April 10, 2014, was a day for which many southern California high school students had been excitedly waiting. It was the day they would get to tour Humboldt State University, sleep in its dorms, and become acquainted with its campus. Several tour buses, loaded with college-bound teens, began the long northward journey up the I-5 freeway. Sadly, one of the buses would never reach its destination.

Outside of Orland, California, a FedEx truck crossed the grassy median and collided head-on with the oncoming tour bus in a fiery impact that killed both drivers instantly. Four students and three chaperones died at the scene, while another student died later after being life-flighted to the UC Davis trauma center.

Marisa Serrato, the daughter of one of our members in Riverside, California, was one of those who perished in that bus. Her twin sister was on a different bus and arrived safely at Humboldt State, only to learn that her twin was gone. The following is written by Marisol Serrato, the surviving twin, about the sister she lost:

“My twin sister was, first of all, a surprise for my parents. Throughout the entire pregnancy, the doctors saw only me. What they didn’t know was that my twin sister was hiding behind me the entire time. When my mother was hospitalized in her final month of pregnancy, they finally found my twin because she had shifted across while I shifted downwards, ready to be born. Together we formed a cross in my mother’s womb. As soon as I was born, Marisa corrected her position and came out right after me. Since that day, my sister and I have never been apart.

“If I were to write about her life, I would stay here all day….”
~ Marisol Serrato, Marisa’s surviving twin sister
Our parents divorced when we were two years old. Living with my mother, we moved a lot and went to various elementary schools. Poverty was a constant challenge in our lives, but Marisa always felt blessed for what she had. She was not materialistic or vain.

Marisa started to grow into a very strong and spiritual person. Her connection with God seemed to begin when we were in middle school. She observed all the bad decisions many young teens were making, and she disliked those choices. She built her foundation on the Bible. In those middle school years she began to write poetry and do art. Personally, I was more academic based, but my twin kept me spiritually on track. That’s why God gave her to me for these seventeen years.

As we entered high school, Marisa became more than excited about the future. She hoped to make our parents proud and show her independence. She wanted to grow and become a strong woman. In high school she challenged herself to read the entire Bible. Marisa read the whole Bible through twice. At times she would even say that she felt school was a complete waste of time, because she felt she wasn’t dedicating enough time to God.

In the years my sister walked on this earth, she always forgave others and felt sympathy for everyone. Sometimes she felt sympathy towards others after simply looking at them. Marisa had a very sensitive heart, and my journey with her was most beautiful.

Her journey in this dark world ended the day she boarded a charter bus for a trip to Humboldt University. She was excited because she would find me there, and I would be waiting for her. But Marisa’s bus would never arrive. God chose to put her to rest and purify her body with fire. But Marisa will be gone for only a while, because this life is short. Now she is the one who, though sleeping, is waiting for me. And I am happy because I know I will see her soon at the resurrection.

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Photos provided by Marisol Serrato. When the twins are shown together, Marisol is on the left and Marisa is on the right.

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Life

By Marisa Serrato

Life is an existence—
Never know if you’ll die this instant.
Only God knows what’s coming tomorrow.

Leave the past; but don’t forget it.
Prepare for the future; but don’t rush it.
Live each day as if it were your last.
Live each moment; don’t let an opportunity pass.

You’re more than what you know.
Open your mind and let yourself really show.
Baptism in San Jose, CA
Henry Dering, WF President, Cameron Park, CA

“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

Sabbath, February 22, was a beautiful, unusually warm, sunny day in Pleasanton, California, when a fine young woman, Jaqueline Sanchez, gave a public testimony of her personal commitment to her Lord Jesus Christ. The believers from San Jose and some from Sacramento were all thrilled to witness our precious Jaqui following her Lord in baptism by going down into the water of a beautiful lake in the Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area.

We pray that Sister Jaqui and other young people who have given their hearts to God will so live that they are a shining example to others. Let those who have just entered the school of Christ continue to be learners in His school.

“True repentance of sin, faith in the merits of Jesus Christ, and baptism into His death, to be raised out of the water to live a new life, are the first steps in the new birth which Christ told Nicodemus he must experience in order to be saved.” –The Youth’s Instructor, February 1, 1874.

May the Lord richly bless Sister Jaqueline as she begins her new life with Jesus. I hope we will all support her with our love and prayers. Jesus is coming soon! May she and all of us be eagerly waiting for Him!

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Important Reminder: Western Field Conference

August 13-17, 2014
Pine Springs Ranch Camp and Conference Center
Mountain Center, CA

See www.sda1888.org for information and Reservation Form, or call 916-765-3389
Family Camps
Lisbeth Hunger, AU Family Department Director, Cedartown, GA

July 2-6–Family Camp and Centennial Celebration in O’Leno State Park, Florida
Add a milestone to your personal history by celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Reform Movement! Remembering the faithfulness of our fathers, we will commemorate the steps our pioneers took and rededicate ourselves to trusting in God! Rich historical lessons plus an abundance of social, hands-on, and recreational activities await children, youth, and adults! Receive a blessing and go home enriched! To register, see the back page of this newsletter. SEE RESERVATION FORM ON NEXT TWO PAGES.

July 24-27–Family Camp near Yosemite National Park, California
God has given us the opportunity to enjoy His beautiful nature in Yosemite National Park, where we will spend four days camping and strengthening our Christian values, friendships, love for nature, and our walk with God. In addition to enjoying wonderful hikes and nature observations, we will have the opportunity to nurture our souls. Children will learn about “growth” through different activities and from the Word of God. The youth will study God’s unceasing providence for our continual development in every area of life. Adults will also enjoy a seminar for parents. Let us pray that this event will lead the children, youth, and adults to real growth in Christ.

2014 Calendar
- July 2-6: Family Camp, O’Leno State Park, FL
- July 24-27: Family Camp, Yosemite National Park, CA
- July 30-August 3: Centennial Commemoration, Cedartown, GA
- August 4-14: International 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
Centennial Celebration Reservation Form
July 2-6, 2014
O’Leno State Park, High Springs, FL
Deadline for Registration and Payment: June 15, 2014

Send this form with payment to: Lisbeth Hunger
148 Culp Lake Rd., Cedartown, GA 30125
Phone: (770) 715-0419
Email: lisbethhunger@yahoo.com

Please make check payable to: IMS SDA Church, Reform Movement

Personal Information (Submit one Reservation Form per cabin)

Last Name _____________________________ First Name _____________________________
Phone # (___) _____________________ Email _________________________________

Number of people in your cabin
Adults (ages 21+) #_______ Youth (ages 13-20) #_______ Children (ages 4-12) #_______

LODGING AND MEAL FEES: Cabins sleep eight people each. No linens or pillows are provided. An outdoor shower/toilet facility is nearby. Private cabins can be requested only if shared and filled completely by one family. Discount applies if paid by May 31, 2014.

□ Adult fee (ages 21+): $67.00 OR $62.00 (if paid before deadline) x _______ = $___________
(number of adults)

□ Youth fee (ages 13-20): $62.00 OR $57.00 (if paid before deadline) x _______ = $___________
(number of youth)

□ Child fee (ages 4-12): $57.00 OR $52.00 (if paid before deadline) x _______ = $___________
(number of children)

Total Cost for Lodging and Meals: $ ____________________

NOTE: Registration is considered complete only when your check or money order is received. Accommodations will be assigned by order of date the Registration Form is received. If sleeping accommodations are full when you register, you will need to book your own campsite by calling O’Leno State Park at (386) 454-1853.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES (costs not included in camp registration fees):

➢ Horseback riding (10-person minimum for 1.5 hours) = $21.25 per person
➢ Pony ride = $4.50
Canoe (2-3 people per canoe) = $15.75 per canoe per day
Bike rentals = $5.00 per person

Please mark your recreational choices by writing the number of participants on the blank next to the activity. Payment is not required at this time.

July 3
_____ Horseback riding
_____ Pony rides
_____ Canoeing
_____ Bike rental
_____ Shopping

July 4
_____ Horseback riding
_____ Pony rides
_____ Canoeing
_____ Bike rental
_____ Shopping

☐ Yes, I wish to prepay for my recreational activities and am including payment with this registration

☐ No, I do not wish to prepay for my recreational activities.

Total Cost for Recreational Activities: $ ____________________

CENTENNIAL SOUVENIR (Optional):
☐ Yes, I wish to purchase ______________ IMS Centennial souvenir(s) at the price of $10 and am including payment for this with my registration.

☐ Yes, I wish to purchase __________ IMS Centennial souvenir(s) at the price of $10 each but will pay at the camp.

☐ No, I do not wish to purchase an IMS Centennial souvenir.

Total Cost for Centennial Souvenir(s): $ ____________________

TOTAL CONFERENCE COST:
Lodging/Meals Package: $ __________________
Recreational Costs: $ __________________
Souvenir (Optional): $ __________________
TOTAL DUE: $ __________________
TOTAL ENCLOSED: $ __________________

Thank you for your prompt registration!