

American Union Newsletter

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
REFORM MOVEMENT
International Missionary Society

Volume 26, No. 5

May 2010

INVITATION Western Field Conference

August 18-22, 2010
Leoni Meadows Christian Camp and Retreat Center
Grizzly Flats, California

"But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Philippians 4:19, 20.

At a time when economies and governments seem about to have the bottom drop out from under them, it is extremely important for an individual to go back to the words which Jesus spoke some two millennia ago: "... Whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock." Matthew 7:24, 25.

You are invited to attend this year's Western Field Conference. This spiritual gathering is an especially appropriate opportunity to strengthen one's commitment to the eternal principles of the Rock, Christ Jesus. And the conference theme, "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26), promises to raise the thoughts of every attendee above the constant struggles of life and even the worst catastrophes that he or she may face. The conference will begin with dinner and a service on Wednesday evening, August 18. Similar to the program for the American Union Conference last year, workshops will be conducted on Thursday and Friday. And the children can look forward to special activities planned just for them.

Leoni Meadows Christian Camp and Retreat Center is located in a very beautiful setting in the high foothills of the

Sierra Nevada Mountains. Additional information about the Camp is located at www.leonimeadows.org. The recreational facilities include a nature center based on creation natural science, an observatory with an 8" Celestron Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope, a 1/3 scale model train that carries 40 passengers around a 2.2 mile track, and the 1887 Leoni House, which is furnished with 1800s-early 1900s furnishings and memorabilia. There are opportunities for hiking and mountain biking around the property as well.



Delegates' Meetings, August 17

The Western Field delegates will meet on Wednesday, August 17, at 9:00 a.m. at Small Cloud Christian School in Wilton, California. Churches should send the certification of their delegates and also their proposals to the Western Field Secretary, Sister Ruth Moreno, before June 1, 2010. Her mailing address is: 6029 West Avenue J-4, Lancaster, CA 93536.

For questions, feel free to email her at ruthie05jr@yahoo.com.

Delegates who need assistance with transportation from the airport and overnight lodging may provide their flight data (date, flight number, time) and any other information to Sister Barbara Watts at barbara.watts@sda1888.org or call 916-765-3389.

Lodging and Meals

There are several different lodging options available:

- 1) Motel-type Lodge Rooms with private bath and all linens supplied.
- 2) Cabins for which one must supply his or her own linens, including sheets, blankets, and pillows. Linens can be rented for \$10 per set.
- 3) An RV-Tent campground with access to hookups, dumping facility, and central restrooms with showers.

Rates for the various facilities are given below.

The cafeteria provides delicious vegan, buffet-style meals. Those in the campground or cabins may bring their own food to prepare themselves.

Costs

Lodge rooms have two queen beds in each room, and all linens are supplied. The rate is \$58.95 per night for single occupancy and \$9.00 for each additional person per night; family rate is \$76.95 per night. **No food is allowed in the Lodge.**

The **Cabins** each have 4 bunk beds, table, chairs, shower, toilet, sink, and kitchenette. *Guests must bring their own linens, including pillows, sheets, pillowcases, blankets, and towels.* Those who wish to use the kitchenette must bring their own kitchen pots and utensils. The rate per night is \$41.40 for up to 5 people, and \$8.10 for each additional person up to 8.

Each **Campground** space for RV/tent is \$18.00 per night.

The **meal rates** are \$9.00 per meal for ages 11 and older; children ages 4-10 are charged \$6.20 per meal; and children 1-3 are free. You may register for the meals you wish to purchase and are free to bring your own food, but **please remember that no food is permitted in the Lodge.** The first meal to be served for the public conference will be dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 18, with the first meeting to begin at 7:00 p.m.

Reservations

For lodging and meal reservations, submit your completed Registration Form (available at www.sda1888.com) to:

Leoni Meadows Christian Camp & Retreat Center
P.O. Box 400
Grizzly Flats, CA 95636-0400
Fax 530-626-8524

Full payment is required to be sent with the Reservation Form and is non-refundable and non-transferable. Payment by credit or debit card is also accepted. The **deadline for registration is August 6, 2010.**

Directions

For **air travel**, book your flight to the Sacramento, CA, International Airport. Notify Sister Barbara Watts, 916-765-3389, of your flight arrangements if you need someone to help you with transportation. Please plan to arrive before 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 18, and be prepared to share in the transportation expense. The Camp is located approximately 2 hours from the airport.

By **car**, from Sacramento, take Highway 50 toward South Lake Tahoe. Exit the freeway at Missouri Flat Road



(before Placerville), turn right, and continue to Highway 49. Turn left, and drive through Diamond Springs. Continue straight ahead for 5.2 miles to Bucks Bar Road. Turn right, and continue for 4.8 miles to Somerset. Go through Somerset on Grizzly Flats Road, and stay on this road for 12.2 miles (the name of the road changes to String Canyon Road at mile 8.6; stay to the left). At the stop sign, turn right onto Sciaroni Road. There is a post office across the street. Go 0.3 miles to the dead end. Turn left (green county road signs point to Leoni Meadows). The road narrows to one lane for ¼ mile. At the bottom of the hill, keep left. This is Leoni Road. Continue 3 miles to the Leoni Meadows turnoff at a large wooden Leoni Meadows sign. Turn right, and go 1 mile. The registration lodge is the first large building on the left after the houses.

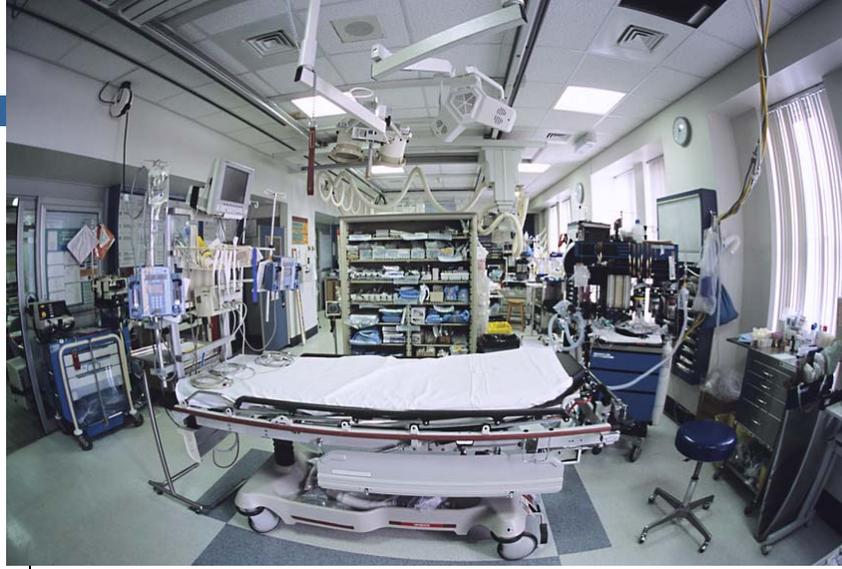
Please note that no other routes into Leoni Meadows Christian Camp and Retreat Center are recommended.

Gold Tried in the Fire

David Moreno, Lancaster, CA

After 20 hours of labor, Hadassah Chloe Moreno was born on Sabbath, December 12, 2009, at 9:27 a.m. to Ruthie and me. Hadassah weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces, was 20-5/8 inches long, and entered the world with a full head of hair. After passing all the normal tests and taking a few days to rest and recover in the hospital, Ruthie and Hadassah were finally discharged on Tuesday, December 15. As we happily drove little Hadassah home that night, everything seemed perfect. We could not know the heartache that lay just ahead.

Late the next night, we knew something was wrong. Hadassah had become extremely lethargic. We couldn't get her to wake up or eat. Anxiously, we gathered up our precious little bundle, made a few hurried phone calls, and headed back to the hospital—this time to Lancaster's emergency room. There, for six hours, we waited and prayed. Finally, the doctors informed us that they felt it best to airlift her to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Northridge. Stunned, Ruthie and I poured out our hearts to God on behalf of our little daughter. Deep down we believed that God had given Hadassah to us as a gift and that He wouldn't take her away like this. But a verse from the book of Job came to mind: "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Job 1:21. We agreed we needed to have the faith of Job. We would have to be content in *all* things, including this experience, as the apostle Paul instructs in Philippians 4:11. No matter what the outcome, we asked that His



will would be done "in earth, as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10.

The drive to Northridge early that Thursday morning seemed endless. We had not eaten anything since the previous day. We'd not slept all night. The pressure of not fully knowing what was wrong with Hadassah weighed heavily on us. Question after question raced through our minds. We hadn't been parents for a full week, yet we were quickly learning some of the trials parents must face.

Upon our arrival at the hospital in Northridge, we were told that Hadassah was dehydrated. We had been expecting something so much worse that this news was really, in a way, wonderful for us to hear! The specialists there monitored her for a few more days, gave us instructions for continuing her care and finally, finally, released us. Once again,

we were on our way home as a family.

The Lord has many ways to test us; but no matter what the test, we must pass it. We are not graded on our performance but simply with a "pass or fail." Our characters must be tried in the fire in order to become purified. The Spirit of prophecy tells us: "The Lord's eye is upon His people, and His ear listens to their cries. Their affliction [may be] great, the flames of the furnace [may] seem about to consume them; but the Refiner will bring them forth as gold tried in the fire. God's love for His children during the period of their severest trial is as strong and tender as in the days of their sunniest prosperity; but it is needful for them to be placed in the furnace fire; their earthliness must be consumed that the image of Christ may be perfectly reflected." *The Great Controversy*, p. 621.

This is our experience. Thank you for sharing it with us. We firmly believe that God gave us our little Hadassah, not only for us to enjoy and love but also that her life will be of service to Him. We pray that she will continually bring honor and glory to His name. Amen.



RLPA Close-out and Inventory Reduction Sale

To make way for new products, Religious Liberty Publishing Association is closing out a number of items that will no longer be offered for sale. While supplies last, they are being offered at very low prices. Some of these items will be digitized and placed under the Resources tab on the American Union website; however, others will not be. So, now is the time to purchase these items for your personal and church libraries.

Other items that are going to be redesigned are also being offered at low prices to clear out the current stock. They will be offered at regular prices in the future.

A Close-out and Inventory Reduction Sale 2010 catalog has been mailed out to churches, groups, and individuals. It is also available in pdf format on the website. Feel free to print and share as many copies as you wish.

Orders may be placed by mailing the Order Form found on page 8 of the catalog, or by going to the Store tab on the American Union website, sda1888.org, in which case the order may be paid for by debit or credit card.

A catalog of all regular items is being prepared. Meanwhile, take advantage of the low, low prices to purchase publications for personal study, sharing, and outreach.



Religious Liberty
Publishing Association

*Close-out and
Inventory Reduction Sale
2010*



**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE LOW PRICES
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE ONLINE STORE AT SDA1888.ORG

PLEASE POST THIS CATALOG ON YOUR CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD



Calling All Mountaineers!

Christian Nelson, Wilton, CA

Last year, just before the American Union Conference, a group of eight people from Australia, Canada, and the United States left civilization and braved California's rugged wilderness. For four days this group of men and women hiked, climbed, and explored Mokelumne's back country. The grueling terrain tested them physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Each person, having experienced a closer walk with Jesus, returned from the trip with much more than just beautiful memories.

Another trip is planned for August 12–17. If you are interested in participating in this year's mountain adventure, please contact Christian Nelson at 916-212-6468 or imapilgrim_cn@msn.com. It will be a trip you will never forget!

Vacation Bible School Invitation

News from the Education Department
by Margie Seely, AU Education Leader

Does your church wish to begin a Christian school? Are there families in your church who would like to begin homeschooling but are not sure how to start? From June 28 to August 6, 2010, the AU Education Department is available to conduct a week-long Vacation Bible School and Christian Education Workshop series at your church (first come, first served). The Vacation Bible School classes will be held in the morning (from approximately 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon) for one week, with a closing program on Friday evening. From Monday through Thursday, Education Workshops will be held each afternoon or evening.

If your church wishes to participate in this program, five things are required:

- 1) Commit to praying daily for this endeavor, beginning now!
- 2) Provide a minimum of two volunteers (three would be best, and at least one must be an adult) who are willing to teach children between the ages of 4 and 12. No experience is necessary. (At least one of the volunteers must speak English.)
- 3) Advertise in your local area at least three weeks before the program is scheduled to begin.
- 4) Send a registration check or money order for \$300 to help the Education Department cover the cost of supplies for the Vacation Bible School and the Education Workshops. (Checks should be made payable to the International Missionary Society, with VBS/Workshops written on the "For" line.)
- 5) Fill out the following form and return it, along with the registration payment, to Margie Seely, P.O. Box 1044, Wilton, CA 95693-1044.



Education Department VBS and Workshop Registration Form

Church address: _____

Contact phone number: _____

Dates available for VBS & Workshops (give at least two one-week blocks of time):

Names, email addresses, and phone numbers of VBS volunteers:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Number of people who will be attending the Education Workshops: _____

A Lesson from Jesus

Testimonies for the Church, volume 5, pp. 413-414

Jesus has given us lessons in economy. “Gather up the fragments,” He says, “that nothing be lost.” It would have been better not to undertake so many large enterprises if by this means so many small matters must be left without attention, for the little things are like small screws that keep the machinery from falling to pieces. The word of God explains duty; it gives the rule of faithful service: “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.”



2010 Calendar

- **June 4-6: Northeastern Field Conference in Lebanon, NJ**
For more information see the April 2010 *American Union Newsletter*, available at www.sda1888.org, or call 718-931-0592 or 718-795-3231.
- **June 28-August 6: VBS and Education Workshops at your church**
Details on page 5 of this newsletter.
- **July: Canadian Field Conference**
See www.imssdarm-bg.org for more information.
- **August 3-11: International Youth Conference in Israel**
For more details, visit <http://www.youtube.com/user/asdimores#p/u/1/SPpA20Ewy1U>.
- **August 12-17: California Mountain Trip**
See page 4 of this newsletter for more information.
- **August 17: Western Field Delegates' Meetings at Small Cloud Christian School**
12434 Pear Lane, Wilton, CA. Meetings begin at 9:00 a.m.
- **August 18-22: Western Field Conference at Leoni Meadows, Grizzly Flats, CA**
Details listed on pages 1-2 of this newsletter. The registration form can be downloaded from www.sda1888.org.

The *American Union Newsletter* is the official organ of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement, American Union. It is published monthly, is complimentary for our members and friends, and carries items of interest submitted by church members. We reserve the right to make changes as necessary and to refuse to print certain items.

To submit news, write to *American Union Newsletter*, Margie Seely, Editor, PO Box 1044, Wilton, CA 95640-1044.

Phone: 209-256-1138, E-mail: nutstwigs03@yahoo.com.