The theme song rang out across the campground. A medley of two hymns, Standing on the Promises and Leaning on the Everlasting Arms, provided stirring lyrics and music underscoring that God’s Word is my strength, my refuge, my hope, my assurance, and my peace.

This was the 130th camp meeting held in Central California and the 59th on the conference campground in Soquel. The 10-day spiritual retreat at Soquel is a favorite vacation destination for many people. Families often plan their year around camp meeting!

Weekend speakers Ron Smith, Jose Rojas and Dwight Nelson preached to standing room only crowds in the Main Auditorium and the Spanish Tent. Hundreds responded to invitations for baptism, recommitment and/or dedication to Jesus and His mission – to seek and save the lost.

A spiritual growth smorgasbord was offered daily. Adult campers could hear inspiring messages from various speakers at 6:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. 13 seminars were available in the mornings and afternoons. Santa Cruz residents were invited to Dr. Neil Nedley’s Depression Recovery Seminar.

Children and teens spent the days in worship, Bible study, community outreach and recreation. Teens filled 70 cars on their daily afternoon service outings in Soquel and Santa Cruz. Adult campers, 15-20 each day, also went door-to-door praying with people and giving free literature.

As campers packed to go home, their hearts were filled with the anticipation for next year’s camp meeting! This annual earthly gathering is a respite from life’s daily stress and worries and a little taste and longing for heaven’s eternal rest with Jesus.

If you missed camp meeting...
Sermons and seminars are available on CDs through Mountain Top Media
mtm@sti.net or call (559) 658-6867
DVDs are available through Tri-Angel Media
www.triangel.tv or call (650) 625-0100
The miraculous journey united prayer and faith and trust in God’s leading continues! The Camp Meeting Evangelism Offering topped $1.4 million in gifts and pledges on closing night. God continues to pour out His blessings for His work in Central as His faithful followers seek His will for their involvement. Hearing the amazing experiences of members who pledged as the Spirit led, often beyond their ability, and then how God provided the funds in unexpected ways encourages and inspires others to trust Him.

Without these funds, many outreach ministries would not be possible. Just over 43% goes to local churches for public meetings and Bible workers. Five percent is for Adventist school scholarships for children of new members. GLOW (Giving Light to Our World), Youth Evangelism Team and new initiatives such as ARISE and the Bay Area Young Adult ministry are funded by the offering. For a complete list of projects and a detailed financial report, go to ccc.adventist.org and select Evangelism.

Prayer Expanded!
Open from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. a prayer room with full-time leaders was available for campers each day. More than 1,500 campers slipped in and out all day to join others in united prayer and to have their needs prayed over.

Forty-two were baptized during camp meeting – 25 adults and 17 youth, earliteens and juniors. Thirty juniors also made decisions and will be baptized in their home churches.

Twelve years ago, an annual blood drive was organized by Steven Horton, vice president of ministries, in partnership with the Santa Cruz County Red Cross. That put Monica Doleshel-Aguirre, the Red Cross representative, on the campground on the first Friday of camp meeting each year. Through the years she became more acquainted with church members and more interested in their beliefs. When she was invited to a Revelation Seminar, she attended. She was baptized at camp meeting this year.

Four thousand, two hundred fifty full-time campers lived on the campground for the 10-days. This does not include the daily number of members that drive in or the weekend crowds that swell to between 10,000-12,000.

Final Count 2010

Afternoon community outreach is an important part of camp meeting. Juniors weeded and cleaned headstones at a nearby cemetery. Youth ages 14-19 spent five afternoons doing community service. They passed out GLOW literature, socks and lunch for the homeless, went door-to-door for prayer requests, and held a free car wash. Adult campers also got involved going door-to-door praying with people, giving free literature and taking surveys from Sunday – Thursday afternoon. On Tuesday, 15 people bravely went door-to-door selling Magabooks and raised $100 for the Evangelism Offering. Approximately 75 spiritual surveys were completed, 6,000 homes visited, 5,000 pieces of literature given out, 6 Bible studies requested, 15 people want information about the CHIP program.

Teens pray before the afternoon’s community outreach
Pinky Promise

It was a pinky promise between John Chacon and his eighth-grade daughter Jourdan that sealed the deal. “Dad, I’ll play [basketball] for you on one condition. You have to go to Taj Pacleb’s meetings with me, every meeting.” Jordan proposed about the upcoming evangelistic series at the Salinas church in February 2010.

Dad agreed. In the Chacon family, the custom of entwining little fingers was serious. “We have never broken a pinky promise in our house,” John says.

Jourdan was a star player on the girls’ basketball team at the Buena Vista Middle School in Salinas. John was the coach. She loves basketball and her ability has amazed people since the fifth grade. But her spiritual journey was beginning to take priority. Mom Liz had supported her decision to not play if God was leading her in another direction. “She told me to listen to God instead of other people,” Jourdan says.

Jourdan had attended meetings at her Salinas church with Conference Evangelist Taj Pacleb in 2009. She went door-to-door with the Bible worker, helped with registration, prayed a lot, and was baptized with 31 new members. Committed to evangelism, she gave all of her birthday money to last year’s evangelism offering. “My mom loves evangelism,” she explains about her passion.

While her basketball schedule did not conflict with Sabbath, the practice time limited her time with Jesus. “She was very committed in sixth grade and started maturing and understanding God and His laws, growing more and more loyal to God,” John says.

With Jourdan, the team went on to win the championship, the first for any girls’ team in the school’s history. As promised, John attended every night of the three-week meetings in February.

Choosing to Downsize

John also agreed to visit Monterey Bay Academy (MBA) in April but assured Jourdan there was no way the family could afford it.

“I went through the Academy Days tour and I was blown away. The school was up to date with everything on the tech side,” John says. But it was watching the students and their leadership role in several programs that convinced him.

“Seeing how happy the students were, I said to Jourdan, ‘I think MBA is ready for you.’” “I can go?” a wide-eyed Jourdan asked. Yes was the answer.

The family of five unanimously agreed to sacrifice and downsize, moving from a four bedroom to a two bedroom house. That freed up $1,000 a month for Jourdan’s tuition.

The February Meetings

One night after the meeting, Taj asked John for help with his computer. They talked from 9:30 until 3:00 in the morning. “We were having a blast and ended up being good friends,” John says.

He began attending church with his family. But the battle of choosing work over submission to Jesus intensified. Prayer for John intensified, too.

On Sabbath July 17, the family was at camp meeting and John was home alone. “I literally started crying,” he says. He called church member Jesse Armenta but he was also at camp meeting. They met on Sunday. “I think it is time,” John told Jesse. Then Jesse began to cry. “So many people have been praying for you,” Jesse told John.

The Surprise 14 Years in the Making

John called Leah Page, co-director of the Youth Evangelism Team and family friend, telling her he wanted to be baptized at camp meeting. He wanted it to be a surprise for his family.

Plans flew into motion. John met with Thom Garner, Salinas church pastor. Janet Page arranged for the family to be interviewed about their sacrifice for Adventist education on Thursday night. Jourdan asked everyone she knew to pray that this would be the best day of her dad’s life.

After the interview, the family was asked to sit in the front row with Leah, her husband Zac, and Janet. As planned, John excused himself to dress for his baptism. Jerry Page took the stage to announce the surprise just as John arrived at his wife’s side. Liz and the children fell into his arms, all crying.

“When I walked up my wife was blown away. Savanah was ready to fall on her knees and thank the Lord. Meghan was shaking so hard she could barely stand up. This was the best day of my life!”

Since his July 23 baptism, prayer and daily family worship are priorities. “I realize that my family is more important than anything in the world,” John says.

God continues to prove that He can take care of them. Clients for John’s new computer business are calling – more than he can handle. Liz’s possible lay-off from work is no longer a threat. She was chosen to be cross-trained and received a raise. The church board surprised the family, paying Jourdan’s $600 registration fee.

“I feel at peace. I know God is ahead of me, planning things down the road.”

Life at home has dramatically changed Jourdan reports. “My dad has been leading out in family worship. Christian music fills the house. My parents are getting closer together and our family is closer too. Now we can talk about Jesus all the time.”

Dear CCC Friends,

Janet and I have always said that walking with our Lord is such an exciting and unpredictable journey! We are in somewhat of a shocked state at what is happening to us.

You may have heard that we have been called to the General Conference (GC). I will serve as ministerial secretary and Janet as one of the associate ministerial directors with special responsibilities for pastor’s spouses around the world. This is the last thing in the world we could have ever imagined!

We were shocked when the new GC president, Pastor Ted Wilson, asked us to consider this new assignment. We began telling the leaders why we didn’t feel we were adequate. And we really didn’t want to leave our Central California family and all we love and cherish. And our grandchildren live nearby, too.

We told Pastor Wilson we would seek God’s will in prayer. To be honest, we assumed it would not be His plan for us and after praying we would decline the offer graciously.

Since the first moments of his election in June, Pastor Wilson has said “our greatest and most urgent need is a revival of true godliness among us and that will only come by humiliation, confession, the infilling of the Holy Spirit and much prayer” (1SM p. 121) His desire is for the GC Ministerial Association to be the leading influence to help pastors and members around the world seek revival and reformation which will bring on the latter rain and Jesus’ soon return.

We only had 20 hours or so at most to make such a major life changing decision. We usually spend weeks in prayer and fasting. And we counseled and prayed with others including Mark Finley and several longtime mentors.

Mark said to us, “Jerry and Janet, I know you only want God’s will. By morning, if you do not have a special conviction from God that you are to take this position, don’t do it. If God lays a deep conviction on you that this is His will for you, then He will enable you.”

Going to bed on Wednesday night, we were both burdened and really felt we probably shouldn’t take this position. Traveling around the world 150 days a year and taking on staff and duties we didn’t even fully know or understand seemed so hard.

By early morning as Janet and I were praying and asking Him for the strong conviction, clarity came to us. We have learned how He speaks to us, and it became extremely clear to both of us to trust God’s leading.

We gave our permission for our names to be taken to the nominating committee and a strong sense of peace came over us. This was like the same experience we had when God led us to Central. Initially, that didn’t make sense to us either. All we really need is His clear call and presence!

The nominating committee and the entire delegate body both overwhelmingly affirmed the call. There were also many other affirmations from our dear Lord.

We are just as sure that He will continue His work in Central, including the new leadership needed. God has a wonderful future for you all as together you continue to pray, trust and ask His guidance as we have done in the last 15 years!

Pastor Wilson believes the signs of Jesus’ soon coming are great and rapid. So do we. Who knows what the next five years may bring in terms of needs for this worldwide Adventist movement!

We love you so much. Thank you for all your love and prayers. Please continue to pray for us as never before as we move into another part of the front lines of this last day war. We honestly feel so inadequate, but that has always been when our Lord has had His best miracles just ahead for us!

Love in Him,

Jerry and Janet

P.S. For years we have joined many others around the world in united prayer at 6:15 every morning for the worldwide revival of God’s people and for His leaders. The earth is continually surrounded with united prayer as members and leaders in every time zone participate. You can be a part of this too. We and so many others covet your prayers.

Next Years Camp Meeting
July 14-23, 2011

For an application please visit ccc.adventist.org

The application deadline for RV spaces is September 30, 2010. RV sites fill quickly so don’t delay! The deadline for campground tents is March 31, 2011.