

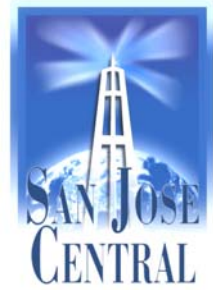
The Central Messenger



SAN JOSE CENTRAL SDA CHURCH

Volume 400, Issue 5

July, 2009



The Pastor's Corner by Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr.

I've been meaning to write this article for who knows how long but now I'm finally able to. It's not that I didn't want to write it, but for the last three weeks I've been sick. Praise God I'm feeling better as of late and something dawned on me; I can't work. For me, not being able to work is bad enough but also the inability to do what I normally do has been discouraging. Whether it's refraining from working out, going to church or simply taking a shower I simply greatly dislike being sick!

Contrary to popular belief this article is not about me. Have I given you some details about me? I sure have, but there's something much more important than my health woes. What about the church? Could the church be sick? Pastor, how could the church be sick? I think it's a valid question that we should wrestle with. Getting back to my health woes: I don't go out, I can't

work, I'm not even as clean as I normally am, I don't do what I should normally do.

What does a church normally do? It puts Jesus first and foremost. A church reads it's bible. A church comes together, worships together, prays together and supports each other. A church shares God's word to others. A church grows in membership and leadership. A church returns a faithful tithe and offering to God. A church reaches it's community.

During my sickness I have received countless natural remedies that would take a lifetime to have all them all administered, but there has been one that has given me great result. I've received hot/cold compresses where I would receive them alternated over a specific time interval while being buried under a plethora of blankets. As I've received this effect treatment a verse came to my mind: "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that

you were cold or hot.¹⁶ So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.¹⁷ Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,¹⁸ I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see." Revelation 3:15-18.

A lukewarm church isn't going to cut it. Although the compress treatment includes both hot and cold, it's time to be hot. It's time that we become a church that is blazing for Jesus.

Revelation's Slain Lamb by Mark Finley

The central theme of the book of Revelation is the Lamb of God. Jesus is described as the Lamb in multiple passages. No expression is more precious or filled with more meaning to the child of God than the "Slain Lamb." In this week's lesson we will discover deep spiritual lessons that apply to our lives from our study about the Lamb of God.

1. One of the most moving scenes in all the Bible is when, in prophetic vision, John gazed into heaven and saw the heavenly judgment (Rev. 5:1, 2). The scrolls of heaven's eternal records were opened. What did John see in the midst of this scene of solemn judgment?

"And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth" (Rev. 5:6).

In the midst of this judgment scene, John saw a _____ as though it had been _____.

What encouragement for each of us! We do not appear before the judgment bar of God alone. When heaven's scrolls are opened, Jesus stands there to represent us. His shed blood provides pardon. His sacrifice delivers us from the condemnation and guilt of sin. In Him the gift of eternal life is ours.

2. When did the plan of salvation go into effect? Circle the correct answer in the text below.

"All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8).

Before Adam and Eve sinned the plan of salvation was in effect. Throughout Old Testament history every

Revelation’s Slain Lamb (continued)

sacrificial lamb pointed forward to Jesus, the Lamb of God.

3. How does the book of Revelation describe those who overcome Satan’s temptations?

“And they overcame [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death” (Rev. 12:11).

We overcome the temptations of the evil one by:

a) the _____ of the Lamb.

b) the word of our _____ .

As we behold Jesus dying on the cross for our sins—the just for the unjust, the innocent for the guilty—our hearts are drawn to Him. We gain strength from His unfailing love. As we testify of His love to others, the “word of our testimony” gives us strength to overcome.

4. What does God promise His followers who respond to His love and loyally follow Him on earth?

“These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb” (Rev. 14:4).

The redeemed will _____ the Lamb _____ He goes.

5. What wonderful invitation does God give to each of His children?

“Then He said to me, ‘Write: “Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the lamb!”’ And He said to me, ‘These are the true sayings of God’” (Rev. 19:9).

God’s personal invitation is to be His guests at the _____ of the Lamb.

The marriage supper of the Lamb is the glorious celebration of Christ’s triumph over all the forces of evil and His victory over all the powers of hell.

6. Read the verses below and fill in the blanks with the symbols that describe Jesus.

“But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light” (Rev. 21:22, 23).

The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its _____ .

The _____ of God illuminated it. And the Lamb is its _____ .

In your own words, write what it means that in the new earth the Lamb is the temple and the Lamb is the light.

7. Where are our names written when we accept Jesus as our Savior?

“But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life” (Rev. 21:27).

Our names are written in the _____ Book of _____ .

What great news! When we come to Jesus our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. Through the sacrifice of the slain Lamb our condemnation is gone; we have the gift of eternal life now. As we follow Him we will sing His praises here on earth. And one day, we will rejoice with the saints of all ages throughout eternity at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

July Birthday Celebrants

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 6 Tony Hermosillo | 18 Gloria Lopez |
| 8 Kim Han | 19 Gilberto Ortiz |
| 11 Ed Aronson | |
| 16 Sandra Martinez | |
| 17 Ramona San Miguel | |
| Fernando Mora | |



Bible Study

Read *John 3:14,15*. in verse 14, what does it mean that “the Son of man must be lifted up?” *John 12:32, 33*. When Moses lifted up the serpent, what did the people need to do to live? *Numbers 21:8, 9* (also read verses 4-7 for context).

Therefore might we not interpret “believe” in *John 3:15* as beholding with the eye of faith the great sacrifice for sinners upon the cross?

Why the symbol of a serpent (or snake)? Doesn't the serpent represent Satan (see *Revelation 12:9*)? Compare *Galatians 3:13* with *Genesis 3:14*. Also see *2 Corinthians 5:21*. As the originator of salvation from sin, Christ evidently needed to become fully identified with the originator of sin. The use of the serpent may also point to some of the accusations made against Christ. (See, for example, *Matthew 12:24*).

- By *Timber Zwonkin*

Soquel Camp Meeting Calendar of Events

July 16

July 16 Opening Night at 7:00 p.m.

July 18

Adult Sabbath School at 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service with Ron Smith at 10:45 a.m.

Afternoon Concert in the Main Auditorium at 3:00 p.m.

Evening Meeting with Ron Smith at 7:00 p.m.

July 19

Morning and Afternoon Seminars Begin at 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

ABC Book Sale in the Main Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.

July 25

Adult Sabbath School at 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service with Mark Finley at 10:45 a.m.

Afternoon Concert in the Main Auditorium at 3:00 p.m.

Closing Meeting with Mark Finley at 7:00pm

Health Nugget

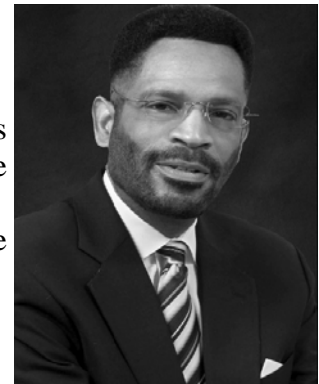
It is the custom and order of society to take a slight breakfast. But this is not the best way to treat the stomach. At breakfast time, the stomach is in a better condition to take care of more food than at the second or third meal of the day. The habit of eating a sparing breakfast and a large dinner is wrong. Make your breakfast correspond more nearly to the heartiest meal of the day.

-*Counsels on Diet and Foods, page 173.*

Soquel Camp Meeting: Victory in Jesus! (July 16-25)

Opening Weekend: July 17 and 18

Ron Smith, executive secretary of the Southern Union, has served his Lord full-time for more than 37 years as a pastor, a vice president of the Review and Herald Publishing Association and editor-in-chief of *Message Magazine*. Along the way he earned two doctoral degrees, one in Ministry and one in Psychology. Yet, he humbly admits that he is nothing without God and he has the scars and testimony to prove it. Described as someone who “can preach the paint off the walls,” his purpose for this life is Jesus and Jesus only!

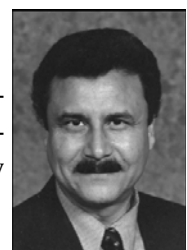


Closing Weekend: July 24 and 25

For Adventists, **Mark Finley** and evangelism are synonymous! Currently a General Conference vice president after serving nearly two years directing the Center for Global Evangelism for the world church, he is best known as a television speaker for *It Is Written* for 20 years and the NET evangelism satellite series. He has preached more than 100 meetings around the globe with baptisms numbering in the thousands. His front-line experiences sharing the three angels' messages reminds his audiences of how great God is and how soon He is coming!

Featured speaker in the Spanish Tent

Armando Miranda Conchos, a general vice president for the General Conference for the past nine years, has spent his adult life serving as a local church pastor and then a conference and union leader for the Mexican Division. His many talents include singing for his Lord and has recorded several albums.



July 2009

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

5	6	7 7pm—Merle’s Bible Study Group	8 7pm—Prayer Meeting	9	10 Sunset: 8:30pm	11 Sunset: 8:29pm Communion Sabbath SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr.
12	13	14 7pm—Merle’s Bible Study Group	15 7pm—Prayer Meeting	16 Start of Soquel Camp Meeting	17 Sunset: 8:26pm Soquel Camp Meeting	18 Sunset: 8:26pm Camp Meeting SP: Pastor Ron Smith
19 Soquel Camp Meeting	20 Soquel Camp Meeting	21 Soquel Camp Meeting	22 Soquel Camp Meeting	23 Soquel Camp Meeting	24 Sunset: 8:22pm Soquel Camp Meeting	25 Sunset: 8:25pm Camp Meeting SP: Pastor Mark Finley End of Camp Meeting
26	27	28 7pm—Merle’s Bible Study Group	29 7pm—Prayer Meeting	30	31 Sunset: 8:16pm	August 1 Sunset: 8:15pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. Potluck Sabbath 2pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class
2	3	4 7pm—Merle’s Bible Study Group	5 7pm—Prayer Meeting	6	7 Sunset: 8:09pm	8 Sunset: 8:08pm 9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr. 4:15pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class

Sunset times taken from <http://www.sunrisesunset.com> for location: San Jose, CA



San Jose Central
Seventh-day Adventist Church



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E-mail: 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.