

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 2006

From: Jerry Page

To: Pastors, Retirees, Office Staff, Executive Committee, Lay Advisory, PGTS Board,
Principals for Teachers

Re: News Items, Et Cetera

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Waveland, MI–The Fresno Adventist Academy Senior Class decided to forgo their senior class trip to Maui, Hawaii and went to Waveland, MI instead to help clean up and restore victims’ homes. Television interview aired with the students on Wednesday, April 19. 51 CCC members from FAA, MBA, sponsors and friends worked under the direction of the Center for Youth Evangelism (CYWeCare) helping Katrina victims.

Dr. Peter Yoshida, a long time leader of the Mountain View Japanese Church, and a Conference Executive Committee member, is seeing the Lord do some exciting things in outreach just now. He and his wife, June, currently have 17-20 friends who are interested in studying about Jesus and are meeting in their home periodically. John Triplett, local Bible worker, is helping with the studies. Some interests are from totally non-Christian backgrounds. Ever since Peter went to preach his first evangelistic series overseas, the Lord has been doing major things in his life and ministry.

The San Francisco area churches are praising the Lord for the response so far to their mailing of 424,766 special booklets to homes in the city. Over 500 responses have come in during the first couple weeks asking for Bible studies, DVD’s, and full copies of Great Controversy. The mailing of the last 11 chapters of Great Controversy had a special cover “What’s Next? Are you prepared” to coincide with the centennial of the 1906 earthquake. Church members have covered the city in prayer (10 minute blocks–16 hours a day) for weeks and also meet one Sunday morning a month to pray together for 2 hours (April 2 over 75 at Philadelphian Church). Please keep praying (see report and flyer at back for more details). They raised over \$140,000 including gifts from the Pacific Union and CCC evangelism funds. Their website for responses offering various language studies, etc., is www.whats-next.org.

The Orosi Church family is doing several interesting things:

- A. Serving breakfast before Sabbath school—attendance has increased a lot.
- B. Pastor Antonio Romero and his wife, Melanie, are teaching a class in conversational Spanish at the members request so they can better reach a community that is largely Hispanic.
- C. A children's church once a month for the neighborhood.

Early Morning Prayer Gatherings – A number of churches meet early in the morning around 6:00 a.m. once or twice a week for intercessory prayer and praise. House of Hope, Mtn. View Korean, Porterville and Oakhurst are a few examples. Exciting things are happening in response!

David Dean, our leader for the urban youth evangelism team, has seen God's hand bless with 28 baptisms so far from their Bakersfield evangelistic meetings. They had a pre-work rally with over 500 attending as guest celebrities gave testimonies for Jesus.

The Fresno area churches are rejoicing in the opening weekend of the John Bradshaw "Revelation Offers Hope" evangelistic series at Fresno Adventist Academy. 800 attended with over 200 interests.

The Exeter Church family is excited with the responses to their outreach meetings. Over 100 attended opening night (40+ interests) and it is continuing strong. Bible worker Mario Bravo and Pastor Jeff Wolff have led the pre-work and Taj Pacleb is presenting the series. Nine responded to a call Sunday and will begin more studies for baptism.

Early Shawn Boonstra Series Results: In Orosi 10 precious people preparing for baptism. North Fork has 2 people planning on baptism in May—and others considering. More reports beginning to come in.

Harold Zapata has conducted Hispanic evangelistic meetings in San Francisco with Pastor Raul Gonzalez –A total of 76 visitors have attended some of the meetings; four people baptized last weekend, with 24 more studying every Tuesday and Thursday in preparation for baptism.

San Jose Hispanic Church baptized 15 at the end of a recent revival. Their pastor, Cesar deLeon has been recovering from some illness challenges but the lay leaders just keep on moving forward.

Many of the Hispanic churches are in the middle of the Alejandro Bullon Satellite Series "Jesus es La Esperanza" or other outreach meetings this spring.

Gladys Hollingsead reports that our Pacific Health Education Center has just been responsible for opening a satellite health education training center in Cuba. This was vital because the government will no longer allow its health professionals to travel to Bakersfield for training.

CCC Girls Retreat this weekend. Over 110 girls from our local churches are signed up to attend the first CCC girls retreat at Soquel. “Girl Go Through–How to Survive Family Chaos”, “Girl Say No–How to Stay Sexually Pure,” and “Girl Stand Up–How to Withstand Pressure” are three major areas of the weekend sponsored by the CCC Youth Evangelism Team and CCC Women’s Ministries in cooperation with the Youth Department. Myronie McKee, Delinda Hamilton and Christy Ward will be speaking.

Our recent Hispanic Men’s Retreat at Wawona showed one of great values of spiritual retreats. We have been able to get new furniture for rooms at Wawona from a Marriott renovation and lots of help was needed Sunday. 36 men from the retreat stayed on to help get the job done quickly!

Two New Church Plants voted–the recent Church Growth Committee approved new church plant applications for Madera Ranchos (sponsored by Clovis) and a San Jose Russian church plant (sponsored by Campbell).

Pastor Marvin Santos and the Bakersfield Hispanic congregation had the vision to purchase a church and property in a prime location several years ago for \$750,000. Under Marco Valenca’s leadership and Ivan Morford and Fred Showalter’s assistance they just sold it for \$2.6 million and have purchased a great new facility for 300+ for under \$1 million. Plus, the Baptists are turning over a database of 100 interests for us to work! Praise God for His miracles!

Reports of Recent CCC Mission Trips:

- Ethiopia–Taj and Wati Pacleb led a group of 11 from CCC to preach at 10 meeting sites in Ethiopia ; 710 people were baptized as a result and many more are still studying.
- Ghana–Dale Leamon led a group of 6 who preached at six different sites in Ghana, Africa. 250 people were baptized at three baptismal locations. One congregation just completing a new church building received enough new converts to fill their facility!
- Cuba–37 “missionaries”, 17 from CCC, spent time in Cuba preaching in 5 different locations. Approximately 200 baptisms resulted. 35 people were baptized in Mariano where Art Bushnell preached with Silvia Flores-Aguilar as interpreter.
- Mexico–A group from Sunnyvale Church (9 youth, 7 adults) returned recently from one week in East Tijuana, Mexico where they built a 2 room house from the ground up. Working with Amore’ Ministries, a non-denominational organization providing homes for needy families, this is the tenth year a Sunnyvale group has been the construction crew for a new house. On several occasions they have been able to reconnect with some of the families, who are always glad to see them and show them how they’re doing in the house.
- Jerry and Janet Page and Caron Oswald are leading a team of 8 to preach meetings in 8 different villages of Kenya, Africa in May-June. Another group, including Joseph and Dolores Jones, will be going to Kenya in June. Please pray for us.

CCC Education Commission Survey –The Commission and our Administration are requesting each pastor fill out and return the attached survey so we can deal with the real issues affecting our schools in spirituality and philosophy of education. Return the survey to Ileana Espinosa.

Personnel Changes:

- Brian Simmons, graduating from PUC in June has accepted our pastoral call and is assigned to be associate pastor in Sonora.
- Polo Valenzuela also has accepted our pastoral call and is assigned to be associate at Fresno Hispanic after his graduation from PUC in June.
- Andrew Uyeyama will be replacing Eddie Vargas as Hanford associate after his year working with the Youth Evangelism Team is finished at the end of summer. Eddie has returned to continue his education at PUC.
- Eric Scott has had to go on long term medical disability due to continuing complications from back injury and surgeries. Let's keep praying for Eric and Maria!
- Olaf Betat will be the interim pastoral help at the Bakersfield Asian church plant as his health recovers awaiting his new permanent assignment.
- Virgilio and Lilia Huerta have accepted our call to pastor the Wasco and Delano churches starting June 15. They come to us from Arizona. Virgilio and Lilia have 3 sons–Ever 27, Virgilio Jr. 25, and Gabriel 12.
- Ted and Shelli Baze have accepted the call to pastor the newly formed Oildale/Shafter District. Taft will join the Bakersfield Central District with Marlan Knittel and David Bello.
- Watsonville Church has been officially districted with Salinas under John Coelho's leadership.

Jim and Melissa Hobbs (one of our media teams (MTM) for camp meeting) adopted a baby boy. “JJ” Josiah James Edward was born on 12/21/05 weighing 6#4oz., stretching 20½ in. Daddy says JJ is growing like a weed and that they're all doing well. Congratulations and blessings to the Hobbs family!

The Capital Campaign DVD was recently sent to every home and church in the Conference and there has already been a very encouraging response. We're asking each pastor to make certain it is shown at a prime time in the next few weeks. Thank you.

A gift of \$47,000 from sale of a piece of property just came in for CCC Educational Endowment –it's now at over \$1.2 million.

Two excellent local church evangelistic meetings concluded in February: Modesto Central has baptized 12 to date and 8 continue studies. Salinas has 11 new members, is studying with 5, and has 2 interested in beginning studies. More interests are still being followed up on.

Myrtle Bristol passed away on March 27, 2006. She was the wife of Ansel Bristol who served at Templeton Hills in the late 80's and early 90's. Their son, Todd, teaches at Fresno Adventist Academy. Services were on Sabbath, April 8, in Shiloh Springs, CA.

Marc Oswald, the son of Caron Oswald, died Wednesday, March 29, 2006 from complications of quadriplegia. He was 35 years old. He had been paralyzed since Memorial Day 1991 from a diving accident. In a letter, Caron wrote, "We think his heart simply needed to rest until Jesus comes." A memorial service was held in Clovis, CA on April 8 and another service will be held in Pennsylvania on April 30 at Blue Mountain Academy.

The preparations are fully underway to move forward with renovation of Soquel Campground's Central City. Hopefully work will begin this fall and be done by camp meeting 2007. A donor has offered matching dollars up to \$800,000 to complete this work!

The Wawona entitlement process is still proceeding. Hopefully the last hearings will begin in May and be done by the end of summer camp. More details soon as dates are set for these hearings.

"A leader is the one who climbs the tallest tree, surveys the entire situation, and yells, 'wrong jungle'!"

– Stephen Covey

Update of the San Francisco Project “*What’s Next?*”

- First booklets were placed in homes March 31
- Members report they received over the past few weeks, with one getting her's yesterday on April 18th. This goes along with our projection of 3-4 weeks for the total saturation.
- As of April 18th:
 - 475 response cards have been received at headquarters
 - 12 Chinese
 - 1 Arabic
 - 1 Japanese
 - 1 Russian
 - 1 Portuguese
 - 1 Hungarian
 - 1 Italian
 - 56 Spanish
 - 7 Tagalog
 - Rest are English requests
 - 217 have requested Bible Studies
 - 360 have requested the Great Controversy
 - 416 have requested the DVD

Just a few of many email responses for prayer requests:

“Please pray for me because I am a homosexual.”

“I can’t take it anymore...if possible, please overnight the DVD.”

“To get off drugs (crack) and to live righteously under God’s law.”

“I wish to no longer be gay.”