

Conference

May 2009

Priorities

Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Simple Acts Lead to Baptisms at Campus Hill

By Joan Avery

One of Campus Hill church's outreach ministries, SAKE (Simple Acts of Kindness Evangelism), was instrumental in leading six young men to baptism as a direct result of its bold members-with-vision evangelism. This ministry, a team effort that coalesced members' individual and collective efforts, resulted in this special Sabbath celebration. Senior pastor Hyveth Williams, an ardent supporter of the ministry, baptized the six candidates.

Two of the men are brothers, Conrad and Darien Placencia, who responded to SAKE's early evangelism invitation. (Additionally, their mother, who recently gave birth to their baby brother, brought him to be dedicated that morning.) Another baptismal candidate, Gary Lafferty, also represents one of the early residents befriended by ministry volunteers. Other baptismal candidates, Charles Braithwaite and BJ and Dwight Manzala, assist with ministry activities. SAKE leaders are now holding post-baptismal Bible classes for these new members.

SAKE members perform simple acts of kindness for residents of a local neighborhood. Early in its ministry, the group committed itself to the neighborhood—volunteers picked up trash in the community, played games with children, distributed fruits to families and provided a community health fair. After securing the trust and confidence of parents, they invited the children to attend church Sabbath afternoons for a time of

fun and learning. The sessions provided a time to build relationships in a comfortable, safe learning environment using games, stories, songs, crafts, and science and health projects. At these weekly meetings children learned about Jesus through Bible stories and action-oriented songs. Formal weekly Bible studies provided opportunities to accept Jesus.

SAKE launched 2009 by adopting another nearby neighborhood. This community will be blanketed on Sabbath afternoons with energetic, willing members, many of whom are teens and young adults. Recently more than 30 members gathered to pray, then distributed 100 energy-efficient lightbulbs to residents; the following week they distributed 100 flashlights. While picking up trash, another volunteer team met a couple who, after a brief conversation, requested Bible studies that began that week.

SAKE, whose members' mission is to show God's love in practical ways and lead people to know Jesus, is always looking to broaden and strengthen its cadre of committed, willing servants to plant seeds for evangelism in novel and unconventional methods. □



Senior pastor Hyveth Williams, left, welcomes six men from a nearby neighborhood into Campus Hill church membership.

“Being Grace” Theme *Lasts All Year at LSA*

By Judith Nelson

Senior Aarika Petersen remembers the first Spiritual Retreat Day at La Sierra Academy last fall as “one of the most enjoyable days we’ve had here. It was all about having fun while we were getting to know God better!”

She and many other La Sierra Academy students have responded warmly and positively to the theme of “Being Grace” this school year.

Campus ministries activities have been conducted all year with this in mind: presenting the essential concept of grace in a setting that’s memorable and enjoyable.

The spiritual retreat, conducted September 19 by the school’s Campus Ministries Team, was intended to give students a taste of a Bible conference. Although held on campus and within the parameters of a school morning, it was prayerfully dedicated to focusing young minds and hearts on the deeper meaning of life and on God’s love.

“Our school has set aside one day per semester for spiritual focus and emphasis, and we’ve used those days for different activities, always going for better and different approaches,” said Cynthia Clark, campus chaplain and Bible teacher. The Campus Ministries Team’s goal for September 19 was “to affirm this



Sophomores and juniors begin their “laugh” wall design.

year’s school theme, ‘Being Grace,’ with the idea that there is joy in God’s grace,” Clark said.

The morning’s activities began with worship in the chapel, bringing together the entire academy family. A cross was revealed behind the screen.

“The cross is empty, we affirmed, and so we celebrate the risen Savior and accept His gift of grace—our salvation—and the students were encouraged to consider Philippians 4:13, to know how to find true joy and hope in the world we live in,” said Clark.

After worship, groups of students, supervised by willing faculty and local church pastors and joined by Campus Ministries Team members, cycled in and out of three activities: games played outside on the lawn; a message-filled short film, *Johnny Lingo*,

La Sierra Academy students and helpers splashed effervescent spirit across their gymnasium wall. They used goggles, masks, and gloves, but most of all they used their open-hearted creativity to design “grace words,” such as “love,” “faith,” “service” and “hope,” in lively illustrations. Even students who often distance themselves from any activities thought “not cool” were intensely focused on cooperating with their designated groups to produce the most evocative word wall painting.



Loma Linda Indonesian Church

By Sri Rezeki Sihotang

Celebrates 30 Years of History

Loma Linda Indonesian church members commemorated their thirtieth anniversary February 6-8 with the theme “Growing in Grace, Peace and Unity.” It was a weekend full of praise and music, fellowship, encouraging messages, challenges and hope.

The church began in Sept. 30, 1978, with a small group meeting in Montclair. It was officially organized into a church on Sept. 14, 1989, by L. Stephen Gifford, Southeastern California Conference president at that time, and became the second Indonesian Adventist church in the United States.

Membership has grown from 40 in 1978 to 806 in 2008.

Mark Holm, Loma Linda Academy chaplain, was the speaker for the Friday evening vesper service. The program, under the direction of Roy Rantung, youth pastor,

was filled with uplifting songs of praise by the church’s youth.

Jonathan Kuntaraf, director of the General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department, was the featured

speaker during the worship hour on Sabbath morning. In his powerful message, “We Are One,” he said, “We are one through creation and redemption because we are created and redeemed by Jesus Christ.” He added, “We are all one body, so as one we should experience



Kathleen Kuntaraf and Sandra Roberts give the first slice of cake to Albert and Deborah Pardede, right, while Elizabeth Sitanggang, center, watches.

*Continued
on page 4*

which stimulated lively group discussion on how to value one another; and a wall art project.

During a break, students participated in serving one another, creating ice cream sundaes to reinforce the concept of ‘service.’ Homemade cookies, lots of fresh toppings, and generous scoops of ice cream provided a refreshing, practical lesson on the joys of serving, sharing and tasting.

The students then returned to the chapel for a praise and worship session by the energetic LSA band, Fireside Drive. Chagy the Clown, a well-known performer on the Christian events circuit, concluded the program.

“Our students thought a lot about grace while they were having fun that day,” Clark said. “I believe our goal, to bring students closer to a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ, was met.” □





The consulate general of the Republic of Indonesia, Subijaksono Sujono, and Mrs. Sujono, in the center of the photo, pose with Loma Linda Indonesian church members at their anniversary celebration.

**Continued
from page 3**

as one body and have the same hope.” The sermon was translated from Bahasa Indonesia to English by Kuntaraf’s wife, Kathleen, associate director of the General Conference Health Ministries Department.

God touched many hearts through that sermon. “I feel very peaceful, and I hope everybody feels the

same way I do,” said Juliana Mangunsong, wife of the late Eddie Mangunsong, a former pastor.

The Sabbath concluded with a family seminar, “Passing the Torch,” by Kathleen and Jonathan Kuntaraf, and a festival of music.

Sunday morning, Daniel Injo, church



Current and former pastors were honored for their leadership and dedication. Left to right: Juliana Mangunsong, wife of the late Eddie T. Mangunsong; Mrs. Thomas Sinulingga; Kathleen and Jonathan Kuntaraf; Anneke and Amos Simorangkir; Deborah and Albert Pardede; and Roy Rantung. Not pictured: Esther and Clifford Lim.

treasurer, presented the church’s 30-year history. Following that were remarks by Claude La Villa, former Filipino church pastor; Albert J. Pardede, senior pastor; Stanley Brauer, mayor of Loma Linda; Jonathan Kuntaraf; George Atiga, North American Division and Pacific Union Conference Asian-Pacific ministries director; and Rudy Bermudez, SECC Asian-Pacific ministries director.

Sandra Roberts, conference executive secretary, was the speaker, and Thomas Staples, conference treasurer, offered the rededication prayer.

Current and former pastors, Thomas Sinulingga, Eddie T. Mangunsong, Jonathan Kuntaraf, Amos Simorangkir, Albert J. Pardede, Clifford Lim, and Roy Rantung were honored for their leadership and dedication.

The celebration continued with the cutting of the tumpeng (a ceremonial yellow rice



The cutting of the tumpeng (yellow rice), is a traditional Indonesian custom followed by Subijaksono Sujono, consulate general of the Republic of Indonesia, and Mrs. Sujono.

pyramid), a traditional Indonesian custom, by the consulate general of the Republic of Indonesia, Subijaksono Sujono, and Mrs. Sujono.

“We celebrated what God has done for our church, and it is so wonderful to see all the anniversary officers and church members work together to pull off such a beautiful program,” said Shirley Injo, who chaired the anniversary committee.

To learn more about Loma Linda Indonesian church, visit www.lisda.com. □

Coming Events

SECC Multigrade Choral Festival Concert (May 13) 6 p.m., La Sierra University Alumni Pavilion. Info: 951-509-2313.

Retirees Retreat (May 18-20) Pine Springs Ranch. Info: 951-509-2287.

Summer Camp at Pine Springs Ranch. Info: 951-509-CAMP (2267).

June 24-28, Pathfinder/Adventurer Mini-Camp
June 28-July 5, Discovery Week, ages 8-10
July 5-12, Junior Week 1, ages 10-12
July 12-19, Junior Week 2, ages 10-12
July 19-26, Tween Week, ages 12-15
July 26-August 2, Teen Week 1, ages 13-17
August 2-9, Teen Week 2, ages 13-17

**Southeastern California Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists**

P.O. Box 8050 • Riverside, CA 92515
951-509-2200 • www.seccadventist.org

Gerald D. Penick, Sr., President
Sandra Roberts, Secretary
Thomas Staples, Treasurer

Conference Priorities
Jocelyn Fay, Editor
Stephanie Kinsey, Layout