



Calvary Chapel of Brea sells old theater to city

By Debra Cano
DSP Staff Writer

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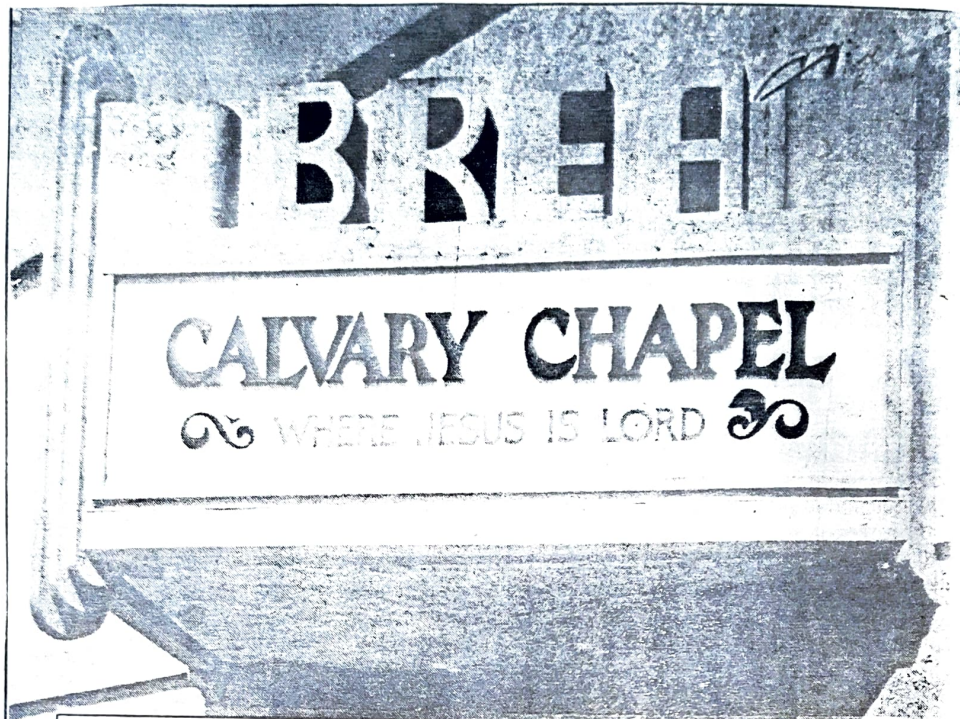
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Continued From Page 1)

"The city council has a general acceptance of the idea," Kelly said. "They have an understanding and want to help them but it (the one) hasn't been changed gally."

The theater property is included in the redevelopment plans being studied by city officials. A moratorium on building in the downtown Brea currently exists.

According to Kelly, there are no specific plans for the theater until the study is completed. But the acquisition gives the city "a whole lot of options" including selling the land to a developer for building a parking lot, Kelly added.

The new church, which will boast a modern, contemporary facade with a 28-foot vaulted cathedral ceiling, is located on the sight of the former 84 Lumber Company.

Calvary Chapel of Brea paid \$1.25 million for the property, which includes a 4,400-square-foot corrugated metal building that will be expanded to 31,000-square-feet with a second story, Whitmarsh said.

The church will spend an estimated \$500,000 to remodel the interior of the building and add exterior modifications, Whitmarsh added.

The building has been gutted and construction is underway. Interior remodeling will include two separate sanctuaries and two separate stages, in which the youth ministry will have their own facilities.

Parking problems helped facilitate the move, Whitmarsh said. The church now has about eight parking spaces: five in the rear of the theater and three on-

street spaces. On weekends during church services or weddings, congregation members have few places to park, except in other merchant's spaces or along Brea Boulevard.

Merchants closed weekends allow the church to use their parking spaces. But Whitmarsh said the church's relationship with merchants has deteriorated.

Claude Bradley, store manager of Canning's Brea

Claude Bradley, store manager of Canning's Brea Hardware on Brea Boulevard, said parking isn't a serious problem, yet on occasional Sunday mornings, the store has seen a "definite drop in business because customers couldn't get into the business."

Hardware on Brea Boulevard, said parking isn't a serious problem, yet on occasional Sunday mornings, the store has seen a "definite drop in business because customers couldn't get into the business."

Whitmarsh said: "It hasn't been great — we're being tolerated for now. We realized the friction that was beginning to be caused by the parking."

Moving the church to the new location would not only accommodate its growing congregation and activities — but keep the "merchants happy" as well, Whitmarsh said.

"And we'd be happy," he added. The move would be helping the church, Whitmarsh said, "because we'll be able to meet our present and future needs."

Whitmarsh said there will be more than 200 parking spaces available at the new

site.

The church was considering relocation because the congregation was outgrowing the long-standing theater and constant maintenance to the structure became costly, Whitmarsh said.

But he added no suitable and affordable site in Brea could be found.

The sale of the 66-year-old theater met both the city's and the church's needs,

Whitmarsh said.

Whitmarsh said it was through this "series of events that led us into a direction we ordinarily wouldn't have gone."

"Then everything seemed to fall together," he added.

By relocating to its new site, the church is increasing its capacity three-fold.

Calvary Chapel of Brea now seats 312 people, but the relocation site will have a capacity of about 700 people in the main sanctuary, while the youth ministry program, which now serves about 96, will serve up to 500, Whitmarsh said.

The move also means expansion of the church's services such as Christian concerts and movies, seminars, a Bible School, youth ministry activities, pre-school and grade school programs.

Growth has been an integral part of Brea Calvary

Chapel's livelihood. It was in 1977 when Brea Calvary Chapel began as a home fellowship of four families. The small group then leased a building across the street from the theater.

The fellowship grew to more than 35 adults and 20 children. Again the church was looking for a new place to hold its worship services.

At the same time, the x-rated movie theater had caused upheaval and public confrontation. Calvary

Chapel of Brea sought to purchase the run-down theater and its successful acquisition was applauded by residents and city council members alike.

The church continued to grow and today has a fellowship of more than 400 people, Whitmarsh said.

Whitmarsh said the church hopes to move into its new site in early April. "It will take a miracle to do it," he said.

The church needs to physically occupy the new building in order to meet its financial debts, Whitmarsh said. No bond issues or pledges are being asked to finance the project. The new church is financed solely through Sunday morning freewill offerings, Whitmarsh said.

"People are giving donations because they believe of what they're giving is worth it," Whitmarsh said.

Whitmarsh admitted there is plenty of faith involved.

"The doors are open for us and we are proceeding because the Lord wants us there," Whitmarsh said. "If He wants us there He's going to supply the support to have us there."

"Where God guides, God provides. That's our philosophy."

Calvary Chapel nears completion

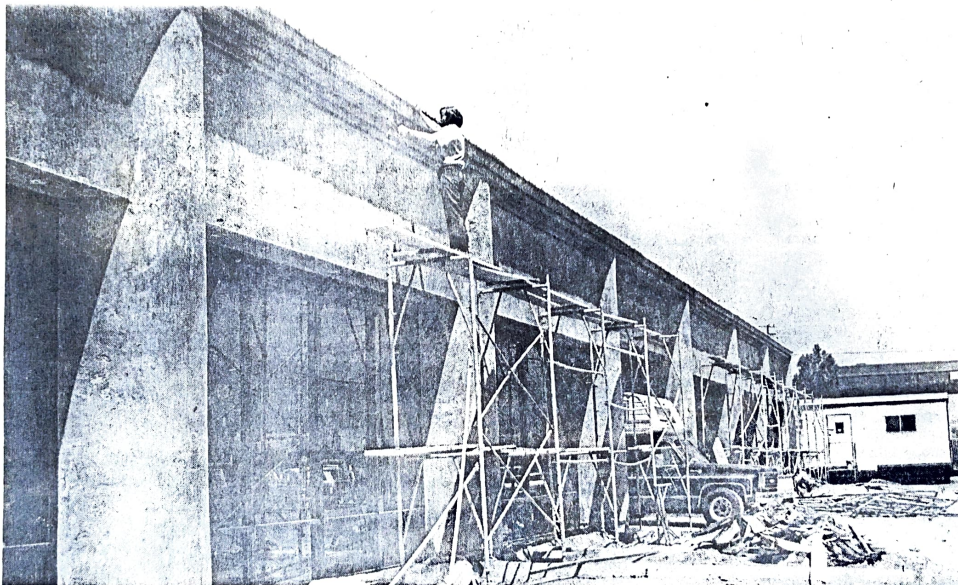


ALMOST FINISHED — Bill Ramsey, construction coordinator and a member of the Calvary Chapel of Brea congregation, puts on the finishing touches to the roof line of the church's new

facility located at the corner of Lambert Road and Puente Street in Brea. The 24,000 square foot building on two levels should be completed in early June, Ramsey said.

(Star-Progress photo by Stan Bird)

Calvary Chapel nears completion



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By Debra Cano

DSP Religion Editor

Against the odds, Calvary Chapel of Brea's prayers have been answered.

Despite month, after month of delays: red tape with the City of Brea, financial and architectural barriers — and \$2 million later — the church will hold its first worship service Sunday in its new sanctuary.

"It's been against all odds," said David Berg, pastor of the church. "I believe a miracle has happened. We have something more than I imagined."

The new church is located at the southwest corner of Lambert Road and Puente Street.

Amid the smells of fresh paint, newly laid carpet and oak pews, "dedication" services will be held at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., Berg said.

There are many "finishing touches" that need to be done before the new church is completed, Berg said. He added, however, by Sept. 1, the church will be moved out of the downtown theater it has occupied for more than eight years.

On Sept. 7, the church will hold its "grand opening," in which city and governmental officials, donors, and others involved in the resurrection of the new church, will be invited to the special service.

Calvary Chapel of Brea is moving out of the Brea Boulevard theater because of the city's redevelopment plans for the downtown area and the church's need for a new building to meet its growth.

When Berg searched for another location in Brea to re-establish his church, there was no available property. "As it turned out, we began looking in

other cities." But Berg calls it "against all odds" the property where the new church sits became available.

The property formerly was owned by the 84 Lumber Company and had a buyer when the church made inquiries. Calvary Chapel of Brea purchased the 4-acre site for \$1.25 million, and in turn, 84 Lumber gave the church a \$50,000 donation in construction materials.

However, there was one problem with the property: it was zoned for industrial use. The church overcame that obstacle and zoning was changed for commercial use, followed with a

conditional use permit to build a church in that area.

"We had taken a chance," Berg admitted. "We started a building without prior commitments from the city. But we did have their word. They encouraged us, but there were no guarantees."

Because of the unusual concession to change the zoning, delays in the project came repeatedly because of city code regulations and requirements, lack of funds, and planning commission concerns.

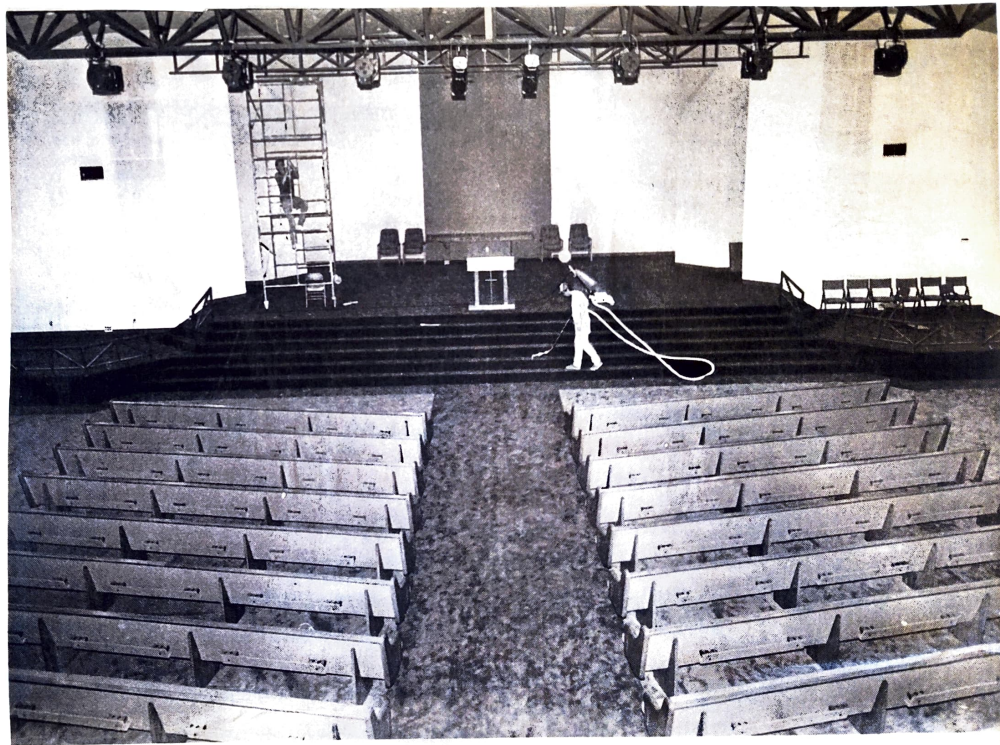
When the project began, the church's budget was \$270,000; as a result of structural and design changes, costs escalated in efforts to meet city requirements, Berg said.

With the new building only half completed, the church ran out of funds to finish its new chapel.

Berg said 84 Lumber offered assistance. The lumber company backed a \$400,000 construction loan to complete the 31,000-square-foot church.

"Because of people helping," Berg said is why the church is nearing completion today. The

Calvary Chapel of Brea moves into new church



Calvary Chapel of Brea, located at Lambert Road and Puente Street, will hold its first worship service Sunday in its new sanctuary

Star-Progress Photos by Stephanie Pintel

new church is financed through freewill offerings and donations. Hundreds have volunteered their time and expertise, Berg said, and contractors have donated materials and low-cost labor.

The new 120-by-100-foot sanctuary with a 32-foot vaulted cathedral ceiling and mauve-tone carpeting and walls, seats up to 1,000 people.

Berg said the sanctuary, which has a theatrical stage, complete with a \$17,000 lighting system, will serve three purposes: to produce his cable television show, it is a place to present Christian plays, concerts and other entertainment, and where Sunday worship services will be held.

The design of the new Calvary Chapel of Brea reflects Berg's own "dreams," he said. "One of my dreams was to have a church for the youth," he said.

There is a separate sanctuary, which will double as a fellowship where worship services for the youth will be held.

The youth sanctuary has a stage, in which Christian theater productions, movies and other activities will be presented.

Other additions at the new church building is a television production room, a school for

preschool-age children through high school and a Bible book store.

Despite the move from the 312-seat, 66-year-old downtown theater to the contemporary, "high-tech" new church, parking remains a problem. One of church's main concerns of moving from the downtown area, was because parking for Sunday morning worshippers was difficult.

The church had few parking spaces on its property and street parking interfered with downtown businesses.

At the church's new location, on-street parking is prohibited. The city approved parking for only 600 people, despite the new sanctuary has the potential to seat 1,000 church-goers.

Berg is convinced it is a problem that can be solved.

"The main thing, is whenever anyone throws an obstacle, I overcome it because God wants us here to teach the Bible," Berg said.

"It's been a nightmare, but it's turning into a dream."



The finishing touches are added to Calvary Chapel of Brea's youth church and fellowship hall.

Times may change, but 'Oilmen's Church' endures

75th anniversary festivities planned

By Kim Irwin
Staff Writer

Long ago—75 years to be exact—Brea Congregational Church was known as the Oilmen's Church.

The majority of its congregation hailed from the Union and Shell oil company fields which abounded in Carbon Canyon and the Brea area. Parishioners trekked miles to the church site, then at Brea Boulevard and Birch Street, from oil lease land to attend Sunday services, ice cream socials and mixers.

Back then, according to Brea historians, everyone knew everyone else and no secret was kept that way for long.

Although the name is different, in some respects, things haven't changed much at Brea's oldest church. Members of the Brea Congregational Church still come from far away to attend services and church activities.

The facility is now at 300 E. Imperial Highway, but the spirit of the church family is still very much a part of Brea Congregational Church, said Rev. Rick Marshall.

Marshall has been with Brea Con-

gregational Church for two years. He said his congregation of about 150 people come from all over North Orange County, including the communities of Brea, Placentia and Yorba Linda.

Established in 1913, the church is kicking off a yearlong 75th anniversary celebration this month. Parishioners are excited about the landmark anniversary, Marshall said.

The first in a series of festivities will be held Saturday, Sept. 20. The event will feature a potluck dinner, followed by games and dancing, said Jennifer Wheaton, a member of the congregation.

The event begins at 4:30 p.m. with dinner. Games scheduled include a cake walk, sack races, tug-of-war and relay races, Wheaton said. Guests will be able to build their own ice cream dundaes beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The evening will end with music and dancing for congregation members of all ages. Dancing will be held from 7 to 9 p.m.

Another big celebration will be held in May, after a full-scale renovation on all the church buildings is completed.

"This is going to be a big year for us," Marshall said. "It's a very special



Staff photo by David Carlson

Happy anniversary: Rev. Rick Marshall stands ready to welcome parishioners to Brea Congregational Church's 75th anniversary celebration. The church is located at 300 E. Imperial Highway, Brea, and serves Congregationalists in all of North County.

time."

Lark Ellen Church strives to be a good neighbor

By Glenn Whipp

DSP Religion Editor

Edna Makins never thought a parking lot could be beautiful, but now she's changed her mind.

What prompted her reassessment was the sight of a full lot outside Lark Ellen Christian Church in Fullerton a couple of Sundays ago. Of course, that's not a big deal for some churches, like the neighboring First Evangelical Free Church of Fullerton.

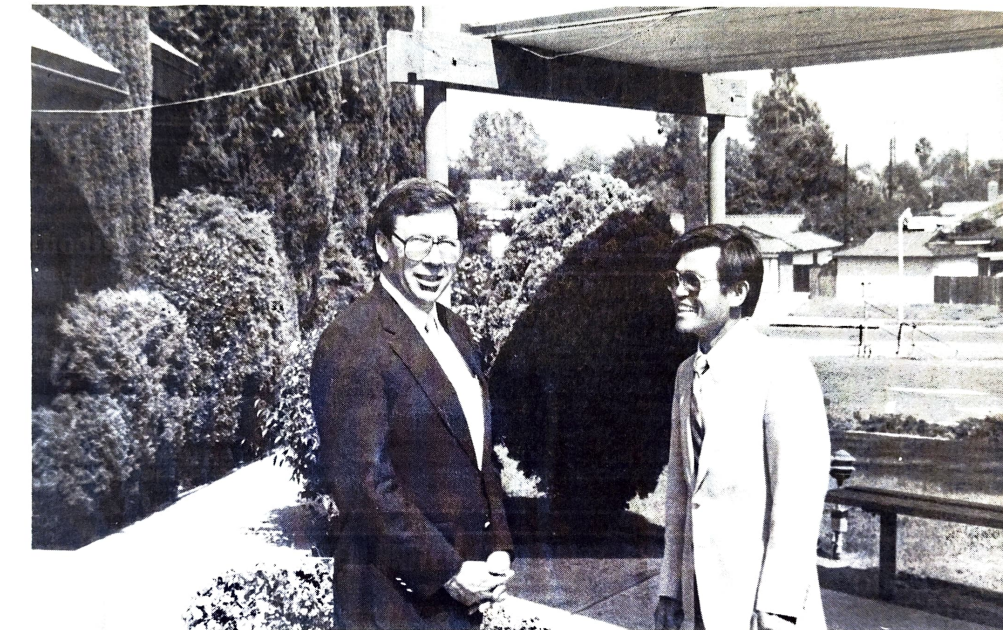
But for Makins and other longtime members of Lark Ellen, located at 3125 Laurel Ave., it was a most welcome sight.

"I was so excited, I ran out and took a Polaroid of that parking lot," Makins said. "It hadn't been that full for a long time."

A big reason for the increase in attendance was the addition of a new tenant to the Lark Ellen facilities, the Chinese United Methodist Church of Orange County. Having outgrown their church in Tustin, the Methodist congregation was invited to come by Lark Ellen's pastor, R.O. Weitzel.

"It's hard to find churches these days," Weitzel said. "We had the room and were more than happy to have them come."

The sharing of facilities is just another way, Weitzel said, that Lark Ellen is trying to become a strong part of its Fullerton neighborhood. The church has been taking several



Star-Progress Photo by Glenn Whipp

Lark Ellen Pastor R.O. Weitzel, left, joins Chinese United Methodist minister David Tsang on the church's newly renovated

grounds. Tsang recently brought his church to the Lark Ellen facilities, sharing the location with the Christian church.

steps in that respect, one of which was a major renovation of the church's grounds.

"Things hadn't been taken care of for so long, a lot of people couldn't tell we were here," Weitzel said. "We've

cleared all that up, taking out a lot of the shrubbery in front of the church grounds so that we're more visible. It's also a way to affirm being part of the neighborhood."

And when Weitzel says it's a community barbecue, he means the entire community.

"We mailed out more than 2,000 fliers last year," he said. "It's not a gimmick, either. If you'd like to try the church, great, but that's not why we're

inviting you. We just want to be a part of the community and let people know that we're here."

Such information is also vital to the church's growth, which was all but non-existent when Weitzel took over as pastor three years ago.

"I preached my first sermon to 13 people," Weitzel remembered. "The church was absolutely dead. I was wondering if we could keep the doors open or not."

Weitzel and the church's longtime members persevered though, and the church's atmosphere was slowly revived.

"It's a good group of people here," Weitzel said. "They really made a decision that they were not going to die. And it wasn't easy. A lot of folks here are on fixed incomes. But we've still been able to do it. The ones that don't have the money give of their time."

Such dedication has seen the congregation grow to approximately 50 members, including a few new families who recently joined. Add the 100 people who attend the Chinese

Methodist Church, and the outlook for Lark Ellen is much brighter now than it was three years ago.

"We want to grow, and we're taking steps in that direction," Weitzel said. "It takes time, but we're making the effort to reach out."

David Tsang, the pastor of the Chinese United Methodist Church, will vouch for that.

"We have been made to feel very welcome," he said. "We even ran over on our first service and no one complained or said anything."

Celebration marks Brea Congregational's 75th anniversary

By Glenn Whipp
DSP Religion Editor

Marian Buck doesn't have too hard a time believing Brea Congregational Church will soon be celebrating its 75th anniversary.

Of course, Buck would be the first to point out that she hasn't been around the past 75 years to give a complete history of the congregation. But she has been singing in the church choir for 40 years and has seen her three children grow up in the church.

Buck's daughter was one of the first brides married at Brea Congregational, and her granddaughter was on hand last Sunday night to model some dresses at the church's kickoff anniversary celebration.

That feeling of continuity is widely felt among many of the church's members. Alice Whipp, who has been attending Brea Congregational for more than 30 years says the church is like "one, big, happy family." Many of those attending the 150-member assembly have been involved with city government in the past and have a strong appreciation for the history of Brea.

Of course, that's not to say that the younger set isn't well represented. The church's pastor, Rick Marshall, has been with Brea Congregational for two years, fresh out of Claremont School of Theology. He didn't have any problem calling the church home.

"It's a warm, friendly, open church," Marshall said. "I have a good feeling about this place. We've been on the upswing the past couple of years, really feeling good about what we're doing."

The 75th anniversary celebration didn't hurt those feelings at all. Church members gathered Sunday and enjoyed a potluck dinner, games and dancing. The event kicked off a church renovation project that will see the buildings repainted and refurbished by May. "Then you'll see a real celebration," Marshall said. "It's going to be a big year for us."

Brea Congregational Church is located at 300 E. Imperial Highway.



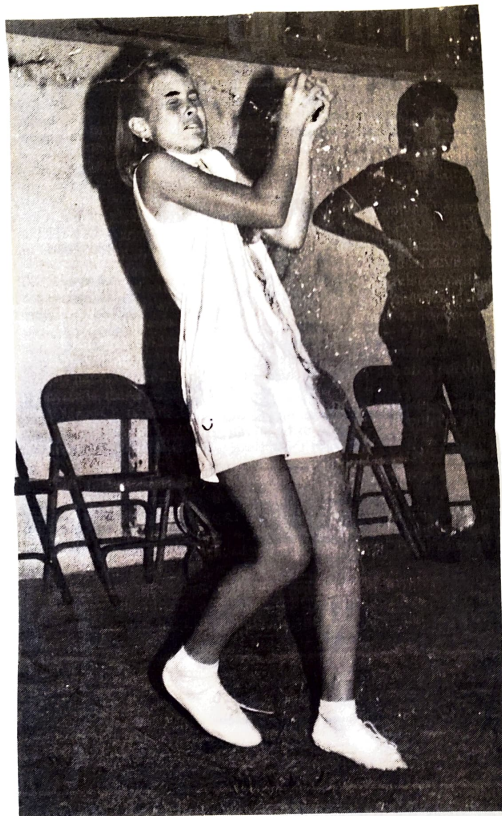
Music and dancing were the order of the evening last Sunday as Brea Congregational Church kicked off its 75th anniversary

celebration. Sunday's event included a potluck dinner, ice cream, sack races, relay races, a tug-of-war and a cake walk.

Star-Progress Photos by Todd Myatt



Brea Congregational's Rev. Rick Marshall joins one of the congregation's longtime members, Alice Whipp, last Sunday.



Sunday's anniversary celebration wasn't all fun and games for this young member, who learns what water balloon fights are all about.



Marian Buck displays one her mother's dresses, circa 1912, that was modeled by her own granddaughter last Sunday at Brea Congregational Church.

Calvary Chapel opens new facility in Brea

By Brian H. Greene
DSP Staff Writer

BREA — Abiding by the belief of "Where God guides, God provides," Pastor Dave Berg of Calvary Chapel of Brea welcomed the community into new facilities Sunday evening, with words of worship and praise.

The dream of expanding the non-denominational Christian church came true for the congregation after months of working hard with city officials and contractors to convert an 84 Lumber Co. building into a house of worship. Located at the corner of West Lambert Road and Puente Street, Berg called it no less than a "series of miracles" that Calvary Chapel was able to complete the construction after dealing with red tape from the city as well as a lack of funding.

"It was not easy, it was a battle all the way," Berg said in an interview this morning. "At times it was real discouraging, but we did make it a real success."

The new facilities hold more than 600 in the main auditorium which includes a large stage with lights for cable television tapings. After maintaining a membership of between 250 and 300, Berg said the new facility boasted a packed house when the first services were held Aug. 10.

"We've been getting a lot of new people who haven't been going to church at all," Berg said. "I'm really excited that our goal was able to be fulfilled."

"The biggest concern and biggest problem was trying to see if the building could be converted," Berg said. He explained

an outside consultant had determined on behalf of the city that plans for the new facility wouldn't be suitable for the structure. But after numerous meetings with city staff and officials, as well as a new plan checker, Berg convinced all the conversion plan would work.

"In the meantime, we were constructing this building without a building permit," Berg said. "I knew we were taking a chance, but I thought it would work out. It was 70 percent built when we finally got the permit."

"The City Council was really helpful and really encouraging," Berg said, "but the Planning Commission and city staff were not."

His experience in building was limited, so much that some city officials felt Berg would have problems accomplishing his goal. Based on square footages of buildings and developments, Berg said the city determines which developers can handle building particular projects.

"Under all of their rules, I did not hit the norm at all because I had no experience," Berg said. But he tackled the obstacles nevertheless.

"Somehow, God intervened and changed a few people's minds and circumstances." Next in a long line of hurdles for the chapel to overcome was a lack of funds. But, with the help of 84 Lumber Co., Berg said Calvary Chapel was able to obtain a construction loan.

Berg said attempts were made by the city to limit parking because of a shortage of spaces on the corner lot. But Berg recently gained approval for members to park in the Albertsons warehouse parking lot across the street which will now allow the chapel to be completely filled should the need arise.

All in all, Berg said the road to finishing the facility has been difficult but satisfying.

"We have people using our church who go to other churches and come here because of our emphasis on teaching the Bible," he explained.

Calvary Chapel began in Brea in 1976 when Berg, with about a dozen people, began a Bible study. In search of a larger place to meet, the chapel moved to the Brea theater on Brea Boulevard, supplanting tenants who were running porno movies. Eventually, the congregation just kept expanding.



(Star-Progress photo by Jack Hancock)

FULL HOUSE — The doors of Calvary Chapel of Brea were opened to the community Sunday evening with a special service to recognize the individuals involved with helping convert an 84 Lumber Co. facility into the chapel's new home. Formerly located at the old Brea theater on Brea Boulevard, Pastor David Berg greeted patrons with an address of worship and thanks.

Theater's condition betrays glamorous past

By Leslie Stuart Carter

The stuccoed marquee over the squat building at 134 South Brea Boulevard reads simply "Brea." It looks like an old movie theatre even though that same marquee now proclaims "Calvary Chapel" and "Where Jesus is Lord."

As knowledgeable Breans are aware, it was an old movie house—and it didn't always have its largest attendances on Sunday mornings.

The old place looks forlorn, apologetic and abandoned today as it stands there mute in its familiar spot in downtown Brea awaiting its fate at the hands of the municipal demolition squad with the dreaded wrecking ball.

Sixty-five years ago, however, the draughty relic presented a wholly different demeanor. All Brea flocked onto what was then called Pomona Avenue just to see for itself that marvel that local newspapers called "a theatre equal to the finest in the state."

For Breans—and for Americans in general, for that matter—1922 was a very good year for entertainment. Movies were action-filled and opulent: "Robin Hood," "Blood and Sand," "The Prisoner of Zenda." And people back then liked their songs heavy on the sentimental and melodic side so Tin Pan Alley came up with some immortals: "A Kiss in the Dark," "Wonderful One" and "L'Amour."

The "Red Lantern," pride of Brea and the first theatre in town, opened its doors on March 7, 1922. That exotic-sounding name, later to diminish to the more prosaic "Brea Theatre," had to do with the building's interior, an abundance of red Chinese lanterns. And they didn't throw open the place with a mere "grand opening" banner, either.

Floodlights swept the murky sky as the Brea Municipal Band comped away at a milling crowd of predominantly "shieks and their flappers," as a local paper reported.

The soda shop next door did a roaring trade in malts and sarsaparilla as the revved-up throng in the abiding joy of that night to remember.

Music wasn't confined to the Red Lantern's sidewalk because, during the intermission, those who weren't at the snack bar splurging their nickels and dimes on popcorn and Baby Ruths, marveled at the costly Robert Morgan pipe organ out there in front of the stage in all its glory. Perhaps the organist managed to sneak in a chorus or two of "L'Amours Toujours L'Amour." Folks loved a good, old-fashioned sing-song in those days with their pictures and there was no excuse for not joining in; the words were right up there on the screen.

The first feature film at the Red Lantern on that March night so long ago really should have been something to remember, too. But they put on something called "A Game Chicken" starring gorgeous Bebe Daniels. Actually, that first night audience didn't care. They weren't there for the movie, anyway. Just wanted to be a part of the thrill of it all. At 10 cents a seat they could afford it.

The Brea Investment Co. must have been overjoyed at the success of its venture in providing homey old Brea with a theatre to rival any that Fullerton or Anaheim could match for sheer sumptuousness. The company's founders, Felix Yiarite, Bill Culp and Abe Yost, shared a bit of show biz history, too, because as the years rolled by and their brainchild presented stage acts with the movies, little Frances Gumm trod the boards of the

Red Lantern. A star wasn't born that night on the old R.L.'s stage, though, and that name "Gumm" didn't stick. But Francie's new one, Judy Garland, sure did.

Sad to relate that the little theatre will soon be a pile of rubble. But keep your fingers crossed because, who knows, over the rainbow there might just be a reprieve for the Red Lantern.



HEAVEN CAN WAIT—In earlier years the old Brea Theatre's busiest times weren't Sunday mornings. The former cinema now houses a Calvary Chapel,

but may soon be a victim of the wrecking ball as redevelopment progresses.

—News Photo by Mike Kitada

Faith Community opens new facility

Faith Community Church of the Nazarene has recently completed a new worship facility at 16800 Imperial Highway, Yorba Linda.

To celebrate the completion, the church will have a grand opening weekend Saturday and Sunday. A special "Thank You" service will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. with reception following.

The building will be dedicated with a service Sunday at 10:45 a.m. with District Superintendent Rev. Thomas Goble as the speaker.

The new facility is comprised of a multi-purpose sanctuary and an educational wing joined by a spacious entry. The off-street side entry is enhanced with a large, covered pergola.

There is more than 11,000 square feet of worship and educational space in the new facility, surrounded by five acres of landscaped terrain.

As a second phase of development, a larger sanctuary is proposed in the center of the parcel in order to maximize full use of the property.

Faith Community, formerly Brea Church of the Nazarene, is an evangelistic church ministering to the entire family. The church worshipped for 73 years at the Brea location on Birch Street.

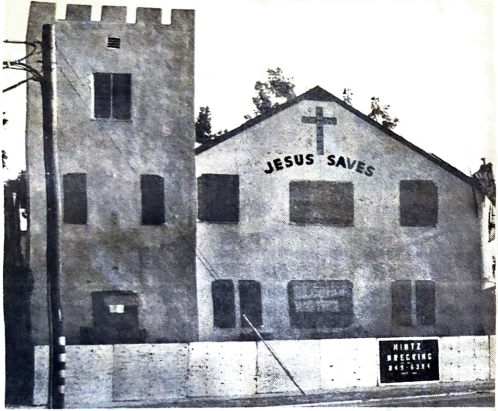
The property was sold in 1966 to the Foursquare Church and the congregation began to worship at Tuffree Junior High School in Placentia while waiting for the completion of the new facility.



Faith Community Church has relocated to 16800 Imperial Highway in Yorba Linda. They will hold grand opening ceremonies for the new

facilities this weekend with a special thank you service on Saturday at 2 p.m. and a building dedication service on Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

Brea church survives quakes, but razing concerns residents



(Star-Progress photo by Brian H. Greene)

DEMOLITION — Only the facade of the Brea Foursquare Gospel Church remains as a wrecking crew began the process of demolishing the structure last week.

BREA — The old Brea Foursquare Gospel Church, which is in the process of being torn down in a redevelopment area, withstood the 6.1 earthquake on Thursday and the 5.5 aftershock on Sunday, according to city officials.

But the half-demolished church at Sievers Avenue and Imperial Highway left several residents concerned about the accessibility of the structure and the safety of children playing in the unfenced area. Residents also wondered if the three standing walls could fall in the event of another strong tremor.

Viola and Pete Swindle of Sievers Avenue live directly behind the church. They said Hintz Wrecking Co., which is contracted by the city to take down the church, began the demolition process a week ago.

"They started by taking the asbestos and tiles out of the structure," Viola said this morning. "We had to remind them to nail the doors shut because kids were going inside."

Hintz Wrecking was scheduled to continue the demolition process today after stopping work on Friday.

Pete Swindle said he thought the "big shock on Sunday could have knocked the walls out onto Imperial Highway." But he noted when the Rev. Loren Wood built the church in the early 1950s, "he built it strong." The Swindles have lived in the same home on Sievers since 1946.

Their daughter, Connie Clark,

who also lives on Sievers, called Councilman Gene Leyton during the weekend because of the potentially hazardous situation.

"I went by the church and looked at it and wasn't happy with it," Leyton said this morning. Leyton then called Police Chief Don Forkus to get a second opinion.

Leyton said the chief sent one of his officers out to the scene Sunday, followed by city building inspector Jack Smith.

"He didn't like it, either, so they put police tape around it and posted warning signs," Leyton said. He also said police began to patrol the area heavily, passing by the house every 30 to 45 minutes to keep people out.

"The church is very well-built with a strong inner structure. It seemed like it was not likely to fall (in the event of a earthquake)," Leyton said.

He also indicated the wrecking crew is taking the church apart piece by piece in order to save the lumber.

"We were concerned about kids playing in there, so we took the necessary steps," Leyton said.



(Star-Progress photo by Brian H. Greene)

SHAKY GROUND — The Brea Foursquare Gospel Church on Imperial Highway is in the process of being demolished and, according to remaining residents in the redevelopment area, may be a hazard if another earthquake rocks the area. To keep people away, the building was circled with police tape on Sunday.

Foursquare moves into Nazarene facility

Wood settles his flock in new church home



A CONTINUING FAITH IN A NEW HOME — Brea Foursquare Church members are happily settled in the former Church of the

Nazarene facility on Birch Street in Brea. The state prompted the move when funding for the widening of Imperial Highway, the church's former address, was approved.

(Star-Progress photo by Jennifer Nestegard)

By Jennifer Nestegard

DSP Correspondent

BREA — Amid the screaming, crying and the vision of children literally crawling up his window

sits the Rev. Loren Wood, seemingly complacent and content.

Wood has recently moved his congregation from the Brea

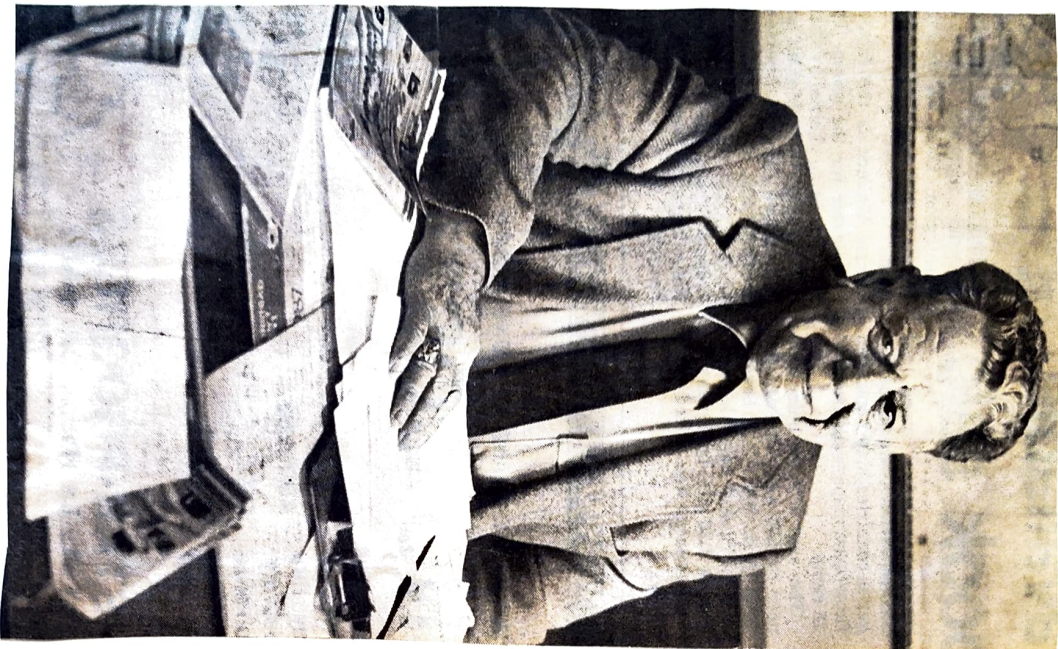
Foursquare Church on Imperial Highway, which he built in 1951, to their new location on Birch. The move was made after the City of Brea's confirmation that the state had plans to widen Imperial.

The church's new location was formerly inhabited by the Nazarene Church and offers Wood and his 100-family congregation more square footage for additional facilities.

Wood, who was born in Nebraska and raised in South Dakota, has always been fond of Brea because of its "country atmosphere." He says he has become sensitive to the city's changing needs over the last 36 years.

"The advantage" of the move, said Wood, "was the addition of a child care center."

The center, which is run by



(Star-Progress photo by Jennifer Neidgen)

MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS — The Rev. Loren Wood, firmly planted in his new headquarters, focuses his attention on new child care and homeless assistance programs. Wood applauds Brea's church community efforts to work together.

members of the church, is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and accepts children 2 years and up, whether they are party-trained or not.

"Close to 90 percent of our couples both work. In many cases it is necessary for both parents to work," said Wood. "Day care is a definite need."

The Foursquare staff cares for 45 to 50 children a day. Wood estimates that Brea churches provide day care for more than 1,200 children a day.

The plight of the homeless is another issue taking the forefront, which was not as large a problem when Wood began in Brea.

"Many times these people are victims of circumstance," he said. "We sent 321 people to the Salvation Army shelter last year." Foursquare Church

participates in the bell ringing and money collecting for the Salvation Army during the Christmas season. The money the church raises is tabulated and set aside for use to house members of Brea at the Salvation Army Center in Santa Ana.

"You would be surprised who could care less about the homeless," said Wood. He would like to see a center set up that would be closer, but to date there are no plans for such a facility. "The city is running scared because of liability," said Wood.

Wood is also involved in many activities which bring together leaders of different faiths such as the Widowed Persons Service, which ministers to the bereaved. The organization calls together volunteers from Methodist, Catholic and Congregational

churches. "That's one thing I like about Brea — we do things together," he added.

The personable minister, who is married and has two children and four grandchildren, calls his congregation "just a family."

"We have some members in their 80's. We have one woman who is called Grandma Bartlet and she is Grandma Bartlet to everyone," he said.

In his many years at Foursquare Church Wood has seen many seasons come and go.

"I think my favorite season is June. That is when you have a lot of weddings and there is nothing better than a happy marriage," he said as he watched the products of those marriages playing outside his window.

A world first comes to Brea Calvary Chapel

By Mark Berg
DSP Staff Writer

BREA — Billed as the "world's first conservative art exhibit," 27 artworks in four categories were unveiled in the sanctuary of Calvary Chapel of Brea during a press conference this morning.

Sponsored by the "Live from L.A." radio broadcast on KKLA featuring John Stewart, and Calvary Chapel, the exhibit is an alternative to the more avante garde types of art being sponsored by the controversial National Endowment for the Arts, Stewart told the small group of artists, supporters and media representatives gathered at the chapel.

"We're not involved with censorship," Stewart said, "but we don't want to fund filth with our tax dollars."

The exhibit is meant to bring attention to the cross section of the American public that may not agree with what the NEA funds with the public's tax dollars, Stewart said. While saying he is "against obscenity and pornography," he said the issue at hand is one of sponsorship, not censorship.

Two dollars from every family goes to the NEA's funding resources, Stewart said. But this involuntary contribution makes up only 2½ percent of the art funds given in the country, he said. Stewart said the difference, should the NEA become defunct, could easily be made up in the private sector.

Controversial artworks, such as the Robert Maplethorpe photographs or the Andre Serrano

art pieces should have a conservative response, Stewart suggested.

"What may be beautiful to me may be repulsive to you," the broadcaster said. The alternative conservative art, he said, demonstrates that good art can exist without being offensive.

News of the contest was broadcast over KKLA from May 4 to June 5, drawing 300 hundred entries. "We were so impressed with the creativity and the diversity," Stewart said. The submissions were placed in one of four categories — satire, inspirational, creative and religious/conservative — and given awards by four judges, including Stewart. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, who has led the national controversy regarding defunding the NEA, judged entries in the satirical category only. Rohrabacher was not present at the press conference.

Stewart lauded Calvary Chapel of Brea and its pastor David Berg for sponsoring the exhibit. While today's art is typically only sponsored by the avante garde, Stewart said "Calvary Chapel is drawing back into the roots of our country where the church promoted art. Why leave it to the off-the-wall people?" he asked.