



Your Evangelism Dollars at Work

From the desk of Jerry Page

You may remember that more than 200 members attended the June Boot Camp training weekend to learn to preach. Called Homeland Campaigns, it follows the Global Evangelism/ShareHim model – a two week series with a script and power point visuals already prepared and ready. With the North American Division’s 2009 Year of Evangelism, we wanted as many pastors and members as possible ready to preach. **BUT** some of the newly trained evangelists couldn’t wait until 2009.

Orosi – The member-led evangelism team hosted a six-week series, meetings were every Friday-Sunday nights. With 25-30 members, including the nine that preached, the outreach was simultaneously translated into Spanish with graphics projected on two screens, for English and Spanish. Evangelism team coordinator Debbie Purviance reports an active year-round prayer team is essential for unity in vision and mission as this English-speaking congregation takes the three angels’ messages to their 90% Hispanic community. There were five decisions for baptism and a class of 10 that are studying.

San Jose Hispanic – The ShareHim team hosted a two-week reaping series in November. In nine neighborhood small group locations in homes, a garage, a school, and one at the church for the first week, more than 240 members planned, invited door-to-door, preached, cooked, and cared for children. Adult guests numbered over 120 – add children and the number grew to more than 300. The second week they moved to the church with a guest evangelist. Fifty percent of the guests came and 13 were baptized. Neighborhood small groups will continue with weekly meetings for follow-up.

San Francisco – About Mark Finley’s NET series, Pastor David Hudgens (Philadelphian) reports that they are having too much fun in San Francisco! Thirteen new members were baptized. The joint meetings with Pastors Mark Ferrell (Central) and Sheginori Matsueda (Japanese) kept them busy this fall. A Wednesday night baptismal class continues.

Years ago, *SF Central’s new Bible worker Pam Temple*, a former Jehovah’s Witness, became an Adventist through Bible studies with Karen Hamilton, CCC’s Bible worker coordinator. Since then when Karen needed Bible workers while working with Mark Finley, she has hired Pam. She brought Pam to San Francisco from Texas and Pam loves it. “It is awesome! I love how the churches work together, how loving and caring everyone is,” Pam says.

Bakersfield – Bible worker couple Jerryyn and Janice Schmidt just finished a two-week series at the Hillcrest church with five baptisms.



Sonora – As part of the church's yearly evangelism cycle, Pastor Brian Simmons preached a two-week outreach series November 9-23 in the round-table style. Six guests sit at the same table with a team of two members for food, fellowship and Bible study discussions after the presentation. Currently, follow-up meetings each week with between 30-40 guests are happening and several have made their decisions for baptism.

Ceres – Keith Mulligan reports a total of 640 people registered for the Kenneth Cox public meetings in October and November. More than 350 of those were guests. The church's evangelism team, led by Chris Nelson, mailed 10,000 Bible study invitations to the community and went door-to-door too – 40 Bible studies were started. Six staff (including Cox) oversaw 22 teams of two. Meeting every Sunday morning during the series, they divided the requests for visits, decisions for Jesus and baptism interests. These members were taught the gospel presentation and how to clear someone for baptism. They are still meeting on Sundays as the follow-up continues. Thirty-seven people were baptized at the meeting's close and another 15 are preparing. Mulligan is praising God for his members who are so committed to winning Ceres for Christ!

Fresno – Pastor Kenny Fraser reports that Dr. Joseph Jones preached a series for the Temple of Praise church plant. Two Westside members assisted as bible workers and two precious people were baptized. Weekly attendance for this church plant has grown from 12 to between 30-40!

Mtn. View Japanese – It's been more than 35 years since this church has hosted public meetings. With coaching and training from Pastor Mark Duarte and Bible worker Aiko Reichard, members agreed to host a round-table series with the conference evangelist couple Taj and Wati Pacleb. Each table had two members as leaders and hosted the same guests each evening. Food, conversation, friendships grew as Taj preached and led in Bible study. Nine were baptized, with another 20 studying. And members are very excited about evangelism outreaches!

Paris – Taj and Wati Pacleb had a busy Fall with meetings in Shafter, then back-to-back meetings at Fresno Central and Mtn. View Japanese. On December 7, they flew to Paris, France to preach a one-week revival meeting in an Adventist church in that city. (The Paris church invited and fully funded their travel.) We are all praising God for this unexpected, last minute request. God is using people in Central to encourage and inspire fellow members in Europe!

Youth Prayer Conference – More than 200 teens attended the annual conference-wide event hosted this year by Central Valley Adventist Academy in Ceres October 23-26. Activities included small group Bible studies, seminars, worships, testimonies, and prayer times. There were two Sabbath afternoon outreach opportunities: visiting shut-ins in homes and nursing homes and door-to-door surveys with free literature. They received 46 Bible study requests! The spiritual growth event was planned and led by the Youth Evangelism Team (YET), with added participation by Pastors Godfrey Miranda (Modesto Central), Anil Kanda (Ceres), Steve Hamilton (Oakhurst), Andrew Uyeyama (Hanford), Bible worker Lindsay Pratt (Oakhurst) and David and Maya Dean (CCC AIM team leader and young adult leader), plus conference and local prayer ministries team members and local church sponsors for each teen group. There were many, many decisions for Jesus at every meeting, and at least six decisions for baptism.



Both youth evangelism teams had a busy fall schedule.

The YET team, led by Zac and Leah Page, completed a one-week revival series for young adults at the Milpitas church in December. They've also led a week of prayer at Mountain View Academy and 16 students came forward for the call, and a spiritual retreat for Fresno Adventist Academy students. They are also very involved with follow-up preparation for the national Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) in San Jose December 17-21.

Youth AIM Youth Active in Missions (formerly Urban Youth Evangelism Team or UYET) led by David Dean led revival, outreach and a public series located at San Jose Ephesus in August and September (10n baptized). They've been heavily involved in preparation for training youth and young adults for follow-up Bible study requests after GYC. Youth AIM's objective is to provide resources, funding, support, and training to the eight area youth & young adult action teams for service, evangelism, networking and discipleship.

For your prayer list...

GYC (Generation for Youth) Conference – at the San Jose Convention Center December 17-21, 2008. More than 3,100 attendees from all around the North American Division are expected. Sabbath, December 20, young adults and youth will fill 50 buses and go door-to-door in Adventist church neighborhoods with spiritual surveys and seeking Bible study interests. Also a free Health Expo with Neil Nedley for the community will be held from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Convention Center.

#1 We are praying that people will be home (It is the Saturday before Christmas).

#2 We are praying for and working with local churches regarding follow-up.

Bible study requests – either for one-on-one or by correspondence – could easily number more than 1,000. Both youth evangelism teams, the student literature evangelist team, Bible workers, the GLOW team, and many of their experienced church members will assist with initial follow-up. Intensive follow-up will begin in early January.

Share the Hope – the 2009 North American Division Year of Pastor Evangelism with a division-wide goal of 100,000 baptisms. Current yearly average is approximately 33,000. Our conference has expanded the mission to include lay preachers too. Don't miss the January 3 one hour broadcast on Hope TV with Dwight Nelson, Don Schneider, Ron Clouzet, Wintley Phipps, Ruthie Jacobson, and others. It is on the new Hope Church Channel – go to www.hopetv.org or call (800) 226-1119 Ext. 3 or 4 for new frequency and other directions. Broadcast is live at 11:00 am PST, and rebroadcast at 2:00 pm PST. Also see www.sharethehope2009.com.

Camp Meeting Evangelism Offering Total in Gifts and Pledges	\$3,342,005
Amount Received as of November 30, 2008	665,541





*A*t camp meeting this past summer, one dear lady was impressed to pledge \$10,000. She planned to make automatic monthly payments with her credit card. When she saw the first charge, she called the office and spoke with Deserie Albertson.

She asked that the amount be refund because she had no idea how she would pay it. Deserie shared her own faith-journey experience the year before – how she had obeyed God with a pledge, then was without a job for four months. She took this burden to her Lord and was convicted to continue to just trust Him, that He would provide the way.

Then Deserie shared the ways God had provided, including providing jobs – one a part-time position for the evangelism department. She is thrilled to work with pledge donors. Then they prayed together. Encouraged this dear woman stepped out in faith saying she too was going to trust the Lord. She has faithfully made her monthly contribution. God has provided!

We are also receiving calls from some of our pledge donors about lost jobs and other financial challenges. This promise is between you and God. Let me encourage you to keep this before Him! And to keep a record of what and how He provides for all of your needs.

Last year, Janet and I had no idea how we would pay all of our pledge. God has led us to give much more than we could possible do! And what a journey it is to experience how He accomplishes His promises. In late June, from an out-of-then-ordinary source, we received the funds we needed to complete our pledge. God is so good and we just can't out give Him!

This gospel commission is God's calling and He invites us to join Him. Our precious Lord wants to use us, His children, to show His glory and power! What a privilege and what an amazing journey Jesus wants for each of us! Just imagine all the praise stories we'll hear at camp meeting this coming summer.

There are two chapters in *Desire of Ages* that provide much encouragement – “The Invitation”(pp. 328-332 and based on Matthew 11: 28-30) and “Give Ye Them to Eat” (pp.364-371 and based on Luke 9:10-17).

The solution for our burden of worry and the world's perplexities are explained.

“Our Lord desires them to lay aside this yoke of bondage. He invites them to accept His yoke; He says ‘My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.’ He bids them seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and His promise is that all things needful to them for life shall be added. Worry is blind, and cannot discern the future; but Jesus sees the end from the beginning. In every difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief. Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us, of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service and honor to God supreme will find perplexities vanish, and plain path before their feet”(DA, p.330).

“The means in our possession may not seem to be sufficient for the work; but if we will move forward in faith, believing in the all-sufficient power of God, abundant resources will open before us. If the work be of God, He Himself will provide the means for its accomplishment” (DA, p. 371).

May I also suggest reading Luke 6:38, 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 and Philippians 4:4-19. And remember:

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8).

Thank for All You Do For Our Lord!

