



TEXICO UPDATE

January 26, 2012

"12 in 12!"

We are excited to share a God inspired initiative planned for this year. It's called "12 in 12." You might ask, "What does this mean?" In 2012 we have the opportunity to reach the 12,000 member mark in the Texico Conference. The top priority within our Conference continues to be reaching people for Jesus. We currently have 11,613 Seventh-day Adventist members in our West Texas and New Mexico territory. We praise God that in 2011, 443 became a part of our church family by baptism and profession of faith and 34 additional people were reported rebaptisms. Praise God! Our great multicultural, diverse family is growing and looking forward to the soon coming of Jesus.

In May, we will partner with Southwestern Adventist University School of Theology in an evangelistic field school which will impact an entire city. For El Paso, this will be their greatest year of soul winning. Then in September and October there will be the "West Texas for Jesus" evangelistic meetings taking place throughout the region. Our goal is to have an evangelistic meeting in each of our West Texas churches simultaneously. The Southwestern Union Conference will also be partnering with us in providing funding and speakers. Let's begin praying for this event that the Holy Spirit will work mightily in preparing the hearts of those who will be attending so the seeds of truth will be implanted in fertile soil. As we work together this year, ask God what you can do to help bring souls to the saving knowledge of Christ. We solicit your prayers daily at 7 A.M. for the outpouring of His Spirit on our leadership, ministers, members, and region. Only prayer will give us success.

Albuquerque, NM: This Christmas the Albuquerque North Valley special events youth team wanted to do its part to remind the community that "Jesus is the true reason for the season." On December 17th, they presented a Christmas concert involving musicians from local churches. "What better way to touch people's hearts than through music," said Aron Monge, North Valley youth elder. "Each song reminded us of the hope we find in Jesus's birth and His commitment to save us." More than two hundred people gathered in Albuquerque's Old Town Plaza to enjoy the concert. Spectators listened to the narration of the Christmas story, a variety of Christmas hymns and watched a special performance by the Sandia View Elementary creative arts team. The highlight of the evening was the program's grand finale in which members of the audience joined together to sing 'Joy



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to the World.' "It was wonderful to see bystanders who were in the middle of their Christmas shopping, stop and join us in song," said Monge, "It was a great opportunity to reach believers and non-believers alike and I hope we get the opportunity to do this again." North Valley's special event youth team is committed to expanding their community outreach efforts and plans to do the concert again next year. Submitted by Sam and Debbie Covarrubias



Santa Fe, NM: "This is long overdue," "We can accomplish so much more working together," "I'm excited, this will give us the strength to do something special," and "We need people power to reach the people of Santa Fe," are just some of the reactions of Adventist church members in the city to the recent forming of a joint Community Service Task Force to coordinate the church's outreach to the capital of New Mexico.

Church pastors of the four city churches, Daniel Villalva and Leonard Cummings, convened a meeting of church elders last October to present the idea of establishing joint commissions for church ministry. The result was the creation of the Community Services Task



Force and a Youth Ministries Council. Both committees have begun meeting on a regular basis and are planning an active calendar of events to add value to the lives of young people, as well as, to needy families in Santa Fe.



The Community Service Task Force began its work by coordinating evening meals at the local Interfaith Homeless Shelter during the first week of January.

Seven evening meals were prepared by church members and then teams of eight persons each night served as volunteers at the shelter to serve the meals, greet guests and help them get settled for the night. Well over 500 meals were served during the week. The Task Force has committed to providing meals on a quarterly basis during the year. The four churches--Airport Road, Marcy Park, Rabbit Road and Southwest--alternated during the week to provide the meals to approximately 75 people each night.

More than 20 young people from the youth group signed up to help serve the meals and generally help around the Shelter. During the evenings they could be found preparing food in the kitchen, registering guests, checking baggage or handing out sleeping bags and mats. Many of the guests, as well as, shelter managers commented on the happy faces and helpful hands of the young people. "I've never worked with such a happy group of people before," said one of the kitchen supervisors.



What else is on the agenda for the Task Force? Bringing the homeless to an Adventist church for a Sabbath morning breakfast and spiritual talk, adult education classes, clothing drives, assistance to other homeless shelters and much more. "The joining of forces provides resources we never knew existed," says Rabbit Road Community Service Director, Bernadette Lopez. "And we have fun and gain so many blessings from helping others."

"Only good can come out of this turn of events," says Pastor Villalva. "Santa Fe is a very important territory in the Texico Conference and this will help God's family to grow in generosity and spirituality." Pastor Cummings adds "I've been thrilled to see God's people working together to a common goal. We can expect good things to happen in Santa Fe as a result." Submitted by Allen Steele

Rio Rancho, NM: One of the specifications for the Pathfinder personal evangelism honor is to spend time evangelizing people in hospitals, nursing homes or assisted living centers. Pathfinders from Rio Rancho have been learning about their Creator, as well as, witnessing at our local nursing home.

Sabbath, January 7th was one of those times. The Rio Rancho Ranger club joined with other members of our church to bring smiles to those of an older generation at a local rehabilitation center. After a wonderfully rousing song service, we were blessed to see their radiant, glowing faces. We prayed with the group and talked with each individual.



Later that afternoon, we drove out west of Rio Rancho to explore some rock formations in the

desert. We were truly and abundantly blessed to see how great God's creation is! Spending time in the quiet open air refreshed and rejuvenated us physically and also spiritually.

Fortunately, we did not have to use any of the first aid techniques we have been learning. God gave us a beautiful Sabbath day and each of us received a special blessing. Praise God for His mighty acts and wondrous creation and may He come soon to put an end to all suffering! Submitted by Sanna Ortega



Lubbock Junior Academy: Remembering is always good for our students. On Friday, December 13, we took time to remember the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The morning worship recalled a time when a young Martin played with two white neighborhood boys. When Martin and his two friends began to attend school, the friends didn't play together anymore. This was a puzzling and hurtful experience for Martin. However, his father told him he was as good as anyone else and to always do his best in all that he did.

We were able to watch some vintage film depicting the Montgomery Bus Boycott which officially started on December 1, 1955. That was the day when African-Americans of Montgomery, decided that they would boycott the city buses until they could sit anywhere they wanted, instead of being relegated to the back when a white person boarded. Our students loved watching the empty buses driving on the streets while the African Americans walked.

In the afternoon, we spent time participating in a service project. The infamous Texas winds had blown trash all over the school and church property. Our students picked up and threw away the trash.



Remembering the life of a young man who gave his life for a cause bigger than himself, acts of non-violent behavior and helping others is something we want our students to make a part of their lives. Submitted by Susan Zimmermann

Testimonial from a New Member

As our family was preparing to move from Phoenix, Arizona back to Albuquerque, New Mexico, I told them, "It's time for us to find a church. We want to follow what God wants us to do." I went to many different churches looking for the true church, but hadn't found it yet. One day as I sat in a laundromat with my young adult grandsons, Jonathan and Rico, I noticed that there was some kind of colorful brochure being kicked around by passersby on the floor. Finally, I told Rico to go and pick it up. Rico looked and saw it was advertising some kind of church meeting on the topic of Revelation by Dr. Jim Stevens in Rio Rancho, NM. Immediately becoming interested, he asked if they could attend. Night after night of the meetings we were learning truths from the Bible that amazed

us. I had read my Bible through four times already, but had been praying that God would open my eyes and heart to understand it. The messages presented became so clear that it couldn't be denied that it was truth from God's Word. I and my two grandsons were happy to be baptized at the conclusion of the meetings and join the fellowship of the Rio Rancho SDA Church.

Right away our lives began to change and we also see God making changes little by little in and through us. It wasn't long before my four sisters and their families began noticing a change saying, "There is something different about you and the boys. I don't know what it is, but something has changed."

Jonathan, who used to be shy and didn't talk much, now began to blossom in the church. Instead of being introverted, right away he started getting to know people in the church by walking up and engaging them in a conversation. Not only was he getting to know people, but he has become active in serving the church in many different ways, such as collecting the tithe and offerings, helping set up and clean up for functions and being a greeter. I and my family are amazed that Jonathan, who did not talk much, now enjoys greeting members and visitors as they come in the door on Sabbath mornings.

Rico had been seeking God through His Word and Christian radio programs. One day, about three years before the Revelation seminar, He heard a speaker on the radio talk about returning a tithe of our money to the Lord. Being willing to do whatever God wanted him to do, he began saving his tithe, but didn't know what to do with it. On the day of his baptism, Rico was excited to be able to give the three year's worth of tithe that he had saved to God. He knew that this is where God had led them and this would be where he would give his money to the Lord.

We have realized that it's impossible to keep this "Good News" to ourselves. There are many times I have been in the store and without even realizing it, I am sharing my testimony with total strangers, as well as, my neighbors and family. Every day I call my four sisters to see how they are doing. Many times they ask me to tell them what I have been learning at church and in the Bible, so I share many things about God with them. I keep telling them that they must give themselves to God because time is getting short.

Rico made friends with an elderly man of 95 years by the name of Wilbur when he volunteered at a nursing home in the Phoenix area about two ago. Rico takes notes at every meeting and worship service so he can put it in a letter and share it with Wilbur. This man has now been through two complete evangelistic meetings by this method, as well as, many sermons and Bible studies given



by our pastor, Eric Redic. Rico's friendship is an encouragement to Wilbur and he looks forward to receiving his letters and phone calls.

We can't help but praise God for what He is doing in our lives! It has been almost two years now since our baptism and everything has changed, including the music we listen to, what we watch, our eating habits, our attitudes and our lifestyles. We are learning to trust God and let Him lead in every aspect of our lives. He has brought us through difficult times with the loss of my mother and husband, but I know that He is faithful and will turn all our sadness into joy as we lean on Him. Submitted by Sue Hinkle as told to her by Velma Black

Statements from an Adventist Student

Sandia View Academy students will be going to Costa Rica for their annual mission trip this year. From March 6-25, they will be holding evangelistic series at 13 different sites in the Province of Puerto Limón. Twenty-four of our thirty-two students are planning on going, as well as, two non-SVA high school students and four parents. Along with two sponsors, the total number going on the mission trip will be 32.

The following statement comes from student, Olivia Gurule (Junior) regarding their upcoming adventure. "I've seen God at work in this year's mission trip. Even though it hasn't happened yet, almost our entire school is going! Everyone is really excited. Money keeps coming in and everyone is getting ready to be a huge blessing in Costa Rica. Last year in the Philippines, our group had over three-hundred baptisms. This year we are ready to more than double that number!"



In our Adventist schools, the students receive not only top notch academics, but also are being trained to serve God and reach others for Christ. Let's pray for these individuals as they embark on this mission of spreading the Gospel in Costa Rica.

Upcoming Texico Events

February	10th-11th 23rd	Winter Youth Rally - El Paso, TX SVA Constituency Meeting, Corrales, NM
March	23rd-25th 30th-April 1	Lay Pastoral Assistant Training, Corrales, NM Master Guide Survival Camp - Canon Plaza, NM
April	8th 22nd	ACT Testing, Corrales, NM Pathfinder Fair, Albuquerque, NM
May	4th-6th 6th 11th-June 16th	Fesja Youth Rally - Odessa, TX SAT Testing - Corrales, NM Field School of Evangelism - El Paso, TX
June	1st-3rd 7th-9th	Adventurer Camporee, Blue Water, NM Convocation and Youth Festival (Camp meeting)