

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 2005

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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The regular Conference news items, including the latest Camp Meeting Evangelism Offering total, the new CCC Education Commission members and the new Junior Youth Director follow the report on Hurricane Katrina Relief Response.

CCC Hurricane Katrina Relief Response – As we've watched the horrific devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, our hearts break for the thousands and thousands of people whose homes, possessions, jobs – and for too many, their lives – have been completely destroyed. Even the media professionals struggle for words to describe what they are seeing, hearing, smelling. I know you join me in constant prayer for all those so devastated by this catastrophic event. And we want to do something tangible right now to help. Following are the current things CCC is doing with more to come.

Charlene Sargent, our union disaster trainer and CCC member, is onsite setting up the Adventist Community Services (ACS) warehouse in New Iberia, LA. Shortly, CCC disaster trained volunteers will be asked to donate their time there.

Bakersfield churches and the San Joaquin Community Hospital are partnering together to do a city-wide collection drive for personal care kit items requested by Adventist Community Services (ACS) Sept. 8 & 9. The CCC moving van will deliver these items to the ACS warehouse in Louisiana.

Cash donations to ACS: Still the most urgently needed assistance, your churches have already received via e-mail and "snail" mail, a bulletin insert explaining how to help with gifts of money (See enclosed flyer). Adventist Community Services (ACS) is the church's disaster response vehicle for North America. (ADRA responds in the international arena.)

Personal Care Kits: Our church schools and Pathfinder clubs will be collecting requested urgently needed items for distribution to those in need (See enclosed flyer). These items will be delivered by the CCC moving van.

Targeted Response: 100 Adventist men, women and children now housed at the Adventist Lone Star Camp in Athens, Texas. These numbers are expected to continually grow. Ken Bullington has been in contact with Frank Jones, education superintendent of Southwestern Regional

Conference and former principal of Fresno Adventist Academy. In New Orleans, they've lost two schools and all six churches are under water. Frank has sent a list of urgently needed items which we will help address. He's also setting up a school at the campground. Our local church schools will help with books and supplies coordinated through our education department.

Throughout the next weeks and months, there will be so many other needs and we'll pass that information on to you as we receive it. Future mission trips are also being discussed.

As Adventist Christians, when we hear words like unprecedented, catastrophic, in Biblical proportions, worst national disaster in this country's history, we know that Jesus' second coming is growing so much closer. In a Baton Rouge shelter, one reporter told of the two top requests of the evacuees – to know about their family members and Bibles. We are asking our Lord to take this tragedy which Satan means for harm and turn it for good as He always can! (See Genesis 50:20)

New Junior Youth/Pathfinder/Wawona Summer Camp Director–Elden Ramirez has accepted our call to be the CCC Junior Youth Director. Elden has most recently been the director for the Iowa-Missouri Conference. He grew up in Central California and worked in San Francisco with the San Francisco Mayor's Youth Forum. He has a wonderful family–wife Jenny, and two young children, Elennie and Jasmine. They are finishing up graduate school projects and will be here by the first of the year.

Our CCC Soquel Camp Meeting Evangelism Offering is currently at \$1,015,848.65 and rising as count continues into late September. Thanks to the Lord and all of you for another amazing miracle that will help all our churches throughout the year!

New Work Brochure–I am enclosing a brochure Caron produced that gives examples of how last year's evangelism offering was used for a host of outreach projects FYI and to pass on to your members as you feel appropriate.

CCC Education Commission Appointed–The Conference Executive Committee with input from K-12 Board and many other sources has set up our new Education Commission. The first meeting will be Sunday, September 25. The new members are:

Jerry Page, Chair	Jim Marxmiller	Invitees:
Vern Biloff, Vice-Chair	Jason Mustard	Ken Bullington
Fred Anderson	Larry Pena	Ramiro Cano
Cesar de Leon	Mayra Thompson	Ileana Espinosa
Jan Hice	Ed Walker	Richard Osborn
Dan Kittle	Pierre Steenberg	Caron Oswald
Dr. Do Chan Kwak	Nelson Tabingo	
Tammie Lindsey		

M.B.A. Report—Monterey Bay Academy is off to a very good start as are many of our schools. Enrollment is well over budget at 214 (budgeted for 200). The new faculty and staff are being well received! The laundry is producing more pounds of laundry than any other time in the past, and a new co-generation facility is saving large amounts of power.

Bryan del Valle is the new pastor/Bible teacher for M.B.A. He currently has been pastoring in the Orlando, Florida area. He grew up in San Diego and is coming home to California. He worked a number of years as Florida Conference's associate publishing director for the Student LE Programs before going to the seminary for his M.Div. He also taught at SOULS East and some at Forest Lake Academy. Thirty to 40 young people responded to a call after Bryan's first sermon. Please pray for major spiritual revival at M.B.A. this year. Exciting plans are taking shape in a number of ways. Just as one example, our Conference Youth Evangelism Team will be leading out in conference-wide youth prayer conference at M.B.A. this fall along with spending much of January and February on campus.

CCC Student LE Programs Results—79 great young students (mostly from CCC) distributed 47,000 truth-filled books, visited 284,850 homes, collected \$431,429, earned scholarships to our schools of \$285,429, found 510 Bible study interests leaving another 105,000 Bible study offer/contact cards. The Lord has disciplined our young people, touched so many lives and only in Heaven will we know the real results! Thanks, Bill Krick, Taj Pacleb and the rest of our team.

Wawona Update—The final complete application for our development plans and land zoning changes, etc. was submitted to the Mariposa County Planning staff this month. They, too, are excited by our master plan and by November we should be headed into the last three hearings before final approval. We hope to be through the final Board of Supervisor's vote by snow melt time next spring! Keep praying and get those letters in, please!

CCC Church Works 2005: A Team Approach to Ministry—Nov. 11-13, 2005. Quite a few churches have already committed to bringing a team, with their pastor, to Church Works 2005. A number of others are processing through their boards, etc. We encourage as many churches as possible to send their pastor with a team delegation to this very important Conference weekend of visioning, inspiration, training, planning, and prayer for our local districts' future teamwork and mission for Jesus.

Craig Dossman and the East Palo Alto Church have been very excited about their new TV ministry every Thursday evening at 9:30 p.m. It began August 18 and had so many call-ins for prayer and materials, that the system shut down! That night alone they got calls from all over the US—Fresno, San Francisco, San Jose, Modesto, Lancaster, PA, Baltimore, MD, New York, NY and Washington, DC. They received 150 Bible study requests. They are linked with IIW who send out the lessons within 48 hours. 20 church members man the phones as prayer warriors and answer questions. The callers respond that this is different than other programs, this is what they need.

Ernest Lewis and the Merced Bethel group will finish a month long series of tent meetings on September 3. The meetings have gone very well and there are 6-8 very excited people attending the baptismal class.

Antonio Huerta has only been senior pastor of Fresno Hispanic for a couple months and has already baptized 16 new people!

Kenny Fraser, Christy Briano, and the House of Hope team reports that they are still following up on interests from their tent meetings—one in June and one following camp meeting. They baptized 4 in June, will baptize 3 more Sabbath, September 3, and are studying with 4 more. Praise the Lord!

Ariel Torres has baptized 18 people in the last few weeks. Some came from meetings in Santa Maria and some from personal work.

Harold and Evelyn Zapata made us sad by hearing the Lord leading them to accept a call to Coral Gables, Florida (near Fort Lauderdale) to pastor a church they have gone to minister to yearly over past years. They have committed in writing to conduct three reaping campaigns a year for the next three years to our Hispanic churches here in CCC. Harold and Evelyn, we'll miss you and look forward to your return ministries!

NetAdventist.org—An exciting new opportunity for local churches will be available October 1. Hart Research and Tagnet with 28 of best high tech people in the church have developed a way for local churches to have very professional web pages that serve as “the” portal to all the web information their members and friends may need. Regular updates of broader information can also be added to local church current information. For more information contact Connley Hartman or Ramiro Cano.

Pastor Zeke Nichols and his wife, Angelica, welcomed their first child, Samuel Eli, into this world on Saturday night (8/27) at 9:09 p.m. Samuel is a healthy 7 lbs. 7 oz. and 19 1/2 inches long. Both mom and baby are doing great! The Lord's blessings on this new family!

As we keep praying for and seeking to help the victims of Katrina, it seems it is a time to study the prophecies diligently and be more urgent in our efforts to reach people for the Lord's kingdom. The following paragraphs pull back the curtain on the Great Controversy to give deeper insights into Satan's strategies and to help us know what lies ahead:

“Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows... It is God that shields His creatures, and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would,—He will withdraw His blessings from the earth, and remove His protecting care

from those who are rebelling against His law, and teaching and forcing others to do the same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favor and prosper some in order to further his own designs, and he will bring trouble upon others and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them.”

“While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. “The earth mourneth and fadeth away,” “the haughty people . . . do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.” Isaiah 24:4,5

“And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils...” GC, pg. 589-90