

# COMMUNITIES of JOY

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MISSION CENTER

OCTOBER 2011

## Anointed

Terry Read, SCMC President

**I**wanted to run out of the room. But then, I just prayed to Jesus to help . . . and he did.” So goes the testimony of Eric Hurtado, one of the youth on last summer’s Journey Takers Caravan. Eric was speaking of his experience at City Team, a downtown ministry for some of San Francisco’s poorest people and one of our stops on the Caravan. For a few hours on a Saturday, our youth were asked to minister to the needs of those who are hungry, lonely, ill, and often forgotten. These young disciples became the “hands and feet” of the One they follow.

For Eric (and several others) the task that prompted his urge to flee before uttering his urgent prayer was foot-washing—washing the feet of a stranger, a person who lives on the street, who likely hasn’t had clean feet for days, weeks, or more. I could relate. Performing an act so personal and intimate as foot washing would be daunting enough for me even for someone I know whose feet are well cared for.

But Eric—along with his fellow Journey Takers—answered the call and performed acts of kindness with confidence and grace. Eric’s prayer was answered. And really, what better time to pray for God’s strength—and know it will be answered—than when you’re doing God’s work? Because of his faith AND his action, Eric was able to wash a stranger’s unclean feet just as Jesus washed such feet. Even more, Eric washed another’s feet *as though* he was washing the feet of Jesus.

In Luke 4, we find the core of our mission as followers of Jesus Christ. Now articulated for us by our leader and brother Stephen Veazey as five Mission Initiatives, our mission nonetheless emerges from the Hebrew prophetic tradition, known and embodied by our Lord, who read the words aloud in his hometown synagogue with “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to . . .” . . . bring good news . . . healing . . . recovery . . . deliverance . . . liberation. The Greek word *ἐχρίσεν*, translated as “anointed” is defined as “to anoint (physically, with oil; spiritually, with the Holy Spirit), to assign a person to a special task, implying a giving of power by God to accomplish the task.” (Strong’s Concordance)

Do you ever feel like you’ve lost touch with the Spirit? Or like your congregation rarely experiences the power of the Spirit? I wonder what would happen if instead of expecting the Spirit to flood our lives because of the fervency of our prayers or the quality of the sermon or the loveliness of worship (important as each of these are to our faith), we discovered the power of the Spirit resting on us because we dared to . . .

- ▶ Bring good news by inviting a friend or stranger into our lives; or
- ▶ Go out of our way to bring comfort and caring to someone in need; or
- ▶ Take a stand against injustice by acting on behalf of the poor and marginalized as a priority; or
- ▶ Raise up the banner of Christ’s peace amid our culture of violence and tendency toward war; or
- ▶ Offer our time, talent, voice, resources, selves for the sake of God’s desire for all of creation?



*Eric Hurtado, of La Nueva Esperanza en Cristo Congregation, places a clean sock on a man whose feet he washed.*

Is the Spirit of the Lord upon us?

If this question intrigues or compels you, please consider attending our mission weekend this coming January 13-15 at Buckhorn (see page 9 or go to [www.cofchristla.org](http://www.cofchristla.org)). We will be blessed by the ministry of Larry McGuire, Seventy and Northeast USA Field Mission Coordinator (who also ministered among us at Reunion last summer), whose passion for mission is deep and growing. Our theme for the event, “The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Us . . .” will both call us together and send us forth with rich exploration and inspiration in between.

May we be known more and more as men, women, youth, and children upon which the Spirit of the Lord rests, primarily because we accept **and** serve the mission of the One who proclaimed its anointing. 🐦

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## Sacrament of Confirmation

Wynn Maile, Anaheim Congregation

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.* -Romans: 8:28

This scripture is very special to me. I have had five baptisms since birth. The first two were my parent's choice. When I was three week old, I was baptized Catholic, my father's family faith. At three months of age I was baptized Nazarene, my mother's faith.

I attended a local community church in my youth, and was baptized Seventh Day Adventist at age twelve. Then at age 17, I was baptized United Methodist. In my early twenties I converted to the Latter Day Saints faith. I prepared and had lessons; prayed often and wanted this baptism to have a deeper meaning—that God would know my heart's desire to be baptized. It had nothing to do with my impending wedding to my future husband. I prayed and read the scriptures and for the first time had a relationship and understood the relationship with my Heavenly Father. I allowed myself to open my heart and mind to God, "the still small voice". The day of my baptism the presence of the Holy Ghost, Jesus,



my brother and our Heavenly Father was so meaningful. I have never been called to redo what had such an impact on me then.

I have been active since 1990 in the Community of Christ. God's still small voice has guided me in all areas I have served. God would guide me when and if I joined the Church. After the change to honor baptisms from other faiths was brought to my attention, God's call to join the church was made known to me.

I was confirmed in July 2011 at the Anaheim Congregation. The same feeling at my baptism, if not stronger, was at the confirmation and there was no doubt that God was calling and I answered that "still small voice".

Cynthia Beebe, pastor of the Anaheim congregation, shares that the confirmation service was a beautiful experience for not only Wynn and her family, but for the whole congregation. Following the worship service we shared in a lunch reception for Wynn. The members of the congregation were able to share with her their blessings and congratulations as she enters a new journey in her discipleship. 🌟

## Simi Valley Confirmation

Rickie Miller, Simi Valley Pastor



With glad hearts, the Simi Valley Congregation welcomed its' first member ever confirmed without re-baptism on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Elders Sue Coleman and Anita Peterson confirmed Leela Dwaram in a very emotional service based on Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, do it with all of your heart, as if you were working for the Lord. Not for people."

Greetings from all over the Mission Center were shared. Leela was challenged by Pastor

Rickie Miller to seek balance in her life and to become a pillar of the church. The congregation was challenged to always lift Leela up and reinforce her faith should she need them. A rose ceremony was held and each member of the congregation was given the opportunity to share the impact her ministry has had on them. "Like a meteor in the ocean," was one comment.

Leela tells the story of baptism in a river in India. As she speaks about the event, you can almost smell the spices of the food cooking and see the colors of the fabrics. It is a day she remembers reverently. The congregation also remembers her first time with them. Walking in the door unannounced, unknown and unexpected, Leela took her place for worship one Sunday morning like she had been there for years, and returned on Good Friday. Leela's poise at prayer and tears at the cross are cherished memories Simi saints discussed at length during the confirmation. She is loved and known throughout the mission center and is the first of her family confirmed into the church.

Many in the congregation will remember this as a spirit-filled sacrament. Leela's full-hearted generosity, grace and pure faith has been welcomed and loved in our church family. We are all truly blessed by her peaceful and centered presence among us at the foot of the cross. 🌟

### Communities of Joy

*Communities of Joy* is e-published quarterly by the Community of Christ Southern California Mission Center. Next issue deadline is December 10.

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## Locks of Love



Linsay Prante from the Costa Mesa congregation has been busy this summer babysitting to buy yarn to make hats for children with cancer. She also donated her hair to Locks of Love which makes wigs for cancer patients.

If you have any spare yarn laying around the house and want to put it to good use, consider donating it to Linsay so she can make more hats for cancer patients. Bring your donations to any Mission Center event like conference etc., and we will get the yarn to her.

## Worship Centers



The worship experience is enriched at the Hemet-San Jacinto Congregation by the worship centers Sondra Plonte creates monthly.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### OCTOBER

- 14-15 Priesthood and Leaders Workshop
- 16 Children's Sabbath
- 21-23 Peace Colloquy, *Independence, MO*
- 22 Halloween Party, *Canoga Park*
- 28 Shamrock Fall Blessings, *Simi Valley*
- 29 Buckhorn Golf Tournament
- Halloween Party, *Costa Mesa, 6:00PM*
- Halloween Game Night, *Inland Empire*
- 31 Trunk -n-Treat, *Various Congregations*

### NOVEMBER

- 6 Daylight Savings Ends
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 12 SCMC Conference with Scott Murphy, *Temple City*
- 20 Thanksgiving Dinner, *Costa Mesa*
- 24-25 Thanksgiving

### DECEMBER

- 3 Christmas Faire, *Gardena*
- 4 Messiah Sing-A-Long, *Upland*
- 10 SCMC Primary/Junior Christmas Day Camp
- 11 Christmas Breakfast, *Ventura*
- Christmas Dinner, *Costa Mesa*
- Temple Advent Service Broadcast
- 17 Shamrock Event
- La Posada, *La Nueva Esperanza en Cristo*
- 19 Christmas Dinner and Play, *Orange*
- 24 Christmas Eve Service, *Simi Valley*
- 25 Christmas
- 31 New Year's Eve

## Riddles

1. Clara Clatter was born on December 27th, yet her birthday is always in the summer. How is this possible?
2. A skin have I, more eyes than one. I can be very nice when I am done. What am I?
3. What is the tallest building in town?
4. You are pushing your car. You stop at a hotel. At that precise moment you realize that you are bankrupt. What is actually going on?
5. As I was going to St. Ives, I met a man with seven wives, the seven wives had seven sacks, the seven sacks had seven cats, the seven cats had seven kittens; Kittens, Cats, sacks and wives, how many were going to St. Ives?
6. What doesn't get any wetter, no matter how much rain falls on it?
7. How many times can you subtract the number 5 from 25?
8. How many bricks does it take to complete a building made of brick?
9. Even if they are starving, natives living in the Arctic will never eat a penguin's egg. Why not?

# 2011 Southern California Mission Center Conference

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

**CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES**

9468 East Broadway  
Temple City CA 91780



## Press On

**GUEST MINISTRY**  
**Apostle K. Scott Murphy**  
President, Council of Twelve  
Director of Field Ministries



**Worship † Fellowship † Conferring † Learning**

### CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- 8:45AM Gathering and Registration
- 9:30 Special Update Session: Journeying toward the U.S. National Conference, led by Apostle Murphy
- 10:30 Sing for Peace
- 10:45 Worship—Apostle Scott Murphy, speaking; sharing from Journey Takers
- 12:00 PM Lunch hosted by Simi Valley Congregation (Suggested donation: \$5 adults, \$2.50 children under 10)
- 12:45 Pre-Legislative Session
- 1:30 Legislative Session



### CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

- Nursery ..... Ages 0-3
  - Children ..... Age 4 through Grade 6
- 9:30-10:30AM & 12:45 - 2:45PM



For more information – [www.cofchristla.org](http://www.cofchristla.org)  
or contact Terry Read 909-606-8636 ♦ [TRead@cofchristla.org](mailto:TRead@cofchristla.org)

# FALLING FORWARD

Kyle Logan, SCMC Youth and Children Minister

Greetings,

Now that summer is behind us and we look to a new school year, there are heaps of events happening in Children and Youth Ministries.

Halloween fun is to be had at the various Trunk-n-Treat events being held around the mission center for children. Trunk-n-Treats will be on Halloween weekend (Anaheim, Orange, Welcome Home).

The first Journey Takers of the school year will be held at Temple City Congregation on the weekend of Mission Center Conference (November 11-13). We will have a fundraiser to support our caravan trip to Oregon next summer. Also the youth will be sharing their ministry Sunday morning. Journey Takers is for Senior High youth in grades 9-12.

Christmas Day Camp is next up. This year we will be having two different dates for the camp. The first camp will be held at Canoga Park Congregation on Saturday, December 10 and the second camp will be held in Rancho Cucamonga a week later on December 17. This camp will be joint with Southwest International Mission Center. Christmas Day Camp is for children in grades K-5.

As always, I ask that you continue to keep Children and Youth Ministries in your prayers and help spread the word about the different events happening throughout the mission center.

May peace be with you,

*Kyle*

Kyle Logan

KLogan@cofchristia.org

816.590.2239



Primary Camp



Junior Camp



SCMC and SwIMC Youth at SPECTACULAR



Journey Takers Caravan

1. She lives in the southern hemisphere where the seasons are reversed from those in the U.S. 2. A potato 3. The library—it has the most stories 4. You probably are playing Monopoly 5. One. It doesn't say that the people he met along the way were going to St. Ives 6. Water 7. Only once. After that, you will be subtracting 5 from 20, then 5 from 15, etc. 8. Only one (the last one) 9. There are no penguins in the Arctic; they are native to Antarctica

### Riddle Answers



## 2011 SCMC/SwIMC Reunion

### *Numbers Game*

Steve Davis, Reunion Co-Director

*There were 10 months in preparation for the one week in achieving.  
There were a dozen minds in planning, but one heart in believing.*

*There were 354 decisions to make, but only one determination.  
The deliberations, the calibrations, the frustrations.*

*There are 46 staff for this and untold volunteers for the kitchen, the bathrooms, the children,  
the adults, the knick-knacks, the chairs stacked  
And still only one heart.*

*14,894 miles to trek to get to one location. 37 cars, 8 trucks, 14 SUV, 4 jets, and one destination.  
There are 43 cabins, 16 tents, 2 dining halls, 4 bathrooms in only one home.  
And I would not condone being alone when you could be here.*

*There are 260 mouths to feed, and 520 hands to hold.  
There are 2600 fingers to reach to the heavens and 6103 teeth to shine in 260 smiles  
And there is one community that shared 189 stories of the glories of Christ in their lives.*

*3645 tears shed this week from those that would speak of the pain and the gain  
of God urging, pushing, pulling us on (and thank you, Don)  
One community, but not always peaceful and sometimes even contrary (with a nod to Larry)  
But that is when we grow. You know.*

*I know that to know you is to love you and to love you is to know you  
And I know you Katie, Michael, and David, and I know you Sarah, Bob, and Cymantha  
And I know you Trevor, Tyler, and Barbara, And I know you Robin Linkhart or maybe it's Karen Waring  
And I know you, ye sinners and saints, and the aint's, those that paint  
Their faces, their bodies in gaudy self delusion, illusion, confusion.*

*There is community falling short of perfection. But there is connection and balance.  
60 campers on a cable, 24 tables in the dining hall where we ate our meals under that canopy of 4392 trees.  
There is one community in you and me and in the two people on either side of you;  
There is one community under the uncounted stars of the Buckhorn skies.*

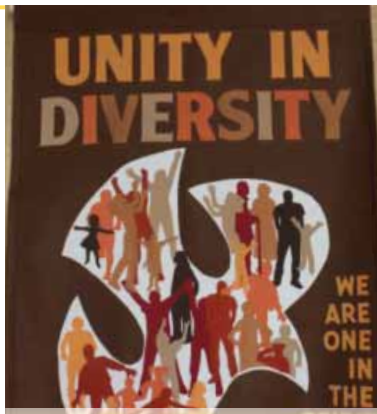
*The eyes that look to the heavens and wonder if they've ever been loved.  
520 arms to embrace them. 260 beating hearts to encase them in the spirit of God  
Because there is community—a Community of Christ.*

*There are 1152 vocal chords praising in only one voice.  
There are 520 lungs filling with mountain air and releasing it back to the world, our treasured pearl.  
Breathing, conceiving of life eternal, believing, perceiving a spirit so personal, and yet we remain a community.*

*Unity of purpose, worship, and the congregation lies before me  
And the congregation lies around me, above me, below me, and in me*

*Because we are here to worship*

*The One.*



Worship banner created by Pat Mueller



Guest Minister Larry McGuire preaching



Guest Minister Karen Waring leading worship



Morning worshippers sing



Praising in the Peace Center



Closing Communion emblems



Adult Class activity



Heather Weeks' liturgical dance



Guest Minister Robin Linkhart teaching



Another Mueller worship banner



Jeremy Kullman on the guitar



Michele McGrath leads worship



Glen Harris and granddaughter



Three generations singing



Kyle Logan in a joyful moment



Praying for one another



Tom and Dorothy Hawthorne worshipping



Time for a hike



Another beautiful Mueller banner

# PRIESTHOOD AND LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

*Develop Disciples to Serve and Pursue Peace*

THROUGH

◆ Effective Communication ◆ New Ministerial Skills ◆ Outreach Skills

**Courtyard Marriott-Riverside**

1510 University Avenue, Riverside, CA

**October 14-15, 2011**

Friday 7:00-10:00PM ◆ Saturday 8:00AM-9:00PM

- ✦ **GUEST MINISTER:** Sandee Gamet, Peace Building Specialist from International Headquarters
- ✦ **COST:** \$90.00 (includes lunch and dinner) CEPA and Campership Funds available  
Congregation Multi-Attendees Discounts: 5% for 2-3 Attendees; 10% for 4-5 Attendees. Must register by October 3.
- ✦ **LEADS** Supplemental Class Credit
- ✦ **HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS:** Courtyard Marriott-Riverside, 1510 University Avenue, Riverside, CA  
**RESERVATIONS:** 951-276-1200      **REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** October 10      **GROUP CODE:** CCCO  
**PRICE:** \$84.00 (plus tax) A block of rooms are reserved for Friday, October 14. Full breakfast included.
- ✦ **PRIZE DRAWINGS:** ◆ Shamrock Senior Ministry Event Certificates  
◆ Children-Youth Retreat/Camp \$25 Event Certificates      ◆ *Mission Initiatives* Theme Banner by Pat Mueller  
◆ Amazon Gift Card for Congregation with most Attendees      ◆ and More!
- ✦ **AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS:** (Choose one from each session)

## SESSION 1

- ◆ **Mission Center Vision for 2012** -Terry Read
- ◆ **Preaching Pearls** -Katie Harmon-McLaughlin
- ◆ **Children-Youth Worker Training and Registrations** -Kyle and Erin Logan

## SESSION 2

- ◆ **Pursue Peace and End Suffering-Human Rights and Trafficking Awareness** -Terry Read
- ◆ **Experience Congregations in Mission** -Zac Harmon-McLaughlin, Linda Read and Denise Leichter
- ◆ **Developing Disciples to Serve for Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministry** -Kyle and Erin Logan

### IMPORTANT

**UPON REGISTRATION** you will be sent "You've Got Style" Communication Assessment Tool to COMPLETE and RETURN by MONDAY, OCTOBER 10 for your individualized packet for the weekend.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Retreat Director, Denise Leichter, at DeniseLeichter@cofchristla.org or 310-403-9973.

**FINAL DEADLINE TO REGISTER AND SUBMIT ASSESSMENT SURVEY IS OCTOBER 10**

### REGISTRATION

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ CONGREGATION \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMIT PAYMENT:**  \$90<sup>00</sup> Enclose check payable to *Community of Christ*

**DISCOUNTS FOR MULTIPLE ATTENDEES** from same congregation and registered by October 3:

5% for 2-3 Attendees (\$85.50 each)       10% for 4-5 Attendees (\$81.00 each)

**NAMES OF OTHER ATTENDEES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL CHECK & REGISTRATION TO:** Tonia Cooper, 6441 Meadowcrest Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92647

**EMAIL:** Tonia@cofchristla.org      ◆ **PHONE:** 714-847-5731



# The Spirit of the Lord is pon Us...

Do you want to deepen your understanding and passion for Christ's mission?

Do you want your congregation to increase its pursuit of Christ's mission?

Are you looking for ideas and inspiration for fulfilling Christ's mission?

Friday, January 13 • 7:30 PM thru  
Sunday, January 15 • 12PM  
Child Care (ages 11 & under)



## Community of Christ

Southern California and  
Southwest International  
Mission Centers  
present

2012 Mission Weekend  
for Disciples and  
Congregations  
January 13-15  
Buckhorn Camp

- Guest Ministry:  
Larry McGuire  
President of Seventy
- Youth Track (ages 12-17)
- To register:  
[www.cofchristla.org](http://www.cofchristla.org)
- Cost: \$85-adult • \$65-youth  
• \$35-child (4-11) • Free (und. 4)

Invite People to Christ 

Abolish Poverty, End  
Suffering 

Pursue Peace on Earth 

Develop Disciples to  
Serve 

Experience  
Congregations in Mission 