



# PARKWOOD ECHOES

## PARKWOOD CHURCH LIBRARY

Library hours are between Sabbath School and 15-20 minutes after Church Service is dismissed.

These are a few book titles:

*Bible Study - Tucker, LaVerne*

- ◆ Search for truth Seminar Study Guides - The Quiet Hour

*Biographies - Swift, Joy*

- ◆ They're All Dead, Aren't They?

*Christian Life - Wieland, Robert J.*

- ◆ Good News Is Better Than You Think!

*Sabbath School - Nash, G.R.*

- ◆ Planning Better Sabbath Schools

*Leadership - Harris, William J.*

- ◆ The Challenge of Vacation Bible School Evangelism

*Health & Nutrition - Cook, Shirley*

- ◆ Diary of a Fat Housewife

And many more!



*Arise! Shine! Jesus is coming!*

60<sup>th</sup> General Conference Session | July 2-11

### From the Pastor

*"Arise, shine; for your light has come!..."*  
(Isa. 60:1, NKJV)

The 60th General Conference Session hosted in San Antonio, Texas is now underway, and my family and I have the privilege of being in attendance for the opening weekend with an estimated 70,000 other Seventh-day Adventists from all over the world! I am grasping for words to describe the worldwide unity on display here. It's one thing to cognitively be aware that our church spans the globe, but it is quite a different thing to actually *experience* the Adventist church's global dynamic in one moment and in one place.

Yesterday, after I attempted to converse with a fellow attendee and found that we spoke different languages, we settled for smiles and handshakes. As I walked away, I was challenged with the question: What really unites us?

What is it that would bring people of such different backgrounds, cultures, and languages together to pray and worship and make decisions together? Ultimately, what holds us together is our love for the Savior and the prophetic mission He has outlined for us in Scripture.

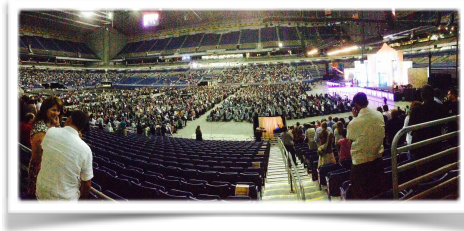
What unites us is the compelling picture of the everlasting gospel being proclaimed to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people in such a way that the long-awaited harvest is finally ripened, paving the way for Jesus to come again (Rev. 14:6-15)! This mission, this message is everything. It's everything to us, and it's everything to Jesus who is waiting to return for us.

Friends, we have a work to do. Too much is at stake to become distracted or divided — whether on the level of our individual experience, our local church, or the global church.

As I listened to Elder Ted Wilson share the President's Report of the amazing ministry highlights of what God has done through His prophetic movement



Auditorium expected to be filled to capacity on Sabbath day



## Central Valley Christian Academy

Educating for Eternity. Adventist education may seem like a luxury that is out of the realm of financial possibility. But with God all things are possible! Investing in the eternal well-being of our young people is of infinite worth and, therefore, of primary importance. As a church family, we are committed to assisting families in seeking this quality education. You can go to [cvcaonline.net](http://cvcaonline.net) to find more information about the school and also about scholarships, student-aid from the church, and other financial assistance available now for the new Academic year of 2015-2016.

INFORMATION

over the last five years, the pointed reality is that Jesus has not yet come and that there is still more to do, more lives to reach, more love to show, more truth to share. It is high time to “arise and shine; for [our] light has come!” (Isa. 60:1).

Let us join with the world church in praying and working toward this end. May God pour out His Spirit and cause us to rise up with prophetic faith to finish the work He has entrusted to each and every one of us!

## THE CHALLENGE

by Debbie Miranda

For 3 hours a day, 3 days a week for 3 weeks, an average of 12 youth have been gathering in Parkwood Youth Chapel for The Challenge, a Bible boot camp of sorts for teens. After a game and a group worship, the youth have been going out for Solitude time, during which they have practiced spending time alone with God in prayer, and looking at various passages in His Word.

Then, after some sharing, they are primed for Study time with the Daily 7 Exercises. After exercising for a bit, we have been studying various Bible topics from the Sabbath, to the Sanctuary, to the 3 Angels’ Messages. After that, we’ve experienced different Service opportunities, such as GLOW in the theatre parking lot, and handing out water bottles and granola bars to the homeless. Rec time follows, then a yummy lunch and sendoff.

“Thank you for bringing us to the Challenge. We really love it,” commented Jasmine Vasquez and Alicia Rubio. Tsi Aguillon and Devin White admitted it was better than playing video games all day. “I wish it was every day,” said Janelle Ko.

The program ended with a hike to the river and individualized challenges to continue growing in their knowledge of God. Twenty-two youth experienced at least part of The Challenge. Also, over 22 volunteers made The Challenge possible, by teaching classes or making lunch, supervising games or service projects, and in many other ways as well.

They say it takes a village to raise a child. Let’s keep raising our children and youth as a church, for God’s glory!



## COMMUNITY SERVICE



by Shellie Vasquez

For the months of July and August Dorcas will not be open but will be assisting on food baskets if they receive call requests.

For our June "Tea Party" Event this last Sunday 28th, Dorcas donated a quilt and it was won by one of the parties guests.

We are continuing to have our Monday Quilting Class at 6:00pm.

## Parkwood VBS 2015 Destination Paradise

by Samantha Rush

What a wonderful VBS we had this year. We had about 60 students enroll this year between our members and non-members. We had eighteen helpers from our youth group and one from the community. They did an awesome job, moving kids from class to class, and keeping up with all the energy that the kids had; Dante, Janelle, Jonah, Lodi, Tsi,



Nicole, Darrick, & Ethan. All of our adult helpers did a tremendous job too. Eleanor, helped with Head orders, she got our children ready for the day by showing them a video from our characters and the struggles they were going through that day. At the end of the day she would show a second video to help wrap up the lesson for the night.

## Garden Club Ministry

by Denise Fluence

It's unbelievable how the plants have grown this season. Just 8 week ago we didn't know if Frank and Nina's starter plants would even survive. My starters never did Start.

Then as growth happened, David helped Lorna and I place the 5 foot stakes in the ground for the tomatoes.

Since then we have had to extend the height of the stakes with PVC pipe and zip ties. Now we are just using the tomatoes' vine itself as a stake.

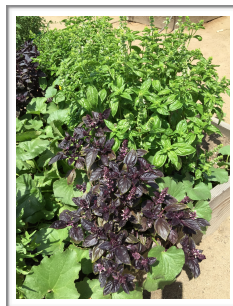
Who would have thought that the tomato plant would tower over us? And that the Cucumbers would make enough for pot luck, and the Ladies Tea Luncheon, and more... I never thought I would be discussing oil free pesto recipes over the Basil plants either. (That's right, just use an avocado) "God Is Good".

As my Dad use to say, "God did not intend for anyone to starve."

He also used to quote scripture saying " He that tileth the sow shall not lack."

So why is this called " Ministry?"

Well my lack of knowledge and wisdom drives me to have "Prayer Consults" with God the creator. This builds my relationship with Him and others since He has chosen to send His knowledge through His guidance in prayer and through the experience of other people.



Living out the " Parables of Christ" regarding plants, gives a "Close Up" understanding of how the physical and spiritual world share the same author and rules. Just like one seed from our tomatoes brought plants that are towering over us, so it is when I sow seeds of kindness, or strife. The Bible says what so ever a man soweth that shall he also reap. Please join me in my prayer that I sow Godly Seed in the lives of others and myself so God's Goodness will Tower over Us.



She was great about our nightly raffles, where we were able to give 2 children Bibles, 3 Junior devotionals, and 5 Bible storybooks away to the children in our community.

Nancy was our Sunrise Reef, she made the kids interested in the Yap Seventh-day Adventist School and their needs. We were able to raise \$300 + in love offerings to help the school get much needed school supplies.

Mr. Francisco & Mr. David, worked in Finn's Surf Shop. There they helped the children learn to work together with fun games that helped them let out some steam.



Ms. Renna, Ms. January and Ms. ChiRee, had Conch Cove. There they helped the children sing songs while they made crafts. They made a picture out of shaving cream and alcohol ink, a drum, and a Lai.

Dr. Ed & Ms. Janette were in Big 3. There they taught the children a variety of things for example Science, pineapples, volcanos, sharks and waves.

Ms. Nina was our Monkey Pod teacher. She narrated Bible stories to the children about Jesus' birth, his miracles, his death, and his plans for us in heaven, and the New Earth.

Ms. Joann & Mr. Richard had a wonderful Waterfall Café.

They dished out a light snack of Lava Slush, Fruit Cabobs, Life Rafts made from Veggies, and Strawberry Short cake "yum!"

Ms. Debbie had song service with some help from our children members, and our teenager/staff members too.



## Youth (and Church) Challenge: Feeding the 5000

by Eleanor Matuu

Knowing that summer was fast approaching, Debbie asked several of the youth and their parents in May to participate in a brain-storming session (or two), to set up a calendar full of events for the summer for our young people. She'd asked us to think of several items to bring to the table – not just fun and entertaining things for the kids, but fun things for them to do that was spiritually fulfilling as well.

I already knew that the GLOW program was an ongoing thing our church was trying to promote and I was trying to think of something to help that program become something challenging and fun for our youth. I told myself that with it being summer, our young people would for the most part have lots of free time, so how could we help them use it to do something fun for God? I also knew that if we challenged these youth to putting out 5000 GLOW over the three months of summer, that it could be lots of fun.



I figured that by making it a competition between them all, that it would be something that they'd use to outdo each other as well as challenge each other to do better. After thinking about it a little more, I knew that many people in our church family put out GLOW tracts throughout the week, and I figured - why not make this a challenge for our whole church? Also, with the number of 5000 in my mind, the story of Jesus feeding the 5000 came to me and that's how I came up with the name for our challenge. So I created the board to update our church every week on how many GLOW we have been passed out – according to the numbers that they turn in with their offering every week.

I also created the slips of paper for them to fill out with their information and numbers to turn in. After talking with Anita, she and I presented the challenge to the church on the first Sabbath of June, and we laid out the terms of the challenge. We have two teams – team Red and team Blue. The Red team consists of Adults ages 23 - ???, and children ages 0 - 11. The Blue team is comprised of our young people, ages 12 - 22.



Each week, we asked that the slips of paper be filled out with each individual's name, as well as how many GLOW they handed out that week, that they also circled which team they belonged to, and then to turn in the slips of paper with their offering.

We're just at the beginning of July now, and we've almost passed out our first 1000 GLOWs, but with only less than 2 months left, we still have 4000 to go.





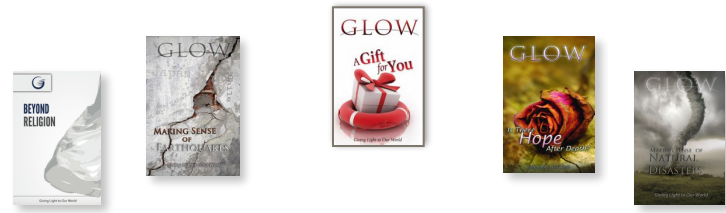
Ms Debbie was able to get the kids up and moving with great fun spiritual songs.

Ms. Carol Ray & Ms. Shellie had the most fun of all. They were the registration table hostess they got to meet every child that came to our VBS.

I wanted to thank the Leava Family for helping us out with all of the great outfits for our week events.



### “LADIES TEA”



I want to put the challenge out to those of you who are not participating yet, that we'd really like for everyone in our church family to join us all in this challenge. Let's all work toward this goal of Feeding 5000 people in our community this summer, and help raise the interest in our church's message. We'd all love to see Jesus come soon, and I'm hoping that everyone would like to help make that happen.

To help us celebrate meeting our goal, we'll plan an ice cream feed for some time in September – details will follow once the plans have been cemented.

## “LADIES TEA PARTY”

by Anita Watson

Happy faces, delicious food, a fanciful array of colorful Hats and lovely table settings filled Bellaman Hall at the Modesto Parkwood Ladie's High Tea on June 28<sup>th</sup> 2015. This was a day when a rich display of Parkwood's talent and skill came together to entertain and entreat.

Approximately 75, including staff, attended this gala affair catered by Chef Kay Podvin, Dollis Willis, and their dedicated kitchen staff; Amy Jones, Brittany Cook, Samantha Rush and Magdalena Eggink who prepared a fantastic four course meal of tasty vegetarian hors'de voeurs, delicious fresh fruit and tantalizing desserts. Throughout the program, Table Host and Servers watched with a keen eye, and moved quickly to make certain all guest were served.

Jean Hill served as the Mistress of Ceremony to keep the program moving, and to present the fun and fabulous fashion show. A diverse group of models of all ages and sizes modeled clothing from Modesto's "Plato's Closet", and "Cindy's Doodads" of Turlock. The Audience cooed with joy as they watched the models stroll on stage in their clever, fashionable, and trendy outfits, dressed to a "T"! It was an excellent opportunity to see that modest designs can indeed be flattering, trendy and available.

During the program several prizes were raffled, but the most valuable prize of all was a beautiful hand made quilt won by a guest who giggled with excitement when announced as the winner of this special treasure. There was much laughter and merriment as friends old and new came together just to have fun! Although a lot of time and effort went on behind the scenes, everyone agreed , it was time well spent, and we'll definitely look forward to another Modesto Parkwood (annual?) Ladies "High" Tea!

Abundant "grats" to the Deaconess for presenting this awesome program, and to all who worked so hard to make it a success!

“Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! Psalms 133:1

