One hundred years ago, terror gripped the hearts of men as World War I unleashed its hellish fury across Europe. Inside the Seventh-day Adventist Church, a different kind of war began to wage. Under increasing pressure from governments, Adventist leaders weakened and finally betrayed their allegiance to God’s law. Only a handful of Adventists firmly stood for right. They would not fight. They refused to kill or break the Sabbath commandment. They would not participate in the horrors of World War I. Their faithfulness was met with ridicule and, ultimately, disfellowshipment. This was the beginning of the Reform Movement.

It is with deepest solemnity that we remember the courage and fidelity of these first Seventh-day Adventist Reformers. And it is with great joy that we extend a cordial invitation to all believers in the present truth to attend the Centennial Commemoration of Faithfulness to the Three Angels’ Messages to take place from Wednesday, July 30, to Sunday, August 3, 2014, at the World Headquarters of the International Missionary Society, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Reform Movement, 625 West Ave., Cedartown, GA, 30125-2452, USA. A program outlining the topics and speakers will be made available shortly.

Come to remember. Come to reflect. Come to recommit yourself to God’s cause. Leave inspired!
Missionary Report from Florida
Pastor Ciro Arevalo, Southeastern Field President, Orlando, FL

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”
1 Corinthians 15:57, 58.

We are constantly amazed by how the Holy Spirit works in the hearts and minds of people. By the grace of God, one more soul has taken his stand with the Lord’s church on earth. Our dear brother Jonnathan Ruiz (originally from Mexico) is the second person to be baptized in the city of Pensacola, Florida.

On Sunday, November 24, 2013, our brother made a covenant with his Saviour Jesus Christ. Although the weather was cold and windy, this did not discourage him or cause him to postpone his baptism. I had never before performed a baptism in such cold weather! Despite the poor weather, Brother Jonnathan took this important step in his life with fervor and joy.

Please pray for him and his wife as she prepares to make the same decision as her husband. All glory and honor goes always to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Good Samaritan Corner
Verica Dering, AU Good Samaritan Leader
Cameron Park, CA

“Giving touches a nerve in us that nothing else does. We look a lot like God when we do it. John 3:16. When you give, you defy the fear that you won’t have enough. You insult greed, the impulse to acquire or possess more than one needs or deserves. If you really believe that God owns it all and that He is your source and provider, giving will be a simple matter…. The arena of giving is the only place where exactly what’s going on in your heart is revealed. According to Jesus, giving keeps your heart in motion toward God and away from material things…. Your heart will follow the direction of your giving.”

Invitation to Summer Course in Holland
Gabriel Porras, Missionary Leader, Dutch Field, Europe

The year 2014 promises much advance in technology, science, research, and many other areas; so does a Summer Course planned in Holland. For the youth of our church and those who want to grow in knowledge of the Bible, this Summer Course is what they’ve been looking for. The General Conference, in collaboration with the Dutch Field, is making plans to invest in the education of our youth in a unique event happening only once every five years—a ten-day program during which we will study subjects in which the youth are interested as well as themes important for their spiritual life.

The subjects to be studied during this ten-day Bible course are: Nutrition, Creation vs. Evolution, Church History, Evangelism, and Love and Relationships. We will have two excursions in the Netherlands. On Sunday, August 10, we will visit the city of Amsterdam, go for a canal cruise through the city, and visit the Jewish museums, including the Anne Frank Museum. On Wednesday, August 13, we will visit Madurodam in The Hague, a park where one can experience Holland on a smaller scale; and also the famous Dutch Ark of Noah in Doordrecht, which was built true-to-size for the purpose of revealing the importance of this Bible story and the proof of a worldwide flood. We will also take time to go to a nearby city to practice street evangelism. Although this is not a youth conference, we will make it an unforgettable learning experience and have fun while we study and use our talents for God’s service. Don’t miss this opportunity!

The price for the entire ten-day Summer Course is €263 (approximately $364 USD) including excursions. If you desire to attend only the first week (from Monday to Sabbath), the price will be €120 (approximately $166 USD).

Sign up before May 31, 2014. For information or to request a registration form, send an email to Brother Gabriel Porras at GPorras@zdareformatie.org. Be sure to write, “Confirmation for the 2014 Summer Course,” in the subject area. God bless you!
Baptism in Denver  
Barbara Watts, Denver, CO

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:3, 4.

On Sunday morning, March 2, 2014, the believers in Denver met at a pool in Aurora for the baptism of four precious souls. Pastor Joel Barnedo performed the baptism, leading the believers’ minds to the significance of this sacred ordinance that links the soul to Heaven and to God’s church on earth.

Brother Ramon and Sister Alba Gomez (front left in the picture below) were brought into contact with the Denver congregation through their years-long friendship with Sister Alice (Toczynski) Sandoval and her husband, Brother Oscar Sandoval. Brother and Sister Gomez have a deep commitment to the Lord and to the Adventist message.

The Lord led Sister Stephanie Ford (second from the right in the picture) to the church when she found the Sabbath through her personal search of the Scriptures. Her vibrant spirit and love for the Lord radiate out to all. She carries her responsibilities for her three grandchildren with patience and grace, doing everything she can to link them to the Saviour.

Brother Jim Shafer travels with his wife, Marlene, all the way from Cheyenne, Wyoming, to attend Sabbath services. They have many friends and relatives with whom they share their faith in a dynamic way.

After the baptism, everyone drove to the church, where these four individuals were accepted with great joy into fellowship. It is a great blessing to have them as part of the church, knowing that their great interest is to share the gospel with everyone they meet. May God fill their hearts and minds with His Holy Spirit, in anticipation of the wonderful, soon-coming day when we will meet together at His throne. (Photo by Brother Mark Anthony Barnedo)

2014 Calendar

July 2-6: Family Camp, Florida
July 30-August 3: Centennial Commemoration, Cedartown, GA
August 4-14: Youth Conference, Holland
August 11-13: Western Field Delegates’ Meetings, Mountain Center, CA
August 11-17: Reformation Tour, Germany
August 13-17: Western Field Conference, Mountain Center, CA

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: 404-673-2980; E-mail: margieseely@yahoo.com