

# SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MISSION TRIP: LOS ANGELES

The high school mission team will be heading down to South Los Angeles from July 17<sup>th</sup> to July 23<sup>rd</sup> to work on its very first URBAN Sierra Service Project location repairing homes. Traditionally, our mission team has worked on Native American sites throughout California, Nevada and Arizona with SSP.



During our stay, we will be housed in the large Vermont Square United Methodist Church, located at 4410 Budlong Avenue about one mile west of the 110 Harbor Freeway. The church has a gated parking lot, large kitchen, bathrooms, showers, a gymnasium. This is where we will eat, sleep, do program and hang-out when we are not working or visiting sites in the city.

SSP assures us that this facility is very secure and safe. And

SSP has never experienced any problems in the years SSP has worked in the area (since 2004) and expect none in the future.

During the week our team will be working on homes and community centers in the area surrounding the church. Typical homeowners are elderly people who have lived in the area for decades. Projects include painting, building wheelchair ramps, repairing drywall. SSP has also worked at various nonprofits in the South Los Angeles area as well, doing typical repairs on their facilities.



A great deal of our non-working time is devoted to learning about Los Angeles and the people who live there. This starts with a bus tour of the city on Monday evening, where the group visits the Watts Towers, the downtown area, the area where the 1992 riots started, as well as other important locations that serve as entry points into discussions of Los Angeles' history and challenges. And rather than working on Wednesday, the day is devoted to visiting social agencies which serve the needs of LA's homeless and working poor.



Thank you to the congregation for helping to make this mission trip a reality for our team this summer. And thank you for praying for the safety of our team during their trip, and especially for the team's chaperones Amy Ochoa, Alan Bradford, Melanie Branson and Tim Johnson.