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## Farewell Mr. Marxmiller



Jim Marxmiller – his name has been synonymous with Mountain View Academy for more than four decades. Jim and Karyn started working at MVA in the fall of 1973. That year, the average cost of a new home was just over \$32,000; a new car cost as little as \$2,900. Bell-bottoms were all the rage and Nixon resigned his presidency around the same time as Jim started teaching his first class in the classroom on the corner.

A lot has transpired since Jim first took up his position as science teacher on our campus. Not only has the average price of a house gone up ten-fold but generations of students have experienced California Jim's insights into the world of anatomy and physiology, chemistry, and biology. Hundreds of students have lugged their backpacks up into the Sierra foothills during campouts on the annual Backpacking Club trip.

Mr. Marxmiller has served as class sponsor, unofficial photographer, and NHS sponsor for over 20 years. He has lead 44 years of students to Pacific Union College's Biology Field Station and shown students the delights of California's tide pools; no doubt inspiring more than one student to choose a pro-

fession in the marine sciences field. Annual trips to Monterey Bay Aquarium further augmented his student's exposure and understanding of marine biology.

Mr. Marxmiller's lab has been the scene of multitudinous dissections of countless creatures but has also served as a lab for growing mushrooms, cheese, crystals.... A favorite amongst students was the cheese and mushroom experiments. The growing of things was not restricted to the classroom. An on-campus garden has been planted and harvested each school year for the last several years. The students in his class get to celebrate their harvest with a special evening meal, which gives the students an opportunity to dine on the fruits of their labor.

While time has changed Mr. Marxmiller's appearance some, it has not altered his nearly ever-present smile. His cheerful greeting travels everywhere with him. He is also known for his jocularism. That spirit of fun and adventure follows him into the classroom as well. His favorite motto is Observe and Be Curious. He has brought that into his teaching in myriad ways over

**Plan to join us for a Farewell Reception on Alumni Weekend—registration form on page 6**



**Join us on  
April 7-8, 2017  
for our next  
Homecoming!**



**We will have added programming  
& more opportunities to visit with old classmates.  
Please plan on joining us!**

**We will be honoring the following classes:  
1937, 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967 1972, 1977  
1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2007.**

## Calendar

### December

**3—Band/Royalties Program**

**5—City of Mountain View Christmas Tree Lightening**

**9—Christmas Choir Program**

### February

**4—Music Performance at Mountain View Central Church**

### March

**22-25—Local Mission Trip**

**20-April 2—Colombia Mission Trip**

### April

**6-7—Alumni Homecoming**

### May

**27-28—Graduation Weekend**



# Alumni Notes

## Alumni President Report



*Jayson Tsuchiya, '78*  
Alumni Weekend is coming up soon! On April 7 and 8, 2017, we will welcome back the classes that end in 2s and 7s. We are looking forward to seeing as many of you back on campus as possible. We have a great weekend planned, filled with many events beginning with a sacred concert Friday evening by Sivasa “Vasa” Laupati from the class of 1999. Sabbath morning, we will be blessed by a message from former North Pacific Union Conference President Max Torkelsen who is also a member of the 50<sup>th</sup> honor-year class.

Sabbath afternoon we will be hosting a special Farewell Reception for Jim Marxmiller, science teacher at MVA for 44 years. Because so many people will want to be there, we are requesting that anyone who wishes to attend, to please register online at [mntviewacademy.org](http://mntviewacademy.org), under Alumni and Giving, Marxmiller Registration Form. Or you may send in your registration form which can be found on page six of this newsletter. We will have limited space and we will be serving a catered dinner at this event so there will be a \$15 entrance fee.

## Alumni Updates

### Obituaries

#### Max Johnson, '56



Max “Red” Eugene Johnson, '56, passed away on June 18, 2016.

Max, who most recently lived in Kailua Kona, Hawaii, was born in Ventura, California on March 16, 1938. Max worked as a realtor and a real estate developer. He was the lead base singer for the Kona Festivale Chorale for many years. Singing was his passion.

He is survived by wife, Linda; sons Steve and (Kristina) Johnson of Los Altos Hills, California; Pete and (Kelly) Johnson of Gig Harbor, Washington; Jeff and (Selene) Larson of Everett, Washington; daughter Sharon Berteroulcci of Redwood, City, California; JoLynn and (Eric) Barbao of Rancho Santa Marquarita, California; Jacque Larson of Kirkland, Washington; sister Norma (Bill) Swanson of Yuma, Arizona; and 13 grandchildren.

From Max’s wife Linda Johnson:

Dear Friends at MVA,

Max had a stroke on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> and he could not speak. On Wednesday he opened his eyes and what a blessing that I got to spend 30 minutes with his eyes open and as I sang to him, he mouthed all the words. He had a song on his heart until he died. He loved Mountain View Academy.

### News Notes

#### Raleigh Heald, '50



Raleigh Heald, '50, celebrated his 85th birthday on May 19. He lives in Tucson, Arizona and conducts weekly Bible studies at the state prison facilitates, conducting weekly Bible studies for a substance-abuse recovery group and teaches an adult Sabbath School class. He would love to hear from classmates at [theald1931@gmail.com](mailto:theald1931@gmail.com).

This past summer I had the pleasure of meeting with some of our alumni at our annual watermelon feed at the Central California Conference Campmeeting. We had a nice turnout and had a little extra fun with a photo booth that we had on-site. Plan to meet with us next summer and catch up!

Saying good-bye is always hard as was the case with our beloved Elder Furgason. His passing this last August impacted nearly two decades of students at MVA and countless other through his work at his local church.

A Celebration of Life memorial service was held for him at the Sunnyvale church and it was such a blessing to see so many of his former students come to pay their respects. Many spoke about how he pointed the way to Jesus in a way that was fun and relatable. It's teachers like Elder Furgason, Jim Morehead, Jim Marxmiller and many others who impact the lives of our students at MVA every day.

Please plan to come back home next spring to visit with long-time friends; see how God is working in the lives of the students who are on campus today and how the administration and teachers are dedicating their lives to helping our students love Jesus.

#### David Durant, '76



A message from David Durant: Since I had attended MVA back a couple years, and still have many friends from there. I just thought I would give an update on what I have been up too.

I am currently teach English in Yasothon Thailand. You can view many photos and videos on Facebook. I’ve been here for eight months. After a year in D.C., a year at Jacksonville Florida and a year in Seattle. I will not be moving out but staying here for a while. God bless each of you. I read our group page many times a week.

## Do You Have Any News?

*We* want to hear from you! Anything you would like to share with us—marriages, births, career updates, etc.—we would be happy to pass along your news to fellow alums. Email us your updates at [alumni-@mntviewacademy.org](mailto:alumni-@mntviewacademy.org).

## Farewell Mr. Marxmiller continued from cover

the years as he has shown God through the sciences.

Jim also has the distinct privilege of calling former students, colleague. This year, six former students have taught alongside Jim.

Mr. Marxmiller leaves a legacy – a legacy of dedication to his students, a greater appreciation for science in those he taught, souls who have been brought to Christ because of Jim’s commitment to shine a light on God’s creation. He will be missed. The corner classroom and labs will for years to come, still feel like Mr. Marxmiller’s but we know he has laid the groundwork well for those who will follow in his footsteps.

Thank you for your years of selfless dedication and commitment to our students. You gave you whole heart to MVA and it shows.

We will miss you!

### Send us your memories of Mr. Marxmiller

If you would like to send a message to Mr. Marxmiller to be included in a scrapbook for him at the reception. Please send it to MVA and mark your envelope Attn: Alumni. Or you may email your message to [alumni@mntviewacademy.org](mailto:alumni@mntviewacademy.org).

## Mr. Marxmiller Retirement Reception Registration Form

The Reception will be held at the MVA gym at 5:30 pm, April 8, 2017—Alumni Homecoming Sabbath. Food will be catered from Tommy Thai restaurant with a vegetarian or meat option. Please indicate your preference below. The cost per person is \$15.00.

Please fill out the form below and return no later than March 1, 2017. Space is limited to 300 for dinner. You may also register and pay online at [mntviewacademy.org](http://mntviewacademy.org) under the Alumni and Giving tab, go to Marxmiller Retirement Registration.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

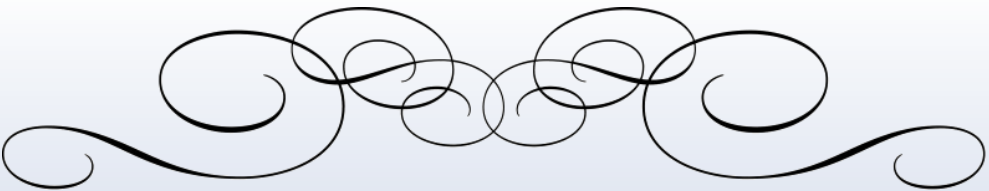
Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Code on back \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Vegetarian Entree

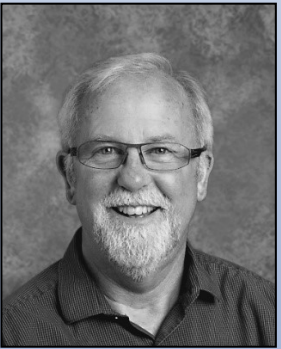
☐ Chicken Entree

**Please return this form in the envelope enclosed. You may send a check in lieu of a credit card if you wish.**



# Retiring after

## 44 Years



You are invited  
to join us  
as we celebrate  
Mr. Marxmiller’s  
illustrious career at  
MVA.

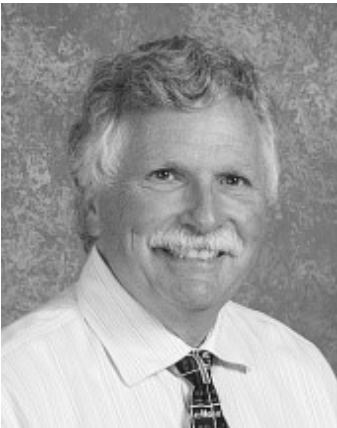
Alumni Homecoming Weekend  
Saturday, April 8, 2017 at 5:30 pm in the gym.

Space is limited. A catered meal will be served so we are requiring registration for those who plan to attend. Please submit the form below or go online to [mntviewacademy.org/alumni](http://mntviewacademy.org/alumni) and giving



# Academy News Notes

## Principal's Report



Jerry Corson, Principal

What do you remember from your sophomore year of high school? Some may remember specific teachers, close friends, classes that excited you, and classes that you would really rather not attend. You may also remember student association activities or sports or spiritual events. You may look back at the field trips, music tours, lab activities, and how you were treated by teachers and other students. Your memories may be positive, negative or mixed. But how much of it was only related to your sophomore year?

Part of the challenge to remembering how things were in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade is that by the time you graduated, your memories were not categorized by year, but were jumbled and tied together in a multitude of ways. Start talking to a friend about Geometry and then you mention the teacher which leads to another class. This connects to a particular student and what they said in Bible

class. But which Bible class was that and who was the teacher and, oh yes, do you remember...?

However, most of these types of remembered conversations seem to be centered around people. It is the people that are important to our lives. It is people we talk about. Yes, we may mention an event like the winning shot in a basketball game, but what we really describe in detail is the reaction of people to that shot and the reaction of the person who makes that shot. So, please do not forget the people.

We could focus on enrollment (currently 133) or the projects that were completed over the summer (ceiling repair, library repair, painting, carpeting); or we could talk about what could be done but ultimately, Mountain View Academy's purpose is to provide a "... Quality Education..." "...to the whole person..." While we can always improve, it is the student that we serve. It is the student the we strive to academically motivate. It is the student for which we plan socially expanding activities. It is the student we look to physically challenge. And most important, we utilize multifaceted methods to bring God into the lives of each student.

Thank you for your support of Mountain View Academy.

## Alumnus Returns to MVA as Mathematics Teacher



Walker Lepulu, '04

Walker Lepulu was born and raised in the Bay Area. Mr. Lepulu's first experience with Adventist schools was when he started his freshman year at MVA.

He graduated in 2004 as a four-year senior and says he is still close friends with many of his classmates. After graduating from MVA, Walker went onto attend Cal State Monterey where he majored in mathematics and graduated in 2013. Originally, Walker hadn't planned to go into teaching but worked as a tutor while completing his degree and fell in love with the profession.

Walker taught first at Gavilan College and Miramonte Christian School before coming to Mountain View Academy this year. Mr. Lepulu teaches Algebra 1 and 2, pre-calculus and robotics. He has a big vision

for mathematics at MVA. He would like to raise the math test scores to above national averages, believing, as many do today, that the sciences, will be an integral part or many careers in the future.

Walker would like to create a Science club that would help engage students in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) with the goal that they would consider a career in one of these fields. The club would allow any students with an interest in the sciences to visit college and university science departments including nursing, engineering, physics, and many others.

In addition to his goals for the math department, Mr. Lepulu is also a sponsor of the freshman class. He stated that coming back to MVA was like coming home and felt almost as if he had never left. He thoroughly working with the students and sharing his love of the sciences.

We are delighted that Mr. Lepulu is here with us.

## MVA Highlights

### Albion Biology Trip

Students from two of Mr. Marxmiller's classes took the annual trip to the PUC Albion Marine Station November 4-6. This trip marked the last time Mr. Marxmiller would take the trip as a teacher at MVA as he retires the end of the school year.

### Celebration of Sound

The annual event was held this year on October 30. Those in attendance were blessed with the musical talents of our students under the direction of music teacher Douglas Knecht. More than \$4,500 was raised which will benefit the music department.

### City of Mountain View Tree Lighting

The music department will be at the city's tree lighting to share their talents with our greater community.

### Columbia Mission Trip

This year will take our students to Columbia. They will help the local community with medical and dental care and help the local Adventist community with construction and will host a children's vacation Bible school program.

## Elder "Furgy"- a Name for a Dynamic Life!

by Joanne (Furiosi) Grigore, '80

Just the name "FURGY" brings back fond memories for hundreds of MVA students who didn't just take Bible class from Elder Furgason, but who viscerally experienced it daily. In "Furgy's" class there were sound effects, stories, music, laughter, explosive outbursts, and if we were lucky enough to sit in the front row and dodge the hand gesturing, we most assuredly got sprayed with enthusiastic spittle! I won't even mention what valuable and memorable lessons we learned in his Marriage and Family Bible class... suffice to say, "What was said in Furgy's class, stayed in that class!!" (Wink, wink.)

"Furgy" made the gospel come alive! His love for Jesus and his love for his students was clear! Think back and see if you can hear Elder Furgy singing in his loud, strong booming voice as you entered the door of his classroom, "Oh when the saints...come marching in..." We knew it was tongue and cheek, but pretty hilarious! He taught at MVA from 1971-88.

Over 50 years of active service in God's ministry is why through loving tears and

laughter, over 200 students, church members, friends and family celebrated Vernon Renford Furgason's life at his memorial service, August 20, 2016 at the Sunnyvale SDA church.



MVA Alumni at Elder Furgason's memorial service at Sunnyvale Adventist Church. L to R: Eddie Sears, '82, Rose Ecklund Shimizu, '82, Rebecca Wellman-Soret, '82, Julie Griffith Porter, '82, Randy Wheeler, '82

His son-in-law and three daughters spoke with great love and affection for the way their dad had made each one of them feel special. Along that note, as each former student, friend or colleague was handed a mic to say a few words about such a powerhouse of a life, the running theme which resonated in everyone's comments besides his work for the Lord and his infectious positive personality, was that we ALL felt like we were

Elder Furgy's favorite!

Through sobbing memories of joy, Rob Colon's mother expressed how Elder Furgason had been instrumental in helping Rob, '79, and his soon to be wife, find God again. Pastor Rob recounted the story of visiting Campbell church where Elder Furgason was pastoring after teaching at MVA. Though long hair to his waist, and full "Metal" leather while trying to make a quick getaway, Elder Furgason called after him recognizing him. After prayer meetings, Bible studies and baptism, Rob and his wife, Sandi, went into Adventist ministry, a turnaround from the rock-band lifestyle they had been living.

The 1982 MVA yearbook was dedicated to Vernon Furgason. The theme: "You are a Special Person". An excerpt from his forward follows: "The years, how swiftly they have passed. Too soon, our high school days are but reveries. But never gone are the memories of those my friends, my classmates, teachers. Very special persons, everyone."

Elder Furgason passed away on August 5, 2016.

## Elder Vernon Furgason Memorial Scholarship Fund



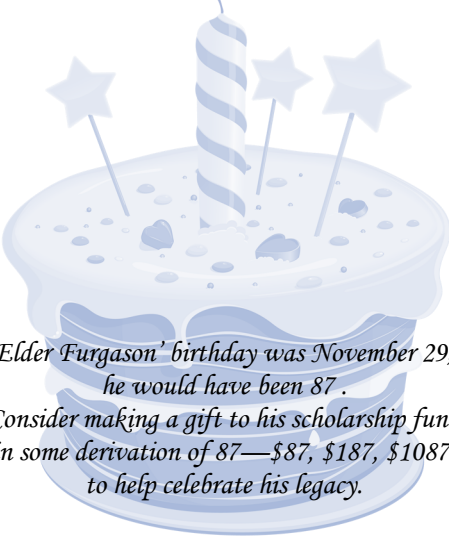
Elder Furgason taught at MVA for 17 years and impacted hundreds of students—students who never forgot his laughter, love and dedication.

A scholarship has been established in his name which will be distributed annually to a student who represents the values Elder Furgason displayed everyday to his students.

The first scholarship award is planned for Alumni Weekend, April 2017. If you would like to help continue Elder Furgason's dedication to Christian education, please consider making a gift to the Fund in his honor.

To give, go to [mtviewacademy.org](http://mtviewacademy.org), Alumni and Giving. Indicate in the 'Company' field that your gift is for the Furgason Scholarship Fund. Or you may give using the envelope included in this newsletter.

## Happy Birthday Furgy!



Elder Furgason's birthday was November 29; he would have been 87. Consider making a gift to his scholarship fund in some derivation of 87—\$87, \$187, \$1087, to help celebrate his legacy.



# Homecoming Weekend 2017

## Weekend Schedule

### Friday Evening

A musical vespers program led by Sivasa 'Vasa' Laupati, '99, will begin at 7:30 pm. A light meal will be served prior at 6:30.

### Registration

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Warm drinks and breakfast breads will be provided. In the Home Ec room.

### Sabbath Services

Sabbath School will begin at 9:45 followed by a short break and then church will start at 11:00 A lunch will be provided in the gymnasium at the conclusion of the program.

### Mr. Marxmiller Farewell Reception

A reception honoring Mr. Marxmiller for his 44 years of service to MVA will take place in the gym at 5:30 and will conclude around 7:30. Please be sure to register if you plan to attend. We will be serving a catered meal and space is limited.

### Class Gatherings

Honor classes may choose to meet on their own in a room on campus that can be reserved by request or off-site.

If your class would like to use a room on campus for your class gathering, please contact us at [alumni@mtnviewacademy.org](mailto:alumni@mtnviewacademy.org).

Each class is free to organize as they choose. If you are interested in coordinating a gathering for your class, please contact us at [alumni@mtnviewacademy.org](mailto:alumni@mtnviewacademy.org) to find out how to contact your classmates.

### Nominations for Alumni President

We are taking nominations for Alumni President. Our faithful president Jayson has been at the helm for several years now.

Jayson will remain on the Alumni Planning Committee to mentor the next president and ensure a smooth transition, along with the Alumni Planning Committee and the Alumni Development Director.

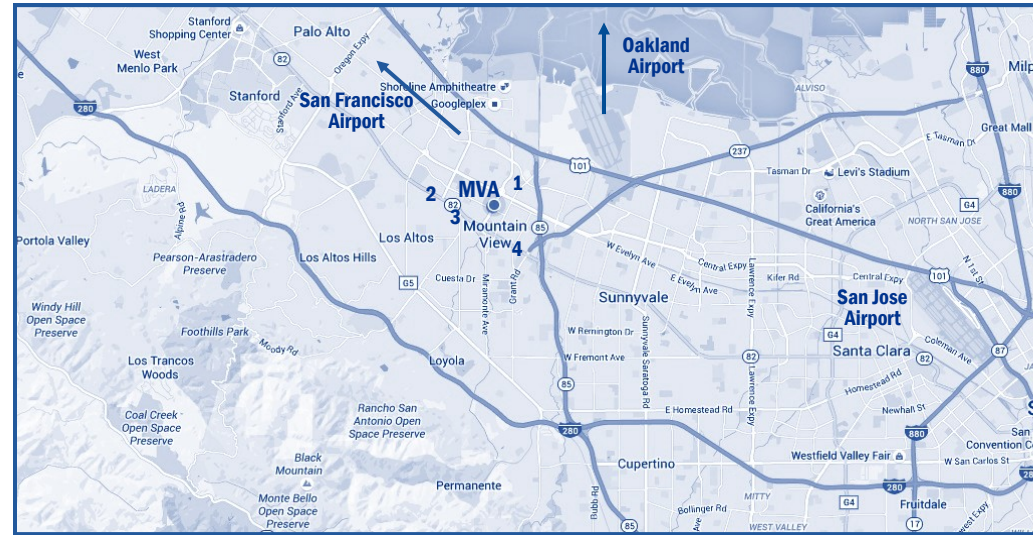
Please go online to [mtnviewacademy.org](http://mtnviewacademy.org), Alumni and Giving, Nominate President to make your recommendations.

## Travel Considerations

### Accommodations

Listed below are local hotels that may have rooms available over Homecoming weekend

1. **Hampton Inn and Suites**—rates are approximately \$240/night, includes breakfast and Wi-Fi. Located at 390 Moffett Blvd, Mountain View. Phone: (650) 988-0300, website: [hamptoninn3.hilton.com](http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com)
2. **Residence Inn Palo Alto**—rates are approximately \$200/night, includes free breakfast. Located at 1854 El Camino Real, Mountain View. Phone: (650) 940-1300, website: [Marriott.com](http://Marriott.com)
3. **Holiday Inn Express**—rates are approximately \$180/night, includes breakfast and Wi-Fi. Located at 1561 El Camino Real, Mountain View. Phone: (650) 967-7888, website: [hotelmountainview.com](http://hotelmountainview.com)
4. **Hotel Vue**—rates are approximately \$150/night, includes breakfast, Wi-Fi and more. Located at 63 El Camino Real, Mountain View. Phone: (650) 965-0585, website: [hotelvuc.com](http://hotelvuc.com).



### Airports

#### San Francisco Airport

Located 30 miles northwest of MVA.

#### San Jose Airport

Located 12 miles southeast of MVA.

#### Oakland Airport

Located 33 miles north of MVA.

\*Traffic is heavy from about 3-8 p.m. weekdays.

# facebook

Follow us on Facebook at Mountain View Academy Alumni. We post information about upcoming Homecomings. This page also provides a forum for alumni to post their updates whether it be marriages, births or accomplishments. Come take a look!

If you would like to receive emails about Homecoming please forward your email address to [alumni@mtnviewacademy.org](mailto:alumni@mtnviewacademy.org).

If you are not able to attend, streaming of the Homecoming program will be available live and posted on the MVA website after the event.

## Alumni Homecoming Keynote Speaker Max Torkelsen, '67



Max Torkelsen, '67

We are honored that Elder Max Torkelsen, II, '67, Adventist pastor and church administrator, has agreed to be our keynote speaker on Alumni Sabbath, April 8, 2017.

Mr. Torkelsen served the church in many capacities over his 44-year career. Most recently, he served as the North Pacific Union Conference President during the years of 2008-2016 when he retired. Prior to accepting this post, he was the Upper Columbia Conference president from 1996-2008.

After graduating from MVA in 1967, Max attended Pacific Union College where he met his wife Linnea. Elder Torkelsen began his ministry career upon graduation from PUC in 1972 where he received a bachelor of arts in theology. He pastored for one year in the Oregon Conference before going back to school to acquire a master of arts degree

in church administration from Andrews University. Later, Torkelsen also received a master of public health degree from Loma Linda University.

Elder Torkelsen returned to ministry work where he remained until he was recruited by the Upper Columbia Conference in Spokane, Washington to serve as communications director in 1989.

Torkelsen and his wife, Linnea, have two grown, married daughters, Annalisa and Katie, who make their homes in Portland, Oregon.

Want to read more about Elder Torkelsen, check out this article in the North Pacific Union Conference Gleaner <http://gleanernow.com/feature/max-torkelsen-ii-steps>

## Alumni Homecoming—Friday Vespers Musical Concert by Vasa Laupati, '99



Sivasa "Vasa" Laupati, '99

We are blessed that Sivasa Laupati, known to most people as "Vasa", has agreed to honor us with his music for Alumni Homecoming Weekend. was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and still resides in the Silicon Valley.

From his earliest childhood memories, Vasa has been singing with his siblings and cousins. After graduating from

Mountain View Academy, he studied Religion at PUC and finished his studies in 2007 from La Sierra University. Vasa was sur-

rounded by music all his life being exposed to all types of genres but it was the influence of his grandfather and his focus on Christ that had the greatest pull on Vasa's heart to serve Jesus.

In 2009, Vasa helped to form the singing group "Revelation of Hope Singers" with fellow friends and musicians Jackie Cunningham, Taylor Fa'aiu, Beejay Crisostomo, and Ramona Pimentel. It was in that same year that Sivasa released his first solo project entitled, "till then ...". On July 25, 2015, Vasa released his second solo album project entitled "Love Letters".

This new album is a compilation of almost six years of writing and composing. It was through the good and the not-so-good parts of life that the words found in the Bible, God's love letters, that the comfort and strength needed to move forward and continue to share gospel would be found.

Sivasa continues to travel with the ministry group Revelation of Hope; sings with A Few Good Men, and writes for upcoming projects including one he prayerfully hopes to complete by 2018. You can find his music, updates on his travels, and more at his website, [www.sivasalaupati.com](http://www.sivasalaupati.com).

## Vasa's Music—Sharing How God has Lead

The music I will share at the Friday evening music concert, is a collection of original songs written over a period of six years. Each song is an experience I've had in my spiritual journey of how God has lead and is still leading.

All the styles of the songs vary with the message I tried to portray; some songs have more of an island feeling to them, others are ballads, and others are a

little more upbeat. When I'm asked how I describe my music, I usually answer that it is "transition music" in hopes that it helps the transition from heavy secular influences to more gospel-inspired music.

I am blessed by a family who shares my love of music. They will accompany me during the evening concert.