

# COMMUNITIES OF JOY

MONTHLY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE GREATER LOS ANGELES STAKE

Issue 2

February 2002

## \*\*\*CALENDAR\*\*\*

**Feb 6 & 7** - Older Adult Spirituality Aging Conference  
**Feb 13** - Ash Wednesday  
**Feb 15-17** - Children's Winter Camp  
**Feb 18** - Presidents' Day - Stake Office Closed  
**March 22-24** - Youth Retreat  
**March 24** - Palm Sunday  
**March 29** - Good Friday  
**March 31**-Easter

## ***WORLD CONFERENCE DELEGATE SESSION***

On **Sunday, March 17, 2002** there will be a World Conference delegate session at Temple City CCM from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. All delegates and alternates are urged to attend. The meeting will include a review of all conference resolutions known at that time and other helpful information about the week's events in Independence.

## ***CHANGE IN STAKE PRESIDENCY***

On January 19, 2002 Stake President, Scott Sinclair, expressed in a letter to the stake, as presented to pastors for sharing in their congregations, his intention to move from the Stake immediately after the June 9 GLAS Conference. Scott's wife, Cheryl Hansen, has accepted a promotion to be the plant manager of a pet food manufacturing plant in Jefferson, Wisconsin. Apostle Ken McLaughlin has begun the process of working with the Director of Field Ministries toward identifying the appointee minister who will be recommended to the Stake Conference to assume this leadership role. Brother McLaughlin is committed to recommending a person who will be an effective leader supporting growth and expansion in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. The letter also contained the following:

"Cheryl and I want to express our gratitude and love to the members of the stake who have made our experience here such a blessing. We

would certainly be interested in returning if the circumstances became possible and we expect to continue to cherish ongoing relationships in the stake from afar. Although I have chosen to communicate the above information at this time, I also expect to be fully "on the job" until June. Thank you for your continuing support of Cheryl and I, and the work to which we are, with you, mutually committed."

## ***CHILDREN'S WINTER CAMP IS COMING!***

Children's Winter Camp is just around the corner... **February 15-17** at Buckhorn Camp in Idyllwild. We are expecting a visit from a surprise puppet to deliver some of our fun, and games to challenge each of our teams as we compete for prizes. The best snowman built by each team will win an individual prize, and we'll have music to keep you up and moving!

We'll put our own touch to a great craft and experience a class that will enrich your magical tool shed. Saturday evening we'll have an inside campfire with camp songs, and our Sunday morning worship will be inspirational.

Don't forget your scriptures, sleeping bags, warm clothes and everything listed on the flyer we sent to you. The most important thing to remember to bring a friend.

If you didn't receive a flyer just phone Wynn Maile at 909/657-5879 or email [mailebox2@aol.com](mailto:mailebox2@aol.com) or call the Stake Office at 1-800-454-2222 ask for Gladys Silva.

**SEE YOU AT WINTER CAMP!**

## ***EDUCATIONAL EFFECT TO BE LAUNCHED IN STAKE***

A new educational effort entitled "Foundations for Effective Ministry" will be launched this Spring in the stake. Two congregations will be selected to serve as the first participants in a pilot test of the model. Congregational pastors have been contacted with information and application forms. The stated goal of the effort is "Increase the quality of ministry

being given in the Stake by increasing the faith and knowledge base of our members and priesthood.”

One form of the project will be a six week “Sunday Morning” model. A class will be presented on “Restoration Scriptures.” The morning worship will feature a “teaching sermon” on “Basics of Community of Christ Faith and Doctrine.”

The second model will be held as a weeknight or weekend session, again for six weeks. Two one hour class periods will be held, one on “Restoration Scriptures” and one on “Basics of Community of Christ Faith and Doctrine.”

The class work will be more intense than the normal Temple School class and will involve assignment outside of class. While it is hoped that the priesthood in a congregation would take advantage of this opportunity, the sessions will be open to all.

Criteria for selecting the participating congregations will include the commitment of the pastoral leadership and the general congregation to support and promote the event. This will be a congregation focused event.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Bill Dodds at the stake office.

### ***PREACHING CLASS VIDEOS AVAILABLE***

Video tapes of the “Power of Positive Preaching” class presented by Presiding Evangelist Danny Belrose are available for congregational use. Arrangement for use of the tapes can be arranged by calling Bill Dodds at the leadership office.

There are five tapes in the series, each running from 1 hour to 1 and a half hours. If the tapes are going to be used in a short time frame the entire set can be borrowed at one time. If they are going to be used over several weeks or months, they should be checked out one at a time.

### ***CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES UP AND RUNNING!***

Good things are underway for our children and youth. As you will note in the bulletin inserts today, we have several upcoming activities. The Children’s Winter Camp **February 15-17** at Camp Buckhorn under the direction of Wynn Maile and

in the Spring a Youth Retreat in **March 22-24** directed by Terry Norwood. Lynne Houtchins will be the leader of Spectacular held at Graceland University this Summer. Working with her will be Letha Escobedo from the Covina Congregation and Sergio Juarez from the La Nueva Esperanza Congregation. David Negaard, Lancaster Congregation, is in the process of developing a children/youth drama for a Stake Christmas Program in December. Diane Shirota will assist him.

Our congregations are continuing to develop new ways of working with children and youth. Sergio Juarez is currently running one Peacemakers Club in his neighborhood and “hitting the streets” around the Temple City facility to develop another Peacemakers Group. Rosa Mell from the Anaheim Congregation is sponsoring a Game Night one Friday night a month for the neighborhood children/youth and congregation members. Costa Mesa has Perry and Cindy Pace has accepted the responsibility of Youth Leaders in their congregation and will also work with both Anaheim and Orange for some activities.

PLEASE continue to use your Albertson’s card. We did receive a check this November and the program had only been underway for a month. If you need a card please contact Diane Shirota at **dshirota@pacbell.net** or the stake office at 1-800-454-2222.

Wynn Maile and I will be visiting many of your congregations in the Spring months.

We want to visit and listen to your concerns. Let me know of your congregation happenings with children and youth.

### ***STAKE REUNION JULY 15-19***

Glenn Johnson and Diane Shirota will direct the week long summer reunion with Cynthia Beebe assisting them. They have met and are in the process of sorting out the various responsibilities that encompass each reunion. They are hopeful that they can use a variety of “saints” from our congregations in the Stake. Wynn Maile has given a definite yes to work with the children for the week and the Guest Minister will be Gary Logan from Independence, Missouri. If you have any special suggestions or would like to help us. Please feel free to phone Diane Shirota at

***SUPER BOWL PARTY***

A super bowl party at Temple City will be on  
**Sunday, February 3 at 3:00 PM.**  
Snacks will be provided.

***STAKE EMAIL CAPABILITIES***

One of the ways that the stake office is attempting to reduce operating costs is through the use of email to ministry staff, high council, pastors, and members. Since all congregations have computers we will be attempting to increase our usage of them for communications and decrease our paper, postal, and secretarial expenses. The 2002 Stake Leadership Directory will have more email addresses than ever before. Please contact Tonia Cooper, at the stake office, to provide your email address so that it can be included in this Directory. We are also appreciative of the Older Adult "Bridge Builder" email service that communicates prayer requests in the stake and is maintained by Gary Hass, from the Burbank congregation.

***FINANCIAL UPDATE***

- End-of-Year 2001 income/expense statements have been distributed to each congregation.
- Another round of Shelby/MIS training will be provided this Spring to congregational stewardship commissioners, recorders, pastors, and individuals identified by each pastor to serve as "congregational information processor".
- An ad-hoc committee of the GLAS Endowment Fund Board is being created to assist in the process of identifying alternative sources of Stake funding as well as expense management.
- Negotiations between Aspen Education and GLAS/Orange are continuing.
- Construction on the Orange church facility is moving forward smoothly.

***STAKE OFFICE CLOSED***

The office will be closed on **Monday, February 18** Presidents' Day.