

Communities of Joy

Greater Los Angeles Stake

January 2003

La Nueva Esperanza and Hispanic Ministries

The month of December was a busy month for Hispanic Ministries and La Nueva Esperanza. The congregation participated with the Temple City Congregation and Basileia in a special service held in Temple City. It was a combination of cultures and languages---including a posada and a piñata and a potluck. We also attended the satellite service from the Temple in Independence as a part of our Advent worship.

La Nueva Esperanza held a more public posada and march for peace the Sunday before Christmas, with forty attending, when we sang and walked along Broadway in Temple City in a candlelight procession. One car stopped and asked us to sing for them. We ended the day with tamales and a piñata, with everyone participating. We hope that next year more of you will join us in an Americanized version of the Mexican tradition of asking for room at the inn and celebrating the birth of Jesus.

The Peacemakers Club enjoyed its annual trip to a theme park---this year to Knott's Berry Farm. For a donation of a toy to Toys for Tots, we were able to take over 60 youth and children.

It is a pay back for those who have worked so hard in community service and clean-up efforts.

Christmas has been a very festive and worshipful time for all of us involved in Hispanic ministries, and we look forward to an exciting 2003 with God's blessings.



La Nueva Esperanza Posada — trying to break the piñata!

Ecumenical Prayer Service Celebrates Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Southern California Ecumenical Council, representing 18 denominations in the Greater Los Angeles Region, including the Community of Christ, is hosting an Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God on Sunday, January 26, 2003. This service, which will be held as part of the area's observance of the Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, will take place at Pasadena First United Methodist Church, 500 East Colorado Boulevard in downtown Pasadena at 4 pm. Rev. Dr. Robert Edgar, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ, will deliver the message. Begun in 1908, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated each year in cities and towns across the country and around the world. The public is cordially invited.

Pastors Retreat January 25 at Center for Christian Ministries

Greater Los Angeles Stake Pastors and Assistant Pastors will retreat together with the Stake Presidency and Bishopric at CCM in Temple City on Saturday, January 25, from 9 am to 5 pm. Topics for the day will include mission center design, the priesthood calling process, improving our camps and reunion, and building ministry support networks.

What we value about Greater Los Angeles Stake

This fall a total of 250 stake members gathered in five locations to talk about our common mission and shared values (we also worked over the budget and feasted on potluck). Here is a summary of what we said we value about our stake. This list is the primary input into the design of our mission center that will continue through the spring.

Connection

The stake connects our congregation with

- Other congregations
- Other jurisdictions (neighboring districts, stake, region)
- The World Church
- Other organizations that share our goals, including the ecumenical and interfaith community

These connections provide

- Fellowship and friendship
- Sharing of preaching, teaching, and music ministries
- Combining of events for greater participation (Messiah, Vacation Bible School, service projects, camps, for example)
- Sense of belonging
- New ideas, new methods, new perspectives
- A place to discuss issues
- Common purpose in the gospel
- Sharing with World Church and other organization leaders
- Opportunities for congregational members to share their gifts in a larger scope

Congregational support

- Priesthood calls and training
- Visiting preaching ministry
- Shared financial investments, to enable us to take advantage of exceptional opportunities and protect against risk
- Youth worker registration
- Assistance in legal and administrative concerns
- Worship and class materials
- Stake directory
- Encouragement to use all of our scriptures
- Budgeting
- Insurance

- Pastoral support of congregational leaders
- Help when the congregation has problems or opportunities too large to address by itself
- Temple School and other training

Camps and retreats

- Children's and youth camps
- Reunions
- Women's retreat
- Hispanic retreat
- Priesthood and leadership retreats
- Financial support so all may attend
- Support of Buckhorn

Diversity

- Beliefs
- Ages
- Ethnic groups
- Worship methods
- Skills and passions (for peace and justice, evangelism, children's ministries, for example)

Communication

- Stake-wide activities
- Good news and pastoral needs of our members in other congregations
- Contact information for other congregations
- Website
- Communities of Joy newsletter

Focused ministry

- *Hispanic/Ethnic ministry*
- Older Adult ministry
- Children, Youth, and Young Adult ministry

Venue to address issues of church and culture

- Stake Conference brings legislation to World Conference

Apostle McLaughlin to Visit GLAS January 14-20

Apostle Ken McLaughlin will share with Greater Los Angeles Stake in an extended visit January 14-20. You will have several opportunities to experience his special witness of the living Christ. We have arranged for Apostle McLaughlin to visit seven congregations around the stake, in the hope that one of them will be near enough to you to permit your attendance. He will also preach at a Saturday night stake-wide worship service at Temple City. Here is Ken's schedule for the week.

Date	Time	Place	Contact
Tuesday 1/14	6:00 pm	Basileia at Kostura's	Carol Kostura
Wednesday 1/15	7:00 pm	Canoga Park	Vicky Hrovat
Thursday 1/16	7:00 pm	Burbank	Marla Frisbee
Friday 1/17	10:30 am	Hemet/San Jacinto	Betty Ryan
Saturday 1/18	10:00 am	Costa Mesa	Tonia Cooper
	2:00 pm	Evangelists at Temple City	Edith Beebe
	6:00 pm	All GLAS at Temple City	Paul Davis
Sunday 1/19	10:00 am	Orange	Mark Richards
	2:30 pm	High Council at Temple City	Paul Davis
	5:00 pm	La Nueva Esperanza at Temple City	Sergio Juarez

Missionary Outreach and Leadership Development—Dale Hunzeker

My task for 2003 is to work with Greater Los Angeles Stake congregations in the areas of leadership development and outreach. This is not a simple task where I come into your congregation, teach you the "previously kept secret" secrets and you are instantly successful. Developing leaders (existing and new) and growing congregations (spiritually and numerically) require the energies and spiritual gifts of each person. My goal is to work with congregations who express interests in development of leadership at all levels and provide quality ministries to folk outside, as well as inside, the congregational walls.

If you and your congregation share these interests, please contact me. I would like to work with your leadership team to develop action plans and methods of evaluation that will allow us to move forward in building God's kingdom in this part of the vineyard. Some of the congregational support provided will be through stake-wide classes; some of the services will be provided in small group or congregational settings. My goal is to support your congregation in ways that are most helpful. May God continue to bless us in 2003 – so that we may share in ministry, improve our relationships, and experience the love of our Savior.

Greater Los Angeles Stake Worship Celebration with Apostle Ken McLaughlin

We invite you and your friends to celebrate worship with all of Greater Los Angeles Stake on Saturday, January 18, at 6:00 pm at the Center for Christian Ministries in Temple City. Apostle Ken McLaughlin will share his witness of Jesus Christ in a service of gospel music and justice seeking on this Martin Luther King Day weekend. Meredith Bischoff is planning the worship. There will be refreshments and fellowship afterwards. Please bring your friends!

Long Beach Congregation Makes Gift of Live Nativity to Neighborhood

The Long Beach Congregation put on a live outdoor nativity scene for their neighborhood on Saturday, December 21. Planned and produced by Sheila Muhlenkamp and Patti Abbott, the nativity starred Melissa and Kris Allshouse as Mary and Joseph, and featured real live goats, sheep, and a donkey. Attempts to secure a camel were unsuccessful, though prayers for the rain to cease were answered. Many people from the neighborhood stopped by.

A Fond Farewell to Diane, Bill, and Gladys

On behalf of Greater Los Angeles Stake, we want to say a great big thank you to Diane Shirota, Bill Dodds, and Gladys Silva, all three of whom are leaving our staff this month. Diane Shirota has been employed by GLAS since 1994, directing our Older Adult Ministries, and more recently serving as a resource for our Children and Youth Ministries. Her ministry has also included directing reunions and women's retreats, and completing post-graduate work with Cal State Fullerton in Gerontology and a two-year certification in Congregational Life through Claremont. Bill Dodds has been our Director of Leadership Development since January 2000, after serving the World Church as an appointee for 36 years. His ministry to GLAS has included teaching dozens of classes, counseling, editing our newsletter, and managing our technology, to mention only a few. Bill and Shirley are moving this month to Michigan to be near her family. Gladys Silva has served as stake secretary since September 2000, ministering to us as the telephone voice of the stake, assembler of our newsletters and conference bulletins, and general friendly, helpful presence. We will miss these three dear friends. May God's blessings be with Gladys, Bill, and Diane.

Stake Financial Report

	Actual	Budgeted
<u>Income to the Stake</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Allocation from Storehouse	\$221,800	\$225,000
Loan from El Segundo	\$240,000	\$240,000
Transfer from Agency Accounts	\$ 25,457	\$ 29,000
Membership Contributions	\$ 6,545	
Interest	\$ 1,791	
Miscellaneous (including Albertsons)	\$ 5,938	\$ 3,000
Rental Income	<u>\$ 39,480</u>	<u>\$ 12,000</u>
Total Income	\$540,121	\$509,000
<u>Stake Expenses</u>		
Administration	\$ 42,291	\$ 34,900
Audit	\$ 13,000	\$ 5,000
Human Resources	\$286,231	\$296,000
Congregational Support	\$ 54,545	\$ 51,000
Temporal Expense	\$119,527	\$122,100
Rental Expense	<u>\$ 42,772</u>	
Total Expense	\$558,366	\$509,000

Pre-Authorized Transfers

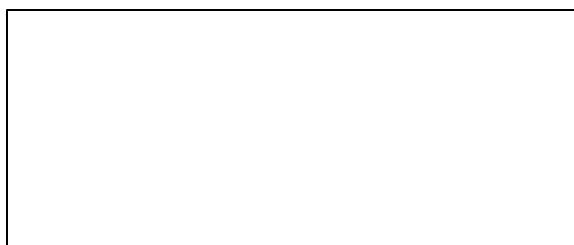
Pre-authorized Transfer (PAT) of funds is now available. This option is available to assist those who wish to contribute a fixed amount regularly to the local congregation, Stake, and World Church ministries. Your set donation will be deducted from your checking account once a month on the 15th. For more information or to receive the authorization form, call Ed Fugate or Tonia Cooper.

Aaronic Ministers: Ministry of Presence

We invite Aaronic priesthood members to take the new Temple School course, Ministry of Presence. It will be held at the Happy Valley Conference Center in Santa Cruz on January 10-12 and at Temple City on April 26-27, 2003. Mailings have been sent to the Aaronic Priesthood.

Upcoming Events

Jan 10-12	Aaronic Ministers: Ministry of Presence course, Happy Valley
Jan 18	GLAS Worship Celebration, Temple City
Jan 24-26	Jr/Sr High Retreat
Jan 25	Pastors' Retreat, Temple City
Jan 31-Feb 2	Children's Winter Camp
Apr 26-27	Aaronic Ministers: Ministry of Presence course, Temple City
Jun 8-13	Launch Out! Mission 2003
Jul 20-26	Reunion 2003, July 20-26, with President Grant McMurray



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