AU Distance-learning Program Moves Forward
Margie Seely, AU Education Leader, Cedartown, GA

“The necessity of establishing Christian schools is urged upon me very strongly. In the schools of today many things are taught that are a hindrance rather than a blessing. Schools are needed where the word of God is made the basis of education. Satan is the great enemy of God, and it is his constant aim to lead souls away from their allegiance to the King of heaven. He would have minds so trained that men and women will exert their influence on the side of error and moral corruption, instead of using their talents in the service of God. His object is effectually gained, when, by perverting their ideas of education, he succeeds in enlisting parents and teachers on his side, for a wrong education often starts the mind on the road to infidelity.” –Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 541.

The American Union Education Department is moving forward in an exciting new direction with its distance-learning program for grades 1 through 10. Preparations are being made to begin in the month of September, and your children are cordially invited to participate.

As was stated in last month’s AUNL, a distance-learning program is an online school that allows students the opportunity to learn on an individualized basis. Students are instructed through online lectures and demonstrations. Assignment plans are clearly laid out for the year, allowing students to see the complete overview and set their own goals. Questions are answered via Skype and email. Schoolwork is submitted online. The distance-learning program will keep all academic records. Report cards will be distributed on a quarterly basis, and transcripts will be provided as needed.

Opportunities exist for full-time, part-time, and single-course enrollment. Individualized tutoring sessions are also available upon request.

The question that begs an answer is, “Why is the American Union Education Department working so hard to open a distance-learning program?” The answer can be found in inspired words penned more than one hundred years ago. “In planning for the education of their children outside the home, parents should realize that it is no longer safe to send them to the public school, and should endeavor to send them to schools where they will obtain an education based on a Scriptural foundation. Upon every Christian parent there rests the solemn obligation of giving to his children an education that will lead them to gain a knowledge of the Lord and to become partakers of the divine nature through obedience to God's will and way. –Child Guidance, p. 304. “Then let the church carry a burden for the lambs of the flock. Let the children be educated and trained to do service for God, for they are the Lord’s heritage.” –Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 203.

The children and young people of the church are the Lord’s heritage. Let us, both parents and the Education Department, work together to educate them for God’s honor and glory. This is our hope. This is our prayer. Will you join us?

Handbooks and application forms will be ready next month. If you would like to have one sent to you, please email your name, email or mailing address, and children’s ages to me at margieseely@yahoo.com. Thank you!
During the month of March, there was a lot of activity in southern California. Here’s a brief summary.

In January 2012, Sister Juliana Uriostegue informed me that she and her husband would be celebrating their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary in March 2013. They asked me to perform a church service to commemorate this blessed event. I accepted, and the planning began.

How quickly the months passed! On Sunday, March 24, 2013, this long-awaited event took place. It was a beautiful, clear day. Spring blossoms added their beauty to the occasion as nearly 80 people arrived at the Riverside church for the celebration.

The service I prepared for them was entitled “Twenty-five Years of Marriage.” The words from the song “One Day at a Time” were used to express the reality of marriage. “I’m only human… Help me believe in what I could be,… Lord, for my sake, teach me to take one day at a time.” When a man and a woman start on the path of romance, all is bliss. However, in marriage, things change a bit. That is to say, a never-ending learning process begins. Marriage can survive only when both parties acknowledge and take responsibility for their faults. The apostle Paul writes that changes must take place in order for there to be joy and peace in the marriage and the family. He gives the promise that all things can be done “through Christ which strengthens” us. Philippians 4:13, Christ in the center of the marriage bonds, strengthens, and unites a husband and wife. As the years go by, Christ causes their love for each other to mature and makes a successful marriage possible.

After the sermon, Brother and Sister Uriostegue renewed their vows, promising their love to each other until only death would part them. The Uriostegue children also participated in the ceremony, and the whole family sang a song of praise to the Lord. Following the service, a reception was held, bringing this special and blessed occasion to a joyous close.

But the month of March had still more to offer. The event scheduled for the following weekend was equally joyful. On the afternoon of Sabbath, March 30, three baptismal candidates were lowered into the watery grave while songs of praise sounded by the poolside. All heaven rejoiced with us as each emerged from the water, no longer baptismal candidates, but new members of the Riverside church. In attendance were the candidates’ families along with members of the Huntington Park and Riverside churches. Our newest members are: Sister Marisa Gil, Brother Marcio Paz, and Sister Wendy Paz. Their Bible instructor was Brother Pedro Uriostegue. Please pray that these new members walk faithfully on the path that will lead them into the kingdom of heaven. “For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” Galatians 3:27, NIV. We ended this blessed event with these texts: “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ… Make no provision for the flesh.” Romans 13:14, NKJ. “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” Who?! See Romans 8:35, 38, 39, NKJ.

Both the Riverside and Huntington Park churches have hopes that this summer there will be more candidates for baptism.

Remember, March has thirty-one days. Another event ended the month on a happy note. Sunday, March 31, was the date set for a wedding, also at the Riverside church. The day was cloudy and rain was expected, but it never came.

The couple being married were new members of the Riverside church, who had just been baptized on Sabbath. Now, Brother Marcio Paz and Sister Wendy Paz took their vows and received the marriage
blessing in front of sixty witnesses, including Brother Marcio’s parents and sister who had come from Honduras for this special event.

The theme of the wedding service was “The Spiritual Home.” “The first work to be done in a Christian home is to see that the Spirit of Christ abides there, that every member of the household may be able to take his cross and follow where Jesus leads the way.” –The Adventist Home, p. 20. “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.” Colossians 3:12-14. A reception followed, and the evening air was filled with hymns of thankfulness. “Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: sing forth the honour of His name: make His praise glorious.” Psalm 66:1, 2.

---

**New AU Conference Registration Form!**

_Seventh-day Adventist Church, Reform Movement, IMS_

Pine Springs Ranch Christian Camp and Conference Center
58000 Apple Canyon Road, Mountain Center, CA 92561
August 14-18, 2013

**Deadline for Registration and Payment: July 1, 2013**

Send this form to: Evelyn Arevalo  
P.O. Box 677066  
Orlando, FL 32867  
Email: AU1914treasure@yahoo.com  
Phone: (407) 678-3165

Make checks out to: IMS SDA Church, Reform Movement, and send to the above address.

**Personal Information:** Submit one reservation form per family or room:

Last ___________ First ___________ Phone # (___) ___________

**Family Attendance:** How many people are in your family or group?

Adults (ages 13+) #_______ Children (ages 4-12) #_______ Infants (ages 0-3) #_______

**LODGING AND MEALS** Fees: Please check the nights you will be staying:

- [ ] Wednesday, August 14 □ Thursday, August 15 □ Friday, August 16 □ Sabbath, August 17

**Lodge Room:** (Each room features 2 queen beds as well as 2 pull-out single trundle beds, a private full-size bath, and a wonderful view of the surrounding scenery. All linens are provided. Pricing is per person.)

- [ ] 4 Nights/11 meals (1 Adult) $384.75  
- [ ] 4 Nights/11 meals (2 Adults) $555.75 ea.  
- [ ] 4 Nights/11 meals (3 Adults) $200.75 ea.  
- [ ] 4 Nights/11 meals (4 Adults) $169.75 ea.  
- [ ] 4 Nights/11 meals (Children) $102.75 ea.

- [ ] 2 Nights/5 meals (1 Adult) $207.25  
- [ ] 2 Nights/5 meals (2 Adults) $147.25 ea.  
- [ ] 2 Nights/5 meals (3 Adults) $118.25 ea.  
- [ ] 2 Nights/5 meals (4 Adults) $104.25 ea.  
- [ ] 2 Nights/5 meals (Children) $53.25 ea.

- [ ] 3 Nights/8 meals (1 Adult) $302  
- [ ] 3 Nights/8 meals (2 Adults) $204 ea.  
- [ ] 3 Nights/8 meals (3 Adults) $162 ea.  
- [ ] 3 Nights/8 meals (4 Adults) $139 ea.  
- [ ] 3 Nights/8 meals (Children) $73 ea.

**Cabins:** (carpeted, heated, and furnished with 4 sets of bunks and one queen bed. Centralized bathhouse complete with sinks, toilets, and private showers are nearby. Bring your own linens. Pricing is per person.)

- [ ] 4 Nights/11 meals (1-4 Adults) $150.75 ea.  
- [ ] 4 Nights/11 meals (5-9 Adults) $138.75 ea.  
- [ ] 3 Nights/8 meals (1-4 Adults) $107 ea.  
- [ ] 3 Nights/8 meals (5-9 Adults) $97 ea.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lodging Package</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Meals</th>
<th>Meals Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Nights/11 meals (Children)</td>
<td>$98.75 ea.</td>
<td>□ 1 meal = $11.00</td>
<td>□ 2 meals = $20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Nights/5 meals (1-4 Adults)</td>
<td>$70.25 ea.</td>
<td>□ 1 meal = $7.50</td>
<td>□ 2 meals = $15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Nights/5 meals (5-9 Adults)</td>
<td>$63.25 ea.</td>
<td>□ 1 meal = $5.50</td>
<td>□ 2 meals = $11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Nights/5 meals (Children)</td>
<td>$50.25 ea.</td>
<td>□ 1 meal = $3.50</td>
<td>□ 2 meals = $7.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Day Passes:** (for those who want to attend Saturday only without the lodging. Meals include $2.00 camp fee)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Meals</th>
<th>Meals Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 meal</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>□ 1 meal = $11.00</td>
<td>□ 2 meals = $20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 meals</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>□ 1 meal = $10.00</td>
<td>□ 2 meals = $20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Meals</th>
<th>Meals Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 meal</td>
<td>$9.50</td>
<td>□ 1 meal = $9.50</td>
<td>□ 2 meals = $17.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 meals</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
<td>□ 1 meal = $8.50</td>
<td>□ 2 meals = $16.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If no meals are needed for the day, a $2.00 fee per person for the day will be charged.

**Total Conference Cost:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Package</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lodging/Meals Package</td>
<td>$_____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Meals Only</td>
<td>$_____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Pass Fee Only</td>
<td>$_____________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

($2 per person)

TOTAL DUE $_____________

Please make sure checks are made out to: IMS SDA Church Reform Movement.

Shuttle Service will be provided to and from the Ontario Airport only. If you fly to another airport, you will need to make your own arrangements to and from the campground. The shuttle will be picking people up only at 11:00 am and 4:00 pm. The campground is about 2 hours from the airport, and part of the trip is going up the mountains. For this reason, we can provide this service only twice daily.

Note: Please make your reservation as soon as possible. We have only 30 lodge rooms reserved at the camp, and they will be given to those who request the rooms first. We also need to give the camp a count of who will be attending, and this is hard to do when we don't know how many people will attend. We ask that you send in your reservations as soon as possible. You can send your reservation now if you are sure you will attend and send your payment in by July 1, 2013. Those who pay after the deadline cannot be assured a room at the campground. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding. We hope everyone will make plans to attend this very important conference.

- Check-in time: 3:30 pm, Wednesday, August 14
- Check-out time: 11:00 am, Sunday, August 18

---

**2013 - 2014 Calendar**

- July 1, 2013: AU Conference Registration and Payment Deadline
- August 2 – 4, 2013: Canadian Field Conference (more information coming soon)
- August 14 – 18, 2013: American Union Conference, Mountain Center, CA
  Register now online for the Conference at: [https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=SElv6HoSjCQb9hvsTgZViA](https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=SElv6HoSjCQb9hvsTgZViA)
  For more information contact Barbara Watts at: [barbara.watts@sdal888.org](mailto:barbara.watts@sdal888.org) or 916-765-3389
- October 9, 2013-April 7, 2014: Bethsaida Missionary School, Cedartown, GA

---

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.