



The Vision

A Newsletter of . . . The Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church

Vol. 7 No. 9 and 10

"Lifting Up Christ . . . Building Up People" September-October, 2006

CAMP CEDAR FALLS CHURCH FAMILY CAMP

After a long drive up the mountain and a good night's sleep, 110 people awoke to a gorgeous sunny day at Camp Cedar Falls. The air was crisp and buzzing with excitement as we gathered for a hearty breakfast to start our day, and as we filled the conference room overlooking the mountain. It was clear that this would be no ordinary Sabbath worship. We experienced worship together by not only getting to know each other better,



but by also revisiting some of our most cherished Bible stories. Adults, teens, children and babies connected with each other during our time together. It was unlike anything I've ever seen, and it made me feel that God was truly in that place.

That afternoon everyone was free to choose from a variety of activities. The scene was so peaceful as children ran around looking for treasures, hikers gathered for a walk, some participated in team building activities and others rested and took the time to just visit with friends in the stillness of the afternoon.

The scene made me think of what heaven might be like when we finally make it home. Nobody rushing to and fro, an atmosphere of peacefulness, and all of that with our creator by our side!

I have no doubt in my mind that every single person that attended this retreat was blessed and refreshed in one way or another. I felt sad as we drove away and made our way back

home, but one thought gave me a reason to smile: I can't wait to have the next retreat!



Blessings,

Monica McCowan-Talbert

DON'T MISS "FROM THE PASTOR" page 3

Pathfinder Fun at Catalina

The 2005-2006 Pathfinder year was brought to a close with a special trip to Catalina Island to reward Pathfinders for attendance, participation, and good conduct. Staff members and 9 Pathfinders spent the weekend hiking, camping, kayaking, and scuba diving. One of the highlights of the trip was a kayaking adventure to a secluded beach to enjoy swimming and eating homemade cookies provided by the kayaking company. Friendships were rekindled and the entire group bonded as a club.

The beginning of the 2006-2007 Pathfinder



year was marked by the annual leadership convention in Pine Springs Ranch. The purpose of the leadership convention is to help renew spirits, re-energize, and recommit to another year of preparing young people for Christian service. Attending the leadership convention were Sandra Caldwell, Director, Pat Burn, Co-Director, Carmen Stanish, Secretary, and Greg Hogan, Treasurer. These dedicated staff members learned new techniques on making Pathfinders more fun and interesting for everyone. We all came away with renewed motivation and dedication

SANDRA CALDWELL

MANY, MANY THANKS!

***FOR ALL THE CARDS,
THE PHONE CALLS,
THE VISITS, and BEST WISHES
and
MOST OF ALL YOUR PRAYERS!***

***I NOW RECOVER SPEEDILY
FROM MY KNEE SURGERY.
HOW WONDERFUL YOUR CARE AND
LOVE MADE ME FEEL!***

***THANK YOU CHURCH FAMILY,
WITH MY LOVE,***

ARMOUR...



BEVERLY CABANTAN WENT TO SAIPAN

On Sabbath September 9, Beverly was blessed by the entire church family as she was going to use her talents as a dental hygienist in a small clinic in Saipan. She will be gone for one year. Beverly started coming to our church following her positive experience with the Women's Bible Study group. God bless you, Beverly!

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Church Family,



My prayer is that you are prospering and in good health and/or recovering your health. Presently at least a dozen of our members are convalescing and others are facing surgery. Let us continue to keep them, those on our prayer list and our friends and relatives facing difficulties in our prayers. Prayer is still the key in the hand of faith that unlocks heaven's storehouse.

Our church continues to transition. Many of our long-time members are no longer able to attend Sabbath services, but have you noticed all of the visitors that are attending? A woman who is moving to Southern California from Texas visited, worshipped with us last Sabbath and was so impressed with our church that she is thinking of locating here in Orange County rather than Los Angeles County so that she can attend our church. We are indeed a church in transition.

Speaking of transition, after a long experiment with the Sabbath morning worship schedule we are going to change our worship time on **November 11, 2006**. That's the week after Heritage Sabbath when we'll celebrate our 110th anniversary as a Garden Grove SDA Church.

Here is the schedule. Sabbath School times will remain as they are. The worship service will begin at **11:15 a.m., NOT (I REPEAT, NOT) at 11:30** as we currently begin. This will give us a 15-minute break between Sabbath School and church. We urge those of you leading out in Sabbath School classes and divisions to end your activities by 11 o'clock so that we will have sufficient time to be in the sanctuary on time for worship. When we used to begin worship at 11 o'clock often (most of the time) only a handful of people were present. Often we made announcements to an almost empty sanctuary and sometimes when we sang the opening hymn only a few of us were there. Although we made a joyful noise unto the Lord and although we know that where two or three are gathered in Christ's name He is there among them through the Holy Spirit, it was not a rousing way to begin worshipping the Creator of the Universe. So, we changed the schedule and the time change helped the empty-sanctuary-at-the-beginning-of-worship syndrome. Now we're hoping to maintain the same critical mass at the beginning of worship and, by beginning our service fifteen minutes earlier, end our worship service 15 minutes earlier. That is our goal and, to achieve it, we need your help. So, to reiterate, we change our schedule on Sabbath, November 11. What's the change? We begin our worship service at 11:15 a.m., fifteen minutes earlier than presently.

God continue to shine His face upon you and continue to give you peace.

Rudy Torres

COMING EVENTS!

Family Church

October 21, 11:30 am

November 18, 11:30 am

Do you play an instrument? Know how to tell a good story? Have a clever idea? Let me know if this is a ministry that is calling out to your heart.

Harvest Festival

November 4, 6:30pm

This is the second year that this event will be available.

Second Annual Holiday Tea

December 2 (time to be determined)

This one is for ladies only!

Vacation Bible School

"Bethlehem Village"

December 26-30 6:00-8:30 pm

This Christmas the Fellowship Hall will be transformed into a village much like Bethlehem.

***HERITAGE
HOMECOMING SABBATH
NOV. 4***

Heritage Homecoming Sabbath 110th year Celebration

ANNOUNCING Heritage and Homecoming Sabbath, November 4, 2006

The Garden Grove SDA Church will be celebrating our 110 years as a congregation in this fine city on the above mentioned date. Our Sabbath School will begin at 10 a.m. with worship services at 11:30. A wonderful program is planned with Pastor Rudy Torres as our main speaker. We will have our choir to set the mood for us in singing and inductees will be received into the Garden Grove church Hall of Fame.

A luncheon will be served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following. This is an opportunity for all of us to become better acquainted with current friends, former friends and pastors of previous years. This will be a special time to welcome the new people of faith in our church family.

RSVP by phoning (714) 534-1987 x290 or e-mail gardengrovesda@yahoo.com by October 20, 2006.



**THE VISION
NEWSLETTER**

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