

PACIFIC CHURCH NEWS

SPRING 1994

Arizona Minister is
A Modern-Day
Caleb

See Cover Story on page 3

A NEWS JOURNAL FOR CHURCHES OF CHRIST ON THE WEST COAST

Dr. Dennis Lowe, professor of the Norvel and Helen Young chair of Family Life, announces the first annual Family Life Conference, "Building Stronger Families Through the Local Church," to be held on the Pepperdine Malibu campus on June 16, and 17, 1994. This first conference is focused to help church leaders in the western states who want to improve or develop a family life ministry in their congregation. **Ron Rose**, founder of "Faith in Families Ministry" and author of the *Family Ministry Planning Guide* will be the keynote speaker for this practical seminar. Classes will be presented on "Parenting" by **Terry and Susan Giboney**; "Improving Communication Roles in Premarital and Marital Relationships" by **Stuart and D'Esta Love**; "Helping Those Experiencing Grief and Loss" by **Fred Barnes and Ann Warford**; "Substance Abuse and Addictions" by **Doug Plank**; and "Aging Parents and Church Members" by **Clarence Hibbs and John Free**. The cost for the conference is \$80 which includes a continental



Ron Rose

breakfast and lunch both days. Early registration is recommended. For registration or other information, call Becky Piasentin at (310) 456-4771 or Dennis at (310) 456-4609.



Every year at its ACU Lectureship breakfast, *The Christian Chronicle* awards its "Christian Journalism Award" to an outstanding Christian publication. This year

on February 23, 1994, *The Chronicle* gave the award to *Pacific Church News* for its excellence in communication. **Dr. Jerry Rushford**, Pepperdine associate professor of religion and the editor of *Pacific Church News* which is published by Pepperdine through The Office of Church Services, accepted the award from **Howard Norton**, editor of *The Christian Chronicle*, who said, "Dr. Rushford is a force for unity and strength in our movement, and his journalistic impact is part of this force for good."

The Christian Chronicle, who said, "Dr. Rushford is a force for unity and strength in our movement, and his journalistic impact is part of this force for good."

Dr. Steven S. Lemley, Pepperdine provost, and **Dr. Emily Y. Lemley**, associate director of Church Services, have been honored over the last few months with a scholarship fund in their name at Lubbock Christian University and with the F.W. Mattox Award, named for LCU's founding president (shown here giving the Lemleys the award). The Lemleys moved to Pepperdine from LCU where Steven was president for 11 years and Emily taught in the English department.



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COVER PHOTO

John McKeel, preacher in Tempe, follows his fellow ice-climber as they go up a frozen waterfall in Boulder Canyon, Colorado. "You haven't had a good climb if there is not a point during the climb when you wish you could go home," says John of the adventure his hobby provides. (see story p. 3)

Give Me This Mountain

by Edwin White

One of John McKeel's heroes is the Old Testament character, Caleb, who was chosen by Moses for a spy mission as the Israelites prepared to invade the "promised land." In spite of Caleb's report, the people turned against God and wandered in the wilderness for years. But at the age of 85, Caleb crossed the Jordan with a new generation of Israelites. Unafraid, Caleb stood with his old friend Joshua and pointed a finger to the land he wanted for his tribe, the place where the giants lived and said, "Give me this mountain."

"Caleb didn't ask for the soft life," says McKeel, "He knew that the man of God learns courage, perseverance, and fortitude from adversity." Because McKeel believes life tends to make us soft, undisciplined, and materialistic, he, like Caleb, decided to seek out life's challenges—he is an avid sailor, scuba diver, cross-country skier, and has been a professional mountain guide for 22 years.

Now serving as the pulpit minister for the Church of Christ in Tempe, Arizona, McKeel was raised in Seattle, Washington. In the military, he was selected for a special assignment with Army Intelligence in Berlin, Germany. Upon his discharge, McKeel attended the Southern California School of Evangelism in Buena Park, California, where he was the honor graduate. John then attended Abilene Christian University and majored in Greek. He completed his B.A. degree at Columbia Christian College in Portland, Oregon, and obtained his M.A. in Religion from Pepperdine University.

Other than God and his family, McKeel's greatest love is mountain climbing. He believes that facing the

unknown, and succeeding, builds confidence and character. "Fear, whether from real or imagined sources, confronts the individual with himself and his values," says McKeel. "Fear must be administered in controlled doses or the result is panic. Discipline, a word rarely heard anymore, changes the fear into confidence." To succeed at climbing, "The mountaineer must exercise control over mind and body. Hurrying at a critical moment may cause a fall," says McKeel.

McKeel has climbed several of the most



McKeel on one of many climbs he has made of Mt. Hood in Oregon.

challenging peaks on the North American continent. While at ACU, he led a group of climbers to the summit of the 18,701 foot-high *El Pico de Orizaba* in the Mexican Sierras, a snowcapped mountain near Puebla and Vera Cruz. On this trip, he kept a journal that would do justice to *National Geographic*. There were six climbers in the group. Each climber, including the three who made the summit, experienced degrees of physical difficulty caused by the severe cold, bright sun, and lack of oxygen. McKeel remembers the effects. "Even after our descent," he says, "I tried to work simple math problems in my head. It was very difficult."

The ascent began with the six climbers

making the first stage to "El Grande Hut" at 14,000 feet. After a day's rest, they moved on up to the "high camps," and finally the assault on the peak. McKeel's journal talks about these rough times: "Monday night was rough on most everyone . . . Scott was really feeling bad and barfed everything several times . . . Chuck had irregular breathing and a headache . . . Freedom and I had slight headaches and got off easy . . . Jim got violently ill in the middle of the night. Michelle was really sick."

Of the six who attempted the climb,

three made the summit. An entry in McKeel's journal commemorated the event: "We made the top! It was the hardest thing I've ever done. My face is totally burned and I am very lethargic. In the last two days I have eaten only a handful of cornbread. I have no appetite, but I crave everything."

McKeel believes that mountaineering teaches important "life lessons." First: co-

operation is essential—on the mountain—everyone must work together to avoid disaster. Second, life should be taken one step at a time. "A mountain," he explains, "cannot be climbed all at once." Third, he sees an important lesson about materialism, "Hoisting your possessions on your back shows how little you really need."

McKeel admits that mountaineering is not for everyone, but he sees the experience as a "vertical relationship with God and a horizontal fellowship with others." He feels that, "The mountains themselves testify to the existence of a Creator, and the challenges of survival point out the interdependence we have with each other."

PEPPERDINE PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

by Holly Brown

Dan Anders, minister for the Malibu Church of Christ, spoke at a Dispute Resolution seminar at Pepperdine, February 15, preached for the Graham Street Church of Christ in Stephenville, Texas, February 20, and for the Southwest Central Church of Christ in Houston, Texas, March 13. He will be teaching a 3-day class at the Pepperdine Bible Lectures, April 27-29.

David Baird, Howard White Professor of History, preached for the Church of Christ in Tehachapi, January 9.

Executive vice president **Andrew Benton** preached for the Church of Christ in Hesperia, January 16.

Harold Bigham, professor of law, preached for Churches of Christ in Buena Park, January 23, and Morro Bay, January 30.

Calvin Bowers, professor of communication and Equal Opportunity Officer, spoke at a national lectureship in Oklahoma City on Conflict in the Church, March 21.

Craig Bowman, adjunct professor of religion, preached for the Church of Christ in Moorpark, January 20.

Larry Bumgardner, associate vice chancellor for foundations and research, preached for the Alvin Drive Church of Christ in Salinas, January 23.

Mike Casey, associate professor of communication, preached for the Church of Christ in Shafter, January 30.

Brad Cheves, director of advancement and alumni relations for the School of Law, preached for the Church of Christ in Ridgecrest, January 9, and for the Church of Christ in Yucaipa, January 23.

Rick Cupp, associate professor of law, preached for the Church of Christ in La Mesa, January 9. He will be conducting a training session for "Let's Start Talking" on using the Bible to teach English to Spanish speaking residents of Central California, March 11-12 at the Hollister Church of Christ.

Richard Dawson, director of international student services, preached for the Church of Christ at Big Bear Lake, January 9.

John Free, visiting lecturer in psychology and religion, preached for the Church of Christ in Ensenada, Mexico, March 27, and for the Mona Boulevard Church of Christ in Los Angeles, April 3. He was the workshop leader for a special class for divorced Christians at the Upland Church of Christ, April 4-6, 13, 20, and 27.

Terry Giboney, senior advancement officer, preached for the Church of Christ in Frazier Park, January 9, and for the Sunny Hills Church of Christ in Fullerton, January 23. He and his wife **Susan**, visiting instructor in Humanities, conducted a marriage seminar for the Church of Christ in Shafter, January 14-16, and spoke at an annual dinner for the El Monte Church of Christ, February 12. Susan spoke for a women's church group in Newbury Park, February 8, and spoke at the women's retreat for the Sunny Hills Church of Christ at Lake Arrowhead, March 12-15.

Randy Gill, associate professor of music, preached for the Church of Christ in Mission Viejo, January 9. He was the speaker at a Denver area wide youth meeting for the Church of Christ in Littleton, Colorado, February 6, and at a retreat for the Southside Church of Christ in Lexington, Kentucky, April 22-23.

James Greer, associate professor of psychology, preached for Church of Christ in Corona, January 30, and for the Church of Christ in Sierra Madre, February 6.

Gary Hanson, general counsel for Pepperdine, preached for the Church of Christ in Oakhurst, February 13.

Ron Highfield, associate professor of religion, preached for the Church of Christ in Ojai, January 30.

David Holmes, visiting instructor of humanities, preached for the Church of Christ in La Puente, January 30.

Richard Hughes, professor of religion, is teaching a class from January-May at the Conejo Valley Church of Christ in Thousand Oaks on the history of Churches of Christ. The class follows the material he has developed in his forthcoming book, *The Churches of Christ*.

Woody Hughes, associate professor for the graduate school of education, preached for the Church of Christ in Norwalk, January 30.

Ira Jolivet, instructor of religion, preached for the Churches of Christ in Woodland Hills, January 2 and February 20; Conejo Valley in Thousand Oaks, January 9; Vaughn Street in Los Angeles, February 6; and Avalon in Los Angeles, March 20. He will be teaching a class at the Pepperdine Bible Lectures, April 28.

Terry Kite, associate professor of natural science, preached for the Foster Road Church of Christ in Santa Maria, January 9; the Mona Boulevard Church of Christ in Los Angeles, January 23; and the Victorville Church of Christ, April 17.

Kim Lambert was the coordinator for the "Let's Start Talking" leaders workshop held at Oklahoma Christian University, April 4-10.

Hung Le, associate director of campus life and executive director of the volunteer center, preached for the Canyon View Church of Christ in San Diego, March 6.

Emily Y. Lemley, associate director of church services, was the featured speaker for the Friend's of the Library Dinner at the Abilene Christian University Bible Lectureship, February 21.

Steven Lemley, provost, preached for Churches of Christ in Long Beach, January 16; San Luis Obispo, January 23; and Santa Paula, February 6.

Stuart Love, professor of religion, preached for the Woodland Hills Church of Christ, January 13 and 23, and for the Santa Barbara Church of Christ, January 30. He spoke at the men's retreat and

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Mentoring As Ministry

by Emily Y. Lemley

June Breninger held many organizational titles in her 25 years with Columbia Christian College: she was professor of psychology and education, dean of students, dean of women, dean of campus life, seminar leader, and small group facilitator. But no matter what her title, June Breninger is essentially a mentor to students and peers alike. When people get to know her, they often say, "I want to be like June." And that's why "mentor" seems such an apt title for Dr. Breninger's work and ministry.

June grew up in the hills of Tennessee and graduated from Harding University. She went on to the University of Tennessee for her master's and doctorate in educational psychology. "I knew that I wanted to work at a Christian college," so, when Bob Rowland, then president of Columbia Christian College in Portland, called to talk, she remembers, "he hired me over the phone." A natural teacher, Breninger became known for her unusual presentations. One colleague, Margie Rhodes, now living in Tuscon, co-taught a "Women in the Church and Society" course with Breninger at Columbia. Rhodes says, "Students knew that when they walked into Dr. Breninger's classroom they would learn and they would enjoy learning."

Breninger encourages confidence in her students. She wants them to be "articulate, well-read and able to stand in front of an audience." Always taking on one more thing if it would help students, Breninger started growth groups for Columbia freshmen so they could talk about their goals for the future, their faith, and so that they could move beyond the pain they may have had in their past. Her response when asked about the striking success of these groups is typical of her humble spirit: "To see students maturing is an honor."

Tall and slender with short, graying hair, June Breninger is neatly dressed but, as one of her students said, "she is not a

'power dresser.'" Her attention is on other people rather than herself, and her unself-consciousness is magnetic. She has a contagious laugh, and she is famous for her puns and quick wit. She surprises people by remembering their names even though she may have only recently met them. June seems to have antennae for people who need help. Clara Bristol, widow of Gerald Bristol who was Columbia's board chairman for many years, says, "more women count June as one of their best friends than any other person I know."

Breninger is a mentor primarily because she is a *powerful listener*, a "doctor" to the spirit and to the heart. She has never been interested in a private counseling practice, yet she has given and continues to give thousands of hours of free professional counsel to students and to people who come to the congregation for help. Mark Love, minister of the East County Church of Christ where the Breningers have attended for 13 years, says, "June is the most nurturing person I know. . .younger women look up to her." Her eye contact and energy tell others that she is approachable. When they reach out to her, she reaches back.

She has helped many children of alcoholics, victims of abuse, and sufferers with AIDS. "Regardless of our wounds and imperfections, we find in small groups that we all have needs in common, and Christ can meet us at any point of need," Breninger states. She was selected as the resource professional on grief and dying on "The Church's Response to AIDS," the Christian Satellite Network's 1990 two-hour talk show hosted by Dr. Prentice Meador. When June counsels, she always



has the undergirding of scripture which determines her perspective on life. She couples that with her gift of mercy and is able to bring troubled people to a new way of thinking and acting.

One of the women that June has mentored is Katie Turner. Katie and her husband work with the Church of Christ in Bakersfield, California. They met June while they were students at Columbia Christian College. Says Katie, "June is more like the Master than anyone I know." She remembers the "Sewing Circle," a group of women that gathered in June's home regularly for June's great cooking and for a spiritual feast of fellowship and prayer. "One of our rules was that we couldn't talk about wallpaper," said Katie. Margie Rhodes, another member of this group, recalls, "Another rule was that we couldn't know how to sew or if we did we couldn't admit it." She continued, "later we changed the name of the group from the 'Sewing Circle' to the 'Sowing Circle' because we realized that we were sowing seeds of fellowship and love."

Though many of her Columbia students and colleagues have moved all over the

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Earthquake Update

by Emily Y. Lemley

At 4:21 A.M. on January 17, 1994, Southern California experienced a 6.8 earthquake. Called the Northridge Quake, it affected most people in the San Fernando, Conejo and Simi valleys with a loud rumble and strong shaking which lasted several seconds. Houses moved, dishes crashed to the floor, chimneys fell into roofs, and whole floors of apartment buildings dropped into the floors below. There are several congregations in the earthquake area—Pacoima, Southside in LA, Glendale, Vaughn Street, San Fernando, North Oaks, Fillmore, Simi Valley, and others. Many members suffered severe damage, though there was no loss of life.

Penney Nichols, minister at the Van Nuys Church of Christ very near the epicenter of the quake, remembers the panic and shock of that early morning: "Everything was turned upside down. All of our elders had severe damage to their homes, and several had to move to tents on their lawns to avoid the danger of falling walls or plaster. Some of our members had homes knocked off foundations. Others were homeless because their apartment building was condemned."

The Van Nuys congregation offered their building as one of the



Among the many volunteers were Pepperdine University students who helped serve food in tent cities.



Relief supplies were transported from across the country.

first relief stations for earthquake victims. The CNN television network picked up the name of the Van Nuys Church of Christ and sent a picture of their building around the world in one of the early media reports on earthquake relief. Because of this report, members of the church in southern California knew where to go to give help, and people from all over the world began to send aid—money, household goods, and food.

To date, over one million dollars has been donated for earthquake relief by the Churches of Christ. Van Nuys and other congregations that have collected relief money have set up a secure system of distribution that will be active for several months. They were advised and helped with this system by others who had experience helping in crisis: MANNA International, based at the Redwood City Church of Christ in Redwood City, California, and the White's Ferry Road congregation in West Monroe, Louisiana.



Pepperdine students rallied to rebuild walls for a family in the Simi Valley Church of Christ.

Pepperdine business professor Grant Newton set up an efficient bookkeeping procedure and volunteered to audit the books regularly. John Nicks, former associate dean of Pepperdine's School of Business, set up a computer in the Van Nuys building to handle records. Contributions are still being made and are still needed.

Hundreds of volunteers came to the Van Nuys building to cook, sort clothing, and unload food trucks. One of the early tasks was unloading a huge semi-truck with 43,000 pounds of food and household goods that came from Christians in Nashville, Tennessee. Clean-up crews of teenagers from congregations in San Diego, Long Beach, Las Vegas, and Conejo Valley came on weekends to help. In addition, dozens of Pepperdine students worked in "tent cities," in clean-up, and in wall rebuilding. Women from the Van Nuys Hispanic congregation donated time everyday to cook for the volunteers and any others who needed lunch.

Many people gave up days and weeks to help people in the earthquake area get their lives back in order. For example, Rhonda Lowry gave her full time for two weeks to set up the relief effort at the Van Nuys building. A member of the Conejo Valley congregation, mother of three, and wife of Randolph Lowry at the Pepperdine Law School, Rhonda went immediately to the Van Nuys Church building and, while many were still in shock, got busy organizing phone banks, food boxes, interviewing needy people, and utilizing the many volunteers who wanted to help.

Spiritual aid is being offered along with all of the physical help. The Hispanic minister for the congregation in Van Nuys has baptized 30 people because of Bible studies that he has set up since the earthquake. Many other opportunities are growing out of this work.

The initial clean-up has been done; hundreds of people in earthquake areas

have been fed and given shelter; many who had to leave their apartments have been helped to get into safe apartments; several retired members whose mobile homes were knocked off their foundations have had their homes stabilized; thousands of hours have been spent sorting through debris, putting books back on shelves, picking up bricks and concrete blocks. Food boxes which include \$40-\$50 worth of groceries are still being distributed to displaced persons.

Because of the extensive damage and aftershocks, relief is ongoing. Assessment

of the needs by federal relief agencies and insurance agencies can take months. "We have been well advised by our brothers and sisters who have helped with the flood and hurricane victims that the needs will be more than we could possibly expect, and that there will still be needs a year from now," said Alan Pope, minister for the Conejo Valley Church of Christ which has also been a relief center. Nichols added that, "the recent aftershocks have continued to do damage to our members' homes, and we don't know what the future holds."

EARTHQUAKE FINANCIAL UPDATE

Received by:

MANNA International and the Van Nuys Church of Christ—	\$928,000
Conejo Church of Christ—	\$50,000
Woodland Hills Church of Christ—	\$10,000
White's Ferry Road Church of Christ—	\$150,000
Nashville, Tennessee congregations—	\$30,000

HUNDREDS OF HUMAN DRAMAS

- * Three children in a southern state packed up the toys they got for Christmas and sent them to "children who lost their toys in the earthquake."
- * One woman in a southern state heard the CNN report. She was a former member of the Church of Christ, but had been uninterested in the church for many years. The next day, she went to her jeweler to have her diamond appraised—it was worth \$5000—and had him replace it with a artificial stone. She took the money to the minister of the Church of Christ and said, "Send this to the earthquake victims."
- * A fifth and sixth grade Sunday morning Bible class in Farmington, New Mexico, made a quilt to give to a child who had suffered from the quake.
- * A group of women in Conroe, Texas, sent 21 quilts they had made "for the earthquake victims."
- * A young woman with a small child came to the Van Nuys building for help. She said, "I grew up in the Church of Christ, but I haven't been in a long time. My apartment was condemned, and I didn't know what to do. I was standing in a mile-long FEMA line feeling hopeless, when I thought about the church. I knew where to go to get help. I remember what kind of people you are."

The Next Chapter in a Stirring Story

by Bill Henegar

3:00 p.m., Saturday, February 26, 1994

Next to the small Greyhound Bus station, a not-so-attractive yellow sign identifies the nondescript, flat-roofed building as the place where the East Visalia Church of Christ meets for worship and ministry. Neighborhood people are turning their cars and trucks into the parking lot just past the A-frame sign that announces that the "Share" program distribution is underway.

Tables have been carried out of the building and placed end-to-end to form a long serving line. And as the people pass by each station along the line, volunteers from the church give the people a variety of food items: chicken, fresh vegetables and fruit, instant rice, dried split peas, frozen Italian meatballs, and so on. The recipients have each paid 14 dollars in cash or food stamps on the first Saturday of the month—now, on the last Saturday, they are picking up at least 35 dollars worth of food. Through this co-op food buying and distribution program that is available in many areas of California, families are being helped to make ends meet. The coordination of the Visalia "Share" program is just one of several ministry programs that this church embraces.

By 4:30 the sun is low in the western sky, and all the food is on its way to homes throughout the city. The tables are put away, and the building is spruced up. As the warm colors of early evening fade, thoughts turn toward tomorrow's big day.

Nearly 9:00 a.m., Sunday, February 27, 1994

It is the Lord's Day, and thousands of Visalia's citizens are on their way to worship at the many churches in the city. It seems that nearly every corner in town boasts a church of some sort. This healthy interest in religion isn't really surprising. After all, this is California's San Joaquin Valley, one of the most fertile and productive agricultural regions in the

world. And Visalia, a city of some 85,000 residents, is just 45 miles from the "heart" of the Valley, Fresno. Being so close to the Good Earth tends to remind people that they owe an enormous debt to their Creator.

As the familiar yellow sign of the East Visalia Church comes into view, the scene is quite different than yesterday. The parking lot is overflowing now, and cars line both sides of the street for a block or more—past the bus station, the auto repair shops, and the other light industrial enterprises in the neighborhood. Nicely dressed people of all ages and ethnic groups, about 360 of them, press into a room meant to seat only about 225. Through the front and side doors they stream into the auditorium . . . for the last time.

There is a buzz of excitement as the beginning of worship nears. The crowd is at least twice its normal size, due primarily to the combining of the usual two services into one for this special day. Today will be the last meeting in this building. Next week, and for the next two months or so, the church will meet in a rented hall. In April or May, they will occupy their beautiful new structure on Caldwell Avenue along the southern edge of Visalia, next door to the walnut groves and farm fields. And the East Visalia Church of Christ will become the "Visalia Community Church of Christ."

Many church members have contributed their talents and time to the construction of the new building. However, special gratitude goes to deacon Steve Sparshott, who serves as general superintendent for the job, and deacon Richard Brogan, who serves as facilities coordinator and chair of the building



A converted commercial building served the East Visalia Church of Christ well for 15 years.



On the first and last Saturdays of each month, the "Share" program comes to Visalia through the church's ministry.

program.

Here, in the present building this morning, the rostrum is undistinguished—except for the communion table. There, near the leading edge of the table, lays a large, open family Bible, and the Bible cradles a single red rose. This simple gesture seems to signal to the visitor that someone here cares about little acts of kindness.

A smiling young man steps to the microphone and announces that all the songs will be sung from memory today, and as he drops his arm to begin the cadence, the worshipers lift stirring praises to God. The words and melodies echo back from walls that have packed away many memories—some lofty, some surprisingly earthy.

This rather plain and unadorned structure serves as a vivid reminder of what the church is really all about: the church is people, not cement blocks, wallboard, and seats. The building was purchased in 1979 (a year after the church was formed) for \$135,000. "It had been a teen disco dance club," the older members will tell you of



On the last Sunday at the old building, many members of the congregation gathered for a photograph.



(l. to r.) Minister Rusty Bolton and wife, Martha, and youth minister Henry Simon stand near the new building under construction.



The "Share" co-op food program, coordinated by the East Visalia Church, helps families make ends meet.



East Visalia elders are (top l. to r.) Leroy Owings, Mel Gaul, Larry Yocum, (bottom l. to r.) Roy Taylor, and Herb Kleyn.

the building. And they add with a chuckle, "It was called 'The Shimmy Shack!'"

Black walls with glitter had to be painted. The giant, rotating mirrored ball had to be removed. The red carpet embedded with "a half ton" of gum had to be replaced. And other modifications had to be completed. But the end result was a usable building with practical, moveable seating. The new building on Caldwell Avenue will retain that one feature.

So, the walls that shook to the beat of rock and roll have now embraced the words and hymns of God for the past 15 years. Now that the building has been sold, what will they hear next? Well, the new owners plan to turn the building into a pistol range! But for now, the walls resonates to the strains of "Our God, He is Alive" and "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

9:30 a.m.

After communion, Rusty Bolton, the congregation's preacher since May 1987,

rises to speak on the subject "Same Story—New Chapter." Bolton, a trained counselor with a MFCC license, knows that the people need some kind of closure regarding this building. You don't give 15 years of your life in a certain location without some attachments being formed. While the new building will be far superior to the old, it will have to create its own memories—and that takes time.

Bolton calls three women forward. Lois is 90 years old, a beloved matriarch of the church. Beside her is Cecilia, a young mother, holding her infant daughter, Kiana. "Each one of these women is beautiful," he says. "Each one represents a different stage in life. Like them, we, as a body, move on to successive stages of our church life."

Rusty and Martha Bolton have been good for the Visalia church. When they arrived, the congregation numbered about 225. Now, attendance is at least 100 more than that, due in large part to Rusty's

commitment to spend at least three nights per week in evangelism and discipling.

Bolton is no stranger to the Valley. He was raised on a farm in an area west of Visalia. After a bachelor's degree at Abilene Christian, he earned a master's in counseling from Fresno State. In their earlier days, he and

Martha worked as missionaries in New York and in Australia. After returning to California, they spent nearly 10 years with the College Church of Christ in Fresno. Then, after a year with the Roseville church, the Boltons were called to the East Visalia church. Previously, Gene Gilliland had preached here from 1980 to 1986.

Longtime elder Dr. Herb Kleyn says that Bolton is kind, gentle, and positive. "Rusty is also a good counselor and a very hard worker," he says. "He does a lot of visitation." Kleyn and his wife, Kathy, were among the core families that formed the East Visalia congregation in December 1978. Other key people were the Jerry Snyders, the Larry Hetticks, the Patrick Hetticks, and the Roy Taylors. Nearly all the early members were from the Central Visalia congregation, where Kleyn was an elder for 14 years.

Herb Kleyn is a surgeon and a 1949

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Congregation

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alumnus of Pepperdine University. He believes there is a "good balance" among the elders at this time. The present elders include Mel Graul, Leroy Owings, Roy Taylor, and Larry Yocum, in addition to Kleyn. Nine deacons work with these overseers, each deacon being responsible for a broad area of ministry, such as outreach, education, worship, and so on. It is interesting that an organization chart created by the leadership is plotted across the page sideways, rather than in typical top-to-bottom pyramid fashion.

Bolton says, "Our elders are not individually in charge of specific areas of the work—the deacons are. The elders direct the work as a group. However, they shepherd the congregation individually. That is, each member has a specific elder to be his or her shepherd." Bolton continues, "The church is united behind its elders, who are deeply loved and respected."

The youth minister, on the job for about six months, is Henry Simon. Henry grew up in the congregation, and, in a wise move, the elders decided to support someone from within the body to minister to their 50 or 60 teens. Before that, Paul Lee served as youth minister for four years. Lee, a native of Hong Kong and a Pepperdine University alumnus, has remained with the church after his term as youth minister. While working in a secular occupation, he has been invaluable in helping to initiate both the goal-setting task force and the very successful "Life Groups" that meet in 14 locations one Sunday evening a month.

In addition to Bolton and Simon, there are dozens of other ministers, people who have stepped forward from the ranks of the "ordinary" members. Many help Jake Coppinger, the western states coordinator of World Bible School, who is provided office space by the church. Other people are involved in a teen program called "True Love Waits" (the teens are encouraged to

promise to remain pure for their future mate, and each receives a ring to wear and one day give to his or her mate as a token of a love that waited). Beyond the many other ministries, there appears to be a general "ministry of love." Herb Kleyn says, "This is a loving congregation—a whole lot of hugging goes on—and it is also very caring. If someone's in need, there's always someone to help."

Tim and Marilyn Rice and their young family have been members at East Visalia for about two years. They had been discouraged with some Churches of Christ and had been attending a local community church. But that church diminished the importance of baptism and communion. "Several couples dropped by to welcome us after we visited East Visalia," Tim says. "They made an attempt to involve us. We have found this to be a church where they follow the Bible, but where there is freedom in Christ. Perhaps because of that, they are reaching out to other people."

10:00 a.m.

The worship is brought to a close—but warm feelings continue. People stand and stretch, take a short break and greet one another, and are back in a few minutes for the next part of this special morning.

The first part of the morning was called "Our Future." Now, every member celebrates "Our Past." Each of the elders has participated in some capacity this morning—with a prayer, a communion meditation, a welcome, a word of encouragement. At one point, the names of those members who have passed into the next life during the last 15 years are read. A moment of silence is observed. Someone else asks those who were baptized in this present building to please stand. And 60 or 70 rise to the applause of the crowd.

Now the time to share has come. Two men move throughout the room, offering the microphone to whoever wants to say a word . . . the atmosphere is electric, even for visitors . . .

"It's the people . . ." someone says, choking back the tears. "I remember all the Bible teaching, the Sunday School, the

little children . . ." someone else recounts. One man begins to tell of the around-the-clock congregational prayer vigil not long ago for his little boy who has leukemia—he is overcome with emotion and unable to finish the story.

Happy moments are remembered. Someone describes the time they had a "beach party" in Visalia! Twelve yards of sand was trucked into the parking lot for the teens and others to frolic in. (It took forever to get rid of it!) Another person says, "I'm pretty sure I was the first one baptized in that baptistry there. The building was just being transformed from the 'Shimmy Shack,' and the workers were still putting up ceiling tiles!"

"Rusty and Martha have done so much for my life," says one person. Several people give lists of unsung heroes. Dick and Beverly Parker, missionaries to the Bahamas, tell of the support of the church and of the native congregations that have been planted as a result. Pat Hettick, former elder and patriarch of the church, rises to say, "I resigned as an elder when I got to be 75, because I didn't want to become an 'aginer' [someone who is opposed to everything]. I'm thankful for the progress of this church."

On and on the memories and testimonies go. The emotions are mixed—laughter, applause, reflections, tears of both sadness and joy. And suddenly the time has come to say good-bye to this chapter of the church's life. Elder Larry Yocum walks to the microphone for the final prayer at this place. A few more memories, a few more words of praise and thanksgiving to the Father, and the "Amen" punctuates the final public sentence of this part of the story. There are still donuts, coffee, fruit, and conversation in a "Sweet, Sweet Fellowship Brunch," but the chapter is closed.

A little after 11:00 a.m.

The new chapter begins. It's entitled "The Visalia Community Church of Christ." And already, energy is high, spirits soar, faith is reaching out, and dreams are materializing. The future has begun.

by Rick Rowland

Dr. Mike Tess, an elder for the Bozeman, Montana, Church of Christ and a faculty member at **Montana State University** in Bozeman, reports that their congregation has hired a full-time campus minister, **Tony Lewis**. Lewis is a native of Kalispel, Montana, and a graduate of the Institute for Christian Studies in Austin, Texas, where he received his bachelor's degree. Lewis has just completed a master's degree in doctrinal studies from Abilene Christian University.

Don Crawford, minister for the Hollywood Church of Christ, taught a weekly study in the fall at the **University of Southern California** entitled, "Does God Exist?" During the 1994 winter semester, Crawford began another weekly series, "Is It Possible Not to Have Faith?" Many speakers participated, and the group grew from 15 to 42 by the March meeting when USC's Dr. Dallas Willard spoke.

"Evolution Versus Creation" was the topic for a panel at **Boise State University** where campus minister **Howard Jones** was asked to be a panelist along with a BSU biology professor and others who opposed theistic creationists. **Ralph DeKlotz**, the deacon coordinator for the Boise State University campus ministry, recently reported that the college group has grown in three years to ten percent of the Eldorado Church of Christ in Boise.

William Don Carlos is the new campus minister at the **University of Arizona**, working with the Palo Verde Church of Christ. Carlos became a Christian in 1987 while a student at UA. He was baptized by **Kevin Stewart**, the former campus minister who is now doing graduate work at ACU. Carlos has started a monthly journal, *eUAggelian* (translated: a good message). This journal includes cartoons, movie reviews, and a section on Christian Evidences. For more information on this outreach, you can contact Carlos at the Palo Verde Church of Christ, 651 South Kalode Road, Tucson, AZ 85710.

The **University of Alberta's** campus minister, **Randy Schilling**, began a new program, "College Career Class," to prepare Christian students to carry their faith with them from college into the marketplace. Since Schilling became the campus minister in 1993, 17 people have been added to the Edmonton congregation.

Cade and Sandi Christensen began their new campus ministry program last fall at **Western Washington University** and **Watcom Community College** sponsored by the Sterling Drive Church of Christ in Bellingham, Washington. Their newsletter, *Vikings for Christ*, reported that Jennifer Morgan, a WWU student, was the first to be baptized into Christ.

The **Southwest Campus Ministries Retreat** took place February 25-27, at the Sacramento Assembly near Cloudcroft, New Mexico. This event drew over 145 students and sponsors from ministries at **New Mexico State, University of Arizona, Arizona State University, University of New Mexico, and Western New Mexico University**. "**Big Don**" Williams from ACU was the resource person for the weekend. In 1995, this retreat is planned for February 17-19 at the same camp. For more information contact: **Hal Blackburn** at the University Church of Christ in Las Cruces, New Mexico: (505) 522-6125 or (505) 552-6707.

Steve Curtis, now campus minister for **Louisiana State University**, will start a new campus ministry in the fall of 1995 for all of the colleges in the Denver area. Curtis will be sponsored by the Metro Church of Christ in Denver.

The **University of California at Santa Barbara** campus minister, **Ron Smith**, announced that UCSB's Campus Advance for Christ program has hired its first alumni relations director, **Tom Bryan**. Bryan is a graduate of UCSB with

a Ph.D. in electrical engineering. He received his B.A. from Boise State where he was the student president for the Biblical Studies Center. Bryan is interested in assistance in publications, locating alumni, and fundraising. If you are interested in this program, please call (805) 967-4611.

Thailand campus minister, **Russ Pennington**, was the featured speaker for 181 students who attended the 25th **Western Campus Ministries Seminar** at Frazier Park, California during the winter semester.

The new full-time minister at the **University of Delaware**, **Ian Morgan**, reported a recent "International Night," where students invited guests to enjoy food from many cultures. Morgan, a Pepperdine graduate, is sponsored by the Newark Church of Christ. He reports a great receptivity on campus. The ministry offers personal Bible studies, conversational English classes, and an adoption program for students and the members of the Newark church.

Mark Woodward, director of "Let's Start Talking" program at the Dayspring Church of Christ in Edmond, Oklahoma, reports that in 1993, 29 teams went into 16 countries and studied the Bible with over 1800 people. Students who participated were from **Pepperdine, UCSB, Fresno State**, and many other universities.

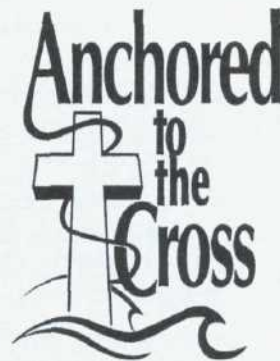
National Campus Ministries Seminar

August 1-4, 1994

Pepperdine University
Malibu, California
Malibu Church of Christ
Campus Ministry
(310) 456-4504

Keynote Speakers:

David Davenport
Mark Davis
Jerry Rushford
Dan Anders
Don Crawford
Tim Woodroof



*A Constant in
CollegiateCurrents*

Pepperdine People

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Sunday worship for the Las Vegas Church of Christ, February 25-27. He was also the featured speaker for the Northwest Youth Minister's Workshop at the Northwest Church of Christ in Seattle, Washington, March 27-29.

Dean of Students **D'Esta Love** taught a women's class for the Santa Barbara Church of Christ, January 30. She was the featured speaker at the women's retreat for the Broadway Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas, February 11-12, and for the campus ministry women's retreat at the Malibu Church of Christ, March 13.

Dennis Lowe, Norvel and Helen Young Chair in Family Life and associate professor of psychology, and his wife, **Emily Scott-Lowe**, coordinator of the counseling center, conducted a marriage enrichment seminar at the Ham Lane Church of Christ in Lodi, February 4-6.

Randy Lowry, director of the Institute for Dispute Resolution, preached for the

Van Nuys Church of Christ, January 9. He conducted a conference on managing conflict and change in Churches of Christ at the Mountain Avenue Church of Christ in Tucson, Arizona, January 22-23, and the Pepperdine School of Law, February 15-16. He also preached for the Atascadero Church of Christ, February 6, and spoke at the Abilene Christian University Bible Lectureship, February 20-23.

Rick Marrs, associate professor of religion, preached for the Church of Christ in Costa Mesa, January 16. He was a keynote speaker at the ACU Bible Lectureship, February 22.

Vice Chancellor **Mike E. O'Neal** preached for the Church of Christ in Alhambra, January 9.

Tom Olbricht, chair of the religion division, preached for the Church of Christ in Hood River, Oregon, February 6, and taught for the Woodmont Hills Church of Christ in Nashville, Tennessee, January 30. He participated in the Church of Christ/Southern Baptists Consultation at David Lipscomb University, January 28-29. He preached for the Church of Christ in

Vancouver, Washington, February 20, and for the Church of Christ in Exeter in April. He will be teaching a class at the Pepperdine University Bible Lectures, April 27.

Wilson Parrish, admission coordinator for international student services, preached for the Central Church of Christ in Bakersfield, January 16.

Tim Perrin, professor of law, preached for Malibu Church of Christ, January 23.

Rick Rowland, associate professor of communication, preached recently for the following Churches of Christ: Figueroa in Los Angeles, Highland Street in Memphis,

Pacific Church News encourages all Churches of Christ in the United States and Canada to take part in Manna International's:

Day of Prayer and Fasting June 5, 1994

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

Ministry

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world, June keeps up with them as they phone or write to let her know how they are doing. One of her most well-known students is Cynthia Rowland McClure who has a dynamic speaking and writing ministry helping people deal with eating disorders and addictions. Several years ago, when Cynthia was struggling through chemotherapy, she remembers June's phone calls, "She called me everyday just to say, 'I love you!'" "But her tone of voice said even more than that," Cynthia concludes, "She was saying 'You can do it! You're going to make it!'" Her most recent book names June in the dedication as one who "helped me dream. . .when I so needed you and your belief in me."

Several years ago, June went through a health crisis herself. She needed a new kidney in order to survive. Both her

brother and sister were willing to give a kidney to her, but she did not want them to go through that suffering. Cynthia remembers how fearful she was that she might lose "my woman of God." When Cynthia urged June to accept her siblings' offer, June responded, "Waiting on the Lord will be sufficient." A kidney was found, and today June is in good health.

Her strong faith and deep prayer life are the secrets to her energy in mentoring. A friend, Danice Wood, from Valley Springs, California, said that June maintains control of her spiritual life, "She doesn't let the day get away from her without having her quiet time." "Even when we both had toddlers," Danice remembers, "June would say, 'I'm going in my room and have a quiet time.'" That determination to find the time to pray every day is her core strength for a boundless ministry.

June has been married to Lonnie Breninger for 20 years. He is also a

professor of psychology, and they sometimes teach courses or seminars together. They have a 16-year-old son, Andy. June is currently teaching at George Fox College and at Mt. Hood Community College. In addition, she is on the worship committee at East County Church, and she maintains her counseling ministry.

She enjoys the variety that teaching and counseling provide. "I'm a generalist," she says. She relishes the connection between the psychological life and the spiritual life—a topic she will discuss at this year's Pepperdine Lectures. "A Christian College is a place where you can clearly express the connection. As we get rid of our baggage, psychologically, we can learn to bear the cross of Christ. The journey to psychological health is the journey to spiritual health as well."

June Breninger, educator, friend, disciple of Christ—*mentor*—is taking many women with her on this exciting journey.

Pepperdine Remembers Two Influential Professors

W. B. West, who headed the Pepperdine College Department of Religion from 1941-1951, died in Memphis on March 9, 1994. He was 87. West was widely recognized as a preacher and lectured extensively on the Book of Revelation. After his tenure at Pepperdine, West joined the Harding University faculty in the Bible department. His leadership was called on as founding dean of the Harding Graduate School of Religion in Memphis. Dean Bill Flatt of the Harding Graduate School said, "Dr. West was not only a friend, but was an 'encourager' to thousands of people throughout the country."

West was born in Decherd, Tennessee.



He graduated from David Lipscomb University in Nashville and from Abilene Christian University in Texas. He received a doctorate from the University of Southern California. He also studied at the University of Chicago and Oxford University. He was married to Gladys and has a daughter, Patty Parker of Wichita, Kansas, and four grandchildren.

Herman O. Wilson, a member of the Pepperdine English faculty from 1946-1955 and again from 1965-1978, died in Cherry Valley, California, on December 28, 1992, at the age of 83. Many of his students remember him as a professor who upheld

education's highest ideals, yet maintained a gentle and humble spirit. He once wrote that teaching gave him his "highest fulfillment." "I am one of those privileged to work with the minds and the spirits of the young," he said. Wilson received his Ph.D. from UCLA. He worked as principal of Pacific Christian Academy at Graton, California, from 1933-1935. He served churches in Seattle, Denver, Pasadena, Long Beach, and Los Angeles. Dr. Wilson also did summer teaching in Alaska and in Japan. From 1957-1966, Wilson served as the first registrar and then as chairman of the Department of English at Lubbock Christian University. He wrote for several church papers and published a tract, "How Should a Man Preach?" He was married to Elsie Mills, and they have one son, Allan Wilson, of Redlands, California.

Pepperdine People

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Southern Hills and University in Abilene, Day Spring in Edmond, Oklahoma, and Gateway in Pensacola, Florida. In February, he spoke in chapel at ACU, Oklahoma Christian University, David Lipscomb University, and Harding Graduate School of Religion in Memphis, Tennessee.

Jerry Rushford, associate professor of religion, spoke to church leaders in dinner meetings in San Diego, Danville, Modesto, Rancho Cordova, Fresno, Grover Beach, Salinas, Campbell, Tucson, and Phoenix in January. He spoke at the *Christian Chronicle* program during the ACU Bible Lectureship, February 23. He preached recently for Churches of Christ in Livermore, Fresno, Woodland Hills, Conejo Valley, Santa Barbara, and Malibu. He lectured on California church history at the 125th anniversary of the First Christian Church in Colusa, California, March 27.

Chris Sangster, Seaver director of advancement and alumni relations, preached for the Arlington Church of Christ in Riverside, January 23, and for the

Magnolia Center Church of Christ in Riverside, January 30.

Bill Stivers, professor of foreign languages, participated in the board meeting for the Baxter Institute of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, at the Oak Ridge North Church of Christ in Houston, Texas, March 4-6.

Dean of Seaver College Faculty **Dwayne Van Rheenen** preached for the Church of Christ in Lancaster, January 9. He will teach a class at the Pepperdine University Bible Lectures, April 28-29.

Keith Whitney, associate professor of business, preached for the Church of Christ in Palm Desert, January 9.

John Williams, professor of French, preached for the Church of Christ in San Clemente, January 30.

Tim Willis, assistant professor of religion, preached for the Church of Christ in Glendale, January 9; the Westside Church of Christ in Bakersfield, January 16; and the Sierra Madre Church of Christ, January 30.

Dean of Seaver College **John Wilson** preached for the Uptown Church of Christ in San Bernardino, January 16.

Morris Womack, professor of communication, preached for the Church

of Christ in Bellflower, January 30.

Helen Young taught a women's class for the Broadway Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas, January 30; spoke at a women's retreat for the Waterview Church of Christ in Richardson, Texas, February 4-5; and taught a women's class for the Prestoncrest Church of Christ in Dallas, February 20. She also spoke at an annual ladies retreat for the West Olive Church of Christ in Phoenix, Arizona, March 5, and at a ladies day for the Church of Christ in San Luis Obispo, March 26. She and her daughter, Emily Lemley, were the featured speakers at a ladies day for the Church of Christ in Norco, April 9.

Chancellor Emeritus **M. Norvel Young** preached for the El Cajon Boulevard Church of Christ in San Diego, January 2; at Simi Valley, January 9; at Fillmore January 16; at Broadway Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas, January 30; and at Prestoncrest Church of Christ in Dallas, Texas, February 20. He taught a class and was a breakfast program speaker at the ACU Bible Lectureship, February 21. He attended the board meeting for the Christian Higher Education Foundation, March 15.

Tragedy for Marin-Batres Family Brings Outpouring of Love

A minister of the Hawthorne, California, Church of Christ, Armando Marin-Batres was shot to death during a robbery as he returned home on January 15. His two daughters had gone inside the house, but his 16 year old son, David, was a witness to the senseless act.

Tragedy has struck twice in two years for the four Marin-Batres preaching brothers. In 1992, Armando's brother, Raul, was killed in an automobile accident in Dallas where he was preaching. The two other brothers, Pedro and Manuel, are still preaching in Guatemala and El Salvador, respectively.

Armando graduated from the Sunset School of Preaching in 1974 and returned to his native El Salvador where he preached for 15 years. He then moved to the U.S. to work with churches in the Ft. Worth area before coming to Hawthorne about a year ago.

When the news of the tragedy reached



Armando & Daysi Marin-Batres, Delmy, David, and Daysi

other congregations, the Hispanic Churches of Christ throughout Southern California rallied to aid the family. One member donated a cemetery plot, and others helped pay for burial expenses. Chris Graham, minister for the English speaking congregation in Hawthorne, said, "Armando was an outstanding communicator of the word. He constantly gave himself completely to God's work . . . he was always ready to help others and share what he had."

Since Armando had no life insurance, churches are sending funds to help the family adjust to this difficult challenge. Thus far, about \$10,000 has been raised. If you would like to help, make checks payable to "Church of Christ—Batres Family Fund," and send to Hawthorne Church of Christ, 4585 W. El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250.

In addition, Pepperdine University is pursuing the establishment of a scholarship fund for the Marin-Batres children. Daughter Delmy, 18, is already college-age, and David, 16, and Daysi, 14, are not far behind. If you are interested in the education of these young people whose father is no longer able to provide for the family, please send your tax-deductible contribution to the Department of Church Services, Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA 90263. Make checks payable to "Pepperdine University, Batres Memorial Scholarship."

Christian Talk Radio Plans Syndication

"Christian Encounter," a talk radio program hosted by Don Crawford, will begin a second season, airing in June of 1994 on KIEV, 870 AM, in Los Angeles. Scheduled for syndication next January, this popular program will be available for easy distribution around the country on a commercial satellite network. Crawford, minister for the Hollywood Church of Christ, features guest scholars who answer questions from secular listeners about Christian faith. Guests, such as Pepperdine law professor F. LaGard Smith, expose listeners to thinkers who take Christianity seriously. Crawford's goal is to challenge secularists who have written off Christianity to take a second look. He also hosts a nightly talk show from 10-12 P.M. on KIEV called "Flip Side," to discuss with

callers issues on culture, religion, and life. He says, "I want to give them a respectful listening ear and a Christian perspective."

Crawford started hosting a Christian talk radio show in 1986 in Austin, Texas, answering listener questions about why a reasonable person would believe in God. This program was so successful in the secular market that it won a talk show award. The next year Don began "Christian Encounter." This program was eventually carried by Armed Forces Radio Television which is heard by over 40 million people around the world. In September of 1994, the show is scheduled to resume broadcast on Armed Forces Radio.

Crawford says that the current commercial interest in talk radio is phenomenal, "The number of talk radio stations have tripled in the last three years." Because of this growth, he reports

that stations are searching for talk shows to fill the time. "People who have Christian values have the opportunity to be part of the power of the media—but not by buying time—we could never afford to buy enough," Crawford says, "but we can produce quality talk shows that stations will want to air." Crawford believes that congregations will want to take a brochure and a sample tape of "Christian Encounter" to their local radio stations and ask them to carry the program. "When the station hears the quality, they will know that they can sell advertising to support the show," he comments. "The churches will not have to put out money for this, but they can generate interest in the gospel by having the show on their local stations," says Crawford. For more information, write or call Don Crawford: Hollywood Church of Christ, 600 N Rossmore, Los Angeles, CA 90004, (213) 463-6352.

Pepperdine Students Take Summer for Missions

Every year since Pepperdine opened in 1972, the Malibu Church, which meets on campus, has sponsored students who want to do mission work during their summer break. This year, over 20 students are participating in this mission effort. They make up three teams going to: Montevideo, Uruguay, Moscow, Russia, and Heidelberg, Germany. Each team will be overseas for six weeks, and they work through a 16 week training program before their departure.

Regan Harwell is the team leader for the Moscow group. "This is the fourth year for a Pepperdine team to go to Moscow to teach," reports Regan. "With the stability we have from past summer groups and with the work of Pepperdine students who have stayed to work with the church such as Brad Cupp, we are looking forward to a fruitful time of evangelism."

Greg Gilham leads the team for Uruguay, and he says, "This is our first year to go to Montevideo, and we are excited about the opportunities there." Scott Lambert, who oversees the Malibu church's campus ministry, will direct the team to Heidelberg, Germany. Kim Lambert, Scott's wife, has worked as the coordinator of the "Let's Start Talking" program which these teams will use in their evangelism efforts.

"Let's Start Talking" is a one-on-one Bible study program which teaches the English language through learning to read the Bible. Kim reports that there are three other teams on the West Coast who are going to use "Let's Start Talking" this summer for mission efforts: The Sunny Hills Church of Christ, the Fresno Church of Christ and the Turnpike Road Church of Christ in Santa Barbara. The Culver Palms Church of Christ is using this program to reach their own community on Wednesday nights (more on this in the next issue of PCN). See photo of students on back cover.



On Sunday, March 6, the Turnpike Road Church of Christ in Santa Barbara celebrated a Mortgage Burning after almost 20 years in its "new" building. The congregation organized a grand homecoming of many members who have moved away, and the minister of 20 years ago, Dr. Jerry Rushford, preached the Sunday morning sermon on "The Powerful Proclamation." The homecoming included a luncheon, and then 25 of those who had originally signed the note to borrow the money for the building lit the mortgage paper on fire and watched it turn to ashes. "It was a great celebration," one commented, "to think that our faith has become sight, and that so many lives have been blessed." Over 160 attended the homecoming day.

Cascade College Opening Set for August 29, 1994

Cascade College held High School Day for 300 students on March 25-26. The college is looking forward to opening in August after spending the 1993-94 year making the transition from Columbia Christian College to Cascade College, now a branch campus of Oklahoma Christian. Cascade has recently regained its accreditation and is currently interviewing and selecting faculty for a freshman, sophomore, and junior class. The senior level will be added in 1995.

"Rebuilding the Walls," a special contribution campaign has been announced for April 10. This contribution will take place in over 1200 congregations, and each congregation will also give a special contribution toward a \$2000 scholarship for a student from their congregation to attend Cascade College. The \$41,000 goal will be used for start-up costs and servicing the monthly bond payments, reports president Don Gardner. "We're looking to Nehemiah's work of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem as our model for Cascade College," said Brad Fisher, Director of Development for the college.

Western States' Family Encampment—Summer 1994

June 25-29
Red River Encampment
Theme: "Restoring the American Character: Studies in the Ten Commandments"
Contact: Jerry E. Lawlis
(714) 564-3873

June 29-July 2
Great Northwest Evangelism Workshop
Contact: Rowena Hanson
(206) 848-2632

July 10-13
Grand Canyon Encampment
Theme: "Pure Religion in a Profane World: Pictures of the Christian Life from the Book of James"

Contact: Pat White,
(602) 956-3430

July 24-29
Yosemite Family Encampment—last one in Yosemite Valley
Theme: "A Practical Faith That Really Works"
Contact: Paul Methvin,
(916) 989-4885



Pepperdine students prepare to spend summer doing mission work. Three teams will go to Uruguay, Russia, and Germany using the "Let's Start Talking" Bible study format. Front Row: Jon Johnston, Beth Sewall, Kari Larson, Andy Ciarrocchi, Jode Osgood, Greg Gillham, Timothy Jang; Back Row: Kim Lambert, Nikole Du Temple, Michael Brummett, Regan Harwell, Trevor Reynolds, Kristy Spicer, Dyann Collins, Scott holding Luke Lambert.

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