

Communities of Joy!

Greater Los Angeles Stake

May 2003



Aaronic Ministries In Action

On Saturday, April 26, 38 people from around the stake came together with Bishop Steve Jones, a counselor to the Presiding Bishop, to learn about the new ministerial focuses for Aaronic priesthood ministry. The Temple School course, Aaronic Ministers: Ministry of Presence explores these new focuses for those persons called to be deacons, teachers, and priests. Seventeen students were already serving as Aaronic priesthood members. Two others had accepted new calls to priesthood. The other students were pastors, Melchisedec priesthood, and members wanting to better appreciate and support Aaronic priesthood ministry.

Steve Jones led us through the background of the "ministry of presence" focuses. He placed heavy

emphasis on the context of Aaronic ministries—issues we have faced as a church over the past 40 years and the evolving understandings of who we are and what we are called to be in the future. He also emphasized the need "to become" before we can "serve." Like a flower being opened from the inside, ministers need to come into the presence of God and be opened to serve in the stead of Christ.

We approached each Aaronic priesthood office by how it expresses the presence of Christ within both the church and the community. The deacon models "Jesus as Comforter," the teacher "Jesus as Peacemaker," and the priest "Jesus as Friend." Within these are the more specific areas of ministry of each office. Steve emphasized that within the call to each office, there is a further need for the priesthood member and pastor to discern together the particular areas of that office's ministry that they are called to pursue.

The day began and ended with worship experiences that helped to make this an outstanding day of learning and fellowship.

Greg Barentine, reporting

Do you know any young people who are simply **outstanding**? Nominate one of your young friends for recognition at Stake Conference on June 22. Contact Denise Leichter at (818) 996-4961 to make a nomination.

Two Easter Baptisms at La Nueva Esperanza

Easter Sunday was an exciting day for La Nueva Esperanza. We celebrated our risen Lord with the sacraments of baptism and confirmation. A young couple Sergio Juarez has been working with in Los Angeles made the decision to make a commitment to

had not attended before. We were blessed with music from the children's choir and a lot of food and fellowship afterwards.

All the efforts that have been made in the South Central neighborhood where the Juarez family lives are beginning to show fruits. This is the third baptism from this area (Francisco Vallejo was

of the need for a place to meet. The people are open and searching. The Hispanic community in general is seeking that "nueva esperanza" (new hope) that the message of the gospel brings. Please keep us in your prayers as we seek our direction in this ministry.

Linda Espiritu Santo, reporting



Sabina and Nicolas after their baptisms

the Lord. What better time to celebrate a baptism than Easter! Sabina Arista and Nicolas Amador were baptized and confirmed in the presence of a congregation of about 50 people, many of whom

baptized last year). The efforts of the Young Peacemakers, the Friday night children's class, and the Tuesday night Bible study have been very influential in bringing this family to this decision. The Bible study has doubled in attendance. The Holy Spirit has been working in the lives of our members, and we give glory to God for our dedicated ministers.

We are once again confronted with the urgency



Nicolas and Sergio in the baptismal font

GLAS Members Attend Older Adult Conference



Eight of the GLAS participants (left to right): David Kaleikau, Charlotte Jones, Henrietta Kaleikau, Erleta Woo-Sam, Diane Shirota, Margie Haas, Mary Farley,

Fourteen GLAS members attended the conference, "Building Blocks for Older Adult Ministry." There were about seventy in total attending. All received inspiration and suggestions from those actively involved in giving ministry to older adults. The conference was sponsored by The Interfaith Network on Spirituality and Aging and held at the Kensington Retirement Community in Alhambra. GLAS members assisting in leadership were Henrietta Kaleikau and Diane Shirota. In addition they arranged a thought-provoking stage setting. Diane conducted the worship services. Erleta Woo-Sam was the pianist, and Hiroshi Matsushita of Orange brought the morning message.

Charlotte Jones, reporting

GLAS Spec Delegation Getting It Together

Calling all Senior High Youth who have completed the 10th through 12th grade to join the GLAS team as part of the CALIZONIA Delegation!

Date: July 25-August 2nd
Location: Graceland University
Cost: \$600.00, with fund raising efforts and congregational support now under way.

We need your names and commitment to go NOW! Please call Denise Leichter at 818-996-4961 or 996-4709 immediately to register. You can also contact her at Denise.Leichter@earthlink.net.

Mark your calendars for May 24th and June 22nd for SPEC Team meetings!

GENEROUS GIVERS...Individual contributions to help offset the cost of this "Spectacular" event for our youth can be sent to the GLAS Office, 9468 Broadway, Temple City, CA 91780.

Don't be left out of this life changing experience...if money is a problem, call us and let's work out a plan!

Camp Buckhorn is Our Camp

*Will you give a day to
make it a
better place?*

Share in the ministry and fellowship of working together on our campgrounds
May 12-18

Come for a day, the week, or the weekend.

Comfy lodging and scrumptious food provided to all workers **COMPLETELY FREE!** Fun and fellowship in the evening.

Receive a voucher for one day at camp for each day you work.

Learn to Be "A Witnessing Community"

A dynamic workshop to assist in congregational growth will be held on Saturday, May 31, at Victor Valley. "A Basic Guide to Congregational Missionary Ministry" is based on A Witnessing Community written by the Council of Twelve Apostles and the Missionary Ministries Office. Seventy Karin Franklin Peter will facilitate the workshop. She is a Missionary Specialist specializing in church growth strategies, missionary resource development, and invitational worship.

Karen is currently assigned to the South Central States Region. This workshop is oriented toward pastors and pastoral teams, witnessing ministers, seventy, and individuals skilled in presentations. You will find this class motivational as well as providing skills to support you in growing your congregation.

The workshop is located at the Victor Valley, California, Community of Christ facility. The event begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$10

if you register before May 14. After that date the cost increases to \$15. Send your name, address, telephone number, email address, and congregation to Michele McGrath, 12987 Shearwater Road, Victorville, CA 92392. Contact Arla Martindale (806-967-5830) or Dale Hunzeker (626-285-4500) for additional information. Call or e-mail Dale (dhunzeker@CofChristLA) with your name and address for a copy of the text.

Dale Hunzeker, reporting

Upcoming Events

May 12-18 Camp Buckhorn Work Week
May 22 SPEC Team Meeting
May 31 A Witnessing Community, Victor Valley
June 8-13 Launch Out! Mission 2003 at the Temple in Independence
June 22 Stake Conference, Temple City

July 19-25 Reunion 2003 with President Grant McMurray at Buckhorn
Jul 25-Aug 2 Spectacular at Graceland University
Aug 9-12 Children's Camp, Buckhorn
Aug 14-17 Junior/Senior High Camp at Temple City