

CrossTalk

"In the garden, Autumn is, indeed the crowning glory of the year, bringing us the fruition of months of thought and care and toil. And at no season, save perhaps in Daffodil time, do we get such superb colour effects as from August to November."

Rose G. Kingsley

A Monthly Newsletter

November 2008

It is the Olympic year and we have oohed and aahed at the opening ceremonies, parade of nations and the Olympic village. It is the stage where we are dazzled by athletic prowess, gold medals and new world records. But are the ones who receive a gold medal the only ones who win? Is it really about winning the gold and obtaining the gold standard? We see the end result. We celebrate with the national anthem when gold is around the neck of Michael Phelps or Shawn Johnson. But how difficult is the journey to get gold? If you were on this journey, fell down or didn't qualify for the finals, would you be willing to get back up and try again? Would you be willing to persevere even though at first you didn't succeed? Though we have been inspired by the accomplishments of the athletes, it is their character of determination and perseverance that we fail to admire. To become the gold standard they must pick themselves up and continue to push through even on the toughest of days. We too must do the same. We must "run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith" (Heb 12:1-2). He has endured the cross for our sake and for that reason we can persevere to the end.

~ Wade Forde

Taking a look back



A common attribute associated with California is the beach. The beach can be an escape from the reality of our everyday lives. By stepping foot on the sand, you forget about the world behind you and all you can think about is finding that perfect spot to lay down your towel and relax...thanks largely in part to the traffic you just fought to get to the beach.

Crosswalks main attribute is our community, and as the leaders of Crosswalk say, "...life together is this over arching idea that relationships are vital to life. By sharing our life with others, while others share and invest in us, we experience relationships in the way God created them. Doing life together is this thread that weaves throughout all that we are as a community."

When you combine the beach and the Crosswalk community, you get an experience that can rival any trip to the beach.

A few weeks ago, between 60 and 70 people gathered to enjoy each other's company over free food and to praise God. Whether you were there for the free food or the fellowship,



you were having a good time and walked away as a part of the Crosswalk family.

If you were new to Crosswalk, you experienced the opportunity to make new friends. If you were a member of the Crosswalk community, you learned something new about someone else that you might not have otherwise learned had you not gone to beach vespers. No matter how you sliced it, if you were there you connected with someone and in

return touched someone else's life whether you knew it or not.

The Bible says to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. As the sun set to close out the Sabbath, the Crosswalk community restored peace with God and with one another as they gathered in one unified voice to praise God through song and laughter that infectious spread to neighboring parties. As the evening ended, many were already talking about the next beach vespers.

- contributed by Paul Coleman



Anniversary Party

I arrived late to church a few months ago and happened to run into Pastor Michael. Feeling guilty and embarrassed at my tardiness I managed to mumble some kind of excuse or apology of sorts, for being late. "Oh," Michael replied encouragingly, "You're not late. You are right on time!" While I can't say I remember the sermon that day, I've thought a lot about what he said. It's true. Any time is the right time to connect with God. Jesus craves our friendship. He longs to spend time with us. He made the first move, "... While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8 KJV)

I appreciate what Pastor Wade recently shared regarding prayer. God's presence is one of His greatest gifts to us. I know I have had Sabbaths when I didn't even want to get out of bed let alone go to church. Jesus understands our frailty. Jesus had his struggles too. "During the days of Jesus' life on earth he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and once, made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him..." (Hebrews 5: 7-9 NIV). E.G. White follows up on this theme...

They (us) are "made partakers of the divine nature, and grow more and more like their Saviour, advancing step by step in conformity to the will of God, till they reach perfection."

One of my favorite verses encourages us with this thought, "This is then how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in His presence, whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and He knows everything." (1 John 3:20 NIV) I am not advocating we arrive late at church every week. What I am saying, is that when we choose to put ourselves in a place of spiritual connection and renewal, God honors that choice, despite what we may be feeling. You are a gift you can give back to God. His word says, "For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have." (2 Corinthians 8:12 NIV) I believe this is true in the spiritual as well as the material. The Bible tells us that this earth is a battle ground. God offers us His armor of protection and grace. We are easily distracted. Yet, we have a standing invitation with the Omnipotent. In both private and public worship, whenever we arrive, we can have the calm assurance that God is already there... waiting.

- contributed by Linda Brousson

Calendar Highlights

Social Activities

1 November Blue Jean Sabbath 1:00 pm
1 November CW's 5 Year Anniversary 1:00 pm
8 November Gimbi Send Off Lunch 1:00 pm
10 November Kids Club 9:30 am

Praise & Worship Services

28 November Friday Night Praise 7:30 pm

Leadership Meetings

Staff Meeting: Every Tuesday 9:15 am
Vine Teachers Meeting: 7:00 pm
5 November
Leadership Meeting:
26 November 7:00 pm

Saturday Worship is held at 9:00 am and 11:30 am. — The Vine classes start at 10:20 am and go to 11:20 am.

Gimbi Send Off Lunch



The caravan that consisted of 11 people traveled down to San Onofre State Beach with the determination to make a difference in the environment. They were a lively bunch ready for action with their litter grabbers. The park ranger emphasized the importance of picking up anything Styrofoam and nurdles. Nurdles are tiny un-recyclable plastic pellets and a major contributor to marine pollution, frequently finding their way into the digestive tracts of various marine creatures.

The volunteers swooped towards anything that looked harmful to the environment with the ferocity of a hawk going after prey. This included bottles and cans, ropes, fishing lines, asphalt, and even brake pads from a car. The mighty 11 felt like they were contributing to the environment until they discovered a giant mound of seaweed that had been washed ashore covered in Styrofoam and the ever annoying nurdles. It was a devastating blow to their morale as they tried to pick the entrenched Styrofoam and tiny nurdles from the seaweed. "If only we had more people," became the comment of the afternoon.

After a couple hours of work, the group ended their war with pollution with five full garbage bags consisting mainly of plastic and Styrofoam. When they assessed the final outcome, they were pleased with their work and the amount of garbage they had managed to save the marine life. If you would like to learn how you can help fight the war against plastic and Styrofoam, please visit www.nonurdles.com for more information. Please let one of the Crosswalk leaders know if you are interested in participating in another beach clean up. If eleven people could pick up the amount of garbage they did, imagine what the whole Crosswalk community could achieve.

- contributed by Jeff Gang

Getting To Know You



Name and Age:
 Laurel Kelln, 18 years old.

What do you do when you're not at church?

When I am not attending church I am doing one of three things; shopping, reading, or working.

What do you like about CrossWalk?

I perceive Crosswalk to be more liberal than most SDA churches, and on that basis alone I am convinced that it is the right church for me. I don't feel as if members of the congregation are constantly judging one another based on their apparel, piercing's, questions, etc. Moreover, I absolutely love the music services at Crosswalk. They are upbeat and always lift my spirits.

Would you change anything about CrossWalk, if so what?

Honestly, I believe that Crosswalk is making a valid effort in all areas of its ministries to be the most productive, caring, giving, loving church that it can be.

Being a young person what is the importance of being actively involved in the church?

When you become actively involved within any church you feel as if you are part of family, and that feeling is priceless. When you selflessly dedicate your time to the church and others God blesses you. Furthermore, it is especially valuable for our generation, myself included, to learn that our small needs are not the most important in the universe.

- contributed by Jamie Perchez

Community Events



September 5 - 28 Los Angeles County Fair

Held at the Fairplex in Pomona from Wednesdays to Sundays only. For more information see lacountyfair.com.

September 11 Blood Drive

Blood mobile will be at the Auto Club Speedway from 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Address: 9300 Cherry Ave. Fontana. For more info or to make an appointment visit: www.bbsbrc.org or call 1-800-879-4484.

September 20 Veggie Tales: God Made You Special

Come see a live performance of the Veggie Tales at the Cross-Roads Church in Corona. Show starts at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$15 at ticketforce.com. For more information please call: 949-250-0444.

September 26, 2008 7:00 PM

Phil Wickham will be performing in Fontana. For more information please call: 909-463-0103.

October 11 Avalon Concert

Avalon will be performing at the Campus Hill Church in Loma Linda. Tickets are available at charitypromotions.org/events/avalon.html.

October 18 We Need Each Other Tour

Santus Real, Tenth Avenue North, VOTA, Sammy Adebisi will be performing at Immanuel Baptist Church in Highland. For more information please call: 480-812-1100.

- contributed by Christianne Duarte

Friday Nite Praise In The Park



Crosswalk Church partnered with Loma Linda University Medical Center's East Campus to provide Friday Night Praise in the Park for the community and patients on August 29 and September 26 this summer. The East Campus is home to the Rehabilitation, Orthopaedic and Neurosciences Institute and has a park and all-abilities playground designed to accommodate live performances. Many of the patients in treatment stay a minimum of two weeks in the hospital and look forward to volunteer visits that provide a positive distraction. One of the patients said, "I have been really depressed about my injury, but I'm inspired to continue rehabbing after the music I heard tonight. God is good." The evenings symbolized exciting opportunities for unique connection with the community and new options for the healing and recovery of East Campus patients. If you didn't get a chance to participate in Friday Nite Praise in the Park, please join us next summer. It is truly an experience you will never forget. We want to give a special thank you to all who worked so very hard to make this evening happen.



- contributed by Jill Payne