

El Centinela Seminar . . .

By Miguel Valdivia

Hispanic Advisory Meetings at Pacific Press: An Affirmation of Mission



During the week of September 9 to 12, over 80 Hispanic leaders gathered at Pacific Press for a combined meeting of the North-American Division Hispanic Advisory, and El Centinela Seminar. Among those attending was a Production team from the Spanish Hope Channel (Esperanza TV); Edwin Romero, director of Retirement Services at NAD, and representatives from Andrews University, Oakwood and Christian Records. The meetings included reports from the nine Unions in the Division, and showed that Hispanic church members now make up over 20 percent of the total SDA membership in North America.

The International team from Pacific Press presented five program books expressly planned to support Hispanic ministry. They included the 2025 Sharing and Discipleship books of the year, a 40-day study book, a theological discussion book and a small-group manual. The authors did an outstanding job of discussing their own books, and the Hispanic leaders responded by ordering record amounts of each product. The two main titles: *The Living Word* (2025 Sharing Book), and *To Change or Not to Change*

(2025 Discipleship Book), sold close to 102,000 and 79,000 respectively. We commend Elvis Diaz and Ricardo Bentancur for their excellent work on behalf of Pacific Press.



The week was capped by a rafting trip on the Payette River hosted by the Multilingual Department of the North American Division. Close to 60 brave souls enjoyed one of Idaho's premier attractions. It was a fitting conclusion to three days of day-long meetings where much was accomplished in support of the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Harvest Time . . .

There is still time to pick some fresh veggies.

Open Fridays & Sundays
from 8:00 am –
12:00pm.

You can pick a 5-gallon bucket of produce for \$10.00. Bring your own bucket. Matt or his daughter will be in the gravel parking area on the corner of Flamingo and 39th street.



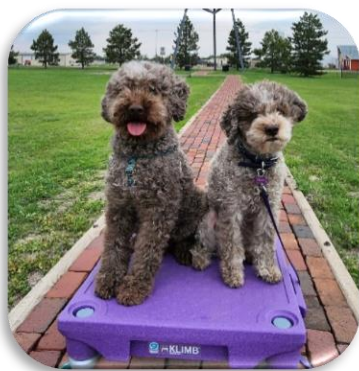
Produce includes: Sunflowers, eggplant, okra, tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, Tamateas, brussel sprouts, green beans, sweet corn, various herbs and other misc. veggies.

Making a Difference . . .

A Home for Cosimo

We had a visitor in our front parking lot on Monday. It was Cosimo, his rescuer Bradley Burks, a "step-brother" Bruno, and "step-sister" Penelope.

Although Cosimo and Bruno are unusual names for a little boy, they are not too unusual for a Lagotto Romagnolo, which is a breed of dog that I had never heard of before.



To share a little about this breed, they originated in the marshlands of the Delta del Po in the eastern part of Romagna, Italy. They were originally bred as water retrievers, but later became specialized truffle hunters when the

marshlands were converted to farmland. They have a curly coat, are smart, sensitive and very fond of water, mud and digging. They love to run fetch and swim. They are a working dog who needs to be mentally and physically challenged.

Now, Bradley Burks grew up in a home where dogs were dogs and not necessarily a member of the family. As a result, he did not feel like he was a "dog-person".

Years went by and Bradley was asked by a friend if he would house-sit and take care of their poodle Fred for a few days. Bradley agreed and at the end of the weekend, he thought, "that wasn't too bad", so when asked again, Bradley accepted. Fred won the heart of Bradley and they became good friends. He had discovered he had a love for dogs.

As time went on, Bradley was introduced to the Lagotto dog breed. When he found out that there

was a need for people to rescue and train these dogs, he accepted the challenge as a rescue worker.

He now drives a motor home, pulling a trailer, and he travels the United States rescuing, training and finding new suitable homes for these pups. He has traveled to 45 states so far this year.

When Bradley finds a home for a rescued dog, it not only changes the life of the dog, but it also changes the life of the adoptive family. One lady had lost her son to a tragic event. She told Bradley that the love, compassion and companionship of her adopted pup, was of great comfort to her.

Bradley also trains and enters his dogs into a sport called Dock Diving, where a dog runs down a platform and jumps as far as they can into a pool of water to retrieve a toy.

Cosimo has jumped 24' 3", Penelope 18' 2", and Bruno has jumped 16'. For a fairly small dog, this is a great feat.



Bradley travels to many of these events, showing his dogs and selling Ruffland kennels and Klimb training platforms.

So, now for the story of how Cosimo found his forever home:



Bradley had rescued and placed Cosimo in three different homes, but each time, the family did not feel they could keep Cosimo. On one of his trips, Bradley was in Sacramento and headed back to his home in Nashville, TN, when he received a call from the last

family he had placed Cosimo with. They informed Bradley they could not keep Cosimo and wondered if he could come and pick him up.

Bradley had made a just a quick stop at a dog training park as a meeting point for an acquaintance. While waiting, he contemplated the thought of what

he should do. He needed to get home, and if he went to pick up Cosimo, it would take him out of his way, and, it would cost him an additional \$500 in gas to get to Cosimo's home in Southern Oregon. As he was trying to figure out which direction he should go, a dog trainer and some of her students saw his trailer open and saw boxes of some of the products she uses in training. She came and asked him if they could buy some of his products. When they left, they had purchased \$500 worth of products.

As he looked at the \$500 in his hand, he realized that God had provided the additional \$500 so he could go pick up Cosimo. This was the final transition for Cosimo, as Bradley decided to adopt him and give him a forever home.

Over the past few years, Bradley has rescued, fostered, trained and found homes for 31 dogs, 11 of those have been this year.

One more interesting thing about Bradley is that he is a Seventh-day Adventist. His grandfather, whom some of you may know, is Orval Driskell who worked for the Pacific Press and Review and Harold for many years, mostly in Hagerstown, MD.

Bradley's father Ric Burks, also worked for the Arkansas/Louisiana Conference driving their Book Mobile. His sister is a musician and has played for General Conference Sessions.

It is interesting, that many times, we think we know the direction we are headed in life, but sometimes God has a different path for us to travel. He opens doors for us that we have never dreamed about or thought possible. He puts people in our path that need to know Him or to be reminded of His great love for them. Amazing things happen in our lives and in the lives of others when we follow the path He sets before us.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

Jeremiah 29:11-12 NIV

Employee Food Sale . . .

Remember to get your food orders in to the ABC by October 10th. Orders will be ready for pick up the first week of November.

If you have questions, please contact Judy.

HR News . . .

Open enrollment will begin September 23rd and goes through October 15th. If you are interested in participating in the FSA, you will need to log into your Ascent to Wholeness Account.

For more information, please contact Kelly or Julie in our HR Department.

Summer to Autumn . . .

By Olga Valdivia

PSALM 39

*"Show me, Lord, my life's end
and the number of my days;
let me know how fleeting my life is"
(Psalm 39:4)*

The white Oriental lilies unfurl their summer wings, spreading grace across the garden, while the Garden Phlox weave the ground with pinks and purples. Black-eyed Susans dance, scattering golden light like whispers of sun across the earth. I yearn to capture this fleeting splendor, to hold the summer's final bloom forever in my heart. As I lose myself in its beauty, I wonder: Can time be stilled? Do the passing days gently dim our inner glow, as they do the flowers?

Sensing my own human fragility mirrored in the garden's frailty, I'm reminded of our fleeting place in this world. Life, even as we live it, is perpetually slipping into the realm of yesterday. The transient nature of our existence becomes starkly evident—like a delicate flower that blooms briefly, only to fade away.

The Psalmist's words, like shafts of sunlight piercing through the clouds, kept resurfacing in my thoughts: "Show me, Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure" (Psalm 39:4-5).

David understood that God uses these moments to remind us of our transient existence, teaching us to value the fleeting nature of our days. Our lives are as ephemeral as breath, smoke, and mist. Through this realization, God invites us to see our profound dependence on Him, our eternal and omnipotent refuge.

I imagine David, with a heart full of anticipation for his eternal life with the Lord, penned these verses with a sense of peaceful resignation. I can see him closing his eyes, whispering a prayer that sought divine assurance and confidence. He grasped that life's brevity would soon usher him into an eternal realm, where he would "be no more" (see Psalm 39:13).

This "be no more" does not imply eternal death but signifies the end of our transient earthly sojourn. To soothe our fears about the future, David anchored his hope in something far greater: "But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you" (Verse 7).

In recognizing our inevitable mortality and the sins that mark our journey, we should follow David's example and pray earnestly. We should ask God to reveal the measure of our days, reminding us of their swift passage. By humbly placing ourselves before Him, we embrace our need for His boundless, eternal grace.

As the seasons unfold, time gracefully dims the summer garden's vibrant display. Once lush and full of life, the garden's glories may soften into the gentle hues of autumn or the stark simplicity of winter. Yet, this transformation is not merely a fading but a change in the form of beauty. The garden's splendor evolves into new expressions—dried seed pods, the delicate patterns of frost, and the quiet promise of renewal with the coming spring.

Mount of Blessings . . .

Submitted by Matthew Kabush

The one thing essential for us in order that we may receive and impart the forgiving love of God is to know and believe the love that He has to us. 1 John 4:16. Satan is working by every deception he can command, in order that we may not discern that love. He will lead us to think that our mistakes and transgressions have been so grievous that the Lord will not have respect unto our prayers and will not bless and save us. In ourselves we can see nothing but weakness, nothing to recommend us to God, and Satan tells us that it is of no use; we cannot remedy our defects of character. When we try to come to God, the enemy will whisper, It is of no use for you to pray; did not you do that evil thing? Have you not sinned against God and violated your own conscience? But we may tell the enemy that "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7. When we feel that we have sinned

and cannot pray, it is then the time to pray. Ashamed we may be and deeply humbled, but we must pray and believe. "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." 1 Timothy 1:15. Forgiveness, reconciliation with God, comes to us, not as a reward for our works, it is not bestowed because of the merit of sinful men, but it is a gift unto us, having in the spotless righteousness of Christ its foundation for bestowal.

We should not try to lessen our guilt by excusing sin. We must accept God's estimate of sin, and that is heavy indeed. Calvary alone can reveal the terrible enormity of sin. If we had to bear our own guilt, it would crush us. But the sinless One has taken our place; though undeserving, He has borne our iniquity. "If we confess our sins," God "is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. Glorious truth!—just to His own law, and yet the Justifier of all that believe in Jesus. "Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not His anger forever, because He delighteth in mercy." Micah 7:18. MB 115.1 - MB 116.1

Dateline . . .

September Calendar

- 18 PAYDAY
- 23 Chapel—Product Dedication—Robert Hastings
- 30 Chapel – Open Enrollment/Spilling the Tea

September Birthdays

- 19 Kelly Lewis
- 19 Steve Ertel
- 23 Joan Gutierrez
- 24 Kim Yeaman
- 24 Bob Kyte
- 25 Leonard Pflugard

Partial October Calendar

- 2 PAYDAY
- 7 Chapel – IT – Dan Show
- 14 Chapel – Product Dedication – Eric Peterson

Partial October Birthdays

- 3 Ana Grande
- 5 Vicki Ringering
- 6 Ben Cooke
- 8 Amir Davis
- 11 Olga Valdivia