

2015-2018



This assistance program to members of the community consists of: food pantries, clothing, tutorial classes, day camps, summer camps for children/youth, senior citizens, anti-drug rehabilitation clinics, parent-child seminars, nutrition clinics, exercise classes, teen pregnancy/sex education classes, lectures and seminars, family counseling, emergency assistance, shelter/motel assistance, transportation, etc.



The above-mentioned ministries are on an ongoing, year-round basis. They are offered throughout Los Angeles & Ventura Counties, as well as Santa Barbara & Kern Counties. All are offered free of charge to the public. Locations of programs vary. Times and dates of services are advertised through local newspapers, church letters & flyers and television & radio spots.

Evangelism really begins with meeting the needs of the people. We are grateful for what our churches have done with ACS in the past four years.

Disaster Response

The Southern California Conference continues to be prepared in the event of a federal disaster in our area. Our churches will partner with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and respond for warehouse management, providing a place to receive and prepare goods and then send them to a place outside the affected area so people there can receive them.



Our continued goal is to maintain a trained team of 2,000 workers from within our conference. To date, we have approximately 700 trained volunteers. SCC schedules at least two disaster response training events each year to equip and empower volunteers while growing our team.

Disaster response will continue to stock our 14-foot van with disaster relief buckets filled with cleaning and other supplies ready to take to disaster victims.





shareHim

“Share Him” Ministry

The ultimate goal of “Share Him” ministry in the Southern California Conference is to empower and mobilize young lay men and women between the ages of 18 to 35 to embody a lifestyle of evangelism.

In 2018, with this goal in mind, the Southern California Conference, along with the Pacific Union Conference, sponsored eight young adults for a mission trip to San Miguel, El Salvador, where each of these young adults conducted an 11-night series of evangelistic meetings in local churches.

Of the eight participants, only four had experience in preaching. This would be a new experience for the remaining four individuals. The Lord blessed!

At the conclusion of the 11-night series, each of the eight churches had baptisms. There were altogether 53 baptisms and a total of 174 Bible studies generated during these series, which were followed up by the local churches. Praise God!

This summer, 10 of our young adults from the five regions conducted an 11-night series of meetings in Kenya. Some of these evangelists are new believers, eager to share their newfound hope. These meetings were hosted in the Central Kenya Conference July 9-23, 2019. This effort was led by Elder Royal Harrison and his wife, Dominique.

We hope to send a team of young adults from this conference somewhere overseas each summer to preach the message of the Three Angels.





Religious Liberty

Thomas Jefferson said, “Almighty God hath created the mind free, and manifested His supreme will that free it shall remain by making it altogether insusceptible of restraint; that all attempts to influence it by temporal punishments, or burdens, or by civil incapacitations, tend only to beget habits of hypocrisy and meanness, and are a departure from the plan of the holy author of our religion.”

Religious liberty is based on the principles that respect the dignity of each person, created in the image of God, whose rights to think and believe, and to act consistent with those beliefs (to a careful, defined point), are entitled to state protection.

Our country’s founders believed in the Protestant tradition, which affirms that “in matters of conscience, the majority has no power.”

This religious freedom allows us the opportunity to practice our faith as our conscience dictates. It allows us, as Seventh-day Adventists, to worship on the seventh-day Sabbath. This means the government cannot legislate to hinder our religious practice or favor one religious tradition over another. Therefore, the government cannot discriminate against us based on our religious conviction.

In the U.S., religious freedom gives us the right to reasonable workplace accommodation due to our sincerely held religious beliefs.

Some of the ways in which the Public Affairs & Religious Liberty (PARL) department endeavors to educate our local churches is by encouraging local church members to:

- Hold monthly meetings that inform members on action items in the state legislation that might threaten or affirm religious liberty.
- Visit their local civic and community leaders and share with them the Adventist church's long history and tradition of fighting for freedom of conscience and religious freedom.
- Provide copies of *Liberty* magazine to civic and community leaders.
- Host religious liberty workshops regularly that are interactive and that appeal to a large and diverse cross-sector of the community.
- Visit the following websites:
 - www.libertymagazine.org
 - www.religiousliberty.info
 - www.irla.org
 - www.religiousliberty.tv
 - www.churchstate.org
 - www.narla.org

Next year, the Southern California Conference PARL department will be hosting the Conscience and Justice Council 2020 Annual Convention, “Faith, Justice and Community,” on September 24-27, 2020, in the Los Angeles area. Stay tuned for more details, and in the meantime, visit www.cjcouncil.org to learn more about this organization.

Blessings in Christ,

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