A happy and excited group of early childhood educators from all over the Pacific Union met on Sunday and Monday October 13 & 14th, 2007 in the offices of the Pacific Union Conference Education Department for the first ever Union sponsored Directors’ Workshop.

Warm fellowship and inspirational worship was enjoyed by all who attended. The focus of the event was equipping directors with information, knowledge, skills and resources to make the work of the center director more effective.

Larry Unterseher opened the meeting on Sunday with worship and prayer following a warm welcome and time of sharing. Dr. Kelly Bock, superintendent for education, followed with a workshop on choice theory from the works of William Glasser. His thoughts on Lead Management inspired all to look for new ways to work as a team alongside staff. Handouts and worksheets helped participants see how they could put the theory into practice on the job.

Monday morning’s worship was an inspirational message given by Ricardo Graham, then-secretary for the Pacific Union. Dennis Imai, Director of Human Resources for the Southern California Conference, followed with an intense workshop on Human resource issues. He discussed legal matters in regard to employees and employment law. Many questions were answered and new questions formulated.

Participants expressed a desire to continue with this workshop topic at future workshops.

A representative from Standard Publishing was on hand with a wide assortment of Christian educational materials for purchasing along with many free samples for the attendees. There were door prizes aplenty and each director received a notebook, label pin, and sturdy tote from the Union.

However, Union coordinator for ECEC programs, Christine Byrne’s little Louise Christine (firstborn of Kevin & Christine Byrne, only 17 days old) was the most awe inspiring attraction on the premises. She was the perfect baby with daddy there to help.

Coreen Hicks and Mario Negrete facilitated as attendees compiled a list of major needs for centers along with practical ideas to help create a strong spiritual campus. Everyone received a copy at the end of the workshop.

What a blessing to have been able to meet together, share and fellowship while learning ways of improving our centers. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will enable us to implement all that we learned and that the children we serve will come to know Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

Submitted by Robin Aaron, Early Childhood Liaison for the Central California Conference, and teaching director of the Miramonte Jr. Kindergarten
Three Angels Childcare Center is a preschool and infant center in Ventura, California with an enrollment of forty-seven children, eight fulltime teachers and one part time teacher. They service single parents, fulltime working families and grandparents who are helping to raise their grandchildren.

As the director, Mary Wiggins has the privilege of helping families turn to God in prayer for answers in situations concerning their children. “It is very rewarding to see hope return to their eyes as we lift to God their concerns,” she writes. “We have seen changes take place in the lives of the children as we ask God for His intervention into their lives.”

In the classrooms, the children are brought into Christ’s presence through daily Bible stories and prayer. Twice a month chapel services are held for the children as another way of making Christ real to them.

Testimonies from the children’s families demonstrate that the children are experiencing Jesus in very real ways. One mother reported that while on vacation her daughter insisted on telling everyone the Bible verse she had memorized. Another father said his son talks about Jesus, but admitted he himself did not believe. The staff at Three Angels are praying for that dad as well!

During the Christmas season of 2007, the entire center, which included the children from ages six weeks through five years, were involved in the Christmas program. Afterward, the parents were invited to their child’s class for a celebration. Every child had someone from their family at the program. It was another opportunity to spread the love of Jesus to families.

Other programs offered at Three Angels include a Spanish class taught twice weekly for the three- and four-year-old children. Music class is taught weekly for the two’s, three’s and four’s.

Finally, even though most of the families have limited income they made our first annual “Walk, Hop, Scoot Jump, Toss A–Thon” a great success. It was one of the most hassle free, simple fundraisers ever!

Donation packets were sent home with each family asking them to get donations from family, friends and co-workers. Two weeks before the event the children began to ‘sharpen their skills’ by ‘training’ on a small trampoline, learning to hop-scotch, using scooters and other activities that would be used the day of the fundraiser. Posters were made for each event and when the big day came balloons made a festive atmosphere. Parents were asked to take pictures and assist with the activities.

After each age group participated there was a little ceremony with medals for each child and a certificate of participation. The entire event cost the center about a hundred dollars along with some time and creative effort. As the Lord has promised, though, “the laborer is worthy of his reward” (1 Tim. 5:18) and “they shall not labor in vain” (Isa. 65:23). The Lord blessed Three Angels with $8,000.00 in proceeds, far exceeding all expectations.

The staff are very excited about what God is doing at Three Angels. God is truly blessing their efforts in partnering with Him to make Three Angels Child Care His center for young children.

Submitted by Mary Wiggins, Director
ADVERTISEMENTS REQUIRE A FACILITY LICENSE NUMBER

A significant number of Child Care Facilities are posting advertisements without using state or county issued facility license numbers. California Child Care laws and regulations (Health and Safety Code, Section 1596.861; and Title 22 Regulations, Sections 101162 and 102359) require that each Child Care Facility reveal its license number in all advertisements, publications or announcements made with the intent to attract clients. This includes but is not limited to:

- Newspaper or magazine.
- Consumer report.
- Announcement of intent to commence business.
- Telephone directory yellow pages.
- Professional or service directory.
- Radio or television commercial

This includes any correspondence or internet advertisements if the intent is to attract clients. Please advise the individuals responsible for marketing the early childhood center of this regulation and the need to comply.

BE ALERT!

Reports have been made that persons posing as representatives of a non-existent state agency called the “California Resuscitation Council” (CRC) have attempted to gain entry into licensed child care facilities claiming they need to review staff files to ensure the requirements for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), First Aid and preventative health practices are met.

This is not a state agency in any state and they have no authority to enter licensed child care facilities to conduct inspections of staff personnel files.

Additionally, it has been reported to the Child Care Program Office (CCPO) that licensed facilities have been approached by individuals claiming to be government representatives. These individuals are attempting to gain entrance into licensed child care centers in order to sell legal services for a fee.

It is standard protocol for licensing representatives to show picture identification prior to entering a licensed facility. Call the local licensing office to verify identification of licensing staff if concerned. Licensees are encouraged to ask for identification of not only licensing representatives, but any individual not recognized and claiming to have the authority to review files or conduct an inspection of a facility.

If the authority of anyone trying to gain entrance into a facility is questioned, directors have the right to refuse entry. Should anyone try to enter a facility forcefully, call 911 immediately.
Looking for Adventist teachers, directors and administrators? In order to broaden the search, early childhood programs can post upcoming job openings on the North American Division website.

Job postings will remain on the website for eight weeks. After which, the posting will be deleted, unless an extension request is made by the “School Contact”.

This is a free service of the North American Division and participation is voluntary. What a blessing this posting option can be for our early childhood programs! Use this option for your employment searches in addition to current practices and provide ACCN with feedback. The more we use this service, the more useful it will become for all of us across the NAD.

Job posting site:

NAD Education home page:

Adventist Directory Website

Try out the new Adventist Directory website (under development)
http://www.adventistdirectory.org/default.asp

Search for up to date information on Adventist churches, schools, preschools, hospitals, book stores, libraries, universities, divisions, unions, conferences, missions, ADRA, orphanages, radio stations, ...

On the General Conference website, the Adventist Organizational Directory provides an organizational locator and standard reference for Adventist organizations and entities worldwide. This database can list the name, address, phone, fax, email, and website link to your particular entity along with maps and driving directions.

This is a free service of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Organizations within the NAD are created and managed by eAdventist. All conference clerks have accounts so they can enter your center's data at your request.

This is one more avenue for free advertising!

GC Adventist Directory:
http://www.adventistdirectory.org/default.asp

Need help? Call us at 805-490-6055 – we’re here to serve!

Directors are needed in at least three centers within the Pacific Union. Interested individuals should contact the Union Office of Education, Early Childhood Education and Care Division at 805-413-7344 or christine@puconline.org.

2008 Dates to Remember . . .

Feb 8      PUC ECE Curriculum Committee
 (Angwin, CA)
March 21   CCC/NCC ECE Teacher In-service
 (TBA)
Apr 7-10   PUC ECEC Advisory in conjunction
           with Spring Ed. Council (TBA)
Apr 13-19  Week of the Young Child
July 15    Closing Reports due to Union
          ECEC Division office
Sep. 30    Opening Reports due to Union
          ECEC Division office
Oct 16     PUC ECEC Board
 (Westlake Village, CA)
Nov 5-8    NAEYC/ACCN Annual Conference
          (Dallas, TX)

Dates to Remember...

January thru December 2008