

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 24, 2005

From: Jerry Page

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

Re: News Items, Et Cetera

.....

CCC Secular Campus Ministries Expanding– Candace Caballero and Joy Gravestock are our first “stealth evangelists” to the Cal State-Stanislaus campus in Turlock. These young adult Bible workers have registered for classes this year for one purpose–to lead others to Jesus. Not knowing exactly how to begin, they decided to “prayer walk” the very large campus. The very next day, students began to stop Joy or Candace asking questions like “I’m looking for a Bible study. Do you know where I can find one?” They are now studying with six students! This is a pilot secular campus ministry jointly sponsored by the Pacific Union and our Conference evangelism funds.

Daniel Suarez is the new pastor for the Hanford/Sanger Bilingual Church District. Daniel comes from St. Louis, where he has led a church plant to very positive growth in recent years. He comes with his wife, Marilyn, and 4 children.

CCC Youth Convention drew over 1000 youth from all over our Conference for inspiration, training and fellowship October 8th at the Fresno Convention Center. Steve Horton and a large team of volunteers saw the Lord touching many young lives.

Capital Campaign Update

- A. The CCC Education Endowment stands at \$1,174,000 and the first scholarship disbursements of about \$24,000 will be available in next few weeks.
- B. Total amounts pledged or donated so far for Capital Campaign Phase 1 and Phase 2 come to \$8,786,496.59.
- C. Camp Wawona and Yosemite Ridge have been expanding the ministries to children with life threatening diseases and their families–two asthma and one HIV/Aids camps for kids last summer and now three for obesity and asthma for the families. Jackie and Brooke were just recently interviewed by Danny Shelton on 3ABN and that will be run many times in coming months.

Camp Meeting Evangelism Offering total at end of September was \$1,057,138. Thank you all for your prayers and support—pray for God’s wisdom for Evangelism Committee as requests from local churches are considered.

Bakersfield Hillcrest Church has just begun broadcasting a full time 50,000 watt F.M. station (91.7) according to Pastor Yves Monnier. This station, like its parent in Carolina, broadcasts a steady stream of truth-filled speaking programs. Some local programming will also be included. The 3ABN programming in town will also be increasing locally produced programs.

Hurricane Katrina Response Update—See attached article.

The Santa Maria Korean group was organized as an official company on Sabbath, September 17. They have 40 official members and 60-70 attending.

Adventist Book Center Update—Greg Keener, ABC Manager, reports that the current financial statement shows consistent sales increases over previous years. In fact, this year’s camp meeting sales exceeded the \$300,000 mark for the first time. Sales were \$315,000, a \$40,000 increase over last year. Also, as the ABC staff prepares for the up-coming holiday sales season, Greg is encouraged to see that the ABC website (adventistbookcenter.com) is being used regularly and increasingly.

Evangelism Update

- A. Arroyo Grande’s pastor Jerry Nelson shared that they have 17 new members, he continues studies with a class of 40, and baptisms are planned for November 12 and 19 as a result of their meetings. Three of these baptisms were a direct result of last summer’s student LE’s knocking on their doors. Soon they will launch several small Bible study/support groups. The members are saying it has been very good for them, too.
- B. Merced—David Acosta reports that the Hispanic meetings concluded October 1 resulting in 21 new members joining. They have over 300 people they are continuing to follow-up with personal contact and more Bible study. They are planning another baptism soon. This church plant and Juan Gutierrez are excited about what God is doing!
- C. Ron Rasmussen reports Modesto Parkwood just began an evangelistic series with Jim Reinking as speaker. They had 100 guests plus members the first night and they have 40 good interests. They are meeting on a weekend schedule over a longer time than most meetings.
- D. Pastor Gerry Eborá just concluded two series of meetings October 15. San Francisco Fil-Am baptized 10 and 5 continue to study in preparation for baptism. Three persons took their baptismal stand for Christ at San Francisco Tabernacle with 10 more soon to follow as Bible studies are completed.
- E. Soquel members and Pastor Joe Reynolds are so thankful for Evangelist Mike Sady’s professionally presented meetings. The meetings just concluded 10/24 and 7 have already become members. Another baptism is planned for 11/19/05 for many that continue to study.

- E. Turlock—To date, Turlock Church has 9 additions to their membership and a number of people have committed and continue to study. They believe at least a total of 25 will have joined soon. Pastor Rick Casebier and his congregation are just bubbling over with exciting stories about the wonderful series just finished. A couple of teenage boys, Nathan and Jonathan, in two separate circumstances, were the catalyst for members of their families to accept Christ and begin studies. One of Jonathan's friends has a strong atheist influence in his home. He witnessed Jonathan's conversion/commitment and is reconsidering his spiritual viewpoint. Christian Record Braille contacts and our Blind Camp at Wawona were a positive turning point in a blind man's decision to be baptized.

Clark McCall Engaged—The Oakdale Church sign read "He popped the question—she said yes!" Pastor Clark and Ailene Mack are planning a December 11 wedding, followed by an Hawaiian honeymoon thanks to the generosity of the Oakdale congregation. Clark and Ailene will make their home in Merced. Best wishes to the happy couple!

The CCC Youth Prayer Conference hosted at MBA was blessed powerfully by the Holy Spirit. Over 300 youth attended from all over the Conference and 16 made specific decisions to prepare for baptism. There was good preaching, break-out groups, a half day community service on Friday, Bible study, prayer and moving testimony services. One of the best results developing as our Youth Evangelism team leads out in these over the years is that more and more other teens in local areas are ministering to and discipling their friends.

3AC Urban Youth Evangelism Project—David Dean will be leading youth evangelism outreaches this year specifically to reach urban African American young people for the lord. The Evangelism Committee voted an appropriation to help begin these exciting training and evangelistic outreaches.

Dan Botabara, our CCC Asian coordinator, was asked to conduct the Andrews University student week of prayer this fall. A number came forward to request baptism in response to one of his calls.

Zeke Nichols and the Redwood City Hispanic lay members did family life meetings this fall and now have 15-20 Bible studies ongoing.

Year to Date Tithe Increase over last year is 5.85% at the end of September. Please alert your people that all personal charitable contributions given this fall are 100% deductible due to legislation following Katrina—ends December 31.

CCC Men's Retreat touched so many of us as Walter Wright spoke and Ken Lockwood gave a moving personal journey testimony as well. Over 200 attended at Soquel—Elijah message witnessed as men prayed for Youth Prayer Conference at MBA and kids prayed for the men!

"Church Works 2005" has 441 registered already and more coming in all the time. Don't miss out!

***"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you!"
2 Thessalonians 5:18***