

# PACIFIC CHURCH NEWS

FALL 1994

The Golden Anniversary of  
Graduate Studies in Religion  
Among Churches of Christ

See Cover Story on p. 3



A NEWS JOURNAL FOR CHURCHES OF CHRIST ON THE WEST COAST





## Dr. Ruth Johnson Named President of AWP

On August 6, Dr. Ruth Johnson took the oath of office to become the National President of Associated Women for Pepperdine for the 1994-1995 year. Johnson's educational career includes teaching biology and business for colleges in Wyoming, Colorado, and California; she has been a college administrator in several settings including being the president of Victor Valley Community College. Currently, she is on the faculty of Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Education and Psychology where she enjoys preparing educators for the future. She is a member of the Culver-Palms Church of Christ in Culver City, and is very committed to Christian education. She enjoys speaking for retreats and seminars on spiritual development for women. Johnson has two grown sons. Susan Giboney, President of AWP for the past two years, says, "I know AWP will benefit greatly by Ruth's talents. She is a capable leader and a delightful person."



## Dr. Tony Ash gives 1994 William Green Lectures at Pepperdine

The William M. Green lecturer this year was Dr. Tony Ash, professor of Biblical Studies at Abilene Christian University, who is respected as a challenging and caring teacher as well as a scholar. Dr. Ash combines his teaching with preaching for the Minter Lane Church of Christ in Abilene. He has also published numerous articles in religious publications and has authored ten books, including *Prayer, Decide to Love, Commentary on Luke* (two volumes), *Commentary on Acts 1-12*, *Commentary on Psalms* (with Clyde Miller), *The Word of Faith*, *Dealing with Divorce*, *Commentary on Jeremiah and Lamentations*, and *Commentary on Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon*. Ash earned the B.S. in speech from Florida State University, the M.A. in Old Testament Studies from Abilene Christian University, and the Ph.D. in church history from the University of Southern California. He taught on the religion faculties of Abilene Christian University 1962-1972, Pepperdine University 1972 to 1975, the Institute for Christian Studies 1975-1985, and for Abilene Christian University again from 1985 to the present.

Dr. Ash lectured October 24-25 on the topic, "C.S. Lewis: 'A Plaster Saint?'"

The Green lectures honor the memory of William McAllen Green (1897-1979),

who was professor of classics at the University of California, Berkeley, from 1927 to 1962, and professor of ancient Christian literature at Pepperdine University from 1962 to 1974. Dr. Green was one of the founding editors of the *Restoration Quarterly* in 1957.

## PACIFIC CHURCH NEWS Volume XIII Number 1

PACIFIC CHURCH NEWS is published periodically by the Department of Church Services at Pepperdine University. Send all correspondence to Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA 90263.

### EDITOR

Jerry Rushford

### ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Bill Henegar  
Emily Y. Lemley

### CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS

Garth Black, Bakersfield, CA  
Larry Cain, San Jose, CA  
Kelly Carter, Victoria, BC  
Kelly Deatherage, Portland, OR  
Walt Fennel, Sacramento, CA  
Rich Griffin, San Diego, CA  
Milton Jones, Seattle, WA  
Billie Silvey, Los Angeles, CA  
Mel Weldon, San Leandro, CA  
Edwin White, Phoenix, AZ  
Bud Worsham, Long Beach, CA  
John York, Roseburg, OR

### DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

University Publications

### COVER PHOTO

Pepperdine University hosted a special luncheon in September to remember the administrators, faculty, and students who pioneered in the founding of a graduate program in religion in September of 1944.

Still-life photo by Ron Hall.



## Celebrating a Golden Anniversary

by Emily Y. Lemley

On Friday morning, September 15, 1944, 18 students lined up in the library of the Los Angeles campus of George Pepperdine College to enroll in a master's degree program in religion. Although Churches of Christ are now accustomed to graduate training in religion, this program at Pepperdine was the first graduate program in religion to be offered by a college affiliated with the Churches of Christ. This pioneering effort was spearheaded by Dr. W.B. West, Jr., the chairman of Pepperdine's Department of Religion. In photo below, West (seated in the center) is flanked by his able faculty (l to r) Dr. Batsell Barrett Baxter, Dr. William M. Green, Dr. C.R. Nichol, and Dr. Ralph Wilburn. Looking on in approval are Dean E.V. Pullias and President Hugh Tiner. With the recent deaths of W.B. West, Jr., and Earl Pullias, all eight of these pioneers are deceased.

In defending the need for an advanced degree in religion, the leaders of Pepperdine College declared: "In the world of today and tomorrow advanced study in the Bible and related subjects is very important. In this study at Pepperdine emphasis is placed not on the degree, but on thoroughness, objectivity, knowledge, loyalty to Christ and His Word, and on being of maximum service in the church." The encouraging response to Pepperdine's pioneer program can be seen in the historic photograph. The first seven students in line to enroll for graduate study show the impact of this program on West Coast churches. Beginning with the first in line, they are: Floyd Thompson, who preached

in California throughout his life, Otis Gatewood, who gave much of his life to mission work in post-war Germany and was founding president of Michigan Christian College and International Christian University and who continues his efforts in missions and education; Harry Robert Fox, Jr., who gave many years to mission work in Japan and continues working with the church in Utah; L.D. Webb, who preached for the church on the West Coast and was the key founder of Columbia Christian College in Portland, Oregon; E. Lowrey Ruby who has served the church in

editor of *West Coast Church Directory* and preached in California and Texas; Weldon Bennett did mission work in Germany and then taught at Abilene Christian University; Roy Key gave his life to preaching, Roy Palmer dedicated his life to mission work in Germany; and L.D. Webb was involved in church work on the West Coast.

Pepperdine's graduate program was fully accredited from the beginning. In the course of the past fifty years the high standards of this pioneer faculty have been maintained, and the graduate program has continued to produce well-trained leaders for the church. Among the respected church leaders who have chaired the Religion Division and extended its various graduate offerings are: W.B. West, Jr. (1944-1951); Joseph White (1951-1961); Howard Horton (1961-1964); Frank Pack (1964-1972), Tony Ash (1972-1975), Carl Mitchell (1975-1983), Carroll Osburn (1983-1985), and Thomas Olbricht (1986-present).

When Pepperdine University opened the Malibu campus, the

Religion Division determined to offer its graduate work in off-campus programs as well as in the Malibu campus program. The accessibility to church leaders and ministers has continued successfully for 22 years, and the program has been offered in several cities such as Seattle, Washington; Portland, Oregon; Phoenix, Arizona; and Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Religion Division has also offered the graduate program in the state of California at such cities as: San Diego, Fresno, Campbell,

—continued on page 4



Northern California throughout his life; W.W. Pace, who was a beloved, faithful preacher in California; and Noble Rogers, who became principal of Pacific Christian Academy and preached for the Forestville Church of Christ.

After this promising beginning, the program graduated its first class in 1947. These were the first in Churches of Christ to receive the M.A. in religion from one of our institutions. There were five graduates who accomplished a great deal in the world: Lloyd Ellis was the founder and



## Congregations Welcome New Preachers

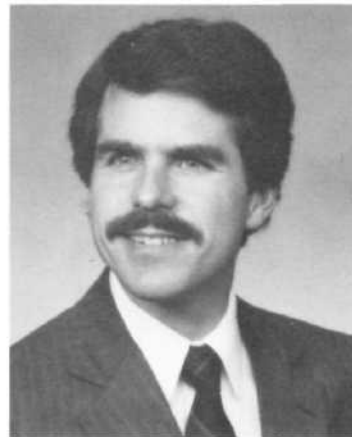
### David Bearden at Sunny Hills

David Bearden began working with the Sunny Hills church of Christ in Fullerton on June 12. A graduate of Harding University and of the Harding Graduate School, Bearden has preached for congregations in Gamaliel and Harrisburg, Arkansas; Tulsa, Oklahoma; St. Louis, Missouri; and Wenatchee, Washington. Bearden's tenure in St. Louis was nine years, and he has preached for four years in Wenatchee. He co-authored a book with Jerry Jones, *Living the Worthy Life*, and he is currently working on a book based on Proverbs, *The Sage Page*. Bearden also writes educational material for adults and children. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Vicki Davenport, and they have three children: Angela, 15; Alisha, 13; and Alaina, 8. Vicki is a bookkeeper by profession, and David comments on her gift for loving people and her laughter. The Beardens find



David Bearden

people asking why they are moving away from Washington and into southern California when many are moving the opposite direction. They reply that they believe this is a "prime time to introduce hurting people in this area to the Lord. We love the diversity which provides a world outreach, and Sunny Hills has the leadership and membership to reach out to the unchurched."



Larry Stalley

### Larry Stalley at Corona

Larry Stalley and his family moved to Corona, California, from Bridgeport, New Jersey, last March to work with the Corona Church of Christ. A Southern California native, Stalley is coming home to family.

He preached for eight years for the Bridgeport Church of Christ and saw them become self-supporting and debt free. Stalley has also preached for congregations in Big Bear Lake, California, and in Collinsville, Illinois. He received his B.A. from Harding University, majoring in Bible and Biblical Languages. He continued his education in church history, receiving an M.A. at Harding Graduate

School in Memphis. He is married to Mary Beth, a registered nurse. Mary Beth grew up in a preacher's family, so "her experience in caring" is important. They have three daughters: Jessica, 13; Julie, 11; and Jolene, 6. Stalley is enthusiastic about the possibilities at Corona. He reports, "We have just completed several months of work by the

elders, designing a vision statement and setting out our direction. A recent retreat cemented this work, and we all drew closer." Corona is looking forward to more emphasis on small groups for spiritual growth, fellowship, praise, and outreach.

## Golden Anniversary

—continued from page 3

Stockton, and Sacramento. Five years ago, the demand for graduate religion offerings had grown so much that Pepperdine launched the demanding master of divinity, a three-year master's, which added significantly to the M.A. in religion and M.S. in ministry already offered. The ten graduates of this M.Div. degree are now active in ministry, and currently 20 students are involved in the program and

are preparing to receive their degree in the near future. The faculty now includes: Craig Bowman, Randall Chesnutt, Royce Clark, John Free, Ronald Highfield, Richard Hughes, Ira Jolivet, Stuart Love, Rick Marrs, Thomas Olbricht, Daniel Rodriguez, Rick Rowland, Jerry Rushford, Ronald Tyler, Dwayne Van Rheenen, Timothy Willis, John F. Wilson, and Dwayne Winrow. Their goals are the same as those in 1944: "to prepare Christians for service as ministers, missionaries, education and youth directors, campus ministers, church leaders, and Bible

teachers . . . and a variety of Christian service . . . (their studies) stress the great themes of spirituality, service, and the defense and sharing of the faith; and they encourage sound and responsible scholarship through proper research methods and keeping abreast of current studies."

Thomas Olbricht, the current chairman of the division, concludes, "Pepperdine is proud of the 50 year achievement, but we are even more excited about what we want to accomplish in the next 10 years in graduate education in religion."



# WOMEN'S SEMINAR

## "Who's In Charge?"—A Seminar for Every Woman

by Emily Y. Lemley

The women I know are pulled in so many directions, they want to know, 'who is really in charge of my life?'" Carol Jean Thomas, chair of the 1994 Christian Women's Seminar in San Diego is talking about her vision for the 600 women who will attend this event on December 2 and 3—the largest women's seminar in Churches of Christ in the western United States. "We have planned a weekend for each woman to discover a personal and practical answer to the question of who is in charge of her life—no one can answer it for anyone else," Thomas adds.

Offering 16 unique workshops, a keynote speech, inspirational skits and singing groups, the Christian Women's Seminar is a dynamic, spiritual opportunity. Participants come primarily from California, but many travel from New York, Alaska, the Midwest, and some from other countries. "Being in the company of 600 women who come together to praise God is being on this side of paradise," reports Thomas. "This year, our underlying theme is the Holy Spirit's constant presence and direction that coordinates and focuses our scattered lives," she explains.

The seminar begins on Friday evening with a dinner under a huge tent on the grounds of the 61st and Division Church of Christ in San Diego. On Saturday, the program is packed with practical workshops, worship times, and speakers. A complete program is also planned for teenage girls and for children. Part of the success of this event is the program's focus on the real needs of women—from deepening relationships to facing a depressed economy. But the other reason for the seminar's success is its dynamism. The singing is indescribable, and the heartfelt praise and fellowship provide spiritual food for many women that lasts all year long.

The Christian Woman's Seminar began as a dream 17 years ago when Dr. Lois McKenzie and a team of women at 61st and Division planned a weekend for

women. One-hundred women attended the first seminar, and it has grown every year. Now, over 100 women are involved in planning and producing this weekend. Along with her three co-chairs, Judith Goodloe, Marilyn Montgomery, and Ethel Duncan, Thomas, who has helped with the last 12 seminars, works with many well-organized committees. "One of our goals this year was to become close to each other as we worked toward the seminar. We planned a 'Fellowship Conference' in May and a High Tea in October just for the 100 team members—we wanted to enjoy each other and grow spiritually together as well as get the work done. I started the first meeting determined to know each one by name." The Women's Seminar is known for its personal touch—each woman received a hand delivered invitation to the "Fellowship Conference" as well as a follow-up phone call. "We don't want to just teach about the Holy Spirit's power in our lives, we want to live it, and that means loving and supporting each other as we prepare for the big weekend," concludes Thomas.

If you are interested in attending this



1994 Chair Carol Jean Thomas



Co-chairs Judith Goodloe, Ethel Duncan, and Marilyn Montgomery

uplifting event, you may call the 61st and Division Church of Christ and Mary Hood will assist you: (619) 263-6931.



Dr. Lucia Dean (center) stands with Tim Jang and Kristy Haney, the first two recipients of the Douglas Dean Memorial Scholarship which is given in her late husband's honor. Dr. Douglas Dean is remembered at Pepperdine for his teaching but also for his strong support of students in the sciences.



# CONGREGATION

## Church With a Memory

by Bill Henegar

They were the warm and simple days of early California. Not the earliest days, when rough-hewn men sifted the streams and scraped the hills for gold, when pioneers pushed through mountain passes in search of paradise. But not so long after that. It was the turn of the century, the Gilded Age was still in full flower, and the fields and farms surrounding Santa Ana were flush with crops.

The city itself was founded 20 years after the gold fever of '49. Now, a scant three decades later in 1902, the population had mushroomed to a full 5,000! Proud residents could boast of several two-story brick buildings downtown, replacing the old western frame structures. Still, the streets were only hard-packed dirt—adequate when the weather was nice, which was most of the time—but a quagmire when winter rains came.

In the summer of "aught two," as they used to say, Emma Leatherman drove her spring-wagon, loaded with baskets of home-grown peaches, into town to find buyers for the delicious fruit. What she found was more than a buyer; she happened upon a young couple, the Chris Condras, who, like herself, were members of the Restoration church. Since such a church was not meeting in town, she excitedly told Chris about the Christians who were meeting in Wintersburg, some 15 miles from Santa Ana. Condra quickly carried the news to Dick and Sarah Adams and their family in Tustin. Next Sunday, the Santa Ana area Christians piled into Adams' lumber wagon and traveled out to the country church. They continued to meet with the Wintersburg group until early the next year.

In March of 1903, Gideon W. Riggs of Tennessee set up a tent on the corner of Third and Bush Streets in Santa Ana and held an evangelistic meeting. Riggs was preaching extensively in California and planting many congregations, having been

financed in his evangelistic efforts by Michael Sanders of Los Angeles. As a result of the Santa Ana tent meeting, a congregation began meeting soon after in the hall of the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic, a patriotic organization). Among the early members were the Asa Leathermans and their three daughters, the Hannahs, Mary Patterson, the Chris Condras, the Noah Condras, the Dick Adams, the Woodruffs, the Samuel Wilsons and their twin daughters, the Dib Wheelers and their seven children, the Kelners and their son, Seward, and his wife, the Luther Houses and their two children, and Mrs. Messerly and Mrs. Chase and her two sons.

A nice piece of property at the corner of West and Walnut streets was purchased and given to the new congregation by a Mr. Helm. West Street marked the western border of the main area of Santa Ana at that time; later, the street was renamed Broadway. Helm eventually moved to Huntington Beach, but his generosity paved the way for the first permanent home for the Church of Christ in Santa Ana.

On the fourth Sunday in June of 1905, the group moved into its small frame church building on the outskirts of town. From the front porch, one could look out over the gently rolling fields of barley to the west. After their spirited meeting on that first Sunday, the proud little group celebrated their new facility by having "dinner on the grounds." The occasion became a tradition every June, continuing to this very day. And for more than 40 years, the special speaker for the anniversary occasion was none other than G.W. Riggs, whose words of good news under a canvas tent had lit the flame of this church that has now survived and prospered for 90 years.

The anniversary celebrations became known as the "All Day Meetings" and were



The legendary T. B. Larimore and his wife, Emma, spent the last few months of his life in Santa Ana.

usually the highlight of the year—an easy time of remembrance, summer fellowship, and budding romance. For weeks in advance, the building was scrubbed, painted, and generally "spruced up." When the day arrived, tables were set up under the umbrella trees, and members brought boxes of food to be spread like some ancient feast day. To add to the festive mood, rancher Joe Hobson would usually bring a box of early apricots and pour them along the center of the tables—and the first fruit of the season would always be the sweetest.

In 1906, two families that would prove invaluable were added to their number: Thomas and Emma Greer and their two children, and Dr. Ulysses and Mary Littell. The leaders of the church in the early years were Chris and Noah Contra, Dick Adams, Sam Phillips, D.W. Wheeler, A.A. Gerrard, Alex Armstrong, M.B. Harwell, and Dr. Littell. Littell served the congregation as an elder, a teacher, and a song leader for more than 40 years. In those pioneering years, there were a number of women who were considered "Mothers of Israel," godly older women who taught and served with honor as "examples of Christian womanhood," in the words of one of the congregation's historians. Among them were sisters Gerrard, Lilly, Hutchison, Sewell, Larimore, Stockton, McGowen, Reeves, Greer, and Edith Condra.





The first meetinghouse of the Santa Ana Church was at Broadway and Walnut.



For nearly a century the Santa Ana Church has been a loving family.

In late 1908, the James H. McGowen family became affiliated with the Broadway and Walnut church. They lived in a community called Greenville, not far from Huntington Beach, and had previously been part of a house church on the property of the Wesley Vandruffs. Not long after the McGowens decided to become part of the new Santa Ana church, the Vandruffs and the Stocktons also began making the journey to Santa Ana. In fact, Vandruff eventually became an elder of the church, serving until his death.

Two other families in Greenville, the Waltons and the McClains, decided to stay and try to keep a church meeting in that community, so the Broadway and Walnut congregation agreed to make that a mission work. Virtually all the leaders from Santa Ana made the journey on various Sundays to teach, lead singing, or in other ways support the Greenville group. At one point, G.W. Riggs held a two-week evangelistic meeting in the school house where they met.

Riggs also regularly returned to Broadway and Walnut to hold "Bible

Readings," that turn-of-the-century custom of gathering together and reading through the Bible and commenting on every verse. As in other places, the Santa Ana readings were conducted eight hours a day, five days a week for several months during the agricultural off-seasons.

From about 1911 to 1913, the fledgling Santa Ana congregation sponsored annual "camp meetings" at Huntington Beach. A tent was pitched near the center of town, and evangelist E.C. Love preached to large crowds. During the two-week meetings, a considerable number of Santa Ana members stayed in local cottages rather than make the long round-trip each day. Most of their meals were taken together as a group, and it was a time of wonderful fellowship—much like our present day family encampments.

1922 was an important year for the congregation, for in that year James H. Sewell and his wife moved to Santa Ana from Berkeley. Sewell first visited the church two years earlier when he came to "claim as his bride Miss Eunice Stockton," as Katherine Greer Duke said. Three years after moving south, Sewell was asked to preach regularly for the congregation. He remembered, "Although small and financially weak, Broadway and Walnut Church had zeal to spread the Word of Christ." The church paid him what it could, a mere \$30 per month. However, after a few years, growth made it possible to pay more, but Sewell requested that the salary be discontinued altogether, for he had developed other sources of income by that time and didn't want to burden the church. James Sewell became a well-known minister and church leader over the years, preaching for Broadway and Walnut for more than 20 years and serving as an elder for even longer. His name became synonymous with the Santa Ana church.

One of the highlights of the church's history was 1928, when the legendary T.B.

Larimore and his wife moved to the city from northern California. The Larimores moved to Santa Ana to be near the Sewells—Mrs. Larimore was James' aunt. Shortly after arriving, Larimore held a meeting that began on the fourth Sunday in June (the church's annual celebration) and continued for 18 days. There were 11 additions, mostly baptisms, and "the congregation was strengthened and encouraged by his peerless preaching," according to Sewell. In the midst of the remarkable meeting, Larimore celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday! The meeting was to be his last great triumph: in March of the following year, following an accident, Larimore passed to his reward.

The building was enlarged and remodeled in 1928. And who better to rededicate the structure to the Lord than the venerable G.W. Riggs? The great California evangelist, whose preaching launched the first meetings in Santa Ana, and who preached the first sermon in the church's new building in 1905, now returned 23 years later to launch the next phase of the church's history on December 30.

Through succeeding years, some of the finest preachers in the Churches of Christ held meetings or spoke for the Santa Ana church. Even so, there were many times that were lean and difficult, especially during the Depression days of the '30s. Somehow, the church continued its commitment to missionary and benevolent works, such as the Scotts and Reeses in Africa, brother Shinekuni in Japan, and the children's home in Ontario.

From 1933 to 1935, Jack Bates was added to the staff to help Sewell in the work of ministry. In '41 and '42, Earl West filled the same role. Then from 1944 to 1946, Morgan Harlan was employed to assist in personal work, which resulted in a significant increase in membership. After

—Continued on page 14



## “Get In The Boat”—Connecting People to God

by Emily Y. Lemley

In Genesis, Lamech was the father of Jubal who first produced music, and he was also the father of Noah who built the Ark. If these two brothers, Jubal and Noah, had collaborated, they could have produced a musical about the flood, but it took several thousand years before that happened. In fact, it was in 1994 when two friends, Randy Gill who directs choral music at Pepperdine and Jeff Walling who preaches for the Mission Viejo Church of Christ, combined their musical talents and their faith to produce, *Get in the Boat*. *Get in the Boat* is a fanciful re-telling of the Biblical story of Noah. It is filled with 13 delightful, original songs—music by Gill and lyrics by Walling. Walling also wrote the script for the play. He explained, “We’d been having Vacation Bible Schools for several years where we performed skits of Bible stories for the children. One year, our junior high group asked if they could be in the skits.” Walling admits that he had not thought of that. “I wondered if we’d been doing this wrong—we performed for the kids, but they might get more out of it if they performed it themselves.”

They did get more out of it: last August, 160 church and community kids, ages 4-14, performed in six performances of *Get in the Boat*. Over 1,400 people from the Orange County area attended one of the performances, and more than 50 parents were backstage helping during each show. Many of these people were not familiar with church life—they were moved by the love and purpose they saw, and they asked about the Christian life. Several families are now in Bible studies, several have been baptized (in fact, one girl decided to be baptized in the middle of one of the rehearsals, and last year’s stage manager was baptized). Jeff Walling commented, “People love to see something good for their kids, and they love to see their kids perform, so this play provided these opportunities for outreach and growth.”



Gill added, “The turn-out was overwhelming, and to see the audience respond to 70 little kids costumed as all kinds of animals walking down the aisles to the stage was an unforgettable moment.”

With sets by Rick Gibson, Mission Viejo’s children’s minister, and a crowd of volunteers, the story of *Get in the Boat* begins in heaven where Murphy, the angel assigned to the “Noah Project,” is commissioned to go to earth to find a righteous man who will build a big boat.

Murphy finds a “wicked, wicked world” where crooks are proud of their dirty deeds as they sing “Nefarious, naughty, villainous and vile . . . and we like it like that.” Murphy works to convince Noah that he must be the man to build the boat. She says it will be simple: all he has to do is tell his neighbors to “Get in the Boat.”

*Get in the boat, children, God is calling.  
Get in the boat, children  
Get in the boat before the rain comes*





As the rains come and the days pass,  
the animals and humans on the boat begin  
to get on each other's nerves and they sing,  
*These animals are driving us crazy,  
Every night they howl and moo,  
A symphony 'til quarter to,  
Every day they bark and nay, and never  
stop.*

Faith is wearing thin but finally the  
Ark's company saw the rainbow:  
*What color is a promise?  
It's a multicolored vow  
You may have wondered if God would keep  
his word  
But you can be sure of it now*

*How faithful is the Father?  
How good's his guarantee?  
How can we know that he'll do the things  
he's said?  
The answer is easy to see.*

*You've got to look up in the sky  
And see the rainbow hanging high  
The color of his pledge comes shining  
through  
So remember when you doubt  
What the rainbow's all about  
His promise for me and for you.*

Gill and Walling both admit that they never planned to write this together. Walling says, "I was talking with two people from Harding about something like this, and they gave me some input. I was planning to get a little help from Randy. But when we started working during the Pepperdine Lectures in April, our vision and talents clicked—we just kept writing until we had the play completed." Gill remembers the intense days of composing during the summer, "My neighbors got tired of hearing the same tune over and over for 12 hours, but I loved every minute of it."

These men don't see this as a one-time event. They would like to work on a new play for next year. "But beyond what we are doing," Walling concludes, "my prayer is that other churches and other people in leadership will use their gifts in creative ways that might interest their community in the gospel. This fits our neighborhood, but there are so many possibilities."

To maintain contact with the children and parents from the community who worked on the musical, the Mission Viejo congregation now has a Christian Children's Theater Workshop on Wednesday nights that prepares choral groups to perform at nursing homes and for civic events. Run by single mom Toni Struck, this program brings the parents of the children to church as well. "We have more visitors than regular members attending our 'Moms and Dads' class on Wednesday nights," said Walling. Kim Winger, director of Mission Viejo's Marguerite Christian School, said, "It's exciting to see parents get interested in God when they see the confidence their children gain by performing in the musical. We see parents become interested in our pre-school/kindergarten after they see the play, and later they learn about the Lord."



## The Oldest Church of Christ in Western America

by Jerry Rushford

The origins of the Restoration Movement in Sonoma County, California, date back to the 1850s when Churches of Christ sprang up in the fertile Russian River Valley. Congregations known variously as Big Plains, Russian River, Healdsburg, Mark West Creek, Fulton Station, Heald's Mill, Pleasant Grove, Freestone, and Occidental, were among the predecessors of the congregation that was established in Forestville in September 1873.

On Friday evening, September 19, 1873, an evangelist named James Logan began a protracted meeting in the Forestville schoolhouse. Four days later, a report in the *Sonoma Democrat* noted: "Already a deep religious feeling is manifested. There will be preaching every night this week at the school-house. Last Sunday the house could not contain the crowd; so the meeting was held in the pleasant shade of some old oaks that were near."

A well-worn record book of this church contains the following original entry: "Church of Christ at Forestville organized by Elder James Logan, September 28, 1873." The names of the first 21 charter members are listed on the opening page.

For six years the fledgling congregation continued to meet weekly in the Forestville schoolhouse, but by the summer of 1879 the growth of the church led to plans for a new meetinghouse. George and Mary Schaumberg donated a lot for the church to build on, and Uriah and Sarah Covey donated the lumber. The church met in its new house for the first time on July 22, 1879.

One account in the *Pacific Christian Messenger* said: "The church at Forestville is worshipping in their new house; it is quite an ornament to their little village." More than 115 years later, this venerable meetinghouse is still "quite an ornament" to the town of Forestville. During all these years, the Church of Christ has never missed a Sunday in the durable building



The historic Forestville meetinghouse was constructed in the summer of 1879.

constructed from California Redwood trees. The ancient bell in the church tower continues to ring out its welcome every Sunday morning, and presumably will for many years to come.

On Sunday afternoon, September 25, 1994, the Forestville Church of Christ hosted a special gathering at the meetinghouse to commemorate the 121st anniversary of the congregation. More than 140 people crowded into the church, and I was privileged to give the address on the colorful history of this pioneering congregation. For, as it turns out, no congregation of the Church of Christ in the western United States can match Forestville's record of never missing a Sunday assembly for 121 consecutive years. In addition, the Forestville meetinghouse is the oldest church building still in regular use among Churches of Christ in western America.

Pepperdine University chose to use this occasion as an opportunity to honor the three living elders of the Forestville Church of Christ who have served the congregation in various capacities over the past 62 years. Each of these faithful

shepherds was presented with a "Distinguished Christian Service" plaque for their long years of service to this church.

Ross Yeager, who will turn 80 in March 1995, has never known any other church. His family for two generations before him were members of the Forestville Church, and he was brought into the meetinghouse for the first time in April, 1915. Matthew Smith, who is 86, and Noble Rogers, who is 80, both trace their involvement with the Forestville Church back to 1927. By 1932, Matthew Smith was already serving as the secretary for the church. He was an elder in the church for more than 33 years before moving to Orange County in 1985. Noble Rogers, who completed the B.A. and M.A. degrees in Religion from Pepperdine, has preached for the Forestville Church for more than 30 years. He and Ross Yeager (who has been an elder for 33 years) continue to serve as elders for this congregation.

When E.N. Glenn, a young graduate from the Nashville Bible School, arrived in San Francisco in 1904, he wrote a letter back to David Lipscomb in which he said:





(L to R) Noble Rogers, Mathew Smith, Ross Yeager

"I had the pleasure of meeting with the Church at Forestville twice during August. The congregation there is the largest and strongest one in the State." However, Forestville lost some of its numerical

A brief glance through the old Forestville record books reveals an astonishing list of visiting preachers. Among those who were privileged to preach the gospel in the Forestville

strength when it started new congregations in nearby Graton and Santa Rosa in 1909. By 1910, the Sichel Street Church of Christ in Los Angeles had supplanted Forestville as the largest congregation in the state, but Forestville continued to be a magnet for preachers traveling in the northern counties of California.

meetinghouse were: J.W. Shepherd, Elijah G. Sewell, Claude F. Witty, Jesse P. Sewell, J.D. Tant, T.B. Larimore, J.M. McCaleb, Keithly Bailes, G.W. Winter, Sam Witty, Rue Porter, J. Frank Young, William M. Green, Roy Osborne, Carl Mitchell, Herman Wilson, Lloyd Ellis, Albert Lovelady, Elmer Prout, and Jimmie Lovell.

Plans are already in place to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the congregation in September 1998. Perhaps by then the historic meetinghouse will have been added to the National Register of Historic Places. This would be a very appropriate recognition, for all of us who labor among Churches of Christ in California today are building on a foundation that was laid by faithful churches like the one in Forestville.

### Davenport Preaches for Visalia Church Opening

Through the week of September 16-25, the Visalia Community Church of Christ welcomed their community to their new building by offering a free Christian acappella concert, a Kid's Bible Club, and activities for teens. On Sunday, September 25, Dr. David Davenport, president of Pepperdine University, preached for the "Community Welcome Service."



### Petaluma Opens New Building

The Sonoma Mountain Parkway Church of Christ in Petaluma, California, moved into their new 400-seat building in May of this year. Attendance has grown from 50 to more than 100 in the short time the church has been in their new building. Ron Miller, preacher for the congregation, moved to Petaluma from Houston, Texas last January. The church is served by five elders.



# PEPPERDINE PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

by Holly Brown

**Dan Anders**, minister for the Malibu Church of Christ, will be the featured speaker for the Northern California preacher's retreat at Shenandoah West near Placerville, November 7-9.

**Harold Bigham**, professor of law, preached at the morning and evening services for the Fillmore Church of Christ September 4.

**Calvin Bowers**, professor of communication and equal opportunity officer, preached for the Church of Christ in Santa Monica September 25 during their family emphasis month and for the Alondra Boulevard Church of Christ, October 23.

**Craig Bowman**, visiting instructor in religion, preached and taught class for the Sierra Madre Church of Christ, October 23.

President **David Davenport** preached for the Malibu Church of Christ as it welcomed Seaver students on September 4. He preached for the Visalia Community Church of Christ community outreach day in their new facility on September 25. He preached for the Turnpike Road Church of Christ in Santa Barbara October 23. He will be a keynote speaker for the church-affiliated University Presidents annual meeting at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama, November 8.

**Rich Dawson**, director of international student services, preached for the Turnpike Road Church of Christ in Santa Barbara July 10. He also preached for the Hollywood Church of Christ August 28 and the Costa Mesa Church of Christ October 2.

**Susan Giboney**, visiting instructor in humanities, spoke at the ladies day for the Yucaipa Church of Christ September 10. She was the featured speaker at the women's retreat for Pepperdine students in October. Susan will be speaking at the teachers banquet for the Conejo Valley Church of Christ on October 30. She and her husband, **Terry Giboney**, senior

advancement officer, will be teaching a class from September through December on "Maximizing Your Marriage for the Master" for the Malibu Church of Christ.

Campus Minister **LaJuana Gill** will speak at the Harding University Lectureship in Searcy, Arkansas, October 24-29.

**Randy Gill**, associate professor of music, was the worship leader for the West Coast Christian Jubilee in San Diego, October 21-23.

Campus Minister **Scott Lambert** and his wife, **Kim**, were presenters in a seminar on spiritual gifts for the Hollywood Church of Christ October 2. The Lamberts will be teachers for the World Mission Workshop at David Lipscomb in Nashville, Tennessee, October 28-31.

**Emily Y. Lemley**, associate director of church services, was the featured speaker at the 17th annual Mount Palomar women's retreat September 15-17. She was the main speaker for Lubbock Christian University's women's day October 18.

Dean of Students **D'Esta Love** and her husband, **Stuart Love**, professor of religion, were speakers for the Sunday evening service at East County Church of Christ in Gresham, Oregon, August 14. She was the featured speaker for a women's seminar at the Church of Christ in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, October 1-2.

**Dennis Lowe**, holder of the M. Norvel & Helen Young Chair in Family Life and associate professor of psychology, and his wife, **Emily Scott-Lowe**, coordinator of student counseling services, will be presenting a fourteen-week series on "Effective Parenting" at the Conejo Valley Church of Christ in Thousand Oaks, September through December. Emily was the featured speaker at the women's retreat for the Walnut Creek Church of Christ September 30-October 2. They conducted a seminar on "Making Marriages Work" at the Church of Christ in Yuma, Arizona, October 14-16. They will be the featured

speakers at a couples retreat on "Love for a Lifetime" in San Jose sponsored by the Churches of Christ in the Bay Area November 11-13.

**Randy Lowry**, director of the Institute for Dispute Resolution, conducted a seminar on "Managing Conflict and Change in the Churches of Christ" for the Richfield Church of Christ in Minnesota October 15-16. He will be presenting the seminar for the Central Church of Christ in Stockton November 12-13.

**Rick Marrs**, associate professor of religion, was the keynote lecturer at the Abilene Christian University Lectures on Preaching September 15. He preached and taught class for the Mountain Avenue Church of Christ in Tucson, Arizona, October 23, 30 and November 6. He will be an expositor at the Harding Graduate School Lectures on Preaching November 11.

Religion Division Chairperson **Tom Olbricht** was the guest speaker for the preachers luncheon at Pepperdine University September 12. He preached for the Church of Christ in Sierra Madre September 25 and October 16 and taught a class for the Malibu Church of Christ October 2, 9, and 30. He will speak in Chicago for the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion at a restoration theology research session responding to a paper on the Doctrine of Atonement in the Restoration Movement, November 19-22.

**Wilson Parrish**, international student services admissions coordinator, spoke at the Labor Day youth rally in Felton September 2-5. He will be directing the Thanksgiving Youth Festival at Pepperdine University November 25-27.

**Daniel Rodriguez**, visiting instructor of religion, was a featured speaker for the North County Evangelism Conference at the North County Church of Christ in Escondido August 5-6. He reported on his nine year mission in Puebla, Mexico, at the Church of Christ in Walnut Creek July 31,

—continued on page 13



by Rick Rowland

Pepperdine University hosted the 38th National Campus Ministries Seminar on August 1-4. Under the theme "Anchored to the Cross," the seminar registered 220 participants, and 300 people attended on the final night which was highlighted by a "send-off" for Knoel and Barry Henrick who are leading a campus ministry planting team to New Orleans where they will plant a church and work with several colleges there.

The E.T. "Bessie" Woodward award, which honors the woman who completely supported the student work in College Station, Texas, for several years, was presented to Fern Moreland of the Memphis University Christian Student Center. Milton Jones of Seattle was presented an appreciation plaque for his 12 years of "outstanding service" as editor of *Campus Crosswalk*, the campus ministries journal. David Newberry of Knoxville, Tennessee, received a service award. Scott Sager of Austin, Texas, was elected the new editor, as Jones moves to Senior editor.



Pepperdine's Campus Ministry program opened the year with 240 students attending their annual fall retreat from September 23 to 25. Buddy Bell from Pensacola, Florida was the key speaker.

Jim Brinkerhoff of Auburn, Alabama, is the new president of the board.

A new addition to the seminar was the VISION Campus Ministry Planting Track, an intense six hour session on beginning new ministries and reinvigorating existing ones. Approximately 60 people attended these sessions, and 22 people indicated interest in beginning a program on their campus. This VISION emphasis will continue at next year's campus ministries

seminar to be held July 31 to August 3. It will be hosted by the Highland Church of Christ in Memphis and the University of Memphis Christian Student Center, with John Moreland as director.

Steve Curtis, the new Denver area campus minister, reports that Brandon Parrish of

the University of Colorado was baptized into Christ. He is the first convert in this new program sponsored by the Metro Church of Christ.

Led by campus minister Howard Jones, Boise State University campus ministry students visited churches in Pullman, Washington and Pocatella, Idaho to encourage starting new ministries at Washington State University and the University of Idaho.

## Pepperdine People on the Move

—continued from page 12

and the Davis Park Church of Christ in Modesto August 14, both his sponsoring congregations.

**Jerry Rushford**, associate professor of religion, lectured on California church history at the 121st anniversary of the Forestville Church of Christ on September 25 and at the 140th anniversary of the Christian Church in Woodland on October 2. He spoke at a fund-raising dinner in Santa Rosa for Pacific Christian Academy on September 30. He spoke in chapel at Michigan Christian College October 14, and gave three lectures at Great Lakes Christian College in Beamsville, Ontario, October 17. He will preach for the Churches of Christ in Conejo Valley and Santa Paula on October

30, and in Lodi November 6. He will lecture on Restoration history at Puget Sound Christian College in Edmonds, Washington, November 11-12.

**William Stivers**, professor of foreign languages, will speak for the F. I. Madero Central Church of Christ in Torreón, Coahuila, Mexico, November 13.

Dean of Seaver College **John Wilson** participated in a meeting of deans from Christian Colleges of Churches of Christ September 29-30 at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee.

Chairperson of Business Administration Division **Jere Yates** will be a seminar leader on "Business Ethics" at a men's retreat for the Westside Church of Christ in Bakersfield November 5.

**Helen M. Young** was the speaker for the Northwest Church of Christ Ladies' Retreat in Spokane, Washington, on October 14-15.

## Youngs Travel to Vietnam

In cooperation with several mission efforts, Norvel and Helen Young will travel to Vietnam October 28-November 9 to meet with educators and officials about possibilities for a child-care project and an educational project which would benefit the Vietnamese people. Accompanying the group will be Bill and Barbara McDonough who work with the Partners in Progress ministry at the 6th and Izard Church of Christ in Little Rock, Arkansas, and Maurice and Marie Hall of World Christian Broadcasting. An earlier trip organized by Maurice Hall provided medical treatment for 500 people, mostly children. This team included eight doctors and took \$50,000 worth of medical supplies. The Christians they contacted provided the impetus for this November trip with the Youngs.



## Church With a Memory

—continued from page 7

more than 20 years as minister, Sewell resign in 1946, and Jack Bates, having recently been discharged from the U.S. Army where he was a chaplain in World War II, accepted the position as full-time minister.

The '40s and '50s saw steady growth, especially in financial health, as the church built an educational wing for the building, then was able to complete the mortgage. By 1955, there were about 250 members, many having been brought to the Lord at Santa Ana even as others had moved away.

At the end of Bates' tenure in 1957, E.W. McMillan became the minister, serving three years. As the 1960s began, attendance had grown to about 350. At least partial support was being given to missionaries in Italy, Korea, Africa, Philippines, Denmark, Puerto Rico, and Japan. And the church broke ground on a beautiful new building.

As Harry Robert Fox, Jr., became the minister in 1961, the Santa Ana Christians moved into their modern, state-of-the-art church building at 2130 North Grand Avenue. The first service in the new facility was on the traditional fourth Sunday in June (what else would have been appropriate?). After 56 years as the "Broadway and Walnut Church," they became the "Northside Santa Ana" congregation. E.W. McMillan returned as minister from 1963 to 1966, then Dean Dennis preached until 1969. By the end of the decade, the Santa Ana church had reached a membership of about 720.

The decade of the '70s saw back-to-back, four-year ministries of two fine preachers, Bob Scott and John Fisk. Both men were mission oriented and were a good "fit" for Northside with its long-standing tradition of global outreach. Three preachers ministered in the 1980s: Bill McClellan ('80 and '81), Don Crawford ('82-'85), and Keith Whitney ('86-'88).



Minister Steve Phillips with wife Cathi and son Tyler.

Stephen Phillips became the preaching minister in 1989 and, after five years, now has the longest tenure since Jack Bates. Phillips received a B.A. in Bible and psychology and an M.A. in ministry from Pacific Christian College in Fullerton. His history with the Santa Ana church goes back to 1960, when his parents brought him to church at the old Broadway and Walnut location. Northside is his first and only ministry; he previously served as college/career and youth leader for eight years. Steve and his wife, Cathi, met at Northside's college group and married in 1983. Their son, Tyler, is 4 years old.

The present elders are Leon Gibson, who has served for 25 years; Warren Howard, who has served for 23 years; and Bill Chesnut, Gerry Nicoll, and Carl Pittman, who have all served for 13 years. Other full-time staff members, in addition to Phillips, are youth minister Robert Jacobson and secretary Patsy DeBooy. Part-time ministers include children's minister Cathi Phillips, music minister David Poole, and bookkeeper James Watson.

Like many other churches, Northside has experienced a changing demographic environment, and with the ebb and flow of Southern California population, membership has decreased. Attendance over the past ten years has hovered at about 210. But the vibrant love of God that characterized the church for much of a century still generates hope and expectant faith.

The church's present motto is

"Connected In Christ," and members are excited about the launching of a small group ministry called "Community Connection." More than half the congregation are sharing their lives in groups on Sunday evenings and various mid-week gatherings; this is compared to an attendance of less than 10 percent for the traditional Sunday and Wednesday evening assemblies. The program is directed by Greg Bowden.

Another dynamic program is oriented toward children. Cathi Phillips, also a graduate of Pacific Christian College, directs the more than 35 adults who teach and lead in an exciting outreach to an average of 55 children each week. While Cathi sets the Old and New Testament thematic guidelines and supplies resources, teachers are free to develop their own materials. Drama, puppets, music, crafts, and other media are used to communicate the good news to the children.

The Northside elders serve as the board of directors for Hillview Acres Children's Home in Chino. And among its other ministries, Santa Ana continues to be world-conscious, with ten percent of its budget going to missions in Italy, Kenya, Zimbabwe, and local work with Cambodians. A Korean congregation also meets at the Northside building.

A newspaper article about Northside, published as Steve Phillips began his preaching ministry a few years back, focused on the congregation's commitment to families, to children, to youth, to marriages, to the world, to praise, and to ministry. Those same commitments can be traced like a golden thread through the memory of the Santa Ana church. In the article, Phillips is quoted as saying, "Family is central to the work of Christ . . . His atonement makes possible the uniting of all mankind into the family of God. He gives us new birth as sons and daughters. We are family!" And so it has been for 90 years.



## 5th Annual West Coast Bible Seminar

September 16-18, the Davis Park Church of Christ in Modesto hosted the 5th Annual West Coast Bible Seminar. Rick Atchley from the Richland Hills Church of Christ in Fort Worth and Dr. Tom Milholland, dean of the graduate school of psychology at ACU, were the speakers for the seminar. The theme, "Jesus Is Lord: Discipleship In the Gospel," was approached in four lessons by Atchley. Milholland dealt with following the Lord "In Our Families" and "In Our Marriages." Approximately 200 participants from congregations within a 100 mile radius of Modesto attended the event.



## Dr. Bill Stivers Honored in San Felipe

On June 19, 1994, the city of San Felipe in Baja California, Mexico, honored the Church of Christ and Dr. Bill Stivers, professor of Foreign Language at Pepperdine University, for 30 years of service to the San Felipe community. The mayor of San Felipe and many local officials attended the celebration, offering plaques and certificates of honor to Stivers and other Church of Christ representatives. Stivers was involved in the beginning of this ministry as an outreach of the Sichel Street Church of Christ in Los Angeles. Many other congregations, such as the Campbell Church of Christ in Campbell, California, and the Malibu Church of Christ on the Pepperdine Campus, have contributed time and effort into building over 25 homes for needy families, buying several vehicles (three emergency vehicles and a school bus), and giving clothing and toys.

## Northern California Preachers' Retreat

Dr. Matt Crain, who preaches at Parkway Church of Christ in Sacramento, will chair the annual northern California preachers' retreat this fall at the Shenandoah West Retreat Center in Mt. Aukum, California, November 7-9. Dan Anders from the Malibu Church of

Christ will be the resource person on the topic: "Growing Spiritually on the Other Side of the Pulpit." The cost for the retreat is \$25. Call Dr. Matt Crain for more information at the Parkway Church of Christ in Sacramento, (916) 427-7443.

## West Coast Christian Jubilee Held at Mariner's Point

On October 21, 22, and 23 the Canyon View Church of Christ in San Diego sponsored the West Coast Christian Jubilee, a weekend aimed at teens, but one which also attracted families and people of all ages. Hotels in the area offered special rates, and many church families opened their homes to guests. The three-day program included acappella concerts by

Acappella, AVB, Straight Company, Echo, Timothy and Freedom. Jeff Walling was one of the inspirational speakers. Drama groups came from Washington (*Encore*), Pepperdine (*Living Water*), and Fullerton (*From the Heart*). Congregational singing was led by Randy Gill and Keith Lancaster. The fellowship included a sand sculpting competition and volleyball tournaments.

## Cascade College Opens—Hosts Fall Lectureship

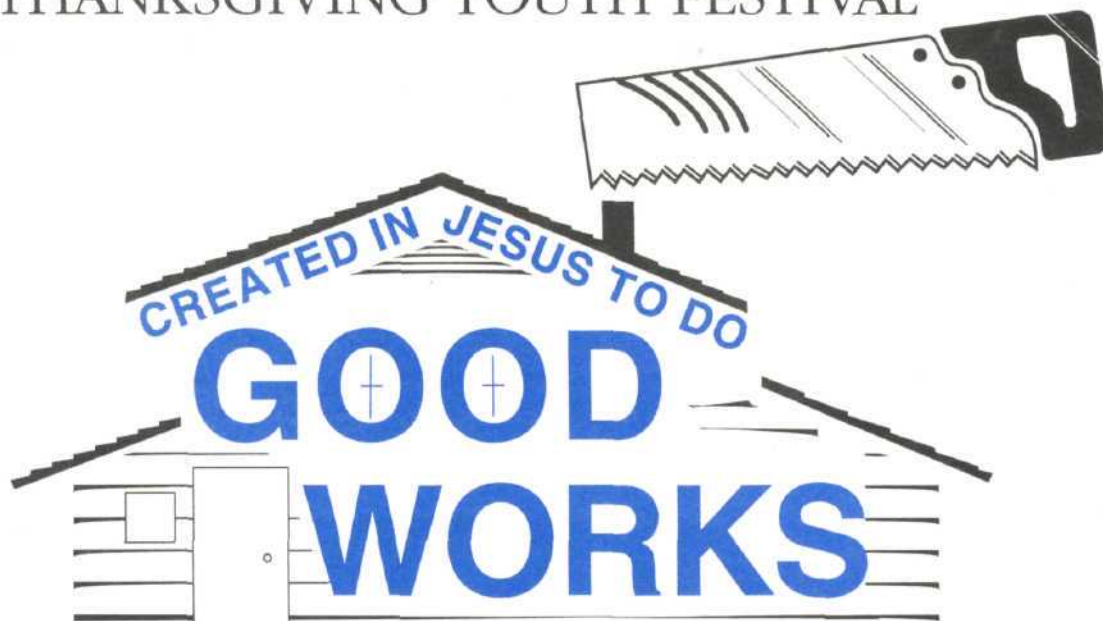
More than 100 students attended classes on the opening day of Cascade College, a branch campus of Oklahoma Christian operating in Portland, Oregon, on the former Columbia Christian's campus (see story in *Pacific Church News*, Fall 1993). Using a fiber-optic interactive linkup between the two campuses, the opening ceremonies on August 29 were viewed in the Cascade gymnasium and in the Oklahoma Christian auditorium. Dr. Kevin E. Jacobs, executive vice-president for the Portland branch, emphasized the faith of all who worked toward this historic opening as he called them "those who have seen the unseen." More than 500 alumni of Columbia Christian and church members from several states attended the opening. The fiber-optic linkups will be used in classroom teaching this fall as four interactive courses will be taught linking

Oklahoma Christian and Cascade students.

Continuing the tradition of a fall lectureship for the Pacific Northwest, the Cascade College Lectureship was held October 12-15 on the theme, "Great Is Our God." The lectureship featured evening speakers Stan Freitas, Kinwood Devore, and Mac Lynn. Many other sessions were offered including Gary Tandy on "Hints from C.S. Lewis on Communicating the Gospel to Modern Man," Debbie Curtis and Wendy Wolfgang on "Teaching Children to Love God's Word," and Craig Brown on "Living Together in Harmony." The final day, Saturday, featured a ministers and teachers workshop taught by Mac Lynn, Arlis Wood, and Mickey Banister. Other special events included a sunrise devotional at Mt. Tabor Park, a ladies banquet with Dr. June Breninger speaking, and a Friday "Celebration Dinner."



PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY'S  
24TH ANNUAL  
THANKSGIVING YOUTH FESTIVAL



—Ephesians 2:10

FOR 9TH GRADERS THROUGH COLLEGE AGE

**NOVEMBER 25-27**

Featuring: Theo Jones, Dan Rodriguez,  
Chris Goldman, Dan Anders, Ben Wall and Doug Cole.

- Be sure to bring Bible, sleeping bag, and grubby clothes for the Annual Superstar Olympics.

- Each sponsor should have medical releases for their group. Sponsors need sleeping bags too!

**Cost:** \$40 before November 15 or \$45 after November 15. *Cost Includes:* meals, lodging, shirt, all materials and admission to an NCAA Basketball game.

**Registration:** 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. Friday.

**More Info:** (310) 317-7286

- All participants must be accompanied by a chaperone who stays with them on campus. **No more than six participants per chaperone.**

- Friday evening meal 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. (No food available on campus after 6:30 p.m.). Festival concludes Sunday after church.

- \* Participants who come to the Festival without a chaperone will not be allowed to stay.

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY • MALIBU

Pepperdine University  
Department of Church Services  
24255 Pacific Coast Highway  
Malibu, California 90263

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Pepperdine University

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED