CALENDAR
July 10, 10-1 & 3-6
Pre-Camp Meeting
Prayer Walk at Soquel
Dress Casual & Bring
Your Own Lunch
July 15-24
Camp Meeting at Soquel
July 15
Opening Night with
David Asscherick
at 7:00pm
July 17
Sabbath School at 9:00am
Worship with Ron Smith
at 10:45am
Afternoon Concert with
Rudy Micelli at 3:00pm
African American Meeting
with Ron Smith at 5:15pm
July 18
ABC Book Sale at 4:00pm
July 24
Sabbath School at 9:00am
Worship with Dwight
Nelson at 10:45am
Afternoon Concert with
Revelation of Hope
at 3:00pm
African American Meeting
with Emil Peeler at 5:15pm

Young Adults
Lead Week of Prayer at Burlingame
By Shenalyn Page

Twenty youth and young adults praying, fasting, planning, inviting friends, and preaching are unstoppable. Sixteen of their friends are now preparing for baptism after a Youth Week of Prayer, January 9-16, 2010! “The students took care of the music, sermon, everything,” says Tom Dodge, pastor of the Burlingame Adventist Church. “[I didn’t do anything. I asked if they needed help and they didn’t need me. The kids just took it and ran with it!”

It was assistant youth leader Margaret Kata’s idea. A nurse’s aid with a passion for prayer and youth, she suggested holding a Youth Week of Prayer (WOP) last fall. The young people and church board liked the idea. Kata invited the teens and 20somethings to pray and fast each Sabbath. “They all wanted to do it!” she says. They met to sing, share, pray, and plan before Sabbath School, during potluck, in between the afternoon Tongan worship service, AY meetings, and again at sunset. Then they broke their fast together with food and fellowship on Saturday evening.

Each of the “older” youth prepared a sermon from the General Conference Youth WOP readings. The younger teens prepared to lead out in the other aspects of the program. Everyone invited their friends. “Our target was to make use of our youth in doing everything,” says Kata.

“It was hard for some at first,” says Lesieli Heimuli, a college student who helped with the youth. Heimuli was baptized two years ago through a Tongan evangelistic series at Burlingame. “We kept praying about it and emphasizing how important it was for us, as the next generation, to step up. We need to let our parents know they are leaving the work in good hands.”

The evenings began with a time of prayer for the participants at 6:30 p.m. Meetings began at 7:00 p.m. and included two sermons a night. A bountiful meal prepared by the youth’s parents was served afterwards.

“It helped me to understand the heart of the SDA beliefs,” says Taufa Mafi, who has been a member of the Burlingame church since he was a boy. “I think we all understand a lot of stuff better now.” Taufa preached Tuesday evening on “Does it Matter?”, addressing how our beliefs affect us.

Since the January meetings, those 16 youth have consistently attended church and have continued studying, first with local elder Siotame Pahulu and now with Jeffrey Rosario, Radiant Living team member for a Young Adult Ministry in the Greater Bay Area.

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“Before the Week of Prayer, it was hard to get the youth out for programs,” says Kata. “Now they attend every meeting. They are studying their Bibles more and eager to learn and know. Everyone is fired up to do something for the Lord.”
The Joy of Loosing Control

By Caron Oswald

If you ask John Padilla what his biggest challenge is, he can sum it up in one word – surrender. “My mom worked two or three jobs and it was difficult to get a handle on twin boys,” John says of he and his brother. By age 15, the self-sufficient teen surrendered to the quick fix of drugs.

Later, working full-time and going to college full-time while using alcohol, pot and cocaine, Padilla surrendered to the darkness inside. Missing work and needing funds for his drug habit cost him his job. He moved back in with mom. Raised a dutiful Catholic, he and his brother had dropped out of church years earlier. “I had always known there is a God. I could just feel it. I can’t tell you how many times I would pray to take this sickness away. But I didn’t do my part,” he says.

He discovered 3ABN on a local television channel. “What really impressed me was that no matter who they had [speaking], they always had their Bibles.” Doug Bachelor quickly became his favorite. He’d come home from work, pop a beer and watch 3ABN.

Padilla began to realize something was expected of him. “Initially I was convicted, but thought I can’t watch this if I don’t do something.” Sick and tired of living like he was, and doing anything to support his habit, he surrendered. “I got on my hands and knees and cried my guts out, not quite knowing what He wanted me to do.”

The something missing was fellowship. In 2000 he walked into the Salinas Adventist church and was greeted with open arms. But when the pastor, who had been his spiritual mentor, moved away, Padilla stopped attending church.
When he heard a new pastor had arrived, he tried church again. “I came in so judgmental. I didn’t know how to surrender my life.” Public meetings with Conference Evangelist Taj Pacleb were beginning and this time he understood that Jesus wanted – for John to fully surrender everything to his Savior’s Lordship.

John was baptized March 13, 2010. “I have been coming here for years and have always chickened out. I want to surrender. I want what you people have,” he told his church family.

“I love where I am today and I want to live my life the way Jesus wishes. I find such comfort at work to pray to Him. The Holy Spirit always soothes me. That had never happened in the past. I just don’t need to be in control anymore.”

For 14 years, a drunk, homeless guy on the street prayed for Jose Guadalupe Ortega every day as he walked to work. And the guy would read out loud from the Bible Readings for the Home. One day the drunk guy gave Jose a Bible, which Jose’s wife promptly threw in the trash. Jose fished it out. But Jose had a problem – he couldn’t read. So, the homeless guy met him in the park to teach Jose how to read. He would be sober for the learn-how-to-read Bible studies. The first reading lesson was on the Sabbath. Jose decided to turn his life around, quit using and selling drugs. The drunk, homeless guy decided to quit drinking too.

Jose visited an Adventist church and one person was friendly. He began reading Spirit of Prophecy books. After three months Jose, his wife and the sober, homeless guy were baptized together. In the eight years since his new birth, Jose has served as a personal ministries director in a Bay Area church, started a church plant, had seven baptisms, 20 Bible studies, and has loved his life as a volunteer Bible worker. Recently [fall 2009] Jose lost his job. Now when he walks the streets, he’s not selling drugs. He is carrying his Bible and offering freedom through Jesus.
I recently attended a leadership seminar where several presenters shared varying principles and qualities of excellent leadership. One particular presenter mentioned how adding value to others should be the theme of our life’s journey.

I meditated much on this as I attempted to remember those who had added value to my life. There are a myriad of experiences from many people that have served to shape the person I am today. Let me share one very significant encounter.

I was 15-years-old when Pastor Lorenzo Paytee came to speak for a Sabbath afternoon vespers at my Spanish church in Van Nuys, California. Frankly, I don’t remember what he preached about. But what he did changed my life.

I played trumpet in the local high school band, which meant we played for Friday night football games. My teenage friends from church worried about me playing on Sabbath and they spoke to this visiting pastor about my Sabbath breaking behavior.

Pastor Paytee took the time to approach me about this. I explained that I wanted to play the trumpet, could not afford one and the school provided the instrument as long as I was in band class. It was mandatory for the band to play on Friday nights during football season.

Elder Paytee listened patiently and with much interest. Then he asked, “If I gave you a trumpet, would you stop breaking the Sabbath?” I said “Yes.” However, I did not believe that this African American pastor, who did not know me and probably wouldn’t see me again, would do such a thing.

Months passed. The encounter was forgotten when one day a church friend handed me a black case. Inside was a trumpet—the promised gift from the forgotten guest speaker.

I could not believe my eyes. My heart was overjoyed as the instrument was placed in my hands. I stopped playing in the band, as promised. This dear pastor added value to my life, my life’s story was made better as a result of that brief encounter.

We add value to that which we value. Forty years ago, Pastor Paytee valued this Hispanic teenager whom he did not know. He put action to his words.

Thirty-one years later in 2001 I encountered Pastor Paytee at the Pacific Union Conference Constituency Session. I reintroduced myself and was able to finally thank him for what he had done for me. He was serving as executive secretary for the Southern California Conference. I was now a pastor in Milpitas, California, with three grown children. What a reunion it was!

Adding value should fuel and distinguish our every encounter with others, with family, at work or school, in our neighborhoods, and our churches. Especially with children and teenagers in our churches since their minds are still tender, impressionable, and teachable for the Lord’s kingdom.

What young mind are you adding value to? Whose story is being enhanced as a result of knowing you?

Ellen White gives us the following counsel, “Let the church take a special care of the lambs of the flock, exerting every influence in their power to win the love of the children and to bind them to the truth. Ministers and church members should second the efforts of parents to lead the children into safe paths. The Lord is calling for the youth, for He would make them His helpers to do good service under His banner.” —AH 358, 359.

The children and youth you and I value today are definitely called to be God’s citizens in this life and in the everlasting kingdom of heaven. What a privilege to add value to these precious lives.

Who knows who you will encounter years later? Hopefully it will be in heaven. What a reunion that will be!

Trusting in Him,

[Signature]

Camp Meeting Satellite Schedule
on the Hope Church Channel

**July 15-24, 2010**
10 Evening Broadcasts – 7:00-9:00 p.m.
**Sabbath Broadcasts** 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
**African American Meeting** 5:15-6:15 p.m.

*Hope TV 1-888-446-7388 or visit: www.hopetv.org*

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Adding Value