



The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – September 2004

Five from Youth Club Attend Camp of Champs

On July 21st, Brissa Villanueva, Harland Johnson, Carl Garcia, Mark Sexton, and Gerardo Amaro attended the Camp of Champs in San Antonio. The Camp of Champs is a children's motivational camp run by entrepreneur Aric Bostic, who spoke to students at the Terlingua School earlier this year. Adults on the trip included club director Beth Garcia and assistants Margarita Garcia and Amber Walters. Here is Beth Garcia's report of the trip.



"We arrived in San Antonio about 5PM. Naturally, the whole thing started out with a bang--Aric being funny and engaging and deadly serious all at the same time. He had the kids in the palm of his hand from moment #1. We went into a ballroom type of place (carpeted) with loud music, a light show, and almost more excitement than an adult from Terlingua can handle! Every day at camp was packed with learning sessions with Aric, music, workshops, good nutritious food, games, etc. Through it all was the message 'you can live your dreams' and 'you are somebody special.' We went from 8AM to 10:30 PM every day. I was impressed by the high quality of everything.

"Aric was on fire and impressed me even more than when he came to Terlingua. He loves kids. He knows they are our future and our hope, and he treats them that way. His sincere desire is that they GET this information he is trying to give them. I was privileged to be part of a three-hour workshop with Aric, and he inspired me even more to continue what I am doing NO MATTER WHAT.

"I gained renewed enthusiasm for the Youth Club and more determination to 'make it work' AND to start a goal-setters club for any young person who wants to continue to learn what Aric is teaching. For these kids to really believe in themselves, they will have to be constantly reminded of their worth, their potential, and their importance in Terlingua and in the world.

"The kids that attended got to be on a college campus and live in dorms for awhile, and it was very inspiring for them. All of them spoke with me about going to college! YAY!!! They saw that older kids (16,17,18) are focused on success and positive recreation....not talking about "partying" or who's sleeping with who now. The older kids were lively, enthusiastic, helpful, and really engaged *(continued on back of calendar)*

Otra Vez Gets New Covered Space



Thanks to the construction talents of George Womack and a donation from the Lajitas Chapel Fund, the Big Bend Mission Otra Vez Thrift Shop has new covered space out front. Since it reopened in July, sales have been setting records. New donated items are needed. Anything is welcome. Children's clothing and house wares are very popular.



Ice Cream Social
St. Paul's, Marfa
Sunday, August 29th
4-6pm
Everyone Welcome

Episcopal Discernment Committee Hard at Work

The Episcopal Discernment Committee of the Diocese and our representative Jack Probst have been hard at work traveling and interviewing candidates for Bishop. Several key dates are coming up.



After September 1st - Candidates selected by Standing Committee will be announced.

September 1-15th - Nominations by petition will be accepted by the Standing Committee.

October 7-11th - Nominees will be presented in each Deanery.

Due to the requirement for background checks on all nominees prior to the Electing Convention in October, nominations from the floor will not be allowed. In addition to the nominees selected by the Discernment Committee, nominations by petition will be accepted. Rules and forms for this procedure are available from the Vicar. Nominations are subject to the approval of the nominee, the form must be signed by 8 delegates or authorized clergy of the Electing Convention, and the nominee must meet canonical requirements. For details, contact the Vicar.

"A person may not remember exactly what you did or what you said, BUT they will always remember how you made them feel."

author unknown

Elaine Ponton Attends College of Preachers

Elaine Ponton writes: "I was fortunate to be able to spend the last week of June at the College of Preachers, located on the grounds of Washington National Cathedral. During the week, our group of eleven was led by Kathy Grieb and David Schlafer in a study of preaching from Paul's letter to the Romans. It was a week of meeting new people, exploring new ideas, and spending spare time at the



Cathedral, both for services and just for poking around and visiting their remarkable bookstore. Each of us was given the opportunity to preach in a small group setting on two occasions - and far from being the terrifying experience I was anticipating, it gave us a realization that we all struggle each week with similar fears and challenges as we prepare and deliver our sermons. As the week came to an end, I think that we all left to go our separate ways with Paul's powerful assurance ringing in our ears that 'neither height nor depth nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' "

"Always remember to forget the troubles that pass your way, BUT never forget to remember the blessings that come each day."

author unknown

Al & Thelma Hoyle Attend Order of St. Luke's Conference



The 46th Annual North American Conference of the International Order of St. Luke the Physician (OSL) attracted over 200 clergy and lay people to Glorieta, New Mexico, on June 16-19, 2004. Al and Thelma Hoyle, long-time members of OSL, were among those attending. The subtitle of the conference was "Rivers in the Desert."

"I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Is. 43-19

Keynote speaker for the Conference was the Rev. Canon Mark Pearson, President of the Institute of Christian Renewal, from Plaistow, NH. His talks were encompassed in the title, "For Every Tom, Dick, and Harry." Other guest speakers were the Rev. Barbara D. Henderson, D. Min., a chaplain, mental health counselor, and minister in the United Church of Christ; Robert J. Thomsen, M.D., a dermatologist active in international medical relief efforts and a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church; and the Rev. Bill Beachy, M.D., a retired Episcopal priest, who began his career as a physician. He was Chaplain of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Kansas City for 28 years and is also a former North American Warden of OSL. All the speakers witnessed to the healing "miracles" they had seen in their ministries. *(continued on back of calendar)*



Last Month's Question: What do we mean by everlasting life?

Answer: By everlasting life, we mean a new existence, in which we are united with all the people of God, in the joy of fully knowing and loving God and each other.

This Month's Question: What, then, is our assurance as Christians?

Campbell Gene West



Hayes and Michelle West are the proud parents of Campbell Gene West, born July 30, 2004. The family is doing well and will be moving to a new home in Fort Davis.

The Rev. Bension Ali

The Rev. Bension Ali is the Archdeacon of Wandji Parish in Sudan. He has sent this photo so we can have a face to put with his name. The Big Bend Mission has an ongoing relationship with Wandji Parish.



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Camp of Champs *(continued from page 1)*

our kids in what was going on--even when they were kinda lost! The kids also got the message that they should never ever give up their dreams.



“After camp was over on 7-24, we saw the Alamo, a really big mall(!), and on 7-25 we spent the entire day at Sea World. I wish you could have seen Brissa's face when she saw the San Antonio skyline. For me, one year of struggle went out the window and became a huge, rocketing success.”

The Big Bend Youth Club is supported in part by your donations. Your support has made this success possible.

Order of St. Luke *(continued from page 2)*

"The healing ministry is the ministry of the church. The gospel without healing is incomplete." *Rev. Dr. Bill Beachy*

All of the talks and group activities were not only exceedingly interesting, but also very uplifting. The participants came together in a very special way as they shared their belief and experiences in God's healing ministry. The topics discussed by the interactive groups included the interrelationship and connectivity of different aspects of healing, such as spiritual, psychological, and medical aspects; how to pray for healing; how to face stress, anxiety, and the death of loved ones; and how to listen to God. The Hoyles participated in the following groups: (1) Taking Jesus at His Word, (2) Psychology, Spirituality, and Healing: Are They Related?, (3) What Five Years Has Taught Me About OSL (by retiring warden Don Baustian), (4) Is Anyone Out There Listening?, and (5) Activating the Healing Flow.

In the words of OSL, “The Order seeks to restore the apostolic practice of healing as taught and demonstrated by Jesus Christ, promote the practice of holding healing services and extended healing ministry in every congregation, teach Christians how to pray for healing of themselves and others, and encourage a sound pastoral and counseling ministry. It proposes to do this in and through established churches and in cooperation with the health professionals when their gifts and talents are needed and can be utilized. The Order believes that God uses many avenues for healing - some spiritual and some medical - and that they should be supportive of one another.”

**"Never dwell on the problem--only God's answer."
*Susie MacDonald, workshop and retreat leader***

Tapes of all of the keynote addresses as well as many of the interactive groups are available for lending to any who would like to listen to them. Contact the Hoyles at St. James' if you would like to borrow one or more of the tapes or learn more about the Order of St. Luke.



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