

SwIM Center Newsletter

Southwest International Mission Center



Community of Christ

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Faith and Beliefs

We are an international Christian church with 250,000 members found in more than fifty nations. Our World Headquarters, including a Temple dedicated to the pursuit of peace, is located in Independence, Missouri. The church was organized in 1830 in New York State.

DAILY PRAYER FOR PEACE



By Terry Read
Mission Center
President
tread@cofchrist.org

MISSION CENTER - - The World Church is looking for submissions for the daily Prayer for Peace in the Temple. If anyone would like to submit a prayer they can send them to Nadine Stallbaumer, whose e-mail is: nstallbaumer@cofchrist.org.

ST GEORGE, UTAH

By Paulette Wertz
St George, Utah

ST GEORGE - - We are really thankful to the El Segundo, CA Congregation for their donation of their Hymnals, Sing A New Song and Praise Songs books to our congregation. They are being used in each service.

Cheree and Fidel Torres have a new daughter, Marie Nicole, born May 15, 2010, five weeks early and doing fine. Continued page 2

VISTA

By Ralph Gault
Vista Congregation

VISTA AREA - - WOW...this quarter really went by fast, but here we are from the sunny and bright side of the San Diego Country and all is well. Let me give you an update as to what is happening in our area, always exciting.

In the last quarter we have experienced some unique and great ministries from varied sources...
Continued Page 2

GUESS?

By Michelle McGrath
Mission Center Financial Office

I drove home Wednesday night with a song stuck in my head and my heart overflowing. Why? It started several hours earlier. At 4:50 we unlocked a hot, stuffy, closed-up church.

We threw open the windows and let the fresh, outside air in. Promptly at 5:00, the neighborhood kids began to arrive, beckoning to their friends on the street to come in.

Continued page 2

ST GEORGE Continued

Kristofer and Jorie Grubham have a new son, O'Maley, born May 20, 2010.

We were blessed with a service on June 20, 2010 with the Journey Takers, from Southern CA and SWIM. This group included Jessika Fraga, Jessica Gunter, Danny Lindamood, Dan Martinez, Kyle Logan, Patrick Webb, Cassandra Nunez, and Markus Fulker with Patti Abbott and Jerry Webb, chaperones. Thank you Journey Takers.

Community Outreach: Dixie Care and Share, Dove Center, Family Service Center, Prison Ministry

Everyone is involved in our worship services

James Bradley Hetrick --trumpet solos
Dan Jackson playing Hymns on his guitar
Jan Jamriska and Dan Jackson singing duets
Readings and Prayers are done by all

We are really enjoying studying the Book of Mormon in our Sunday School Class.

It is good to have the Prats family back in St. George.

The girls Kaytlin (she does reading and helps with collections) and Emily our three year old that loves to sing and dance.

Jerimyah Hall also helps with collections and he is good at adding people on our prayer list and drawing pictures to use for church.

We still have meetings in our homes for Church Service and we rotate between five homes. Our average attendance is between ten to twenty persons, that's when everyone is in town.

We invite any and all who might be driving through or visiting St. George to stop and attend church with us. We would love to have you.

VISTA Continued

March speakers were Ryan Sharp, Marsha Rastle, a special service coordinated by Neva Norling, Ralph Gault for Easter Sunday, certainly our conference reports from those who were delegates and this was wonderful, our May communion service was held at Neva Norlings home, Norio Morota and again Ralph Gault. Please keep in mind that we are always open for visiting ministries and trust anyone who would like to join us, please give us a call and we will certainly include you for our services.

May 9th we were richly blessed with the baby blessing of Myles and Joselyn Reukema, it was a beautiful sacrament and all enjoyed participating in a wonderful worship experience.

Our schedule for June/July and August is as follows: June speakers so far have been Ralph Gault; Don Wiley from Escondido who always brings a rich ministry, Marsha Rastle is scheduled for the 20th and then let me tell you about our service for the 27th.

Once a year we ask Tom and Dorothy Hawthorne if we might impose on their generosity and have a service at their beach home which is in Carlsbad. They have never turned us down and this year it is scheduled for the 27th of June. Not really sure as to when the Newsletter will be published but if you get this notice prior to the 27th then please come on down and enjoy a short worship service and an afternoon of sharing with us, we'd sure like to see everyone. The folks from Clairemont are planning to join us this time so, please, if you'd like to join us, do so, it is always a tremendous time and Tom and Dorothy are fabulous hosts. This is one of the highlights of the year for our little group and we'd like to share this time with anyone who would like to join us.

I'm sure everyone has heard by now but just so that all are updated on this bit of news... Continued page 3

VISTA Continued

Ryan and Sarah Sharp have been blessed with their new born, Fiona (spelling?) which happened on the first part of April. Not only is everyone happy but she is truly a blessing as we all observe and watch her developments from week to week. Thanks Ryan and Sarah for sharing her with so many of us, she is truly a blessing.

We have recently been blessed with a couple of new folks joining us in worship. Just this past week a couple walked in on us and come to find out the man is a cousin to Marsha Rastle and she did not even know they had moved to our area. They plan on attending pretty much as time permits, just another blessing.

On the same tone of new people we have recently been blessed with Paul and Vanessa Kramer and Paul's sister. Paul was in the Navy and is a helicopter pilot and they join us frequently. Vanessa is a singer and has a beautiful voice and has shared with us more than once and we certainly enjoy her ministry. She is also involved in a small theatre which operates in the Vista area and she recently played in a comedy, it was great. She is now in rehearsals for a second play and it is named "Sealed for Freshness" For information please call 1-760-806-7905.

The show will run for about four weeks starting June 24 and the last performance will be on July 17th. If you'd like to know more about this simply give the theatre a call for they will most pleased to give you any information you'd like. By the way, if you mention that you know a member of the cast you will receive a discounted ticket rate. The address of the theatre is 340 East Broadway, Vista, CA 920884-6020.

As has been offered in the above regarding speakers, if anyone would like to "practice" preaching, give us a call so we can put you on our schedule, we are always looking for folks to share with us, don't be bashful.

We are still excited about our little group, we truly are blessed with much talent and leadership and dedication, God does watch over us as He promises.

We believe that better times are still ahead of as we pray for expansion and Gods direction for reaching out and ministering to whomever would come our way.

GUESS? Continued

Promptly at 5:00, the neighborhood kids began to arrive, beckoning to their friends on the street to come in. It was the weekly neighborhood youth program. Nothing fancy here – a simple craft, painting wooden shapes (dinosaurs, butterflies, dogs, flowers), a snack of chips and Capri Sun juice, lots of conversation, compliments, appreciation, laughter, and fun.

After that and a half an hour of playing in the yard in front of the church, joined by a few more neighbors, it was time for "church" – prayer service which included a white board of prayer concerns and praises, songs sung together, stories and prayers shared, and notepads and pens to occupy young hands.

The evening ended with the assembly of 150 sack lunches for a local charity that provides the sack lunches to needy job-seekers to take with them for the day.

The event was truly intergenerational, with people who might have been separated by 70 or 80 years instead united in the joy of working together to help others. It wasn't perfect.

A few apples hit the floor, and a few cookies got crushed. One bag got two sandwiches and one got none (caught in "quality control" as the bags were rolled up and placed in boxes). But that evening, the church was truly a neighborhood church. And it all started by throwing open the doors and letting some fresh air in. Could your congregation do the same?

CHULA VISTA

By Teresa Ress,
Pastor
Chula Vista



CHULA VISTA - - Welcome to one of the southern congregations of the Mission Center! The Chula Vista congregation would like to say "Thank You!" to all our guest ministers. We appreciate your willingness to come south and share with us. This is a blessing unto our congregation.

The Lord has assured us many times of his love. He has encouraged us to continue the journey and his mission. I ask for your continued prayers for our congregation. We have many health issues and family issues in the congregation. Challenges come with some days easier than the other days. I was visiting a non-member in the hospital the other day and she told me, you know when your Dad spoke about the gift of a smile and I said yes, she said that one of her family members reminded her all week when she did not smile that Joe said you need to smile at people. The smile caught on☺!

We have taken to heart our gift of our children. We try to offer a bi-monthly special 11am worship service geared towards the kids or planned by the kids. When was the last time you got to play Build a Church or bingo in place of a sermon at church. Using the theme we make games for everyone to enjoy together.

Jamie Conley and Jeanna Conley are back for the summer from Graceland University. Nigel Sanders graduated from Sweetwater High School. Cameron Grabau is now 10 months and lets us know when he is at church! Ken Norton is working lots of weeks at Buckhorn Camp. Carol Reynolds came out from Texas to visit with us. She stayed a couple of weeks at Adele

Norton's home. It was nice to have her in our midst again. We continue to participate in the Interfaith Shelter program by providing the housing. The use of our facility allows some other churches in the area to stay involved in the program.

Last Christmas had we not opened our doors for 2 extra weeks and provided the guest's lunches the guests would have had to live on the street or find other shelter programs for those 2 weeks. The Chula Vista Presbyterian church provided the facilitator to arrange with the other churches a unity of hosting for the 2 weeks. This was a great blessing for the program.

Our stewardship of giving continues through our silver bucket. This is a special offering of loose change given towards special projects. In the past we have given to Chattanooga, Russia, Ukraine, replaced a couple of church fences, assisted Danny (our only senior high student) to attend the recent Caravan and now saving towards replacing the carpet in the Adult Classroom. Children of all ages, even our babies, like to place money in this bucket. Watching the smiles is an awesome experience.

The Clairemont congregation has visited us many times. We look forward to seeing them and worshiping with them. It's not always easy to close your doors on a Sunday and worship someplace else, for you never know who may come by.

We in Chula Vista have some that cannot travel, so to have other members come to worship with us keeps our link alive in the Mission center. Thank you Clairemont!

I invite you to come and visit us sometime. May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you on your journey.

Shalom,
Teresa

ESCONDIDO

By Irene Olson
Correspondent
Escondido

ESCONDIDO - - On Easter, we celebrated communion at 9 a.m. followed by a quick brunch. Then we met at 10:30 a.m. to Celebrated Easter during the morning worship service.

Four people from Escondido attended World Conference. Harold Olson, Irene Olson, Don Wiley, Sue Wiley and each gave a testimony about how spiritual the conference was. We gave this report on the World conference to our congregation on Apr 25th.

On May 9th Michele McGrath was our guest speaker. Then on June 15th she came to visit us, to experience firsthand our activities, Wednesday Afternoon Kids. She also stayed for Prayer Service and Peanut Butter Night.

On May 30 we had a Memorial Day hymn service followed by a sandwich and salad lunch.

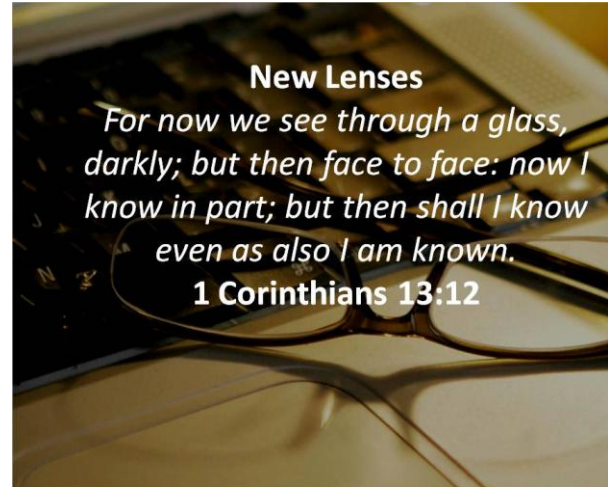
Holly Hawthorne graduated from Palomar College Nursing School and Dani Lindamood from San Marcos High School.

Dear sisters and brothers and Southwest International Mission Center:

I give thanks to God for our association through the body of Christ, now given further clarification in my role as your servant leader in the mission center.

I look forward to deepening relationships with those I already know and becoming friends with those I haven't. Ours is ever a challenging journey: to discern God's desire for us, as disciples and communities, and give ourselves freely and without reservation to make that vision real. I am grateful to share the path with you. Terry Read

NEW LENSES



By Terry Read
Mission Center President

My vision needs correcting. I currently require 1.75 magnification to do any reading or close work. I use "currently" because it used to be 1.5. Without such aids reading is like trying to recognize someone in the fog. Actually, it's better described using the Apostle Paul's metaphor as "through a dark glass." With my reading glasses (about \$10 from the drug store), I can see clearly and easily. If only spiritual vision could be corrected so easily. However, God does graciously provide clear and effective assistance through a myriad of means. One of these helps is through scripture.

In his letter to the believers at Corinth, Paul concludes his beautifully poetic and timeless description of true love with a metaphorical insight into the transformation of a person who loves in the manner of God. We are lovers, yes, but we love through eyes clouded by self-centeredness, fear, and underdeveloped emotional and spiritual strength. Yet with God's love to anchor us, shape and guide us, we can love through and with clearer and stronger sight.

We begin to behold the beloved: our neighbors and ourselves. To love is to love as God loves – without condition and with full knowledge. Our newest scripture in the Community of Christ provides yet another piece of "vision therapy" for our spiritual eyes.

NEW LENSES Continued

Section 164 of the Doctrine and Covenants presents a sacramental lens through which to view our world: baptism. Of course, the counsel given in this section concerns our practice of baptism, but throughout the text there is a thread of this sacrament at once profoundly symbolic and drenchingly real. Consider the numerous references:

- The section’s preamble includes another Pauline metaphor: “As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ (from Galatians 3).”
- Verse 2 refers to “the grace and authority of Jesus Christ through which baptism occurs.”
- In verse 3, we are each “urged to examine the depth of [our] baptismal commitment...” through which we have become “fully immersed in the servant life of Christ...” and are called to live its meaning daily.
- Verse 4’s counsel concerning the Lord’s Supper naturally links to baptism and the reaffirming of the defining covenant.
- The section’s guidance addressing human behavior and relationships is also seen through the lens of baptism: “when you are truly baptized into Christ you become part of a new creation. By taking on the life and mind of Christ, you increasingly view yourselves and others from a changed perspective.” (verse 5)
- In the section’s concluding paragraph (verse 9), baptism’s vantage point is again lifted up: “When your willingness to live in sacred community as *Christ’s new creation* exceeds your natural fear of spiritual and relational transformation, you will become who you are called to be.” And finally, it is viewing the world through this lens and living in that vision which “respects and reveals God’s presence and reconciling activity in creation.”

Yes, the mission of Jesus Christ is what matters most for our journey. And that mission is to and toward the vision of the new creation. When I “look” back to my baptism, it’s tempting to get a little nostalgic, focusing on the warmth and love of that moment and setting.

But my new “lenses” present a different scene. There is love, most certainly, but instead of warmth and comfort, there is a restlessness around me, urging me to move ahead, toward places and people – known and unknown – in whom I can see with increasing clarity, the beauty of God and God’s desire.

I hope you can look at your own baptism, whenever and however it occurred, and get such an image. And if you’ve not been baptized, consider using these “lenses” to see the path toward which God may be directing you. It’s a wonderful way to not only check your vision, but begin to improve it as well.

We Are

A community of people where the gospel of Jesus Christ is the focus of worship, learning, caring, and mission.

An opportunity for genuine spiritual growth and relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Local congregations where deep friendships are established, individual ideas are valued, and where those special needs find security, care, and support.

A faith community that encourages the ministry of all people, including children and youth.

A global community with a worldwide mission that values all cultures and celebrates the rich diversity of human life.

A meaningful opportunity to serve Jesus Christ by helping others and promoting peace.

Our Mission

We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love, and peace.

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