



## Third Quarter Calendar of Events

By Joel Vendiola

This year has been quite a whirlwind, especially in the third quarter, as many of our church members took extended breaks for various reasons. Some dedicated their time to a week of prayer and missionary work in Sri Lanka, while others chose to visit relatives in the Philippines. Some even embarked on local trips, reconnecting with family and classmates. Despite these diverse challenges, our church continued to function smoothly, guided by the ever-present hand of God's Holy Spirit, as eloquently emphasized by Ellen G. White: 'God is moving upon every mind that is open to receive the impression of His Holy Spirit.' During this quarter, we've seen firsthand how God's strength empowered us to achieve remarkable milestones.



Our journey began with the delightful Vacation Bible School, which took place from July 5-10, 2023. It was a true treat for our young ones, and we owe a debt of gratitude to our dedicated youth who played an integral role in its resounding success. The theme 'Shine Jesus' Light' resonated powerfully, with thirteen children proudly receiving certificates of participation. It's awe-inspiring to witness children grasping the essence of Jesus at such a tender age. I vividly recall Eliana, not even two years old, captivating the audience as she tiptoed gracefully to the front during the graduation program.

In September, we embarked on yet another significant venture: Health Evangelism. Dr. Mark Dela Cruz, a distinguished specialist in Family Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care at Eisenhower Medical Center, led this enlightening event. He shared invaluable insights on achieving optimal health, covering topics ranging from cardiometabolic diseases and obesity to lifestyle

management and plant-based alternative medicine. Even more impressively, Dr. Dela Cruz seamlessly integrated Biblical principles into his Sabbath sermon, shining a light on Jesus as the ultimate Healer.



Our church's unforgettable camping trip to Silver Wood Lake, meticulously organized by the Men's Ministry under the exemplary leadership of Ray Ponsaran, marked another remarkable chapter in our journey. The Sabbath service, in particular, held profound significance for all in attendance. Engaged discussions centered on Ephesians 5, dissecting the concepts of 'love' and 'submit' as articulated by the Apostle Paul in his admonitions to husbands and wives. The women adeptly identified underlying issues and collaboratively devised solutions, a process eloquently reported by Delora Emery, representing the women. Meanwhile, Dr. Joe Dial shed light on the men's perspective, offering a different angle to the discussion.

Following a brief intermission, the hour of worship commenced, featuring Mr. Jay Emery as the keynote speaker. Mr. Emery, Desert Adventist Academy Principal and a Church Board-appointed speaker, took the podium after a soul-stirring special number by the Men's Ministry. He delivered a powerful message in alignment with the theme 'The Longer I Serve Him, the Sweeter He Grows.' His words resonated deeply, emphasizing that serving God constitutes a lifelong journey of faith. As we faithfully serve Him, we draw closer to His divine presence. He beautifully quoted Psalm



16:11: 'You make known to me the path of life; in your presence, there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.' Mr. Emery concluded by encouraging the congregation to sing the heartfelt chorus 'Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus.' His inspiring message left a lasting impact on all of us, reminding us of the enduring beauty inherent in a life fully dedicated to God.

In the afternoon program, the Bible Game ignited laughter and enthusiasm, prompting everyone to utilize their imagination in reenacting biblical events within a modern context, as if we were living in the year 2021. Categories such as 'Ten Plagues in Egypt,' 'Show Down at Mount Carmel,' 'The Fall of Jericho,' and 'Daniel and His Three Friends' captured our collective imagination. Congratulations are in order for Group 1, victors in the 'Ten Plagues of Egypt' category. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the Men's Ministry for their impeccable coordination, transforming our church camping experience into a treasure trove of memories.

Let us cherish these remarkable moments, and may Mr. Emery's words continue to inspire us, reminding us that our service to God becomes richer and sweeter with each passing day.



## DIAL CONDUCTS WEEK OF PRAYER IN SRI LANKA

From June 18-July 2 this year, Dr. Joe and Mrs. Becky Dial traveled to the country of Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) in response to an invitation by Dr. Evangelyn Gahum, president of the Lakpahana Adventist College and Seminary

(LACS). During their first week in that country Dr. Dial conducted a Week of Prayer at LACS and in the second week they toured the country. His theme for the week was "Walking with Jesus." His sermons covered the following titles: "New Life in Christ," "Benefits of Following Jesus," "The Character of Jesus," "Enjoying Abundant Life in Jesus," and "Preparing for the Return of Jesus." In his preaching, Dr. Dial was aware of the fact that about half of the students and faculty were Buddhists.



## "10 THINGS EVERY MAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT A WOMAN"

This was the topic shared by Dr. Joe Dial to the men's group during the Sabbath School time at the camping at Silverwood Lake on September 23. He started by asking the men to write down anonymously their challenges in dealing with their wives and went on to discuss how to resolve those issues. The ten things he enumerated were the following: (1) A woman needs recognition and affection, (2) A woman loves a man who helps at home, (3) A woman needs to be heard, (4) A woman easily changes moods and feelings, (5) A woman, while considered to be the weaker sex, actually has some strengths over men, (6) A woman has the gift of intuition, (7) A woman is stimulated by what she feels, not by what she sees, (8) A woman enjoys varied expressions of love, (9) A woman adjusts her point of focus on various stages of life, and (10) A woman delights to hear the three magic words "I love you." The rest of us should have listened to the discussion on the specifics of these observations about a woman. The overall goal was to promote harmony in the home.