

CALVARY CALL

Serving God and Our Community for 128 Years



BIG BEAR SUMMER CAMP: "TRUE NORTH" PROVIDES DIRECTION FOR STUDENTS OF ALL AGES

Two weeks of a variety of amazing weather made a week at camp at Big Bear Lake Presbyterian Conference Center a great experience for 16 youth from Calvary. Supported by scholarships from Presbytery and the congregation of Calvary, these young people in two separate weeks, followed the theme of "True North". The first week of camp was 4th-6th graders and Micah Aaron joined an energetic group of kids in games, team building, Bible study and worship under the stars. They ran all over the 8 acre grounds playing soccer and a game called "Under Seige" and digging into the 23rd Psalm in a new and different way. Micah met lots of new kids and got reacquainted with old friends from previous years. They ate wonderful healthy food and were guided by the very talented Tyler and Jun through the scriptures. Brie Bradshaw participated in the L.E.A.D. camp that trained Sr. High youth to assist in worship and small group time as well as working with their peers to dig deeper into the Bible.

The second week was both camp for the Jr. High students (Josiah Aaron, Zach Bengston, Grant Lesch, Deana Stevens, Andrew Stevens, Brandy Leshner, Trina Stevens, and Zena Bengston) but also a week of the L.E.A.D. experience for our Sr. High



L-R front: Pastor Alfred, Josiah Aaron, Zach Bengston, Grant Lesch, Deana Stevens, Brie Bradshaw, Andrew Stevens, Brandy Leshner, Pastor Erin, Trina Stevens, and Zena Bengston Back: Connor Lesch, Jordan Paxton, Deborah Platt, Whitney Stevens, Destiny Boyer, and Izzy Gordon.

students (Brie Bradshaw, Connor Lesch, Jordan Paxton, Deborah Platt, Whitney Stevens, Destiny Boyer, and Izzy Gordon).

Pastor Erin and Pastor Alfred made the trek up the mountain one day during both weeks to meet the leaders and hang out with the kids. It was a great way for Pastor Alfred to see the camp and its beautiful surroundings (and the lake at record low levels) and see the camp in action.

spent time with the L.E.A.D. students and was impressed with their thoughtful reflections on scripture, especially the story of Esther as seen through the lens of the theme passage Psalm 23. He said, *"It was acted out like a play and they were challenged to examine Esther's 'dark valley' and how she trusted that God would see her through."* He added, *"I would not have naturally connected these stories but the students really made it come alive."*

Erin spent time with the Jr. High girls as they learned to be a team by walking on a cable six-inches off the ground and helping each other across between two trees. It looked so

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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

By Jim Almgren

“Seeking to put God’s love into action,
Habitat for Humanity Riverside
brings people together to build homes,
communities and hope.”



Support Habitat’s Restore: Retail with a Purpose

- ⇒ Are you downsizing and looking for a place to donate furniture and home goods that are still in good condition but that you no longer need?
- ⇒ Are you remodeling your home and have items you want to get rid of?
- ⇒ Are you cleaning out your garage in order to free up needed space?
- ⇒ Do you need someone to pick up your goods and give you a tax receipt for your donation?
- ⇒ When you donate used goods, do you want to know that they will be used to help people in need?

All of these needs can be met by a quick call to Habitat for Humanity’s Restore!

Call 951-787-6754, ext. 114, to find out more about how Habitat can help you. They will schedule a pickup and send out a truck with trained personnel to pick up your donated items, plus giving you a tax receipt for your donations.

You will know that your donations will be sold in Habitat’s Restore and the profits will be used to assist qualified, low income families in achieving their dream of homeownership. You will be providing a hand up to the families that Habitat supports.

Calvary has been a covenant supporter of Habitat Humanity, Riverside, for many years now. This is just one more way that we can work together!



Habitat Houses at Ottawa

The three Habitat houses on Ottawa and 11th in Riverside were dedicated on Saturday, June 27, 2015. Jim and Sonja Almgren, and Pastors Alfred and Erin joined Mayor Rusty Bailey, many representatives from the City and County of Riverside, and Habitat for Humanity staff and volunteers to celebrate the completion of these amazing houses for three very deserving families.

Habitat Riverside's Executive Director, Kathy Michalak, was mistress of ceremonies and introduced all the financial partners, including Calvary Presbyterian Church, and stressed that they could not build these kinds of houses without full cooperation and partnerships with government and private corporations, non-profit agencies and faith communities.

Pastor Erin gave a blessing on the house saying that a house really becomes a home when God moves in with us and blesses our family time together and our witness to the community.



The Reynolds



The Mobleys



Mayor Bailey and the Fergusons

One of the finished houses complete with drought tolerant landscaping. Thanks to Jim Almgren for expanding our involvement with



Habitat. It is an important element of our mission in Riverside.



APPROVED! At the June Presbytery meeting at Grace Presbyterian Church in Temecula, we celebrated with Candidate William Lee, after he was examined and approved for ordination. From left: Rev. Lee Ireland, Rev. Tina Blair, Moderator, Rev. Erin Thomas, Jeanella Vennekotter (who helped tutor him for his exams), Rev. Martin Smith, Rev. Sandy Tice, from First Presbyterian who had William under care, and Robert Spitzer, Committee on Ministry.

THANKS TO OUR HABITAT CREW FROM CALVARY WHO HELPED RAISE THE WALLS AND PAINT THE INTERIORS!

Marcie Cook
Jim and Tammy Perod
Chris and Katie Swales
Joanne Herrold and friend
Robert Spitzer
Russ and Judy Lewis
Brad Sackett
Pastor Erin Thomas
Jim and Annie Wooldridge

And Jim and Sonja Almgren for feeding us!

MISSION WEEK—HARD WORK, GREAT JOB! Middle School Students in service for Christ

Our annual Middle School Mission Week was a great success. We did a LOT of hard work in the hot sun and lived to tell about it. We had fun and connected with some great agencies and people. Forty youth, (6th – 8th grade) with 10 leaders from 7 churches spent the entire week going from city to city each day and engaging in different service work. Karen Gordon, Pastor Erin and Destiny Boyer took Josiah Aaron, Chelsea Younglove, and Grant Lesch along for the fun.

Monday we were at Big Bear Camp raking up pine needles and pine cones from around the buildings as part of their fire abatement program. We worked all day and pulled together a huge pile of debris. Just in time as the Pine Fire was roaring just over the next ridge. We had worship outdoors and played team games.

Tuesday was in Claremont hosted by Pastor Rocky Supinger where one group went to Crossroads, a residential home for just released women "Lifers". They are women who have spent over 20 years in prison for a major felony, many times murder in self-defense against a boyfriend or spouse. As they learn to live with others on the outside, they are learning life skills: budgeting, saving money, and job interviews. After we had spent several hours pulling weeds and doing yardwork around their house, we got in a circle and laid hands on them and prayed for them. There were more than a few tears. One of the youth connected with one of the women in a special way. She found out he took a family trip to Italy, and she wants to go there. He described their whole trip in great detail. She called him her "tour guide". They were special women, learning to forgive themselves and start anew. We had a visit from Sister Terry, the tireless nun who founded Crossroads because "Lifers" cannot be released unless they have a place like Crossroads to live. Sister Terry has written over 300 letters on behalf of women in prison who have served their time and many have been released to start a new life.

The other group went to First Presbyterian Pomona and spent time canvassing the neighborhood giving out flyers for local kids to attend their free summer programs. With so many low income families in that area, this was a welcome gesture and the kids got to interact with other kids their age.

Wednesday in Riverside brought 100 degree heat and a hard day of shoveling gravel to improve the streetside landscaping for a woman who was challenged by cancer. She reached out to Habitat for Humanity after she was cited for an unsightly yard. Habitat got all the materials donated and our students swarmed the place. Pulling weeds, leveling the ground, laying down landscape cloth and shoveling a huge pile of gravel for FOUR hours, and running wheelbarrows of gravel around the corner. The students were amazing and kept at it with hardly a break or a complaint. We were really proud of them. And at the end, as we were chugging cold water and catching our breath, we encircled the family and prayed for them. It was a tough day, but a job well done! *(see pics next page)*

Thursday took us to Highland Park hosted by youth leaders Carlos Melger and Blanca Calderon at Inglesia de la Comunidad (PCUSA) to serve at their Food Bank handing out free food to people in the neighborhood. This was a day with a lot of fresh fruit offered and so we were met with many smiles from old people, young people and families. It was on a hot day in a house with no air conditioning and so we were pretty wiped out after 3 hours. But the meal that the congregation's volunteers prepared for us was exceptional: streets tacos, homemade beans and Salvadorian rice and dessert. We were in food heaven and feeling good about helping.

Friday was their reward day. Students brought their families and we converged on a beach in San Clemente to participate in a Surf Camp and just relax! Jason Griffice from San Marino coordinated all the details of the the entire week with pastors, and youth leaders. Thanks to all of you at Calvary for praying for us and supporting us financially. You are great encouragers of your kids! It was Great work! Hard work! Rewarding work! *And fun!*



Lunch crew at Highland Park. And yummy street tacos!

Scenes from our week of service around SoCal



Grant Lesch in the middle of the gravel pile dig.
Karen and Izzy hauling gravel!



Karen Gordon at
Crossroads
Weeds...no weeds!



HOT WORK BUT OH, SO REWARDING TO HELP SOMEONE IN NEED!



Riverside! Cheslea Younglove
front center, Grant Lesch in
back row, Karen and Izzy
Gordon in back on right.

