



Sunnyside News is a weekly publication designed to inform members and subscribers of our current news and events

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 25, 2010

PASTOR'S NOTES

FULL STEAM AHEAD

Our new church facility is teeming with activity. This morning there were ten work trucks in the parking lot and multiple crews at work inside. Our new church is rapidly taking shape. The reason? The city of Fresno granted us a building permit this week. We've been waiting for this to happen for several months and now that it is approved, we're off to the races on renovation. We'll do our best to provide you with pictures and descriptions of the progress each week. Believe me, it is going to get a lot more exciting as we see all the plans for our new church finally come to life. I highly encourage you to stop by during the week and take a peek inside.

CHURCH WORK BEE & BUSINESS MEETING

Two events regarding our church will be held on Sunday, March 28... First, there will be a work bee from 8:00—noon. Brings shovels and rakes. A very important church business meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. We want to bring you up to speed on what is happening with the church renovation and the plans for the next few months. BYOC – bring your own chair.

EASTER SERVICE

Join us on Easter morning, April 4, at 9:30 a.m., for our annual Resurrection Celebration at Fresno Adventist Academy. There will be a worship service followed by brunch and an egg hunt for the kids.

STEVEN MOSLEY

Steven Mosley will be at Sunnyside on April 17. He will present a one-man drama entitled "The Chosen Garment: The Whole Bible in One Act." In this dramatic live presentation, Steven will take us on a whirlwind tour of the Bible that is both humorous and deeply moving. Here is what Lenden Webb's father, Jere Webb, had to say about "The Chosen Garment": "Wow! Fantastic! I have spent almost 30 years as a Pastor/Evangelist and never seen anything quite the equal of what Steve is doing. Content and presentation were a '10!' Steve's presentation opens up new vistas of opportunity for the Gospel to break into a hardened secular culture that demands excellence and dramatic appeal." You can see a preview of "The Chosen Garment" at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4JFb9gKJzA>.

JUDY HAWKINS UPDATE

Here is an excerpt from an e-mail from Heidi Polston, Judi Hawkin's daughter:

"Mom is healing a little bit each day. Her spirits seem good. We found out yesterday that it is going to be at least another six weeks before she can put any weight on her legs. She is doing great with upper body and transfers from her bed to the wheelchair. She will remain at Meadows Rehabilitation/Skilled Nursing facility for at least six to eight weeks. It's a miracle she will have use of her legs at all. Her bones are healing slowly, partially due to the severity of the breaks and partially due to her diabetes. Her mind is healing and her thoughts and speech are becoming more clear even though she still gets confused at times. As the brain continues to heal her mind/memory will continue to get better. Please thank everyone in the Sunnyside church for their prayers and to continue praying. Dad and I were looking at the pictures of the accident again this morning and are continually amazed that mom is still with us today. God wrapped His hand around mom and protected her. Her life on earth is not finished yet. Even though we go through times of discouragement we are at the same time hopeful and thankful."

MY BLAB

Chris Burkhart has developed a social networking site for Christians. It is like Facebook, but specifically for believers. It is called My Blab (Be Linked As Believers). You can check it out and sign-up at <http://myblab.com/>.

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WORSHIP CELEBRATION

**March 27, 2010
11:00 A.M.**

**“Great is Thy
Faithfulness”**

**Welcome
Pastor Dennis Ray**

**“Come, Now is the Time
to Worship”
“Breathe on Me”
“We Have Come into
this Place”**

**Prayer
Cheryl Crouch**

Offering

**Children’s Story
Linda Barron**

**“A Quiet Place”
Yvette Kerbs**

**The First Supper
Pastor Ray**

Communion

Benediction

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, MARCH 28
Work Bee – New Church 8:00 a.m.
Cradle Roll/Kindergarten Hike 9:30 a.m.
Church Meeting – New Church 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30
Adventurer Club 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31
Deadline for Bulletin info: bulletin-
staff@sunnysidesda.org 6:00 p.m.

SABBATH, APRIL 3
Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Sunset

This Friday 7:16 p.m.	Next Friday 7:21 p.m.
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PREACHING SCHEDULE

**April 3 — Pastor Ray
April 10 — Pastor Ray
April 17 — Steven Mosley**

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY

March Approved Budget	\$21,400.00
Amount Received	13,853.45
Over (Short)	(7,546.55)
YTD Approved Budget	\$64,200.00
Amount Received	41,611.18
Over (Short)	(22,588.82)
Youth Pastor Fund	\$29,354.89
Church Building Fund	\$356,503.76
Children’s Story Offering	\$1,988.10

This Week’s Offering

Conference Faith Advance

YOUTH EVENTS

WHAT’S HAPPENIN’

...IN APRIL

April 2 — Vespers @ FAA
April 9 — Vespers - TBA
April 17— Basketball & Gym Night @ FAA



...IN MAY

May 1 — Social @ the Turleys’
May 7 — Vespers - TBA
May 8 — Fundraising Mothers’ Day Dinner & Show
May 22 — Youth Sabbath

...IN JUNE

June 4-6 — FAA Graduation Weekend
June 11 — Vespers - TBA
June 13 — Fundraising Car Wash
June 26 — Mini Golf



HEALTHY BYTES

"Those who fail to take time to be healthy, will ultimately have to take time to be sick." - James Chappell, DC,ND, Ph.D.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HERITAGE SINGERS LIVE IN CONCERT! This Saturday at 6pm



"Without A Doubt What God Has Done" - An Evening with the Heritage Singers at Fresno Adventist Academy (5397 E Olive Ave).

The Heritage Singers is a group of professional Christian musicians who have dedicated themselves to using their talents in service for Christ. Known and loved all over the world, these singers will thrill your hearts.

WORK BEE & CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING — THIS SUNDAY

The **work bee will be 8:00am to noon.** The **business meeting will begin at 5:30pm** and is a very important meeting regarding the remodeling project for our new church. The meeting will be in the sanctuary at the new church on Maroa. Bring folding chairs for seating. Come a little early and tour the entire facility. The meeting will finish by 7:30 since lighting inside the building is limited.



PLASTIC EGGS & TREATS NEEDED

Donations are being accepted for Sunnyside's annual Easter egg hunt: plastic Easter eggs, small individually wrapped candy, jelly beans or small novelty toy items (like those found at "dollar stores"). A box will be available in back of the church foyer for the next few weeks.

ANNUAL WOMEN'S TEA



Save the date for Sunnyside Women's Ministry Tea & Thee. Our annual tea will be **Sunday, April 25.** We have some plans for a fun and exciting afternoon. Talk to Sherry Marsh (224-9005), if you would like to host a table.

BRING YOUR BANK TO CHURCH THIS SABBATH

Please, turn in your church bank on the last Sabbath of each month. To receive a donation receipt, a label-maker will be provided to put your name on your bank.



EASTER MORNING SERVICE

Come and celebrate the Lord's resurrection with your church family at Sunnyside's 7th Annual Easter Service at the FAA Mansion picnic grounds. Join us for a light breakfast starting at **9:30am, Sunday, April 4** followed by a celebration in music and a short sermon. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic blankets. Kids, don't forget your baskets for the Easter egg hunt!



THE CHOSEN GARMENT

On **Sabbath, April 17,** the worship service will feature Steven Mosley's "The Chosen Garment", the whole Bible in one act. In this dramatic presentation Steven Mosley takes you on a whirlwind tour of the Bible that's both humorous and deeply moving. Scripture becomes an epic, highlighted by the garments of patriarchs, prophets and kings. It comes to a climax when the Chosen Garment of Christ is laid on our shoulders.

FUA/FAA ANNUAL ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND! - begins on Friday, April 23 with the Alumni Golf Tournament. Enjoy a great round of golf and fellowship with friends & Alumni while helping to provide funds for Fresno Adventist Academy. You don't have to be alumni to play. Invite your family & friends. Registration for the Alumni Reunion starts at 10:00 a.m. Sabbath, April 24. The Reunion Service will begin at 10:45, followed by a potluck dinner in the Alumni Room of the Ricchiuti Auditorium. Please bring your favorite dish to share! For more information, contact Richelle (559) 251-5548 ext. 145.

S.H.A.R.E.S./GOODSEARCH DOLLARS — Thank you to all who are supporting our church renovation by using these programs. So far we have raised \$304 through S.H.A.R.E.S. by shopping at Save Mart & FoodMaxx. Using GoodSearch.com has raised \$72.73 by shopping and searches. If you load in the GoodSearch toolbar, you will see how easy it is to shop on eBay, Amazon.com and many other stores with a percentage going to our church. If you need a S.H.A.R.E.S. card contact Todd Bristol at tlbristol@hotmail.com.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT — Central California Conference Spring Young Adult Retreat 2010 "One Blood" is planned for April 2-4 at Camp Wawona. This year's retreat features a diverse group of local speakers from different walks of Adventism. Register online at: <http://donations.cccsda.com>.

COMPANION & LIGHT HOUSEKEEPING NEEDED

Christian elderly woman is looking for someone to provide light housekeeping, take her on errands and companionship. If you are interested, please call Mildred Vitali (674-8372).

GETTING TO KNOW OUR FRIENDS & FAMILY
Building Lives Through Relationships...



Nicole & Sandra Barron

Barbara Bohlman



THE LAST WORD

CARL'S GARDEN *(submitted by Arland Finney)*

Carl was a quiet man. He didn't talk much. He would always greet you with a big smile and a firm handshake. Even after living in our neighborhood for over 50 years, no one could really say they knew him very well. Before his retirement, he took the bus to work each morning. The lone sight of him walking down the street often worried us.

He had a slight limp from a bullet wound received in WWII. Watching him, we worried that although he had survived WWII, he may not make it through our changing uptown neighborhood with its ever-increasing random violence, gangs, and drug activity.

When he saw the flyer at our local church asking for volunteers for caring for the gardens behind the minister's residence, he responded in his characteristically unassuming manner. Without fanfare, he just signed up.

He was well into his 87th year when the very thing we had always feared finally happened. He was just finishing his watering for the day when three gang members approached him. Ignoring their attempt to intimidate him, he simply asked, "Would you like a drink from the hose?"

The tallest and toughest-looking of the three said, "Yeah, sure," with a malevolent little smile. As Carl offered the hose to him, the other two grabbed Carl's arm, throwing him down. As the hose snaked crazily over the ground, dousing everything in its way, Carl's assailants stole his retirement watch and his wallet, and then fled.

Carl tried to get himself up, but he had been thrown down on his bad leg. He lay there trying to gather himself as the minister came running to help him. Although the minister had witnessed the attack from his window, he couldn't get there fast enough to stop it. "Carl, are you okay? Are you hurt?" the minister kept asking as he helped Carl to his feet.

Carl just passed a hand over his brow and sighed, shaking his head. "Just some punk kids. I hope they'll wise-up someday." His wet clothes clung to his slight frame as he bent to pick up the hose. He adjusted the nozzle again and started to water. Confused and a little concerned, the minister asked, "Carl, what are you doing?" "I've got to finish my watering. It's been very dry lately," came the calm reply. Satisfying himself that Carl really was all right, the minister could only marvel. Carl was a man from a different time and place.

A few weeks later the three returned. Just as before their threat was unchallenged. Carl again offered them a drink from his hose. This time they didn't rob him. They wrenched the hose from his hand and drenched him head to foot in the icy water.

When they had finished their humiliation of him, they sauntered off down the street, throwing catcalls and curses, falling over one another laughing at the hilarity of what they had just done. Carl just watched them. Then he turned toward the warmth giving sun, picked up his hose, and went on with his watering.

The summer was quickly fading into fall Carl was doing some tilling when he was startled by the sudden approach of someone behind him. He stumbled and fell into some evergreen branches. As he struggled to regain his footing, he turned to see the tall leader of his summer tormentors reaching down for him. He braced himself for the expected attack.

"Don't worry old man, I'm not gonna hurt you this time." The young man spoke softly, still offering the tattooed and scarred hand to Carl. As he helped Carl get up, the man pulled a crumpled bag from his pocket and handed it to Carl. "What's this?" Carl asked. "It's your stuff," the man explained. "It's your stuff back. Even the money in your wallet.. " "I don't understand," Carl said. "Why would you help me now?"

The man shifted his feet, seeming embarrassed and ill at ease. "I learned something from you," he said. "I ran with that gang and hurt people like you we picked you because you were old and we knew we could do it. But every time we came and did something to you, instead of yelling and fighting back, you tried to give us a drink. You didn't hate us for hating you. You kept showing love against our hate." He stopped for a moment. "I couldn't sleep after we stole your stuff, so here it is back." He paused for another awkward moment, not knowing what more there was to say. "That bag's my way of saying thanks for straightening me out, I guess." And with that, he walked off down the street.

Carl looked down at the sack in his hands and gingerly opened it. He took out his retirement watch and put it back on his wrist. Opening his wallet, he checked for his wedding photo. He gazed for a moment at the young bride that still smiled back at him from all those years ago.

Carl died one cold day after Christmas that winter. Many people attended his funeral in spite of the weather. In particular the minister noticed a tall young man that he didn't know sitting quietly in a distant corner of the church. The minister spoke of Carl's garden as a lesson in life. In a voice made thick with unshed tears, he said, "Do your best and make your garden as beautiful as you can. We will never forget Carl and his garden."

The following spring another flyer went up. It read: "Person needed to care for Carl's garden." The flyer went unnoticed by the busy parishioners until one day when a knock was heard at the minister's office door. Opening the door, the minister saw a pair of scarred and tattooed hands holding the flyer. "I believe this is my job, if you'll have me," the young man said. The minister recognized him as the same young man who had returned the stolen watch and wallet to Carl.

He knew that Carl's kindness had turned this man's life around. As the minister handed him the keys to the garden shed, he said, "Yes, go take care of Carl's garden and honor him."

The man went to work and, over the next several years, he tended the flowers and vegetables just as Carl had done. During that time, he went to college, got married, and became a prominent member of the community. But he never forgot his promise to Carl's memory and kept the garden as beautiful as he thought Carl would have kept it.

One day he approached the new minister and told him that he couldn't care for the garden any longer. He explained with a shy and happy smile, "My wife just had a baby boy last night, and she's bringing him home on Saturday."

"Well, congratulations!" said the minister, as he was handed the garden shed keys. "That's wonderful! What's the baby's name?" "Carl," he replied.

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO...**

Isela Reza-Rogers (3/27)
Cory Colombini (3/29)
Donna Larsen (3/30)
Sandra Barrón (3/31)
Nathaneal Rogers (3/31)
Matthew van Putten
(3/31)
Sherry Marsh (4/1)
Todd Cornwell (4/2)
Collette Ignacio (4/2)
Ben Ovando Sr. (4/2)
Valerie Roberts (4/2)

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
TO...**