President's Corner
Immanuel, God With Us

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us” (Matthew 1:23).
Youth Send Cookies Around the World

"Couple in Deming Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage"

"Treasure Trove - Christmas"

**Conference Calendar**

The Texico Conference office will be closed:

**December:**
24th at 12:30 pm and all day on the 25th and 26th - Christmas.

Also, the office will close at 12:30 pm on December 31 - New Year.

**January:**
1st and 2nd - New Year
19th - Martin Luther King, Jr.

GYC:
December 31-Jan 4
Phoenix, AZ

Spanish Lay Pastoral Assistant Training:
January 9-10
Corrales, NM

Winter Camp Out:
January 16-18
Jemez, NM

Teacher Inservice:
January 26
Corrales, NM

West Texas Area Pathfinder Bible Experience:

The name Immanuel means “God IS with us or God IS among us.” The name Immanuel does not so much emphasize God working in us or even working for us, but rather a coexisting with us.

Matthew emphasizes the fact that this Son, now to be born to Joseph, shall not only be Jesus, Savior, but the manifestation of God in our midst.

Inherent in the name Immanuel is the great mystery of godliness of the One who was “revealed in the flesh” (1 Timothy 3:16), of the Infinite becoming Finite, of the promised Messiah who is both human and divine, fully God and man. Immanuel is God’s majesty veiled in human meekness. He was God FOR us before He became God WITH us.

Christ’s birth brought the infinite, holy God within reach of finite, sinful man. God came to live with us so we could live with Him. The Son of God became the Son of Man that He might change the sons of men into sons of God (1 John 3:1).

John describes the revelation of Immanuel, “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

John 1:14 is the focal point of the entire book of John. God in the flesh. Divinity and humanity indivisible and incomprehensible, yet full of truth. We see the Godhead veiled in flesh.

In John 1:1-13, John affirms the deity of Christ. “In the beginning was the Word” and the Word indicates a continuing action in the past. It is the language of continuing existence. In verse 14, the apostle affirms Christ’s humanity. “The Word became flesh” in Greek indicates an action that took place at a point of time. It is the language of change as the Word that became something that He previously was not.

“Jesus was ‘the Word of God’ – made audible” (DA, pg. 19). In becoming flesh, He did not cease to be
Prayer Requests

Please join us in praying for the following churches during the weeks listed:

December 28-January 3
El Paso Montana Spanish

January 4-10
El Paso Montana Vista Spanish

January 11-17
El Paso Northeast

January 18-24
Española

Click here to submit a prayer request

Statistical Snapshots

the Eternal Word. His divine nature was not laid aside. The phrase became flesh, means more than that He assumed a human body. He assumed human nature entirely, identifying Himself with the race of man, having a human body, a human soul, and a human spirit (John 12:27; 11:33; 13:21; 19:30).

John says that He dwelt among us. The literal translation is that He “pitched a tent” with us. Christ pitched His tent or sanctuary in the midst of the human camp and existence. He lifted his tent next to man’s in order to dwell among us and so that we could become familiar with His life and character. Christ became completely one of us to reveal the Father's love, to share our experiences, to be our example, to help us in our temptations, to suffer for our sins and represent us before the Father (Hebrews 2:14-17). The Eternal Word, which always had been with the Father (John 1:1) became Immanuel, “God with us.”

During this Christmas season and all its festivities, it is my prayer that each of us will focus on and appreciate the wonderful gift of Immanuel. Let’s draw near to the “God With Us.”

Lee-Roy Chacon,
Texico Conference and Association President

Landmarks of Prophecy Impacts Albuquerque and Beyond

The meeting room was full of people at the Marriott Pyramid Hotel in Albuquerque, NM as the Landmarks
Texico Membership as of December 19, 2014
12,257

Number of Texico Congregations
Churches: 71
Companies: 6
Groups: 5

Tithe Received
October: $515,688
November: $609,033
TD: $6,096,802

October remittance closed at 1.22%. Texico Advance was $8,283.48 which is up 4.93%.

November remittance closed at 1.03%. Texico Advance was $10,800.20.

of Prophecy (LOP) meetings came to a close on November 22nd. Pastor Doug Batchelor, the Amazing Facts team, Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism (AFCOE) students and over 100 local volunteers worked together throughout the three week period to share the love and messages of Christ with over 500 non-Adventist visitors who attended.

I had the privilege of sitting and talking with one of these visitors, Maria Elena, as she shared a little of her story with me. One night about three months prior to the LOP meetings she was flipping through the TV stations around 10:30 pm. That's when she came across Doug Batchelor and Amazing Facts. She was so interested in the program that she began watching it each week night at the same time. When it was announced that Pastor Doug would be coming to Albuquerque to hold meetings about prophecy, she was so excited.

Maria Elena had just finished keeping her first Sabbath as a result of the Landmarks of Prophecy meetings.

Maria has been a Catholic, but said she knew that Saturday was the Sabbath and couldn't understand why they worshiped on Sunday. When she heard the Sabbath message presented at the meetings she
said it made so much sense. Maria told me that she had just finished keeping her first Sabbath in the best way she knew how and asked for advice on how to keep God's day holy.

"It's funny," Maria said, "because I was praying for God to take the blinders off of others eyes and instead He took the blinders off of mine. I've learned so much so fast at these meetings and it's a blessing in my life."

Fernando knows that God made the way for him to go to the meetings. He had received a handbill in the mail, but didn't have transportation to get there. He thought the meetings were only lasting three days and tried desperately to find a ride but he couldn't. He was depressed because he thought the seminar was over, but then he over heard a neighbor talking about how she was going to go. Fernando excitedly learned the meetings were still going on, and was thrilled to be able to attend for himself!

After Pastor Doug preached on the subject of the Sabbath, Fernando walked out of the meeting with a bewildered look on his face. Jon, one of the LOP volunteers, asked him what he thought about the meeting. He said, "Wow! Is this for real?"

Jon said, "Have you ever heard this message before?" Fernando explained that he had been a Christian since 1968 and had never heard anything like this before.

A Spanish Bible study group of about 27 people came together to the meetings and are now being followed up by Jose Padilla, pastor of the Albuquerque Rio Grande and Metropolitan Spanish Churches.

Ramon drove from Socorro, NM (approximately 80 miles away) to attend the meetings at the Marriott Pyramid. He has a Bible study group in Socorro and would come to the meetings in Albuquerque then take the Bible study materials back to his group and teach them the truths that he was learning.
Valerie attended all the way through the series and was really excited. Her daughter is planning to be baptized in January at the Albuquerque Heights Church. She is so thankful to know about the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She says, “I have found my home!”

One attendee gave her marijuana and paraphernalia to be disposed of by one of the AFCOE students who visited in her home.

Since the series was live.streamed and archived online, it has and will continue to have far reaching affects. To date it has been viewed approximately 180,000 times including both live and via the archives. The number continues to grow as people share the link with their family and friends. This does not include those who watched on 3ABN and AFTV.

One of our pastors in southern New Mexico has six Bible studies from people who watched the series online. The Las Cruces SDA Church hosted the meetings in their facility and one person who had been watching the series on 3ABN came to the church to watch it in a church setting. Many of our Texico churches hosted the series.

The meetings are over, but the work of reaching out to these interests is just beginning. How do you follow up with over 500 interests that are spread out all over the city of Albuquerque and beyond and not let any fall through the cracks?
With careful planning and prayer, the interests have been divided up by zip code and given to the Seventh-day Adventist church closest to them. The local pastors, elders, Bible workers and members have been working together to make contact with the individuals on their list to reach out and make friends with them. Many churches have invited these guests to different follow up programs that are taking place locally such as Revelation meetings, an archeology series, health and cooking classes, stop smoking classes, family finance seminars, small groups and special meals.

More than 20 baptisms have taken place in the local churches to date as a result of the series and many others are preparing for baptism.

Please remember this follow up in your prayers. There is much work to be done and we pray many of these people will make their decision to follow the truth they've learned and give their lives to Christ.

Sue Hinkle
Texico Communication Director/Assistant to the President

Deming Church Hosts Decoding Prophecy Seminar

Pastor Hector Quinones with the group at the Deming Church

The Deming (NM) English Seventh-day Adventist Church recently hosted a Decoding Prophecy
Seminar with evangelist Mike Sady. In these times of worldwide upheaval many are looking for answers. The attendees of this seminar were presented with Bible truth and they came faithfully each night, eager to learn about Bible prophecy. Their hunger for more knowledge was satisfied at the meetings. Eight individuals were baptized into the Deming Church and one is being transferred to the Las Cruces Central Church. A Bible marking class is in progress as a follow for the new members.

Wanda Beach

Grants, NM - A Year and a Half, Leaving a Mark

Mercedes Martinez (back row, 3rd from the left), joined by family and friends, becomes a part of the Grants (NM) church through baptism with Pastor Jerry Pinzon (standing on right).

When we think of success stories as it relates to churches, we normally picture the impact of mega-churches and the big numbers of baptisms in big cities, as it is in so many stories we have read before. Very few times do we think of the success story of a little church in a small town that is becoming revived and that is beginning to leave a mark in its community.
I want to share the story of my little church in Grants, NM and how the Lord has blessed us powerfully over the past year and a half.

The Lord brought me to pastor in Grants in July 2013 and immediately the church and I got our minds set on what would be our focus from the day we first met - evangelism. Both our church building and membership are small, yet ready to leave a mark in the community and to work hard to share the love of Christ and the hope of His coming. Our area of influence is also small with a population of about 9,000. The church membership is mostly brothers and sisters of retirement age, with a couple young adults, and thankfully, a significant number of children. On average about 20 to 25 people will fellowship together during a Sabbath service. Yet, in spite of our small numbers, we have come together to accomplish our mission.

In the past year and a half the church has managed to organize several events geared to revive the church as well as bring others to the knowledge of Christ. We began our cycle October 2013 with a week of training and revival in order to prepare the church for evangelism. We improved the church building to prepare it for evangelism with 95% of the work being accomplished by our own members. We then held evangelistic meetings in our small church with a modest budget and the Lord blessed us, first of all with revival, and also with a total of two baptisms and one re-baptism. An average of ten visitors attended every night with the support of more than 80% of the church members.

Another new member is added to the Grants Church by Pastor Jerry Pinzon (left). Serai Knighton (second from left) is supported by family and members.
Some of the outreach activities the church has been involved with include pitching a tent in the city park and holding services Friday and Saturday in the month of September this year. We built a float to participate in the town's Christmas parade in 2013, and have built another one this year to participate again. Many flyers will go out again to the community during the parade as we march our float through the streets of Grants. In addition to this, we had a children's Sabbath and several of our kids have been taking Bible studies. Last month the church conducted a week of prayer and revival in preparation for a full-scale evangelistic effort beginning February 2015. As a result of our week of prayer, three of our friends are taking Bible studies and preparing for baptism during our prophecy seminar in February. There are also some members who are considering re-baptism.

This is just a few of the things the Lord has led us to accomplish this past year and a half. He never ceases to amaze me! When I see our small church and some of our aged members, I can only praise the Lord for giving my church the desire to work for His glory. All during this time we have been laying the plans for our building project. Our hope is to build a church where many more can come together and worship the Lord.

I believe the Lord has great plans for Grants, NM, and He is using our little church for His purposes. Success takes time and I know this past year and a half is just the beginning. The words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:27 and 2 Corinthians 12:9 gives us a comforting message, "... and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty..." "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

Please keep my church district in your prayers that we remain humble, recognizing our weakness and our need of the power of God. As we move to our next project in February, may the Lord glorify Himself in the souls of those who will face truth for
the first time. May He convict those who have known the truth and have not made up their minds to follow Him. May His Spirit move powerfully to use our little church and to leave His mark on this little town and bring about an untold story of success! AMEN!

Jerry Pinzon  
Pastor of the Gallup, Grants, Pie Town and Reserve district

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**Rio Rancho Youth Send Cookies Around the World**

Olivia Shainin, student at Oxford University, was excited to receive a care package from home which included cookies and a picture from the “Cookie Ministry.” She thanks her mom and loving church family back home for thinking of her.

Youth from the Rio Rancho (NM) Church are enjoying participating in a “cookie ministry.” They have been sending, with love, homemade cookies, cards and small items to members who are serving in the military, and also to other young people from the church who’ve gone away to school. To date the cookies have been sent to Japan, Afghanistan, England, Texas, Missouri, California and Michigan. The youth have been very excited to reach out to our missing members here and around the world!
They've also prepared bags of cookies for our local Fire Department.

The Rio Rancho youth enjoy making and shipping cookies to church members in many parts of the world.

Roxanne Smyth
Texico Women's Ministry Director

Couple in Deming Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage

Wanda and Bill Beach of the Deming (NM) Church celebrate 50 years of marriage.

Bill and Wanda Beach recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were blessed that this
special day was on Sabbath, August 30, 2014, and they could share the event with the congregation of the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Tulsa, TX. Some of these folk attended their wedding in the same sanctuary in 1964. Pastor Daniel Ortega offered a prayer, rededicating their lives to the Lord’s service. They have three sons and daughters-in-law who have blessed them with seven grandchildren and one great-grandson. They are members of the Deming English SDA Church in Deming, New Mexico.

Wanda Beach

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**Treasure Trove - Christmas**

![Image of a man]

The word “giving” is readily associated with the principles of stewardship. In this season of frenetic, often irresponsible gift giving, there is something that I would ask you to deeply reflect on: the gift of Jesus Christ to a fallen, mostly ungrateful world. As we join with the maddening throng of holiday shoppers, often searching for that “perfect gift”, can we not take a moment to ponder the quintessential gift that was Jesus?

While our gift giving (and I'm including tithes and offerings) means that we are depriving ourselves of a few dollars, Jesus gave infinitely more! Although it is an impossible task for our mortal, finite minds, try anyway to let your imaginations wander as to what Heaven must be like------the utopia that Jesus willingly left in order to rescue his children, lost and
marooned on this sin-blighted world. And haven't all of us wondered whether our gifts-----perfect in our eyes because we have spent hours in the research and selection of them------will be received with unctuous gratitude and sincere words of affirmation or nervous smiles and inane platitudes? Jesus gave the most perfect gift of all and was rejected, ridiculed, beaten, and killed by the ungrateful recipients of His loving and gracious gift. So what IS the perfect gift? Jesus gave it and gives it still-------the perfect gift of love! I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a deeper understanding of the love of our Lord.

Jeff Metherell,
Texico Association Secretary/Planned Giving/Properties/Stewardship Director