

# The Central Messenger

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August, 2008

## Pastor's Corner by Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr.

San Jose Central  
Seventh-Day  
Adventist Church

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August is an interesting month. It's kind of like the last hurrah of summer for those of us who were planning to take advantage of the summer. If we do not get it accomplished now, then there's always next summer I suppose. Maybe it was a certain place that we want to see, or certain people we desire to be with, or certain events we want to be a part of. It's very possible that we did get our summer plans accomplished.

A very interesting thing occurs after August. Lo and behold we have the month of September. It's amazing isn't it? Besides it being the best month of the year J, September typically comes after August. Novelty? No, not at all. We even know what comes after September, yes that would be October. You may be thinking that I'm being facetious but time is going by. Right before our eyes time is going by. Do I share this to alarm you, no but here's what I'm really getting at: what are we doing as time is going by?

It could have been the close of spring or of winter or whatever season for that matter. Are we accomplishing the things that we said we would do? What about those things that maybe we promised ourselves as it turned midnight on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2007? Are we doing those things that maybe nobody else knows about? What about those things that we promised our family members? You'd be amazed how things change when things start getting crossed off of that "honey-do" list. What about the things that we promised the church?

I'm reminded of a couple of verses that come to mind as we try to refocus. Ecclesiastes 9:10 NASB "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going." Scripture says that whatever we need to get done, not only get it done, but get it done right. Sometimes we get things done very well and other times we wished

we could have done a better job, but we are challenged to get whatever we need to get done with all of our might.

The second verse that jumps out at me is one that's context is rather grim, but nonetheless is still applicable: "What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him" John 13:27b. The context of this verse is when Jesus speaks to Judas about his plan of betrayal. Unlike Judas, we are bent on following Jesus and serving Him. But maybe there's still something to learn from this text. We need to do whatever we said we were going to do quickly. It's amazing how certain events come and we wish we would have told people certain words and then they are gone. Done a certain something and then time goes by and then the opportunity slipped away. Whatever we need to do, we need to do it now. We not only need to do it now, we need to do it with all of our might.

## August Birthday Celebrants

- 2 Jonathan Manivanh
- 3 Flora Rodrigues
- 4 Erin Tablang
- 11 Valerie Celaya
- 15 Amy Celaya
- 16 Elena Varela
- 18 Tino Linhsamout
- 22 Joshua Mora
- 24 Josip Benko



"May this be your best birthday, yet. And may you know - *really know* - what a difference you've made in the lives of those who know you and love you."

## Important Events

- 08/29-09/01/2008: Hispanic Youth Camp at Camp Wawona (members from 18-35 years old are invited to join). For more information, please visit <http://ccc.adventist.org>
- 08/24/2008—Senior Citizen Day Rally at 9am. It will be at the CCC Office located at 2820 Willow Ave. Clovis, CA 93612. Contact (559)347-3176 or send email to [ministries@cccsda.org](mailto:ministries@cccsda.org) for more information.

## Health Nugget

We should not provide for the Sabbath a more liberal supply or a greater variety of food than for other days. Instead of this, the food should be more simple, and less should be eaten, in order that the mind may be clear and vigorous to comprehend spiritual things. A clogged stomach means a clogged brain. The most precious words may be heard and not appreciated, because the mind is confused by an improper diet. By overeating on the Sabbath, many do more than they think to unfit themselves for receiving the benefit of its sacred opportunities.

- C. D. F. p. 46

- Mountain View Academy is still accepting applications for the 2008-2009 school year. The final registration/book sale will be on August 12 (Tuesday) from 12noon to 7pm. 1st day of school is on August 18. Please call (650)967-2324 for more information.

## His Commandment is Life Everlasting (continued) by Ellet J. Waggoner

Read Hebrews 4:12. The Word of God is not simply living, but it gives life. "My soul cleaveth unto the dust; quicken [make alive] Thou me according to Thy Word" (Psalms 119:25). "Thy Word hath quickened me" (verse 50). "Hear and your soul shall live (Isaiah 55:3). Read also John 5:24, 25.

God gives to us His Word in order that we may live; if we but keep the Word, we shall keep the life, for it is the "Word of Life." When man issues a commandment, the one to whom it is addressed is obliged to supply the force necessary to carry it into execution; but when God gives a commandment, the commandment is itself the living force that will work effectually in those who receive it. "His commandment is life everlasting." Only in keeping the commandments of God have we life, for they are life. We keep them by faith, and they supply the life and righteousness.

The story of creation is given to show us the reality of these things. There we see the word in action. "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made;" "He commanded, and it stood fast." When He spoke, it was. The earth did not have to go about to make itself, when God spoke; but when He spoke, it existed.

That some Word spake to us. The Gospel is the power that creates, for "if any man be in Christ, there is a new creation." "God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6). The Word says to us, "Be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18). If we receive that Word, the Spirit fill us, and will bring order out of the chaos of our minds and hearts.

- to be concluded next month

## United States: New religious discrimination guidelines aid Sabbath keepers

### *Compliance manual section strengthens worker's arguments, Adventist says*

A manual released by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission last week clarifies legal precedent in religious discrimination cases so employers can better accommodate workers' rights, said James Standish, legislative affairs director at the Adventist Church world headquarters. [photo: Ansel Oliver/ANN]

Seventh-day Adventists in the United States will have some support from the federal government as they seek to observe the biblical Sabbath, a religious liberty leader said.

On July 22, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued a compliance manual on workplace discrimination on the basis of religion.

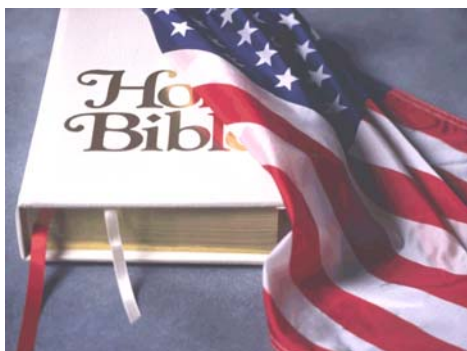
According to an EEOC announcement, the document reviews the relevant provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the EEOC's policies regarding religious discrimination, harassment, and accommodation. The EEOC also issued a companion question-and-answer fact sheet and best practices booklet. All three documents are available on the agency's Web site.

In the statement, the current head of the commission said that the information is designed to help employers accommodate the needs of workers.

"Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 seeks to ensure that applicants and employees enjoy the

freedom to compete, advance and succeed in the workplace, irrespective of their religious beliefs," EEOC Chair Naomi C. Earp said.

The commission said it issued the new guidelines "in response to an increase in charges of religious discrimination, increased religious diversity in the United States, and requests for guidance from stakeholders and agency personnel investigating and litigating claims of religious discrimination."



According to the commission, "religious discrimination charge filings with the EEOC nationwide have risen substantially over the past 15 years, doubling from 1,388 in Fiscal Year 1992 to a record level of 2,880 in FY 2007."

The "best practices" document includes this advice: "Employers should work with employees who need an adjustment to their work schedule to accommodate their religious practices," which, by implication, includes the Sabbath.

James Standish, legislative affairs director at the Adventist

Church world headquarters, lauded the "specificity" and "examples" provided in the documents.

"These documents are based on legal opinions from across the [federal] circuit [courts] across the country," Standish told Adventist Review in an interview. "Employers don't always understand the requirements" for accommodation, he added, "but EEOC guidelines say something" they can grasp.

Though the EEOC guidelines will be of use to Adventists and others seeking reasonable accommodation, Standish said the fight to pass the Workplace Religious Freedom Act, or WRFA, will continue.

"There are many ways to advance the cause," Standish said. However, he added, "this is an important step. It's a big deal for us."

The EEOC was created to help enforce federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.


*-July 30, 2008 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States by Mark A. Kellner, Adventist Review*

### Thought for Today

"We should not let slip even one opportunity of qualifying ourselves intellectually to work for God."

*-Christ's Object Lessons, p.334*

# August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4 6:30pm - Elders Meeting	5 7pm—Merly Ortiz’s Small Group	6 7pm—Prayer Meeting “The Great Controversy”	7 7pm—Communion Practice	8 Sunset: 8:08pm	9 Sunset: 8:07pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer Communion Sabbath SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. 2pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class
10	11 7pm—Board Meeting	12 7pm—Merly Ortiz’s Small Group	13 7pm—Prayer Meeting “The Great Controversy”	14	15 Sunset: 8:00pm	16 Sunset: 7:58pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. 2pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class
17	18	19 7pm—Merly Ortiz’s Small Group	20 7pm—Prayer Meeting “The Great Controversy”	21	22 Sunset: 7:51pm	23 Sunset: 7:49pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. 2pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class
24	25	26 7pm—Merly Ortiz’s Small Group	27 7pm—Prayer Meeting “The Great Controversy”	28	29 Sunset: 7:41pm	30 Sunset: 7:39pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: TBA 2pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class
31	September 1 	2 7pm—Merly Ortiz’s Small Group	3 7pm—Prayer Meeting “The Great Controversy”	4	5 Sunset: 7:31pm	6 Sunset: 7:29pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. 2pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class
7	8	9 7pm—Merly Ortiz’s Small Group	10 7pm—Prayer Meeting “The Great Controversy”	11	12 Sunset: 7:20pm	13 Sunset: 7:19pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. 2pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class



# San Jose Central Seventh-Day Adventist Church

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Office Hours: Tuesday—Thursday 10am—3pm  
Wednesday 5pm—9pm

Sabbath Services: Sabbath School: 9:20 am  
Divine Worship: 10:50am

**Mission:** Our mission is to spread the gospel message of Jesus Christ to our community through the power of the Holy Spirit and to provide an affectionate and welcoming place of worship in the unified and spiritual body of Christ through prayerful Bible study and involvement in soul winning and hospitable activities with the goal of preparing ourselves and the city of San Jose for the second advent of Jesus Christ.

**Vision:** We, the San Jose Central Church through the power of the Holy Spirit, strive for an environment filled with unified disciples who work diligently for the cause of advancing the Kingdom of God.

