

FEBRUARY 2010



# From the Simpsons in Santa Ana



**OUR CHURCH IN SANTA ANA  
LA FAMILIA DE LA FE**

## new beginnings

We have come to the end of summer vacation. It was so nice to get back into a routine; get up, breakfast, take kids to school, go walking, come home . . . Familiarity is so nice. I gave my kids the normal pep talk: This year, we will study hard, do better than last year, start the study habits early. They were very excited, even agreeing and I was thinking today as I was walking, "How long will it last?" Monday, everyone was perky; Tuesday, things are still new; Wednesday, the hardest day to get up; Thursday, reality sets in; Friday, I am so tired!! This is a tiny example of how we live our lives. I wish I could make the excitement last a year, but it never does. Things come to our lives and it changes our attitude, it affects our spirit.

But there is Someone who can make a difference. I have asked God this year to teach me to depend on Him in a way that, no matter what happens around me, I will find peace in Him.

Our Sunday School teachers are enjoying being on our property. There is always dust, but there is something about knowing it is ours. They have decorated and set up calendars. The kids now feel like the classroom is their own. We need more teachers. Pray with us that God will lay this ministry on people's hearts. Last week, I met with the Sunday School leaders. It was very exciting to see how God has been working in each of our lives. God has been teaching us to depend on Him so we can continue in Him daily. I read some pretty strong passages where God reminds His people they have forgotten Him and that is why they are in the

situation they are in. Strangely, we were all encouraged. As a group, we were together, and we understood the importance of not falling away from God.

Jon has a busy Sunday morning every week. He wakes up at 6:00am, loads up the instruments (*we store them at our house to avoid theft and excessive dust*), heads to the church, unloads the instruments, puts up the "tent" we meet under, comes home, cleans up, takes us to church, meets with the prayer group before church starts and then we have church. Then, we do it all over again after church. We love it because it means we are on our land but it does get tiring. So, please pray for Jon, the praise team and the helpers. Pray for God's strength and grace to continue this every week.



**Sunday School**



**7-11 year olds**



**4-6 year olds**

## study group

Towards the end of February, we will begin a Bible study open to anyone in the church who wants to attend. It will be a time of practical study on Sunday nights. The idea is to teach on topics that can be applied specifically to the spirituality manifested in the social/cultural context of life here in Santa Ana. Our goal is to learn how to live a Godly life in an ungodly world. Jon wants it to be a study where we are challenged to be holy. The city

(and world) we live in is pretty dark but we are called to walk in light, to a life that honors Him. So, we will seek to answer some pressing questions: What sins dominate our lives because of the spiritual historical past this city holds? How do we identify them daily and allow God to change our lives? How will we then minister to others?

The life God offers us is so practical, yet sometimes we complicate it. It is not a list of do's and don'ts, but rather a complete life in Jesus, allowing

Him to speak to us, to lead us, to teach us and to restore us. It is a daily walk, which we cannot predict or control by our own understanding. The only way to live is in Christ - allowing Him to teach us what He wants daily and learning to depend on Him daily.

Please pray for wisdom and direction from God to teach the topics He wants taught. We are totally dependent on Him.

*Jon & Kelly*

## Please Pray For:

- Elizabeth and Jonathan in this school year
- More Sunday School teachers
- Strength for the weekly set-up and take-down of the church
- Wisdom with the topics for the new Bible Study
- Growth among our Young Marrieds Group