

# Communities of Joy!

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MISSION CENTER

SEPTEMBER 2005

## Why Jesus and The Kingdom is Big Enough 4 You!

by Denise Leichter, *Interim Mission Center President*

It has been a hard task to put into words what 10 days and a thousand pictures can tell about our time at IYF & SPEC. The Calizonia Delegation had 125 special and diverse people join a community of 1,200-1,400 people for events of a lifetime. You can go to the World Church website ([www.cofchrist.org](http://www.cofchrist.org)) and link to both events for more pictures and stories. The individual campers are currently telling their story to family, friends and congregations and will be featured at the Fall Conference, November 13<sup>th</sup>.



The International Colors, Languages, Foods, Testimonies, Music and Dance were wonderful during our days that started at 7:00AM and ended at midnight'ish. The World Church Leadership Team were all present with us at IYF and SPEC, and they even put together a Volleyball Team that played against the youth all week at SPEC . . . they decided to sacrifice their bodies this year and opted out of Quiz Bowl against the campers. (SIDE BAR . . . the Calizonia Staff beat the Campers for a third year in a row . . . but only on the last question and by one point!) Jim Slauter was the facilitator of a Dialogue Session with the campers and President Veazey and Bishop Norris. The question was asked, "What will the Church have to *Look Like* and *Be Like* to have you claim it as your own and change the future?" WOW . . . listening to them, and allowing them to hold us accountable to their ideas for HOPE, JOY, LOVE & PEACE is the church and world I want to live in!



During IYF the 2005 Peace Award was given to Craig Kielburger, the 22 year old founder of Free the Children. He provided a powerful challenge to the youth to "Riot for Good" and the auditorium erupted with cheering, dancing and a camper generated light show. There were classes of all kinds and the "Village" featured a flavor of the world youth attending and the causes they believe in. The special music and concert with Ken Medema "rocked" the auditorium daily and we ended our days together with a communion service and campfire. At the time of this communication the IYF's in Honduras and Africa will have concluded also . . . watch for future Heralds for these stories and pictures.

Our time at SPEC started by being honored the first day with the "Courage Can" for allowing the Kingdom to be BIG Enough for our delegation to include East Los Angeles campers, six teens from Chattanooga, TN, and young women from the Navajo Nation and



CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

### Tidbits

A LITTLE BIT OF THIS, A LITTLE BIT OF THAT . . .

- ◆ Lost and Lonely? We are trying to locate the Mission Center's baptismal heater. If your congregation borrowed the heater, please call Tonia at 714-847-5731 to make arrangement to return it.
- ◆ Do you want to adopt a dog, have a senior dog as a companion, or know someone who would benefit from a "Hearing Dog"? Contact Mitch@samsimonfoundation.org.
- ◆ Felicia Davenport from Inland Empire wants to start a Yahoo Group for the SCMC Youth. Our MC Webmaster, Meredith Bischoff, and Jim Seeley are available to hear your ideas and try to explore a few options with you for enhanced and contemporary communications with the youth and youth leaders. If you are interested in this "on line" ministry, please contact Meredith through the SCMC website www.cofchristla.org.

### Bridge Builders

by Charlotte Jones

Need a Lift? Want a High?

SOAR with the  
Bridge Builders



Let the Spirit *Breathe*

September 26-27, 2005

Southern California Mission Center

Evangelist Gail Biller will share from her background of studies and experience in ways we can *Let the Spirit Breathe* on Monday morning. After lunch and sharing, she will continue her presentation. A banquet will be held during the evening, and interim Mission Center President Denise Leichter will share her testimony and experiences on how the Holy Spirit is breathing on our International members, congregation, and Mission Centers.

Tuesday morning will bring worship and additional sharing. After lunch, there will be opportunities for an afternoon outing.

If you need overnight accommodations, contact Best Western Pasadena Royale, 626-793-0905, Reservations: 800-528-1234. Group rates available if ten reservations are made. For further information, contact:

- Charlotte Jones 818-789-3625 / cejstart@earthlink.net
- Mary Farley 562-697-2428 / mlfarley@adelphia.net

### Area Visit by Apostles

by Denise Leichter, *Interim Mission Center President*

Apostles Susan Skoor and Jim Slauter returned to the SCMC August 15-17<sup>th</sup> and visited the following areas: LNE, Temple City, Simi Valley, Hemet and Anaheim. We had over 80 members attend from Ventura, Canoga Park, Burbank, Simi Valley, Hemet, Inland Empire, Basilea, Anaheim, and the Costa Mesa Congregations. The Leadership Team also had a dinner meeting with Jim and Susan. The discussions we had "Under the Pines" at Reunion described the characteristics we were looking for in a Mission Center President, and we had an opportunity to add a few more. The members were very satisfied that we had been heard, and there has been great effort and discernment in the process to locate someone very special for us. We had an opportunity to describe for the Apostles our congregations and the Mission Center to share with the selected candidate; it was a joyful description of our strengths and honest assessment of areas to find growth and new opportunities. There was a very positive spirit in all the meetings, and everyone enjoyed the fellowship with other congregations and friends.



The apostles will be recommending a candidate to the HR committee in September and with approval, the couple should arrive to begin their ministry in January-2006. Denise Leichter will continue as Interim President until that time, and a special conference and celebration will be considered for January.

There will also be a strong recommendation for the new Mission Center President to reside in the central area of the Mission Center, and the Leadership Team is currently exploring some additional time and space at the Temple City facility.

The World Church and Apostolic support has been greatly appreciated during our time of transition. 🙏

### Communities of Joy

What's happening in your congregation or personal discipleship? Deadline for the next issue of *Communities of Joy!* submissions is September 15. Send items (*please—do not use all UPPER CASE*) to Denise Leichter for review and inclusion to:

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# IYF & SPEC 2005 "Why Jesus"

by Sergio Juarez, LNE Pastor and IYF/SPEC Staff

In July, LNE made history in Missouri and Iowa by sending six campers to IYF & SPEC. It all started at the last conference in Temple City when Jeremy Fletcher asked, "How many kids can you bring to the event this summer?" . . . and we began to promote the event in the community with fund raising and generous contributions.

The six that attended went from passive participation to exciting realization. They went from "I can't do it!" to "When are we going to do it again?" From "I feel tired" to "Why do we have to stop?" From "I am a stranger" to "Everybody is a friend!" From "I didn't want to come" to "When do we get to come back?"

Their short and narrow horizon was expanded, and they understood that to have a better world like the one at IYF & SPEC they would have to be better in the world. The group of strangers that got on a plane and bus at the beginning became friends. They now know that this is just the beginning of happy relationships. They saw that we can live in unity and community, and create a peaceful world. We can build God's Kingdom on Earth, and that is going to be our next step. We will be meeting every week to pass on the experience to others and plan ahead for next year. What was going to be Good News became Excellent News . . . it was worth it! 🌱



## Color Your World with NCD

by Greg Barentine

This October, Christian Schwarz will be traveling to eight cities in the USA to share what God is doing through NCD principles around the world and casting a bold vision for the future. He will be in Glendora, CA on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Natural Church Development (NCD) is based on solid scientific research and sound biblical principles. It provides insights on the quality of health in churches based on a massive research project ongoing since 1996. As of December 2004 over 35,000 churches were surveyed with more than 1 million participants and over 95 million responses. We have a wonderful collection of stories of how God is changing lives and churches!

Schwarz says, "What is the church? The church is people. What determines the health of the church? The health is expressed through the heads, hands, and hearts of those people. How can we increase the health of a church? By enhancing the health in our heads, our hands and our hearts."

Come and learn how you can mobilize your people to apply the NCD principals in their lives, in small groups, and ultimately in the life of the church. The cost for the seminar is \$20.00 which includes a copy of *Color Your World with Natural Church Development*. Registrations can be made online at [www.churchsmart.com/seminar](http://www.churchsmart.com/seminar). 🌱

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tahiti, rural, inner city and a 50:50 ratio of members and friends. How quickly you can become family in the name of Jesus Christ was powerful!

We had the following teams: Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Track and Swimming. Many campers participated in a variety of individual sports and fine arts classes and performances. We took home a lot of Gold Medals, but we had a Golden Experience at all levels. The UK kids even tried to teach us Cricket????

The Leadership, Discipleship and Visual and Performing Arts Classes would fill two pages . . . ask the youth about what they took and what they experienced.

Once again we were challenged financially . . . "Can we raise \$15K this week to build a basketball court in the Middle East (Playing for Peace), put on a few roofs in Africa and build a critical bridge in the Philippines (Outreach International)?" At the conclusion of our week together we contributed \$23K and shouted and cried with tears of joy . . . we CAN change the world!

We honored our seniors at our closing worship and heard their stories about going forward and prayed for them. Our closing worship was loving, courageous and blessed by the Holy Spirit. The youth were sent home to identify ways to "Change their Worlds . . . and empowered and supported to DO IT!" We landed wearing wrist bands with the messages for each day . . . *Care for All, Share Resources, One Body, No Labels, No Violence, Live for Peace* and the *KBE4U!*

All the 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders should plan ahead for 2006 to attend SPEC . . . it will change your life and world! On behalf of the staff, Sergio, Jeremy and Denise, we want to thank the "Generous Givers" throughout the Mission Center for helping make this event possible . . . we love you and appreciate you beyond words! 🌱



## Upcoming Events

### SEPTEMBER

- 3-5 Hispanic Retreat at Buckhorn
- 19-23 World Church Meetings for Mike & Denise
- 23-25 Women's Retreat at Buckhorn
- 26-27 Bridge Builders Fall Fiesta at SCMC

### OCTOBER

- 3-7 Western Field Leaders Mtg for all SCMC Leaders
- 15 SCMC Aaronic Ministry Event
- 29 SCMC Missionary Event
- Working Leadership Lunch for Pastors, CFO's and Missionary Leaders, Temple City CCM

### NOVEMBER

- 13 SCMC Fall Conference

## Congregational Leaders Workshop

by Cynthia Beebe and Hiroshi Matsushita

Over 250 people met on the Graceland University campus for the Congregational Leaders Workshop 2005 on July 31 to August 5. More than 40 classes were offered, ranging in topics from evangelism to stewardship.

From the SCMC we had two persons attend. Cynthia Beebe, from the Anaheim Congregation, took "Who Are We, Anyway?" with President Steve Veazey, "The Power of Personal Invitation" with President of Seventy John Wight and Otis Hardy, and "The Witnessing Community" with Jean Brookens and Becky Savage. These classes provided excellent resources and tools for evangelism within our congregations. Hiroshi Matsushita was the facilitator for "Our Diverse Community" which was a two-block class period, and he took the class "The Sacraments" with Apostle Susan Skoor.

A typical day started with morning devotions, followed by two morning classes, and one afternoon class. There were optional Special Interest Seminars with a variety of topics offered each afternoon. Each evening we participated in a worship service. Our speakers were Steve Veazey, John Wight and Mark Scherer, church historian. A Communion Service was held on Thursday with Apostle David Brock and the Diversity Committee. Special Events were also offered during the week, i.e., Choir, the dual organ and piano recital with Jan Kraybill and Jack Ergo, and the Herald Bookstore.

It is always wonderful to spend time with many of our World Church Leaders, visit with old friends and meet new ones. Each person who attends CLW is eager to learn and share resources and experiences from their home congregations.

The date for the 2006 Congregational Leaders Workshop is July 30 to August 4. We encourage all of you to plan now to attend. You and your congregation will greatly benefit.



## Aaronic Ministries Event

by Bishop Mike Hewitt, SCMC Financial Officer

Your attendance is encouraged at the Aaronic Ministries educational session scheduled at Temple City, October 15, 2:00PM-5:00PM. The presentation topic is *The Angry Christian. A Theology For Care and Counseling*. A catered dinner will follow at 5:00PM. This presentation is designed for Aaronic ministers, but is open to all who wish to attend. The cost is \$10 per person. Registration forms will be available soon

Some of the topics covered will be *Thinking About Emotion, Understanding Anger, A Constructive Pastoral Theology of Anger, and Dealing With Anger: Christian Care and Counseling*. The emphasis in this short presentation will be on practical techniques that may be used by Aaronic ministers in ministerial situations they encounter.

*Calling All Divas 2005*  
 Women's Retreat

Diva Prep Academy ..... September 23  
 Diva Retreat ..... September 24-25

Learn the *Diva Principle!*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Meredith Bischoff	Cynthia Beebe
(714) 579-1573	(714) 222-2391
Merigrll@merigrll.com	CynBeebe@aol.com

## Witnessing Community Workshop

by Glenn Johnson

The call to evangelism is central to our nature as Christians. And we know that in our modern world, sharing our personal testimony in an authentic way requires preparation and intention.

That is why we are inviting you to "Our Witnessing Community" Workshop to be held at the Center for Christian Ministries in Temple City on October 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00AM. This may well be the most important event in the Southern California Mission Center this year.

We have invited two leaders on evangelism in the church today to lead this vital workshop: Seventy Charlie Carter is a dynamic witness who will inspire you with his authentic approach to personal evangelism and congregational witness; World Church Missionary Resource Specialist Tammy Lindle will empower your efforts by exposing you to the best practices that are essential to sharing our story.

The pre-conference leadership meeting will be held during the catered lunch on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Pastors and financial officers need to attend this important meeting as we prepare for SCMC conference and new leadership. It is also important that congregational leadership be a part of the witnessing workshop since that is what mission is about. Please plan to attend for the whole day—it will be worth it.

**Invitation**  
**to a**  
**Great**  
**Event**

**Rummage Sale**

SEPTEMBER 17, 2005  
 Community of Christ  
 6610 Shoup Avenue • Canoga Park  
 Call John Hatton, (818) 710-8756  
 to arrange drop-off or pick-up of donations.




