

## **Church Board Extends an Invitation to New Pastor**

On June 3, 2009, the church board voted unanimously to extend an invitation to Jon Ciccarelli to be the next senior pastor of the Calimesa SDA Church. This vote was the culmination of a search process that began in February, shortly after Pastor Chris Oberg announced that she had accepted the position of senior pastor of the La Sierra University SDA church. Pastor Sandy Roberts of the Southeastern California Conference helped guide the entire process and we once again thank her for her help.

Pastor Ciccarelli has pastored at the Escondido SDA church for 17 years and has served as senior pastor for the past six years. Escondido is completing an ambitious program building a new academy and church facility on the same campus. Prior to Escondido, Pastor Ciccarelli obtained his BA in theology at La Sierra where he took several classes with Chris Oberg. He completed his MA in Pastoral Studies from Azusa Pacific University in 2004. He also completed his certification in Critical Incident Stress Management and has served as a chaplain for the Red Cross.

While at Escondido, Pastor Ciccarelli has reached out to the community. He has been active in the Escondido Clergy Association and is excited about our church's plans for community outreach. Even during the search process, he followed the progress of the community garden.

During his ministry, Pastor Ciccarelli has been involved with the Leadership Institute ("The Journey"). He and Pastor Ken Curtis have worked together in this project which helps ministers develop spiritually. He met a number of Mesa Grande alumni through a Summer Student Internship program which he developed. This long-running program helped high school and college students throughout the Pacific Union in their personal growth and in their ability to minister within their churches.

Jon met his wife, Lisa, while taking classes at a community college. Although she was not an Adventist at the time, the two of them have become a vital ministerial team for the past 22 years. Lisa is a licensed Marriage Family Therapist in private practice. Jon and Lisa co-direct the Sacred Hearts Ministry that focuses on mentoring married couples in their spiritual formation as husband and wife. She has also served as the leader of Women's Ministries at Escondido.

The Ciccarelli's have two children, Andrew, aged 10 and Alana (pronounced ah-LAH-nah) aged 9. They will be in fifth and fourth grades this coming fall. Andrew enjoys athletics and Alana has a flair for art and music.

Music is also a passion of Jon who originally began his college trek as a music major. He enjoys leading worship and playing guitar. He has also written, published and recorded Christian music. He also enjoys surfing but doesn't get out in the water nearly as much as he would like to.

Pastor Ciccarelli was torn about leaving Escondido, but was willing to listen to God's leadings. He describes his philosophy of ministry as:

It is through a deep intimate relationship with God that powerful life-changing ministry occurs in the life of leaders. I take seriously the analogy Jesus taught in John 15 that it is only through abiding in Him that we bear any fruit for His glory.

We welcome Jon, Lisa, Andrew and Alana to Calimesa and Mesa Grande and look forward to abiding in God's love together.