

In the Churches...

Out West

WEST
REGION
OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
CONFERENCE

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2014
Spring Edition



Spring 2014

Easter Reflections

*God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!*

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!*

Bill Gaither



BURBANK

Burbank welcomed two new members into its family. Yaffet Matindas was baptized on March 29, and his wife, Fivia, joined by profession of faith. •"Irresistible" is the focus of the church leadership. Thanks to some special people, the aesthetics of the interior of the church are greatly enhanced.

CAMARILLO

Chip program is going super well with 17 participants. They are an exciting group of men and women who are celebrating weight loss, lower or normal blood pressure, relief from diabetic conditions and a joyful life. They have passed their second week and loving the healthy life changes. •"HOW TO USE YOUR BRAIN FOR HEALTH AND SUCCESS" seminars were presented by Dr. Arlene Taylor April 4 and 5. •Linda Vista Adventist Elementary will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Sunday, April 13, 10 to 2 p.m. •"Shadow of the Cross Easter Cantata, Sabbath, April 19. •Linda Vista Adventist Elementary will provide the church service April 26.

CANOGA PARK

CPC had an all-night prayer vigil, March 29, organized by the personal ministries committee. Forty-two members participated at the church and others prayed in their respective homes. The facilitators were Fredrika, Roy, La'ise, and Pastor McCall. One of the key purposes was to pray for the success of their "Thunder in the Holy Land" outreach program.

CULVER CITY

This year marks the church's 60th anniversary and will be celebrated on July 12, with a full day of activities. •They are in the middle of Phase III of their remodeling project. The kitchen and restrooms of the fellowship hall are being updated. The classrooms windows along Washington Blvd will be replaced.

HOLLYWOOD

In addition to regular Sabbath morning services, the Underground Service is held each Friday at 8 p.m. in the lower level room. •Healing and sobriety support and healing program includes Al-Anon Tuesdays and Fridays in the Community Chapel, Adult Children of Alcoholics meet Thursdays in Community Chapel, Adult Children of Alcoholics meet Thursdays, and Narcotics Anonymous meet on Thursdays.

LAKE OF THE WOODS

Many lessons were taught at recent youth meetings and the youth responded well.

LANCASTER

Celebrated violinist Jaime Jorge will be appearing in concert at Lancaster Adventist Church April 12, 6:30. This is a free concert.

MALIBU

Thirteen people are attending a baptismal class in preparation for a baptismal service in May. •A Black Tie Dinner is schedule on July 14, to raise funds for a mission trip to Brazil and for a health fair at Malibu Bluff Park in August.

•Church members are continuing to make door to door follow up at homes where they have distributed copies of the Great Controversy.

MOJAVE

Sabbath sermons are focusing on the importance of keeping the Sabbath. •Preparations are underway to texture coat the church's exterior.

MOORPARK

Shadow of the Cross, a small cantata with live voices will be presented April 19, at 5 p.m. at the church, 404 Los Angeles Ave., Suite 109.

NORTHRIDGE

Ministry to the homeless people is being done twice each month and the choir sings twice a month at rehabilitation centers. •A meeting for students at California State University, Northridge, every Thursday evening and a vespers program is held each Friday evening. •Preparations are underway for a summer vacation Bible School.

OJAI

Door-to-door witnessing using Amazing Facts Bible study literature has garnered 18 responses. •Following fellowship dinner each week, members are participating in Bible study and are learning to give Bible studies. •A Tuesday evening soup kitchen is made available to needy people of the community. •Three persons from Ojai have been sponsored to the Amazing Facts training program.

OXNARD

The All-Nations congregation will have a Week of Prayer beginning April 12. The theme of the series of messages by the speaker, Pastor Eradio Alonso, is the Holy Spirit.

PALMDALE

RIDGECREST

Dave Aldrich, the Religious Freedom contact person in Ridgecrest, participates in a one-hour church service each Sabbath at a local nursing home. For Christmas and Easter the church choir presents a complete formal music program. They also intermittently have a smaller 10-to-15 minute music programs by church children. The patients love children and

music programs. Sometimes a few home visitors or relatives attend the services. Pastor Riva Robison also does a small Bible Study at the home during the week.

SANTA BARBARA

The Santa Barbara Church is launching an eight point outreach ministry. •1. Shirley Brower leads a group who has been actively helping to feed the homeless and the first elder leads an effort that helps to wash the feet of the homeless and provide new shoes and sox to wear. •2. Michelle Lang and John Bettis are leading Connect Youth Ministry, a service for university students to enjoy fellowship and opportunities for witnessing. •3. Clara Palm heads a community disaster relief and community needs program. •4. Two hundred guests attended an international dinner to promote healthful lifestyle and vegetarian food March 30. During the event Paul Emerson told about the church's missionary outreach to Indonesia. •5. A tutoring-education program open to the community is headed by Gladys Cerna and Bill Catoi. •6. Chaplain Sam Geli and Dr. Sandi Geli guide a weekly Bible class. •7. Operation Blueprint is a community needs assessment survey and public contact to determine on-going needs and spiritual concerns which was begun as a result of the ARME Bible Camp. •8. A weekly interfaith professional chaplaincy training program is leading to chaplaincy.

SANTA CLARITA

The Santa Clarita's Little Patch of Earth Preschool will occupy two more large classrooms this fall, maximizing existing space and providing a fantastic asset for their community, their children, and a solid rental income for the church for years to come. •The church's massive re-roofing project is now complete. •On March 30, 25 people volunteered to lay 1,300 square feet of cement brick paving in an area now enhanced for church and preschool use. •The Adventist congregation will host joint services with their tenant church, Christ Church, through Easter Weekend. Adventists will host Maundy Thursday services at 7 p.m. with the Ordinance of Humility, a potluck soup and salad supper, readings from the gospels and the service of Communion. Both congregations will jointly officiate a Good Friday service at 7 p.m. when they will darken the room as the Light of the World enters His rest. Sabbath will be the customary Adventist services. Sunday morning brunch will be a 9 a.m. followed by Christ Church's Sunday Resurrection service at 10:30 a.m. •Pathfinder Club is gearing up for Oshkosh camporee. Two baptisms planned for there. •Pulpit ministry in Santa Clarita has been focused on members' stories in relationship to God's story. Testimonies are showing how God is moving in members' lives. We're hearing our members and friends stories. •On March 22, returned Walla Walla University student missionary Brennan Hoenes was interviewed regarding his experience in Malawi, Africa. The interview is available on the YouTube channel.



Out Reach

In the Churches...

SANTA MONICA

A candidate from Dubai will be baptized April 19. •Attendance at the “Connect” midweek service is growing (connect with God, each other and His Word) at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays. •A special Easter program is planned. •Three new babies been added to the congregation.

SIMI VALLEY

On Thursday, Feb. 20, and Saturday night, February 22, the Simi Valley Church hosted a showing of the movie Hell and Mr. Fudge at a local theater. The two nights had about 180 in attendance. In fact, the Saturday night showing brought the biggest box office revenue for the Simi Valley 10 Cinemas that day. The Saturday night showing featured lead actor Mackenzie Astin interacting with the audience. Literature regarding the biblical teaching on hell was given out at the conclusion of the showing. •The following Sabbath, March 1, the Simi Church had Drs. Richard and Jo Ann Davidson from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary to do a symposium on Death and Hell. Some who attended the Hell and Mr. Fudge movie attended that Sabbath. •The April 19, worship service will feature a dramatic presentation of music and the spoken word in the story of The Man of the Other Mile. This moving narrative depicts the final scenes of Christ’s life with music by world renowned Christian musician, Jerry Nelson. •Then at 6:30 Nelson will present a concert at the Church.

SYLMAR

During March a special Sabbath afternoon health program hosted for the community and church members featured lessons on better living and eating. •Pastor Branden Stoltz has been preaching on the Biblical story of Noah, the very real applications to each person’s life and church, and its intertextuality to the rest of the Bible. •The Sylmar church family has been renovating various parts of their church building with some beautiful results. A band of nurses has been presenting messages to the church and their community on better living and eating with more than the “no pork” prescription. Delicious and nutritious food samples are also provided with easy-to-make meals that are big for health and high on energy.

TEHACHAPI

“Self-improvement Seminars” speaker, Dr. Ruben Hubbard, began his series March 7. It continues at 7 p.m. every Friday for 10 weeks at the Tehachapi Church, followed by a lifestyle seminar and a series in the fall.

THE PLACE

Members will participate in a Maranatha Volunteers International project in Castanha, Brazil, in August. They will build an evangelism and education center. •The church will host an

Extreme Mobility camp for visually impaired and blind kids in July. •The church will sponsor an Easter in the Park on Sunday, April 20, at Borchard Park in Newbury Park. •The church campout will be at Sycamore Cove, July 31 to Aug. 2.

THOUSAND OAKS

Thousand Oaks has started mission-focused small groups who meet weekly to study, pray and plan ways to reach out to inactive members and the community. •Three youth recently returned from a school- and church-sponsored mission trip to the Dominican Republic where they helped build two churches, paint four churches, assist with a vacation Bible School, and find time for recreation. Will Giles, seventh and eighth grade teacher at Conejo Adventist Elementary School, planned and led the trip. •Star Halm, an actress, has planned an Easter worship service on April 19. It will combine elements of pageant, scripture and music.

VAN NUYS

A Pathfinder/Adventurer fundraiser co-sponsored with Goodwill Industries March 30, netted \$1,700 toward sending the Van Nuys Pathfinder Club to Oshkosh Camporee as well as for Adventurer activities. Members with loaded cars drove through the church parking lot where crews unloaded items for the sale. •Pastor John presented a seven-week multimedia evangelistic series titled Buried Blueprint -- The Search for Paradise. The series ended March 8. The meetings were well attended by members as well as visitors.



Pastor John Aitken uses a variety of documents and pieces from his museum from the Middle East to illustrate each night’s message during Buried Blueprint evangelistic series.

VENTURA

During this year’s first quarter five souls were baptized and more are planning for baptism •A study of the manuscript “The Theology of Ellen G. White” for our midweek service was completed. •Evensong Vesper series is continuing. •Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sabbath services with the community have been scheduled. The midweek service in Holy Week will be a Passover Seder. •Members have begun a study of the book, “Signed in His Blood,” by Ray Beeson during their midweek service.



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