

CALENDAR

January 2
NAD Day of Prayer

January 10
GLOW Rally at
Fresno Central Church

January 29-31
Women's Retreat
at Tenaya Lodge

February 5-7
Women's Retreat
at Soquel

February 5-7
Hispanic Women's
Retreat at Tenaya Lodge

February 19-21
Marriage Retreat
at Seaside

February 26-27
Religious Liberty Rally
at Fresno Central
Church

February 26-28
Campus Ministries
Retreat

March 21-28
Puerto Rico Mission
Trip #1

February 28-April 4
Puerto Rico Mission
Trip #2



Spiritual Growth



Loving Fellowship
and Unity



Mobilization of the
Spiritual Gifts of
All Members



Outreach

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Central Acts

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Friendship and Prayers Lead to Baptism

by Shenalyn Page

Miguel and Veronica Murillo, of Fresno, CA, tell their story simply. "We were always open to learning about the Bible. Then a friend told us about camp meeting. We went and started studying the Bible. We were baptized. We're happy."

But there is more to the story.

A Heartfelt Prayer

In early 2009, Dan Escamilla, director of Hispanic ministries, began preaching the need to personally share Jesus during this Year of Evangelism. His wife Nohemi took the message to heart. "I wanted to study the Bible with someone," she says. Escamilla agreed and the couple began praying and reaching out. But no interests turned up and they went to Soquel Camp Meeting still praying.

Friendship Leads to Camp Meeting

Across town, God was working in the Murillos' life through Veronica's co-worker, Marilyn Tuazon, a member of the Fresno Central Valley Fil-Am church. Tuazon began answering Veronica's Bible questions and invited the Murillos to Camp Meeting. "It's a place to have a close encounter with Jesus," she told them.

The Tuazons gave the family a place to stay during the 10 day event, fed them and cared for their pre-teen children, Pearla and Angel. While there the Murillos met Antonio Huerta, pastor of the Fresno Hispanic, and requested Bible Studies.



Dan and Nohemi Escamilla (far left and far right), share the joy of the Murillo family, Miguel, Veronica, Angel and Perla, on the day they were all baptized. The Escamillas gave them Bible studies. Not pictured is Marilyn Tuazon, a Fresno Fil-Am church member and Veronica's co-worker who invited the family to camp meeting.

Answered Prayers

Escamilla walked up during the Murillos' conversation with Huerta. "This family wants Bible studies," Huerta told him. Escamilla recognized the answer to his and Nohemi's prayers. "We'll study with them!" he told Huerta.

The Murillos studied earnestly, completing four or five lessons each week. They gladly accepted the Gospel truths, but Miguel was hesitant about tithing. Escamilla encouraged him to test God. "I listened and gave," Miguel says, "and happily I've experienced what he told me. We're giving and God is blessing."

Veronica and the children decided to be baptized August 29, 2009. Just days before the

cont. on next page

baptism, Miguel decided to join his family in the water. The Escamillas, Tuazon and others joined in celebrating the special day at the Fresno Hispanic church.

That afternoon, Veronica's arm was injured in a car accident. "I'm the only one in the family with a permanent job and now I can't work," she says. Veronica is a CNA and Miguel is a painter. "But I'm trusting God to take care of us. I'm with Him no matter what."

The Murillos are already giving their neighbors Bible studies with the Escamillas guidance. "I believe this is the way we should all do it," says Escamilla. "We study with people, they are converted and then we should support them in giving studies to someone else right away."

"We love the Sabbath and haven't missed church yet," says Veronica. "Our lives are so different now. We are a happier family." 📖

Growing God's Kingdom

2009 was the North American Division's "Share the Hope Year of Evangelism," calling for all pastors to hold at least one public outreach during the year – two would be even better.

Central California leaders added one suggestion: one of the outreaches could be preached by church members.

Hanford English church Pastor Michael Hufham preached his first public series this past spring. "It scared me, but I did it," he reports. In the fall as Hufham prepared for his second series, Hanford church leaders began discussing what they could do. "Some [members] volunteered immediately, others were prompted by God at a later time," Hufham adds. It was the first time



The Hanford church evangelism team, planners, greeters, preachers, et al.

for all but one of the lay preachers. "There is complete excitement about doing it again next year. We felt that God was preparing us for something bigger. We are living dangerously for Christ!"

Los Banos Adventist Elementary school students, grades third through eighth, spent an October afternoon visiting the school's neighbors. Trained and led by one of the YouthRush team, students learned how to talk to people, share their faith, distribute literature (this year they offered magabooks for a donation), and make a positive difference in their community. "They love it!" says Principal Marilee Dalton who has done this for the past 10 years. "They learn a simple canvas and practice it in a variety of fun ways. Then off we go to find who needs a touch from God that we can give." Students share their highlights.

"The community outreach was so cool because we got to pray with people," says Dylan. "I like spreading God's word to

our neighbors and praying with them," Michelle adds.

San Jose Samoan members are praising God for their much anticipated evangelistic meetings with their Pastor Manuao Maui! On loan from the South

San Francisco Samoan (SSFS) was Bible worker Benjamin Bernard, and members Ratami Fatilua and Loi Fa'aeteete. "After a lot of prayer, fasting and hope, we were set for a wonderful adventure," says an excited church member.

One innovative strategy was to teach members how to visit the other San Jose Samoan pastors, introducing themselves and asking for permission to speak to their congregations. Also members learned door-to-door training using a survey to seek for Bible study interests. Thursday nights were learning how to give a Bible study, designed for all ages. (Bernard had trained the SSFS members for their summer 2009 meetings.) Then Monday through Friday, the visiting team, joined by trained members, did in-home Bible studies.

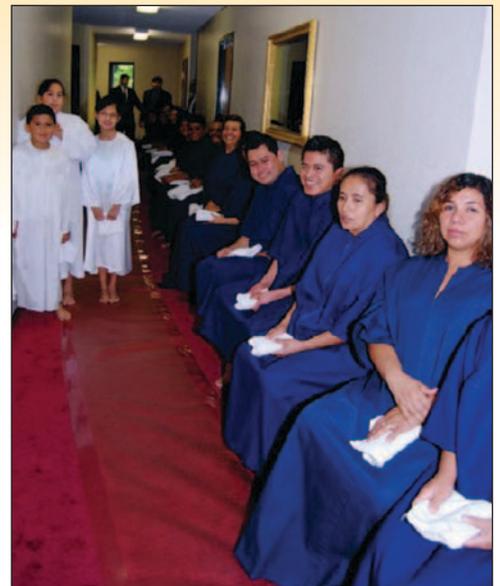
"These guys don't mess around," says George Johnson, director of special projects. "Men take time off from work to help prepare for and work during the meetings." Eighteen



"You made my day!" a neighbor told students Cerrin Vega (middle) and Aleyna Parker (left). The former church member, told the girls she wants to try and attend church again.



The youth and young adult evangelism team with three of their newly baptized members listen as Pastor Carlos Solozobal (second from left) speaks to the San Francisco Latin American congregation. Twenty-five local church teams, numbering from as few as six and as many as 20, participated in Proyecto Timoteo.



Twenty people wait for the baptism service to begin at the San Jose Hispanic church.

new members were baptized – doubling the congregation!

Proyecto Timoteo (The Timothy Project) began in January 2009 when Hispanic youth and young adults, from 25 Hispanic churches, volunteered to be trained to hold a public series – from organizing, door-to-door visitation, preaching – the entire process. Four group training sessions were held from January through August at Camp Wawona, the Conference office, San Jose, and the Soquel campground. From Oct. 31 to Nov. 7, 25 teams of youth and young

adults preached the Gospel to their friends, families and neighbors. More than 50 people have been baptized so far.

San Jose Hispanic members are experienced lay evangelists. For two years, members have opened their homes and garages to hold one-week neighborhood meetings – preaching, food, childcare. The second week, all satellite meetings are combined at the church. This fall 33 people made decisions for baptism. 

1st Annual SDA Family Ski Day at Tahoe's Northstar (northstatahove.com)

February 28, 2010

An Intimate Walk with Christ Through Nature

Guest speakers include
ARISE leaders **Matt Para**
and **Nathan Renner**
plus **Ivor Myers**.

Discount lift ticket prices:

Adult 23-64 – \$57
Young Adult 13-22 – \$46
Senior Adult 65-69 – \$46
Child 5-12 – \$17
Super Senior 70+ – \$17

For group lodging rates, call 800-GoNorth and use reservation code SE0228. Rates are good Jan. 3 - April 19 2010. For more information, go to ccc.adventist.org or call Adele Attix at (530) 562-8024.

Adventist Hams for Jesus – Long before the Internet, Adventist amateur radio operators were connecting people with Jesus. The small group, started by Charles Seitz, K4MJS, then Potomac Conference youth director, and Jack Griffith K4ESP, an Adventist school teacher, has grown into a world-wide organization. In 1959 the West Coast Amateur Radio Bible Study group began meeting every morning at 6:00 a.m. using the book *Bible Readings for the Home*. Today, the signal reaches from Hawaii, to Alaska, to British Columbia, Wyoming, East Utah, Arizona, and Mexico. Up to 50 hams check in on the 75 meter band at 3975 each day – all amateurs are invited. Over the years many, many people from all walks of life have joined daily Bible study and prayer time.

Bible Readings for the Home are freely given to those that request a copy.

On October 3 Harold Keniston, KA6ENC, the current net control for the amateur group, received the Don F. Neufeld Award for high standards of Christian excellence. (Neufeld was a minister, associate editor of the *Adventist Review* and an avid Adventist amateur.)



Rodney Benson, WB6QDN, presents the award to Keniston as wife Mary looks on.

Adventist School Changes Lives

by Caron Oswald

On a school bus ride home one afternoon, Vianna Rocha noticed the Kern Adventist Elementary school in Shafter. At home she told her Mom, “I want to go to a school where I can learn about Jesus.” Vianna was enrolled in seventh grade in 2008.

She began to pray that her cousin Teresa Enriquez could come to her school. That prayer seemed impossible! Teresa lived with her grandmother, her drug-dependent father and several brothers and sisters in Grandma’s broken-down house.

When Teresa, also in seventh grade, was kicked out of public school, Vianna and her mother saw this as an answer to their prayers. Teacher Elaine Garcia and Pastor Ted Baze agreed to meet with Teresa.

Fifteen students is the maximum allowed at the one-teacher school. All current students are Hispanic



Career teacher Elaine Garcia and 8th grade students Teresa Enriquez (left) and Vianna Rocha.

children of the growing Hispanic congregation and supported by the Shafter English members. Like so many small agricultural Central Valley towns, the demographics have shifted. In Shafter, more than 90 percent of the residents are Hispanic.

“I laid out the rules,” Garcia says. As Teresa joined the classroom, Garcia learned a lot about her. “She was a very depressed little girl who didn’t know much about Jesus.” Though Teresa was willing to make requested changes like wardrobe and behavior, she was accustomed to attending school when she felt like it – which was not often. Once she understood that, once reported, Grandma would be charged, the truancy problem ended.

“God has the power to stop this kind of life,” Garcia says about the

hopeless environment Teresa lived in. “We kept praying for her and showing her God’s mercy.”

It was during an Outdoor School at Camp Wawona when Teresa opened her heart to God. She had never seen a waterfall or a forest. “She prayed to God saying ‘What you have made is beautiful. I’m sorry I didn’t want to come.’”

She spent the summer with Garcia and the Shafter church members. Today she is an eager, achieving eighth grader. She has started a church choir, brings her Grandma and a brother. When boys in the community approach she says, “I like to read the Bible and go to church.” One boy is coming to church with her. Sabbath afternoons are Bible studies at the Garcia house.

Her earnest prayer is for Grandma to have a pretty backyard – one with flowers. The Shafter members have committed to help make that happen.

“This is Adventist education at its best,” says Ileana Espinosa, associate education superintendent, about the transformation in a child’s life from one dedicated, selfless teacher.

“Before I came to this school, I felt like I was worthless... helpless... hopeless. Now I no long feel helpless,” Teresa says.

Elaine Garcia invites you to join her in praying for Teresa and her family, especially for Teresa to continue in Adventist Education through the next four years. 



Eight-year-old Irene Ramirez attended an evangelistic series at the Bakersfield Hillcrest church last spring with her parents and loved the children’s meetings. Her parents, continued to study the Bible with Jerry and

Janice Schmidt. Irene’s parents faithfully attended the weekly worship service, but Irene wanted to go to Sabbath school. So on Sabbath mornings, she would get ready and one parent would drop her off for Sabbath school, then go home to dress for church. Irene reads her Bible faithfully (she has read the entire book of Genesis). “Now when nightmares come, I don’t have to go into my parents’ bed. I read my Bible and feel better.” Her parents were baptized on November 28, 2009.

There was no room for a playground on the Milpitas church property when the school was added 30 years ago. On September 9, Mayor Bob Livengood participated in the dedication of Foothill Adventist Elementary school’s new playground. He affirmed those present for their hard work and pooled resources to make this project happen, especially in this hard economy. “We think of a playground in the context of the whole world it might be correct to say it is a small thing,” Livengood said. “However playgrounds are symbolic. They are important in the lives of our young people and our young people are obviously going to be our future.” Pictured: Milpitas Mayor Bob Livengood and first-grader Hencock Negash shovel dirt on a newly planted tree during the dedication.

