Step by Step Samoan Members Experience God’s Great Commission

It began sometime following the 2007 camp meeting at Soquel. No one can pinpoint a day or hour or instant when the Holy Spirit renewed the spirit of prayer at the South San Francisco Samoan Adventist Church.

Soon, a schedule kept prayer alive at every hour of every day. Inspired, the youth made a prayer box called Power Prayer which quickly filled at the weekly AYS meeting. Then a mother, motivated by the Spirit, began to drive the streets of the San Francisco Projects with her family praying for the residents. The Prayer Drive inspired Prayer Walks, and just like that, the fire started to grow!

“I prayed about going on the Prayer Walks, and even though the areas were dangerous, I knew it was the Lord’s work and I chose to follow,” says first-time participant Gabriel Tuiaualii. “The first time someone wanted to pray with us I felt like we accomplished something even with prayer. Honestly, all this has helped me with the way I carry myself. Seeing these people come to Christ has renewed my own Christian walk.”

Weekly potluck was now followed by walks and prayer drives. The growing prayer teams included pathfinders, youth, young adults, and members. On the street, residents of the Projects were asked if they had prayer requests, or if there was anything the church could do to meet their needs. Friendships developed as drug addicts, alcoholics, truants, the homeless, young mothers, orphans, distraught or grieving parents shared their stories. The Prayer Teams quickly learned that God answered prayers, even when the resident didn’t believe in Him.

When Bible worker, Benjamin Bernard, arrived to assist the congregation, members boldly grew more hands-on. GLOW (Giving Light to our World) tracts were freely given as members continued visiting regularly to update the prayer lists and letting their new friends know that God had not forgotten them. Bernard’s tailor-made spiritual survey made it simple to learn the needs. Through united prayer, God provided the means to meet those needs.

Not only do friends help each other, they do things together. “I witnessed so many miracles! During the Week of Prayer alone for two nights in a row, the Lord took me to church and back – 90 miles round trip – every night with only $20 of gas in my tank! I knew God was waiting on us to stay faithful, and then he would bless our efforts,” says lay evangelism leader Fred Pedro.

Sundays would find Bernard and some members attending Sunday churches with their neighbors. Samoan members eagerly shared musical programs and special music too.

As 2009 began, the members felt it was time to host public meetings for the first time in years. Door-to-door invitations and
announcements in the Sunday churches were the only advertising. On opening night more than 50 guests arrived. Night after night that number grew as guests invited their family and friends. Guests outnumbered members 3 to 1!

Church Pastor Manuao Maui’a preached five nights a week. The prayer team prayed non-stop. Twenty people accepted the call for baptism. On the culmination Sabbath, Maui’a made one final appeal. Thirteen people came forward. “I was baptized Seventh-day Adventist in 1967 and I have never seen an answering like this. When I pass away, this will be one of the happiest moments of my life,” says Akeli Afoa.

Cano Ordained at Turlock

A ntonio Cano, recently ordained pastor of the Turlock church, never intended to follow his pastor father into ministry. But to fill free afternoons as a senior in high school he began to work with the youth, lead music and vespers, preach and organize community outreach. Soon people said he should be a pastor.

Instead, Cano entered Union College as a physician’s assistant major. He hated it, but persisted until his junior year when he surrendered to God’s call and switched to theology. He began to enjoy college, became Ministerial Club president and started a number of successful ministries on campus.

“I received affirmation after affirmation that God had planned this for me even though it was not what I had wanted,” says Cano. “I know God has called me to this ministry.”

After graduation, Cano accepted a call to be associate pastor of the San Jose Central Church. His wife Melanie taught at the Adventist elementary school. “God grew me so much there,” says Cano. “My training began to make sense. I made mistakes and grew deeper in my walk with God.”

Cano has conducted two evangelistic series since becoming pastor of the Turlock Church in June 2007. Two more evangelistic series are planned for this year. “My goals as an evangelistic pastor are to help my church members prepare for the Kingdom and actively using their gifts to evangelize the community.”

“God has affirmed Antonio’s calling with a fruitful ministry and deep love for the lost during his seven years in Central,” says his father and church administrator, Ramiro Cano, CCC Executive Secretary and Ministerial Director. “As administrators we are to closely observe a pastor’s fitness for the ministry before ordination. It has been gratifying to be a part of that process in my son’s life.”

Cano was ordained at the Turlock Church on March 14, 2009. The service included a recognition of Melanie’s contributions to Antonio’s ministry. “It was so humbling and solemn,” says the full-time mom, prayer warrior and children’s leader. “You could feel the presence of God there.”

“It is a real privilege to walk in my dad’s shoes,” says Cano. “He’s been an incredible mentor for me. Dad has a real gift for administration and he’s shown me how to lead and be organized. He’s also shown me how to keep my family first priority.”

Daughter Eliana joined the Cano family on June 27, 2007, and another baby will arrive in November. “I have learned so much about God’s love as a parent,” Cano adds. “There is nothing I can do to lessen His love for me. Recognizing that, I want to reciprocate His love. I don’t want to disappoint Him.”

NEW CAMP MEETING CHANNEL

HopeTV has added a new channel – Hope Church Channel. For more information, call (888)446-7388 and select Option 2.

Please have the model of your Receiver Box. To guarantee flawless broadcasts from Soquel, it is HIGHLY recommended the new coordinates are practiced BEFORE July 16!
Annual Spring Volunteer Projects a Success!

Volunteers are essential for the Camp Wawona and Soquel Camp Meeting summer ministries. Every May, members gift their time and skills to repair, improve and ready these two campgrounds. What follows are a few represented pictures and lists of the many accomplishments.

Camp Wawona Volunteer Project May 3-6, 2009

Organized and led by volunteers Forrest and Susie Robertson

- New Kitchen and Remodeled Bathroom in Illilouette
- A-Frames – Painted interior of two
  - Various repairs in bathrooms
  - Built one wooden bed frame
  - Exterior paint touch-ups
- Repaired Two Leaking Roofs
- Installed and Repaired Several Doors
- Repaired Rock Walls
- Electrical Repairs at Pool House
- Updated Electrical to Tent Cabins
- Raking, Clean-up and Helping in the Kitchen

Soquel Volunteer Project May 17-20, 2009

Organized and led by Manager Jeff Badger

- 100 New Tent Floors Built
- Main Auditorium Interior Painted
- Main Auditorium Ceiling Sheetrock Repaired
- 70 Cabins Cleaned and Repaired as needed
- 360 RV Sites Electrical Service Evaluated
- Education Trailer Wood Trim Replaced & Painted
- Auxiliary Trailer Exterior Painted
- 35 Acres Mowed
- Weed-wacked Entire Campground (well, almost)
- Guestroom Entrance Refurbished*

*These projects were completed by teams of volunteers after the project ended.
Message from the President

I was a rebellious academy kid who had not yet accepted Christ as my Savior. Three academies had asked me to leave and my Dad was concerned to say the least! He took me on a “father-son” outing, and I still remember the tough question I threw at him just to make him squirm. “Dad, you’ve given sacrificially in time and money and service for all these years working for the church. What if you get to the end of your life and, after death, discover there is no God and it was all a big hoax?”

I watched him intently to see sweat. Instead, after a moment or two of thought, he gave me a great answer that I want to pass on to you. “Son,” he kindly said, “I’ve thought about that a little. First, I want to assure you that I believe there is a God and He reveals Himself to me all the time. But, even if there wasn’t a God, I’m convinced giving is the most rewarding way to live here and now. I’ve found my greatest rewards here in giving time, money and love to help others as a Christian.”

It wasn’t too many months after that conversation that I surrendered to Christ and committed my life to serving people.

In Scripture we are promised: “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

Today, I want to thank every one of you that unselfishly support our children and youth through your faithful, consistent and, dedicated giving for our precious children. At the local churches, it is a dedicated way of life through a multitude of ministries involving our children.

And as chair of the K-12 Board of Education, I want to thank you for your unselfish and, many, many times, sacrificial giving. We see God’s hand constantly moving in dramatic ways, deeply affecting and changing lives. Through His Spirit, His presence is magnified through our prayers, the staff and Christ-centered curriculum in our schools. Your gifts of time, money and love make Christian education possible for our precious children!

Since all children are required to attend school, your support helps make possible a safe place for our students to grow both spiritually and mentally. In this battle we know as the Great Controversy, all of us are assaulted moment by moment and our children are the most vulnerable. I praise God we have a divinely-appointed harbor in Adventist education.

In London’s Tate Gallery hangs one of Watt’s most interesting works of art. Titled Sic Transit, it is a theme of great simplicity. Lying upon a funeral bier, there rests a shrouded figure. Life is over. Around the deceased lie possessions that indicate his station in life – a plumèd helmet, a spear, a shield. Many have gazed, silently asking “What does it mean?”

He was a warrior. Beautiful roses show he was loved. A musician’s lute and the book of a scholar represent his cultured lifestyle. A golden cup proclaims that he has drunk the rich wine of life. But now he is dead. What is the sum of his life? What remains of all the years spent in living?

The artist sums it up in three lines written upon the canvas:

“What I spent I had;
What I saved I lost;
What I gave I have.”

Jesus said: “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (Matt. 19:14) In our conference, especially at this time of financial crisis, your giving helps remove one huge hindrance after another!

Praise God the return is eternal!

Your brother in Christ,

Jerry N. Page

Camp Meeting Satellite Schedule
July 16-25, 2009
Evening Broadcasts
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. all 10 nights
Sabbath Broadcasts
10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Worship
5:15 – 6:15 P.M. Afternoon African American Meeting*
Hispanic Worship Service will be on the Esperanza Channel.
Please check the conference Web site for times at ccc.adventist.org.

NEW * NEW * NEW