Missionary School Graduation Ceremony

The eight-month General Conference Missionary Training Seminar officially ended on Sunday, May 27, 2012, with a graduation ceremony in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Pastor Larry Watts opened the service with Isaiah 6:8, “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”

Missionary students stand with Pastor Larry Watts at the conclusion of the graduation ceremony. Students pictured are: (back row, l-r): Danny Ramirez, Adrian Lowe, Richard Eaton, Pastor Larry Watts, Mark Anthony Barnedo, Eric Song, and Leone Chiatto; (front row, l-r) Brenda Alonzo, Nidia Romero, and Emelina Garcia. All students are from Canada except Mark Anthony (USA) and Jorge Lozano (Mexico) (not pictured).
From September through April, the missionary students attended classes at the General Conference headquarters in Cedartown, Georgia. Subjects ranged from nutrition to prophecy to church organization. Tests, papers, class presentations, and field trips filled the time.

Following the classroom portion of their missionary studies, students were each assigned a location for practical field work. The cities of Montreal, Calgary, Vancouver, Edmonton, and Toronto were visited by the missionary students of Canada. Chicago was chosen for the one missionary student from the United States. And Chihuahua was served by Mexico’s only missionary student, Jorge Lozano.

At the graduation ceremony, students shared their experiences and what God had taught them. For some it was learning to trust God through every circumstance. Others learned how to strike up a conversation with a stranger and turn it toward the Lord. Still others discovered methods of sharing the gospel message through canvassing. All had fears at the beginning of their field work. By the time they had completed their practical work, all were blessed by a new confidence in God and a very real understanding of His love for a fallen world.

Please continue to pray for these missionary students. Their formal missionary training has ended, but there is still a lifetime of learning ahead of them. May we also become missionary students at heart, willing to let go of our fears and trust a loving God as we labor to bring new souls into His kingdom.

Let us all go to work for the Lord. Let us put our shoulder to the work and strive for the unity of the church. Let us build up each other and help bear each other’s burdens. We must help others.

Pastor Larry Watts, Director of Bethsaida Institute

Photos appear courtesy of Helen Martinnen and Pastor Larry Watts. A complete write-up of the graduation ceremony is in The Reformation Messenger.
Serve
Southeastern Field Children’s Conference Report, April 5-7, 2012, Part I

“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

1 Peter 4:10

John Tanner State Park in Carrollton, Georgia, was the site of the Southeastern Field Children’s Conference. Approximately eighty visitors came from all three churches in Georgia as well as from New Jersey and Florida.

The program began Thursday evening with dinner, worship, and a bonfire. On Friday, the children visiting from Florida conducted morning worship. After breakfast, workshops that focused on spontaneous and planned service were conducted. Sometimes God asks us to serve at a moment’s notice, as in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Other times, God asks us to plan what we will do for Him. Crafts were made to go along with the lessons taught. Some of the children made “self-denial boxes.” Instead of indulging their desires, children were encouraged to place the money they would have spent on themselves into this self-denial box, to be used for missionary work.

Following lunch, the children and youth divided into groups to do practical service in the community of Carrollton. The younger children, with their parents, visited a nearby convalescent hospital. There they sang for the residents and gave out scented soaps that had been made by the students of Cedar Christian School. The teenaged youth and missionary students traveled to a local group home where they got to know the teens while playing athletic games. In the process, contacts were made and relationships established.

The number of conference attendees had been steadily climbing and by Sabbath reached the hundred mark. This included thirty-five children (ages 18 and under).

In the afternoon, following the outdoor morning church services, a nature walk was organized and led by Sister Erica Moran, from Florida. She divided the participants into three groups who, at various locations, were asked to answer questions about the sermon preached earlier that morning. The walk concluded with the participants forming three circles—men, women, and children—in order to serve one other with a two-minute shoulder massage.

Sabbath activities concluded with worship and a bonfire.

After breakfast and worship on Sunday morning, everyone cleaned the cabin and headed down to the lake for a very special conclusion to the Children’s Conference. (To be continued in next month’s issue)
American Union Newsletter

June 2012

Western Field Delegates’ Meeting Update

The delegates' meetings for the Western Field will be held at Camp Alta. Delegates should plan to arrive at the Camp around 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 21, 2012. Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. The first meeting for the delegates will convene at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning. That day, breakfast and lunch will be served to the delegates, and they will join the conference attendees at dinner (the first meal for the public conference). The costs for the delegates for three meals and overnight accommodations on Tuesday night will be covered by the Western Field.

Missionary Minute Update: “I’m So Glad I Came to Jail”

The April 2012 AUNL carried an item about the need for prison ministry. As was mentioned in that issue, the pastors of the Cedartown church have conducted weekly worship services at the local jail for several years. This month, one of the prisoners greeted Pastor Petkov with a surprising announcement. “I’m so glad I came to jail,” the man exclaimed. “Here I have finally learned the truth about God, and I want to be baptized.”

Is prison ministry something you can do for Jesus Christ? Pray about it.

“I was in prison, and you came unto Me.” Matthew 25:36

Do YOU have an item of interest for the AUNL? Let us know at: americanunionnewsletter@yahoo.com

2012 Calendar

• June 24-July 11: World Assembly of Delegates, South Africa
• July 11-15: General Conference Public Session, South Africa
• July 15-22: World Youth Conference, South Africa
• August 22-26: Western Field Conference, Camp Alta, California

The American Union Newsletter is the official organ of the Seventh–day Adventist Church Reform Movement, American Union. It is published monthly, is complimentary for our members and friends, and carries items of interest submitted by church members. We reserve the right to make changes as necessary and to refuse to print certain items. To submit news, write to American Union Newsletter, c/o Margie Seely, Editor, PO Box 777, Cedartown, GA 30125-0777. Phone: 209-256-1138; E-mail: americanunionnewsletter@yahoo.com.