

Christmas Cheer— West County Style

The Christmas season was a busy time for the WayPointe Community. Many teamed up to spread Christmas cheer throughout the West County area- and beyond.

Feliz Navidad - Joel and Janet Smith traveled south for the Christmas holiday. Thanks to the generosity of WayPointers during our Christmas in October drive, the Smiths carried bundles of joy – pre-wrapped packages for over 100 children of Quintana Roo, Mexico.

Locally, individuals and Clusters alike joined together to celebrate the Good News of Jesus Christ during the Christmas season.

Joining together with a local Mervyn's Department store, a number of folks; Lonnie Allgaier, Lind Davis, Lisa Dowrelio and Misha Hammer acted as adult shoppers assisting young children celebrating for **ChildSpree**. The children, chosen based upon need, were given a morning of shopping worth \$100 at the local Mervyn's Department Store. "It was a rewarding experience, I knew that the Lord was going to bless me as much as the child I escorted," exclaimed Misha. 'The real gift though was when she came up to me and gave me a great big hug.'

Caroling was a great attraction, welcome by many this season. A team of fifteen WayPointers led by Pastor Patrick spent an evening caroling the inmates of the local West County Detention Center.

Another evening of caroling was held by a number from the church bringing Christmas cheer to the over 200 residents of nearby Tara Hills Mobile Home Park.



The El Sobrante Cluster teamed up with the Pre-Natal Council of Richmond to **Adopt-A-Family**. The team worked together to provide Christmas gifts for a single mother and her three children. The gifts were a combination of needed clothing items as well as a special gift for each member of the family.

Brookside Shelter - Adopted by the Hercules Cluster some months ago, the Brookside Shelter its residents and staff were the recipients of a gala Christmas party with food, gifts and caroling. "It was a team' stated Laurie Suttle, 'everyone did what they could to make this the best Christmas ever for many of the residents.'

Starting weeks before, Cluster members secured gift items such as blankets and bath items. "Donations were a bit down this year' exclaimed Laurie, 'but we did the best we could with the church-cluster funding commitment and individuals chipping in. For instance Peggy Stacy really aided the cause by making over 60 scarves."

The team, (Forrest & Francis Drummond, Tisa Hamdani, Lily Azcarrago, Chuck & Peggy Stacy, Senati Hatle) gathered together, and packed over 100 gift bags for the men, women and youth at the Shelter. 'Others met us there to

help,' remarked Laurie.

"It was a great meal, thanks to Chuck and Peggy's cooking' continued Laurie, 'Many of the residents came back for second and third helpings, they couldn't thank us enough. Pastor Patrick lead the residents, staff and our Cluster in a great time of Christmas carols, and then Forrest shared some Gospel thoughts. I reminded them that Jesus was born in a stable, if it were today, He might have been born under a bridge or a freeway on ramp."

"The gifts, simple things really, were accepted with such great pleasure. One man just glowed with his new gloves, others were

overjoyed with fresh new socks. It is always a good experience and feeling to see such appreciation."

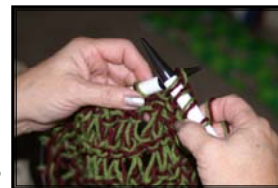
It was agreed by all that one of the greatest times was the ability to share in a time of prayer with many of the Shelter residents. "I believe all of us were totally blessed and we look forward to our ongoing relationship with them throughout the coming year," smiled Laurie.

Knitting Broken Hearts— A Pathway to Purpose

Imagine the love of Jesus Christ wrapped around your shoulders – then you have a picture of one of our newest groups. "While on the internet looking for knitting patterns, I came across an article about a group that meets weekly and knits prayers shawls for others facing tough times in their life,' states Jean Campbell. 'This peaked my interest but I wasn't sure how to start. Then one Sunday, Lily (Lily Azcarraga) asked me to show her how to knit a scarf – she asked again over Thanksgiving, and the Cluster was born.' "Having just completed The Pathway To Purpose For Women, with Pastor Barbara, I had been

praying for direction. This group is a perfect fit," exclaims Jean. Now, Lily, Barbara Jackson and I have started this group." Hearing of the group, Jan Nicols generously donated "a mountain of yarn" as Jean describes it.

The group has already delivered their first prayer shawls to those in need, and are working on more items; blankets, scarves, hats, and more. It is open to anyone (men too, we are told) and meets at 7 pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. "Even if you don't know how to knit, we want you to feel free to come – we'll teach you!" states Barbara Jackson. For details and location, contact Jean @ 510-724-6041.



Calling all Artists..

For those of you who received a digital camera, paint set or other artistic tools for Christmas, the Arts Cluster is the place for you!

Did you know that the walls of our administration wing, bulletin covers, powerpoint slides and even the greeting cards available in the WayPointe Resource Center are just some of the places where you can see the creative fruit of our many talented artists. The WayPointe Worship team has even presented music written by this church community.



Steve Kilmer, facilitator of the Artist Cluster encourages everyone who has a desire to take part in this fun and supportive community. If you like to write, take photographs, paint, draw, write music or dabble in the many new digital media, then consider taking part in the once a month gatherings. Contact Steve at 510-231-0618 for more details and meeting schedule.



WayPointe Missions– To The Ends of The Earth

Always a strong missions giving church, WayPointe is also a missions going church – in '06 it was to four continents.

A long standing mission trip to Quintana Roo, Mexico was unique this past year as the church teamed up with many young members of the Mien congregation. Missions Director Andrew Lai exclaimed with excitement *“This is a whole new thing for these young people. They saw first hand what it is to serve another culture in the name of Jesus Christ. They came back excited and have spread the word. We expect an even larger turnout in '07.”*

Dave and Kathy Rouggy traveled with a team of nine to Brazil this summer. Their work was in support of missionaries who serve the organization **Equipping To Serve Brazil**. *“We worked along side Pastor Domingues, who accepted Christ as a young child. He now oversees some 25-30 smaller churches in the Campania area, northeast of Sao Paulo.”*

“We held two Vacation Bible Schools, seven Youth Crusades and a children’s worker training event,” said Kathy. *‘Almost every night we joined in church worship services at one of the smaller churches in the area. Even though we were half a world away, most of the kids and teens looked very much like California kids, and it seems they face many of the same issues. Drugs and teen suicides are a major problem here.’*

Facing many of the same challenges we do in Richmond, the Rouggy’s ministered side by side with several young Brazilian pastors many who once were involved in gangs and drugs. *“What a joy to see the*

Lord at work in so many lives, yet there are still thousands who feel nothing but hopelessness,” remarked the Rougglys.

Laurie Suttle, joined the Global Awakening organization for a two week mission work in the Ukraine. The prayer and evangelistic effort was themed *‘The Manifest Presence of God.’* *“There was such a spiritual hunger,”* stated Laurie, *‘Many of the people we ministered to had spiritual and emotional needs resulting from years of hardship and abuse.’* The team spent much of their efforts at a number of orphanages and recovery centers. Each time the need was the same; much prayer and intercession for the hurting and hopeless.

The team itself faced many hardships including lost luggage, abrupt changes in housing accommodations and ever present spiritual warfare as authorities attempt to thwart the evangelical movement. Nonetheless, they noted many miracles at work.

While in the city of Niklaev, one older woman, Laurie noted, faithfully attended every prayer meeting. *“We thought she had some type of arthritis”* said Laurie. *‘On the last night there, she approached one of our leaders with a big smile and began jabbering in Russian, grabbing the leaders hand so tight that it hurt. The translator, with a big grin exclaimed, ‘she has been healed, she has had Parkinson’s Disease – This is a BIG miracle.’*

Laurie notes that there were many opportunities to interact, pray for and comfort both young and old. *“Every time I have gone on a trip I feel that*

Connecting Pointe

Cluster Locations and Contacts

El Cerrito Cluster	5 PM Sun.
Charlie Stone	559-1015
El Sobrante Cluster	7PM Mon.
Lind Davis	908-1679
Hercules Cluster	7PM Tues.
Drummonds	964-1850
*Java & Jesus	8AM Wed.
Pastor Gary	234-4395
Pinole Cluster	7PM Thur.
	234-4395
Richmond Cluster	7PM Tues.
Andrea’s	234-7427
Arts Cluster	Pending

God is taking me to a place to share His love... Every time I come home I feel that God has blessed me more than I can imagine. It is difficult to explain but I kind of feel it is a reward God gives me...”

Miriam Rouggy, not to be outdone by her parent’s missionary efforts, was herself on mission to South Africa this summer. This was her second journey to the country, this time as a team leader. They ministered primarily in the township of Thembaletu.

“The city reeks of poverty, disease and alcohol,” stated Miriam. They began their work by aiding Soso, a Christian woman who is desperately trying to reach the community with the hope of Jesus Christ. *“We began by cleaning her yard of trash and debris, and filling the cracks of her walls and ceiling.”* Despite the enthusiasm of the area’s children who gathered to watch and interact with the team, Miriam found herself overwhelmed by the darkness and desperation. *“God, where are you?”* I cried silently, *‘As if on cue, one of Soso’s neighbors came out holding her baby. She looked at me and said ‘This is my daughter, Singabaje – It means I Belong to HIM.”*



Miriam wrote: *“Here I was, in one of the poorest places on earth, and God used this woman to remind me ‘I AM here, I AM always here.’ That’s the thing about hope; it comes so unexpectedly.”*

If you would like to share in the experience of a lifetime that those who have shared, simply contact Mission Director Andrew Lai @ 357-9569 for details on a mission trip to fit your time, talents and passion.