

Silver City Church News



Jerrod Thomas is Baptized into Christ

*—Sharing the Love of Jesus
with God's children*

December 2003

Exciting Changes for Silver City Staff

When the Lord closes a door, he opens a window. We were saddened and yet joyful at the loss of Gary and Laura Bull. They had been praying for the opportunity to do foreign missions and the Lord led them to the Austin Avenue church in Brownwood, Texas. They will spend the next year or so there working with their team that is forming and then move to Cocha Bomba, Bolivia where they hope to serve as missionaries. So we are sad to see them go but joyful that the Lord is giving them the chance to fulfill the dreams he has given them. They are a committed young couple who will be a blessing to the Lord's Kingdom where ever he leads them.



*Brent Ruple enjoying his role as
Cabin Checker at Camp Caudle*

As Gary and Laura move on, Silver City has been blessed by two more additions. Brent Ruple is a young man who we have grown to know and love from Camp Caudle. For the last five years, Brent has served as a counselor at camp and has a wonderful ability to relate to young people. Brent, twenty-four, has a degree from the University

of Arkansas in Landscape Architecture. This summer as Brent was spending his vacation time away from his first job in Colorado at camp, he began to share his love of serving young people and leading them to Christ. Two months and many prayers later, Brent joined us as Silver City's second full-time minister. We were able to make a one-year financial commitment to Brent with the hope that the Lord will provide more funds for his future. He has hit the ground running, teaching a boys' Bible class, working in our mentoring program, directing the Christmas play and coaching two young men's basketball teams. We are also taking advantage of his love for the outdoors having him lead our young men on camping and hiking outings.

Silver City has also been blessed to hire Julie Riggan part-time. Julie has been invaluable to us the last six years serving as a member, mentor and Bible Class teacher. Aside from her love for people, Julie has been extremely blessed with the gifts of administration and organization (meaning if she were I, you would get newsletters more often). Julie also helps with the mentoring program, spends time visiting young women and their families, and is helping the preacher stay organized. In an earlier newsletter, I wrote to you about Julie's marriage to her husband Clint, who is currently doing a wonderful job leading our young men's Bible Class (8th-12th grade). As a church leader, you love to get a two-for-one deal. It's also nice when you have the luxury of hiring someone who has been serving from the goodness of her heart and her love for Christ for so many years.

We are blessed at Silver City to find and support people who wish to serve the Lord in this type of ministry. We ask for your continuing support as well as keeping us all in your prayers.

Silver City Has Exciting Summer

I'm delighted to report on the activities in which our church participated this summer. We started off with about fifteen of our teens spending a few days working at Rivercity Workfest, painting homes for the underprivileged. Workfest was a good proving ground for our group that went to Mexico two weeks later. Twenty-six teens and adults from SCC traveled back to Reynosa to the Children's Haven International Orphanage. We spent a great deal of time working on the home's new school building. All of the children that live in the orphanage are now meeting in their own Christian school within the complex. Our



Mandy Sublett, Kayla Dunaway, Cecilia Booth, and Kamisha Williams perform a skit for children in Mexico

group did a little bit of everything, including digging foundations, sidewalk sub grades and sewer lines, laying tile, hanging dry wall, setting fence posts, weed eating, sorting and distributing food and clothing to the poor, leading Bible School, painting doors and trim, and the list could go on.

What's particularly exciting is watching acts of service become "old hat" for our group. Three years ago we considered our first trip to Mexico a tremendous act of faith, and in many ways it was. Now we still rely heavily on the Lord's protection and guidance to see us through, but He has given us a great deal of peace as our young people have become more competent and confident. I'm convinced that a major problem with the culture in which we serve is that the young people are underestimated and under-challenged. They don't realize that with God's help they can accomplish the things they need to live productive and happy lives and even greater things. Our ministry to the Lord has allowed them to see otherwise. One of the happiest moments we experience is to see young people know the hope to which they were called, and the saddest thing is to see others reject that hope. What keeps me going is knowing that "we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." (2 Corinthians 4:7) We can't change a young person's heart. We can only show the love of Christ and let Him work in their hearts.



Silver City's Group @ Camp Caudle

Another highlight of our summer was our trip to Camp Caudle. I honestly don't know where the body of Christ at Silver City would be without our journeys there. It is a place where the love of Christ flows freely and where the fellowship of believers is rich. More than ten of our young people confessed Jesus as Lord and were baptized into his name at camp or immediately following. Like every year, we had a wonderful time to focus on the Lord and what he means to us. If you aren't doing something in your life that forces you to get your mind off of your daily



Jay Thomas, Billy Wilson, and a friend they made at Rivercity Workfest

activities and experience God's greatness, you are missing out on a tremendous privilege. The Lord has blessed us to experience Him through nature and service. It seems the more wholeheartedly our young people journey into these pursuits, the more the love of Christ and the hope for their futures come alive. We are blessed by people like you who join us in this work.



Robert Ulrey and Chris Adams at Silver City's Mentoring Program. Robert has been working with Chris for the last two years



Clint Riggan teaches the young men's Bible Class on Sunday Morning

Rebecca Kiser (left) is baptized into Christ late this summer.

Becca is the daughter of Tom and Pam Kiser, invaluable members of the Silver City family for the last five years. All three of the Kiser children have come to know Christ and been baptized at Silver City, and they are growing in him beautifully. We've learned that worshipping and serving in the inner city is a great place to raise our children in the Lord.



Ways You Can Bless this Work

By prayer . . .

Please continue to remember us in your prayers.

By giving of your time . . .

Consider becoming a volunteer in our weekly mentoring program and touch a young person's life by studying the Bible with them and sharing your time. We still could use more volunteers as the second semester of our mentoring program will start on January 13th.

By becoming a financial partner . . .

You can sponsor a young person's trip to Mexico for \$350. An \$80 donation will send a young person to summer camp for a week or to YOUth in Action later this month. Any amount will be appreciated.

Support our staff . . .

The majority of our money for staff support comes from individual contributors such as you. Your donations can help to provide income for Christians who are on the front lines of Satan's war against the inner city.

Please earmark your check.

—Thank you for your ongoing support.

The Silver City Church Presents . . .
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

a play by Barbara Robinson

Saturday December 13th @ 6:30 p.m.
Gardner Memorial Methodist Church
1723 Schaer Street
North Little Rock



*Timnesha Hardin and Molly Sublett
in Last Year's Christmas Play*

Grace Bradley has been commandeered to direct the Christmas Play, not knowing that the Herdmans, six rough kids from the other side of the tracks have come to church because they heard the snacks were good. See the adventure unfold as the Herdmans take over all of the best roles in the play, turn the church upside down and learn the true meaning of Christmas along the way.

The entire cast of the play consists of young people who belong to the Silver City family. There will be no cost for the evening, however a love offering will be taken.

For more information call 501-658-8849

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