

## SMT Article 8/17 “Jesus Rescues”

Rev. Becca Bateman, Associate Pastor for Family Ministries

Over 200 kids, leaders and helpers deepened their faith this summer at San Marino Community Church. Our Vacation Bible School was another powerful, fun-filled, Bible-based week filled with experiences that help children grow spiritually. Kids explored that feeling of when you are lonely, when you worry, when you struggle, when you are in over your head, or when you feel powerless, Jesus Rescues! At Shipwrecked Island, this year’s theme for VBS, SMCC accomplished two new things: We created our own curriculum of bible stories, art, games, and snacks for the week. The VBS team also worked in conjunction with Knox Presbyterian Church in Pasadena, long-time friends of SMCC. We were glad to have them involved along with so many friends from the surrounding community. What remains constant year after year is our VBS kids’ experience. They have a blast, during a colorfully-themed week of amazing Bible adventures, learning how to watch for God in everyday life through something we call, “God Sightings.” Even young children discovered that God is active in our lives and that God’s presence is everywhere!

Our VBS leaders took the “Rescued by Jesus” theme to a whole new level by building upon bible points and stories. Day one was the story of Joseph and the loneliness he felt when left behind by his brothers. Day two we learned about Queen Esther who took on the worry of all the Israelites before they were rescued with God’s help! Day three, the men on the road to Emmaus struggled with the absence of Jesus, not knowing what to do. And Jesus later rescues them in a new way! Day four we learned about the challenge of being in over your head through the story of Apostle Paul’s shipwreck. Day five talked about the early church, who thought they were powerless, but were rescued at Pentecost!

Through storytelling, games, snack, music, drama, mission, and art, kids do learn – and have fun doing it! Young and old, VBS creates memories that stay with us. When we learn the songs and Bible verses early in life, their message stays in our hearts throughout life. As life’s trials and tribulations are thrown into our path, our children become adults and hopefully will draw comfort knowing that God is walking by their side every step of the way.

Thank you to all the parents, volunteers and community for helping our kids learn how to become stronger through Vacation Bible School. What a way to put our best foot forward as our kids begin the new school year!