

President's Message

"A good woman is hard to find and worth more than diamonds."
—Proverbs 31:10 MSG

"God has formed many diamonds. But He made only one you. You are unique."
—Darlene Sala

These messages on the bookmark favors at our recent luncheon remind me of all the ways God uses to transform us into His diamonds. Trials and difficulties, loss, illness and pain all shape us into solid women of determination and character the way high pressure forms carbon into diamonds. But diamonds are not only one of the strongest substances we know— they are also beautiful because of the way they reflect the light that passes through them.

You, our Auxiliary members, have reflected the love you have received by giving so generously of your time, talents and funds this year. We have been able to sponsor mission projects far above the goals we set originally and continue to fund scholarships and other student gatherings such as the monthly Little White House soirées. We thank you for all your contributions and wish you God's continued blessings!

Until we gather again,

Merte



Dear LLU Medical Auxiliary,

My name is Becky Dice. My husband is the administrator for Malamulo Hospital. Austin and I and our three children have been living in Malawi for three years. Yesterday, a visitor to Malamulo Adventist Hospital gave our family a Christmas package that wished us greetings from the Global Health Institute and you, the Medical Auxiliary. It is such an encouragement to those of us in the field to know that you back home are praying for and supporting the work out here! You should have heard my kids squealing with delight over the granola bars that arrived!

We live next door to Malamulo Adventist International School (MAIS) that the Medical Auxiliary built for missionary and staff children. My two boys attend the school and my four-year-old daughter can't wait to join! It is a HUGE blessing! Your generosity is a testament to love and you can be sure that you are having a significant impact here.

We thank you and pray that God will return the blessings you share ten-fold! In Malawi, the way we say thank you very much is "Zikomo kwambiri"!!

Blessings,
Becky Dice





From the Editors

In this issue we share expressions of gratitude from some of those who have benefited from your support: a mission family, current students, and a medical student family. We realize that we are all connected not just as Auxiliary members, but as part of the greater family of God. The adoption story shared by Mark Witas at our luncheon resulted in new connections with relatives that he had not known existed.

“You received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, ‘Abba, Father.’ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs.”

— Romans 8:15-17 NLT

What a wonderful promise that we are all children of the same family!

Lynda Chan and Karen Wat Nielsen

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In Loving Memory

Melissa Kidder SM'94
Gladys Mitchell
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Widow of Albert Hirst SM'42

The Auxiliary wishes Reba Rowse a very Happy 100th Birthday!



Reba was DUO Chair for many years
and Member of the Year in 2013

Mission Vespers

By Patti Batin Hall

APC Homecoming Weekend offered our alumni a unique Sabbath Vespers program at the LLU Church on March 2, 2024. Marissa Wright and Ja'Neil Humphrey SM'25 led songs of praise with Zion Taito at the piano. Medical Auxiliary board members Patti Batin Hall and Tina Robinson opened the program with a welcome and prayer. LLUH President Dr. Richard Hart SM'70 introduced featured speaker Dr. Staci Davenport SM'14 who is the chief medical officer serving in Bere, Tchad. There is ongoing work at a busy hospital center including new surgical facilities. But the most riveting part of Dr. Davenport's talk was her account of a mini rebellion by disgruntled employees who forcibly removed her from her office and attempted to oust her from the premises. Certainly the Lord answered prayer with the help of militia coming to her assistance.

Dr. Hart also spoke about the projects being supported by the Medical Auxiliary including a new ICU in Kenya, imaging center in Belize, clinic upgrade in Honduras, a trauma bay for Liberia, a modern lab in Sierra Leone, eye surgery in Togo, and mammography upgrade in Guam. Judy Hart then gave a heartfelt appeal and prayer, followed by an inspiring vocal offertory by Joaquin Ferretti and friends. AIMS global service awards were presented by Dr. Tiffany Priester SM'04 and Dr. Steven Hildebrand SM'80-A to three recipients: Dr. Sherry Shrestha SM'74, Dr. John Rogers SM'74 and Dr. Barry Bacon SM'84. Our traditional final hymn, "So Send I You," was sung as past and present alumni who have served overseas took lit candles up on stage to join the choristers. Dr. Bevan Geslani gave the benediction. What a blessing was had by all who attended and watched the broadcast!



Tina Robinson and Patti Batin Hall



Dr. Davenport with picture of her hospital in Bere, Chad



K. C. Hohensee, Gerald Cheng and vocalist Joaquin Ferretti



Marissa Wright and Ja'Neil Humphrey



Singing "So Send I You"

LLU Auxiliary Homecoming Luncheon

Breakfast at Tiffany's

By Lynda Chan

On Sunday, March 3, over 120 guests gathered for an elegant Auxiliary affair held at the Redlands Country Club. Jolene Hilliard and her team added to the ambiance with tablescapes in Tiffany blue and sparkling "diamonds." A special thanks to our vendors E & M Chocolates, JMA Baked Goods, O'Delightful, Shop Suey Boutique, Sunnyside Local and the Little White House, as well as our favorite quilter Michelle Meyer. After a piano prelude by Cindy Waring, program chair Danielle Hoxie introduced Paulette Jumalon who sang beautiful renditions of Broadway songs, including a medley she entitled "Mancini and Gershwin meet in Paris." Our Auxiliary president Merle Hildebrand offered the blessing before guests enjoyed the fabulous spread which included fresh fruit, quinoa and baby kale salad, brioche french toast, scrambled tofu, hash browns, an omelet station and a decadent tower of cinnamon rolls.

Tami Elloway-Song LLU SN'83 & SD'90 introduced our speaker, Mark Witas, Director of Mission and Spiritual Care at Adventist Health Glendale. Thanks to a connection made by Auxiliary friend Lorraine Ehrler, she had recently discovered he was her third cousin. (A family reunion was held during and after the luncheon!)

Mark moved us to laughter and tears by ***Lost & Found: A Story of Adoption & Discovery***. As a child Mark's adoptive father had told him he was bought from a baby store and emphasized that they had wanted an extra-large boy and chose him special! Family life was happy until his adoptive mother received a Bible prophecy flyer in the mail and attended evangelistic meetings held at the local Seventh-day Adventist church. As she became more convicted of her new-found faith, she enrolled Mark and his sister in a Seventh-day Adventist school. His dad was very unhappy with the changes and eventually his parents divorced.



Tablescape by Jolene Hilliard



Paulette Jumalon



Danielle Hoxie



Luncheon guests, L to R, Diane Doolin, Carol Jones, Marguerite Marsh, R. Marina Raines

LLU Auxiliary Homecoming Luncheon (cont.)



Luncheon guests, L to R, Brenda Robinson, Bobbie Jo Srikureja, Marilynn Kelly, Jeanie Craig



Wendy and Mark Witas

When Mark was in 8th grade his mom announced that she was going to get remarried to an incarcerated man in the Walla Walla Penitentiary. This man was a violent man with a short fuse. Mark left home and attended Auburn Academy boarding school and Walla Walla College, but dropped out after a year. He started work at a restaurant in Seattle and met a girl who became his fiancée. His adoptive mother's then pastor started visiting him regularly to invite him to an evangelistic series. He finally agreed to go and answered an altar call. His fiancée was not happy with that decision and they broke up. After he was baptized, he became the youth leader at his local church, met his wife Wendy, went back to college, and obtained a Masters of Divinity from Andrews University.

On his 29th birthday, Mark received a phone call from his birth mother, introducing herself and explaining why she gave him up for adoption. At that time, she had expressly requested that he not be adopted by a Seventh-day Adventist family. When she asked him what he was doing for a living, she was astonished to learn that he was a Seventh-day Adventist pastor! He reunited with his mom and met the rest of his birth family who were all Seventh-day Adventists. Although his mom is not an Adventist, she and Mark continue to have a very close relationship and talk often by phone. His mom's sister was also in attendance at the luncheon.

Ephesians 1:4,5 tells us that God chose us and He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons/daughters through Jesus Christ. Mark reminded us: ***I am not an accident. God had a purpose for me. And if it is true for me, it is true for everyone.***

Mark's presentation concluded with his beautiful wife Wendy singing, "His Eye Is on the Sparrow." We viewed a short thank you video from our LLU alumni missionaries before Merle and Dr. Yami Bazan made an appeal for additional medical student scholarship funds. Dr. Jack Bennett dismissed us with prayer. Gatherings like these give us a glimpse of what it will be like on that grand reunion day in heaven. *Thank you to all who attended!*



Omelet station



Cinnamon roll dessert tower

JMA Update

The JMA booth at the Homecoming Luncheon featured baked goods, including scones, cookies and homemade sourdough bread.

JMA Co-Leader Elle Martin and her husband Sam Martin SM'25 received funding from the Auxiliary for equipment that they used on their recent mission trip to Burma/Myanmar.

Below is a thank you note from the family, along with pictures of Sam and some of the clinic patients.

Dear Loma Linda University Medical Auxiliary,

We are so incredibly grateful for your generous donation towards the hearing-testing device that we used during our clinic on the Thai-Burma border this past Christmas. It helped us test hearing loss and distribute hearing aids to many men, women, and even teenagers who otherwise lack access due to the civil war in Burma. You helped us share God's love and bring healing. Thanks again!

—Sam & Elle (and Hallie Jo) Martin



RMA Update

By Heddy Sturm

RMA had a great turnout of about 30 people for our Yogurtland event (pictured) where we got to meet residents and their families and eat frozen yogurt together! We've had some fun events so far this year! RMA started with an ice cream and pool party at Ruth Zalsman's lovely house.

We also had an amazingly delicious holiday potluck at Sheila Hodgkin's home, local park meetups for families with children, and continuing Book Club meetings at Katie Rose's house. We look forward to our next event at Ureach Cafe on March 12!

We love getting to know the residents and their families and finding more ways to support each other as we navigate this challenging phase of residency!



LWH Events

Little White House Coordinators Sharon Stewart and Jolene Hilliard are pictured here at the LWH Valentine Soirée held on January 29.

The LWH was filled with Easter-themed items and decorations on March 5, and featured veggie corn dogs provided by University Church Pastor Doug Mace and his team. The rabbit egg toss was a smash hit!



Student Thank You's

Thank you so much for all the time and effort you place into making the Little White House special, from your welcoming smiles to the beautiful way you arrange the items and food.
God bless, Jedel SM'24

Salamat! Merci beaucoup! Gracias - Muchas gracias!
Thank you! so much for organizing an amazing event! I felt so loved and cared for! You are all shining Jesus' love!
Again thank you! May God continue to bless you!
- Kimberly SM'27

Thank you so much for everything you do! We appreciate it so so much. The decorations are beautiful, the food is delicious & everyone is so nice! I pray the Lord bless you all abundantly.
-Kelsey SM'26



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SAVE THE DATE

- **FALL 2024 EVENT - TBD**
- **APC MISSION VESPERS**
Sabbath, March 1, 2025
- **APC HOMECOMING LUNCHEON**
Sunday, March 2, 2025



Pay Your Dues Early!

Dues Reminder – July 1 through June 30

Regular Dues \$55
Retired, Widowed, or Divorced \$35
Life Membership \$1,500 or
4 payments of \$375



Members of the JMA enjoyed baking “Padme’s Pumpkin Cookies” using the recipe on page 212 of the Auxiliary’s latest cookbook, *OPEN TABLE*. Many more delicious recipes await inside its pages.
[See our website lumedaux.org to order.](http://lumedaux.org)

The mission of the Loma Linda University Medical Auxiliary is to demonstrate God’s love through benevolence and shared service. **The Auxiliary promotes the mission work of its Alumni; the education and welfare of medical students, residents and their spouses; and the intellectual and spiritual growth of its diverse membership.**

The Auxiliary is committed to continuing a heritage of unselfish dedication to service, beneficence and healthful living, as well as to responding to humanitarian needs in today’s changing world.