

Communities of Joy!

Southern California Mission Center

December 2003

SoCal Conference: A Day of Praise, Prayer, Good Food

The second SoCal Mission Center Conference was held Nov. 16 at the Center for Christian Ministries in Temple City. The day began with praise singing led by John Hatton and Jeanne Davis. The business meeting followed with election of Buckhorn Board members and World Conference delegates, sustaining of mission center leadership, and approval of the 2004 budget.

The worship service, planned by Frank and Jean Woodson, featured the singing of Dorothy and Tony Austin and preaching by Paul Davis. The Costa Mesa congregation provided a fabulous lunch of chicken cordon bleu. Thanks to Tonia Cooper, Conference Director, for her good work.



Tony and Dorothy Austin



Jeremy Fletcher, Grace Walkman, and Ashley Simpson



Mike Hewitt, accompanied by his wife Linda, is set apart by Hiroshi Matsu-shita and Paul Davis

New SCMC Financial Officer Sustained

The November Conference sustained Michael J. Hewitt, presently of North Bay, Ontario, Canada, as SoCal Mission Center Financial Officer. The World Church assigned Mike to SCMC effective January 1. Mike's education includes Bachelor of Arts



Linda and Mike Hewitt

(Economics) and Masters of Business Administration degrees from York University in Toronto. He is a Chartered Accountant (Canadian equivalent of Certified Public Accountant), a Certified Management Accountant, and a Certified Health Executive.

Mike's employment experience includes 3 years in a public accounting office, 4 years of university teaching in Accounting, Auditing and Taxation, and 26 years of employment as a health care executive, most recently as Vice-President of Corporate Services at North Bay General Hospital. His church experience includes 10 years as a Pastor, 9 years as Reunion Director, 3 years as a Counselor to the First Canadian Mission Bishop, and several years as a district and branch financial officer.

Linda has a Bachelor of Social Work degree, and is a Registered Nurse and Registered Social Worker in Ontario. She has experience in both the hospital and the community. Presently she is a social worker/discharge planner in the Long Term Care area of North Bay General Hospital.

Mike and Linda have 6 children: Jamie (wife Kathy), Alisa, Karen (husband Garlen), Jeff, Jordan, and Jessica. They are the proud grandparents of 2 grandchildren, Cheyenne and Seth.

Both Mike and Linda serve the Community of Christ as Elders. They are very much looking forward to moving to Southern California next month. Mike is excited about a position that combines his training and experience with his passion for the church. Linda's interests include playing the piano and studying introductory Spanish. She hopes to travel to church events with Mike as much as possible.

Please welcome Mike and Linda as they visit in your congregation in 2004.

DON'T FORGET TO SHOP ONLINE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

as part of our youth fund raising. Go to www.scripcenter.org and use our password of CofCLA2003. Ho...Ho...Ho!

Mark your calendars now for the **Jr/Sr High Retreat at Buckhorn** with the SWIMC youth. **Feb 13-16**. Details to follow!

Senior High Youth from Las Vegas are coming to Southern California for holiday fun. They will be at the **ANAHEIM CHURCH ON 12/21** and would love to see you there! Contact Denise Leichter at (818) 996-4961.

Ventura and Simi Cook at Chili and Line Dancing

A great time was had by all at the Ventura Congregation's Chili Cook Off. Joined by members of the Simi Congregation, Dorothy Austin led the festivities with a game of Outburst.

Those of you who have not played Outburst, well, you missed it. There were two teams. The GOOD team and the OTHER team. The members of the GOOD team found the rules to



be simple. Dorothy gave you a subject, and you screamed out answers while she frantically wrote them down, compared them to a list, and voila, we won. There was some negotiation, but that's why we were the GOOD team. Subjects ranged from Wrestling Tag Team names (rejected as a whole by everyone present) to "Things in a lunch box," "Names of Trees," etc. None of us knew ANY tag teams. I was so proud.

After the games, Jason Johnson led us in several line dance moves. The "Electric Slide" was becoming quite popular until Jason led us in another dance I like to call the "Broken Hip Sashay." In this dance Jason crossed his legs, leapt in the air, came down with legs crossed, spun around and sashayed off into another series of impossible steps. Tony Genovese, 50 years old and a non-dancer, was heard to yell, "I'm locked up! Call a tow truck!" Dorothy and other members of the Ventura congregation were right in step. Those of us from Simi, still weakened from the smoke of fires, the earthquake, and the predicted rain of frogs, declined further humiliation.

Suffice it to say that Simi won the Chili Cook Off by a mere one vote. And the cook didn't even vote for her own chili (I voted for #1 and was thoughtful about #4). Pretty much, it was an 8-way tie. Thus proving that Saints everywhere might not be able to perform the Broken Hip Sashay, but we can cook. I wouldn't miss this next year....

Shalom, Rickie Miller

Pianist Chris Ho to Play at Canoga

Chris Ho, pianist at our November MC Conference and some past reunions, will perform a New Age Jazz Concert at the Canoga Park Congregation on December 7th from 1-2:30. He is an extremely gifted musician, and you won't want to miss this special event. For more details contact Vickie Hrovat at 661-257-1922.

Covina Messiah Singalong December 21

The Covina Congregation will host a Messiah Singalong on Dec. 21 at 5 PM. Elbert McAlister will be at the piano and Rex Boos will direct. Refreshments will be served. All are invited.

Temple School Schedule Announced

We are pleased to announce the following classes in our winter Temple School schedule. All classes will be held at the Center for Christian Ministries in Temple City from 9 to 5.

February 7

SL101 An Introduction to Caring Ministries

Instructor: Greg Barentine

PA104 The Elder

Instructor: Craig Crownover

February 21

SS101 An Introduction to Understanding Scripture

Instructors: Hiroshi Matsushita and Evelyn Sora

SS320 Survey of the New Testament

Instructor: Craig Crownover

February 28

AM200 Aaronic Ministers: Ministry of Presence

Instructors: Hiroshi Matsushita and Sherry Southland

**Submitted by Henrietta Kaleikau,
Temple School Coordinator**

Long Beach Presents Christmas Cantata

The Long Beach Choir will present their annual Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 7th, at 6:00 PM. Included are singers from Lakewood, Costa Mesa, and Long Beach. There will be refreshments following the performance.

Upcoming Events

Dec 7	Canoga Park Jazz Concert
Dec 7	Long Beach Christmas Cantata
Dec 21	Meet Las Vegas Youth at Anaheim
Dec 21	Covina Messiah Singalong
Feb 7	Intro to Caring Ministries at CCM
Feb 7	The Elder at CCM
Feb 13-16	Jr/Sr High Retreat at Buckhorn
Feb 21	Women's Day of Retreat
Feb 21	Intro to Understanding Scriptures, CCM
Feb 21	Survey of the New Testament at CCM
Feb 28	Aaronic Ministries of Presence at CCM

Mission Center Address Change

We have changed our Mission Center mailing address to PO Box 4077, Huntington Beach, CA 92605-4077. Any mail you have been sending to 9468 Broadway, Temple City, should now go to this PO Box. Our ministry staff with home offices have not changed their addresses.