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At Rest from His Labors – Pastor Alexander Branko Cholich

October 27, 1918–July 7, 2010

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth: Yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labors: and their works do follow them.”
Revelation 14:13

On Wednesday, July 7, 2010, Pastor Branko Cholich fell asleep in Jesus at the age of 91. Services were held on Monday evening, July 12, and at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 13, at the Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier, California. Pastors Henry Dering and Idel Suárez, Jr., Ph.D., officiated. Pastor Cholich’s nephew, Emil Bainhardt, graced the service with a pictorial eulogy. Although the sun shone brightly, a dark shadow lay over the hearts of those who had come to mourn the loss and remember the legacy of Pastor Cholich.

Born into a Christian family in the formerly communist country of Yugoslavia, at a very early age Pastor Cholich developed a deep love for the gospel message. This love grew and developed into a decision to be baptized in August 1935. Ultimately, it would draw him into service for the Lord, first as a Bible worker and then, from the age of twenty-five until his death, as a minister of the gospel. In this capacity, Pastor Cholich traveled the world fulfilling the mandates of the great commission to “teach all nations” and baptize them “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Matthew 28:19.

At various times in his life, Pastor Cholich called Yugoslavia, Canada, and the United States home. But, wherever his home was, he never failed to open it to a steady stream of visitors. Frequently, especially after the death of his dear wife ten years ago, guests were surprised to learn that the delicious meal they had enjoyed was prepared by Pastor Cholich himself.

Pastor Cholich and his beloved wife, Angelina, enjoyed a long and loving marriage. However, they had no children. This enabled him to pour his love into his work. He found there was much to be done in the Lord’s vineyard and worked tirelessly to accomplish what he could for Jesus. A printer, former law student, and engineer who worked on the Apollo 11 mission, he was above all a Bible student. He shared his knowledge with others at countless seminars and baptismal classes around the world. He also translated the complete nine-volume collection of Ellen G. White’s *Testimonies for the Church* into his native language of Yugoslavian. His administrative

capabilities allowed him to work in various church offices, including American Union President and, most recently, General Conference President from 2002–2007.



Whether sharing the gospel in hostile countries, such as China or Pakistan, or working quietly in the peace of his own home, he put his all into whatever his hand found to do. Ecclesiastes 9:10.

In the summer of 2001, Pastor Cholich spoke at the American Union Conference in Maryland. He described his recent travels to Pakistan and the difficulties faced there by those who want to follow Jesus. And then he

asked a most pressing question. “How long will you continue to send an old man around the world? Who will take up the work?”

Now as Pastor Cholich rests in his dusty grave, awaiting that glorious resurrection morning, his question becomes more pressing. Who will take up the work? Who will pick up the baton he has laid down and run the race set before us? Who?

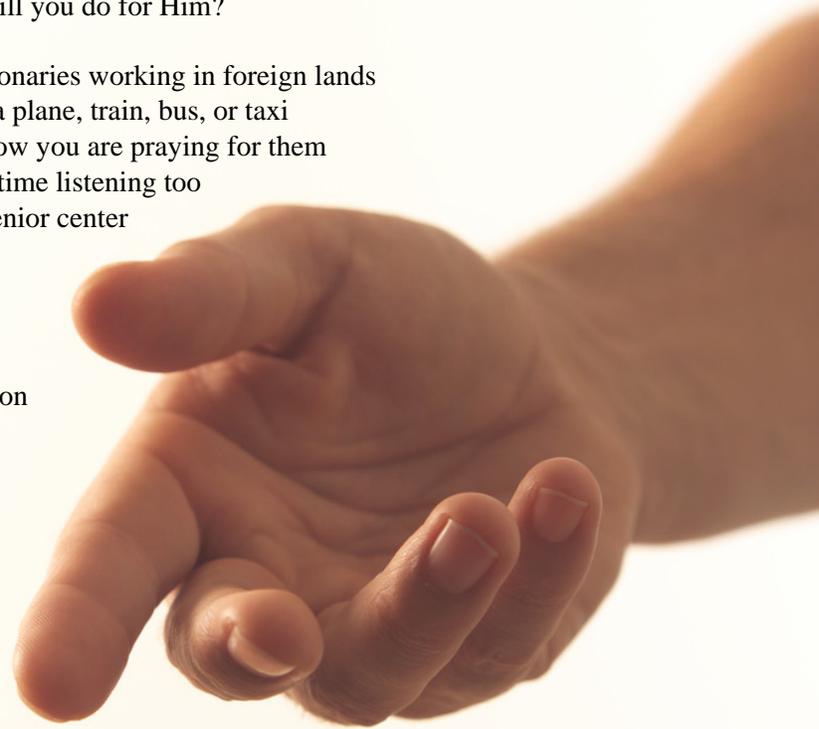
What Can I Do for Jesus?

Margie Seely, Ione, CA

Jesus calls us to be workers for Him. He asks us to be His eyes, His ears, His mouth, and His hands. Every opportunity we find, whether great or small, we should take advantage of to share His love with those around us. This is the basis of the great commission found in Matthew 28:19–20. “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...”

“Long has God waited for the spirit of service to take possession of the whole church, so that every one shall be working for Him according to his ability. When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfillment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned, and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 308. Today, let us ask Jesus what He wants us to do for Him, take up our portion, and do it as a faithful servant of Jesus Christ. Below is a list of simple ideas that anyone can use to share Jesus’ love with others. What will you do for Him?

- Encourage the ministering brethren in your area and missionaries working in foreign lands
- Leave behind Christian tracts when you exit your seat on a plane, train, bus, or taxi
- Let your mayor, congressman, or other public officials know you are praying for them
- Call someone who needs encouragement and spend some time listening too
- Play Christian music at your local children’s hospital or senior center
- Volunteer at a group home, a senior center, a shelter, etc.
- Become a big brother, a big sister, or a child advocate
- Invite your neighbor over for dinner and a short worship
- Open a Christian Day Care in your own home
- Get involved with foster care or open your home to adoption
- Correspond with a prisoner or a soldier
- Donate funds
- Start a Christian blog
- Take some homemade food to a neighbor
- Buy a hot meal for a homeless person
- Hold a cooking class in your neighborhood
- Pray for your community—
its leaders, public officials, and citizens



Brighten the Corner

Ina D. Ogden

*Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do,
Do not wait to shed your light afar,
To the many duties ever near you now be true,
Brighten the corner where you are.*

*Here for all your talent you may surely find a need,
Here reflect the bright and Morning Star;
Even from your humble hand the Bread of Life may feed,
Brighten the corner where you are.*

News from the Church in Denver

Pastor Joel Barnedo, Denver, CO

We would like to greet all our believers in the American Union with the Bible text in Matthew 28:18-20: “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.”

From Thursday, June 10, through Sabbath, June 12, the Denver church was encouraged by the nightly evangelistic meetings conducted by Elder Henry Dering. Many visitors joined us.

Each Sabbath we are blessed by the visitors who come; sometimes there are as many as twenty. We have discovered that when the members of a church stand together in love and pray for unity, God blesses their efforts.

On Sunday, June 27, Sister Ana Alicia Sandoval (“Sister Alice”) was baptized, surrounded by her

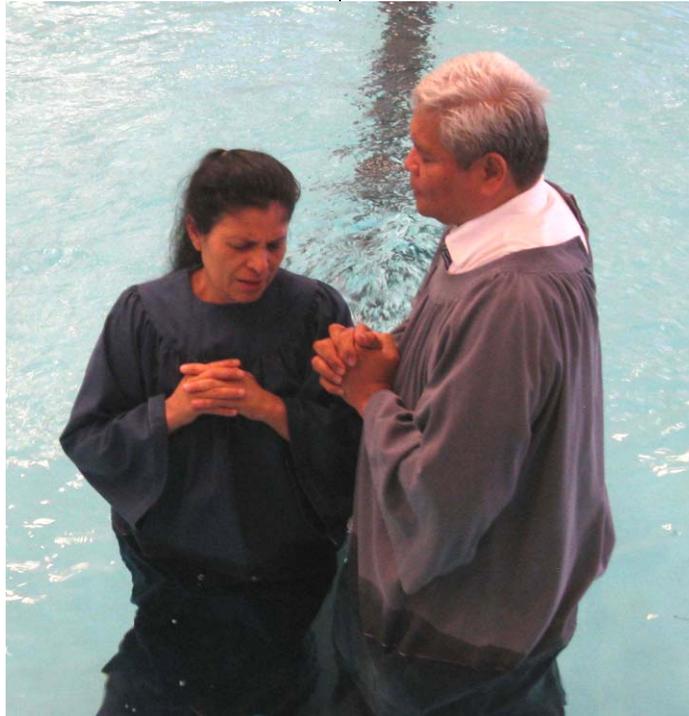
spiritual family, friends, husband, children, and grandchildren. It was a joyful and solemn occasion, and tears of joy were shed. During the ceremony, I read 1 Corinthians 5:20: “Now then we are ambassadors for

Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.” Sister Alice is God's ambassador. And Revelation 1:6 says: “And hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.” Everyone who is baptized becomes a king or queen and priest to connect people to God.

Sister Alice and her husband, Oscar Sandoval, moved the very next week to Roswell, New Mexico, where they want to share the light of the gospel. Sister Alice is by nature a missionary and loves to

connect with people. Let us pray that God will guide them in all their endeavors.

We pray for a rich blessing upon all the believers in the American Union, and may this news inspire everyone to do something for Jesus!



“Pure religion has to do with the will. The will is the governing power in the nature of man, bringing all the other faculties under its sway. The will is not the taste or the inclination, but it is the deciding power which works in the children of men unto obedience to God or unto disobedience.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 513

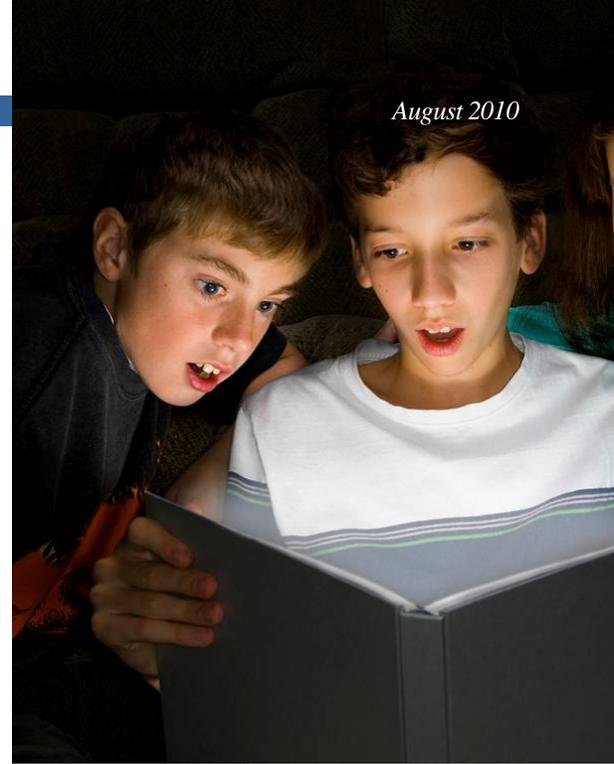
What's on Your Child's School Reading List?

Margie Seely, AU Education Leader, Ione, CA

Summer is rapidly coming to an end, and preparations for kids going back to school are beginning. At the top of the list of priorities for educators is how to get kids to read more. Kevin Jennings, founder of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and now assistant deputy for the U.S. Department of Education, has a list of recommended books he'd like to see public school students read in grades 7-12. Among these are books that actively promote the homosexual lifestyle. Titles include, "Queer 13," "Passages of Pride," "Growing Up Gay-Growing Up Lesbian," "In Your Face," "Mama's Boy, Preacher's Son" and "Love & Sex: Ten Stories of Truth." These books include "descriptions on child molestation, adult-child sex, explicit descriptions of sex acts and tales of cruising restrooms for sex."¹

Should your child be asked to read one of these books, or something similar, respectfully request an alternate assignment. Pray for wisdom as you explain how these books conflict with Biblical values. Talk to your child about why you will not allow him/her to read materials such as these.

<http://www.wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=118251>



"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Philippians 4:8

2010 Calendar

- **August 2-6: History Workshops and Vacation Bible School in Cedartown, GA**
Call 770-748-0077 or email Info@sda1844.org to make your reservations or to request more information
- **August 3-11: International Youth Conference in Israel**
For further details, visit the GC Webpage at www.uponhighplaces.org
- **August 12-17: California Mountain Trip**
Contact Brother Christian Nelson for more information: 916-212-6468 or imapilgrim_cn@msn.com.
- **August 17: Western Field Delegates' Meetings at Small Cloud Christian School**
12420 Pear Lane, Wilton, CA. Meetings begin at 9:00 a.m.
- **August 18-22: Western Field Conference at Leoni Meadows, Grizzly Flats, CA**
Information and registration form can be downloaded from www.sda1888.org. Registration deadline is August 6. The campground phone number is 530-626-3610. The fax number is 530-626-8524.

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.

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