

Communities of Joy

Greater Los Angeles Stake

February 2003

Sixty-Eight Campers Attend Junior/Senior High Retreat at Buckhorn

That's right, 68! Many had never been to Buckhorn before and were very excited to be at the campgrounds. The theme for the weekend was "How has God made you?" With so many teenagers in one area, there was plenty of



energy, diversity, and talent! Saturday afternoon offered several options for fun. A bead jewelry class taught by Alisha Youngman was a hit—creative professional-quality jewelry went home with lots of campers. Todd Espiritu Santo offered

opportunity for the artists in the group to express themselves through portraiture and really get covered in charcoal! A huge group of hikers led by Roger Saylor explored the campgrounds. Others played basketball, volleyball, ping-pong, hacky sac, and horseshoes. Saturday evening we split the junior and senior high for discussions and activities on Psalm 139. A scripture hunt had campers scurrying around the camp with flashlights. In the morning, camper Wyatt serenaded the camp with "O What a Beautiful Morning" and other show tunes. Morning worship began with a talented saxophone group playing a joyful tune and the entire camp dancing to the Muevéte, a Spanish song about moving the mountain if we have the faith of a mustard seed.

New friends, old friends, and lots of good food, the weekend was really a good time...just ask a camper!

Jeanne Davis, reporting

Hispanic Ministries and La Nueva Esperanza Celebrate the Day of the Three Wisemen

The 6th of January is celebrated in Mexico as the day of the Three Wisemen. This is when the children leave their shoes out filled with straw the night before, and eagerly await to see what gifts they receive. The other tradition is the sharing of the Rosca de los Reyes, which is bread in the shape of a wreath with little dolls baked inside. Whoever receives one of the dolls hosts a special dinner on February 2.

Thanks to the city of L.A., we were able to provide an activity for our children's program that has become a special event for the last 3 years. We took 25 children and youth to the outdoor ice-skating rink in Pershing Park in downtown Los Angeles. In spite of the very warm weather, everyone had a great time finding his or her way around the rink (upright or not!). What a wonderful opportunity to do something that many

would never be able to experience!

La Nueva Esperanza was blessed to have Apostle Ken McLaughlin share his ministry at one of our Sunday services. The children provided ministry of dance and music and fun with lots of good food afterward. We had around 55 in attendance, including some first time visitors who have indicated they would like to return.

We are enjoying a good response from the people in our area, especially as we continue to attract children and youth. We are beginning a Bible class twice a month to reach out to our neighbors. This year we trust that God will bless us with a place to meet so that the goal of "each one reach one" can have a more measurable outcome.

Linda Espiritu Santo, reporting

GLAS Reunion 2003

Now that the holidays are behind us it's time to start planning for the summer. Greater Los Angeles Stake reunion will be held Sunday, July 20, through Saturday, July 26, at Camp Buckhorn. World Church President Grant McMurray will be our guest minister. Classes for all ages, recreation, worship, video night, talent night, and special evenings with Grant are planned. Please mark your calendar for this once a year event and plan to attend. Registration forms will be available soon. We also need your ideas and your help to make the camp a success. To help out, please call Tonia Cooper at 714-847-5731.

MEADS West Begins March 24-28

"Ministerial Education and Discipleship Studies" is a new educational program required of our full-time ministers, and is also open to anyone who agrees to meet all reading and writing requirements for the courses. The level of challenge in the courses fits between Temple School and college. MEADS courses are held at Winter Field School and Mission 2003 in Independence, and at Congregational Leader's Workshop at Graceland. Starting this spring, those who live in the west will have a more convenient option, as we begin holding MEADS courses in the Los Angeles area March 24-28.

The format for MEADS West will be one session of two courses in the spring and another session of two in the fall. The first session will offer History of Christian Thought, taught by Sue McLaughlin from 8 AM-12 PM, and Restoration Scriptures, taught by Paul Davis from 1-5 PM. Students may take one or both classes. The first session will be at the Orange Congregation, with a cost of approximately \$50 per class.

Contact Hiroshi Matsushita, MEADS West Director, at 714-731-3224 or hiro-315@zc5.so-net.ne.jp for more information.

We Need You

We need a few of you kind Saints to help us assemble the Communities of Joy newsletter, stake leadership directory, and conference bulletin. We need a small crew for the newsletter one day a month, and a larger crew for the directory and conference materials once or twice a year. Please contact Tonia Cooper at 714-847-5731 to pitch in. She promises to make it fun.

Upcoming Events

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Apr 26-27 | Aaronic Ministers: Ministry of Presence course, Temple City |
| May 18 | Stake Conference, Temple City |
| Jun 8-13 | Launch Out! Mission 2003 at the Temple in Independence |
| Jul 20-26 | Reunion 2003, July 20-26, with President Grant McMurray at Camp Buckhorn |
| Aug 14-17 | Junior/Senior High Camp at Temple City |

Aaronic Ministers: Ministry of Presence

We invite Aaronic priesthood members to take the new Temple School course, "Ministry of Presence," at Temple City on April 26-27, 2003. Steve Jones, a member of the Presiding Bishopric, will instruct.

Financial Report through December 2002

| <u>Income to the Stake</u> | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budgeted</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Allocation from Storehouse | \$221,800 | \$225,000 |
| Loan from El Segundo | \$240,000 | \$240,000 |
| Agency Accounts Transfer | \$ 27,773 | \$ 29,000 |
| Membership Contributions | \$ 7,085 | |
| Interest | \$ 1,832 | |
| Miscellaneous (including Albertsons) | \$ 7,337 | \$ 3,000 |
| Rental Income | <u>\$ 44,780</u> | <u>\$ 12,000</u> |
| Total Income | \$550,607 | \$509,000 |

Stake Expenses

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Administration | \$ 43,726 | \$ 34,900 |
| Audit | \$ 16,000 | \$ 5,000 |
| Human Resources | \$298,367 | \$296,000 |
| Congregational Support | \$ 55,725 | \$ 51,000 |
| Temporal Expense | \$122,252 | \$122,100 |
| Rental Expense | <u>\$ 51,070</u> | _____ |
| Total Expense | \$587,140 | \$509,000 |

