

PACIFIC CHURCH NEWS

SPRING 1995

Proclaiming a Message of
Peace in the Ojai Valley

See Cover Story on page 6



A NEWS JOURNAL FOR CHURCHES OF CHRIST ON THE WEST COAST

Spanish Television Broadcast Covers LA and Beyond

At the 1994 Pepperdine Lectures, the Spanish work in California broke new ground in two important areas. In 1994, Pepperdine began a focused effort at lectures to reach all of the Spanish speaking employees on campus. Some classes were tailored for them, and a Bible study on Friday evening in Stauffer Chapel drew 135 Spanish speaking participants.

The second important development came through two meetings at the Lectures concerning the possibilities for an evangelistic Spanish TV broadcast. Through meetings with Rex Morgan, a bilingual preacher working with the church in Hialeah, Florida, and Tom Allen, a bilingual preacher at the Inland Valley Church of Christ in Pomona, plans were confirmed to broadcast the Spanish TV program, "Con La Biblia Abierta" (With The Open Bible). This half-hour program produced by the Madison Church of Christ in Tennessee was aired for the first time to a potential audience of nearly six million Spanish speaking souls in southern California at 6:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 25, 1994, on channel 52. Despite the early hour, 40 callers responded to the program, asking for information and Bible correspondence courses. Now, almost one year later, the total number of calls is 420, and week after week the count continues to rise.

In another meeting at the Pepperdine Lectures, Jim Holland, who preaches for the Merced Church of Christ, a congregation eager to reach out to Hispanics, and Tom Allen talked about the possibilities of the same program airing in the Merced area. By January, Holland had arranged for the program to be broadcast in north central California and western Nevada. Calls from this broadcast have come in from as far north as Yuba City and as far



Darkened areas show the broadcast field of the "Con La Biblia Abierta"

east as Reno, Nevada.

The names and needs of the people who call in to the program are passed on to one of the 22 Spanish congregations in Southern California—from Oxnard to Riverside, from Van Nuys to San Marcos. The callers receive the Bible correspondence

course and a quarterly newsletter, "Invitación," which includes interesting articles aimed at keeping the gospel before them. Individual congregations have taken the initiative to invite callers in their area to an afternoon of two Bible studies, a lecture, and a free meal. The visitors are treated as honored guests, and they receive the gift of a Bible which is donated by Pepperdine University.

But that is only the beginning of the good news. On September 24, 1994, Ramon Elizondo, who lives in the eastern end of L.A. county, was baptized as a result of the "Con La Biblia Abierta" program. He had requested the correspondence course offered by the telecast three weeks earlier. On December 4, his wife, Virginia, was also baptized, and today both are active at the Inland Valley Church of Christ in Pomona.

Never before has an effort of this magnitude reached out to the Hispanic population. Now, the leaders are praying and working for the TV station to offer a better time and day for the program. Tom Allen said, "The Spanish speaking immigrants of today will be the English speaking citizens of tomorrow. These seeds planted in Spanish for the church will be reaped tomorrow in English." For more information on this work, contact: Tom Allen, Inland Valley Church of Christ, (714) 599-7985.

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COVER PHOTO

Members of the Ojai Church of Christ and the Meiners Oaks Church of Christ, now united in one group, paused for a photo after Sunday morning services on March 26, 1995.

Photo by Ron Hall.

Lester M. Laing: Tribute to a Friend and Hero

by Carl Mitchell and Michael O'Neal

To many of us who knew Lester Laing, November 29, 1994, was a day of great loss—of a dear friend and a hero of the faith. Lester was born in Medway, Ohio, on November 14, 1916, the first of four children. Lester started working on a paper route during the fourth grade, and from that time on would never allow his parents to buy anything for him except an occasional gift. His wife Virginia recalls riding on the handlebars of his bicycle while delivering his papers—perhaps the first of many efforts to combine business and pleasure.

Lester's family often went back from Dayton to Medway to fish in the summers, and he first met Virginia Witwer through his sisters while in Medway on such a fishing expedition during the third grade. The Laings moved back to Medway when he was in the sixth grade, and because Lester was so "painfully shy" that he wouldn't even look at her, someone bet Virginia she could not get a date with Lester. Virginia successfully

met that challenge and they dated steadily from the eighth grade on until they married.

The young couple moved to the Los Angeles area in 1940, where he worked for Lockheed. During his spare time, he built machines to manufacture continuous hinges for pianos, and that was the idea for starting his own business in 1946. The resulting LaDeau Manufacturing Company developed a national clientele and became a very successful business. Had Lester lived just two more years, he would have been able to share in the celebration of 50 years in that business.

Shortly after moving to Los Angeles, Virginia became a Christian at the York

Boulevard Church of Christ in Los Angeles. At the same time he was founding his company, Lester was committing to an even stronger foundation as he became a Christian at the Burbank Church of Christ.

From those early days of their new life in Christ, the Laings have been a pillar of the Church in the San Fernando Valley area. In 1954 they aided in the founding of the Sun Valley Church of Christ where they were charter members. Not only did



Lester and Virginia Laing

Lester and Virginia provide much of the financing for this congregation, they assisted with their own hands in the construction of the building. Later, Lester was a founding director of the San Fernando Valley Christian School (predecessor to the California Christian School), served as Chairman of the Board, and he and Virginia were its principal benefactors.

In 1959 Lester's spinal cord was severed in an accident, and he spent the next 35 years of his life in a chair. Since the only direction he knew was straight ahead, he became a model for persevering through suffering, never complaining or feeling

sorry for himself. He remained active in his business and in his church life, while dedicating himself to 'every good work.' In spite of his handicap, he was extremely independent and, with the help of his Lord and the love of his family, was quite self-sufficient. He and Virginia even made an arduous tour of Europe, Turkey, and Israel with their close friends of many decades, Carl and Frankie Mitchell. Carl pledged not to go anywhere Lester could not go, and together they retraced all of Paul's missionary journeys, often with Carl carrying Lester on his back and in his arms or pushing the wheelchair places it was not designed to go. Carl lost twenty pounds and the wheels on the chair were in shreds at the end of the trip!

Lester was a true soldier of the cross. He was steadfast and loyal to his friends and the many good causes he embraced. Generous nearly to a fault, Lester and Virginia provided resources for numerous missionaries, churches, Christian schools,

and other good works. Among his many legacies will be a chair in Biblical Studies at Pepperdine University to be funded from his estate. To his wife, Virginia, daughters, Melanie and Vanessa, his grandchildren, Lisa, Michael and Amy, and to a great many others, he has left a legacy that will bless and inspire us to keep on and never give up!

Though his body was laid to rest at Glendale Forest Lawn on December 8, 1994, his spirit and inspiration are ever present in the lives of many friends and worthy institutions. It has been a genuine pleasure to know him as a close friend this side of heaven.

For The Love Of Books

by Kelly Deatherage

"Moyers Family Bookstore" reads the modest banner over the Portland storefront, the display at the annual Alaska lectures, the table at the Pepperdine University Lectures, the booth at the Great Northwest Evangelism Workshop and dozens of other venues where Christians gather.

Nearby will usually be Forrest Moyer, now in his 32nd year of Christian bookselling. Often his genial face will split with a smile as he greets an old friend. Just as often his soft voice will earnestly answer a prospective buyer's questions or rise a bit with excitement as he shares his enthusiasm about a new title.

Not only has Forrest's presence practically become a prerequisite for most events of any size up and down the West Coast, he also has become almost a part of the family for two and even three generations of Northwest Christians. Most often when the bookstore phone rings, Forrest said, he knows the callers personally and may have even stayed in their homes. Others of his customers are "phone friends" whom he may serve for years before actually meeting.

The story of how this kind man became a household word in many West Coast churches and families began at Harding College. There a young man from Georgia met and married Beth Merritt, a young woman born and raised in what is now Zambia where her father, J.D. Merritt, served as a missionary for 50 years.

"When we left college, we wanted to continue service to churches," Forrest said simply. At Harding, he majored in English,

Bible and speech and used that training to teach for a time at Pacific Christian in Graton, California, and then to preach for congregations in Alturas, California, and Lakeview, Oregon, "while also doing something else part time."

In 1962 the family, which now included Alice, Dean, BethAnn, Derek, Jeff and

professional associations, and even competitors have all been very helpful, Forrest said. Such support has been especially important in recent years as Christian titles have proliferated. Forrest estimates that except for Gospel Advocate commentaries and certain old books, everything else in their inventory was published within the last 10 years.

Another recent trend is the consolidation of publishers and the decreasing number of small bookstores. In fact, Moyers is now one of only two Christian bookstores on the West Coast operated by Church of Christ members. In 1992, Hal and Grace Hougey, with whom the Moyers had gone to college, decided to retire from their Manna Bookstore in Concord, California, and sold their small warehouse and mailing list to the Moyers.

The Moyers count at least seven other businesses that have closed and sold to them during the past 12 or 13 years. As to the future of Moyers Family Bookstore, Forrest said he and Beth both enjoy their work and would like to continue "as long as we have the health and strength—although I would like to find someone to work with us." Two of their children have worked for the bookstore at different times, but now they have their own interests.

Moyers specializes in Bible school curriculum and mail order service, with the emphasis on service. In the midst of an interview for this article, a customer from Hawaii called asking for information about



Running a Christian bookstore in the Great Northwest has been a family affair for more than 30 years to Forrest and Beth Moyers.

Marilyn, moved to Portland so the children could attend Columbia Christian Schools. Forrest preached two years for the Oregon City congregation. During the second year, he and Beth were invited to help in the Columbia Christian College bookstore. They both worked part time at Columbia for one year, then entered the Christian bookselling business full time in June 1963. For 19 years they operated the Columbia bookstore, then in 1982 "went on our own." Except for a five-year period when Beth was at home, they have continued to work side-by-side in what Forrest describes as a "very supportive industry."

Through the years, salespeople,

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A Retreat To Remember

By Emily Y. Lemley

How do you remember a spiritual retreat? Photos may tell the outward story, but it is difficult to describe the heart's memories. The women of the Campbell Church of Christ in Campbell, California, planned and prayed a retreat into being that will be one of my favorite retreat memories. If I could collect photos for an album of spiritual highlights, there would be several pictures from this retreat in early March.

The first photo would be a picture of the setting—it was pastoral, green hills with cows grazing behind wooden rail fences, a soft rise in the road and then a view of a home built in the 1890s with a huge screened-in porch and cupolas on each side. Below it was a brick dormitory building, with soft red-tile roofs surrounded by plenty of grassy knolls and stone benches for quiet meditation. There were no malls nearby, no TVs in the rooms, no fancy restaurants. This was a contemplative place for prayer—and we did pray. The five women who had planned this retreat scheduled several “private hours” for meditation and prayer during the weekend—I saw women walking around a pond, sitting on a grassy slope—and paying attention to God’s quiet.

Another photo I would include in my remembering is one of the planning committee praying together, holding hands in a circle. This retreat had a deep effect on all of us because of the time they had already spent in prayer. A year before we drove into the retreat center, this committee had met around a kitchen table to pray for wisdom in planning a weekend that was focused on Christ alone. For a year they met to pray, first monthly, then bi-weekly, and then weekly as the retreat date drew nearer. Because of their focus in prayer, they determined to find a peaceful retreat center. They did not plan skits or games or trips away, because, for this one weekend, they wanted one thing—to have

time to wonder at God’s love.

They tried to pray as much as they planned. They chose their group leaders after prayer; they matched each woman with another as a “spiritual partner” after prayer; they mapped out scriptures and questions to fill a notebook so that each participant could concentrate on her own walk with God after much prayer.

I would have a photo, too, of the five women in an enthusiastic singing group called “Celebration!” These women led us all in praise with their voices and their hearts. From “Jesus, Thy Name I Love” to our final hymn two days later, “Come Share the Lord,” their attitude of prayer was obvious to all of us. Before each lesson, they turned our hearts again to Him.

My favorite photo of this weekend would be of all 85 women sitting on the floor, in chairs, on sofas around a giant stone fireplace, ablaze to cut the evening chill. This was the time for “Glory Stories,” an informal session late Saturday evening which allowed women to talk about Christ’s impact on their lives. Some brought prayer needs; several were facing the death of loved ones; others had victories to report. The evening ended with a warm goodbye to a young woman who was leaving the Campbell church to do mission work. Close friends told sweet memories of her, promises were made to write and pray, and prayers were offered before we all sang “The Lord Bless

You and Keep You.” No time or distance or language will separate any of us in that gathering from caring for this precious woman who is now in South America.

Photos could be added of two women, sitting in a small room, heads bowed, hands clasped, praying for each other...or

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Standing in Paradise

by Bill Henegar

Editor's Note:

The beginnings of the Restoration Movement in Ventura County can be traced to the arrival of the Charles Bradshaw family in Saticoy in 1870. However, it was 16 years before a family from the movement settled in Nordhoff, as Ojai was called in those days. In May 1886, Thomas Jefferson Robison, a fervent member of the Church of Christ in Ellis County, Texas, came to Nordhoff. His wife, Laura, and their six children arrived a few months later. Their farmhouse, situated on 115 acres at the east end of town, became the headquarters of a fledgling congregation.

In 1892, the church, by then numbering 23 persons, began meeting in the brick schoolhouse in town. Soon a lot on the corner of Matilija and Ventura streets was donated for the construction of a church building. They occupied a structure there about a year later. The leaders of the group were Robison and his neighbor, John Jones.

The future seemed promising, but a difference of opinion regarding the use of musical instruments in public worship soon led to a division. The Robisons opposed this development, but a majority prevailed, and the instruments were brought in.

The Robisons left in 1894 and moved to Los Angeles. With their departure, there would not be another Church of Christ in Ojai until the 1940s. The Christian Church that resulted from the division continued on for a century before recently closing its doors.

—J.R.

The place seems like a taste of paradise. Only 15 minutes or so from the blue Pacific Ocean of Ventura, California, along a twisting, two-lane highway, lies the town of Ojai (pronounced "O-high"). It is nestled in a lush valley spotted by horse farms, orchards, groves, and neatly manicured yards and gardens. However, there is another side to this idyllic town, with its picturesque, ivy-covered Spanish arcade and landmark bell tower. Because its beauty has also attracted a profusion of



The normally peaceful little town of Ojai, with its Spanish tower and arcade, swells on weekends with visitors who come to enjoy the beautiful valley.

Eastern gurus, New Age sects, modern-day hippies, and even, some say, Satan worshipers. Still, there are many church spires that stand as silent testimonies of the Prince of Peace in the midst of this very pluralistic valley.

The tranquil but somewhat offbeat town of Ojai seems an unlikely site for such an exciting event as the one that transpired about two-and-a-half years ago...

It was November 22, 1992, that the surprising plan was consummated. On that day, two Churches of Christ in the valley, previously separated by certain doctrinal issues—termed "traditionally more conservative versus more liberal" by many—merged their memberships and became one body of believers. The merger came on Ojai Church of Christ's eleventh annual "In Everything Give Thanks Sunday," and the guest speaker for the occasion was Wilfred McKenzie, minister of the Riverside Church of Christ in Albuquerque. After services, the new united church had a "thanksgiving meal" together, then Jim Short presented an afternoon message.

The older of the two groups, the Ojai Church of Christ, had begun meeting in the Women's Club in 1949. They moved to the present building at 411 North Montgomery Street in 1955. The other



The current leaders are (seated) preacher Jim Short; and (standing) elder Herb Hawthorne, left, and elder/preacher Clinton Storm.

group, the Ojai Valley Church of Christ (usually called the Meiners Oaks Church of Christ to avoid confusion) was formed in 1965. They eventually moved to a building at 619 W. El Roblar Drive.

The "unique and wonderful union," as Clinton Storm called it, began several years ago when the preachers for the two congregations became friends. Storm, who has been the minister for the Ojai Church



(Top left) The earliest Church of Christ in the valley met at the Robison farmhouse, later moving to a school in town.

(Top right) By the late 1880s, Texan T.J. Robison had established a small house-church in the valley.



A Church of Christ, meeting in the Women's Club, was reintroduced to Ojai in the years following World War II.

for 18 years, and Jim Short, minister for the Meiners Oaks Church for 10 years, began to meet occasionally and support each other's special congregational meetings. Storm had been a classmate of Foy Short, Jim's father, at Abilene Christian University in the 1940s, and that common tie helped forge a warm relationship between the Ojai ministers.

Clinton Storm was born in Kansas and grew up in Denver, Colorado. He completed his bachelor's degree in Greek at ACU in 1945, then he earned an M.A. in religion from Pepperdine University in 1964. Most of his 50-plus years of preaching have been in California, the last years before Ojai being at the Allied Gardens church in San Diego. He and his wife, Rue, have three sons, Carlos, Mark, and Brian; and a daughter, Annette Gross.

Jim Short was born in Bulawayo and raised in Gweru, Zimbabwe (Southern Rhodesia at the time). His parents were and still are missionaries there. Before that, Jim's grandfather, W.N. Short, and his grandmother were also missionaries in the same general area of Africa. Jim attended Florida College for a year, then transferred to Southern Illinois University for both his B.A. and M.S. degrees. While preaching full time for the Meiners Oaks Church, he supported himself and his family by serving as head of the math department at Hueneme High School in Port Hueneme, south of Ventura. He continues to teach there in addition to his church duties. Jim and his wife, Carol, have two children, Aidan, 12, and Kathryn, 8.

Some of the details surrounding the merger of the two churches seem very

providential. For example, it has already been noted that Clinton Storm and Jim Short's father, Foy, were classmates 50 years ago at ACU. In addition, two couples from Ojai just happened to meet at the 1992 Pepperdine Bible Lectures. They found that they were enjoying the same spiritual conference, were from the same town, but were from different Churches of Christ. They began to urge their two churches to consider joining hands. Only one month after the Lectures, in May 1992, the two churches had their first joint Sunday evening worship service.

Also fascinating is the fact that the congregations were representative, to some degree, of the ministers who served them. The Ojai Church, though a little larger in attendance at 60, was composed mostly of older members, peers of Clinton Storm. On the other hand, the Meiners Oaks Church, with about 45 in attendance, was mostly composed of younger families with children, like the "40-something" Jim Short. It made for a perfect marriage, in terms of age balance.

Coincidentally(?), as the two groups continued growing closer, Jim Short reports, "One day some people hunted me down and called me, out of the blue, and asked if our building was for sale. They had no way of knowing about our merger talks." Within a relatively short time, the Meiners Oaks Church had sold their building, and the proceeds were combined with the treasury of the Ojai Church. Since the Meiners Oaks members were generally younger, they agreed to the oversight of the Ojai elders, Herb Hawthorne and Clinton Storm. Storm and Jim Short share the preaching duties today.

What were the keys to bringing together two distinct and differing groups of Christians? Three things stand out. First, Storm and Short developed a friendship that transcended their church boundaries. They had a common view of authority, and they were determined to find ways to work together that they could agree were

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Randy Gill Accepts New Challenge

by Emily Y. Lemley

After ten years of teaching music and directing singing groups in the Fine Arts Division at Seaver College, Dr. Randall (Randy) Gill is joining Pepperdine's Church Relations Department this summer as an associate director. Gill's responsibilities will include organizing and directing a small singing group of Pepperdine students who will provide contemporary acappella Christian music for youth rallies around the country and beginning a new summer camp for teens on Pepperdine's campus. "We have been praying and planning for someone with Dr. Gill's qualifications and experience to join our team so that we can better serve young people in Churches of Christ," said Dr. Jerry Rushford, director of Church Relations. "He is exactly the person to fill this multi-dimensional role."

Gill plans to begin try-outs for a six-member singing group this month. He said, "We are looking forward to planning approximately 50 concerts this year throughout the western United States. The students who are already interested in the try-outs have been overwhelmingly enthusiastic. One of them told me, 'I have been praying about an opportunity like this for two years.'" The first concert will be for the Labor Day Youth Camp at Daybreak, and the group will be on the Thanksgiving Youth Fest program November 24-25. "We are in the process of thinking about names for the group and gathering music," Gill reported. The group will sing sacred music, exclusively using both the contemporary and traditional acappella arrangements.

Dr. Gill first came to Pepperdine in 1984 as a visiting professor to teach as well as to direct the Fine Arts Division's Choir and the "Showcase Singers," a small, select group of students who perform American popular music. During that time, he began

work on a doctorate at USC. When his doctoral course work was completed, he and his family moved to work with the music faculty at Oklahoma Christian University in Edmond, Oklahoma. But in 1988, Pepperdine called to ask Gill to return to the faculty. He returned, finished his doctoral dissertation, and began to develop some unique music courses such as the course on African-American music. When Gill joins the Church Relations Department, he will continue to teach



Randy, Chris, and LaJuana Gill enjoy the advantages of living and working on the Malibu campus.

some of these courses at Seaver.

Randy Gill's love for music has always gone beyond his professional endeavors. He has directed teen worship, as well as spoken for youth rallies all over America. "It is ironic," Gill stated, "that 'Big Don' Williams was the person who recommended me as a youth speaker because he heard my first speech on 'Teens and Rock Music.' Now, I will follow in his footsteps as an associate director for Church Relations."

Gill's ministry to youth has also resulted in a collaboration with Mission Viejo Church of Christ's minister, Jeff Walling, on an eight part video series called "That's Entertainment?" which challenges young

Christians to discern what they hear and watch. He and Walling also wrote a musical together about Noah's Ark called, *Get In The Boat*, which was performed by children at the Mission Viejo Church in August 1994. Now, they are working on a new musical about the story of Esther, *A Time to Stand*, which they hope to produce next summer at Mission Viejo. "It is exciting to produce something which draws people closer to God," Gill said.

Randy's parents, Ernie and Eileen, were converted to Christ while serving a military tour in Paris. Maurice and Marie Hall studied with them and baptized them. When the Gills were transferred to Long Island, New York, they were disappointed to find no congregation there. Ernie Gill wrote to Maurice Hall, telling him of their frustration that there was no Church of Christ nearby. Maurice sent a letter back to him that has become an influential part of the Gill family story. Maurice Hall wrote:

Dear Ernie,

Start One.

Love, Maurice.

They did. The small congregation met in the Gill's home and eventually built a building that still houses a thriving church. This experience moved the Gills to want to do mission work. They quit their military career and planned to join the Halls in their new mission work in Vietnam. Just as they were ready to go, Vietnam closed the doors to missionaries, so they went to Perth, Australia, to join the team of Marvin Phillips and Rusty Bolton. "This was a very close time for my family," Randy remembered. "We all had one goal, and we did things together—no TV or other distractions." When Randy



Lajuana often leads Pepperdine students in Bible studies on campus.



Randy devoted several years to working with "Showcase Singers".

was a sophomore in high school, the Gills returned to work with the church in Cincinnati, Ohio, and then moved to Rochester, Michigan, to work with the church near Michigan Christian College.

Randy attended Michigan Christian, and, while there, heard Pepperdine's "Singin' Trav'lers" perform on campus. He immediately wanted to start a singing group from Michigan Christian. Don Gardner, the president of MCC, said, "Go try it." With that encouragement, Randy started "Autumn," a group which still sings together for MCC. "We sang sacred music and traveled everywhere. 'Autumn' became a trademark for MCC," Gill said. After completing his two years at MCC, Randy went to Harding University to complete his B.A. in music, then he returned to MCC to teach music.

During his two years at Harding, Randy met and married Lajuana Case, who was doing her first year of teaching at Harding Academy. She had just earned her B.A. in Fine Arts from Harding. Mirroring the experience of Randy's parents, Lajuana's parents had also decided on a life of ministry. After being in business and then experiencing World War II, they went to Abilene Christian University to get Bible training and then moved to Cortez, Colorado, where they were self-supported missionaries. They continued ministries in Fort Worth, Denver, and Houston.

After their marriage, Randy and

Lajuana moved to Michigan Christian, and Lajuana worked for an interior design firm in Chicago. "I helped design eight of the suites at the Republican National Convention which was held in Chicago," Lajuana remembered. When their son, Chris, was born in 1984, Lajuana stayed home with him. After their move to Pepperdine, she used her training and talent in design to decorate several of the offices and other areas in the Thornton Administrative Center and in the cafeteria. "I love design, but as I oversaw the dismantling of the old President's Home on the L.A. campus, I was impressed with the brief 'life' that houses and buildings have. I began to yearn for work that would last, so my heart was drawn to ministry opportunities," she said.

Scott Lambert, the campus minister at Pepperdine, was looking for a partner. "Would you consider me?" Lajuana asked, and the answer was "Yes!" Since 1991, Lajuana has ministered to university students—being a friend, doing counseling and referrals, and studying the Bible with interested students as well as helping to organize the many Campus Ministry events each year. She has a small group Bible study with several women students every week in her office. In working with students, Lajuana has learned to recognize the ones who are in pain. "I can see it in their eyes," she said. She usually asks them if they want to talk. "They are relieved that

someone is interested, and they are very open to God when they are in crisis," she reported. "When asked about her philosophy of service and ministry, Lajuana responded, "What I do comes out of who I am—Christ's cross has defined me, so I respond out of the cross." She has just completed a master's degree in ministry from Pepperdine. "Continued study has taught me to use the Bible as a window through which students can see God rather than as simply an end in itself," she said. "A relationship with God is the goal of our work in Campus Ministry," she concluded.

Both Randy and Lajuana say that this new position for him will dovetail their work. "We will both be involved with some of the same students, and we will both be focused on ministry. That is a blessing," Randy commented. Their son, Chris, is in the 8th grade, and the Gills live in faculty housing on campus. Being so close to campus helps them "interact with students more easily."

Randy Gill's life has focused on his love of music and ministry. So, when the opportunity came to work in Church Relations, developing a Christian singing group and an expanded summer youth camp and providing resources for youth ministers, he accepted the challenge as providence. Looking forward to this new role, Randy said, "I never dreamed that I could have a job that balanced both of these 'loves' of mine so perfectly."

Garth Black "Retires" to a New Ministry



Garth Black

Garth Black, who has most recently completed 18 years of preaching for the Westside Church of Christ in Bakersfield, is retiring after 41 years of full-time ministry. He reflected, "This is an exciting time, and we are happy to be staying in Bakersfield with people we love. We hope to continue to write, counsel, and speak by appointment." Garth and Doris Black are well known all over the country. Doris is an appreciated teacher, role model, and speaker for the women at Westside, and Garth is known not only for his preaching but also for his book, *The Holy Spirit in the Life of the Christian*, which has sold more than 30,000 copies. During the Black's ministry at Westside, the congregation has grown from 200 to 600 members and is one of the largest congregations in California. Westside has six elders, "wonderful men," said Garth. They also have four full-time ministers, and a six building facility. Most significantly, Garth believes that during his tenure the congregation has grown in its understanding of grace, faith, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

When the Blacks married in 1950, Garth was attending the University of Oklahoma, preparing for medical school

with a major in zoology and chemistry. After graduation, he was drafted into the army and served three years as a teacher/trainer at Fort McClellan in Alabama during the Korean War. "That was my opportunity to learn public speaking," said Black. Jack Meyers, Sr., an elder in Alabama, encouraged Garth to "think about preaching." In 1954, Garth and Doris decided to forgo medical school and go to Abilene Christian University where he earned an M.A. in Bible, graduating with 36 hours beyond the normal M.A. requirement. "I wanted to take everything they offered to be prepared," he remembered. Dr. Frank Pack, former chair of Pepperdine's Religion Division, was teaching at ACU during that time. Garth said, "Frank Pack influenced my life more than any other one person. No man ever shaped my thinking more."

The Black's first work was in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. During this time, with the encouragement of J.D. Thomas and his Biblical Research Press (now ACU Press), Garth published his master's thesis and titled it, *The Holy Spirit in the Life of the Christian*. In 1958, Doris and Garth moved to Rome, New York, where the church met in their home at first and later built a building for 300 members. "It is still a strong congregation," Garth said. In 1968, the Blacks moved to Silver Spring, Maryland, where they worked with the church there for nine years. "We loved working in the eastern United States, so when Bakersfield called, we did not consider moving. But, finally, we agreed to visit, and then we knew that God wanted us to work there."

As his ministry developed in Bakersfield, Garth found himself counseling many hours each week. But this time has become very meaningful. "The need is so great, I could spend 24 hours a day counseling." About half of his clients are not members of Churches of Christ, so

he takes this as an outreach opportunity. In response to his years of marriage counseling, he has developed two extensive courses which he calls "divorce prevention." This four-week training, "For Men Only" and "For Women Only" has been very popular because of its practical emphasis. Many couples who take the course find that they can improve their marriage before problems become extreme.

Reflecting on his ministry in Bakersfield, Black said, "Our work here has been full of lots of wonderful people., That's why we want to stay in Bakersfield for our retirement so we can continue doing the things we love." The Blacks have four grown children, two daughters, Candace and Sherri, who live in Bakersfield and two sons, Bruce, who preaches in Fairfax, Virginia, and Adam, who lives in Cathedral City, California. They are also, not surprisingly, proud of seven grandchildren.

Pacific Church News encourages all Churches of Christ in the western states to take part in Manna International's:

Day of Prayer and Fasting June 4, 1995

Skip at least one meal that day and contribute to Manna the money saved. All contributions given will be used for development and relief for third-world countries. For more information contact: Manna International, P.O. Box 3507, Redwood City, CA 94064, (415) 365-3663.

Building Stronger Families Conference Set for June 15-16 with Dr. Don Hebbard

The schedule is set for the June 15-16 Second Annual Family Life Ministry Conference on Building Stronger Families Through the Local Church. Dr. Dennis Lowe, conference coordinator, reports that Dr. Don Hebbard, a nationally known resource in the area of family life and author of *The Complete Guide to Family Life Ministry in the Church*, will be featured in a General Session on June 15 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pepperdine's School of Law on the Malibu Campus. On the second day, classes are scheduled for both morning and afternoon; participants can choose one class for each session. The classes are:

"Training Lay Counselors and Support Group Leaders in the Church" by Ron Deal
 "Pre-Marital Counseling and Preparation;



Dr. Don Hebbard, featured speaker

How One Couple Does It" by Terry and Susan Giboney

"Ministering to Fast Families" by Don Hebbard

"Assisting the Separated/Divorced and Their Families" by Mike and Nancy Jordan

"Counselaid: Assessment Tools to Aid Marital/Premarital Counseling and Pastoral Soul Care" by Paul and John Barkman

"Helping Families Cope with Depression and Other Crises" by Dennis Lowe and Emily Scott-Lowe

This conference is planned for any interested church member as well as for church leaders' spouses.

For more information and registration form, contact: Dennis Lowe, (310) 456-4609.

For The Love of Books

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"the videos you introduced me to." Forrest was able to locate the information she needed and to suggest titles. He and Beth also "connive with people to do things like send packages to an address down the street at Christmas time."

In their work, Forrest said he and Beth hope they have been able to contribute to unity among churches. "We have dealt through the years with a number of strains of the Restoration Movement and have been able to get along with all of them. We

have friends in all groups."

During their years of participation in the Christian Booksellers Association and other industry groups and events, Forrest said he has been able to meet several illustrators and authors. "I've even gotten to shake hands with Dr. Dobson," he laughed. But when asked about the highlight of his years of service, he answered without hesitation: "The experience of being a guest in so many homes." That he values the fellowship of fellow believers so highly says a great deal about the young man from Georgia who wanted to serve churches.

A Retreat To Remember

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of six women sitting in folding chairs in a circle, each one leaning forward to hear the heart of the one who was sharing. A Sunday photo would include all of us in a circle, holding small flickering candles to remind us of God's light that we bear as the body of Christ.

But my last photo would have to be of laughter. All of the prayer and the trust in God's work through this time together produced a great deal of joy and laughter. The love expressed was happy and unself-conscious. Hugs were abundant. Notes and gifts were exchanged by everyone. Tears brought relief that someone cared. And grand smiles resulted. There are no photos truly to show the spiritual growth of this weekend. I wish you could have been there.



Pepperdine University will honor G.P. and Olivia Holt with an appreciation dinner during the 52nd annual Bible Lectures. The Holts were actively involved in establishing congregations in Oklahoma, California, and Illinois, and they labored with the Kingsley Terrace Church of Christ in Indianapolis, Indiana, for more than thirty years. They have faithfully served Southwestern Christian college in Terrell, Texas, in a variety of ways for many years. The Holts are the parents of six children and fourteen grandchildren. The appreciation dinner will take place on Wednesday evening, April 26.

PEPPERDINE PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

by Tara Dawson

Dan Anders, preaching minister for the Malibu Church of Christ, will be speaking for the Graham Street Church of Christ Gospel Meeting in Stephenville, Texas, May 7-10.

Craig Bowman, visiting instructor in religion, spoke at the Seaver College Campus Ministry Care Group on March 15. He will also be preaching for the Sierra Madre Church of Christ in May and June.

President **David Davenport** was a guest preacher/teacher for the Simi Valley Church of Christ March 19. On April 27, he will speak at the Pepperdine Lectures, and he will be a keynote speaker at the Yosemite Family Encampment July 27.

Rich Dawson, director of international student services, was added to the eldership of the Malibu Church of Christ on February 26 as was **Terry Giboney**, senior advancement officer, and **Ron Highfield**, associate professor of religion.

Randy Gill, soon to be associate director of church relations, preached for the Mission Viejo Church of Christ March 12 and April 6. He will be the speaker at Central Texas Teen Summit in College Station, Texas, April 29-30 and at Encounter in Lubbock, Texas, June 7. He will be a featured singer at the Mission Viejo Youth Rally, June 3 and will be the choir director/teacher at the Acappella Christian Music Seminar in Paris, Tennessee, July 10-15.

Bill Henegar, assistant vice-president for creative services, preached for the Ojai Church of Christ on March 26. He will teach a class at the Pepperdine Lectures on April 26-28.

Clarence Hibbs, professor of psychology, spoke for the evening service February 26 at the Malibu Church of Christ on "Reflections on Being an Elder."

Ira J. Jolivet, Jr., associate professor of religion, is preaching for the Woodland Hills Church of Christ.

In an effort to prepare for the "Let's Start Talking" summer projects, **Scott**

Lambert, campus minister, visited churches in Kiev, Ukraine, Moscow, Russia, and Heidelberg, Germany from March 19-26.

Emily Y. Lemley, associate director of church relations, taught the women's class at the Glendale Church of Christ, April 23, where her husband **Steve Lemley**, provost at Seaver College, preached the same morning. On March 31, **Emily** spoke for the 30th Anniversary of Associated Women for Harding University. She will also be the main speaker for the Mission Viejo Church of Christ Women's Retreat, June 9-10. On June 18-22, the **Lemleys** will speak for IMPACT, the summer program at Lubbock Christian University.

Dennis Lowe, professor of psychology and Norvel and Helen Young Chair in Family Life, and **Emily Scott-Lowe**, coordinator of the counseling center, presented a "Home Improvement Workshop" at the Turnpike Road Church of Christ in Santa Barbara, March 17. On April 26, they will present class at the Pepperdine Lectures. Other speaking engagements include "Helping Churches and Families Cope With Depression," June 16, in Malibu, and "Effective Parenting," July 14 and 15 in Ventura.

Randy Lowry, director of Institute for Dispute Resolution and associate professor of law, has and will continue to serve as faculty for "Managing Conflict and Change in the Church." Current conference times/places scheduled are: Nashville, Tennessee, March 22-23 and May 11-12, and Seattle, Washington, May 24-25 and June 15-16.

Rick Marrs, associate professor of religion, will be a luncheon speaker at the Pepperdine Lectures, April 28 and, he will be a presenter at the "Lipscomb Sermon Seminar" at David Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tennessee, May 8-10.

Tom Olbricht, chair of the religion division, preached for the Sierra Madre Church of Christ on April 16 and April 28. He will teach at Great Lakes Christian

College in Beamsville, Ontario May 1-5, and he will teach the Maymester at ACU, May 15-19. At the Conference on Peace at Notre Dame, Olbricht will read a paper on "Pacifism in Churches of Christ" on June 15, and he will read a paper at the Conference on Rhetorical Analysis of Scripture in London on July 18.

Daniel Rodriguez, visiting instructor of religion and missions, was the guest speaker at the La Iglesia de Cristo in Puebla, Mexico, where he served as a missionary for nine years. He will speak for the church in Ventura, April 30.

Rick Rowland, associate professor of communication, was the guest teacher at the Woodland Hills Church of Christ on March 5. The topic was "Concerning the Validity of Programs in Campus Ministry and Offerings by Churches of Christ for Young Adults." That same day, he spoke on "Concerning Vision for Campus Ministry" at Cal State University, Northridge and Pierce College. On March 24, a "Survey of Religious Thought" was given at Cal State University, Northridge.

Jerry Rushford, associate professor of religion, preached for the Conejo Valley Church of Christ on April 23. He will be on location in England during the month of May filming a video series entitled, "Hymns From the English Countryside." He will speak at Jubilee in Nashville, Tennessee, July 5-8 and at the Grand Canyon Family Encampment in Flagstaff, Arizona, July 9-12.

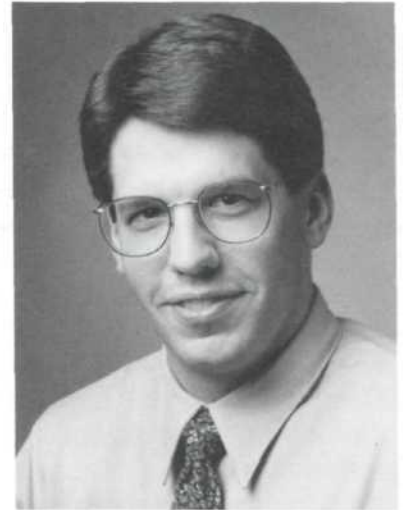
William Stivers, professor of communications, was a participant at the Friends of Baja, California in San Felipe, Mexico, April 8. On May 28, he will be the speaker for the bi-lingual service of the Vermont Avenue Church of Christ in Los Angeles, and he will also be the bi-lingual speaker at the Sunday School Awards Banquet in Hawthorne, California.

Dean of Seaver College **John Wilson** spoke at the Turnpike Road Church of Christ in Santa Barbara, on March 26.

Mark Davis Named Assistant Dean of Students

Dr. Mark Davis joined the Student Life Office of Seaver College on April 8, 1995 as the Assistant Dean of Students. Davis has a B.A. from Harding University, a Master of Divinity from Harding University Graduate School of Religion, and a Ph.D. in Counseling and Development from Purdue University. He has worked as the Campus Minister at Purdue University from 1988 until his current move to Pepperdine. He has also worked in youth ministry with White Station Church of Christ in Memphis.

As assistant dean of students, Davis will emphasize the spiritual development of students. He will manage convocation and chapel programming, counsel students, and assist the student life office in strategic planning to develop and serve the whole student. Dean of Students, D'Esta Love said, "I am thrilled to have Mark join our staff. He is a fine young man with excellent training. He will strengthen our staff, and he will bring a focus of faith development to our staff which will integrate our efforts to serve the students at Seaver College." Davis grew up in Rockford, Illinois and is married to Michele McCoy. They have two sons, Matthew, 8, and Michael, 3.



Fran Carver Joins Religion Division

Tom Olbricht, chair of the Religion Division at Pepperdine, announced that Fran Carver, a doctoral candidate in church history at Princeton Theological Seminary, will come as a visiting instructor of church history in August of 1995. Carver has a B.A. in political science and a B.S. in public administration from Harding University, an M.A. degree in government from the University of Texas, an M.Div. from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and a Th.M. in church history

from Princeton.

Carver has done mission work and teaching in Italy. She is teaching a summer course at Pepperdine on "The North American Millenarian Movements," July 24 through August 4. She is currently researching nineteenth century communitarian movements, 1820's-30's frontier religion, and millennialism in American culture and religion. Olbricht said, "Everyone in the Division is very pleased that Fran is coming. We have heard her make some presentations and we were very impressed, so we anticipate that she will be a very effective teacher."

Pepperdine People on the Move

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Morris Womack, professor of communication, preached for the Bellflower Church of Christ on April 30, and he will teach a class at the Pepperdine Lectures on April 26-28. His book, *Learning to Live from the Parables*, will be published by College Press in April.

Helen Young will be the speaker for the annual women's retreat sponsored by the Fishinger and Kenny Church of Christ in Columbus, Ohio on May 20.

Standing in Paradise

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scriptural. Second, as the members of both groups met, they didn't ignore their differences, but openly discussed them. However, they also focused on creative ways to work together, rather than simply allowing their convictions to divide them. Third, and most important, the circumstances surrounding the merger reveal the hand of the Father, providentially working to answer the prayer of the Son when he said, "I pray also

for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father..." (John 17).

The united church now meets in the Montgomery Street building. Since the merger, a few have moved away. But spirits are high, and those who remain are pleased with the union and looking forward to future growth. They are taking their stand in "paradise"—standing for Christ and "against the authorities, against the powers of evil in the heavenly realms" (Eph. 6:12).

The Lord's church in Ojai has caught sight of the unseen. Perhaps the vision will become infectious.

California Scouting Leaders Attend MCCS Meeting

Two people from California Churches of Christ attended the Board of Trustees meeting for Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting (MCCS). On February 5, 1995, Dr. John R. Wood, minister for the Grass Valley Church of Christ and Fred Buenrostro, from the Cordova Church of Christ in Sacramento, attended the meeting at the Oak Hills church building in San Antonio, Texas. MCCS started in 1986 with the purpose of establishing a National Support Group that would promote and encourage Scouting sponsored by local congregations. The MCCS Board members also developed

a religious recognition program, "The Servant Leadership Series," based on Biblical precepts. The members of MCCS are dedicated to the enhancement of spiritual growth in youth and in adults in Churches of Christ. Although most of the group's members are active in their local congregations, Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting is not a church organization.

"The Servant Leadership Series" awards scouts a four-heart motif which symbolizes the four spheres in the life of a servant leader: service to God and His church, service to one's own family, service to the

nation and service to scouting. Each of the hearts bears a phrase used by God to describe servants: "The Joyful Servant" program guides the religious activities of second through sixth graders (Cub Scouts/Brownies), "the Good Servant Award" challenges Scouts, and the "Faithful Servant Award" comes by nomination for adult Scout leaders.

MCCS publishes a newsletter. For additional information about membership, religious awards or the newsletter, please contact: Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting, ACU Station, Box 7618, Abilene, Texas 79699, (915) 674-2296.

San Leandro Welcomes New Pulpit Minister

On April 9, 1995, Mark L. S. Mullins began his work with the San Leandro Church of Christ as their pulpit minister. Mark and his wife Stacey are moving to California after working with the Eastside Church of Christ in Hamlin, Texas. A native of Lubbock, Texas, Mark earned a B.A. in Biblical Studies from Abilene Christian University in 1988, and went on to earn the Master of Divinity from ACU in 1992. In addition, Mark is working on his thesis for the M.A. in Old Testament from ACU. In October 1994, Mark married Stacey, a native of Nashville, Tennessee, who holds a B.S. in psychology from ACU and is doing graduate work in



Mark and Stacey Mullins

organizational development. Mark reports that he and Stacey are "very excited to serve the Lord" in San Leandro. He continued by saying that the church has "provided countless blessings in my life," and, "I have geared all my education toward theology because I love the people of Christ." The members at San Leandro say, "We are so glad that we got Mark and Stacey—their dedication to Christ and their unique abilities make them a great team for our church." Mark is committed to teaching, preaching and leading worship, and he has a special interest in proclaiming Christ to young adults.

World Bible School Reports 395 Baptisms in Africa

Since January, 1995, World Bible School has had reports of 395 baptisms in Ghana and Nigeria. Jake Coppinger, director of the Tulare office of World Bible School, reports that they have conducted "monthly campaigns in which African brethren preach the gospel" and every person who is interested in Bible study is given the location of the nearest

Church of Christ and is given a teacher in the United States who works with them on their Bible lessons.

World Bible School is now working to evangelize the Liberian refugee camp at Buduburam near Winneba in Ghana. The Church there began with five refugees, and now has 150 members. World Bible School is working to send 5000 sets of lessons to

Isaac Daye, the preacher there, for him to use in this important work.

World Bible School is working toward being able to fax orders for lessons to their overseas distribution centers. This would save the teachers much time and would be more economical. For more information on World Bible School and how you can help, contact: Jake Coppinger, 1-800 462-9173.

Pepperdine Religion Division Offers Summer Course Work

The Religion Division of Pepperdine University announces four 2-week summer courses for 1995. These courses are the same nature and quality as those offered in the regular school year, and they fulfill undergraduate or graduate degree requirements. Each two-week course meets for five hours each day. There are some scholarships available and auditors, special students, as well as ministers and church members seeking continuing education are encouraged to ask for more information from Judy Anders or Ron Cox at the Pepperdine Religion Division (310) 456-4352. The four courses are:

"Mission and Methods of Church Growth," June 5-16, taught by Dan

Rodriguez, an Irvine visiting instructor of religion who is a Ph.D. student in Inter-Cultural studies at Fuller Seminary. He and his family just returned from nine years of mission work in Mexico. In this course, principles and practices for cross-cultural church planting and growth will be developed from a Biblical theology of mission. Attention will also be given to church planting cross-culturally in an American urban context.

"Archeology and the Bible," June 19-30, taught by Dr. Wayne Pitard, a professor of religion at the University of Illinois. Dr. Pitard holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University in Near Eastern Language and Civilization. This course examines how archeological discoveries assist an understanding of the Bible. Excavations and literary discoveries will be considered.

"Inner-City Ministries," July 10-21,

taught by Larry James, the current director for Central Dallas Ministries. James was the preaching minister for many years at the Richardson-East Church of Christ and has done doctoral studies at Tulane University. Students in this course will be exposed to the Biblical and theological literature and will be challenged to develop a personal philosophy of ministry for application in an inner-city context.

"North American Millenarian Movements," July 24-August 4, taught by Fran Carver, a Ph.D. candidate in Church History at Princeton Theological Seminary who has her Master of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. This course will examine the themes of apocalypticism and millennialism analyzing groups such as the New England Puritans and Shakers. It will also include current cults and contemporary prophecy belief.

SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED FOR SEATTLE'S MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MINISTRY

It is perhaps true that never in history has so much been asked of those who set themselves to serve in the church. Almost every Christian teacher feels the need for additional training. Unfortunately, many cannot afford to leave their work to study further, and they find no place locally where appropriate education is offered. In an effort to aid just such people, Pepperdine University is offering a Master of Science in Ministry to those living in the Seattle, Washington area. This off-campus program is presented as a service to the church and is intended to better prepare persons for ministry within the local congregation.

This is a two-year, 36 unit, no-thesis program that will begin in August of this year and conclude in the spring of 1997. Substantial scholarship aid is available for interested applicants in the Great Northwest. Classes will meet every other weekend and utilize the facilities of the Northwest Church of Christ. For more information, call Judy Anders or Ron Cox at (310) 456-4352.

<u>Course</u>	<u>Professor</u>	<u>Date</u>
<i>History of the Restoration Movement</i>	Dr. Jerry Rushford	August 25-26 September 8-9, 15-16, 29-30
<i>Biblical Theology for Ministry</i>	Dr. Tom Olbricht	October 13-14, 27-28 November 10-11 December 1-2
<i>Old Testament Prophets</i>	Dr. Rick Marrs	January 5-6, 19-20 February 2-3, 16-17
<i>Theological Crises in Christendom</i>	Dr. Ron Highfield	March 1-2, 15-16, 29-30 April 12-13
<i>Counseling for Church Leaders</i>	Dr. John Free	May 3-4, 17-18 May 31-June 1 June 14-15

CALENDAR

JUNE

9-11 Christian Leadership Conference for High School Students from Churches of Christ

Date: June 9-11
Location: Pepperdine University
Contact: Craig Means, Paul Long, or Mike Truschke
Pepperdine Admissions (800) 330-9283

15-16 Pepperdine University's 2nd Annual Family Life Ministry Conference

Date: June 15-16, 1995
Location: Seaver Campus
Contact: Dennis Lowe (310) 456-4609
Speaker: Don Hebbard, Mike and Nancy Jordan,
Ron Deal, Paul and John Barkman,
Terry and Susan Giboney,
Dennis Lowe and Emily Scott-Lowe
Theme: "Building Stronger Families Through
The Local Church"

24-28 Red River Family Encampment

Date: June 24-28, 1995
Location: Red River, New Mexico
Contact: Jerry Lawlis (719) 564-3873
Speakers: Prentice Meador, Ken Jones, Harvey Porter,
Edwin White, Paul Faulkner
Theme: "Studies In the Resurrection"

28-30 Northwest Spiritual Growth Workshop (formerly GNEW)

Date: June 28-30 and July 1, 1995
Location: Campus of Pacific Lutheran University
Tacoma, Washington
Contact: Dale Smith (203) 537-5323
Speaker: Marvin Phillips, Joe Beam, Wayne
Kirkpatrick, Jeff Walling
Theme: "Growing Spiritually in the 90's"

JULY

9-12 Grand Canyon Family Encampment

Date: July 9-12, 1995
Location: Coconino County Fairgrounds
Flagstaff, Arizona
Contact: Pat White (602) 956-3430
Speakers: Royce Money, Jerry Rushford, Milton Sewell,
Bill Humble, Willard Tate
Theme: "When Losers Are Winners: A Study of New
Testament Paradoxes"

23-28 Yosemite Family Encampment

Date: July 23-28, 1995
Location: Mariposa County Fairgrounds
Contact: Paul Methvin (916) 988-8780/989-4885
Speakers: David Davenport, Randy Becton,
Stanley Lockhart, Larry Roberts
Theme: "Thank God for Things That Cannot Be Shaken"

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