

## Mark Your Calendars

Come join us for Study & Worship Saturday mornings at 10 a.m., Prayer meetings on Wednesday at 7 p.m. and for the following activities.

- Sep 5 2:00 PM Storytelling Seminar
- Sep 5 2:30 PM Helping Hands Project
- Sep 6 9:00 AM All Day Trip to Griffith Park Observatory
- Sep 12 3:00 PM [reserved for: Friends Next Door Bible Club]
- Sep 12 3:00 PM Grandparent's Day — Retirement Home Visitation
- Sep 13 9:00 AM Yard Sale / Fundraiser Day

- Sep 20 8:00 AM Church Work Bee
- Sep 24 6:00 PM Church Sanctuary Seasonal Decorating
- Sep 25-26 7:00PM/2:00PM Weekend Seminar: Outreach
- Sep 26 11:00 AM Communion Sabbath
- Sep 26 1:00 PM Picnic-Style Potluck
- Oct 3—17 7:00 PM, Sat 11:00 AM Evangelism
- Oct 3 1:00 PM Home Potluck Sabbath (Greeters Coordinating)
- Oct 10 3:00 PM [reserved for: Friends Next Door Bible Club]
- Oct 17 6:30 PM Setup Night for Health Expo
- Oct 18 9:00 AM Health Expo
- Oct 25 8AM Church Work Bee

- Oct 31 4:00 PM Healthy Resolutions Walk: Corona/Skyline Drive Trail
- Nov 1 12:00 PM Men's Ministry Annual Lunch
- Nov 7 1:00 PM Fellowship Potluck (moved from Nov 14)
- Nov 14 3:00 PM [reserved for: Friends Next Door Bible Club]
- Nov 15 8:00 AM Church Work Bee
- Nov 15 12:00 PM Women's Ministry Lunch
- Nov 21 1:00 PM Thanksgiving Potluck
- Nov 21 Final Collection Date for Thanksgiving Baskets
- Nov 22 CSv Pick-Up Date for Thanksgiving Baskets

July/August 2015

COLTON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER



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*Photo by Donnie Cristales*



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*Photo by Jerry Johnson*



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*Photo by Donnie Cristales*

## Greeter Potluck

A-a-a-h, the smell of good food! This usually happens during the home fellowship potluck lunch. Colton Church has been blessed with the gift of hospitality. This year the Greeters decided to sponsor this event once each quarter. The goal is to invite the visitors and others



Photo by Jerry Johnson

who wish to join, to have good fellowship. The first one was in February at Maribel Rangel's home. Approximately 35 people came and had a good time. The next one was on Easter Sabbath; and the Hong's opened their doors and prepared lots of yummy food. We lost count of the

people who came, but there was a full house! The most recent one was at the Zelaya's house. That was on

August 1. A family was visiting from West Virginia, and they were happy to have joined us. There were 20 families represented in the 40 people who came. Each time we get together, we become better friends and build strong relationships as a Church family; of course, we have fun at the same time. Plan to join in at the next lunch, October 3, at Jerry Johnson's 'Pad.' Save the date, see you there!

*Submitted by the McConnells—  
Head Greeters*

All in all, the residence potluck seemed to be a successful way to bring the members of our church together, whether they were eight or ninety-two.

## Family Hosted Potluck

**July 19, 2015** The McConnell's opened their Grand Terrace home to twenty-nine of their church family, and soon to be close acquaintances. The sight of smiles and the sound of laughter surrounded the residence. The family-hosted potluck wasn't all about food, it included worship and fun. Zina Alvarado said in excitement, "They have curry, my favorite!"

After the meal, everyone retired to the living room for the rest of the festivities. The colporteurs joined some of our regular members in a guessing game to become more acquainted with each other. The rules of the game were simple: Write down a unique fact about yourself anonymously and whoever guesses it correctly wins. The

prize received was none other than chocolate coins, a ten-year-old's greatest source of income.

The game really opened every one up and we all learned some really interesting things about each other. The potluck ended with a miracle story of answered prayer and a prayer circle. Requests were taken, people volunteered to pray, and everyone joined hands to pray. All in all, the residence potluck seemed to be a successful way to bring the members of our church together, whether they were eight or ninety-two.



Photo by Chuck McConnell

All those in attendance included: Carleys', including brother Roy and his son, Randy; Elsassers', Gonzales', Zelayas', Andy, Bruce, Ellamae, Henry, Tony, Zina, and five colporteurs: Evelyn, Dina, Patty, Leah, and Lauralyn.

*Kristen Elsasser*



## Craft's Peak



It was a great reminder of God's creative ability.

Big trees, Big Rock and Big Vistas. A few hardy members enjoyed each other's fellowship and the views of our local mountains on July 11th. We even saw deer on the move through the trees. Five of the group almost made the summit! (Too many thorn bushes to tromp through.) It was a great reminder of God's creative ability. Look for future Healthy Resolutions hikes to come.

*Kristi Cruise*

## 4th of July



American pride was on full display for the 4th of July at the Colton Seventh-day Adventist church.

Spearheaded by James, Laura, Shirley and Ellie and assisted by Henry, Carlos Felix and Willie the event featured food and entertainment to honor our



country. The sky above Colton was filled with fireworks and was well seen from our church's lofty position. God Bless America! *Kristi Cruise*





# Vacation Bible School

Children learned about two different kingdoms at Vacation Bible School this year. They learned about the kingdom of Thailand through videos as well as from first hand accounts from our own Pastor Bell. They learned where, what and why they have a special dress shirt called the King's Shirt. (see right) They also learned that the culture is very different from their own and yet they are in many ways just like them. With the backdrop of Thailand the children learned about the Kingdom of God. God's Kingdom is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow and offers love, peace and hope as no other kingdom can. VBS teaches in such a fun and exciting way the children scarcely know

they are learning, they just think it is FUN! And yet we know that what they learn at Vacation Bible School is everlasting!

Thank-you to those who donated your time and energy to making Thailand Trek a fantastic reality. I am convinced that when we walk the streets of gold we will say, "I

am so glad I helped with VBS in 2015! Here are the people which were influenced for the glory of God from that ministry!"

*Kristi Cruise*

*All photos by Rob Cruise*

...what they learn at Vacation Bible School is everlasting!







Here are the people which were influenced for the glory of God...



# Big Fun on Little Trains



It was a blessing to enjoy the company of church members in such a unique setting

Men's Ministries and Children's Ministries joined up to introduce our congregation to Hunter Park Railroad on August 9th. What originally begun as Mr. Hunter's way to keep the steam train experience alive to the next generation has been continued by the Riverside Live Steamer club that runs and owns nearly all the trains and maintains the tracks of Hunter Park's small gauge steamers. It is truly an exciting element of a pristinely kept city park full of other fun activities for any family. It was a blessing to enjoy the company of church members in such a unique setting.

*Kristi Cruise*  
*All photos by Rob Cruise*



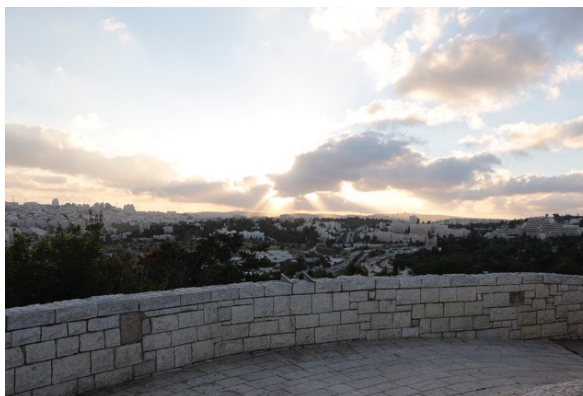


## Jerusalem

When most people ask, “How was Jerusalem?” one of the first responses I come up with is that two weeks would not have been enough. But spending six weeks there did the place some justice. This summer I took part in the Adventist Colleges Abroad (ACA) program studying Biblical Hebrew at the study center in Israel’s capital. Six weeks to immerse myself not only in the Biblical language, but also in the rich heritage, diverse cultures, and eventful history surrounding the place.

I remember early on in my major wondering which language would cause me more grief: Greek or Hebrew? Praise God, with two years of Greek in the bag, Hebrew wasn’t the easiest but with a remarkable professor and an eager class, learning the language became a fun challenge. Within a couple of weeks all of us were amazed at the amount of grammar, rules, and insight we had learned in such little time. I’m rather thankful I was able to learn it there; I’m sure if I had been studying here - as much as La Sierra does a great job in Biblical languages - I would not have been able to concentrate at that level.

Additionally, within a couple of days I quickly resolved we were not tourists; we were travelers. And that meant, we were there to live not only among the complex people of Jerusalem but as one of them. We may hear of the tension and negativity that occurs in Israel. The hard truth is to some extent it exists; however, with the given respect



**God will always  
be much grander  
than we can ever  
describe...**

and an open heart, our class found that many persons there will gladly welcome you to their home. From the gorgeous coast of the Mediterranean and the arid area where the Dead Sea collects, to the lower region of Nazareth in Galilee and the upper hills of Jerusalem, the places

where God’s actions were recorded became simple reminders that God will always be much grander than we can ever describe... and the Gospel promises that same God is with us no matter where we may find ourselves.

*Donnie Cristales*

*All photos by Donnie Cristales*





# Catalina Island

At first, it sounded pretty different: a joint trip to Catalina Island for the young adults (YA) and the Core. Together, the YA and Core have only collaborated on a couple events but nevertheless with good results. On the other hand, the island is a place we haven't ventured to as a church before. Personally, I wondered what new things could be explored. But early Sunday morning, a number of young people and sponsors (young at heart) prayed for a blessing and headed towards the Long Beach area. Indeed, after a couple of hours traveling, the vessel docked and the group was allowed to roam. Throughout the course of the day, some found entertainment kayaking along the refreshing coast of the island or getting a better view of the aquatic life below on a glass-floor boat, while others remained behind to spend some time fishing on the serene pier. Some decided to venture beyond the beach area either to see the botanical gardens or cruise to new heights on a rented golf cart. At the end of the day, I'm certain those that made the trip enjoyed the adventure and fellowship together.

Donnie Cristales



Photo by Kevin Zelaya



Photo by Donnie Cristales



Photo by Donnie Cristales



Photo by Donnie Cristales



Photo by Donnie Cristales



Photo by Donnie Cristales



Photo by Kevin Zelaya

**At first, it sounded pretty different...**



## Oak Glen Preserve



The Wildlands Conservancy Oak Glenn Preserve hosted a guided twilight walk on August 15. Who knew there was such a beautiful mountain get-a-way only a few minutes from Colton! The McConnells continue to find new educational and fun activities for Children's Ministries, this time we learned about local and state trees and other flora including the Evening Primrose which was both beautiful and surprising. Many of the participants are interested in growing this evening blooming flower in their own backyards. More activities are coming up be sure to join in the experience.

*Kristi Cruise*

## Big Bear Picnic



Our church has always known that it isn't the size of the group that matters, but the presence of the Holy Spirit that makes an event a success. The Spirit was with the group who shared a supper picnic at Big Bear on Sabbath afternoon/evening, August 22. As we fellowshipped with prior friends and made new friends we were blessed.

*Kristi Cruise*



*Photo by Robbie Felix*



## Talent Show



**WOW!**

WOW! These people have talent! Thank-you to the young Bible workers who so generously shared their talent with us. Thank-you to the church members who show-cased their abilities. God has poured out His blessing richly on His people!

*Kristi Cruise*

*All photos by Kevin Zelaya*







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## Distribution Dates

October 31

December 26

If you would like to contribute please submit at least

5 days in advance of distribution date. Please send via e-mail at [jrkljccruise@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrkljccruise@sbcglobal.net) or call or send a text to (909) 936-0005

## Whatcha Think

Planning has begun for next year. Do you like the newsletter to come out once a month or every other month? Let me know!

*Kristi Cruise*

## Everyone is a Reporter

Reporter forms will be distributed at church events. These forms simply ask your input. You do not need to write full articles! Just answer the questions and turn them back in at the close of the event. This is an effort to get more individuals involved in the Newsletter. Remember you will best remember and assimilate information by writing something down regarding it, here's your opportunity.

*Kristi Cruise*

## Thank-you Contributors

Thank-you to those who took the time to take pictures and write articles! Look how your picture or article added to the newsletter. If you haven't yet participated in the newsletter, please write articles and take pictures and then remember to send them to me via email at [jrkljccruise@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrkljccruise@sbcglobal.net) or text message to (909) 936-0005.

*Kristi Cruise*