

Breaking New Ground

by Terry Read, SCMC President

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted . . .

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

Since my nephew Matthew was just a little tike (he's now six) he has simply loved earth moving machines. His fascination goes well beyond a simple affinity for toy trucks. At only two years old, his vocabulary included "excavator", "front-end loader", and "skid-steer loader" (known to many as Bobcat, including Matthew and his brother Ben, though they've always preferred the term with more alliteration), each of which he can readily identify. I don't fully know why such large machinery strikes little Matty's fancy, but I have to confess that when I encounter these large mechanized shovels and scoops, I, too, become somewhat mesmerized. Witnessing such power to move, remove, shape, push, fill, or carry earth can be captivating. One gets the strong sense that once these machines are deployed, things are really happening. Sometimes God prepares the way for such dramatic "new construction."

Our mission center has been engaged in a building project during this year. Well, actually, a growth project. Yet, not one bulldozer has been summoned for the project,



not one backhoe pressed into action, not even one shovelful of earth moved to initiate the task. Would that it were as simple as merely summoning the big machines to do some earth moving! But breaking

ground is what is needed. Not literal groundbreaking, but the kind of new and renewed action that brings about a changing of the landscape. Early this year, our mission center launched a church growth plan. In an act of faith that God is calling us as a people toward a vision **that cannot be realized without breaking "new ground"**, we embraced as a top priority the growth of the church in the Los Angeles area, inviting and challenging each of our people and



congregations to meaningfully and materially participate in the plan.

When ground is literally broken, it is either in the preparation of something new or in the ending of something to leave behind. Both of these cyclical occurrences bring us into contact with God's earth and in these encounters, we are changed, the seeds of possibility—for new growth, greater understanding, deeper relationships—are planted in us. Whether the groundbreaking challenges us to let go of or to take a new hold, the opportunity to become more who God intends us to be is ripe before us.

Groundbreaking is usually just the beginning of building something new. It commences a sustained commitment to creating a new space and place. As you consider your faith journey, as well as your congregation's divine calling, where does God desire to break new ground? It may be in subtle ways—a greater emphasis in sharing of witness and resources for God's mission—or it may be in dramatic ways where some serious earth moving is required—getting directly involved in the starting of a new congregation. Either way, God meets us at the point of our groundbreaking and leads us toward the future, not ours, but God's future.

Where is God calling you? For what is God preparing you? To whom is God sending you? To what is God commissioning us? ■

What a Celebration!

by Denise Leichter

Mission Center President Terry Read joined Seventy Linda Espiritu Santo, La Nueva Esperanza en Cristo Pastor Sergio Juarez, and Santa Barbara Pastor Denise Leichter, in hosting the Santa Barbara Hispanic Tenant Congregation, led by Pastor Nery, to a spirit-filled service of shared testimonies, music, food and fellowship. The youth from La Nueva Esperanza congregation also sang some beautiful songs and added to the joy of the day.



Congregational Life Workshop

The Congregational Life Workshop (CLW) at Graceland University in late July was everything I anticipated it could be. Each participant had the opportunity to embrace what *Congregational LIFE can be with Learning, Inspiration, Fellowship and Engaging in Mission*. Leaders from SCMC attending were Linda Barentine from Anaheim, Edey Holmes from Canoga Park, Rebecca Jones & Chuck Metcalf from Santa Barbara, Gloria Allsman and Sherry Southland from Temple City, and Linda Espiritu Santo and Denise Leichter from the mission center staff. A community of 350 gathered for the week of *LIFE*. The presence of The First Presidency, several Apostles, the Presiding Evangelist and a multitude of World Church and diverse and gifted mission center leaders brought a wonderful spirit of facilitation, passion and discernment for Doctrine and Covenants 163 and other formational topics and classes. Here are some of the shared thoughts and classes of those that attended:

- ❑ Sherry Southland renewed old friendships and made some special new friends. She took *Turning the Ship without Sinking the Crew* and *Taking the First Faithful Step: Practical Ideas for Transformative Leadership in Small Congregations*. The discernment process was woven into both classes. "The greatest highlight for me was participating in the Prayer for Peace on Tuesday night."
- ❑ Charles Metcalf took the MEADS class on *Church Policy and Administration* which he found to be very informative, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience with a larger fellowship of the church and in daily worship.
- ❑ Rebecca Jones took the MEADS class *Interpersonal Peacemaking* which was a powerful experience for her as

she prepares to be deployed to Baghdad within a month. It gave her and Chuck special time together before their 179 days of separation.

- ❑ Linda took *Live Like You Believe It* with Tony and Charmaine Chvala-Smith and continues to reflect on the themes of *Pray Like You Believe It; Live Like Jesus Matters; Live Like the Gospel is Worth Sharing; Live Like the Spirit is Speaking to You Today; Live Like What Matters Really Matters!* Time spent with family was also a blessing.
- ❑ I also took *Turning the Ship* with Dave Schaal and found it very helpful as a new Pastor. I was also truly challenged and experienced new discernment in the *Community of Christ Scriptures* with Dale Luffman and left with a deeper testimony that our scriptures are irreplaceable, indispensable and a unique witness, "written and shaped" by the church for the church in the context of evolving and historical human experiences.

The "Living Room" experiences every morning as a small group, and worship services at night for the entire community were diverse, spirited and spirit-filled. Mealtime chat everyday had some good "one liners": "Is your congregation doing church or being a church" . . . "We need to focus less on growing numbers and more on growing disciples" . . . "*DISCERNMENT* is our calling and blessing for the future." For me, spending time on campus and on the farm with special friends provided a daily reminder to laugh, "breathe" and rest in fellowship within a community of Christ. Many other stories and testimonies will surface in our own congregations, but as a whole, the week was productive and rewarding. ■

-Denise Leichter reporting

Enjoying One Another

by Dean Crawford

On Sunday, July 20th the Hemet-San Jacinto Congregation enjoyed a talent show in which many members of the congregation participated. There were jokes, solos, music, skits, and old time songs sung by the congregation.



Talent show participants Sam Rose sang a solo, Judith Sutton played the flute, and Bessie Campbell sang "Wouldn't It Be Lovely" from *My Fair Lady*,

Youth Donations

Ralph's grocery stores will donate a portion of your purchases to the Southern California Mission Center's Youth if you register through the church by providing the following information.

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Riddle Answer 3: Because it has 4 A's, only 1 B and no C's or D's.



New Peace Venture Launched

On July 22, 2008, as nearly 1000 of the church's youth were assembled at Graceland University for SPECTACULAR, President Stephen Veazey led the SPEC community in the launch of The Community of Christ Peace Support Network. This new web portal, which went live that evening as the campus gathered for worship, is an intentional linking of people throughout the world who believe in peace and who want to make peace a reality.



Its purpose is to build a global movement which provides individuals the opportunity to join together based upon passion, calling, and that which resonates within them, rather than be constrained by the limitations of circumstance and geography.

The services are free, open to everyone, and rely on the contributions of people who are willing to share their stories in the adventure of peacemaking. This exchange of information engages a creative power so expansive that all have the chance to build peace through the five major content areas of peace with God, self, relationships, society, and the planet.

Check it out at www.peacesupportnetwork.org!

SCMC PRIESTHOOD AND COMPANIONS RETREAT



Growing the
Community of Christ

Mission: Now

OCTOBER 10-11, 2008

GUEST MINISTRY: Becky Savage, *The First Presidency*

LOCATION: Community of Christ, 9468 Broadway, Temple City, CA

TIME: Retreat begins 7:30PM Friday evening; Ends Saturday evening following closing worship.

A retreat mailing complete with schedule, lodging information and other details will be sent to each priesthood member in early September.

RETREAT FEE: \$35 (before October 1) RETREAT LATE FEE: \$50 (after October 1)

MAIL REGISTRATION CHECK with name of attendee(s) to:

Community of Christ ♦ PO Box 4077 ♦ Huntington Beach 92605-4077

LODGING: Information on a local hotel option (with reduced rates) will be included in the mailing sent to each priesthood member

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Terry Read ♦ 909-606-8636 ♦ TRead@cofchristla.org



Becky Savage
Member, First Presidency

Children Youth Children Youth Children Youth Children Youth Children Youth Children Youth Children Youth

Summer's winding down . . . Time to start a new adventure!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 16-19 Jr. Camp, Buckhorn Camp (3rd - 5th Graders)
- September 5-6 Youth Lock-In at Orange Congregation (6th Graders and up)



Earth Keeping Tip

As we start back to school and begin the regular routine of getting up, getting showered and ready for school, consider this: Instead of standing in the shower to help us wake up, try another activity like stretching exercises or listening to music. Long showers waste valuable drinking water and also dry out your skin! Wake up AND save water!

Send me your Earth Keeping tip and win a prize!

Linda Read, 15657 Ladera Vista Dr., Chino Hills, CA 91709
 E-MAIL: LRead@cofchristla.org



Back to School Riddles

Answers are located in the newsletter.

1. Why did the teacher get cross eyed when the -school year started?
2. What is the easiest way to double your lunch money?
3. Why is Alabama the smartest state in the US?

Secret Message

Here's another secret message! Use the Key to figure out what it says! Don't forget, if you are the first to call me at 909-606-8636, and haven't won more than twice this year, YOU WIN A PRIZE! Prizes are awarded to age groups: Children, 10 and under; Youth, 11-18; Adult, 19-60, and Wonderfully Wise, 60+!

19	26	17	6	26	14	17	6	3	9	16	14	9	13	25	23	12	11
13	19	16	14	20	15	25	13	6	16	13	25	14	17	6	11	7	!

KEY

A=17	B=2	C=26	D=11	E=9	F=24	G=3	H=14	I=19	J=22	K=4	L=12	M=20
N=6	O=25	P=18	Q=5	R=23	S=7	T=16	U=1	V=10	W=13	X=8	Y=15	Z=21

Children Youth Children Youth Children Youth Children Youth Children Youth Children Youth Children Youth

A Note From Linda . . .

Hello Friends!

I can't believe that the summer is almost over! We had such a great time at all the camps! I hope you made it to camp or SPEC this summer."

Primary Camp was so much fun. We had 18 participants (10 children and 8 staff). We built a "F.R.O.G. (Fully Rely on God) bog" sacred space in the Temple City Church and on Sunday shared with the whole congregation our experiences. What a blessing! Our little ones are so blessed with the gift of prayer and are readily willing to share with all. Our staff was a real blessing to camp as well. Staff included: Cynthia Beebe, Gloria Allsman, April Sweeting, John and Tami Shirota, Yumi Welch, Anna Herrington and me! All brought their special gifts to camp, staff and children alike.

SPEC was SPECTACULAR again this year. We had 19 amazing youth participate, 17 with Calizonia and two joined with cousins in another delegation. I think all would say it was an amazing experience and we have the pictures to prove it! Look at the pictures below and the next page to whet your appetite and then go to www.sierrapacificmission.org/SPEC08 to see an album of pictures for this great event and catch a glimpse of what a blessing this camp was for our youth! Special Thanks to Jim Seeley, Jeremy Fletcher and Terry Read for going with me and attending as staff. Thanks for all you do to make SPEC happen! Watch the next newsletter for a report on Jr. High and Junior Camp!

Love and blessings,

Linda Read

Congregational Support Minister & Children/Youth Minister
909-606-8636 / 909-631-0393

S P E C T A C U L A R



SCMC Participants in SPEC. Front Row: Cheyne Austin, Sydney Sherlock, Tyler Nicodin and Brett Wilson. Row Two: Chris Osteman, Giovanni Espinoza, Lupe Corona, Megan VanBuskirk, Devon Shaw, Erin Higgins, Alex Garcia, Alaura Beck, Bryanna Acosta. Back Row: Vicente Salinas (hiding), Jeremy Fletcher, Terry Read, Linda Read, Jim Seeley, Shari Tidmus (the top of her head!), Gael Garcia. Not Pictured: Jake Davis, Alorn and Kyle Braby.

Riddle Answer 2: Fold it in half.



Farewell from the Hewitts

Linda and I want to extend our sincere thanks to all of you that were so helpful to us during our four and a half years serving with you in ministry in this area. We came here for our first appointee position with the church and had so much to learn about church life and employment. Thank you for your patience while we learned what was expected of us and how to do it. We certainly go from here better prepared to offer ministry in the future.



Although my Seminary courses took up a considerable portion of my time, some of it work time, but much more of it personal time, Seminary was a wonderful learning experience for me. I am certain that the knowledge and insights I gained there made me a much more competent disciple of Jesus Christ and minister in the church.

I am thankful to have had the opportunity to work with excellent fellow staff members and those involved in leadership, helping our congregations function on a regular basis.

We also want to express our deep appreciation for the beautiful gift of a water feature that was presented to us at Reunion. We are extremely pleased with this work of art and it will become a focal point of the worship center in our new home.

As we move to Michigan, we know that we will miss our daughter Jessica (Hewitt) Stary, her husband Eduardo, and infant son Lakai of Long Beach. We will also miss many of you who we grew to know and appreciate as co-workers in the church and as personal friends as well. We certainly plan to visit in Southern California as time and circumstances permit in the future.

Our new address is 5834 Cabrena Drive, Lansing MI 48917. Our home phone number will be 517-886-4822. Please feel free to keep in contact with us as you are able to do so and certainly look us up if you are ever in that part of Michigan.

Once again, thank you for all of your support and friendship. In God's Love,

Mike and Linda Hewitt



Our theme for SPEC 2008 was "Someday is Now" The thread that connected our Calizonia worship experiences at SPEC through the week was the image of the potter and how God uses each of us just as we are, shaping us into vessels of blessing. Monday Night our potter, David Lee, threw a paten (bread plate) and chalice. On Wednesday Night we saw the vessels after the first firing—plain but firm because of our growing experiences together and finally at our closing worship, the finished vessels from which we shared an Emmaus meal. All of us were blessed to be in sacred community together.

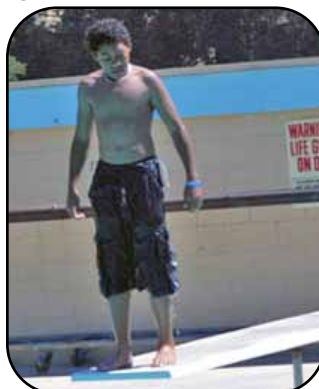
Glimpsing God's Community

by Terry Read

With participants describing Reunion as "spirit-filled" and "wonderful", and nearly three-fourths of those commenting rating the experience "excellent" (marking "5" on a scale of 1 to 5, while the other fourth scored it a "4"), the week-long event once again blessed attendees and by extension, our mission center, with yet more glimpses of the possibilities of God's community on earth.

Though our numbers of participants were down from the previous two years, the Spirit graced us in powerful ways, whether through the passion of Matthew Naylor's testimony of the transforming (and ever growing) work and ministry of Outreach International, the thoughtful and resonant ministry, whether spoken or sung, of Dave Heinze, the quiet, yet deeply loving ministry of Tere Naylor, the spiritual wisdom of sweet-spirited Dustee Heinze, the simple presence of children laughing and playing in a safe and wholesome environment, or even in the chatter of the dining hall at meal time, when friends, new and old, could share in the abundant grace of table fellowship.

The week of sacred community held several highlights. Among them were the traditional communion service that began the week's worship experiences including a stirring sermon from Brother Naylor. All ages could join in Sunday afternoon's old-fashioned family picnic activities including various relays, a bubble-blowing contest, and an outside barbecue. Monday's worship included a special testimony by Dave Heinze on earth-keeping that featured original music. Indeed, Dave and Matt's musical gifts and skills blessed us all as they were generously shared in ministry throughout the week with Dave on the guitar and Matt on the keyboard, including a spontaneous stirring rendition of "Precious Lord" prior to one of the evening services. The Heinzes and Naylor's shared the teaching responsibilities for the adult class with several positive comments from participants and the children received the capable ministry of Dorothy and Tony Austin (Grades 1-5) and Jan Albin (Preschool-K). The children led in worship both through singing and the playing of the hand bells.





REUNION AND YOU

This joyous annual experience for our people, once attended by hundreds, continues to be inspiring and fulfilling for those present, yet also continues to decrease in participation. We are challenged to find ways to both minimize barriers and increase perceived relevancy to congregational life and ministry as well as to individual discipleship. Where else in our world today can we experience in such quantity and quality, the possibilities of God's beloved community, Zion?

Why not begin planning now for next year's SCMC Reunion—July 11-17, 2009? We hope that the July date will be a better fit for more of our families. We also expect to implement another cost saving measure similar to this year's "2-for-1" incentive to help bring more of us to this transforming experience. These and other efforts will be made to heighten participation. First and foremost, however, you are warmly invited to "reunite" next summer with your sisters and brothers in the blessed experience of glimpsing God's community on earth.



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Women's Retreat

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EQUIP . . .
ENGAGE

SEPTEMBER 26-28, 2008

FRIDAY REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM: 7:00PM

SATURDAY PROGRAM: 9:00AM

SUNDAY: Sending Forth at 12:00PM

WHERE: Buckhorn Camp, Idyllwild, CA

PEACE & ECUMENICAL GUEST MINISTERS
CLASSES & WORSHIP

FEE: \$30-\$60 (by Sept. 15) based on housing nights
\$40-\$80 (after Sept. 15)

DIRECTOR: Denise Leichter

CALL TO REGISTER: 714•847•5731

MAIL CHECK: "Community of Christ"
PO Box 4077
Huntington Beach CA 92605-4077

List name(s) of those attending on your check.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- 1 Labor Day, Offices Closed
- 5-6 Youth Lock-In, Orange
- 26-28 SCMC Women's Retreat, Buckhorn Camp



- 3-5 Peace Colloquy, Independence, MO
- 10-11 Priesthood and Companion's Retreat, Temple City
- 27-28 Bridge Builders Fall Fiesta, Canoga Park



- 2 Daylight Savings Ends
- 2 Leadership Meeting, Electronic
- 7-10 SPEC Calizonia Retreat, ChulaVista
- 16 Mission Center Conference, Temple City
- 17 Offices Closed
- 27 Thanksgiving
- 27-28 Thanksgiving Holidays, Offices Closed