

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
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HEEDING THE HEAVENLY VISION

Ivan Rizzo, Bible Worker at the Bronx, New York Church

"Whereupon. . . I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision." Acts 26:19

I was thirteen years old when I became part of a group of young people whose pleasure was to go to parties, drink, dance, and sometimes provoke troubles in the neighborhood.

Eighteen of us gathered every night at a certain place to have fun. One day my friends and I were invited to go to some public meetings held by the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement. As we entered the church, we sat on the last benches. The brethren who were sitting there seemed to be kind of afraid of us when they saw us.

I attended those meetings for twenty days. When they came to an end, I just stopped attending the church services and continued with my old life style. On December 17, 1993, however, I woke up very early as a consequence of a dream I had.

It was 4:30 a.m. As I woke up, I realized that my bed was very wet. My body was shaking because of what I had dreamt. I was sweating as I never had before.



In my dream I saw big holes opening in the sky and I also saw something dark. Suddenly, through those holes big fireballs came down. They were so big that when they hit the earth, the earth shook as if there were an earthquake.

As I saw this, I ran to the church. Right at the corner there was one of the brothers I had seen in the church, and I asked him what was going on. He told me that it was the end of the world. I held onto his arms and asked him fervently to give me Bible studies because I did not want to be left here on this earth and be destroyed. It was so terrifying that I could not sleep anymore. I was very fearful.

The first thing I did the next morning was to go to the house of the brother whom I had seen in the dream. It was 6:30 a.m. I knocked at the door. His mother came and told me he was still in bed.

I asked her to wake him up because it was very urgent for me to speak to him. After my insistence, he came out and I asked him to give me Bible studies. He said that it was okay and that we would be studying once per week, but I suggested it was better to study every day. He did study with me every day.

Since that day I committed myself to the Lord. Like Paul, I decided to pay attention to my dream. Certainly the Lord does great things in human hearts. Since that day my life changed completely. The Lord has given purpose to my life and I have found the answer to many of the "whys" I had before. Oh, yes, the Lord is good to me!

TAMPA, FLORIDA **PREACHER'S SEMINAR**

October 30 and 31, 2004

This was a great success. Elders Benjamin Alejos, Ciro Arevalo, and Idel Suarez, Jr., presented workshops. Elder Arevalo told of a mother in India who sacrificed her healthy twin to a god. "Why didn't you offer your sick child?" asked an astonished

missionary. "Is that what you Christians do?" said the Indian mother. "We always give our best."

Sr. Maggie Troncoso asked, "Do you know just how much it may cost to bring a worker over from another country?" The answer amazed us. "Maybe as much as \$10,000–\$15,000." The more than 50 participants came from Georgia (Acworth) and Florida (Miami, Orlando, and Tampa).

The workshops were as follows: "How to Give a Good Sermon" by Elder Idel Suarez; "Necessity of Personal Evangelism" by Elder Ciro Arevalo; "The Origin of Illness and Its Treatment" by Br. John Theodorou; "The Gift and Art of Preaching" by Br. Amulfo Román; and "Filling the Lord's Storehouses" by Sr. Maggie Troncoso. The service on Sabbath was "In Search of the Lost," by Elder Benjamin Alejos.



CALENDAR

2004-2005

1. Tampa, FL., Southeast Field Conference: December 23 - 25 (Delegates will meet on December 23.)
2. Brooklyn, NY, evangelistic crusade for young people: December 24 - 27
3. International Youth Conference, Sydney, Australia: December 27 - January 2, 2005
4. San Pablo, Brazil, Medical Missionary Seminar: January 18 - 23, 2005
5. American Union Conference, Yucaipa, CA: August 25 - 27, 2005 (Delegates will meet August 23 - 25, 2005.)

Please send us brief but detailed reports of your local events to include in your Newsletter.

AMERICAN UNION CONFERENCE

Don't forget to make your plans to attend the Union Conference which will be held August 25 - 27, 2005.

We are reminding you so you can schedule your vacations accordingly. Details about the conference were sent with the last *Newsletter*.

BUYING YOUR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

The following has been brought to our attention: the little stickers on fruits and vegetables in the supermarkets are to show how the produce you're buying has been grown. A sticker with four digits means the food was conventionally grown. Five digits with an "8" indicate genetically engineered produce (the food's genetic material has been altered), and five digits starting with a "9" means the food was organically grown (without the use of most synthetic fertilizers).

You might want to know what you are eating.

We pray that all of you had a wonderful Week of Prayer and that it will be our goal in the New Year to have a closer walk with the Lord and to "Consider Our Ways." Let us also remember:

O HEAVENLY FATHER

We thank Thee for food
and remember the hungry.
We thank Thee for health
and remember the sick.
We thank Thee for friends
and remember the lonely.
We thank Thee for freedom
and remember the enslaved.
May these remembrances
stir us to service,
That Thy gifts to us
may be used for others.

Amen!

Anonymous



**We wish you the Lord's richest blessings
in the New Year! Keep looking up!**

The *American Union Newsletter* is published monthly for members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement, American Union. This publication is complimentary and carries items of interest submitted by members of the church. We reserve the right to make changes as necessary.

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The original Seventh-day Adventist Movement for Reform of 1914, built upon the firm foundation of the Adventist Movement of 1844.