

YOUTH



KIDS

KID POWER PLANT

Attention all Families: Bring your kids to join us each and every Sunday morning at 9:30 AM, 11 AM, and 1 PM for the third year of Kid Power Plant where kids experience an exciting, power-packed, interactive worship and learning experience. Here children are inspired to plug into the true Power Source – our loving Lord. If you have any questions, please call 714-971-4087.



KPP NEEDS YOU!

Calling all God-serving individuals who love the Lord and understand the need to bring Biblical truths to our children. Find your niche to serve for the 1st (9:10 AM) and/or 2nd (10:40 AM) hour on Sunday mornings:

- * Volunteer Sunday School Teachers
- * Kiosk Check-In Helpers
- * Tech. Crew

Please contact Children's Ministry Department 714-971-4087 for more information.

BLESS YOUR BABY WITH BAPTISM!

If you are a local attender and have a child or are expecting a child, we invite you to call Maureen Winer in Congregational Life for more information about infant baptism, 714-971-4062.



JR. HIGH STUDENTS

XLR8 TUESDAYS: It's a place where Jr. Highers come together! If you are in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade, XLR8 is where you want to be. We have wild and crazy Tuesday night programming, 7 - 8:30 PM at the Youth House. From 7 - 7:30 PM is Hang Out time. Then, 7:30 - 8:30 PM is Games, Life Topic Teachings, Small Groups, and more!



SUNDAYS: It's for students who really want to deepen their faith. We meet Sundays at 11 AM in the Family Life Center basement, room B22 along with our Sr. Highers for a great time of worship, community, and Bible Teaching.



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

FUEL WEDNESDAYS: FUEL shatters the stereotype that church is boring. FUEL is designed to celebrate life and relationships. FUEL meets Wednesday nights, 7 - 9 PM at the Youth House. From 7 - 7:30 PM is Hang Out time. Then, 7:30 - 9 PM is Games, Life Topic Teachings, Small Groups, and more!

SUNDAY FUEL: It's for students who really want to deepen their faith. We meet Sundays at 11 AM in the Family Life Center basement, room B22 along with our Jr. Highers for a great time of worship, community, and Bible Teaching.



Love God and Love Youth!

If you feel called to encourage our youth on Tues. or Wed. nights, contact Brett DePena for more volunteer details:
714-971-4180



FAMILY SUNDAYS

Parking: Families park next to Family Life Center and take shuttle to church!

Shuttle: Stops next to Family Life Center and other spots around campus!

Quiet Room: In the Tower Lobby, watch the service with your child.



Contact Student Ministries
Brett DePena, Director
crystalcathedral.org/ccsm
or e-mail:
ccsm@crystalcathedral.org
714-971-4180

ADULT Ministries



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WEEKDAY "WOMEN'S NETWORK"

Join us for a creative Bible study unlike any other. Discover life-changing Biblical truths, and enjoy the sense of community of other women on their spiritual journeys. The mornings include singing, sharing, praying, stimulating object lessons, and small group time. Leader Rhea Zakich creates each lesson anew and facilitates this time of inspiration and insight. All are welcome! Tuesdays, February 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 9 AM in the Art Gallery. Questions? Call Kari, 714-971-4080.

EVENING "SOUL FOOD"

Friday evenings, February 6, 13, 20, and 27, 6:30 to 8:30

PM in the Family Lounge, join Kim Kimpel for a refreshing time of fellowship, prayer, and community. Currently reading and discussing "The Shack." Info: 714-971-4240.

For Working Women & All!



LUNCH HOUR "WOMEN AT THE WELL"

Come be a part of an energized group of women who want to drink of the "Living Water" that Jesus provides to anyone willing to come and drink. Every Wednesdays at noon on FLC-3 we gather to engage in a lively book discussion to discern the message the Lord is giving each of us from our readings. This

month on Feb. 4, 11, 18, and 25. For info, call leader Louise Dunn, 714-971-4045.

MEN'S NETWORK

MEN'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

If you would like the support of other men experiencing your same life-stage journey, call 714-971-4236 for details.

BAND OF BROTHERS: Monday evenings, 7 - 9 PM, Family Life Center, Rm. 435.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Wednesday mornings, 7 AM, Tower of Hope, Floor 2.

MEN'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP: Saturday mornings, 7 AM, Family Life Center, Rm. 221.



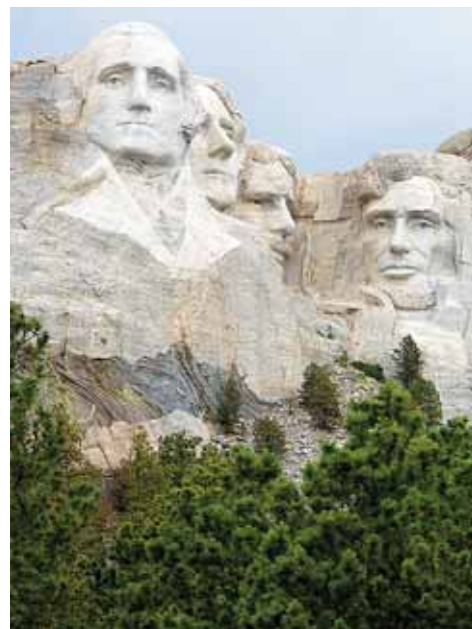
SINGLES

SINGLES FELLOWSHIP: SUNDAYS & TUESDAYS

Every Sunday, 11 AM in FLC-470, mature singles do their very best to portray love to each other and to every new person who enters the doorway, and share the wisdom of the Word as applied to everyday living. Every Tuesday, 7 PM in FLC-3, they do the same during "Tuesdays Together." On Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings at the Crystal Cathedral, find some of the best people in the world just waiting to be your friend.

DIVORCE & GRIEF RECOVERY: PHASE 1

Led by Sharon Lockett and George Hansel, Thursdays, 6:30 PM, February 12 - March 26 in



Family Life Center, Rm. 470, this positive approach to dealing with the loss of a relationship is a life-changing healing experience. Call 714-971-4084 to register. \$50/pre-register; \$55/@door. Children's program available. Phase 2 will be held April 2 - May 14.

TRAVEL MINISTRY

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

Thurs., Feb. 12, 11:30 AM, Art Gallery. Following a delicious luncheon, enjoy a special presentation about upcoming Travel Ministry tours. Join fellow Crystal Cathedral travelers as you dream of future adventures ahead. Cost: \$10. RSVP: 714-544-5679. Future luncheons: March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11.

PAGEANT OF OUR LORD

Sun., March 29, 1-6:30 PM, \$33. Enjoy this unique presentation of the life of Christ through life-sized paintings and sculptures, utilizing live models within the art, accompanied by original narration, choir, and orchestra. Join in this beautiful blending of art, drama, and music.

HERITAGE OF AMERICA

March 13 to 22, \$2629 dble occ. Fly to New York City and enjoy two days exploring the city your own way using a double-decker bus pass that will take you to the city's most famous attractions and includes a guided tour along the way. We join the group on Day 3 and travel to Philadelphia for a tour of the historic city that includes the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. Day 4 features a tour of Amish Country including dinner in the home of an Amish family. On the days following, visit Gettysburg, the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, Monticello, and Colonial Williamsburg. The tour ends with two days in Washington D.C., where we will visit many attractions including Mount

SAVE THE DATE!
Women's Easter Lunch
Saturday, April 4, 11:30 AM



Vernon, the Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery and the White House Visitor's Center. The memories of this historic tour will stay with you for a lifetime.

CANADIAN ROCKIES BY RAIL

May 18-27, \$3899 pp. Fly to Vancouver to start your 10-day tour filled with exciting stops including British Columbia, Vancouver, Victoria, Kamloops, Jasper, Columbia Ice Fields, Lake Louise, Banff, and Calgary.



SOUTH DAKOTA: BLACK HILLS & BADLANDS

Aug. 13-19, \$1929 pp. Your 7-day tour starts in Rapid City, SD, with visits to Mt. Rushmore, Deadwood, Crazy Horse Memorial, Custer State Park, Wall Drug Store, and the Badlands National Park.

PAGEANT OF THE MASTERS

Aug. 23, \$69 pp. When a painter faces a blank canvas or a sculptor confronts a block of stone, where do they look for inspiration? "The Muse." This 2009 event in Laguna Beach will devote its uniquely theatrical celebration of the art of living pictures to an exploration of the nature of the artistic inspiration.

SOUTHERN CHARM

Oct. 11-17, \$2589 pp. Highlights include historical Charleston, Boone Hall Plantation, Beau-

fort, Savannah, Factors Walk, a two-night stay at Jekyll Island Club (once described as "the most exclusive...club in the world"), and St. Simons Island.

MORE IN 2009...

Look for more information on other upcoming trips:

- Oak Glen, 10/23/09.
- Sequoia & Kings Canyon, 11/2/09.
- Christmas in Cambria: 12/1/09.

RESERVATIONS/INFORMATION

Go to the Box Office or call for details and reservations, 714-544-5679. Find more information online at www.crystalcathedral.org/ministries/travel. Trips and pricing are subject to change.

MATURE ADULTS

JOIN US FOR "HEART TALK"

On Thursday, Feb. 19, 11:30 AM in the Arboretum, celebrate love and healthy hearts. Sue Henke, R.N., Manager of the Saint Joseph Hospital Vascular Institute and Heart Center, will provide the latest info on managing your lifestyle and making changes to improve overall cardiac and vascular health. Other highlights include Dr. Sandra Herron with more "Brain Food," fellowship, singing, and a wonderful catered lunch (\$5 @ door). To reserve lunch, please call 714-971-4031 or e-mail 50plus@crystalcathedral.org. Be sure to bring your friends and neighbors!



MATURE ADULTS
Dr. Jim Kok, Pastor

MEN'S & WOMEN'S
Michelle Cavinder, Director

TRAVEL
Rev. Glenn DeMaster, Pastor

COME IN & BE INSPIRED

CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS

OPEN DAILY 9AM-6PM

Offering a wide range of inspirational items - books, music, toys, jewelry, home decorations, and more!

Lovely Settings for Your Special Day

Crystal Cathedral Weddings

What could be more glorious than a wedding in the light-filled Crystal Cathedral or beautiful Arboretum? Or more serene than in the Good Shepherd garden? Or more exhilarating than in the Chapel atop the Tower of Hope? These and other settings available.

Call 714-971-4240

Cora continued from page 4

Despite her efforts, Cora became more and more dependent upon help from her husband. She was frustrated with herself. Then one day her sister saw her fumbling to find something and gently offered, "Can I help you find something?" Cora broke down crying. And she accepted her sister's help – not just physically, but also in her heart.

God was talking to Cora. In Cora's understanding, he said to her, "I am your friend. Trust me. Surrender all to me. Just wait and see what wonderful things I will do for you!"

"Learning to obey the Lord," Cora told me, "is like being a dog on a leash. The harder you fight to go your own way, the tighter the leash gets! My stubbornness was just making things more difficult for me. All I had to do was to surrender to him."

All her life Cora had sung the words of the hymn, "I surrender all... all to Jesus I surrender." However, at this point the words took on a completely new meaning. "We sing it so easily in church, but do we really think about what we're singing? I didn't." Until she learned to accept that she couldn't work or walk or see.

"I can't do anything!" Cora told the Lord. She felt totally worthless.

"You can pray!" he answered.

"But that's not doing anything," Cora replied. "My legs aren't working and my hands aren't moving."

Jesus led Cora into the garden of prayer with him. She recalled to me, "I saw my life before me: sins I never asked forgiveness for, relationships that I thought others had ruined, but I realized it was me. I confessed these things to

Christ and he forgave me and told me that he loved me. I dropped that baggage! I stopped being so busy. I stopped distracting myself with trivia shows on television. I took hold of Jesus' hand."

Instead being impatient to finish praying so she could get things done, Cora learned to be at peace and just talk with Jesus. She delighted in the beauty of his garden and his face. She learned to live by the song she sang on her father's knee as a little girl: "Trust and obey for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus..."

Over and over Cora sang hymns. She even made up her own songs to sing to the Lord! "Great is thy faithfulness is my favorite!" she exclaimed to me. "That song came to me so often. Here in Lamentations, one of the saddest books of the Bible, comes such a pearl of joy! The Lord has showed me many pearls during these trials since my legs stopped working and my eyes couldn't see. I'm able to see so much of God in everything in life now."

Read Cora's words again: "I'm able to see so much of God in everything in life now."

A miracle has happened! Cora can work and walk and see – in prayer with Jesus!

Cora says that her bonus blessing is that recently her sight has started to come back in one eye! And she's going to return as a New Hope Counselor either through her home computer or the new telephone counselor-at-home program. She is so excited about this because she loves it when God uses her to minister to others.

I hope God has used Cora's story to encourage you as he has me!

(For more on New Hope, see pg. 6.)

Poit continued from page 1

ers, preaching and singing in the evening worship service, playing music with C3, the Sunday school and VBS teachers praying with the children to accept Christ for the very first time – these and many other wonderful events will always be imprinted upon our minds. We wish we could recall them all now but they are too numerous to list.

I know that our children will deeply miss their friends in Sunday school and in the Academy (upon completion of this school year). They have felt love and embraced by the teachers and the students. They enjoyed singing in the choirs, playing in the band, acting in the dramas, and dancing in the programs. They loved the Sunday school lessons; learning about faith and life. In many ways, they felt that the church and the school was their home away from home. Linda will miss her volunteers and Jim will miss the fun we all had in the school chapel, using the students to help with the messages.



Jim Poit with Lampson School students during a Community Missions outreach event.

Every week for two and a half years, someone from the congregation, without fail, would say to Jim, "Pastor, I am praying for you and your family." We cherished those prayers and continually felt the power of God's presence on our lives and in the ministry that you all entrusted us with. Thank you for letting us into your lives. Thank you for walking with us on the path of faith and teaching us about what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Please pray for us as we enter a new season in our lives and begin a new adventure. We are not yet sure what God has in store for us but we know that His hand is always upon us. We thank my God every time we remember you. In all our prayers for all of you, we always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:3-6).

Blessings!



Memorial Gardens Cemetery

We're here for you, with staff members who will listen and care for you, answering all of the questions you may have during your time of need.

714-971-4138

www.crystalcathedral.org/resources/memorial_gardens

DECEMBER 2008 INTERMENTS

Cho, Chun Sh i 12/06/08
King, Eric Winston 12/30/08

STAY IN TOUCH

Crystal Cathedral 714-971-4000
E-Mail info@crystalcathedral.org
Web Site crystalcathedral.org
Prayer Community crystalcathedral.org/prayer
One Community crystalcathedral.org/community

New Hope Hotline
24-hr. phone counseling 714-New-Hope or 639-4673
Web Site newhopenow.org
TeenLine, 4-10 PM, M-F 714-New-Teen or 639-8336
Web Site teenline.org

Rancho Capistrano 949-347-4000
E-Mail info@ranchocapistrano.org
Web Site ranchocapistrano.org

Rancho Capistrano

The South Campus of the Crystal Cathedral Ministries

Begin Your Marriage in God's Spiritual Oasis
Valentine Engagement? A Wedding to Come?

Our private property provides a wedding oasis for your dream winter wedding. Because we have so many different venues, you can have a magical wedding any time of year! Picture strolling mariachis at your hors d'oeuvres reception, a string quartet in the sanctuary for your ceremony, and dancing the night away under the stars at the plaza. Your out-of-town guests will appreciate the overnight accommodations, and you may even choose to enjoy breakfast with them the next morning.

One way to save is by having a morning wedding ceremony, followed by a late morning or early afternoon reception. The facility fee lower than in the evenings, and meals are less expensive. The sun is shining high in the sky, and in the winter months, it's a lot warmer!

"The Ranch" is unique among wedding facilities; everything you need is in one beautiful place! Please call our Wedding Department at 949-347-4000.

Conference Center

Grow in Your Understanding of Yourself, Others & God

The peaceful and relaxing atmosphere of a beautifully landscaped resort, with the meeting facilities of a fully equipped conference room, and the dining experience of a top-quality Banquet facility - that's what you'll find at Rancho Capistrano's Conference Center.

Our 170-acre property is filled with towering palms, shady eucalyptus trees, and green rolling hills. Highlighting the conference center is its blue shimmering lake, which encompasses a gazebo island filled with flowers and friendly, meandering ducks. The Spanish architecture features mission-style fountains, terra-cotta tiles, and exquisite details of colorfully painted designs.

Call 949-347-4000, and ask to speak to our Conference Sales Manager or e-mail seminars@ranhocapistrano.org for details.

At Our Spiritual Oasis...

- ⇒ *Organizational Meetings and Banquets.*
- ⇒ *Church and Team-Building Retreats.*
- ⇒ *Athletic and Recreational Activities.*

- ⇒ *Family Blessings, Celebrations, and Life Commemorations.*
- ⇒ *Weddings, Receptions, and Rehearsal Dinners.*

Ropes Challenge Course

Build Team Trust & Communication

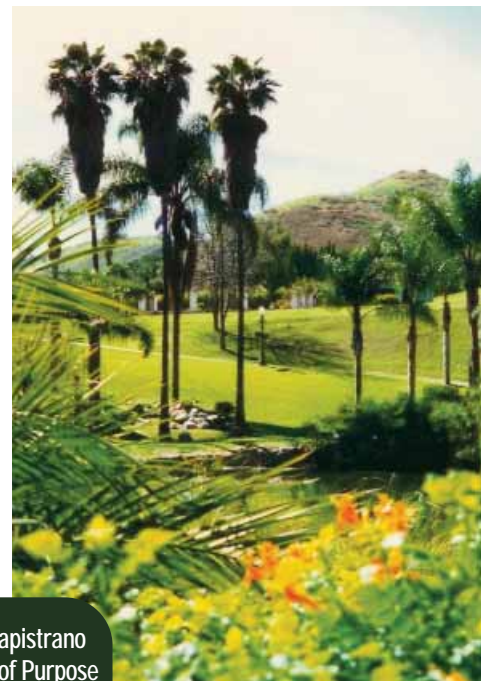
Our Ropes Challenge Course Programs, facilitated by Challenge-U, can be comprised of Low Ropes, High Ropes, or both. The low ropes are a series of problem-solving activities that ask a team to come together to complete a task. The group's current team dynamics are evident as each participant discovers, develops, and practices new skills as they move through the exercises.

The high ropes course takes "challenge" to a higher level, up to 40 feet off the ground. With the support of trained technical staff and their teammates on the ground, a harnessed climber creates the opportunity to experience the value of risk taking in a safe environment. Both the climber and the ground team experience what is possible when courage replaces fear, and when trust, support, and communication are the foundation of teamwork.



Rancho Capistrano Christian Preschool
Year-Round Care & Nurture for Your Preschooler

Rancho Capistrano Christian Preschool is accredited with ACSI; Association of Christian Schools International as of May 2002. Our year-around preschool classes offer a developmental curriculum where students learn by doing, touching, tasting, watching, and listening. A Junior Kinder-



Rancho Capistrano Statement of Purpose

To be a "spiritual oasis" where people may find peace and balance of mind, body and spirit, and grow in the understanding of themselves, others and God.

garten Program is also available. The Chapel curriculum includes Bible and flannel stories, hands-on experiences including drama, hand signs, puppets prayer, weekly verses, and music. Each classroom provides open-ended art experiences as well as sequenced and process art forms. Fine and large motor activities enrich daily schedules with the necessary skills for learning and physical development.

Social skills are developed as the teachers partner with their students to "use their words," express their feelings and discuss their conflicts as well as cooperative experiences. Free choice activities provide the time and opportunity to develop independence as well as inter-dependence within the security and joy of fellowship in a Christian environment. Our 170-acre campus provides many opportunities for exploring God's creation.

The evaluation team from ACSI summarized their visit to the preschool by saying "The best way we can think of to sum up the essence of Rancho Capistrano Christian Preschool is the sense that Christ is meeting you at the gate and extending His hand to you with the greeting, 'Come and walk with Me!'"

For more information about Rancho Capistrano's Christian Preschool programs, please call 949-347-4023.

Compiled by Darlene Grimes, Marketing Director
949/347-4000 info@ranhocapistrano.org
www.ranhocapistrano.org
29251 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Hour of Power
in Southern California

Sundays @ 7 AM , FOX 11
Sundays @ 8 AM , Lifetime
Saturdays @ 6 PM , TBN

Tell neighbors,
family & friends!

Care continued from page 6

a new song in your mouth (Psalm 40:3).

I will always love you (Jeremiah 31:3) and there's nothing that can ever separate you from my love (Romans 8:38-39).

One day soon I will wipe away your tears and take away your pain (Revelation 21:3-4) and reward you for all the good that you've done in my name (Revelation 22:12). And we will be together forever in the heavenly home that I have prepared for you (John 14:2). It is more beautiful and more wonderful than you can imagine (Revelation 21:10-27).

Love, God

PS. If it's hard for you to trust my words and to receive my love in your heart then I urge you to work through this with one of my ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20) and to get involved in a caring community in the body of Christ where you can grow into my love (Romans 12:5).

(This excerpt from the "Love Letter from God" has posted on NewHopeNow.org. To find the complete letter, click on "Article Archive" and scroll down to the "Spirituality" category.)

CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL FAMILY COUNSELING CENTER

What We Say Makes a Difference!

By Burt Winer, MBA, MA, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

Insights from Proverbs are very specific in the effect of what we say on our communication and therefore our relationships.

- *A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*
- *He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.*
- *Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.*
- *The lips of the righteous know what is fitting, but*

Gathering continued from page 1

ering Community in the new location is scheduled to be held on May 3. The actual location is yet to be announced, though Bobby shared that he is looking in the Old Towne Orange area.

The Gathering's pastor, who recently received his M.Div degree from Fuller Theological Seminary, recalled the roots of his ministry, sharing, "Our dream in starting this place (in 2004) was to create a home for people who seek a deep and intimate encounter with God and desire to create lifelong friendships. Simply put, it's a church. It's not just a Bible study, or just a service for the ambitious heart, but it's a real church; a small one, but a real one."

During his announcement to the congregation,

the mouth of the wicked only what is perverse.

- *From the fruit of his lips, a man is filled with good things as surely as the work of his hands rewards him.*
 - *From the fruit of his mouth, a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied.*
 - *Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.*
 - *It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.*
 - *As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.*
 - *The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.*
- Without wood, a fire goes out; without gossip, a quarrel dies down.*

We'll Help You to Make a Difference!

By Burt Winer, MBA, MA, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

Helping you develop a style to apply God's biblical wisdom to your life, like that found in Proverbs, is a major role the Counselors at the Family Counseling Center can play for you and your family.

Counselors are available to help couples, families and individuals during life-changing events including pre-marital, marital, family, career, grief and every day coping issues. The Family Counseling Center Team includes counselors with special interests in parents, children, adolescents, career development, stress management, relationships, recovery and more. Bilingual counselors available.

Parenting with Loving Control (PLC) Multi-family Sessions are available in Spanish and English in the Orange County Area by calling 714-538-6387; learn ways to bring your family together by using caring techniques in a proven program.

Pre-Marital or Marital Communication Sessions are held with information available through the below number. The focus is to reach out to each

Bobby shared that, once the move is made, "We are going to continue doing all the things that we're currently doing in The Gathering. We're just going to up it a step to include even more outreach to the community. We're going to change the way church is normally done – it will be more of a movement, than a church. It will be a grassroots effort."

In describing the relationship between the Crystal Cathedral church and The Gathering church, Bobby once said, "They love us, and we love them. We have worked both independently and as a team to further the blessed kingdom of God on Earth." In his recent announcement he explained, "We are moving off the Crystal Cathedral site in the spirit of love and will continue to support the Cathedral in whatever way we can."

"We value many things, but what I've seen is a

ministry, the Academy and community with affordable counseling on a sliding scale. Counselors are available for Individual, Couple, Family, Child and Group sessions. Speakers are available to church and community groups on the topics indicated above.

Call the Family Counseling Center at 714-971-4222 for an appointment and a counselor will return the call.

SUPPORT GROUPS

No Cost – Just Show Up!

For more information about these groups sponsored by Crystal Cathedral Care Ministries, call 714-971-4098.

A.C.A. (Co-ed): Thu., 7:30 PM, FLC-236. Adult children of alcoholic parent(s), journaling focus.

ACES: 1st Tue., 7 PM, FLC-234. Advocates for Children in Enforcement of child Support.

AL-ANON (Men); Thu., 8 PM, FLC-230.

AL-ANON (Co-ed); Fri., 8 PM, FLC-230.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: 4th Fri., 1 PM T-3. Caregivers support group.

BEREAVED PARENTS/USA: 3rd Mon., 7 PM, FLC-235. Those who have lost a child (of any age).

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS (COED): Tue., 8 PM, FLC-221. Overcoming.

MEN AT PEACE: Thu., 7:30 PM, FLC-FRH3. Dealing with anger and/or depression. (May meet court-ordered requirements; check with officer of the court.) Led by Dave Meyer.

SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE: 1st/3rd Sun., 1:30 PM, T-2. Adults who have lost loved one to suicide.

THE UNWELCOME JOURNEY: Thursday, 7 PM, FLC-3. Widowed persons group.

desire for purpose," says Bobby. "to be aware and active socially in our local community and environment, to experience community and build it all around, loving God, and loving others. We also celebrate the diversity of individuals, their opinions, and their spiritual journeys. Many of us hope and pray that, over the years, The Gathering will have a profound impact in the lives of the poor and disenfranchised, will stand against injustice, will live moral and ethical lives, and will be a bright symbol of Christ's abounding love and peace in Orange County."

The Gathering meets Sundays at 11 AM in the Arboretum on the Crystal Cathedral campus. Podcasts of Sunday messages are available at www.oc-gathering.com

MORE NEWS

Dr. Robert Parris in FREE Concert

By Sean Groombridge, Crystal Cathedral Senior Organist

On Sunday, February 8 at 7:30 PM in the Crystal Cathedral, hear the magnificent 16,000+ pipe Hazel Wright organ played by extraordinary organist, Dr. Robert Parris. Admission is free!

Dr. Parris is a native of Virginia. He holds degrees from the University of North Carolina and Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester, and has done post-doctoral study in Boston and northern Germany. He is the Charles B. Thompson Professor of Music and the University Organist of Mercer University, where he was appointed to the faculty in 1979. Dr. Parris also serves as an active concert organist and can be found performing at concerts and recitals around the world.

Join Dr. Parris for a wonderful free concert that will lift your spirit and encourage your soul.



Enjoy "The Tales of Hans Christian Anderson"

The Crystal Cathedral Jr. High School presents Hans Christian Anderson, the storyteller who takes us back to journey through some of his most famous stories with the morals that they teach. There's The Tin Soldier and Dancing Paper Doll, The Swineherd and the Princess, The Ugly Duckling, and The Little Mermaid. Performance dates are Feb. 7, 13 and 14 at 7 PM, Feb. 8 and 15 at 1:30 PM. Ticket prices are \$6/child and \$8/adult at the door.

Put Your IRA to Work, Helping Your Crystal Cathedral

Exciting announcement – a new law now allows people who are 70 ½ years and older to make a gift of up to \$100,000 from a traditional or Roth IRA, not subject to income tax! The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, the main feature of which is the bailout package, also extends certain portions of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 that expired on 12/31/2007. The centerpiece of the legislation from a gift planning perspective is the IRA Rollover.

At 70 ½ years old, owners of IRAs must begin taking taxable distributions from their plans. (Remember that IRAs were never intended to avoid taxes, only to defer them.) At 70 ½ it is time to pay the piper. Many people will, therefore, find it more advantageous to use their IRAs to make charitable gifts, than to make gifts from other resources.

This opportunity applies only to gifts made during 2008 and 2009. The transfer of the funds must be made directly by your plan administrator.

If you would like to further explore the possibility of supporting the Crystal Cathedral Congregation Endowment Fund, please call Bonnie Balloch at 714-971-4039.

Please also consider naming the Crystal Cathedral Congregation Endowment Fund as a beneficiary of a portion of the amount left in your IRA at the time of your death. Generally, it is better to leave IRA assets to charity, and cash and stocks to family.



China continued from page 1

during the extraordinary service. Professor Xu Jialu expressed his sincere gratitude for the friendship and kindness that Crystal Cathedral Ministries has extended to China and its people, and especially for the heartfelt support for disabled orphans and education for children in poor, underdeveloped, rural areas in China through our "Dream for China" project.

Xu Jialu says he is deeply impressed by Dr. Schuller's commitment and dedication to his Christian philosophy of "finding a need and filling it" and "finding a hurt and healing it," now extending all the way around the world, to even rural areas in China. Xu Jialu said he realized that,

even at 82 years of age, Dr. Schuller is still fighting with all of his energy, gifts, heart, power, and scholarly intellect - along with faith, focus, and follow-through - to do something beautiful for God, encouraging people to not lose their hope, and to have faith in a better, brighter, higher world.

When Dr. Schuller asked Xu Jialu when the Hour of Power might be broadcast on television in China, Xu Jialu made a promise. He shared that everyone in this high-caliber Chinese delegation would now go back to China and do everything they could to support and recommend this dream of Dr. Schuller to the highest levels of the Chinese government. Xu Jialu added with a sincere smile and twinkle in his eyes, "If you can dream it, you can do it!"



This distinguished delegation from China brings hope for a future of expanded Hour of Power influence in China.

LOVE continued from page 1

Christian life. It is not one of the most important things – it is the ONE thing.

If we loved the way God wanted us to love, we wouldn't have to depend on the commandments so much. Because "love... is the fulfillment of the law" (Romans 3:10). This is what the new covenant is all about: "I will put My love within them, and on their heart I will write it..." (Jeremiah 31:33).

When love is generated from the inside, it solves all kinds of problems. The

fruit of the Spirit is love – as well as joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). Love is not one of the elements of the Christian life – it is THE element. Love is life itself.

Love is not one of the elements of the Christian life – it is THE element. Love is life itself.

Are you really aware of the importance of love? Only if you understand this can you be open to God's Spirit. It's like the flour in a cake. You can bake a cake without eggs or salt – but not without flour. Love is the flour - it IS the Christian life.

(This is an excerpt from Juan Carlos Ortiz's book Disciple, Creation House, Strong Communications Co., 1975.)

"One poor widow...gave two mites...
her whole livelihood" Mark 12:41-44

THE JOY OF GIVING

Peggy LaCox Offers "Real Help" to the Hungry

CRYSTAL
CATHEDRAL

By Jim Kok, Pastor of Care Ministries

For over twenty years, Crystal Cathedral volunteers have been feeding the homeless and hungry. Teaming up with other churches, our turn comes up once a month. On that Thursday, we gather at the Garden Grove Friends Church to cook a meal and serve it to those who show up. Usually more than 100 come to eat.

Peggy LaCox is our new cook and team leader. She will plan the menu, buy the food, and organize that day's feeding event. She has been helping for several years. She obviously has a heart for the needy as it bothered her noticeably when it looked as if we might have to drop out of this ministry. She will "keep it simple" she promised. "That way we won't be overwhelmed with shopping and storage."

Peggy is a retired legal assistant, and then an account representative for Hewlett Packard. She and her husband (Dick) moved here about ten years ago from Louisville, Kentucky. Their three sons, young adults, have followed them.

Peggy grew up in the Methodist Church but most of her adult life she was a member of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Her church shopping, after moving here, led her through our doors one Sunday morning, and right away she knew this was her place. Since then she has joined the Hospitality Group

She obviously has a heart for the needy as it bothered her noticeably when it looked as if we might have to drop out of this ministry.



and serves as a "greeter" at the Cathedral doors on Sunday morning.

New joy and enthusiasm has been generated in the Real Help Hot Meal Program by Peggy's volunteering to lead. Her pleasant nature and warm, out-going personality, along with good health (which she maintains by walking every day and going to the gym) are definite assets for the ministry venture she is leading. We thank The Lord for Peggy LaCox!

Volunteers Needed

There is a little lifting involved like pots full of water and food needing to be raised to the top of the stove. So men are appreciated. But any and all willing hands will be welcomed with a smile. Please call 714-971-4068 to volunteer. The other workers, in addition to Peggy LaCox, who have been helping for a long time, are:

Louis & Shirley Massengale
Louise Swain
Marsha DeGon
Tanja Wells
Ruth Cleve
Dottie Cronin
Myrna Beach
Troy Gartin
Drew & Lily Hogg
Mary Lou Maynard
Bob & MaryAnn Watson
Stan & Joan Carpenter
John Allen
Karl Treen
Sam & Grace Hodnett
Nancy North

VOLUNTEER POSSIBILITIES

connect with your church community!



Crystal Cathedral Tour Guides

Give guided walking tours of the Crystal Cathedral to visitors from around the world! Share your knowledge while you share your heart. Shifts available M - F, 9 AM - 4:30 PM, and Sundays as well!

Traffic Ministry Guides

Direct flow of traffic in the Crystal Cathedral parking lot. Greet and guide Sunday Service attendees, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

Kiosk Hosts/Hostesses

Greet people in need of information about programs or classes. Sundays, half-hour prior to service and 10 min. before end of service, then stay until replacement arrives.

Tower Lobby Helpers

Assist in the Tower lobby between 9 AM - 4:30 PM. Answer visitors' questions and phones, direct people to the correct floor, monitor traffic, sort mail, etc.

Crystal Cathedral Ushers

Assist churchgoers to their seats. Meet at either 8:30 or 10:15 AM for instruction and prayer. Be one of the first smiling faces someone sees at the Crystal Cathedral!



Help Young Families Worship!

Our busy young families, who typically worship at 11 AM, need your support. Help is needed in Kid Power Plant, Sundays, 10:45 AM - 12:30 PM. Bless our kids by leading activities & story time.

VOLUNTEER ONLINE

at crystalcathedral.org/volunteer.
Complete a profile and discover ways to become involved!
OR CALL Bonnie Balloch at 714/971-4321.
OR E-MAIL bonnieb@crystalcathedral.org