

Colton SDA Newsletter

April 2011

Up Coming and On Going Activities

A Call To Prayer

The Prayer Committee has voted to join the 7-7-7 Worldwide prayer program. This is to pray at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. 7 days a week; especially asking for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This is our prayer list.

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to wake us up - prepare for the Latter Rain.
2. Pray for church families to become spiritually alive.
3. Pray for the Holy Spirit to engulf the Pastor and his family to be strengthened and kept close in these trying times.

4. Pray for the church - local - conference - worldwide.
5. Pray for government - local - state - nationwide
6. Start praying NOW for upcoming evangelistic meetings.

Please consider joining the 7-7-7 program in you prayer time at home.

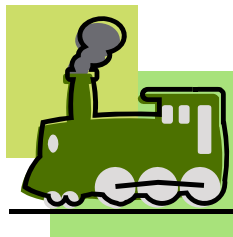
Shirley Purucker



Community Services Corner

Hi Everyone,

Thank you all for the contributions for the recent fund raisers. They would not have succeeded without all of you. I hope you all enjoyed the food that was prepared. Next year we shall add some new items to keep the interest going.



7.25 per ticket each for a round trip to L.A. Union Station (at this point children under 5 still ride free). This notice will give you all time to save up for your family and anyone else you would like to invite. We will give you an update every month until then, so stay tuned to this corner.

Our next event will be the "Metrolink Train Trip" which will be on August 7th. The cost will be \$

Laura Bauchert

Mailing Information



This newsletter is designed for mailing to friends and family. However the Post Office will require 60 cents for mailing if you do not remove the staples. It is recommended to remove the staples, fold the newsletter and tape it closed. If done in this way the letter should only cost the price of a first-class stamp. It is our hope that this

newsletter can be an evangelism tool and an encouragement to our members. If you cannot, for any reason, mail a newsletter but would like for someone to receive one, please provide a name and address to Kristi Cruise and she will make sure it is mailed.

Mark Your Calendars



- Apr 26 (Tue) 6:30 PM - "Get Fit 4 God" fitness session
- Apr 27 (Wed) 7:00 PM - Prayer Meeting: Pastor Mataafa
- May 1 (Sun) - Women's Ministry Tea Party
- May 4 (Wed) 8:00 PM - Board of Elders meeting
- May 7 (Sat) 1:00 PM - Mother's Day Potluck

- May 14 (Sat) 6:00 PM - Saturday Evening Vespers & Game Night
- May 20 (Fri) - Vespers: Dr. Juanita Singh
- May 21 (Sat) - Leadership Training: Dr. Youngberg

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Perspective	2
Commandments Part 3	3
Prayer Conference	4
International Breakfast	5
Community Services Dinner	6
Talent Show	7
Family Fun Day	8
Recipe	8
Fellowship Game	9
Think of Heaven	9
Bible Quiz	10

Verse of the Month

... I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

Luke 21:15

Pastor's Perspective

"We Have Nothing to Fear for the Future Unless We Forget How God Has Led Us in the Past"

Have you recently reviewed the working miracles of God in your life and how He has been so faithful to provide for all your needs when you yield your life to His call? I would like to share with you my personal story of how God's miraculously provide for my life and my family when He called me to the pastoral ministry.

I received my call for ministry when I was a student of Loma Linda University, California. I was a youth leader at the time for the Samoan Seventh-day Adventist church at Santa Ana, California, and attending Loma Linda University registering as a premedical student. My plan was to serve in the medical field someday. However, in the turn of school events such as the spiritual week of prayers and revival, community service outreach, missionary trips, and many other school activities I became interested in the pastoral ministry program.

It was the missionary trip to Kenya, Africa, as the pivotal point that confirmed my call to the pastoral ministry. There were 12 premedical students and one ministerial student that went to Kenya as student missionaries in the summer of the year 1990. The ministerial student was asked to give devotional thoughts every Sabbath while other students were tasked to present medical reports to the local churches that had invited our missionary team for Sabbath worship service and fellowship. The group decided afterward that I would be the spoke person of the group every Sabbath and the rest of the missionary trip even though I was not a ministerial student. They said that I was funny and enthusiastic.

The interest for the pastoral ministry weighed heavy in my heart after returning from the mission trip. However I remained skeptical in spite of the high spiritual experience from the student missionary trip. I had no peace because I was fighting the moving of the Holy Spirit in my heart. The moment of uncertainty and confusion became a spiritual battle that cost me sleepless nights in prayers. Thinking about the possibilities of serving as a pastor made me nervous and scared. I used to think of the pastor as someone who was very boring, anti social, and difficult to get along with. The pastor would be a hermit or a priest that live in a different reality. His spiritual life would conflict with the social life style of most people.

The spiritual experience I had been through was a mind bothering struggle that forced me to ask God for a miracle sign about His divine direction. That same week I received an eight by eleven inches package size envelope from the school mail box. The package content included the congratulation letter from the Australian Union Mission office addressing to me about my decision of becoming a ministerial student studying at Loma Linda, an update report on the progress of the Australian Union Mission field, and the invitation note to consider the Australian Union Mission field as a place of service in the ministry in the future. Because of that spiritual encounter and the mission trip experience in Kenya, Africa, solidified the spirit-lead calling of God for my life to become a minister of the gospel. In June 1993 I graduated from Loma Linda University, La Sierra campus, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology.

The journey to become a full time pastor was a humbling spiritual experience. God allowed trials and challenges to shape my faith experience and build my trust in God. My wife and I got married in the month of October, 1993, the same year I graduated from Loma Linda University. I didn't receive a call immediately after graduation and after sending out resumes to local conferences for pastoral ministry availability. Instead I volunteered to serve as a youth pastor for two years at the Vista Samoan Seventh-day Adventist Church in San Diego County, California. I later attended Andrews University in 1995 to pursue my Master of Divinity degree after two years of volunteer service.

My wife was the only source of income at the time while I was fully engaged, voluntarily, to the youth ministry and pastoral care ministry. I was given the opportunity to preach once or twice a month, become a local church elder, receive the mentoring experience from the senior pastor to assist him with funeral services, weddings, counseling, church leadership, and many other practical aspects of the ministry. It was a tremendous educational blessing. God never failed to fulfill His many promises in the Scripture that He would sustain and provide the needs of His faithful believers who became witnesses of the kingdom through the love and the hospitalities of God fearing people and friends.

The amazing grace of God has been the source of my strength for sustainment and growth in the ministry. God opened up opportunities for training and services. I graduated from Andrews University with a Master of Divinity in the winter of 1997. One year later I received a pastoral call from the Paradise Valley SDA church at San Diego, California, to serve there as an associate pastor for three years. I also accepted the pastoral call from the Fallbrook SDA church, California, later on to serve there as an associate pastor for six years. I moved on from Fallbrook Church to become the current pastor for the two churches, Colton and Fontana. God has been gracious and faithful to keep all His promises. He has opened up opportunities for me to serve as a servant pastor of the gospel of the kingdom of God.

One of the scriptural promises that became the foundational bedrock of God's providential care for my wife and I at the humble beginning of our call to the ministry was Psalm 23:1-3. The Scripture showed to us in the passage the two caring natures of God. He was a good shepherd and soul reviver. The scripture said that, ¹"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. ³He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake" (NKJ). We saw in the passage the loving and patient nature of God as a good shepherd leading, guiding, protecting, and providing for the needs of the flocks as they follow Him. The soul healing nature of God we saw in this passage was that "He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." The caring nature of God as good shepherd and soul reviver became the source of our strength for growth both spiritual and physical in the ministry.

Pr. Mataafa



Ten Commandments Series: Part Three

Sabbath: A Daring Act of Faith

Following the sixth day of creation the Lord God deliberately stopped working. God actually rested. Take a special note of that. On Day One he created light. On the Second Day He separated sky and water. On the Third day land and plants appeared. Then came the heavenly bodies along with birds and fishes. And then the final crescendo, humankind!

It wasn't that there was nothing else God could have done. It certainly wasn't because God was exhausted. Omnipotence never gets tired! He could have made many more universes, but He didn't. He deliberately stopped. He spent an entire day resting. Matter of fact, the book of Genesis tells us that He blessed the seventh day and sanctified it. Sounds to me that He made the day on which He rested a priority period of time...don't you think?

The seventh day Sabbath provides a solution for our busyness and the rush of life. At the dawn of time God said, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it."

In these sacred hours, we put our agendas on hold and instead allow God to hold us.

I recently had a conversation with one of my patients who initiated the topic of religion one day. She grew up a Catholic and now attends a Baptist church and so she was curious about my faith. And so I shared several things, different realities on being an Adventist. She asked me: If you were to explain to me about the Sabbath and why it's so important to you, how would you say it in a few words?

I simply responded: One of the reasons why I'm an Adventist is because I need rest.

You may share the same reality. In fact, if the statistics that I read, the research that is done are any indication - that you probably do share the same reality.

For example the fact that the average desk worker in America has 36 hours of work on their desk right now. Can you imagine that? We need one whole week just to catch up and if no interruption we might make it. 36 hours! I feel tired just thinking about it!

It is also the truth that we are sleeping 2 ½ hours less per night than Americans did 100 years ago. So not only do we have a lot of work but also we are getting less rest and we are sleepier much of the time.

One of the common response I get from our young people here in Colton when I ask the question: How's it going or how's school?



One word...TIRE!

We're all exhausted! WHY? We've got so many things to do, places to go, people to see, "Going 80 miles an hour" as Carlos Lemos might say! The sad reality is that our lives are becoming busier and busier, becoming more and more preoccupied with our jobs, appointments, and our personal lives. Soon we lose focus, becoming enslaved to our work.

Maybe that's why the monkey said to the other monkey: "You know that after a day in the jungle, it's such a blessing when that hunter shoots you down with that tranquilizer dart."

If I were to summarize the 4th commandment it would be that the Sabbath is a daring act of faith because on Sabbath we stop regardless of whether we're done or not. We rest.

Sabbath is a day to notice what God is doing and not what we are doing.

You know the experience. It's Friday, it's almost sundown and there is so much yet to be done. If I don't get it done my world will collapse. And God says: "No it won't. I'm still on the throne. You can rest."

"But God," you say, "I need to please you, I need to work on my character, and I'm not the person you want me to be yet. I can't rest."

And God says: "Don't get caught up in that frantic craziness of trying to please Me! Take a break from your striving. It's Sabbath. You can rest because I'm on the throne. I'm the Author of your salvation. Trust in Me."

The Ten Commandments that were given by God were commandments NOT to limit your life but to give your life freedom. When God's finger etched the 4th commandment into stone, He wrote freedom from the tyranny of labor AND from the tyranny of WORKS.

"Marriage and the Sabbath had their origin, twin institutions for the glory of God in the benefit of humanity." Adventist Home p. 340

The word for Sabbath in Hebrew is Shabbat. Shabbat in Hebrew means, intermission, is derived from a root meaning to "cease, to rest or be still." It is related to the word "shevet" in Hebrew the root meaning to sit down, dwell, and abide. With that in mind, I'd like to suggest that the idea of "resting" comes along with the concept of a dwelling place: home.

After a long day of work, I look forward to going home. Home is as sweet fragrance. Home is not limited to just a resting place, but to me it means much more. Home means family. Family to me is my marriage and my children. Family offers the gift of unspeakable joy, and joy ushers in peace.

Continued on page 4

Ten Commandments page 3

"The ancient rabbis teach that on the seventh day, God created "menuha" ~ tranquility, serenity, peace, in the deepest possible sense of healing stillness. Until the Sabbath, creation was unfinished. Only after the birth of "menuha", only with peace and rest, was the circle of creation made full and complete." Sabbath p.37

As was in the day of Creation and is still true for the desperate need of today, the purpose of the Sabbath is to bring peace to the family of God.

D. L. Moody once said: "I believe that the Sabbath question today is a vital one for the whole country. It is the burning question of the present time. If you give up the Sabbath the church goes. If you give up the church the home goes; and if the home (family) goes the nation goes. That is the direction in which we are traveling." Weighed and Wanting p. 47

Sanctified people will observe the sanctified day.

I like what my brother Chuck McConnell said one Sabbath: "Saints are people of God who are being sanctified." In Ezekiel 20:12 the Sabbath is declared to be the sign of sanctification. Sanc-

tified people will observe the sanctified day. The Sabbath is the sign and memorial of being born again in Jesus, the evidence of the work of the Creator in restoring that which was lost through sin.

Our family gets to travel on occasions. We would take a drive to Phoenix once or twice a year. These are fairly long trips and sometimes I would dread it because I have to drive. In the back seat when the kids were younger I would hear the words "Are we there yet?" repeated over and over and over again like a broken record.

Now I prefer to fly. Why? Two reasons. One: well, you get on and when you get off you're there! The other reason why I prefer flying on long trips is because if I drive I'm the one responsible behind the wheel and sometimes I have a hard time staying awake on long driving trips.

But flying, I get on the plane, I sit down, and somebody else does the work. I hope they're awake. But if they're not, there is autopilot that flying the plane. It is still the person's responsibility.

It strikes me. In my day-to-day life, I need a regular reminder of that about my real life as a Christian. A reminder that says: For this period of time, take a load off...rest. Because God is on the throne and He is in control. A daring act of faith. Trust in Him.

Activities Report

Spring Prayer Breakfast and Conference

4 Reports:

Armed Bands of Warriors Cover Freeways!

Did you know that the morning of April 3, bands of warriors took to the freeways from many areas of California?! And Yes - They were armed-with Bibles and prayer.

Nine prayer warriors headed out from Colton to the SECC Building in Riverside for our Spring Prayer Breakfast and Conference. Attendees: Amelia Aries, Anne Mears, Pastor Moura, Diana Moura, Ruby and Gary Nieman, Shirley Purucker, and Elizabeth Sheffield.

Karen Martell, SECC prayer coordinator, organized the meeting. Breakfast started at about 10:30 a.m. with prayer and time to get acquainted. Many things were presented; challenges to increase our time with God was a main goal, so we could be used by the Holy Spirit.

We heard the praises of the power of prayers answered in so many ways. The time went by and soon it was 3:15 p.m. and it was time to end the spring prayer session.

We were reminded to pray first for our church leaders and Pastor and his family. Then the SECC workers. We had special prayer by laying on of hands of some of the conference workers who came to our room. They were: Pastor Peeler for growth and discipleship; Sandy Roberts, Secretary; and SECC President, Gerald Penick.

To sum it up - we have received our orders - time is short! We must go tell! People are asking what is going on in the world. What is happening and why? But we will be of no use if we do not get a one on one relationship with God, so we may be used fully by the Holy Spirit.

Shirley Purucker

On April 3, 2001 there were 9 members from the Colton Church that attended a Prayer Breakfast at the SECC office in Riverside. Our church Prayer Co-ordinator encouraged us to take part in this event.

The main speaker was Dr. Emil Peeler on the "Topic Evangelism and Prayer" which follows the guidelines set up by the General Conference for this year 2011. The focus through out the World Church is revival and reformation.

In closing Elder G. Penick reminded those present with these words: "We are living in exciting times. As you encourage your prayer teams and church members to participated in these prayer events you will discover that you are participating in God's Kingdom. What you do makes a difference for eternity. Your life, your prayers, and your influence are motivating people to pray for revival and the out pouring of the Holy Spirit for the unsaved to be ready for the coming of Jesus."

It is the prayer group delegates' hope that as the Colton Church

unite in prayer that we can experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our church.

Pastor Oliod Moura

The prayer conference impressed me of the importance of prayer in our personal experience. We can have great experiences, growth and victories through an active prayer life. Several people gave testimonies of how God answered their prayers and worked changes in their lives, their churches and communities.

I saw even more how we as a church should hold each other up to God in prayer and the importance of examining our hearts and lives to see if there is anything between us and God which would hinder God from working on our behalf.

We also prayed together for the conference workers who came to join us as we were in the conference office.

Gary & Ruby Nieman

I will never forget that Sunday 4/3/11, different nationalities met at the SECC with one goal and that was to pray for one another.

I learned that you pray like this:

1. Pray for cleansing of self.
2. Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill you.
3. Pray passionately for someone and that they will come to God.
4. In these times pray for your city.

It was like a little insight of what heaven will be, different people enjoying each other and praising God.

I love these sayings mentioned:

1. Keep praying and the Holy Spirit takes care of the rest.
2. Music is medication for the soul.

Diana Moura

International Breakfast

The International Breakfast fundraiser hosted by Community Services was a tasteful success. Church members and visitors converged on the fellowship hall on April 10 and were met with smiles and a selection of the world's finest foods. Contributors:

Maribel - Chorizo de Soya;

Laura - Eurasian Potato Pancakes;

Kristina Kendall - Tzakiki (Greek cucumber dip);

Carmi - Hawaiian Donuts;

Young - Korean rice cakes;

and Stater Bros Markets - fresh fruit, scrambled eggs, juice and hot drinks

For several hours hungry people came and were satisfied. It is so nice to be able to try new vegetarian cuisine and help a great cause at the same time. Thank-you to all who made this fundraiser possible, especially the excellent cooks!



Community Services Dinner and Youth Talent Show



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olly. The evening began with a very well planned meal of potatoes with all the trimmings. The meal was planned and prepared by those on the Community Services Committee as well as a few other volunteers. Laura Bauchert and her team served the hungry crowd that was made up of both performers and audience members for the Talent show.

Once stomachs were full the Talent Show participants prepared for the evenings entertainment.

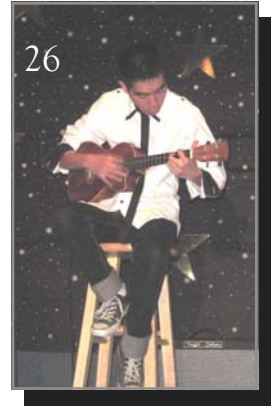
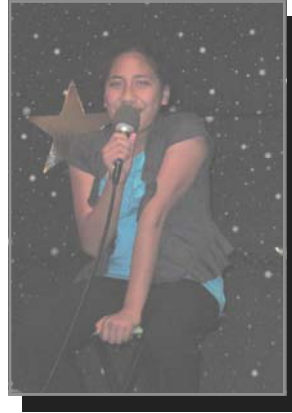
The audience settled into the seats and waited to see what was in store. Mary Lou Domingo began the proceeding with a welcome and an introduction of the first act. There was a wide array of talent: hula dancing, rock music, silly songs, serious songs, poetry,

March 19 was full of food, fun, fellowship and a little

instrumentals and more. I discovered that our church has even more talent than I thought. Did you know, before this show that Armand can not only play piano but also can play a mean ukulele and can sing? And low and behold Jason also plays the piano and sings too? And the biggest one, did you know that Pastor plays the trumpet? And let's just say the song "The Wind Beneath My Wings" will carry a more comical side to it now!

I also learned I am not the only one who can never find my keys and cell phone, someone even wrote a song about it. And just so you know, skip the rocket building and go straight for the pizza.

It was a joy to watch members and few visitors use the talents God has given them to inspire, entertain and bring smiles to faces in a Christian environment. Thanks to all who helped prepare the meal, preformed and those who provided an audience and need funds. Can't wait to see what happens next year!



Spring Family Fun Day

The Second Annual Spring Family Fun Day brought our church community together as well as some new faces to join in the fun. The two bounce houses “jumpers” were seldom empty during the day. There was one for the smaller crowd and one for the bigger participants. The second year event saw some returning games (three-legged race, gunny-sack race, scavenger hunt) and some new ones (spoon-and-egg race). Just like last year, we also had a water balloon “fight” where all those who wanted to join could cool down from the afternoon sun by getting wet.

New to this year’s festivities was the Spiritual Emphasis portion of the day. There was a great skit put on by the church’s young adults. This serious and poignant story was followed by 30 minutes of light-hearted silliness with a message: a “VeggieTales” rendition of David and Goliath. Goliath was played by a giant pickle and David was a small asparagus. It showed that you don’t have to be big to do big things, and with God, all things are possible.

Rob Cruise

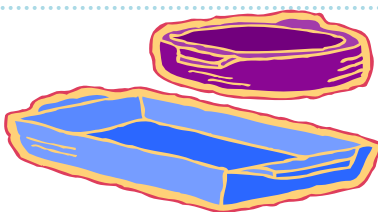


Arts and crafts were a big hit with 25 people designing their own hat. Races were run for different age groups throughout the day.



Recipe

Bruce gave me this recipe many months ago but it got lost in my paper clutter. But alas it has been found. Please forgive me Bruce for taking so long to put it in.



Stuffing

- 1 box of bread crumbs
- 1 can tender bits
- 2 cans diced chic

Mix and bake. For questions ask Bruce Brown

Fellowship Game

Some of the people in the pictures in this newsletter have been numbered. It is your job to write their names next to the corresponding numbers below. You will receive 1 point for the first name and 1 point for the last name equaling 2 points per line. Check out the bonus points, too. Everyone who participates will receive a prize. The winner will be judge by the highest score. The game will end on April 23 at 2:00 p.m., no entry will be accepted before the end of church. Good luck!

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Bonus worth 5 points for first or last name 10 points for both.

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7*. _____

Think of Heaven

Did you have a hard week, month or even year? Life here on earth is a struggle. To lighten the load think of heaven and all the wonders we can imagine will be there. The human eye has not seen nor ears heard the wonders of heaven, so let your imagination fly. Thinking of the prize may lessen the load of the journey. In the space provided here write down or draw some of your greatest imaginings.

Place
Stamp
Here

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**Increasing member
communication**

We're On the Web!
colton.adventistfaith.org

This newsletter was sent to you by a member of the Colton SDA Church.

Church Mission Statement

To provide a grace-filled environment where a diversity of worshipers may experience the healing love of Jesus through the ministry of the Word, the community of prayer, the fellowship of God's family, and the opportunity to serve.

Contribution Instructions

The mission of this newsletter is to provide communication and inspiration for our church members. If you would like to contribute, please contact Kristi Cruise at
jrkljrcruise@sbcglobal.net or home phone (909) 872-0394. The next Newsletter will be distributed May 28. Please turn in your articles or photos by Tuesday, May 24 before 5:00 pm.

Elijah/Elisha

Elijah, Elisha, Elisha, Elijah. Which one was which? Your job is to decide who did what. Fill in the blanks.

- After he warned Ahab of a drought, _____ hid by a river and got food from birds, ravens to be exact.
- Some prophets yelled, "There is death in the pot!" Then, _____ put some flour in the stew, and everything was okay.
- Twenty loaves of barley bread fed 100 people when _____ told a man to feed them.
- Some kids called _____ a baldhead. So, he cursed them.
- The widow at Zarephath had a son who stopped breathing, so _____ prayed and brought him back to life.
- _____ made fund of the prophets of Asherah when they couldn't get Baal to start a fire.
- Someone lost an axe head in the Jordan River. So, _____ made it float.
- When _____ prayed, God made a whole band of enemy Arameans blind.
- _____ gave a widow jar after jar of oil to pay her bills.
- _____ was a Tishbite.

Answers to last month's quiz:

Who Said?

- Peter. John 13:37
- Mary. Luke 1:48
- Sarah. Genesis 18:12
- King Xerxes. Esther 5:3; and

Herod. Mark 6:23

- Naomi. Ruth 1:15
- Nehemiah. Nehemiah 8:10
- Balaam's donkey. Numbers 22:28

Real Jobs:

- Silversmith

- Tentmaker
- Carpenter
- Metal worker
- Medical doctor
- Saleswomen
- Tax collector
- Lawyer