

# BRIDGES

Connecting the Southern Utah Christian Community

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July, 2006

## GOD'S ON THE MOVE...

One of our newest area churches, Solomon's Porch, celebrated their first baptismal service in June. Pastor Jimi reports, "One of our precious young people wanted to declare her faith in the Lord publicly. Those are the days that make church worth going to!" The Porch also reports a successful VBS week, with 14 children attending!

New Covenant Christian Center hosted 39 kids at their VBS and Pastor Bernie says that several made professions of faith!

Harvest Christian Assembly took more than 30 kids to a combined kids/youth camp in Arizona. Pastor Shane reports that everyone had a great time. New Covenant Christian Center helped out by loaning Harvest their van.

The VBS co-hosted by Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist, Good Shepherd Presbyterian, Grace Episcopal and New Promise Lutheran churches shared God's promises of love and forgiveness with 40 children!

## SHUMC Choir Goes National!

The Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church Chancel Choir was invited to participate in the 2007 Charles Wesley Tercentenary Choral Festival in New York City. They will be part of a 350-voice choir celebrating the 300<sup>th</sup> birthday of Charles Wesley. The mass choir will premier "Directions for Singing," a choral work commissioned especially for this event, celebrating the life and writings of Charles Wesley. The concert will be held in Avery Fisher Hall at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

A fund-raising concert will be held at SHUMC on Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. The concert will feature Alice Giles, a world-renowned harpist and 10 students who will participate in a master class conducted by Giles. A free-will love offering will be taken, with the proceeds to go to the SHUMC Chancel Choir.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Amy Seifert at the church office (627-8638).

## VBS in July

\*July 10: Desert Springs Church will be converted to a space station for their annual Summer Youth Bible Club July 10th thru 14th. Please make a reservation to drop off your children and the neighbor's children from 6pm to 8pm for this "you won't want to miss it" week. For info call 229-8298 or go to the website: [www.dsbcsg.com](http://www.dsbcsg.com).

*"Things great have small beginnings. Every downpour is just a raindrop; every fire is just a spark; every harvest is just a seed; every journey is just a step because without that step, there will be no journey; without that raindrop there can be no shower; without that seed there can be no harvest."*

-William Wilberforce, (1759 - 1833)

## Have You Read.....?

Mark Buchanan's "Your God is Too Safe" challenges believers to get "unstuck" in their walk with Christ and their ministry, and step into the "holy wild" with a God Who is exciting, unpredictable, and always faithful. Buchanan subtitled his work, "Rediscovering the Wonder of a God you Can't Control."

Solidly-written and engaging, this book not only explains how we get trapped in a comfortable place, but gives tools for getting out and getting on with it!

From Multnomah publishers.

# The Story Behind the Song

by Christa Farris

Musical trends can come and go as quickly as a celebrity's 15 minutes of fame. But it seems Delirious' "I Could Sing of Your Love Forever," from 1997's Cutting Edge, has conquered the hurdles presented by normally fickle music buyers.

Whether you're tuning into local Christian radio or sitting in a church pew during a Sunday morning service, you've most likely heard-and even sung-the song seemingly adopted as the anthem for the modern praise & worship movement. The song's simple lyrics and memorable melody have resonated with musicians and audiences alike, with dc Talk's Michael Tait even claiming in a recent interview for CCM Radio Magazine that it's a song he wishes he'd written.

"Over the mountains and the sea  
Your river runs with love for me  
And I will open up my heart  
and let the Healer set me free  
I'm happy to be in the truth  
And I will daily lift my hands  
And I will always sing  
Of when Your love came down  
I could sing of Your love forever"

The song was penned by Delirious' front-man Martin Smith early in his praise song writing tenure while he was vacationing in Devon, which is located in the Western region of England.

"The place we were staying overlooked a river with mountains in the background and was a beautiful display of God's creative work," Smith recalls. "So one evening I grabbed some time and sat in the garden with my guitar, and this simple song just appeared."

Smith says he remains surprised by the response his tune has garnered from the church and the Christian music industry, but he's reminded of the song's impact in the context of people's real lives. He remembers how the song was used in a funeral ceremony for one of the Columbine victims or the audience's response to the song during one of Delirious' live performances.

But because of their nature, often worshipful moments like these just don't seem to translate on tape. While the song has been recorded on numerous praise compilations and was even a radio hit for Sonicflood, Smith has yet to have a favorite recorded rendition of it. "I don't think there's ever been a great version put to tape, and that includes the Delirious version which was recorded years ago," he said.

*(Reprinted with permission from worshiptogether.com)*

## Side-by-Side



**FIREWORKS!** New Covenant is selling fireworks in the Lin's

Marketplace parking lot (Sunset Blvd), June 30 - July 4 and again July 22 - 24. If you're planning to celebrate with a BANG, get your fireworks there!

Oasis Community Church is hosting a **Summer Youth Retreat**, August 2 - 6. Registrations need to be in by July 15th. For details and registration call Travis Hysell at 669-2349.



The **Chuck Wagon** ministry of

Desert Springs Church will be at it again in Vernon-Worthen Park for the 4th of July celebration. Stop by our booth for a tri-tip sandwich plate, a barbecue chicken plate, or just some ice cream and some mighty good eating! For more info contact Gary at 627-9306.

July 29<sup>th</sup> - **Fund-raising concert** for the Shepherd of the Hill UMC choir. *See story on page 1 for details.*



The **Southern Utah Christian**

**Women's Retreat** is set for Sept 29 - Oct 1 at Ruby's Inn just outside Bryce Canyon National Park. A \$25 deposit is required and the registration deadline is August 6<sup>th</sup>. Call Tammy Wallis at 628-9641 for more details.

### *What Do You Know??*

If you have an event or something else that would be of interest to the greater Southern Utah Christian community, please contact Kellie Mzik at 634-1835 or mzik@msn.com. Information must be received by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month for inclusion in the next month's "Bridges."