Enjoy the news in the March 2015 Texico Update Newsletter!

See what's going on around the Texico Conference.

Unity in Diversity
Partnership in Mission

Texico Update Newsletter
March 30, 2015

Are you receiving this newsletter as a forward from someone else? Sign up today for your own subscription.

IN THIS ISSUE:

"President's Corner"

"Clint Church Celebration and Baptisms"

"Texico Conference Votes to Establish the Amarillo Karen Company"

"Getting Ready for the Rush - Youth Rush"

"Snow Stopped the Rough Road"

President's Corner

The Rough Road

It was a rough and painful forty-mile stagecoach ride for Ellen and James White. They were going to...
Encourage church believers in Sutton, Vermont. Thinking of her children, one in Maine who was two years old and the other baby in New York nine months old, Ellen reached a low point of discouragement. Despondency pressed upon her. She especially thought of one woman who had said to her a few days before that it must be very pleasant to be riding through the country without anything to trouble her. Ellen was yearning for her children especially her baby in New York.

Unable to sit up or sleep, her husband made a bed on the seat and she laid down with an aching head and heart. She wrote, "The burden borne for others I dreaded above everything else." Despondent and depressed, she finally fell asleep and started dreaming. She dreamed that a tall angel stood by her side, and asked her why she was sad. She expressed her feeling to the angel and said, "I can do so little good, why may we not be with our children, and enjoy their society?" The angel answered her, "You have given to the Lord two beautiful flowers, the fragrance of which is as sweet incense before Him, and is more precious in His sight than gold or silver, for it is a heart gift. It draws upon every fiber of the heart as no other sacrifice can. You should not look upon present appearances, but keep the eye single to your duty, single to God's glory, and follow in His opening providence, and the path shall brighten before you. Every self-denial, every sacrifice is faithfully recorded, and will bring its reward."

In 1850, church members in Sutton, Vermont, realized that the White's were wearing themselves out, traveling on common stagecoaches or wagons. They collected an offering of $175 to help buy a horse and carriage to aid them in their travel. However, they left it up to the White's to choose the horse. This important decision did not take long. During the night, Mrs. White had a vision in which she would have the choice of three horses. The next day, she knew that the beautiful dapple chestnut, named Charlie, was the one to be trusted for many years; in the vision the angel said, "This is the one for you."
In October 1850, they went to Paris, Maine to continue their labors especially writing for the new Review and Herald. James and Ellen White faced many difficult times in Paris.

People did not know the devotion, sacrifice and dedication they gave willing to spread the Three Angels Messages they loved dearly. In Paris, Maine they would stay up till midnight and sometimes until two or three in the morning, writing, reading, or proofreading sheets of paper to be published. Over worked and unappreciated, she wrote, “We could have better borne these extra exertions could we have had the sympathy of our brethren in Paris, and had they appreciated our labors and the efforts we were making to advance the cause of truth. Mental labor and privation reduced the strength of my husband very fast.”

They had Charlie and the carriage with them in Paris. In early January 1851, they lent the horse and carriage to Rhodes and Andrews to visit members in Canada and northern Vermont. James and Ellen had received a special invitation to attend a Conference at Waterbury, Vermont. In spite of the fact that it was midwinter, they started out traveling by train and private conveyance. Finding one poor brother whom they felt should attend the conference to which they were traveling, they promised him if he would go they would give him their fare to aid in a horse, and ride with him. En route they called on Joseph Baker. Eager to see him attend the conference, they gave him $5 to pay his fare on the railroad. They spend most of three days traveling in an open sleigh without blanket or buffalo robe to protect them from the January cold.

At the Waterbury conference they ran into distressing criticism. A “whispering campaign” had started against James White. Many joined in their criticism, including their friend and fellow worker, Joseph Bates. Satan had tempted some of the brethren to think that the Whites had too good of a horse, and as James had been very liberal in contributing to the conference, he must be making a
Enjoy the news in the March 2015 Texico Update Newsletter!

April 11-18
Henry Colindres

Plainview (TX)
April 20-25
Patricia Varner

Santa Fe Airport (NM)
April 11-18
Jairo Ruiz Ramirez

Santa Fe English (NM)
April 3-May 16
James Stevens

Santa Fe Marcy Park (NM)
April 11-18
Miguel Villarreal

Tulia (TX)
May 24-30
Charles Mesnard

Valencia (NM)
April 11-18
Jairo Galarza

Van Horn (TX)
March 28-April 4
Carlos Arellano

Prayer Requests

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

March 29 - April 4
Gallup

lot of money. Jealousy arouse against James. Seven or eight months before, James handed $20, his coat off his back and gave it to brother N.A.H. and persuaded some church members to help him with a horse and carriage. The individual James helped turned against him. He joined in the criticism. They were questioning whether he was making himself rich working in the Lord's cause. Disappointed Ellen penned the following words, “But this was the reward he received. We were forced to wade through a tide of oppression. It seemed that the deep waters would overflow us, and that we should sink.”

One discouraging episode followed another. Severe colds that took hold of him on the journey to and from Waterbury settled in James’ lungs. He was so weak he could not get to the printing office without staggering. She writes, “The hours in which we should have been refreshed with sleep, were often spent in answering long communications occasioned by the leaven of envy which commenced to work at the Waterbury meeting; and many hours while others were sleeping we spent in agonizing tears, and mourning before the Lord.”

The situation finally came to the point where James finally declared, “Wife, It is no use to try to struggle on any longer. These things are crushing me, and will soon carry me to the grave. I cannot go any farther. I have written a note for the paper stating that I shall publish no more.” As he stepped out of the door to carry the final notice to the printing office, she fainted. He came back and prayed for her and his prayer was answered. She became well.

The next morning, during family worship and prayer, she was given a vision concerning these matters. She saw that her husband must not give up his work in writing the paper. If he discontinued the Review, it was precisely what Satan would want him to do and he would be Satan’s agent to accomplish his purpose. If he continued, the Lord would sustain him and give him strength “and those who had been guilty in casting upon him such burdens would have to see the extent of their cruel course, and come
Enjoy the news in the March 2015 Texico Update Newsletter!

April 5-11

Grants

April 12-18

Hereford

April 19-25

Hereford Spanish

Click here to submit a prayer request

Statistical Snapshots

Texico Membership as of March 30, 2015
12,259

Number of Texico Congregations
Churches: 71
Companies: 7
Groups: 4

Tithe Received
December: $520,291
TD: $1,112,638

Tithe is up 16.4%. However, we have nine Sabbaths this year during

back confessing their injustice, or the frown of God would rest upon them; that it was not against us merely they had spoken and acted, but against Him who had called us to fill the place he wished us to occupy, and that all their suspicions, jealousy, and secret influence which had been at work, was faithfully chronicled in heaven, and would not be blotted out until every one who had taken a part in it should see the extent of their wrong course, and retrace every step.”

Some of the individuals that criticized them humbly acknowledged they were wrong, apologized not only in writing but also in person.

The Whites were criticized for the most insignificant matters. As in the case of the Lord’s prophet and her husband, when we use our time, talents and efforts to further Christ’s kingdom, criticism and attacks will happen. In the midst of criticism and opposition, the White’s pressed on. So should we.

1 Ellen G. White, The Early Years (1827-1862), pages 177, 178, 204-206
2 Ibid, page 269
3 Ibid, page 269
4 Messenger of Lord, page 143
5 Life Sketches, page 278
6 Ibid, page 279
7 Ibid, pages 280, 281
8 Ibid, page 280
9 Ibid, page 281

Lee-Roy Chacon,
President

Clint Church Celebration and Baptisms

http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=8c65295bed06c8092e59718f1&id=50dc6e49a0&c=f2f74a3c62[5/11/2015 4:20:45 PM]
the time frame as compared to eight Sabbaths last year.

Texico is $7,004.32 which is down -8.77% from last year.

Pathfinder Bible Experience

Texico Pathfinder teams win first place at the Union level Pathfinder Bible Experience.

We are so proud of the Belen/North Valley Faithful Chilies and El Paso Western Eagles Pathfinder teams from the Texico Conference! Both teams won 1st place at Union Level Pathfinder Bible Experience in San Antonio on March 28. These teams will now move on the NAD (Division) or (National) level in Dallas!

Pastoral Addition

The interior of the Clint (TX) Seventh-day Adventist Church.

On January 30 and 31, the congregation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Clint, TX celebrated 15 years in their current church location. The celebration started on Friday with a ceremony of consecration including a Passover service. The festivities continued throughout Saturday with various programs. It was a special time to remember how God has led his church throughout the years, and how He will continue to guide in the future.

As part of the celebration, Dario Rodriguez was ordained as an elder. Since his baptism in 2013, he has demonstrated his love and service to Christ. Dario, his wife, Eduviges, and sister, Vicky Rodriguez, have served the church and its members unconditionally since their arrival.

Finally, the celebration ended with ten baptisms and a special dinner. Of those who were baptized there were two children, a 90 year young woman and seven other adults. Although the baptisms could not be performed in the Clint Church due to a leak in the baptistry, that did not stop them from taking place. The El Paso Central Church graciously lent their facilities so that these people could give their lives
Enjoy the news in the March 2015 Texico Update Newsletter!

David Lopez

We welcome David Lopez, his wife, Judibeth, and their sons, David and Harim, to the Texico Conference. Pastor Lopez is the new pastor for the Albuquerque North Valley and La Roca Spanish district.

His previous experience includes pastoring in the Potomac and New York Conferences before receiving his Master’s in Divinity at Andrews University in 2005. That same year he received the call to work in Arizona Conference as associate youth pastor, starting a youth ministry in the Phoenix Spanish Church with 70 youth. Within a few months the attendance grew to more than 200. Later he was assigned in the city of Tucson, AZ.

He and his family are happy to be in Texico Conference and believes God is going to do amazing things in their ministry.

Due to a leak in the baptistry at the Clint Spanish Church, the El Paso Central Church graciously allowed their baptistry to be used for the ten new members who gave their lives to Christ.

Each baptism has a special story behind it, such as Christian and Dago Armendariz, two little brothers that have been attending the church. They asked Maria Torres, a church member, to give them Bible studies and she happily accepted. The mother of the children, Angela Quezada, also joined the Bible study and the three of them gave their lives to the Lord during the baptismal ceremony.

We also have the account of Maria Villegas, age 90. Because of her advanced age and being confined to a wheelchair, she was offered to be accepted as a member of the Adventist Church by profession of faith since it would be difficult to submerge her in the baptistry. Maria refused because of her great desire to enter the waters of baptism as Jesus did.
Enjoy the news in the March 2015 Texico Update Newsletter!

Maria Villegas being assisted in the baptismal pool because of her great desire to enter the waters of baptism as Jesus did.

Another special story is about Mary Robles, who despite having cancer she has not stopped attending church. On January 31st she also decided to be baptized. Mary testifies of the great joy she felt in giving her life to the Lord and the hope she has in Jesus as her Great Physician.

Each new member has their special story of how the Lord is working in their lives. The Clint Church is honored to have these new members and it is the desire of the congregation to continue working to win more souls for the kingdom of God.

Daniela Marquez

Texico Conference Votes to Establish the Amarillo Karen Company

On March 21, 2015, the Amarillo Karen Group was officially organized as a company. The Karen (pronounced Kor-EN) people are refugees from the
Thai/Burma border. It was a thrilling experience as we saw a wonderful group of people enthusiastically worshiping in the freedom of their new homeland. When the call was made for everyone who were baptized members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church anywhere in the world to stand, a total of 50 members (including four young people who were baptized that Sabbath afternoon) stood and signed in as charter members of this company.

More information about this congregation will be forthcoming.

Getting Ready for the Rush - Youth Rush

Youth Rush is a ten-week summer mission trip for youth ages 15 and older. We focus on sharing the gospel through books, DVDs, and by personal contact. Every year, hundreds of young people all across North America join Youth Rush programs and make a lasting difference in people's lives. There are many benefits to joining our Texico Youth Rush program. Please check out our website to learn more and to apply:  [www.youthrushtexico.org](http://www.youthrushtexico.org).

Listen to the story of Ricky and Karen, two young adults who chose to knock on Moises' door:

Standing in the foyer of a Seventh-day Adventist church and looking up at a picture of Jesus, Moises
spoke to Ricky: “You know, I wasn’t going to come to church today, but I read last night in the book that I bought from you that I can come to God just as I am. That’s the only reason I came. I never knew before that I could.”

Just a day earlier, Rick and Karen Yanez met Moises at his home. At the time, nothing about the experience seemed noteworthy. Moises bought four books and asked what church they attended. When they told him, he politely asked for the address as well. They gave it to him and said their goodbyes.

The following Sabbath, Moises walked into the local Adventist church and told Ricky why he had come. Ricky sat with Moises during potluck and discovered that there was more to this quiet man’s story. Three years earlier, when Moises lived in a different state, a literature evangelist had sold him Bible Readings for the Home. He read the book and learned about the Sabbath. When he told his parents, they told him he was crazy. His pastor told him, “You can believe that if you want to, but don’t tell anyone else about it.” Moises chose to believe despite the criticism. But it wasn’t until he read Steps to Christ that he realized something essential about God’s character: God accepts us just as we are.

After attending church that first Sabbath, Moises met the local pastor and began Bible studies. It wasn’t long before he was baptized. Today, he is an active member, and he and Ricky are good friends. Recently, he told Ricky, “Thank you so much for the work you do as a literature evangelist.”

There are millions of people with false ideas about God’s character, and many people feel that God could never accept them or forgive their sins. The world needs more Christians who are willing to share the truth about His character! God is not an exacting judge, waiting to punish sinners. Instead, He graciously accepts us as we are and transforms us into His image.
Enjoy the news in the March 2015 Texico Update Newsletter!

Former Youth Rush student sharing Christ at the door through books.

If you'd like more information about the Texico Conference Youth Rush Program and how you or someone you know can be part of it, please contact us online:  www.youthrushtexico.org.

Derrick Williamson,
Texico Literature Ministries Director

Snow Stopped the Blood From Flowing
Blood donor, Ned Gurule, is happy to give for a good cause.

Learning that a family member has been in a debilitating car accident brings waves of anxiety, concern and fear. Knowing their lives hang in a delicate balance and being completely unable to do anything but pray is a reminder of how fragile life is on this planet. Tailor Dunn, 21, was run over by a hit and run driver in Albuquerque, NM on February 6, 2015. She miraculously survived, but by the end of March had required 50 units of blood through the 15 major surgeries she endured.

Tailor previously attended Sandia View Elementary School and has family members who attend the Corrales Seventh-day Adventist Church. In reaching out to the family, we discovered the best way the Corrales Church members could support and minister to them and to Tailor was by hosting a blood drive. Providentially, the first blood drive that was scheduled had to be cancelled due to an unexpected snow storm that left many churches in the Albuquerque metro area cancelling church services for the day.

Though disappointed about the cancellation and
unsure if a new date would improve our opportunities to get people out to donate blood, God’s hand was leading. For the first scheduled blood drive only six people had signed up. The second date (six weeks after Tailor was hit and still in a coma) gave time to have Tailor’s story and the blood drive broadcasted by KOAT news. Recognizing that news interest could help us bring awareness to the blood drive, Corrales Church pastor, André Arrais, and I did an interview with KRQE, Channel 13. Hanna Gasper, Tailor’s cousin, did an interview with KOAT, Channel 7, an ABC affiliate. A big surprise came when the ABC Good Morning America producer contacted the church on Sabbath morning, March 7th, to do a story on Tailor and the blood drive.

As different people from the Albuquerque area mistakenly came to Sandia View Academy to donate during the week before the blood drive, it was surprising that they were willing to donate just from hearing about the need on the news. “What if that was my child?” was the recurring theme. I have to admit I was afraid the people wouldn’t return on Sabbath afternoon to donate. Oh boy, did I have little faith.

United Blood Services set up stations in the Sandia View Elementary School gymnasium to handle as many people as possible to donate blood. Sandia View Academy student, Chandler Tarbox (front), participates in the donation.
The United Blood Services personnel agreed to extend the blood drive an extra hour because there were so many walk-in donations and they were touched by what people were telling them about the reasons they were donating blood. Donors were largely people who didn’t even know Tailor but had heard about the drive via the news, on the radio, our church’s Facebook page or from the various flyers I had placed up in local coffee shops and bars. Even with United Blood Services so graciously extending their time, nine people had to be turned away. God had blessed above and beyond what we had hoped!

Tailor’s extended family was able to join us for the blood drive, even though Tailor was and is still in the hospital critical care unit. She has a long road of rehabilitation ahead of her, but her cousin, Hanna Gasper, reports that Tailor smiled when they told her about the blood drive. Yes, she is out of the coma! Praise God!

What God had planned was bigger and better than what we had in mind. The connections we Seventh-day Adventists Christians were able to make with our community and with Tailor’s family was so worth being snowed in for!

Lisa Christopherson

---

**Treasure Trove**
At the very core of good stewardship is a five-letter word that is literally dripping with profound implication. That word is “trust.” The dictionary describes the verb form of this word as, “To believe that someone or something is reliable, good, honest, effective--------to have confidence in (someone or something).”

Trust is an absolute imperative to any vital and healthy relationship. And this might be another good time to remind ourselves that the real message of God’s word is that He wants to be in a relationship with us (please read Revelation 3:20 if you question this at all). So, in Malachi 3:10, what God is really saying to His children is, “If you will trust in Me by faithfully giving Me your tithes and offerings, I will bless you beyond your ability to imagine.”

If there is, in fact, a stewardship crisis existing in our churches today, then I would maintain that the underlying and deeper issue is actually one of trust. In all relationships, trust is something that grows in direct proportion with how well we know that person. It logically follows then that the more we know someone the greater is our propensity to trust in what that individual says and promises. How can we hope to be good stewards------with anything that God has entrusted to us------if we don't know Him well enough to be in a relationship that is solidly built on trust?

My prayer is that all of us will be good and faithful stewards------not because we buckle to denominational pressure or out of a sense of guilt, but because we have fallen madly in love with a God that has given us everything (including His Son) and asks so little in return. Out of that love will develop an ever-deepening trust that He will indeed bless our faithfulness, as He has promised, and ever provide for us and for our families.

Jeff Metherell,
Texico Association Secretary, Planned Giving and Stewardship Director
Testimonies of Prison Ministries

Having a prison ministry, called Onesimous Freedom Ministry, I receive letters each week from inmates all over the country asking for Bible lessons. I have stacks and stacks of letters and thank you notes from those who are getting to know Jesus through this ministry.

If you are involved with prison ministry or are interested in getting started, I would like to encourage you with a few testimonies from inmates who are finding Christ while incarcerated.

“I would just like to say thank you. I’m 25, first time in prison with no support from my family. When I get Bible lessons it comforts me. The lessons you sent me are on my level and I’m able to understand them. I look forward to doing many more.”
Your friend Owen

Good day. You inspire many inmates following in the footsteps of Christ. You have a strong testimony about prison life. Also, I see you were baptized in prison. I was baptized on 4-11-14 in prison. God will change His children for His purpose. God bless you. Thomas serving natural life +30 years

“I am doing fine in our Master’s care. He has provided people to help me when I fall into
Enjoy the news in the March 2015 Texico Update Newsletter!

depression and sadness, to keep me from hurting myself. I have been enjoying the Bible lessons and look forward to completing all of them. Thanks for your encouragement and the work you do.”
Your friend in Christ, Raymond

You, too, can make a positive impact on the life of an inmate by sharing Christ with them. For more information about prison ministries, please contact Pastor Leroy Green and myself at prisonministry@texico.org. We will be happy to encourage or assist you in being involved with this important ministry.

David Casey,
Associate Prison Ministries Leader for the Texico Conference