



GLIMPSES OF THE WESTERN FIELD CONFERENCE

April 28-30, 2023
Huntington Park, California

Barbara Watts
Norman Park, Georgia

The Western Field Conference was preceded by a special event in which Elder Joel and Sister Armena (Amie) Barnedo celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary and renewed their marriage

vows on Thursday evening, April 27. Family members, ministers, church members, and friends shared this special time at the Huntington Park church and at the reception that followed. The next day the conference began. As is the case with all conferences, this was a very blessed time to be together for sharing and renewal.

Friday

On Friday afternoon, Brother Thomas Ramirez, the Huntington Park church leader, welcomed all who met for the conference under the theme, "Does Jesus Care?" 1 Peter 5:7. The theme song, "Does Jesus Care?" hymn #32 in the *International Hymnal*, was sung several times. Brother Ramirez encouraged everyone not only to come close to the Saviour but also to be a channel of blessing, sharing the desperately needed message that Heaven cares deeply about every soul in this world of sorrow and sin. God showers His blessings on everyone, but internal and external protection from the deadly adversary of God and man is given by the Saviour only to those who desire to receive it.

Elder Larry Watts then spoke to the congregation about the topic, "**Does Jesus Care for Unbelievers?**" "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10. Everyone is an unbeliever until he accepts Jesus as his Lord and Saviour, so the God of love (1 John 4:8) is seeking to save unbelievers. He cares deeply for each one. But we were reminded that He uses human beings to accomplish His purpose of reaching souls. That is the primary task of all who have been redeemed.

In the following meeting, Sister Margie Seely addressed the important question, "**Does Jesus Care Where I Choose Education?**" The world is full of iniquity, and this includes the dominant educational systems. They are permeated through and through with ungodly principles. Even Jesus when He was on earth was prevented by His Father from going to the schools of His day. His teachers were His earthly parents, especially His mother. "The child Jesus did not receive instruction in the synagogue schools. His mother was His



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH REFORM MOVEMENT
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April 30, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the American Union,

In 2 Timothy 2:15, we read the following: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

From June 21 – July 1, 2023, the American Union invites all young people to attend our second annual Summer Youth Seminar. For ten days, young people from all over will gather at Norman College, in Georgia, to study the sanctuary, spend time with friends, and make lasting memories. In addition, a Family Conference will take place on the weekend of June 23 – 25.

Begin making plans now to attend. Rooms fill up fast, so it's best to reserve as soon as possible. Please keep checking the AU Facebook page or the Norman College website (www.normancollege.org) for updates and additional information.

We look forward to seeing you here!

God bless you!

Sincerely,

Margie Seely
American Union Secretary



On Thursday, Elder Joel and Sister Amie Barnedo celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary

first human teacher. From her lips and from the scrolls of the prophets, He learned of heavenly things. The very words which He Himself had spoken to Moses for Israel He was now taught at His mother's knee. As He advanced from childhood to youth, He did not seek the schools of the rabbis. He needed not the education to be obtained from such sources; for God was His instructor." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 70. Those who desire to be with God for eternity will seek only for heavenly instruction here on this earth.

After dinner, Elder Pablo Hunger presented a service and the beginning of the holy Sabbath under the title, "Do I Care?" Just as Jesus not only presented the parable of the Good Samaritan but also was the Good Samaritan Himself all through His journey on earth, so all who follow Him will be infused with His Spirit to care about those around them. "Jesus pitied poor sinners so much that He left the courts of Heaven, and laid aside the robes of royalty, humiliating Himself to humanity, that He might become acquainted with the needs



Sister Melite Hunger played beautiful piano music for the meetings

of man and help him to rise above the degradation of the fall. When He has given to man such unquestionable evidence of His love and tenderest sympathy, how important that His representatives should imitate His example in coming close to their fellow-men, and helping them to form a true Christian character." —*Testimony for the Church*, No. 27, p. 187.

Sabbath

A service of songs, praise, and prayer under Brother Jose Sabaj, began at 9 a.m. on Sabbath morning. The **Sabbath School**

was led by Elder Avaristo Argueta. Brother Thomas Ramirez presented the missionary minute, and Sister Ruth Moreno gave a health nugget. Certain foods should be eaten at specific times of the day for maximum nutrition. The Sabbath School Lesson was taught by Elder David Moreno in English and by Brother Antonio Elias in Spanish. There were also classes for the children and youth. The topic of the Lesson was "Abel and Obedience."

"If our will and way are in accordance with God's will and way; if we do the pleasure of our Creator, He will keep the human organism in good condition, and restore the moral, mental, and physical powers, in order that He may work through us to His glory. If we cooperate with Him in this work, health and happiness, peace and usefulness, are the sure result." —*Our Father Cares*, p. 30.

After telling the children a story, Elder Idel Suarez, Jr., presented the service on the conference theme, "Does Jesus Care?" No one cares more deeply about all life than does the heavenly Father and His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows." Matthew 10:29-31. How blessed everyone

is who seeks to know with all his heart the God of the universe!

After lunch Elder Henry Dering presented a service about the signs of the times under the title "The Promise: I Will Come Again." We are nearing the day when Jesus Christ will return to the earth to gather His people home. Signs everywhere show that the great enemy of souls is frantic in trying to destroy the world. It is necessary for those who will inhabit the eternal kingdom to go through the fires of the final trials. Jesus will save everyone who focuses his view on heaven and carries out his personal mission under the Master's hand.



The Riverside church choir presented special music

Sister Athai Ramirez and Brother Gadiel Macias led the Children's and Youth Program under the title "Rejoicing in the Lord." They were joined by Sister Marisol Sabaj, who helped the children to present a song,



The children enjoyed Elder Idel Suarez, Jr.'s story

"Does Jesus Hear My Prayers?" Also, special instrumental and choir pieces gave joy and blessing to all. Sister Sandy Elias shared her thoughts about the importance of marriage. She requested that the married couples come to the front and asked

Elder Larry Watts to offer a special dedicatory prayer for them. God bless every couple and every family to stand as a light in this dark world.



Elder Idel Suarez, Jr., presented the Sabbath service

Sister Delmy Pleitez gave a talk called **“Christ’s Care for Our Physical Health.”** It is important to be careful of one’s health, for the mind, heart, and spirit are dependent on it. The Creator made everything wonderfully in balance, so it is a great blessing to find out as much as possible about how to be healthy. The world has been taken

faith to follow the guidance of the Holy Scriptures instead of what health “professionals” generally advise, but the reward is great!

After dinner, Elder David Moreno gave the Sabbath closing service under the topic, **“Does Jesus Care How We Worship Him?”** Just as evil powers are trying through government, business, education, and medicine to take control of men’s thoughts and steal their free will, so the religious forces in the world are doing everything possible to enslave men and women. The holy Scriptures under the influence of the Holy Spirit and the angels

are simple but deep, and they will protect each person—body, mind, and spirit—so that he can properly represent the divine will.

Sunday

A chilly, windy morning found the congregation at the Corona del Mar Beach on Sunday, where Sister Milagros Velazco was baptized in the ocean. Elder Joel Barnedo spoke a few words on the topic of **“Jesus Gave Us the Comforter.”** This was also a time of fellowship, sharing, and lunch. The ministers shared their thoughts and encouragement for each one to continue on the narrow path under the Holy Spirit, no matter what the future brings.

Let the blessed hours of this conference remain as a precious memory in the hearts and minds of each one who attended. We pray especially that the young people will make memorable experiences and use their talents and strength to honor the Lord of creation.

God bless the believers in southern California who shared their time, hospitality, energy, talents, and means to lift up the bright light of His holy will during the conference! The music, messages, good food, fellowship, and presence of everyone left a blessed impression that will join the memories of other conferences! (MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 4.)



These married couples were on the left side of the room

captive by Satan and his hosts, and the medical world has also fallen under the control of interests that work at cross purposes with those of Heaven. It takes great



Elder Larry Watts prayed for the married couples (right side)

DOES JESUS CARE?

“Jesus cares for each one as though there were not another individual on the face of the earth. As Deity He exerts mighty power in our behalf, while as our Elder Brother He feels for all our woes. The Majesty of heaven held not Himself aloof from degraded, sinful humanity. We have not a high priest who is so high, so lifted up, that He cannot notice us or sympathize with us, but one who was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin....

“You will have many perplexities to meet in your Christian life in connection with the church, but do not try too hard to mold your brethren. If you see that they do not meet the requirements of God’s word, do not condemn; if they provoke, do not retaliate.... You must labor for the erring with a heart subdued, softened by the Spirit of God, and let the Lord work through you, the agent. Roll your burden on Jesus. You feel that the Lord must take up the case where Satan is striving for the mastery over some soul; but you are to do what you can in humility and meekness, and put the tangled work, the complicated matters, into the hands of God. Follow the directions in His word, and leave the outcome of the matter to His wisdom. Having done all you can to save your brother, cease worrying, and go calmly about other pressing duties. It is no longer your matter, but God’s.

“Do not, through impatience, cut the knot of difficulty, making matters hopeless. Let God untangle the snarled-up threads for you. He is wise enough to manage the complications of our lives. He has skill and tact. We cannot always see His plans; we must wait patiently their unfolding and not mar and destroy them. He will reveal them to us in His own good time....

“If our works are of such a character that as branches of the living Vine we bear rich clusters of precious fruit, then we wear before the world God’s own badge as His sons and daughters. —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 346-348.



Good food and fellowship were found in the dining hall



Maya Seely, left, and the Hunger family played a beautiful instrumental piece



Elder David Moreno presented the Sabbath closing service



Sister Milagros Velazco, foreground, was baptized at the beach



Elders Larry Watts, Idel Suarez, Jr., David Cabrera, and Pablo Hunger



Elder Joel Barnedo gave the closing message of the conference



All of the above sisters except Sister Flavia came from the East Coast