

THE PASTOR'S FILE

News and notes about community life and ministry at Central Filipino SDA Church

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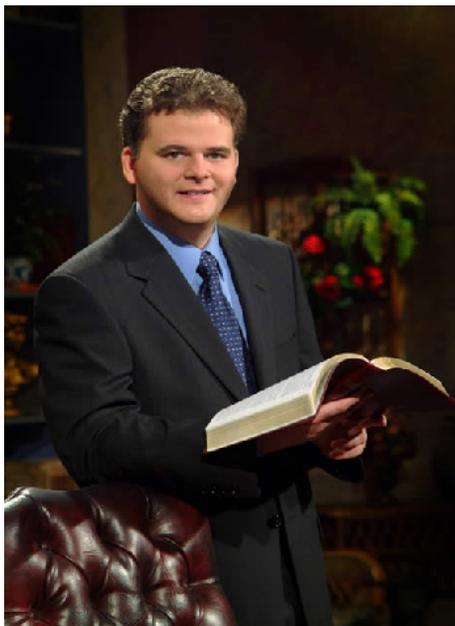
CHURCH TO PARTICIPATE IN CITY-WIDE EVANGELISM

The church is now getting ready to participate in an all-out effort to reach the City of Los Angeles with the Word of God in 2009. The Southern California Conference is rallying all the churches within its territory and will be teaming up with It Is Written in two evangelistic campaigns: at the Pasadena City College Auditorium in February, 2009 and at the Shrine Auditorium in May, 2009. Shawn Boonstra, Speaker/Director for It Is Written Television Ministry will be the evangelist in both venues.

Inspirational programs and training workshops on how to reach out to people with the Word have been going on and will continue to be held until the start of the meetings.

Some of these scheduled programs include an evangelism rally at Central Filipino Church on April 26, 2008; a Conference-wide convocation on June 14, 2008 at the Los Angeles Convention Center and a Bible Worker Boot Camp at the White Memorial Church on June 20-22, 2008. In July and August, another evangelism training program called "Soup and Salvation" is scheduled to be held for 10 Tuesdays (and 10 Thursdays) at a place which shall be announced at a later time.

Churches throughout the Conference are being requested to send at least 10% of their regular Sabbath morning worship attendance to these training seminars. And all church members are asked to submit names and addresses of non-baptized relatives, family members and friends who have shown an interest in the message or who may have been baptized but have become inactive or stopped attending church services. This list should be submitted to the church pastor and will be sent to the It Is Written Television Ministry office so that contacts could be initiated.



MEET WITH JESUS ON FRIDAY NIGHTS

The Youth and Young Adult Ministries under new youth pastor Alvin Maragh started a new program called "Meet With Jesus". The one-hour program is held every Friday night from 7:00-8:00. It consists of praise singing, a solid Bible study presentation and concludes with a time for soup and fellowship.

This ministry is open to all church members and guests who want to "Meet with Jesus" at the beginning of the Sabbath and who are looking for a meaningful Friday vespers each week.

2008 PHILIPPINE EVANGELISM NETS 54

A total of 54 were baptized at the end of a weeklong series of reaping evangelistic meetings which were held on February 17-23, 2008 in San Vicente, Palawan, Philippines.

Speaker for the series was CFC senior pastor Simeon Rosete, Jr. and it was coordinated by Dr. Felcar Morada, church evangelism ministry coordinator. It was also held in conjunction with AUP AWESNA medical outreach which was led by Dr. Alfonso Miguel, Jr., AUP AWESNA president and Dr. Morada, AUP AWESNA medical mission director.

The nightly meetings opened with a Voice of Prophecy graduation which saw 75 Bible students receive certificates for completion of the course. A children's story hour was part of the program and health lectures were presented prior to the nightly preaching. Drs. Dalisay Mina and Nemy Legaspi, Ricardo Peralta, Caesar Imperio and singing groups from the local congregation provided music for the meetings.

Before the 37-member evangelistic/medical team left San Vicente, they had the opportunity to visit the famous Underground River and Caves, the Iwahig Penal Colony, the Crocodile Farm and a number of the beautiful beaches and islands that Palawan is known for.

YOUTH BAPTIZED

Eric Dionisio, a youth who lives in Eagle Rock, was baptized on Sabbath, February 9, 2008. He has attended church services during the previous year and has completed his studies on Christian doctrine with the senior pastor and the Glendale - based Tuesday evening group during the last three months.

EDITORIAL

THE UNCERTAINTY OF LIFE



We were about ready to call it a day at our hotel in Boracay Beach when we got word that my mother-in-law was admitted at the hospital.

We cut our excursion short and went to visit her the next day. Since the doctor said that all she needed were daily doses of antibiotics and a continuous supply of oxygen, we decided to have her discharged and let her have her treatment at home.

For about four days, she seemed to be OK. And we hoped it was just a matter of time before the daily treatment would take care of the fluids that have settled in her

lungs. She even managed to dress-up for a photo-session with her family that Thursday; and on Friday when I got up to go to the living room early in the morning, I found her up early singing a praise song to God. Who would have known that on that same day, she would be overtaken by seizures and would breathe her last?

It's the uncertainty and fragile nature of life. My wife and I and her sister and niece from Toronto (Canada) had planned to spend some time with her, this year being the year she turns 80. But what was expected to be days of fun and laughter turned out to be a time of mourning. And what was planned to be an advance birthday celebration turned out to be a funeral.

We can only thank God for allowing her to live a long and fruitful life; and a life that has been lived to the glory of God and the blessing of fellowman. Most of all we thank God for the blessed hope – the second coming of Christ and the resurrection of those that fell asleep in Jesus. We know we shall see our loved ones again on that great resurrection morning.

CHURCH OFFICERS HOLD RETREAT AT THOUSAND OAKS

Close to 100 church officers and their spouses attended the Church Officers' Weekend Retreat which was held at the Palm Garden Hotel in Thousand Oaks, California on January 5-6, 2008.

The presentations were made by CFC senior pastor Simeon Rosete, Jr. and they focused on the mission of the church and what role the officers play in the accomplishment of their mission. The pastor also did a presentation on what conditions should exist in a local congregation for church growth to happen.

In an evaluation done following the weekend retreat, respondents expressed appreciation for the relevance and practicality of the materials presented and suggested that this type of retreat be done on a yearly basis.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE POWER OF PRAYER

A new program called "The Early Morning Prayer Service" was begun this year and will now be part of the regular weekly Sabbath services. The 45-minute service begins at 8:30 and ends at 9:15 in the morning. It consists of praise songs, testimonies, a devotional thought and a special season of prayer.

This program came as a recommendation of the church officers during the Officers' Retreat held at Thousand Oaks in January and is being coordinated by the church elders. It highlights the importance of prayer and the role it plays in the worship ministry of the church.

The Early Morning Worship Service is designed to meet the spiritual needs of every member of the congregation who comes to worship each Sabbath. It sets the tone for the day's worship services and provides a perfect transition to the Sabbath School program and the rest of the day's activities.

YUGI FORMED

In a meeting held last month, the youth of the church organized themselves and called their group YUGI, an acronym for Youth Under God's Influence. They are now busy planning on what they can do together for Christ in addition to the current outreach, hiking, camping and other activities most young people want to get involved in.

Currently, they are involved with "Meet with Jesus"; a youth and young adult Friday vespers program and "Young Life", a weekly Sabbath afternoon youth worship service. They are also looking forward to a number of church and conference – sponsored programs that are scheduled to be held soon.

CENTRAL FILIPINO CHURCH - TREASURY UPDATE

Combined Budget Offering	Prior Months Jan-Feb 08	Mar 08	TOTAL Jan-Mar 08
Needed	\$24,000	\$15,000	\$39,000
Received	18,458	12,060	30,518
Percent	77%	80%	78%
Over (short)	(5,542)	(2,940)	(8,482)
S. C. Conference	84,003	51,849	135,852
TOTAL	102,461	63,909	166,370

PALAWAN MEDICAL EVANGELISM NEWS IN PICTURES



**NATALIE DE GUZMAN
BUENDIA-LEE, 78**

Natalie Buendia-Lee quietly passed away to her rest in the early hours of Saturday, March 1, 2008 at the Verdugo Hills Hospital in Montrose, California. She was 78.

Natalie was among the strongest supporters of the church building project and a generous supporter during the construction years. She has served the church very well in the capacity of church office secretary, head deaconess, hospitality/potluck coordinator and other church functions.

She is survived by husband Harold Lee, children Abe (and wife Alice) and Tony, Jr., 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.



**CARIDAD LUCES
PACHECO, 79**

Caridad Luces Pacheco, mother of Mrs. Ellen Rosete and CFC member for several years, passed away on March 21, 2008 in Antique, Philippines. She remained an active supporter of the programs of the church and was known for her cheerful disposition and her many kind deeds. At her funeral, a member of the community described her home as the Social Welfare Center of the neighborhood.



Medical/Evangelism team welcomed in Manila by Manila Adventist Medical Center president Bibly Macaya and Dr. Abdul Rajagukguk and Adventist University of the Philippines president Robin Saban



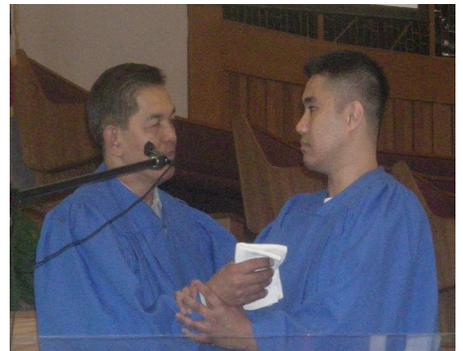
JUST FOR FUN

It's true there really are 16 names hidden here. There are names of 16 books of the Bible hidden in the paragraph below. See how many you can find!!! A preacher found 15 books in 20 minutes, it took him three weeks to find the 16th one! Have fun!!! =)

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts, and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help find them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph.



Officers at Thousand Oaks Retreat



Eric Dionisio Baptism



Women's Ministry Baby Shower for the Villanuevas



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