

Communities of Joy

Greater Los Angeles Stake

December 2002



For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us; authority rests upon his
shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
(Isaiah 9:6)

Letter from the Stake President

Dear Saints,

The season for giving thanks is here. I celebrate the logic of the calendar that puts thanks giving before gift receiving. Although Old Navy and Circuit City are always in a rush to get past the relatively nonlucrative November, this is my favorite month. In my job, I spend most of my time asking people to do things out of the goodness of their hearts, but in late November, after stake conference, I enjoy a day or two to catch up on saying thank you.

There have been some tough spots this fall, as we have faced the reality of not having enough stake income to pay all of the people we have employed. We have asked our members to contribute more of their giftedness, both time and money, while at the same time we reduced our budget by half for next year. That amounts to large-scale change. Change always unsettles us, providing both the opportunity for worry and the opportunity to grow into our new situation as stronger disciples.

Our fall stake conference approved a budget which included an allocation of contributions from each congregation to fund our shared stake ministries. The total we intend to raise next year is \$100,000, or an average of about \$4500 per congregation. We left it up to each congregation to decide how to raise their share—from direct contributions each month, fundraisers, or congregational equity funds. Contributions may be spread over the year, or made in the first few months. We will keep you informed how the contributions are coming in. While it is essential to fund our ministries, it is even more important that we do so willingly, in the tradition of the Saints as joyful givers.

The line items in the proposed 2003 budget add up to just under \$250,000. The conference approved an amendment that added \$50,000 to that amount, to be spent at the discretion of the stake presidency for programs of ministry and ministerial personnel. Because the \$50,000 would be drawn from reserves in excess of our sustainable income spending target, we want to be cautious in deciding to use this right extended by the conference. For now, we intend to manage to the \$250,000 figure, holding the \$50,000 in reserve.

In 2002 our staff funding was 60% of the total budget, at nearly \$300,000. In 2003 we have budgeted \$100,000 for staff salary, benefits, and ministerial expenses. We have informed all of our staff of the changes we will make at the end of the year. Here are the positions that will be funded:

- One full-time Hispanic ministry position with 50% shared World Church funding, to be filled by Sergio Juarez.
- One half-time Hispanic ministry position, to be filled by Linda Espiritu Santo. We are seeking 50% shared World Church funding for this position, to bring it to full-time. If it is approved, Linda will be shared with the Southwest Pacific Region to work in Baja.
- One four-fifths-time executive assistant position, to be filled by Tonia Cooper.
- One half-time contractual accountant position, to be filled by Ed Fugate.

As you can imagine, the process of reducing our budget has been most difficult for the people whose livelihood is at risk. In maintaining their courage, hopefulness, and passion through this time, they have gone above and beyond the call to serve the body of Christ. We owe them our gratitude and support in the months to come. Where we have eliminated positions in our youth ministries and administrative support, we will need to find new ways to work together to see that our ministry continues.

We are answering the call to share our resources in Greater Los Angeles Stake, and we have also heard the call to share our witness. Over the next couple of months, Dale Hunzeker will transition from his duties as bishop in order to coordinate and encourage our missionary efforts, a calling that he has long felt. He will also serve as director of leadership development. I will transition to serving as both president and financial officer. Dale has given diligence and long hours on our behalf as our bishop. I'm thankful to him for his partnership over the last six months, and happy to be able to continue our ministry together in our new roles.

Let us pause now to give thanks, knowing that there are many gifts of the Spirit yet to be received. In this Advent season, we will be alive with the Gospel's good news, we will worship joyfully, we will welcome new members, we will nurture those who need our care, and we will make better disciples of one another. There will be no one beyond our compassion—all are invited, all are of worth. I thank God for you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, and for all you do in the name of our Lord and Savior.

Yours,
Paul Davis, Greater Los Angeles Stake President

Contacting the Stake Staff

One of the ways in which we will be creative with our congregational support ministries in 2003 is with distributed office space. Today's communication technology enables us to be as available from our home offices as we have been from a central office. All of our staff already have been using home offices, and will now be using them exclusively, which will save money on duplicated services at the central office, such as telephone lines and internet access. At the end of the year we will no longer have anyone available in our central office to answer our telephone for us, so we will ask you to call us directly. We will still receive mail at the Temple City address. You may begin using the following numbers and email addresses to reach our staff now:

Name	Office telephone	Email address
Paul Davis	949-916-8839	pauldavis@cofchristla.org
Dale Hunzeker	626-205-2035	dhunzeker@cofchristla.org
Tonia Cooper	714-847-5731	glas.tonia@verizon.net
Ed Fugate	626-215-4377	mred79@hotmail.com

Pre-Authorized Transfers

Pre-authorized Transfer (PAT) of funds is now available. This option is available to assist those who wish to contribute a fixed amount regularly to the local congregation, Stake, and World Church ministries. Your set donation will be deducted from your checking account once a month on the 15th. For more information or to receive the authorization form, call Ed Fugate or Tonia Cooper.

Stake Financial Report

	Actual	Budgeted
<u>Income to the Stake</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Allocation from Storehouse	\$177,800	\$206,250
Loan from El Segundo	\$240,000	\$220,000
Transfer from Agency Accounts	\$ 20,645	\$ 26,583
Membership Contributions	\$ 6,475	
Rental Income (excluding office)	\$ 39,480	\$ 11,000
Interest	\$ 1,791	
Miscellaneous (including Albertsons)	<u>\$ 5,570</u>	<u>\$ 2,750</u>
Total Income	\$491,761	\$466,583
<u>Stake Expenses</u>		
Administration	\$ 39,104	\$ 31,992
Audit	\$ 13,000	\$ 5,000
Human Resources	\$263,202	\$271,333
Congregational Support	\$ 47,067	\$ 46,750
Rental Expense (including office)	\$ 42,772	
Temporal Expense	<u>\$108,481</u>	<u>\$111,925</u>
Total Expense	\$513,626	\$467,000

LA NUEVA ESPERANZA AND HISPANIC MINISTRIES

With a vision to the future, Hispanic Ministries is focusing on the "Each one, reach one" theme of sharing the gospel. We are seeking ways of expanding our ministry in the Hispanic community and are looking forward with anticipation to the coming year as we seek the Spirit's direction in both La Nueva Esperanza and Hispanic ministries in general.

La Nueva Esperanza has initiated a new study course on the Bible in our Tuesday night study group. Our attendance has almost doubled. It's an overview of the Scriptures including its history, purpose, and how use it in sharing our faith with others. We are also beginning more outreach in the Temple City area as we work to proclaim Jesus Christ in the areas where we are—both in the communities where we live and where we worship.

All are invited to join us for a "posada for peace" on Sunday, December 22 (see details below). We hope to see you there and also invite you to share with us any Sunday afternoon at 5 pm in our worship services. We wish you all a "Feliz Navidad y un Próspero Año Nuevo". Que Dios les bendiga (May God bless).

Aaronic Ministers: Ministry of Presence.

We invite Aaronic priesthood members to take the new Temple School course, Ministry of Presence. It will be held at the Happy Valley Conference Center in Santa Cruz on January 10-12 and at Temple City on April 26-27, 2003. Mailings have been sent to the Aaronic Priesthood.

Christmas Programs Planned

You are invited to share in any of the following Christmas activities this month:

Costa Mesa Christmas Dinner and program on Sunday, December 8, at 12:15 following the worship service.

Long Beach Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 8, at 6:00. Refreshments following.

Temple Advent Worship Share via satellite on Sunday, December 15, at 4:45 at the Center for Christian Ministries.

Long Beach Children's play/musical "Operation Baby King" on Sunday, December 15, at 6:00. Refreshments following.

Orange Annual Christmas Dinner and program "Live from Bethlehem" on Sunday, December 15, at 6:00. Make reservations by calling Jeanie Kensler (714-544-4554) or Beth Richards (714-974-7436).

Canoga Park Christmas Musicale on Sunday, December 22, at 11:00 with an orchestra

composed of LA musicians, strings, horns, and the Canoga Park Congregation.

Covina Everyone is invited to the Messiah Sing Along at the Covina Congregation, on Sunday, December 22, at 5:00. Bring your own book. Rex Boos and Elbert McAlister on keyboard. Cookies and punch for all.

Diane Shirota—Thank You!

Paul and I wish to thank you for your support these past 8 years in our stake ministry. We look forward to continuing our spiritual journey with you in the future. Your brother and sister in Christ, Paul and Diane Shirota

Building Bridges to the Future

The Fall Fiesta took place on November 12-14 with the theme “Sharing Our Heritage.” People came to renew friendships and find new ones.

At Tuesday’s night banquet, we heard how a kernel of corn can conjure thoughts of our own heritage. Dr. Matt Naylor, Director of Development, Outreach Inter-national, stretched our concepts of ministry in his address. We enjoyed the Pasadena City College Band, fun drawings, and a syncopated “Amazing Grace.” On Wednesday, Dr. Naylor continued his ministry with humor and interesting studies to back up the hows and whys of happiness. We were left with the challenge of a “Gratitude Activity.” After lunch we had an excursion to Huntington Library to visit the museums and grounds. In the evening, we shared personal artifacts and intriguing stories of heritage, sang old show tunes, and had more fun drawings. We worshiped Thursday morning with practical, everyday suggestions from Bishop Dale Hunzeker.

As a second theme we sang, “Weave,” making of our diversity, a community of love, joy and peace. We left with our heritage enriched by each other and our spirits inspired to answer Christ’s call to become active disciples wherever life finds us.

We extend an invitation to you to join us in future activities.

La Nueva Esperanza Join us for a "posada for peace," a march for peace in the area around the church in Temple City on Sunday, December 22, beginning at 5. We will sing, share, pray, walk, and eat!!