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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, REFORM MOVEMENT
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When Jesus Called, They Answered

Athai Finch, American Union Newsletter Editor, Valencia, California



When my younger sister, Kathleen Sanders, asked me about receiving Bible studies without feeling the pressure of being baptized, I was very pleased and immediately sent her Elder Henry Dering's contact information! She was frightened, because, like any young person, she wanted to do things right and in God's time. I advised her to pray daily and mentioned that if she had any doubts or concerns about baptism she should ask Brother Dering, who would pray with her. I assured her that he would not pressure her into baptism but would pray for the desire to grow naturally in her heart.

Kathy began praying every morning to God, asking Him to help her through certain struggles and to give her a spiritual foundation to build on. She was afraid to make such a huge decision as baptism and realized she needed more strength. She even said to me, "I need more of Jesus and less of the world." She began to take Bible studies with Brother Dering over the phone.

Kathy was baptized June 10 in Summerland, California, at a secluded beach where there were not many observers except our family and a few of our local church members.

A new soul came to Jesus, and we all know that, in that hour, even the inhabitants of heaven were rejoicing. To all the young people, whoever has not made his or her decision to be baptized, or anyone



who is thinking of getting to know who Jesus is, Kathy these few words:

“Jesus says come to as you are. I am not perfect, and I don’t pretend to be. I pray every day for help to better myself; but I don’t strive to be perfect, I just try to be a decent human being who will love and accept everyone just as he or she is. Sometimes it’s hard, and sometimes it’s easy.

“Yesterday was my baptism, something I’ve wanted to do and accomplish for a very long time. I don’t have an excuse for why it took so long to finally make that decision. A lot of it had to do with trying to let go of things that didn’t benefit me in the long run. God only knows the circumstances He has put me through to get to where I am today, but I’m thankful He did that. Being baptized doesn’t mean I’m a “bible thumper” and will shove my beliefs and thoughts down people’s throats; it just means that I choose to follow Christ, come what may.

“I can’t be more thankful to my support group—my family, especially my sisters, Ruthie and Athai. you two have been my first friends growing up. You two are the best balance of friendship and love that any sister could ask for. I love you and thank you for your encouragement when I’ve felt undeserving or unmotivated. Last, but never least, I thank my husband, Nathan, who through the years (since 2006) has always been there, rain or shine, accepting me as I am, loving me as I am, encouraging me, complimenting me; and supporting me in just about everything, even in my decision to be baptized.

“I want to say a special thanks to all the members of our faith who kept praying for me throughout the years. God heard and answered the prayers. And one last thing, I’d like to thank a special friend who isn’t here with us today, a friend I lost last September, Isaac Sabbah. After his funeral service, I went home with a big impression in my heart. Not only was he a special a friend with an unforgettable laugh and smile, he left behind a legacy. He loved the unlovable and different people. He loved Jesus, and he showed positivity to everyone. That made me think about my life. If I were to leave this world, what would people say about me? How would they remember me? Would I have been uplifting and an inspiration to them? Or would I have been an unpleasant, unlovable person? My past is behind me; I now look forward to my future and someday heaven!”

I pray that Kathy’s words will touch all who have read them on social media, leading them to seek things beyond this dark world. There is a bright world ahead and a hope to be there one day. Let us all keep fighting that inner battle—especially all the youth, especially myself—to not let go of the promise that God revealed to the apostle John about heaven, “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Revelation 21:4.



On June 23, 2018, another soul joined the heavenly family. Kaila Suarez, the daughter of Elder Idel Suarez, Jr., and Sister Linda Suarez, was baptized at Hightower Falls in Georgia. About sixty people were present to witness this amazing day. She is the newest member of the new Livingston church in Rome, Georgia.

On this special day, God and His heavenly hosts were looking down, smiling at another beautiful event in which a young lady made her decision to follow Jesus and make her covenant with Him. It is a beautiful thing when a young soul loves Jesus so much that nothing else in this world matters to her and nothing can distract her attention from the spiritual life in Christ. The Bible verse dedicated and read to Kaila says, “Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast

which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” Revelation 3:11. A life with Christ is the most fulfilling life anyone can have; there is always a blessed assurance that one will never fear or walk alone. And the best part is that, as the Bible verse says, we can hold fast by His power and be overcomers.

Elder Suarez would like to share a comment about his daughter. “Kaila wanted so much to be baptized. We went through the Principles of Faith twice. She wanted to follow the example of Jesus and to thank Him for doing so much for her.”

Indeed, baptism is the greatest decision anyone can make! With Jesus in our lives, nothing will ever be impossible. May God bless Sisters Kathleen Sanders and Kaila Suarez in their walk with God.



Preliminary Western Field Conference Program

Thursday, August 16 to Sunday, August 19, 2018

Camp Kuratli at Trestle Glen
24751 SE Highway 224
Boring, Oregon 97009

Theme: Be established in the present truth. 2 Peter 1:12

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15

5:00 pm Check-in
5:30 pm Dinner

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

7:00 am-7:45 am Morning Worship: Gadiel Macias
8:00 am-9:00 am Breakfast
9:30 am-12:15 pm Children's Conference (*Theme: Joseph—the Unstoppable Christian*)
Coordinator: Sandra Nelson
9:30 am-10:15 am Workshop 1: Helen Marttinen (*The Sanctuary*)
10:30 am-11:15 am Workshop 2: Martha Knight (*Facing Life's Record*)
11:30 am-12:15 pm Workshop 3: Idel Suarez, Jr. (*The Health Zip Code*)
12:30 pm-1:30 pm Lunch
2:00 pm –2:30 pm Nature Walk
2:30 pm-5:15 pm Children's Conference
Coordinator: Sandra Nelson
2:30 pm-3:15 pm Workshop 4: Flavia Macias (*Preparation for the Final Crisis*)
3:30 pm-4:15 pm Workshop 5: Wendy Eaton (*The Sabbath Truth*)
4:30 pm-5:15 pm Nature Walk
5:30 pm-6:30 pm Dinner
7:00 pm-8:00 pm Questions/Answers
Panel of three ministers (Henry Dering, Idel Suarez, Jr., Larry Watts)
8:00 pm -8:30 pm Music and Praise
Coordinator: Larry Watts



See the May and June 2018 *American Union Newsletters* for information and Reservation Form
Contact: Sandra Nelson, 916-539-6777 or Sandra.Nelson@juno.com

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

7:00 am-7:45 am	Morning Worship: Klaus Klee (<i>The Gospel Message</i>)
8:00 am-9:00 am	Breakfast
9:30 am-12:15 pm	Children's Conference Coordinator: Sandra Nelson
9:30 am-10:15 am	Workshop 6: David Moreno (<i>Babylon Is Fallen</i>)
10:30 am-11:15 am	Workshop 7: Barbara Watts (<i>The Mark of the Beast and the Book of Life</i>)
11:30 am-12:15 pm	Workshop 8: Larry Watts (<i>Abraham and the First Angel's Message</i>)
12:30 pm-1:30 pm	Lunch
4:00 pm	Group Photo
5:30 pm-6:30 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Service and Sabbath Begin: Henry Dering (<i>"I Will Come Again"</i>)
8:00 pm -8:45 pm	Service: Three brethren/Sandy Elias, Narrator (<i>Methods for Spreading the Gospel</i>)

SABBATH, AUGUST 18

7:00 am-7:45 am	Morning Worship: Jeffery Johnson (<i>Prophecy Being Fulfilled</i>)
8:00 am-9:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am-9:20 am	Teachers' Meeting: Larry Watts
9:30 am-10:50 am	Sabbath School Superintendent: Christian Nelson
11:00 am-12:00 noon	Service: Idel Suarez, Jr. (<i>Present Truth</i>)
12:30 pm-1:30 pm	Lunch
2:30 pm-3:00 pm	Presentation of Western Field Officers
3:15 pm-4:45 pm	Children's/Youth Program Coordinator: Sandra Nelson
4:45 pm	Special Conference Offering
5:30 pm-6:30 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm-8:00 pm	Sabbath Close: Jose Alvarado (<i>The Last Warning—Present Truth</i>)
8:00 pm	Farewell and Praise: Newly Elected Western Field President

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

7:00 am-7:45 am	Morning Worship: Talana Johnson (<i>A People of Distinction</i>)
8:00 am-9:00 am	Breakfast
11:00 am	Check-out

You're Invited! Save the Date!

Margie Seely, American Union Education Department Leader, Cedartown, Georgia

We would be pleased to have you all come and tour Battle Creek, Michigan, with Orion Christian Academy!

For Adventists everywhere, Battle Creek has a special meaning. It's a part of our religious heritage and the place where much of our history began. However, not many have ever visited this place.

Orion Christian Academy would like to invite you to tour Battle Creek, Michigan, with us. The idea came from a writing assignment from one of our students. We adopted the idea, spent some time researching the city, and now invite you to join us

on a trip back in time. Visit the home of James and Ellen White, the only home where for three short months all four of their boys lived together. Cross the street to visit Deacon John's home, and hear how he finally accepted the Sabbath. Stand behind the pulpit used by Ellen White when she warned of the coming Civil War. Visit the gravesite of the White Family, where they quietly await the trumpet's call.

Save the date for early October 2018, and keep watching our Facebook page, Orion Christian Academy, and website, www.ocaedu.org, for more details.

We look forward to having you join us!



Evangelistic Meetings Highlights

Cristina Serrato, Riverside, California

Our dear Elder Henry Dering led a special outreach program in Riverside, California, at our local church from June 8 to June 10, 2018. The Riverside church announced this special outreach to the local community through the creation and distribution of posters and joyfully welcomed everyone who attended this event.

On Friday, June 8, Brother Dering presented the topic of “Armageddon, the Cosmic Battle of the Ages.” This will be the final war between Satan and Christ! Brother Dering listed the various false doctrines that mislead people regarding Armageddon and contrasted them with the truths of the Bible. He explained how this war will impact every single individual on the face of the earth. There will be no neutral area.

On Sabbath, June 9, Brother Dering shared two topics; the first one was presented as the Sabbath service. The first topic was “God, Our Rescuer.” The second was “Is Heaven for Real?” and presented on Sabbath afternoon. “God, Our Rescuer” was illustrated by the unforgettable rescue of the 33 miners

who were trapped in a mine in Chile in 2010. Our helpless state in sin is so hopeless that our only possible rescue comes from God above, who is stretching His hand down to humanity.

“Is Heaven for real” was a beautiful topic that inspired the believers to reflect on the heavenly life that is to come after the promised resurrection. Heaven is such an eternally beautiful place that the finite, sinful mind cannot currently grasp it.

On the evening of Sunday, June 10, Brother Dering presented the final message, titled “Warning! Iceberg Ahead!” This presentation was a spiritual comparison with the historical tragedy of the Titanic. There is an iceberg ahead for this world. We are all on this world that is heading for a major crisis. Our only help is Christ, and He will deliver His people after the final tribulation of this world.

The Riverside church was richly blessed by these meetings, and the messages will have an everlasting impact in the hearts of those who received them with joy. May God bless us all to overcome now and to come to Jesus while there is still time!



Important, Inspiring History

Larry Watts, American Union Secretary and Publishing Leader, Denver, Colorado

When Seventh-day Adventists hear about the events that caused the International Missionary Society, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Reform Movement, to come into existence, they are surprised and eager to learn all about the history.

What they find is that for about forty years before the crisis of World I, many warnings were given by God through His servant, Sister Ellen G. White, about ways of thinking that would get the church into trouble if they were not changed. The troubles happened, but God's true people were faithful to Him.

Religious Liberty Publishing Assn. offers publications that tell these things that began in the late 1800s. Why is this history important? Because, as the Bible says, "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us." Ecclesiastes 1:9, 10.

If we do not know our history, we are doomed to repeat it. Some members are not very familiar with this history. Therefore, everyone is encouraged to take advantage of the Special Offer at the right.

LIMITED TIME SPECIAL OFFER HISTORY SET

Set includes 1 each of the following:

Reformation Study Course

Reformation (book)

Reformation (booklet)

*History of the SDA Reform Movement
And Follow Their Faith!*

The Christian and Weapons

*Marie: Woman of Beauty, Mother of Courage
Has the Truth Changed?*

God's Unchanging Law

Reformation Handbook

For personal and group study and group discussions. See the current RLPA catalog or the Store at www.sda1888.org for a picture and description of each book.

RETAIL COST: \$45.60 plus tax and shipping

SPECIAL OFFER: \$33.00 (FREE shipping)

Good through September 30, 2018

2018 Calendar

- July 26 – Southeastern Field Delegates' Meetings, Tampa, Florida
- July 27-29 – Southeastern Field Conference, Tampa, Florida
- August 15 – Western Field Delegates' Meetings, Camp Kuratli, Portland, Oregon
- August 16-19 – Western Field Conference, Camp Kuratli, Portland, Oregon
- Early October – Orion Christian Academy Tour of Battle Creek, Michigan

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 members and friends, and carries items of interest submitted by believers. We reserve the right to make changes as necessary and to refuse to print certain items.

To submit news, send your item in an email to atramirez829@gmail.com.