

MCC Connection

June
2008

We Now Have a Ministry Center!

God has blessed our small congregation yet again. While we continue to use our current location for worship services, we've also been looking for a place nearby to use the rest of the week. God recently "inspired" a businessman to provide us with an office suite for 2 years ... rent-free! We are already beginning 3 new ministries out of the new space (see page 2 for more information) and are making plans for even more. Please thank God for His amazing providence!

Maranatha Ministry Center
1430 E. Cooley Drive, #116
Colton, CA 92324



Big City Studio is coming to MCC!

With AWANA closing down for the summer, many of the parents asked that we offer something else in that time-slot until its return in September. So, we've decided to debut **Big City Studio** ... a new children's program which centers around a movie production studio. It contains a wide range of interactive elements, skits, games, music and more. In fact, we liked it so much it's going to be our children's church programming in the fall!

The curriculum goes beyond character/values and focuses on the work and person of Jesus Christ as revealed in the scripture from both the Old and New Testaments. The purpose is to build in children a lasting faith in Jesus by teaching them about who God is and what He did for them through Christ.

But this isn't traditional children's programming! Using high-energy music, funny skits, and fun games to help kids memorize God's Word, **Big City Studio** is sure to be a hit with our elementary-age kids. If you're looking for a way to serve God this summer, why not consider helping on Wednesday evenings?

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Maranatha Bible Institute

Receive a complete Bible education in the convenience of your own home! This is a structured 3-year program where students learn from 36 prominent Bible scholars. **Maranatha Bible Institute** now has study options available to help you earn a Biblical Studies Certificate at home, allowing you to tailor your study time to fit your life and schedule. Come journey through the Bible with us to make treasured discoveries together!

Courses include:

- Old and New Testament Studies
- Great Doctrines of the Christian Faith
- The Life of Christ
- Personal Evangelism
- Biblical Prophecy
- Church History and more!

- Classes available online - work at your own pace
- Challenging, Biblically-based courses
- Immediate private access online to all courses
- Scholarships available

www.ColtonChurch.com/MBI

The Bible is the most fascinating book in all the world – especially when we understand it. Let's study it together!



JobSeekers

We are about to begin several new ministry channels for the unemployed:

- Workshops offering career planning and job search counseling.
- Networking meetings to provide employment leads and advice within the group.
- A job referral website where our clients can pursue prospective employment opportunities with local area employers.

Teen Mom Support Group



One-third of all families with children in Colton are led by single parents, mostly moms. We hope to soon begin offering several channels of assistance and encouragement through MCC:

- Teen MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) support group for Bible studies and fellowship among other teen mothers.
- A mentoring program connecting female volunteers with young mothers for support and encouragement.
- Computer classes to help ensure they can most effectively compete in a tight job market.
- We hope to begin offering a free car care clinic to single moms for oil changes and maintenance checks.

Recycling for Dollars!

How would you like to raise money for our youth group ... and help clean up the environment at the same time? We now have a recycling container at the Ministry Center for your clean aluminum cans and plastic bottles. You can bring them to church or directly to the Center. Either way, all of the funds collected are set aside for MCC youth activities.



Maranatha Community Church recently hosted the spring gathering of the Pacific Coast Association of Seventh Day Baptist churches from throughout California. Our largest gathering is traditionally held in October, but we occasionally meet in the spring as well. And on March 29 MCC proudly hosted its first PCA meeting.



In addition to a praise and worship time led by **Dustin Riley** and an energized sermon in the afternoon by our Conference president, Pastor **Andy Samuels**, participants enjoyed a great time of fellowship and games. Several churches registered teams in a good-natured Bible trivia challenge and an old-fashioned Bible sword drill. Maranatha's team (**Mindy Riley** and the **Lawson youth**) was able to eventually win the trivia challenge while **Stephen Lawson** came in second in the sword drill, finishing just behind **Dannette Montague** of Foothill Community Church. Congratulations to Maranatha's team for a well-played competition!

Fathers Day Barbeque

June 14

1:00 – 3:00 pm

MCC normally hosts a fellowship meal after the worship service on the first Saturday of the month. This month, however, we're delaying that a week so we can honor our dads with an old-fashioned barbeque in the back quad area of the church. Please plan on bringing the family and joining us for some great food, fun and fellowship!



Snack Shack

If you ever have the "munchies" while at the Ministry Center, you'll be glad to know that it now has a snack room complete with assorted sodas, juice, crackers, chips, and cookies. And the suggested 50¢ donation is low enough to help to insure that it stays stocked ... as well as help purchase office supplies as needed.





It's that time of year again ... Maranatha's Summer Festival brings a summer of fun your way. Whether it's pizza or baseball, bowling or the movies ... come join MCC in some good old fashion family fun!

Sign-ups are being taken now for the following MCC Play Group activities:

- **Inland Empire 66'ers baseball game**
- **Bowling at Arrowhead Lanes**
- **Movie Night in Redlands**
- **Miniature Golf at Fiesta Village and more!**

Check up on both our current and planned activities at our website ... and join us for some fun fellowship this summer!



Perceptions May 3—June 7

Christians are supposed to represent Christ to the world. But according to recent surveys, something has gone terribly wrong. Using words like "hypocritical", "insensitive", and "judgmental," emerging generations share an increasingly unflattering impression of Christians. We can simply choose to ignore the situation, or find ways to counter the perceptions.

This last week, we'll look at the view of many outside the Church that Christians arrogantly presume that they have the only truth. Is Jesus the only way to salvation? And, if He is, how can we present that message in a way that encourages consideration by our listeners?

- May 3 Are Christians All Fundamentalists?
- May 10 Does Christianity Suppress Women?
- May 17 Is Christianity Intolerant & Judgmental?
- May 24 Are Christians Homophobic?
- May 31 Does Christianity Have a Political Agenda?
- June 7 Is Christianity Arrogant & Exclusive?

"After Jesus's resurrection, he presented himself alive to his followers & taught them many things concerning the Kingdom of God over a period of 40 days." —Acts 1:3



40 DAYS WITH JESUS

40 Days With Jesus June 14 through August 2

The Sermon on the Mount ... that'll be our key passage over the next 40 days. Three relatively short chapters in the New Testament book of Matthew. In these verses, Jesus taught some of the most powerful words ever spoken. Many people believe that these chapters are the heart of everything that Jesus said in His entire ministry on earth.

Have you ever wondered what Jesus actually taught? Then this spiritual adventure is for you! Because we are going to spend 40 days going verse-by-verse in daily devotions studying Matthew 5-7. Likewise, on the weekends we are going to study through the entire Sermon on the Mount together as that is going to be our weekend devotion. May the adventure begin!

- June 14 The High Cost of Following Jesus
- June 21 Jesus Talks About Problems
- June 28 Jesus Talks About Success
- July 5 Jesus Talks About Social Justice

- July 12 Jesus Talks About Compassion
- July 19 Jesus Talks About Purity
- July 26 Jesus Talks About Peace
- Aug 2 Living Life With Jesus



- Thanking God for His continued protection of **Greg Walters** whose civilian service has called him overseas for a few months.
- Thanking God for the great success of this year's **AWANA** program and His continued blessing on our summer mid-week program, that it reaches more and more kids with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Asking God for improved health, stamina and peace for those in our congregation who are experiencing a variety of health problems.
- Asking God for ongoing providence and direction for **Maranatha Community Church** as we seek to know Christ better and make Him better known.



Birthdays &
Anniversaries
This Month!

Why not contact some of these MCC friends and let them know you're celebrating too?

June	7	Mindy Riley
	12	Ed Rosa
	17	Dustin Riley
	27	Jonathan Lawson
July	1	Cathy Pradetto
	2	Greg Holgate
	7	George/Karen Lawson (Anniversary)
	23	Jonathan Somers
	28	Ryan Somers

Maranatha AWANA Club Has Record Year!

On May 28th, Maranatha Community Church not only completed its second year of AWANA but also its first full year. And, boy, what a great year it has been:

- More than **40** kids attended at least one AWANA club meeting ... twice as many as last year!
- Our highest week of attendance this year was **27** clubbers.
- Two students (**Alan Larson** and **Madison Herring**) completed their AWANA handbooks.
- One leader (**Jaime Larson**) also completed her handbook.
- One student (**Elisabeth Lawson**) completed not one, or even two, but three handbooks ... with a total of 131 memorized verses.
- All told, our clubbers memorized **527** Bible verses this year!



We are proud of all our clubbers, of course, but also of our staff of volunteers ... without whom we could not have realized these results. This is the 2nd year of service for all four of our volunteer leaders. If you get a chance, please thank them for their tireless service in sharing God's good news with these kids!

- **Sean Larson** took charge of our AWANA Store ... "energetic" evenings when our clubbers redeem their AWANA Bucks.
- **Jaime Larson** not only led the AWANA Cubbies group, but also kept the entire club's recordkeeping up-to-date.
- **Jonathan Lawson** was our "Game Master" who ran the games that drew the kids.
- **Stephen Lawson** stepped up in a gazillion different roles ... whatever needed done.

This year we were able to double the number of neighborhood kids the AWANA program ministered to and, Lord willing, we'll be able to do it again next year. But to do that, we'll need some help. If you're able, perhaps you would consider investing an evening a week to impacting the lives of so many of God's children? No experience is needed, just a servant's heart.

Maranatha Community Church

PO Box 1150
Colton, CA 92324

Meeting at:
Colton Community Church
1301 N. Rancho Avenue
Colton, CA 92324

Saturdays

Sabbath School 10:00 am
Worship Service 11:00 am

Phone: 951-825-2933
info@ColtonChurch.com
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A Seventh Day Baptist Fellowship



June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Election Day	4 No AWANA This Week	5	6	7 No Meal Perceptions: Are Christians Arrogant? 11 am Service
8 Flag Day	9	10	11 Big City Studio The Big Garden Pre-K thru 6th Grade 6:30 - 8:00 pm	12	13	14 Barbeque 40 Days With Jesus Following Jesus 11 am Service
15 Fathers Day	16	17	18 Big City Studio Adam Gets Help Pre-K thru 6th Grade 6:30 - 8:00 pm	19	20 Summer Starts	21 40 Days With Jesus On Problems 11 am Service
22	23	24	25 Big City Studio Off Limits Pre-K thru 6th Grade 6:30 - 8:00 pm	26	27	28 40 Days With Jesus On Success 11 am Service
29	30	1	2 Big City Studio Hide 'n Seek Pre-K thru 6th Grade 6:30 - 8:00 pm	3	4	5 40 Days With Jesus On Justice 11 am Service

Upcoming Dates:

- July 4 — Independence Day
- July 5 — Maranatha Family Fellowship Meal
- July 12 — Colton Birthday Blast (Colton High School Field)

July 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2 Big City Studio Bite The Dust Pre-K thru 6th Grade 6:30 - 8:00 pm	3	4 Independence Day	5 Family Meal 40 Days With Jesus On Justice 11 am Service
6	7	8	9 Big City Studio Cain Has a Fit Pre-K thru 6th Grade 6:30 - 8:00 pm	10	11	12 Colton Blast 40 Days With Jesus On Compassion 11 am Service
13	14	15	16 Big City Studio Cain Busted Pre-K thru 6th Grade 6:30 - 8:00 pm	17	18	19 40 Days With Jesus On Purity 11 am Service
20	21	22	23 Big City Studio Noah's Walk Pre-K thru 6th Grade 6:30 - 8:00 pm	24	25	26 40 Days With Jesus On Peace 11 am Service
27	28	29	30 Big City Studio The Big Boat Pre-K thru 6th Grade 6:30 - 8:00 pm	31	1	2 40 Days With Jesus Life With Jesus 11 am Service

Upcoming Dates:

August 3-9 — Seventh Day Baptist General Conference meetings (Wisconsin)

August 6 and 13 — No Big City Studio