

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Helen and Sam Adarme

Today we share a beautiful story of how God's perfect timing brought two broken lives together from opposite paths.

Helen, the youngest of five siblings born in the Philippines, grew up with a former Adventist father and a United Church of Christ mother. As a little girl attending Sunday school, a lesson on the Fourth Commandment prompted her to ask her dad why they worshiped on Sunday if the Bible designated Saturday. Her father candidly replied, "I used to go to church on Saturdays, too." Later, her family moved to another province where the overwhelming kindness and helpfulness of the local Adventist community left a profound mark on her. At 16, Helen was baptized after attending evangelistic meetings in Manila, navigating the unique challenges of practicing her new faith and diet within a non-Adventist household.

Driven and brilliant, Helen graduated with a degree in Medical Lab Technology from Far Eastern University in 1981. After a six-month traineeship at the Philippines Veterans Hospital, she was hired for a unique task: to help set up a laboratory for the newly established National Kidney Foundation of the Philippines. What Helen helped found has since blossomed into the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, a premier specialty referral hospital and recognized Center of Excellence. Following four years of working in the Middle East, Helen immigrated to the United States in 1989. Life was rich with various medical positions and the joy of raising her daughter. But in 2009, things tragically unraveled. Her family fell apart when her husband left, and a severe workplace injury forced her to stop working entirely.

Sam was also raised in the Philippines, one of four siblings in a devout Catholic home. He graduated with a civil engineering degree in 1970, but his heart had already been captured a year earlier by an Adventist medical student. When she emigrated to the U.S., Sam followed, serving two years as an engineer in the U.S. Army. His girlfriend insisted on a shared faith before marriage, so Sam requested baptism. Though a rushed Bible study course left him with few answers at the time, they married in 1972. By 1980, Sam began a deep personal study of Scripture and Adventist doctrine, searching for a higher purpose. They adopted a beloved son from the Philippines in 1982. Tragically, Sam's life also shattered in 2011 when his wife passed away from cancer.

Both individuals were "on the rocks," yet God was weaving a connection. A mutual acquaintance who had been trying to court Helen unsuccessfully had once brought Helen's workplace injury files to Sam's late wife for a medical second opinion. Checking in later, Sam asked how Helen was doing. The friend replied, "She doesn't like me. Why don't you call her? She's very lonely," and handed Sam her number.

A deep telephone friendship blossomed over the next few months. When FaceTime was newly introduced, Sam told her during a call to "press the camera button," and they saw each other for the first time, instantly cementing their bond. On their first date, Helen shared her strict six-point criteria for a husband: he must love God, accept her as she is, be financially stable, be under 65, be someone she loved, and be tall.

Sam fit every single one. They were married on January 6, 2013—just weeks before Sam's 65th birthday, making the cutoff just in time! Today, they happily call Grace on the Hill their church home. Reflecting on their journey and the church family that supported Helen through recent health challenges, they share, "This is a wholesome, loving church that truly cares for each other. It's real."



WORSHIP

Prelude	<i>Blessed Assurance</i> arr. Joel Raney		Piano
Introit	<i>Holy Ground</i>		Grace Hill Praise
Invocation			Pastor Ben Garcia
Opening Hymn	<i>Praise To The Lord #1</i>		Chorister, Organ & Congregation
Responsive Reading	Psalm 95:1-7 NIV		Amor Mathieu
Children's Feature			Ash Reynolds
Ministry Spotlight	Summer Camp Update	Pastor Cindy Ramirez-Hui	
Baby Dedication	Kasper Dawn Gupilan Gordon		Pastor Jonathan Henderson
Birthday Blessing	Angela Britton		Pastors and Elders
Welcome Greeting Time			Britton Cordero Family Grace Hill Praise
Praise and Worship	<i>Indescribable Promises</i>		Grace Hill Praise
Garden of Prayer			Irvin Henry, Jr.
Prayer Response	<i>Holy Ground</i> (please remain kneeling)		Grace Hill Praise & Congregation
Musical Blessing	<i>I Then Shall Live by Gloria Gaither</i>	Joseph-Alexander B. Hearn James-Andrew B. Hearn	
Sermon	The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...		Pastor Jonathan Henderson
Worship in Giving/ Benediction			Pastor Jonathan Henderson
Congregational Response	<i>The Anthem</i>		Grace Hill Praise
Postlude	<i>Festival Toccata</i> by Percy E. Fletcher (please remain seated)		Organ

Organist & Pianist: Haesung Park, DMA
Worship Team Director: Matt Daley, DMA

PREACHING SCHEDULE

July 25: Pastor Jonathan Henderson
August 1: Pastor Jonathan Henderson
August 8: Pastor Jonathan Henderson

CHURCH LIFE

WELCOME & HAPPY SABBATH!

Thank you for choosing Grace on the Hill at the Vallejo Drive Church as your place of worship. We pray that you will be blessed today.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

Please join us immediately following the church service as we celebrate Mama Angela Britton's 99th birthday in the courtyard with some refreshments. Happy Birthday, Mamita!

ORDINATION OF KELLY KESSINGER

Chaplain Kelly Kessinger will be ordained into the gospel ministry today at 4 pm. She serves as the Interim Director of Mission and Spiritual Care at Adventist Health Simi Valley and is one of our dear church leaders. Please join us in the Sanctuary for this momentous occasion.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Today's flowers are in celebration of Chaplain Kelly's ordination, as well as Mamita Britton's birthday celebration. If you would like to donate flowers, please contact Anne Leah at the church office.

CONDOLENCES

It is with our deepest sorrow that we announce the passing of our dear church member Eric Cumbia, the husband of Sara Alvarez Cumbia. He passed away the morning of July 3, 2026. He was a hardworking deacon and a true servant of the Lord. Services will be announced at a later time. We offer our sincerest condolences to Sara and all of Eric's loved ones.

PASSIONATE ABOUT ADVENTIST EDUCATION?

Donate to our Worthy Student Fund! Mark your tithe envelopes or donate online. Thank you to our donors who have contributed to our Worthy Student Fund.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for: Cumbia family, James Takamune, Terry Collins, Petra Rodriguez, Alice Nassimian, Christina Bustos, Sofia Almago, Shirley Collins, Kimberly Lee, Trish Low & family, Wesley family, Jacqueline Baptiste, Makenna, and Trudy Adams.

9:30 am SABBATH SCHOOL & 10:15 am MISSION FEATURE in CHAPEL

Lesson Study: Dr. Erin Stone, MD | Special Feature: Anish Joseph--Being "Adventist" before becoming "Adventist"

VOLUNTEER INTEREST FORM: Nominating Committee Season is now upon us, and we would like to know how you are willing to serve. Please scan the QR code, prayerfully fill out the form, and indicate how you would like to support our church and community.



CHURCH EVENTS

Sab, July 25	Communion and Footwashing Young Adult Bible Study	11 am, Sanctuary 1 pm, Young Adult Cafe
Sab, Aug 1	Baptism	11 am, Sanctuary
Sab, Aug 29	Women's Emphasis Day: Dr. Elizabeth Talbot	11 am, Sanctuary

MINISTRIES & OUTREACH

FOOD BANK: Set up: Mondays & Friday afternoons | Distribution to Community: Monday & Sabbath afternoons. See Pastor Ben for more details.

GENTLE CLOUD MINISTRY: Need help with your phone, computer, or other tech gadget? Rene Alvarez, an IT expert, is volunteering to help those in need, mostly seniors, via phone. Please contact him at renealvarez01@gmail.com or 323-770-4108.

LAUNDRY LOVE MINISTRY: For those in need of laundry services: every 3rd Tuesday at 1157 N Pacific, Glendale. For more info, contact Doug at 818-935-4317 or Pastor Cindy.

ADVENTURERS & PATHFINDERS Adventurers (PreK-4th grade) and Pathfinders (ages 10+) meet on the 2nd and 4th Sabbaths, from Sept to June. adventurers@vallejo-drive.church or text 818-571-2038

TEENS4CHRIST: T4C Hangout: A Friday after-school activity with games, snacks, and vespers for 7th- 8th graders. Fridays at 3 pm. vallejo-drive.church/T4C

THE BEACON (YOUTH): 2nd Friday: 6:30-9 pm: Glow @ The Beacon (Vespers) | Every Friday 3-7pm: The Beacon Social

YOUNG ADULTS: 2nd and 4th Sabbaths of the month: Afternoon Bible Study | 3rd Friday: Joint Vespers with local churches

EXERCISE OPPORTUNITIES
Come exercise with our Adventist Fitness Clinic on Sundays at 7am at Verdugo Park. Contact Irvin Henry Jr. at (818) 625-2952 for more information.
During the week, join AdventistHealth Glendale's LiveWell's Exercise program on Mon 2 pm, Tues 10 am, Wed 10 am, & Thurs 3 pm here at church! Contact Sara Neal at (818) 409-8354 on how to join. **No Mon/Thu class til Jun 4. Come for Tue/Wed class.**

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY GROUPS
Mondays 7 pm on Zoom: Koinonia- led by Elder Doug Warner
Wednesdays 5pm on Zoom: Seeking Jesus- led by Pastor Mark Papendick
Wednesdays 7pm in-person: Bible Study- led by Pastor Jonathan and Pastor Aivars

HAVE A PASSION FOR TECHNOLOGY? Join our Media/AV team & be part of bringing worship to life. Contact Mavis Cordero at 818-419-4429

WOMEN'S MINISTRY: Baby Quilts: Capable hands needed to complete baby quilts for GAH and USC GH NICU units. **Meetings 2026: June 21, Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 20; 2027: Jan 24, Feb 21, Mar 21, April 18, May 16, June 27. 10 am-2pm.** Contact Alma 818-254-6829 and prayingmom_9@yahoo.com or Winna 818-919-9228 for more information. Sponsor a quilt for \$35! Unable to join us on Sundays? Donate by marking your tithe envelopes "Quilting" or via AdventistGiving.org and select Women's Ministry. Donate toiletries & other supplies for women & children in need! Pink buckets in lobby.

HAVE A MUSICAL TALENT? COME SING OR PLAY WITH US!
Praise Team: Contact Matt Daley for more info: worship@vallejo-drive.church
Bell Choir: Fridays at 7:15 pm in the Bell Room. Contact the church office for info
Chancel Choir: Saturdays at 9:15 am in the Choir Room. Contact church office for info

CHURCH INFORMATION

LISTENING DEVICES are available at the Hostess Desk for guests who are hearing impaired.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BAGS are available at the Hostess Desk for children ages 1 to 9. Please return them at the end of the service.

HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES are available for people with disabilities and the proper placards in our two parking lots: 4 spaces in our Holly Drive lot, 3 spaces in our Vallejo Drive lot, and 2 spaces right in front of our Sanctuary.

CHURCH FINANCES

Year to Date: July 17, 2026

Total Local Church Giving	\$538,868.96
Total Local Church Spending	\$565,225.98
Budget Giving (incl. in local)	\$219,832.32
Budget Spending (incl. in local)	\$331,307.21
Tithes Received 2026	\$701,700.74
Tithes Received 2025	\$579,691.58

SABBATH SCHOOL

KIDS CONNECTION at 9:45 am in Room 106 for 0-12 years old

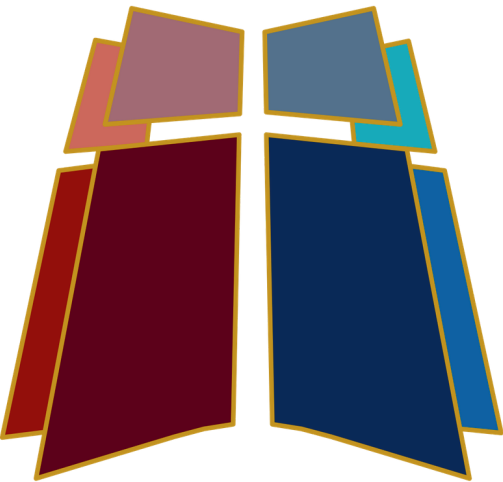
Beginners	Birth - 36 months	1st floor, Room 116A
Kindergarten	4 - 5 years old	2nd floor, Room 206A
Primary	1 st - 3 rd grades	2nd floor, Room 202A
Juniors	4 th - 5 th grades	2nd floor, Room 208A

10 am: TEENS4CHRIST (Earliteens, 6th-8th grades) 1st floor, Rm 104A
9:45 am: The Beacon (Youth/High School) 2nd floor, Room 202A

10-10:45 am: Young Adult (YA) Sabbath School (Cafe)
9:30-10:15 am: Adult Sabbath School Lesson Study (Chapel)
10:15-10:45 am: Adult Sabbath School Mission Program (Chapel)
9:45-10:30 am: Fellowship Hall Class (Fellowship Hall)
9:30-10:50 am: Spanish SS/Escuela Sabática (1st Floor Room 104A)
10-10:45 am: Gospel Conversations (Outside Hallway)

CONTACT US

Lead Pastor: Jonathan Henderson	747-291-8994	henderson@vallejo-drive.church
Teaching/Care Pastor: Aivars Ozolins	818-928-9230	pastoraivars@vallejo-drive.church
Admin/Comm Services: Ben Garcia	818-424-4180	adminpastor@vallejo-drive.church
Youth Pastor: Cindy Ramirez-Hui	269-210-9168	pastorcindy@vallejo-drive.church
Kids Conn/YA Pastor: Anthony Paschal, Jr.	818-246-2476	youngadults@vallejo-drive.church
Worship Director: Matthew Daley	818-246-2476	worship@vallejo-drive.church
Choir Director: Helene Quintana	818-246-2476	office@vallejo-drive.church
Treasurer: Michelle Sharda	818-246-2476	treasurer@vallejo-drive.church
Admin Assistant: Anne Leah D. Guia	818-246-2476	office@vallejo-drive.church



Grace on the Hill

@VALLEJO DRIVE CHURCH

of Seventh-day Adventists

July 18, 2026

The Kingdom of Heaven
is Like...

Pastor Jonathan Henderson

Vallejo Drive Church of Seventh-day Adventists
300 Vallejo Drive, Glendale, CA 91206

Church Office Hours: Tuesday–Friday: 10am–4pm
Phone: 818-246-2476 Fax: 818-246-0157
office@vallejo-drive.church
www.graceunconditional.com