

Communities of Joy!

Southern California Mission Center

March 2004

Three Honored, Two Ordained at Hemet-San Jacinto



Eleanor "Pinky" Smith, Joseph Rasmussen, and Mary Rasmussen were honored on Feb. 15 by the Hemet-San Jacinto congregation for the seven years they have prepared meals for the community homeless shelter. Together they plan the menu, do the buying, and cook the meals. Dean Crawford and Blaine McMillen transport the meals to the shelter and line up people from the congregation to serve. Besides working for this outreach to the community, Mary is music director, plays organ and piano, and leads the choir. These three servant ministers exemplify the many gifted, giving people that exist in the Hemet-San Jacinto congregation.



Hemet-San Jacinto proudly announces the ordination of Maxine Rodee and Bessie Scott-Campbell to the office of deacon. They were ordained at the January 2004 communion service after completing their pre-ordination classes. Both Maxine and Bessie have served the church in caring ministry for many years and are a testament of discipleship to others. We celebrate their gifts and energy. They prove daily that age is not a reason to disengage from ministry, or give up the journey of discipleship. We wish them many years of effective service as they share their gifts with the Mission, the congregation, and the community.

Women's Retreat at Ventura Draws Us Together

Twenty five women attended the retreat, hosted by the Ventura Congregation, and had "A Whale of a Good Time." Participants came from Ventura, Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, Canoga Park, Simi Valley, Basileia, Anaheim, and Burbank. We studied Jonah in-depth and found all the elements of our mission and ministry in this book. The Executive Director of



PROJECT UNDERSTANDING made a presentation and we gave them a contribution of \$300 from our registrations and brought lots of towels and beans for the monthly campaign that the congregation supports. The message from the movie "Whale Rider" was experienced by all, and our worship time, prepared by many participants, was inspirational. Mark your calendars now for the retreat at Buckhorn September 24-26.



At the Long Beach Women's Retreat on Saturday, January 31, participants shared in a worship service and prayer service and made fleece blankets for Children's Hospital at Long Beach Memorial.

"Magnify Your Call" at Annual Aaronic Event

SoCalMC's first Aaronic Event with Bishop Stassi Cramm will be held on Saturday, April 24 at CCM at Temple City from 2:00 to 5:00 PM, with dinner served at 5:00 PM.

Stassi will conduct three sessions regarding giftedness beginning with the new Aaronic focus on Jesus as Comforter (Deacon), Jesus as Peacemaker (Teacher), and Jesus as Friend (Priest). Aaronic ministers, as well as pastors, and their spouses are invited to participate.

The cost for the event will be \$10.00 per person. Child-care will be provided. Please see the enclosed flyer.

We will look forward to your participation!

SoCalMC Aaronic Ministerial Focus Team



Stassi is a member of the Presiding Bishopric, the highest financial council of the church. She was ordained to the priesthood office of bishop and assigned as a counselor to the presiding bishop on April 2002. Stassi has been a full-time minister since April 1, 2000. Previously, she was assigned as the Southwest Pacific Region administrator and stewardship commissioner. Prior to accepting full-time ministerial responsibilities, Stassi served as a flight test engineer working as a federal employee for the United States Air Force.

Consider Contributing to "Words for the World"

This World Church Fund is intended to provide for printing and publication of resources in more than 14 languages, reaching over 100,000 people in more than 26 countries. Thus far, \$84,000 of the \$120,000 goal has been raised. If you wish to contribute, please write "Words for the World" on the World Ministries portion of your envelope or use the special envelope included in your mailed packet during March to May.

World Ministries Mission Tithes—July 2003 to Jan 2004

World Ministries Income was 10% below budget for the first 7 months of the fiscal year. As of January 31, 2004, the budgeted amount was \$6,605,400 while the estimated actual amount received was only \$5,939,000. During the first 5 months, special donations had us above budget but income for both December and January were significantly below last year's amount. Members and friends are invited to prayerfully reflect on God's blessings in their lives as they consider their tithing contributions.

New Growth for La Nueva Esperanza

There are many positive things happening in La Nueva Esperanza. Attendance has almost doubled in the last month. We have baptisms scheduled for May and Sara Juarez will be ordained to priest on Easter Sunday at our regular 5:00 service. We look forward to the coming months with much anticipation as we continually seek God's blessing in this and all ministries.

The month began with attending the Ecumenical Service at the Los Angeles Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. This is the fifth year that the congregation has supported the yearly ecumenical service.

We were blessed by the ministry of Guillermina (Geri) Macias, Hispanic Missionary Ministries Consultant for the World Church. Geri spent two weeks in the Southern California/Baja California area. One week was spent in Ensenada, Mexico, with Linda Espiritu Santo, providing teaching and ministry in the congregation. The second week was spent here in Los Angeles with Sergio Juarez and his family. Geri was very involved in all the activity in Sergio's neighborhood. Children's classes, adult study, youth and peacemaker activities, and visiting were all a part of a very fast moving week. She returned to Dallas very excited about the Hispanic missionary activities here in SCMC and reinforces the good work being done and the continuing need for a meeting place.

On Saturday Feb. 28th, 30 members and friends of La Nueva Esperanza attended the "Passion of Christ." It was a powerful experience for many of us. The following Sunday we were blessed with the ministry of Geri, and Mike and Linda Hewitt. We had over 30 in attendance and we all enjoyed a potluck and fellowship afterward.

Praise to God for our ministry together!

Submitted by Linda Espiritu Santo

Spring SoCal MC Conference to Be Held April 25

The Southern California Mission Center will hold its Spring Conference on April 25 at the Center for Christian Ministries in Temple City. Stassi Cramm, Counselor to the Presiding Bishop, will provide guest ministry. The conference will begin at 9 and end after lunch.

Upcoming Events

- March 14** Congregational Leaders at CCM
- March 21** World Conference Delegates at CCM
- March 27- April 4** World Conference Independence, Missouri
- April 24** Aaronic Ministries Gathering at CCM
- April 25** SoCal MC Spring Conference at CCM
- Jun 19-26** Sr High Camp at Buckhorn
- Jul 17-23** SoCal MC Reunion at Buckhorn