

Communities of Joy!

Southern California Mission Center

August/September 2004



SCMC Reunion 2004

140 Saints enjoyed the fellowship, worship, classes, and great weather of a week at Camp Buckhorn for SCMC Reunion. Bishop Stassi Cramm and her family were guest ministers, along with Don Welch as youth minister. We've moved reunion earlier next year: June 18-24. Circle those dates on your calendar now!



Betty Ryan Appreciation Day



The Hemet/San Jacinto Congregation honored their outgoing (in both senses of the word) pastor, Betty Ryan, at a party on Aug. 15.

Women's Retreat at Buckhorn

Plan now to attend our weekend retreat at Buckhorn September 25-26. Registration is 9-10 am on Saturday and departure is after lunch and closing worship on Sunday. The Retreat Facilitator is Denise Leichter. Watch for registration mailers in your congregations or contact deniseleichter@earthlink.net for more details.

Men to Retreat with President Robinson

SoCal and Arizona mission centers are invited to join SW Int'l MC for a Men's Retreat October 22-24 at Camp Buckhorn with guest minister Ken Robinson, member of the First Presidency. Camp begins at 7 PM Friday, ends at noon Sunday, and costs \$65. Registration is due Oct. 17. Please see the flyer for more details or contact Retreat Director Jerry Giddens, 949-366-9711.

IYF/Spec Rally at Buckhorn October 23-24

All youth in 10th-12th grades are invited! This will be a great time to reunite with friends from this year's Calizonia delegation, and join the plans for next year's international event. Retreat will include Arts, Leadership, Sports, Worship and FUN with FRIENDS! Begins at 9 AM Saturday and ends at noon Sunday. If you are arriving Friday night contact Denise Leichter for housing options.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR IYF/SPEC 2005

July 20-23 in Independence
July 23-30 at Graceland University.

Two Weddings!



Tiffany Rasmussen, of the Orange Congregation, married Sam Kasanicky, June 19 on Kauai (left picture). Megan Rasmussen, also of Orange, married Stanton Dumin, on February 7 (right picture, shown with Pastor Mark Richards, who performed the ceremony).

Calizonia 04 was SPECTACULAR!

A group of 13 from SCMC joined the rest of Calizonia for an awesome delegation of 85 and a total campus community of over 1000. It is hard to know where to start to tell this story, but you can get a first glimpse of some of the thousands of pictures taken by going to our website www.cofchristla.org and link to our Youth Pictures, which will also be shown at Conference in November.

We had COOL weather and COOL kids! The opening night of an Iowa State Fair included all the great food and crazy games and concluded with a SPECTACULAR fire-

to "Playing for Peace." We saw what this group is doing in some of the hot spots of the world with children learning to play together and have peace. That day all of our teams were asked to mix up the teams and "give our best" and play together. It was an amazing win-win experience with a goodwill spirit that lasted all week. We were asked to share our resources at an evening worship, with the offering going to "Playing for Peace." Denise challenged the youth to make it more than a leftover offering. She told them that she would match whatever they gave by the opening of the worship—by midday she was told to bring a pillowcase! The youth were Generous Givers and contributed \$400, she matched it with \$400, and the rest of the staff partnered for \$400 to put \$1200 in the offering to MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The nights were filled with comedians, concerts, sing-along films, dancing, and a great musical. First-year attendees and friends of the church came with apprehension, but left with smiles and tears of love and joy for this Zionie Community experience. John Hatton and Paul and Jeanne Davis were also on SPEC staff this year. Thanks to Tony Austin, Desiree Pace, and Jeremy Fletcher for being part of our dynamic delegation staff, and thanks for the GENEROUS donations of many SAINTS to make this a SPECTACULAR event! Next year the International Youth Forum is before Spectacular—this is one of the greatest gifts and testimonies we can give our children through stewardship and planning ahead. No 10th-12th grader should be left behind.

Praying for the Promise and Possibility of Peace through Children, Denise



works show. Every camper has a different story of the fine arts, personal fitness, and leadership classes they took and enjoyed very much. Some of the campers, and even Denise, came home with a Courage tattoo. We had a huge number of delegation sports teams and took MANY ribbons in volleyball, basketball, soccer, softball, track, and individual sports. For the second year in a row Calizonia got the Spec Sportsmanship Award for Volleyball! Lauren Hartnett from the Ventura Congregation received the Tom Cochran Volleyball Scholarship Award—she is awesome even with only one arm still working at the end of the week. We enjoyed the ministry of Apostle McLaughlin at our Delegation Worship service, which we shared with the Northwest and Rockies Delegations. Our Communion Service on the hill experienced a live enactment of the "Fishes and Loaves," great music and the challenge of President McMurray.



One of the highlights of the week was being introduced

Blue Grass Sunday at Canoga Park

You are invited to Canoga Park on Sunday 9/19 for "Blue Grass Sunday," beginning at 10:30 AM. There will be a mandolin, banjo, fiddle, and guitar joining the regular Canoga Park band, which is pretty rockin' as it is. Pastor Hatton says, "More Music, Less Talk."

Fall Fiesta at CCM October 18-19

The 9th annual Bridge Builder Fall Fiesta will be held October 18-19 at the Center for Christian Ministries in Temple City. Our guest minister will be J.W. Windland from Ontario, Canada. J.W. is employed by the Community of Christ and has an extensive background in world religions and in the Toronto interfaith community. The theme for the Fiesta is "In Christ There Is No East or West" and our excursion will be a guided tour of the Hsi Lai Temple in Hacienda Heights.

Registration is \$30, which includes all meals and the Temple tour. Please register by 10/1 by sending your check to Community of Christ, Box 4077, Huntington Beach, CA 92605-4077.

We've been planning Fall Fiesta since January and know that it will be an enriching spiritual experience for everyone. See you in October.

Your Bridge Builder Coordinators,
Charlotte Jones and Carl and Jo Gunter

Upcoming Events

Sep 4-6	Hispanic Ministries Retreat at Buckhorn
Sep 25-26	Women's Retreat at Buckhorn
Oct 18-19	Fall Fiesta at CCM, Temple City
Oct 22-24	SWIM/SCMC Men's Retreat at Buckhorn
Oct 23-24	IYF/Spec Rally at Buckhorn
Oct 31	Congregational Leaders Meeting at CCM
Nov 14	SCMC Conference at CCM, Temple City