

SwIM Center Newsletter

Southwest International Mission Center



Community of Christ

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Daily Prayer for Peace

By Stephen Hatch

Mission Center President

shatch@cofchrist.org

MISSION CENTER - - The World Church is looking for submissions for the daily Prayer for Peace in the Temple. If anyone would like to submit a prayer they can send them to Nadine Stallbaumer, whose e-mail is: nstallbaumer@cofchrist.org.

Gary Conner

By Richard Cordova

El Cajon Congregation richardcordova@cox.net

EL CAJON - - Cary Conner, of the El Cajon Congregation, passed away at the scene of an accident on Tuesday evening, 23 February. He was hit by a car after getting out of the car in which he was riding. A memorial service was held at the El Cajon Congregation on Saturday, 6 March at 2:00 PM. Please remember his mother, Mary Connor, family and his friends in your prayers.

RaLene Rizzo

By Sandy Hardy

Clairemont Congregation

RaLene is trying to talk more which is a good sign. Recovery can take months. It's just wait and see. She has been moved out of Kaiser to La Jolla Nursing and Rehab. Your continued thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Cards can be sent to: La Jolla Nursing and Rehab, 2552 Torrey Pines Rd, La Jolla, CA 92037

Video Interview

By Mike Peterson

cofchristlv@cox.net

LAS VEGAS - - An informative and interesting video interview with Prophet-President Stephan V. Veazey. This video interview is on <http://www.Cofchrist.org/wc2010/counsel/default.asp>.

Have a copy of the Counsel to the Church with you. You can download this from the same website page just above the interview picture.

Spectacular 2010

By Holly Norton
Mission Center Youth Minister
hchow333@hotmail.com

SWIM CENTER - - Youth Supporters, Please pass on the following information to Sr. High Youth grades 10-12 and their parents.

Spectacular is quickly approaching! Any youth currently in **grades 10-12** are eligible to attend Spectacular this summer. Dates for Spec are **July 23rd-31st**. The total cost is **\$450** with the Mission Center paying for plane tickets. This year money deadlines will be enforced even more. \$150 needs to be received by March 1st. The second \$150 needs to be received by April 1st. The last \$150 needs to be received by May 15th. Please encourage youth in your congregations to begin fundraising and saving for Spectacular.

Unfortunately if money is not received by **May 15th** tickets cannot be purchased. (So if your congregation aides your youth with funds, make sure they are in by May 15th.) In past years there have been youth that have made commitments to attend Spec and have dropped out at the last minute, leaving the Mission Center with extra plane ticket costs to absorb.

We will only be booking plane tickets for youth who have their money and registration forms in by May 15th. Please contact pamlindamood@sbcglobal.net or 760-471-6777, if you have any further questions or concerns about Spectacular. You can find more information and registration forms at <http://www.cofchrist.org/spec/>

Please send your forms and checks payable to **Community of Christ** to: Pam Lindamood, % SPEC, 991 Valencia Ave, San Marcos, CA 92078.

Reunion 2010

By Stephen Hatch
Mission Center President
shatch@cofchrist.org

SWIM CENTER - - We are pleased to announce the guest ministry for our 2010 Reunion. Scott Murphy, just called as a member of the Council of Twelve, will share in ministry with us, along with Zac and Katie Harmon-McLaughlin. Zac offered tremendous ministry at last year's SwIM Center Reunion, particularly among our youth, and returns this summer with his wife Katie (daughter of Ron Harmon, Council of Twelve). In addition, former apostle and current Senior Advisor with Outreach International Ken McLaughlin will also be with us to share his ministry.

Please plan to join us July 9-16 at Buckhorn for this joint event of Southern California and Southwest International mission centers. Registration forms will soon be available on both www.cofchristla.org and www.swimc.org.

SAVE THE DATES! JULY 9-16, 2010 AT BUCKHORN!
Please send any responses to Steve Hatch - shatch@cofchrist.org

World Conference 2010

By Stephen Hatch
Mission Center President
shatch@cofchrist.org

Here is a link to a resource on the World Church website entitled **Yearning for God: Discernment and Spiritual Practice** that will help everyone be better prepared for World Conference. Please share this resource with those not on the mailing list, especially those who will be attending World Conference.

<http://www.cofchrist.org/Discernment/yearning.asp>

Risky Business

John Kazyaka, Editor
SwIMC Newsletter
February 3, 2010

SWIM CENTER --There were three options presented to the mission centers during the witnessing weekend, "Risky Business". Each of these options is available to all congregations once posted on the websites.

"Young Adult Ministry" was presented by Carla Long, it included practical suggestions and ideas on how to encourage young adults become the church and participate, as well as discussions on what it means to be a young adult in this day and age. Currently, Holly Norton is actively providing ministry to the 18-35 age group.

"Missionary Opportunities" was led by John Wight. The material presented involved some philosophical as well as practical hands-on tools. I have some resources regarding demographics for Clairemont. This resource is used to profile our neighbors and their needs. It also measures their likes and dislikes in percentage of nation wide statistics. Vista – Carlsbad leaders attended this class and were interested in implementing this venue.

"Small Group Ministry" was led by Carman and Joan Thompson. We explored why small groups are actually crucial to our congregation's ability to experience and become an authentic, redemptive community together. Carman and Joan recommended the Serendipity Bible studies. These teaching tools, about 200 stories in the Bible, are not doctrinal or faith-based theology.

There were six people from the Southwest International Mission Center who attended the weekend, enough people to form a class on becoming small group leaders. Because we have a Young Adult leader on the Mission Center Staff we can concentrate on the other two options. This ministry is not about numbers, but a venue to provide ministry to people. There are Felt-Need Studies, Topical Studies, Book Studies, and Lectionary-Based Groups.

There are sixty (60) Felt-Need Group Courses: Men's, Women's, Singles, Married, Parenting, Youth, Marketplace, Spirituality, Special Needs and Recovery. The Serendipity Bible is the New International Version and has a Study Outline, Subject Index, Dictionary and Concordance.

News From Vista

Ralph Gault, Correspondent
Vista, CA
March 11, 2010

VISTA/CARLSBAD - - Well, here we are, again, simply reporting from the beauty spot of California, Vista/Carlsbad. Can't say there is not a lot going on because there really is...let me share just a little...

As many of you know, our little group has taken on the responsibility (ministry) of "outreaching." Let me explain...some time ago, possibly five months ago now we arrived at church to set things up for worship etc. and there was a lady and her son out beside our meeting place having their morning Jack in the Box breakfast.

These folks are homeless. Well to make a long story short Norio and Ralph went outside, introduced themselves to them and invited them into worship. At first they hesitated and replied that they had no place for their buggies but they were told that there was plenty of space and they could bring them in and leave them at the rear of the facility.

They responded positively and they have been to almost every service since that time. Not only have they worshiped with us but have been a tremendous blessing to us as we have been to them. Their names are Peggy and Randy, it is a mother and son, homeless couple and we have been blessed, on both sides of the relationship. Isn't it strange what happens when we ask God for His direction? (Continued page 6)

Golf Tournament

By Steve Tignor, Correspondent
Committee

Development
Buckhorn Camp

MISSION CENTER - - It is time to start planning for the 2010 [Buckhorn Camp](#) Golf Tournament. In the past years, we have helped to build the [Peace Center](#) that was completed and dedicated during 2009. The 2010 tournament will also support the development of the campgrounds.

We have chosen to use the monies raised at the tournament this year to help fund a new patio that will be built outside of the West Dining Hall. We have received rave reviews from the one that installed several years ago next to the East Dining Hall. This is a great project that will be beneficial for our campgrounds for years to come.

Besides supporting the development of the Camp, the annual Buckhorn golf tournament has a number of significant benefits.

1. The tournament provides a chance for people to get some fresh air and exercise, (and who couldn't use more of that?)
2. It is a good day of fun and fellowship and a chance to meet other people.
3. This can be a great time to invite friends, co-workers, and neighbors to play golf, introducing them to the church on a non-religious, strictly social basis.
4. It is a good chance to introduce people to Camp Buckhorn, and perhaps to invite them to "come up and see the camp this summer!"
5. The tournament provides a chance for men and women who may not feel very connected to the congregations to maintain acquaintances and maintain some connection to the church and to Buckhorn.

The tournament has a lot to offer to our members and to Buckhorn. Here are the details for the 2010 Tournament. Date: June 5, 2010 Time: 12:00 Noon. Location: [Moreno Valley Ranch Golf Club](#) Format: Scramble. Cost: \$105.00. The cost includes golf, cart, range balls, lunch, and a goody bag.

News from Las Vegas

By Kristin and Chuck Klein
Correspondents
West Oakey

LAS VEGAS - - Friday Night Contemporary Worship Service - We started the Friday night contemporary service in October 2009. It was created with the desire to reach out to more people in a different and fresh new way.

For the first few months about 5-8 people were attending. Discouraged, we continued to pray, believing that God had a plan for our congregation. God is faithful! Recently, we began experiencing as many as 25 people attending and we believe God has even bigger plans for our congregation!

Our services begin with contemporary praise music, followed by a video teaching, and ending with a small group discussion. We feel that incorporating relevant topics, and allowing each person to share in small groups, creates opportunities for people to share personal experiences, find encouragement, and most importantly; learn to surrender to Jesus Christ. Each service is followed with a social period which includes a light potluck.

Our prayers are numerous and believe this is only the beginning as we pray for our lives to become overwhelmed by a relentless God and our hearts respond in service. This effort was not created to divide the congregation, and in fact it is receiving overwhelming support from all. We also pray we become keenly aware of the many needs of the people living in this city, and we allow the Holy Spirit to move through us in such a powerful way that God blesses us with creativity to meet these needs.

We further pray that the Las Vegas congregation might identify other areas of need in our walk with Jesus Christ, which we will respond with relevant ways to apply biblical truths in addressing issues.

(Continued next page)

Las Vegas Continued

How we respond to the biblical truths will create a sense of community which embraces radical love and radical grace.

The response has been fantastic, however many schedules conflict with Friday nights so we are planning to move it to Sunday nights at 6:00 pm beginning in April. Pastor Ron Sheltroun has been so flexible, encouraging and willing to do whatever it takes for our congregation to experience God's grace. Our prayer is that this change will not reduce the activity but open opportunities for others to join and grow in our Christian experiences.

We Share...Aid for Haiti and Giving for World Conference

By Stephen Hatch
Mission Center President
shatch@cofchrist.org

Thank you for sharing generous contributions of nearly \$250,000 that will directly support the rebuilding of lives, homes, schools, and communities for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. As relief and rebuilding continues, the opportunity to give directly to Haiti through the Oblation Fund has been extended through February 28.

In the United States, taxpayers who itemize deductions may include cash contributions for Haiti earthquake relief given from January 12, 2010, (the time the earthquake occurred) through February 28, 2010, on their 2009 tax return.

The outpouring of love, support, and prayers for our sisters and brothers in Haiti has been amazing. We turn this same spirit of love and prayer to the upcoming World Conference in April when we will gather together for worship, discernment, discussion, and fellowship.

No matter where you live, your giving can make World Conference possible for members around the world. Be part of the World Conference Special Offering on Sunday, February 21.

Use the World Conference special-offering envelope on Sunday, February 21.

Contribute online at www.CofChrist.org/give using a debit or credit card.

Use your Mission Tithes offering envelopes between now and March 31 to contribute. Write "World Conference" on the World Ministries portion of the envelope.

Thank you for your generous giving! May we be blessed with the assurance that God goes with us always as we strive to share our mission and message with the world.

Nosotros Compartimos...Ayuda para Haití y Dando para la Conferencia Mundial

Gracias por compartir sus contribuciones generosas de casi \$250,000.00 que irán directamente a apoyar la reconstrucción de vidas, hogares, escuelas, y comunidades para nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Haití. Al continuar la ayuda y la reconstrucción, la oportunidad directamente a Haití por medio del Fondo de Oblación ha sido extendida hasta el 28 de febrero.

En los Estados Unidos, los pagadores de impuestos quienes hacen detalles de sus deducciones pueden incluir sus contribuciones en efectivo para la ayuda del temblor de Haití dado entre el 12 de enero, 2010 (día que ocurrió el sismo) hasta el 28 de febrero, 2010, en sus informes del 2009.

El lluvia de amor, apoyo, y oraciones para nuestras hermanas y hermanos en Haití ha sido increíble. Damos vuelta a este mismo espíritu de amor y oración para la venidera conferencia mundial en abril cuando nos reunamos para adorar, discernir, discutir, y tener compañerismo.

Nosotros Compartimos Continued

No importa donde vive, su contribuir puede hacer la conferencia mundial para miembros alrededor del mundo. Sea parte de la Ofrenda Especial para la Conferencia Mundial el domingo 21 de febrero.

- Use el sobre especial para la Conferencia Mundial el domingo 21 de febrero
- Contribuya en línea en www.CofChrist.org/espanol/contribuya.asp usando su tarjeta de debito o de crédito.
- Use su sobre de Diezmo de Misión entre ahora y el 31 de marzo para contribuir. Escriba "Conferencia Mundial" en la porción de Ministerios Mundiales del sobre.

¡Gracias por su dar generosamente! Que seamos bendecidos con la misma seguridad que Dios va con nosotros siempre al nosotras tratar de compartir nuestra misión y mensaje con el mundo.

Enduring Principles

God's revelation in Jesus Christ and continuing presence through the Holy Spirit, as proclaimed by scripture, is the foundation of our faith, identity, mission, message, and beliefs.

In faithful response to our heritage and continuing experience with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, we endeavor to uphold the following enduring principles (values, concepts, themes) as essential components of church identity and mission.

Enduring principles define the essence, heart, or soul of church identity, mission, and message. They describe the personality of the church as expressed through its participants, congregations, and affiliate organizations throughout the world.

Some call enduring principles "core values." Others call them "foundational concepts." Use whatever terms make the most sense in the setting where you

are writing, sharing, teaching, or preaching. For general official purposes, the World Church will use the term "Enduring Principles."

They are as follows:

Grace and Generosity
Sacredness of Creation
Continuing Revelation
Worth of All Persons
All Are Called
Responsible Choices
Pursuit of Peace (Shalom)
Unity in Diversity
Blessings of Community

Save the Date

MISSION CENTER - - SwIMC Spring Conference will be held in Tecate, Mexico on May 23-24

Colloquy Rescheduled

The Peace Colloquy scheduled for 22-24 October 2010 is rescheduled to 29-31 October 2010.

Vista Continued

Our little group is truly blessed with many people who know just who to go to to get things done.

Randy had a very bad hernia that needed attention and through our group efforts that was taken care of and he is doing great. Shortly after that Peggy needed some special attention and that has been taken care of. Some of the folks in our little group are professional care givers and they just know who to go to get things done and so we are now in the process of getting Peggy's retirement etc. taken care of so that they might possibly get off the streets.

Continued Next Page

Again, God does answer prayers, sometimes we feel that we are taking on too much but we know that He is directing us in the every day endeavors. Simply everyone has taken part in this tremendous ministry. It would be unfair to simply mention names because we know someone would be left out. We thank God everyday for this new experience and the outpouring of His spirit and guidance. Long story, even longer than the above but just be aware that we are all being blessed because of this experience.

A few weeks ago a lady walked into our little group and wanted to worship with us but was also looking for Ralph and Carol Gault. Come to find out she was a teenager back in Albuquerque when Ralph and Carol were youth leaders. She plans on worshipping with us as much as possible also. Again, what blessings we receive when we ask God to lead us and then are open for His direction. So, what activities have we been engaged in?

Well, let me just mention a couple...in January we participated in serving water etc. to the runners of the Carlsbad Marathon and some of the folks from the Claremont group came up to help us with that endeavor and we sure did appreciate their support, that was exciting (and cold). ...we held our quarterly planning session in late January...in February we fed the Homeless in a shelter located in Vista, along with the help and support from our Claremont folks, that was a great outreach ministry...Can't remember the exact dates but we have a celebrity from our congregation...her name is Vanessa and her husband is Paul and they recently started visiting and worshipping with us and we are very, very happy with their involvement... speaking of involvement... Vanessa was part of a show in the Vista Broadway Theater...it was great, several of our group went to hear her and what a thrill, she not only is a beauty but she has a fabulous voice and the show was very entertaining... a lot of good wishes for her in her "performing arts" ... we were blessed by the

ministry of our former Mission President, Dick Foster on the 21st...Neva Norling has started a special class for the youth, many of them are not regular attendees but through her efforts she has rounded up at least five and they meet every Sunday morning for some special classes that Neva is providing...some of our folks have been out in the Mission for various assignments and we appreciate all of their ministries both at home and elsewhere...March/April/May?. well this time is starting off to be another exciting time...the 21st of March we will be sharing worship with the folks of Claremont as we do periodically...I'm sure everyone is excited about attending World Conference in the first part of April and making special arrangements for that experience..."Big News" come April we will have a new, and most welcomed, baby because Sarah and Ryan Sharp's baby is due the first part of the month...exciting...exciting. Just another blessing.

When we were meeting in our "old" church building we were blessed with Don and Ruth Hada making some stained glass pictures that were installed around the baptismal font. When the building was sold these pictures were put into storage and remained there for the last four or five years. Just recently we decided to clear out the storage and when that happened it was decided that we would take those pictures and make frames for each of them and use them for our worship services on occasion. These are available for any congregation to use along with Family Reunion time...so if anyone would like to use them simply get in touch with us and we would be most pleased to share them.

I'm sure there is much more we could share with everyone but for now we'll just say one more time that we feel we are being blessed in our little group and we would appreciate your prayers that as we endeavor to follow God's direction we will do it in humility and thanksgiving.

By Ralph Gault

News from Escondido

By Irene Olson
Escondido Congregation

We had the privilege of hearing Steve Hatch on January 10th and March 14th. On the 14th we had a lunch. The soup was made by Junior Church. They learned the story of the soldier who made stone soup and the lesson of sharing.

On January 31, we had our budget business meeting. Holly Norton was our speaker at the 10:30 service.

Ron & Carol Parker renewed their vows on February 20th, celebrating their 50th anniversary. Later, there was a "reception" held at the clubhouse of the mobile home park in which they live.

The "Wednesday Afternoon Kids" meet every Wednesday and on the 3rd Wednesday, they participate in "Peanut Butter Night."

Women's Scripture Study Group

By Diane Schwartz
Las Vegas Congregation

LAS VEGAS - - It all started about twelve years ago when Helen Seaton and I were taking communion to Margaret Gouldsmith.

I had been thinking about starting a study group and I asked her what she thought about the idea. She liked the idea, and so Sandy McClelland talked with her husband, Pat, who was pastor at the time.

He approved and just like that, our little group was born. We meet every other week for study. We also celebrate birthdays by going out together and sharing - we have a great time doing both.

All those who were in the beginning group still attend except for those who have moved away, of course. Some of us are still in contact with those women even now. We have become very close friends because of this group and it has become an integral part of our worship routine. On Sunday, March 21st, our group conducted the 11:00 a.m. service.

Our members are Judi Kost, Helen Seaton, Eleanor McCracken, Alethea Allen, Sandy McClelland, Roxanna Spears, Rose Cerrone (a Catholic lady who always attends), Shirley Johnson and myself, Diane Schwartz.

If any of you ladies would like to attend our group when you're in town, just contact Mike Peterson or myself for the date and time. We'd love to have you join us.



Community of Christ
