

Conference Priorities

Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Work Begins for New Executive Committee Members

By Jocelyn Fay

Elected at Southeastern's constituency meeting October 26, new Executive Committee members met for the first time on December 4.

After a devotional message presented by Saúl Barceló, associate pastor of the Calimesa church, conference officers welcomed the committee members to their first meeting. Gerald Penick, Sr., president, asked the members to introduce themselves. Eight of them knew each other well, having served together on the Executive Committee for the past four years. New to the committee, however, were 12 people beginning a brand-new five-year term of service.

"You are our bosses," Penick told the committee members, explaining that SECC

officers and committees bring recommendations to Executive Committee sessions, but that ultimately it is the committee that makes the decisions that set the conference's course and keep it running smoothly.

Once introductions were over, everyone dug into the business at hand, beginning with a review of the financial report, presented by Thomas Staples, treasurer. Among other things, they voted the 2009 master calendar and church offering schedule and voted on recommendations from the conference's personnel and investment committees and Property and Trust Services Board.

Regular Executive Committees are scheduled 10 times a year, monthly except for August and November. Actions requiring immediate attention are handled by telephone conferences.

The last item on the December 4 agenda was to pose for the Executive Committee photo below. □



Seated at the table, from left to right, are John Brunt, Lionel Booth, Mark Johnston, Robert Macomber, Alberto Ingleton (vice president for Hispanic ministries), Don Dudley (superintendent of education), Fabiola Guzman, and Shirley Tan. Standing behind them are Jay Winston, LeRoy Baker, Stefani McFarland, Victor Tolan, Jason Turner, Sandra Roberts (executive secretary), Gerald Penick, Sr. (president), Thomas Staples (treasurer), Chris Oberg, Caleb Jara, Rudy Bermudez (vice president for Asian-Pacific ministries), Kisa Grayson, Frieda Roos, Tai Kim, and George King (vice president for Black ministries). Missing from this photo are members Larry Grimaldi, Adriana Lopez, and Andy Wongworawat.

TV Is a Ministry *in Palm Springs* By Lyle Burke

Palm Springs church's TV station has been on the air for more than six years, broadcasting "24/7" to its community and beyond.

The church supports and staffs its own local station, Channels 21 and 72, within its church facilities. The "Class A" station is certified by the Federal Communications Commission. In addition to providing local programming, it is a downlink for the Three Angels Broadcasting Network, allowing for continuous Adventist broadcasting from the Banning Pass to the Salton Sea.

This is a large—almost impossible—undertaking for a local congregation and often raises questions such as these:

How did you go about establishing a TV station?

We began by deciding to upgrade the audio system in our church. We bought new mixing boards, speakers, amplifiers, amplifiers to amplify amplifiers, electrical wiring, lighting, projectors . . . the list goes on. With a video camera placed discreetly in the sanctuary, we thought we were finished.

Then the phone rang. It was 3ABN telling us of an immediate need for compliance to operate an Adventist station. It needed to be in Palm Springs because of tower locations and FCC requirements.

Once we got back to the drawing board, things moved quickly. Within a week we had cameras installed, engineers on location, and transmitter towers updated. With microwave links installed from the church to transmitters on a nearby hill, we were up and running.

How difficult is it to operate a local television station?

Fortunately, many individuals with experience in computers and broadcasting/programming and editing have

proved to be more than adequate to cover our needs. I'm the licensed station manager and chief station operator.

In the control room are Misael Marroquin, Jonathan Tafur, and Xavi Rocha.



The palm springs TV station's transmitter is on Edon Hill.

Others on our staff are Gary Plowman, licensed station operator; Felx Celestino, assistant station operator; Mark Celestino and Misael Marroquin, videographers; and Derek Williams, audio engineer.

How do you know you are reaching people? Donations and book and prayer requests all help us track ZIP code numbers and give us an ideal demographic profile of our area and viewers. All it takes is one bad electrical storm and you realize people are viewing, because the phones ring and viewers call to complain about the lack of a clear signal.

Each year more demands are made on our station, church, and community by the FCC. We now provide emergency service broadcasting for our community in case of extreme disaster. This requires more training and responsibility, not to mention additional equipment. But almost all our operating costs are covered by donations from outside of our church revenue base; we are a completely self-supporting Adventist TV station. The Lord has been very good to our church in allowing us the opportunity to broadcast over the top of guard gates, into private communities, and into the homes and lives of our potential viewing base of more than 850,000 people.

We also are online offering streaming video at palmspringsadventistchurch.org to reach a worldwide audience. □



LLU Church Members *Cheer Veterans at Christmas*

By Sam Renzi

Hundreds of members from the Loma Linda University church wrote messages on Christmas cards for the veterans at the veterans hospital in Loma Linda. The project was sponsored by the church's Support Our Troops committee and chaired by Patsy Sogioka.

"For some veterans this may be the only Christmas card with messages that they will get," said Sogioka. She and her husband, Norman, a plastic surgeon, purchased more than 160 cards.

"It was amazing to me how many church members thanked us for having the cards there for them to sign," said Patsy. "They really were glad to take a few minutes to write sentiments to the hospitalized veterans. The young people were excited to sign the cards also. They seemed to understand, at least in part, what these men and women have done for them."

The messages written on some of these Christmas cards were inspiring. For instance: "Thank you for our freedom. I know the difference. I'm an American, but born in Russia." "You are not forgotten! I'm a



Sam Renzi, Patsy Sogioka, and Ada Jarvis stand at a table in the foyer of the Loma Linda University church collecting signatures on Christmas cards for veterans.

wounded veteran too."

A little girl, just learning to write in cursive, took great pains in signing a card using her new skill. She wrote in large flowing cursive letters, "I love you," and then signed her name. □

31st Street Church Hosts Second Annual Health Fair

By Velma Brown



San Diego 31st Street church members and the Health and Learning Center of San Diego hosted their second annual health fair last fall, providing information and a number of services for people in their neighborhood.

Many families stood in line to register, because the first 100 families to participate received a free bag of groceries.

Physicians and nurses were on duty for consultation about such things as diabetes, blood pressure, nutrition and body fat. Exhibitors included Family Health Centers of San Diego, Adventist Health Care Services, the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association of California, resource centers for drug addiction, and other organizations promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Kids' activities included a rock-climbing wall, games, face painting, and a clown to entertain them. Representatives from the San Diego police and fire departments were there as well, and the young and young-at-heart were able to climb aboard a fire engine. Snacks included fruit and popcorn.

Elaine Campbell was the street fair coordinator. □

SECC Focuses on More Online Presence *By Enno Müller*

During 2009, the Year of Evangelism, Southeastern California Conference is using different methods to revive people's personal commitment to Christ. One of these methods is a stronger Web presence. Many churches have already been using Web pages to advertise their worship services and other events, as well as to stream video or audio versions of their sermons.

Web evangelism workshop participants included Philip Albrecht, left, from the Laguna Niguel church; Daniel Belonio, new associate pastor of the Loma Linda Filipino church; and Varner Leggitt, a retired SECC pastor.



In order to allow for more Web creativity, netAdventist has developed a new platform, or content management system. This new CMS allows churches to connect more easily and share more information. It also encourages more individuality in design and layout.

During the past few months SECC has conducted several Web training sessions. Those in November and January dealt with the conversion from the old to the new CMS and touched on streaming audio and video. SECC also joined Southern California Conference in December for a seminar on how evangelism and websites are interconnected.

Inspired by the Great Commission, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations," the Institute of Discipleship,

formed by the Spanish-speaking churches of Orange County, has launched a website as an evangelistic tool. This site (idorangecounty.adventistfaith.org) serves as a portal in which church members and visitors can access helpful links, such as prerecorded sermons and numerous articles, and view live video streaming of church services and evangelistic meetings. Ulysses Gomez, discipleship coordinator of the Anaheim Spanish church, said, "The website serves as an aid to those who wish to fulfill the Lord's command to witness, offering sound advice and usable materials."

Southeastern's own website is being redesigned to be more attractive and user-friendly. It should be functional sometime this month at www.seccadventist.org.

Technology changes rapidly, and with it new windows of evangelistic opportunity are created. The development and growth of the Web makes dreams possible. People can be reached beyond physical borders. At Southeastern this method is catching on more and more, helping the church in southern California to be part of the commission to take the gospel "to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (Revelation 14:6). □



Jesse Johnson, a member of the Fallbrook church who works with netAserve to provide support for netAdventist websites, helps SECC webmasters negotiate the changeover to a new content management system.

Coming Events

Prison Ministries Seminar (March 8) 9 a.m., Southeastern California Conference Office assembly room, 11330 Pierce St., Riverside. To register: 951-509-2337 or janelle.muthiah@seccsda.org.

Hispanic Women's Retreat (April 3-5) Pine Springs Ranch. Info: 951-509-2333.

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