

Quick Connect

THE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE
Transforming Lives and Communities

July 2009



Delegates to the Evangelical Covenant Church's 124th Annual Meeting welcomed 12 churches into membership on June 26th. Two of these churches are from this mission region—Fountain of Life Covenant Church in Long Beach ◀ with church planter, John Teter, and Great Exchange Covenant Church, San Francisco with Sean Curtis, pastor. During the Saturday evening ordination and commissioning service many from within the PSWC were involved. Eight persons were ordained to Word and Sacrament, six persons were ordained to Specialized Ministry, one person was commissioned, and three finalized transfer of ordination. (Six of the 17 ordinands serve in the South Bay of San Francisco.) Congratulations to all! [More at covchurch.org](http://covchurch.org).



Mountain View Covenant Church (Mission Viejo, CA) celebrated new life in Christ by baptizing three people on Sunday, June 28. One of the three persons baptized ◀ is a 70-year old man who pastor Todd Rodarmel had the opportunity to disciple over the last few years. New Hope Covenant Church (Peoria, AZ) reports that interim pastor Jason Powell recently baptized Helen, a long-time attendee, and 12 year-old Michelle, who came to Christ a month ago. ▲



Fifty-four Covenanters (22 from the PSWC) participated in Esperanza USA's National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast and Conference, June 17-19 in Washington DC. Executive Minister of the ECC Department of Compassion and Justice, Debbie Blue, addressed the diverse Covenant delegation (half were African American, Asian American, and Caucasian) and shared how advocating for comprehensive immigration reform will be part of the new "Micah-Matthew Initiative".

[More at pswc.org](http://pswc.org). ▶



On Sunday June 14, the Cross Cultural Ministry Team of Pasadena Covenant Church (Pasadena, CA) took a fresh approach to highlighting cross cultural missions – specifically the work of people their church supports. They presented a reading titled, *If Boxer Shorts Could Speak*, focused on helping the congregation make the cultural connection between the many people serving Christ in other countries around the world and the clothes, food, and other items made in those same countries. A clothesline filled with articles made in different nations was one of several reminders to pray for people in those countries. ◀



On Sunday, June 7th Nueva Esperanza Covenant Church (Simi Valley, CA) celebrated their 10th anniversary of ministry with a lunch shared by both Nueva Esperanza and Simi Covenant Church followed by an afternoon service of celebration. Three of their key ministries over the past 10 years include: a food pantry, planting multiple churches in Mexico, and marriage classes offered to the community. ◀ Walter Contreras, PSWC Director of Outreach and Hispanic Church Planting with church planter, Roberto Ghione, and his wife, Renata Ghione.

Youth Pastors, Youth Interns, others in youth ministry

Mark your calendar for the 2009 PSWC Youth Pastors' Connection being held Sunday, August 23 (starting at 6 p.m.) —Tuesday, the 25th at Mission Springs Conference Center. Mission Springs makes this Connection available at no cost to participants. To register contact kknoll@missionsprings.com.

Taking Your Ministry Pulse: Checking Your Church's Vital Signs, a three-hour workshop designed to facilitate the discernment of God's spiritual, strategic direction for the future of your church, is scheduled for four locations this fall:

Hilmar Covenant— September 12
Community Covenant El Cajon — October 3
Good Samaritan Community, Valley Springs — October 24
Montecito Covenant — October 31

The workshop is sponsored by the PSWC Congregational Vitality Commission, led by Alan Forsman with commission members, and will be held from 9 a.m.—12 noon.

[More info at pswc.org](http://pswc.org).

Exploring the Affirmations ([Now online at pswc.org](http://pswc.org))



David Nystrom is a contracted preacher/teacher in the PSWC and Vice President of Academic Affairs at William Jessup University. To arrange for him to teach or preach at your church contact nelly.bothi@pswc.org. Here he focuses on the last of the six Covenant Affirmations: The Reality of Freedom in Christ.

With this affirmation it might be best to say what we do NOT mean. When we say we affirm theological freedom or the reality of freedom in Christ we do not mean that we are theologically liberal or theologically limp. We do not mean that any theological formulation one might want to profess is OK with the Covenant. What we do mean is this: We are a biblically based, Christ-centered community of believers. Concerning matters on which the Bible is less than clear, where believers have differed, we will not demand adherence to any one position. We want to affirm what the Bible affirms, and where the Bible allows latitude, so will we. We mean we are orthodox and evangelical, but not doctrinaire. Ours is a generous orthodoxy. We would rather spend our energy devoted to the call of Christ and the whole mission of the church than on infighting over matters that are less than decisive to the Biblical authors.