

# The Central Messenger

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

San Jose Central  
Seventh-Day  
Adventist Church

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This past week I had the opportunity to be the speaker at the Hayward Spanish SDA church for week of prayer. I received the invitation on short notice, but nonetheless I felt that God wanted me to minister there at that given time. Scripture says that in "all things give thanks" 1 Thessalonians 5:18. I'm usually tempted to give thanks either for what I have or what I've been given, but what about giving thanks to God for what He's called us to do? In other words, it's common to give thanks for what we receive, but what about giving thanks for what we give? There's an interesting thing about giving, regardless of the amount of giving involved, it's simply that we cannot give unless we have first received.

If we have received, then we must give for Jesus said "it is better to give than to receive" Acts 20:35. What are the

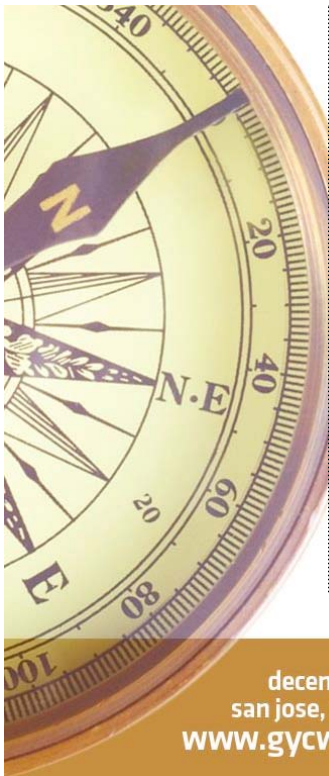
things that we have received? A new day? How about giving someone a smile today? Do you have food in your refrigerator? Invite someone over for dinner one night, or for Sabbath lunch. Do you have a place of your own? Have someone over just to be together and talk. If you have a certain skill or hobby, think of someone you can share it with. If you are blessed with some free time, how about visiting someone that you know that is alone, just because. You may not be a millionaire, but you are blessed with many things. What are you blessed with?

Are we blessed? I think we are blessed beyond measure. And because of what God has given us there's a blessing

in sharing it with others. Think of what you have and pray about who you'll be a blessing to by sharing that gift with others. What about the everlasting gospel? Is that something that God has given to us? I believe He has. If we have received that gift then I believe it's appropriate to give that gift to others as well.

My recent week of prayer wasn't about what I received, it was about what God had given me that I in turn was responsible in giving to others. In doing so, not only were the recipients blessed, but my blessing was beyond words. Jesus was right, it is better to give than receive.





## Generation of Youth for Christ 2008

Are you a young person looking for a closer walk with Jesus? Do you want to learn to go beyond theory and sermonizing into the beautiful reality of a life tangibly imprinted with the character of Christ? Then Generation of Youth for Christ 2008 (GYC) is the place for you to be! This 5-day event will be held at the San Jose Convention Center from December 17 - 21, 2008. You'll hear inspiring speakers, meet new friends, and receive opportunities for outreach or missionary experiences. Find additional information and registration online at <http://www.gycweb.org>

generationofyouthforchrist2008

december 17-21  
san jose, california  
[www.gycweb.org](http://www.gycweb.org)

for this  
purpose 

## Health Nugget



In this fast age, the less exciting the food, the better. Condiments are injurious in their nature. Mustard, pepper, spices, pickles, and other things of a like character irritate the stomach and make the blood feverish and impure.

- *Counsels on Diet and Food*, p. 345

South America	21 %
Inter-America	20 %
East-Central Africa	16 %
South Africa-Indian Ocean	15 %
Southern Asia	11 %
Southern Asia-Pacific	6 %

## Over 1 Million Join Adventist Church in Fifth Consecutive Year

For the fifth consecutive year, more than 1 million people have joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church worldwide, according to this year's church statistical report. Church leaders said for the year ending June 30, on average about 2,800 people joined the church each day, bringing the world membership total to 15,780,719. There is now 1 Adventist for every 425 people on the planet. In 1980, the ratio was 1 to 1,268.

This year's report reflects a membership audit of the church's South America region, which resulted in a more than 300,000-member decline. "While previous audits in other divisions were also intense, the more accurate membership totals suggest a positive look toward the future," said Bert Haloviak, director of the world church's department of Archives and Statistics. Reporting a "realistic membership" can prepare a region to grow, church officials said.

Between 2003 and 2005, the church in Southern Asia-Pacific lost 400,000 members from membership audits, Haloviak said. But that region now has the second highest regional growth rate of 6.6 percent -- the highest growth rate since the region organized in 1997 said world church executive secretary Matthew Bediako. Bediako said he hopes two more of the church's 13 world regions will conduct similar audits. Both Bediako and Haloviak presented their findings during reports to the world church's Annual Council business session in Manila, Philippines on October 12.

Church growth patterns indicate most church growth took place in non-western societies. About 89 percent of church growth occurred in six of the church's 13 world regions -- South America, Inter-America, East-Central Africa, South Africa-Indian Ocean, Southern Asia and Southern Asia-Pacific (See graphic 2).

Africa and Latin America are now home to about 70 percent of church membership. About 18 percent of members reside in Asia, seven percent in North America and five percent in Europe and Oceania, Haloviak reported to delegates. Bediako said he was encouraged that missionaries are now coming from more countries and serving



in more countries than ever before. There are now more than 2,800 missionary volunteers serving throughout all the church's world regions.

Other church leaders presented their evangelistic efforts as part of the church's Tell the World initiative, the theme for the quinquennial ending in 2010. Gary Krause, director of the church's Office of Adventist Mission, reported the success of mission pioneers in countries where the church is developing.

Several leaders also mentioned the success of church planting in developing church growth. Krause pointed to a Fuller Theological study church that is one to three years old. That figure jumps to seven people in churches that are four to seven years old. Eighty-five people are needed in churches 10 years and older.

Leaders said church growth came from many initiatives, including media outreach, personal witness, schools and other institutions and public evangelism.

*Source: Adventist News Network*

*October 13, 2008 Manila, Philippines Ansel Oliver/ANN*

## November Birthday Celebrants

2 Andre Tablang

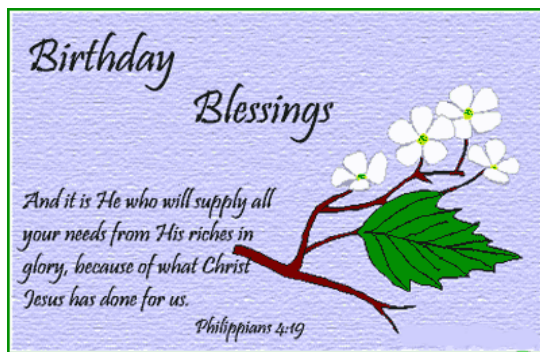
7 Rita Diaz

10 Annita Martin

12 Jessica Kalin

14 Lynda Miguel

18 Erminda Mora



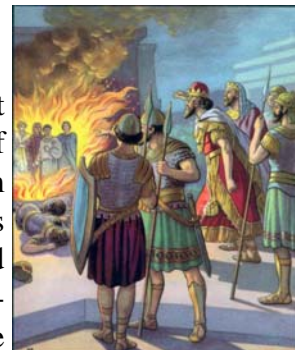
20 Rosa Cardenas 25 Betty Woods

23 Eric Leroy 29 Blake Dang

23 Ben Benko

## Bible Study

Read the first chapter of the book of Daniel. Now note from verse 8 that it was Daniel who purposed in his heart not to defile himself with the portion of the king's food and drink. We are not told in the chapter whether Daniel's three friends also purposed the same thing in their own hearts. Whether or not they did, they still benefitted from the fact that Daniel took the initiative in the matter and proposed the ten day test which would include his three friends as well as himself (see verses 11 through 16).



Although the faith of Daniel was sufficiently tested here in chapter 1, it appears we cannot say the same for his three friends. So when we come to the third chapter, it is not surprising to find Daniel not even mentioned. In God's providence, Daniel is probably, for some reason, not present there on the plain of Dura. Hence his three friends do not have him to look to for guidance when they are commanded to bow down to the image on pain of death. Likewise, the faith of each of us will be tested individually when we are required by the government to bow down to the image of the beast and receive the mark of the beast (see Revelation 13:14-17).

*-Timber Zwonkin*

The North American Division with Mark Finley presents...



### Hope Channel Broadcast:

7:00pm—Pacific Time

8:00pm—Rebroadcast

Pacific Time





### 3ABN Broadcast:

9:30pm Pacific Time

### For more information:

<http://discoveries08.netadventist.org>

# November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> End of DST 	<b>3</b> 7pm—Elders Meeting	<b>4</b> Election Day  7pm—Merly Ortiz's Small	<b>5</b> 7pm—Prayer Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Sunset: 5:04pm	<b>8</b> Sunset: 5:03pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. 4:15pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class 5:30—Vespers
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Veterans Day  7pm—Merly Ortiz's Small	<b>12</b> 7pm—Prayer Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Sunset: 4:58pm	<b>15</b> Sunset: 4:57pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. 2pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class 5:30—Vespers
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7pm—Merly Ortiz's Small Group	<b>19</b> 7pm—Prayer Meeting	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Sunset: 4:54pm	<b>22</b> Sunset: 4:53pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pam Simpson 4:15pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class 5:30—Vespers
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7pm—Merly Ortiz's Small Group	<b>26</b> 7pm—Prayer Meeting	<b>27</b> Thanksgiving Holiday 	<b>28</b> Sunset: 4:51pm	<b>29</b> Sunset: 4:50pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pam Simpson 4:15pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class 5:30—Vespers
<b>30</b>	<b>December 1</b>	<b>2</b> 7pm—Merly Ortiz's Small Group	<b>3</b> 7pm—Prayer Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Sunset: 4:50pm	<b>6</b> Sunset: 4:50pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. 2pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class 5:30—Vespers
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7pm—Merly Ortiz's Small Group	<b>10</b> 7pm—Prayer Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Sunset: 4:50pm	<b>13</b> Sunset: 4:50pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. 4:15pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class 5:30—Vespers

# Happy Thanksgiving!

*"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever."*

*Psalms 107:1*





# San Jose Central Seventh-Day Adventist Church

San Jose Central  
Seventh-Day Adventist Church  
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E-mail: [sanjosecentralsda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sanjosecentralsda@sbcglobal.net)

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.

