

# Communities of Joy!

Southern California Mission Center

April/May 2004

## Christ's Kids at Canoga Park

The Canoga Park youth group, Christ's Kids, have been busy during February and March. In February they started Christ's Kids Cafe as a fundraiser for the congregation. They held a potato and salad bar following morning worship on Sunday, February 29. Thirty-four hungry people attended, which resulted in the congregation earning \$261. It was a great success and more Christ's Kids Cafes are planned.

Christ's Kids decided to participate in the 1st Outreach International Hunger Challenge. On March 6-7 nine youth spent 24 hours together fasting for world hunger. They played games that made



them aware of world hunger, went on a "Can Hunger" scavenger hunt collecting non-perishable food that was contributed to Care and Share, and looked up scriptures that taught them about caring for the poor. Christ's Kids participated in the Sunday morning worship where they each shared what they experienced during the hunger fast. Each youth gathered pledges from family, friends, and congregational members for his or her fast. As a result, \$1600 will be donated to Outreach International for World Hunger.

The youth leaders and congregation members are so proud of each of the kids and their desire to help bring an end to world hunger. **Submitted by Glen and Joy Harris**

## Easter Ordination at La Nueva Esperanza

Easter Sunday is one of the most special of our Christian holidays—the remembrance of what God did for us through his Son. This Easter celebration was especially significant for La Nueva Esperanza, as Sara Juarez was ordained to the office of priest. We were blessed with special guests from various congregations in the Mission Center. Sara was ordained by Sherry Southland, with Linda Espiritu Santo and Sergio Juarez assisting, and received a special recognition from the Temple City Congregation presented by Sherry Southland and Jim Chapple.



As the leadership of the congregation continues to take shape, we look forward to the future with great anticipation. In May a baptismal service is planned, with another to possibly follow in June. It would be wonderful to have a baptismal service every month!

The work in El Sauzal, Mexico, also continues. It will be a blessing to be able to take them the food contributions from our SCMC Conference (see box on next page). The

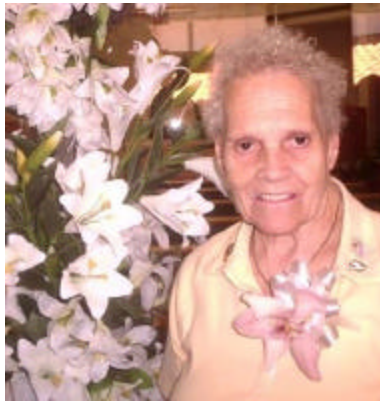
people in El Sauzal have felt a real need to help their community with a small food pantry; this will be a beginning.

The children's program is gaining momentum as they reach out into the neighborhood. The congregation is preparing to be in Tecate for the SW Int'l Mission Center Conference. President Grant McMurray and Apostle McLaughlin will provide ministry. This will be the first opportunity the people of El Sauzal and Tecate will have to attend a conference since most cannot cross the border. We are looking forward to a good experience.

**Submitted by Linda Espiritu Santo**



## Baptism at Hemet!



Leona Keim was baptized at Hemet on April 11 by Evangelist Cecil Robbins. She has looked forward to this day for many months. Leona has found a home with the people here and with Christ.

Submitted by Betty Ryan

## SoCal MC Conference to Be Held April 25

The Southern California Mission Center will hold its Spring Conference on April 25 at the Center for Christian Ministries in Temple City. Stassi Cramm, Counselor to the Presiding Bishop, will provide guest ministry. The schedule for the conference is

- 8:30 Refreshments
- 9:00 Praise singing
- 9:15 Business session
- 10:45 Worship with Stassi Cramm
- 12:00 Lunch by La Nueva Esperanza
- 1:15 Conversation on Hispanic Ministries

The items of business are

- Reports of SoCal MC leaders, including 2003 financial reports
- Recognition of outstanding youth and youth leaders
- Resolution to approve distribution of Lakewood funds

## Matsushita Family Celebrates 20 Years in USA



Hiroshi, Masako, Shihomi, and Minori Matsushita celebrated twenty years of ministry for Community of Christ in the United States in March 2004. The April 25 SCMC Conference will recognize the family's contribution. Please share your best wishes with them.

## Beans and Rice for the World

Please share with your congregations an opportunity to support the El Sauzal/Ensenada Misión in Baja with gifts of pinto beans, rice, other dry goods, canned goods, paper products, and zip lock bags. These gifts will be collected at the April 25 SCMC Conference and delivered to Baja by Linda Espiritu Santo.

A nursery and activities for the children will be provided from 9 to lunch. Please plan to come and enjoy fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

## "Magnify Your Call" at Annual Aaronic Event

SoCalMC's first Aaronic Event with Bishop Stassi Cramm will be held on Saturday, April 24 at CCM at Temple City from 2:00 to 5:00 PM, with dinner served at 5:00 PM.

Stassi will conduct three sessions on giftedness, beginning with the focus on Jesus as Comforter (Deacon), Jesus as Peacemaker (Teacher), and Jesus as Friend (Priest). Aaronic ministers, as well as pastors, and their spouses are invited to participate. The cost for the event will be \$10.00 per person. Child-care will be provided.



SCMC staff and spouses enjoyed a March 10 potluck celebration of the Matsushita's 20 years in the US at Mike and Linda Hewitt's home.



## Baptism at Simi Valley!

The ministry of music before the baptism of Jessica (in white)

was performed by Nancy Brown, Jessica, Juliete, Nick, and Cheyne. Tina Harris directed.

## Upcoming Events

- April 24** Aaronic Ministries Gathering at CCM
- April 25** SoCal MC Spring Conference at CCM
- Jun 19-26** Sr High Camp at Buckhorn
- Jul 17-23** SoCal MC Reunion at Buckhorn