

# COMMUNITIES of JOY

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MISSION CENTER

OCTOBER 2005

## SCMC President Announced

by Denise Leichter



I am pleased to announce that Terry Read, MCP from the Inland West Mission Center (covering parts of the Northwest United States), has accepted the assignment to the Southern California Mission Center. Terry and his wife Linda will be arriving in January and will be with us for our Mission Center Conference in November.

I am personally very happy to have such a wonderfully seasoned leader, passionate minister, and terrific family joining us. Terry is a High Priest and has been serving as a full-time minister since 2001. He is a Park College graduate, and he and Linda both are finishing their Masters of Arts in Religion by year end. Linda is a Seventy and a Congregational Support Minister with many talents including gifted ministry to youth and children. I have been associated with them at SPEC for a few years, and had the great joy of spending time with their daughter, Andrea, at IYF Hong Kong this year. Andrea is a college student pursuing architectural studies.

Bishop Hewitt and I spent some time with Terry & Linda in Independence recently and began sharing with them the good news and needs of our Mission Center. Based on the list we provided to Apostles Skoor and Slauter; we have been heard, and will be richly blessed with the Reads presence and ministry.



Terry and Linda Read

Please keep Terry and Linda in your prayers as they plan ahead for this new avenue of ministry and the rest of the Leadership Team as we look at the redesign and refining of our identity, mission, and message for a world in need of peace and the good news of Jesus Christ. 🙏

## Bridge Builders Fall Fiesta

by Charlotte Jones

Thirty-two Spirits soared when the Bridge Builders met for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Fiesta, September 26-27, at the SCMC Center in Temple City. The gathering opened on Monday morning with the scripture, "Let the Spirit Breathe" from D&C 162:2d-e. Evangelist Gail Biller shared from her background in studies of the Holy Spirit. Gail, with her own gentle spirit, led us with different approaches into a meaningful experience with the Holy Spirit. We also had the opportunity to view President Steve Veazey's World Conference sermon, "Share the Peace of Jesus Christ."

At the evening's banquet, interim SCMC President Denise Leichter had us on the edge of our seats with her various

experiences with youth, Outreach International, and her own nursing procurement program, with slides and commentary on "How the Holy Spirit is Breathing Internationally on Members and Congregations." We were moved by her stories and inspired as to how we can help through our contributions. Bishop Mike Hewitt brought the benediction and we sang "God Be With You 'til We Meet Again."

Tuesday's activities began with worship, then High Priest Hiroshi Matsushita illustrated on a chart with a Japanese character how busyness can debilitate or kill the spirit. LaVona and David Saxton served Communion, followed by group sharing.

In our shared meals and fellowship we left feeling fed spiritually and physically. A special gratitude was felt because all had pitched in and helped the Spirit breathe among us as a Community of Christ. 🙏





## Upcoming Events

### OCTOBER

- 3-7 Western Field Leaders Meeting 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 . . .  
Come meet Terry & Linda Read. We will have a full day of business and celebrations.
- 24 Thanksgiving Holiday

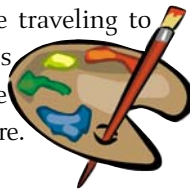
### DECEMBER

*Please notify us of any special holiday events that we can promote for attendance.*

## Color Your World with Natural Church Development


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). 

## Worship Helps

- ◆ **Worship Services** are formatted on-the World Church website for your usage along with a section of sample worship for special events such as weddings, ordinations, blessings, etc. There are also recommended resources for your preparations. [www.CofChrist.org/worship](http://www.CofChrist.org/worship).
- ◆ **Bulletin inserts** are available on the health of your members from [www.hmaCofChrist.org](http://www.hmaCofChrist.org), then link to **Congregational Health Ministry**. The one for October is great!

## Lost

The Mission Center's baptismal heater has been misplaced. If you can offer any information to its whereabouts, please call Tonia at 714-847-5731.



CANOGA PARK CHURCH  
6610 SHOUP AVENUE, CANOGA PARK  
SATURDAY – OCTOBER 29 – 6-9PM  
DINNER AND DESSERTS SERVED  
COME IN COSTUME. BYO PUMPKIN TO CARVE  
DON'T MISS THIS GREAT EVENT!

## Communities of Joy

What's happening in your congregation or personal discipleship? Deadline for the next issue of *Communities of Joy* submissions is November 1<sup>st</sup>. Send items (*please*—do not use all UPPER CASE) to Denise Leichter for review and inclusion to:

MAIL: 17125 Hart Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406  
E-MAIL: [DeniseLeichter@cofchristla.org](mailto:DeniseLeichter@cofchristla.org)

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# Hispanic Retreat

by Linda Espiritu Santo

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Hispanic retreat is now history. About 110 campers met for the Labor Day weekend event. The theme was



“Tell the Sacred Story”. Geri Macias from Dallas, Texas, was guest minister. Geri and Sergio Juarez provided preaching ministry along with many others who helped make the weekend a success

It was exciting to have a group of youth from Los Angeles who had worked at Buckhorn in the spring during work week and used their vouchers to attend the retreat. It was good for all of us; and they are now planning to start a Bible study group.



Our first campers from Ensenada drove up from Baja, California to attend, along with a large group of people attending from La Nueva Esperanza (thanks to El Segundo Congregation for helping finance a bus). There were also campers from Chula Vista, and Hemet. The retreat ended with the baptism of Alfredo

Magdaleno by Sergio Juarez. Once again we were blessed by God’s spirit as we came together. 🙏

# Women’s Retreat

by Meredith Bischoff & Denise Leichter

Forty-one women from 13 congregations gathered on the weekend of September 23-25 at Buckhorn Camp for lessons



ranging from pampering to prayer to pelvic isometrics. In preparation for the retreat, several women gathered at Glen Ivy Hot Springs in Corona to soak away their tensions and socialize. They enjoyed participating in Club Mud and experiencing an intense moisture treatment in the Grotto.

Mary Kellogg was the worship leader with many opportunities to reflect on Biblical divas and there were special moments of focus through music, readings and writing. Janice



Ash Webb provided very meaningful classes and opportunities to share in small groups. Afternoon specialty salons were offered in Belly Dancing, Women’s Health issues, and Individual Massage Therapy. On Saturday evening, Rickie and Melissa Miller organized a wonderful evening of fun for the group. After a spirit-filled closing worship, the divas departed Sunday feeling renewed and uplifted; ready to retain their diva-tude in the everyday world. 🙏



# Aaronic Ministry Workshop

by Bishop Mike Hewitt, *SCMC Financial Officer*

In your role as an Aaronic minister, you may encounter individuals who are extremely emotional and angry. The workshop *The Angry Christian. A Theology For Care and Counseling* is designed to give you “how-to” skills.

Although designed for Aaronic ministers, this presentation is open to anyone. Please join us in Temple City on Saturday, October 15, 2:00PM-5:00PM. A catered dinner will follow at 5:00PM. The cost is \$10 per person. Registrations are required. Contact Tonia Cooper at 714-847-5731 or Tonia@cofchristla.org.

## Temple School Classes

by Hiroshi Matsushita

Temple School basic classes will be held as follows. All Aaronic Priesthood candidates need to take the following classes and register "Children and Youth Workers Registration" before ordination. All other members and friends of the church are invited, too.

Aaronic Priesthood candidates need to take AM200; regardless his/her called offices. AM200 covers all three Aaronic Priesthood offices.

1. **Sat Oct 22:** SS101 "An Introduction to Understanding Scriptures" by Evelyn Sora and Hiroshi Matsushita, Team Instruction,
2. **Sat Nov 5:** SL101 "An Introduction to Caring Ministries" by Greg Barentine
3. **Sat Nov 19:** AM200 "Aaronic Ministers: Ministry of Presence" by Jean Gibo.

**TIME:** Gather at 8:30AM; class starts at 9:00AM to 12:00PM, 1:00 to 3:30PM with post-class assignment.

**Lunch:** Bring sack lunch, or local fast food restaurant.

**Location:** Anaheim Church, 827 S. Walnut Street, Anaheim, CA

**Cost:** \$20.00 per class, payable "Community of Christ," including textbook, TS credit, and sacks & drinks,

**REGISTER:** Tonia Cooper

PO Box 4077 Huntington Beach, CA 92605-4077

*Application is due one week before each class.*

**Questions:** Hiroshi Matsushita, Temple School Coordinator, send email at Hiroshi-M@comcast.net or call at 714-731-3224 (Office) or 714-686-4173 (Cell).

## 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.

It is critical that all the Congregational Leaders attend "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. We will have so much to share and celebrate...don't miss this special day. Carpool and come with enthusiasm . . . you won't be disappointed to spend a Saturday with us. 🙏

## Disciples' Generous Response

by Denise Leichter

Once again the Saints at El Segundo have made a decision to share their resources to change the world. They are allocating \$130,000 for the following special needs:

\$75,000 for the renovations of the building recently purchased by SWIMC for Baja Hispanic Ministries

\$10,000 to Outreach International for their Voice of Hope Campaign (\$30K pledged over 3 years)

\$25,000 for Educational/Vocational Scholarship Funding of local youth

\$10,000 to Graceland University for scholarships

\$5,000 to IYF/SPEC

\$5,000 to SCMC for Special Transportation Needs (Retreats, Conferences, etc.)



It has been a blessing to participate in this plan with Bishop Hewitt, Linda Espiritu Santo and Sergio Juarez. The El Segundo Congregation will be recognized at Conference as role models of strategic stewardship and looking beyond horizons, borders, and cultures to spread the peace and purposes of Jesus Christ.

## World Service Worker

by Sergio Juarez



In April, 2005, the La Nueva Esperanza en Cristo Congregation was offered the services of World Service Corp Worker Barnaby Fletcher for two months. I knew another young man with this surname whom we feel is part of our family, Jeremy Fletcher. "If he is related to Jeremy," I said, "there is no question that he is a good young man." Yes, he was Jeremy's brother. We agreed to his visit.

I wondered how Barnaby was going to feel living with different people, food, customs and ways of thinking on how to do things. I just prayed to God to take care of him and to give me wisdom to help him in understanding. I wanted Barnaby to know that our church mission statement is our first priority. If we focused on Jesus and allowed Jesus to grow in us, our differences were going to be diminished.

Finally, the day arrived when I picked up this young man at the airport. Immediately his smile and curious eyes brought confidence to me that he was a good man. He was liked immediately by all the people that came in touch with him. His smile, his openness, his respectful attitude gained immediate respect and confidence from everyone. My wife gained another offspring who loved her cooking, and my kids had another brother. Barnaby motivated the young people with his energy to go jogging, and he started a workout program in the back of my house which is still going on.

During Reunion, he spent time with the kids just listening. Just being in his presence brought respect and the kids had a great time talking about their issues. He gave them counsel and confidence. My son and his friends came into our cabin late one night. Before I could reprimand them for the lateness of the hour, Sergio said, "We had a great time talking." The other kids answered, "Yeah, it was great listening to others' problems, and we had the chance to help them with Barnaby's advice and our advice, too." So I kept my mouth shut and pretended to be asleep. I thought, "We always spend most of our time teaching the kids to think that they only need teachings and our advice." I think sometimes we need to sit down and allow the kids to teach us and give us advice.

Barnaby was a great asset and support in fixing and renovating our sanctuary. He went with us to community services, evangelism classes, family visitations, services, political and social meetings. But most of all he brought a different perspective to the kids in what it is to be a young Christian—that Christianity is not boring or old. He brought a new paradigm of personal development, a new way of thinking about themselves, and how they should relate to the world that surrounds them.

Barnaby came with a value as a person, and when he gave his friendship and love to our people, he left with more aggregated value. He came different physically, but left with our love, respect, friendship and the idea from us that we all live under the same sky. Sometimes different stars shine over us—it all depends on how you visualize it. Barnaby is a visualizer—sometimes called visionary. He made a difference in me, my family, my community and in our congregation. God bless Barnaby and all those that made it possible for him to be here. 🙏

## Farewell to Carrol McCans

by Tonia Cooper



The Costa Mesa Congregation said good-bye to long time member Carrol McCans. Carrol recently moved to Arizona to be near family. Carrol served as congregation financial officer and served on the Mission Center Council and the SCMC Aaronic Committee. A photo album containing pictures of the members was presented to Carrol along with and a bouquet of flowers at a surprise potluck held in her honor on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

## A Celebration for the Chapples

by Sherry Southland

Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> brought together more than 40 friends in worship and celebration for the service and dedication Jim and Carolyn Chapple have made to the Temple City Congregation. As they continue in their retirement, the Chapples have moved to Marion, Michigan leaving a void in the congregation.

After the worship service, a business meeting was held to revise the budget and elect new leadership to replace outgoing Pastor Jim Chapple. Tonia Cooper represented the Mission Center, and a letter from interim Mission President Denise Leichter was read recommending a four-person pastoral team. This recommendation was approved by the congregation, and a team composed of Darrel Kelty, Lead; Colleen Rakiewicz, CFO; Deb Reed, Pastoral Care, and Sherry Southland, Communications was elected. After the elections, the leadership team was set apart.

The Chapples were presented with Certificates of Appreciation at a reception in their honor. After the festivities at the church, a luncheon was held at Pepper's Mexican Restaurant in Arcadia.. Jim and Carolyn were visibly touched by the outpouring of love.





Outreach International would like to have a representative in each congregation to share the good news and assist members with contributions or projects. Please contact DeniseLeichter@earthlink.net with the name of the person who is currently advocating for OI, or would have the desire to do this. As an Outreach Board member; there is such good work being done worldwide to "help the poor help themselves" . . . be part of it! 🙏



## Baptism Memories

by Tonia Cooper

Linsay Prante proudly shows off her memory "button" necklace she made during her pre-baptism classes this summer that was taught by her grandmother, Elder Tonia Cooper. Tonia read the book "The Memory String" to the Costa Mesa congregation and asked that each member bring a special button for Linsay. A photo was taken of each person with their button and added to the scrapbook that Linsay made during her class. As she looks back on her special day she will have the necklace and photos to remind her of all the loving people who make up the Costa Mesa Congregation. Linsay celebrated her 8<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 30<sup>th</sup> and is looking forward to becoming a member of the Community of Christ on October 9, 2005. 🙏

## SCMC Fall Conference

The SCMC Fall Conference will be held November 13<sup>th</sup> in Temple City. Gather at 8:30AM for check in and snacks. The Conference will begin at 9:00AM and end at 3:00PM.

On the agenda will be the 2006 budget, Buckhorn elections, introduction of Terry and Linda Read, vibrant worship, superannuation & recognition of Ben Budworth and Farren Stevens, IYF & SPEC reports from the youth, Outreach International recognition of El Segundo and others, CPI congregation recognitions, plus additional new business. The pre-conference bulletin will contain details.

The Upland Congregation will provide lunch (chicken strips and all the trimmings) for \$5.00 per adult and \$2.50 per child 10 years of age and under.

## Outstanding Youth

Please contact DeniseLeichter@earthlink.net ASAP to submit names and accomplishments of our children and youth to be recognized at the November 13<sup>th</sup> Conference. These accomplishments can be as an outstanding community citizen, disciple, or academic, sports, and fine arts.

Thanks for helping us uplift our younger church members!

## World Church Collaborative Design of Mission Support Ministries

by Denise Leichter

It was an honor to represent the SCMC with Mike Hewitt and Sergio Juarez as we participated in a four day conference with hundreds of World Church Leaders last September. We worked in small and large groups using the "Appreciative Inquiry Model" to create a headquarters ministry structure that closely aligns with the church's worldwide mission, message, identity, core values and priorities within the parameters of a sustainable World Ministries budget.

There will be a second round of meetings for the Western Regional Field, October 3-7 in Washington State for our entire Leadership and Staff Team. This was an exercise that revealed many burdens and blessings, and was completed on a high note of common purpose with a resonating theme of "What Matters Most?"

There is great hope for the future based on our woven stories and testimonies of the past and desire to create a new story in 15 different languages with a comprehensive and culturally appropriate plan from Sunday School to Seminary.

Adjusting to a new language eliminating the term "Headquarters" and replacing it with "Mission Support Ministries Central" and "Mission Support Ministries Local" is very positive in my picture of what is best to meet the needs of the youthful and senior members, and our diverse congregations. There will be a delicate balance that will be required for the Technical and Administrative Support needed and the Ministry Support mandated to fulfill our mission to promote Communities of Joy, Hope, Love and Peace.

More details will be provided at the Pastors and Leadership Luncheon on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October and in months to come. President Veazey's challenge is "to deeply root ourselves in this rich soil so that the church can grow and steadily extend its canopy of Christ-centered peace, reconciliation, and healing of the spirit until all who desire can find place, purpose, and hope in the cause of Zion, the Peaceable kingdom." 🙏