

COMMUNITIES OF JOY

MONTHLY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE GREATER LOS ANGELES STAKE

Issue 11

November 2001

CALENDAR

Nov 11 – Stake Conference

Nov 12—Stake office closed @ noon

Nov 22—Thanksgiving Day

Nov 23— Stake Office Closed

Dec 25—Christmas Holiday—Stake Office Closed

Jan 1—New Years Holiday—Stake Office Closed

CONFERENCE HEARING SESSIONS SET

There will be four resolutions considered at the November 11 stake conference, which if approved will be forwarded to the April 2002 World Conference. At the June 10, 2001 stake conference it was stated that there would be a “hearing session” for each of the resolutions to provide more time for members of the stake to become informed about the issues prior to voting on **November 11**. All of the hearing sessions will be on Saturday, November 10, 2001 at Temple City CCM. Listed below is the schedule:

8:00 AM Introduction to Hearing Sessions

8:15 AM Session 1: Resolution to Set Aside 1982 Standing High Council Policy: Convener - Frank Woodson, Legislative Sponsor - Glenn Johnson

10:00 AM Session 2: Membership in World Council of Churches (WCC): Convener - Roy Ash, Presenter - representative from WCC, Legislative Sponsor - Scott Sinclair

1:15 PM Session 3: Membership in National Council of Churches of Christ – USA (NCCC-USA): Convener - Norm Gunsolley, Presenter - Bob Edgar, Legislative Sponsor - Scott Sinclair

3:30 PM Session 4: Communion Prayer Resolution: Convener - Gail Biller, Legislative Sponsor -Denise O’Neil-Leichter

6:00 PM Session 5: Amnesty International Link Resolution: Convener - Joe Hammer, Jr, Legislative Sponsor - David Redding, Presenter - Representative from AI

The hearing sessions are designed to facilitate the raising of questions and sharing of helpful information, rather than being debates or “impassioned sermonettes.” The convener of each session will be in charge of the event and will be assisted by a secretary/time-keeper. The legislative sponsor will have up to fifteen minutes to explain why the resolution is helpful and there will be an “interlocutor” for each session who will have up to fifteen minutes to raise significant questions about the resolutions. Since the WCC and NCCC-USA are organizations that may not be familiar to members of the stake, time will be provided for representatives of these organizations to give a presentation to familiarize members with them. We are very pleased that Bob Edgar, who is the general secretary of NCCC-USA, has made himself available to share with us. Although the person representing the WCC has not yet been designated, WCC was also anxious to provide a person to represent them and respond to questions. The rest of the time period for each hearing session will be given to members of the stake to raise questions and gain more information. A non-binding “straw vote” will be taken at the conclusion of each session and a brief report will be provided for each session at the November 11 stake conference.

Coming for the entire day is certainly desirable, but it is also possible to come for only selected sessions. The scheduled times are approximate since different sessions may take slightly more or less time. So if coming for selected sessions, please plan for some variation in the scheduled times. A meal is not planned for the event. Although probably none of the sessions will

be “perfect” in answering all conceivable questions, we do hope that they will be very helpful and we urge all members to **come and participate in this important day.**

NOVEMBER 11 STAKE CONFERENCE

The theme for the **November 11, 2001** fall stake conference at Temple City CCM will be “Give Thanks to the Lord.” There is a busy conference agenda which includes sustaining of the stake presidency and bishopric, consideration of priesthood calls, election of world conference delegates, presentation of Mayme Blakeman Awards, consideration of 2002 stake budget, consideration of a resolution on building construction from the Santa Barbara congregation, election of members to the Buckhorn Camp, Inc. board, and consideration of four proposed world conference resolutions (whose hearing sessions are scheduled for Saturday, November 10, 2001). Scott Anderson, executive director of the California Council of Churches (CCC), will be present to provide greetings and recognize our formal membership in CCC. The conference schedule is as follows:

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| 8:30 a.m. | Gathering and Fellowship |
| 8:45 | Pre-Legislative Discussion on 2002 Stake Budget/Assessments |
| 9:45 | Morning Business Session |
| 11:00 | Worship Service |
| 12:15 p.m. | Catered Lunch |
| 1:15 | Afternoon Business Session |

There will be children and youth ministries, a nursery and the opportunity to share with many friends around the stake. We invite all to make the Saturday Hearing Sessions and Sunday Stake Conference **a time of renewal, faith, and thoughtful conferring as we Give Thanks to the Lord.**

WORLD CONFERENCE DELEGATES

The election of delegates to the **April 6-14, 2002** Community of Christ World Conference is one of the matters to be considered at the **November 11, 2001** GLAS Conference. The stake is allowed thirty-nine (39) delegates plus alternates, who will need to arrange for their own transportation and accommodations for the event in Independence, MO. Please notify the stake office secretary, Gladys Silva (800/454-2222), to place your name on the ballot for the November 11, 2001 conference. We encourage all members, of all ages, in all congregations to consider representing the stake in this exciting event.

“SHARE IN THE FUTURE” SPECIAL OFFERING

On November 18, 2001 the World Church is requesting that all congregations and members of the church prayerfully consider the invitation for a special offering to help support the World Church’s ministerial program. Just as the Greater Los Angeles Stake has had a major financial situation develop during 2001, the World Church is having a similar problem, in part because the nation’s recession affects us all. We encourage all members of the Stake to respond to this opportunity to stand in solidarity with the rest of the church to help make a difference.

Additional information is being mailed to pastors on the offering. Printed below is an excerpt from some of that material:

“A softening global economy over the past year has had an impact on contributions and earnings on church assets at both the local and the World Church levels. We believe we have planned well in preparation for economic changes. However, similar to most religious organizations, a 9 percent decrease in contributions overall has presented a challenge in maintaining new ministries, that include reaching out to those who yearn for peace. Members and friends of Community of Christ are invited to “Share in the Future” – to participate in a special offering of tithes and general offerings on Sunday, **November 18, 2001**. This is an opportunity for each of us, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to express our financial support of the church’s global ministries. We

recognize that there are also needs in our local congregations and that special requests may be made in future weeks to support local ministries.”