

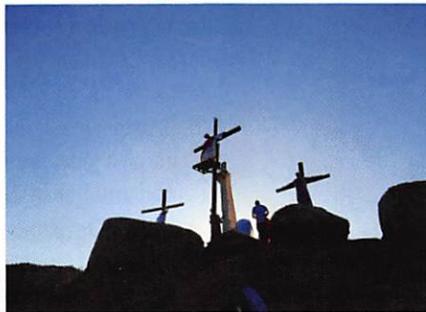
Chino Portuguese Outdoor Easter Program Touches the Community

Chino Portuguese Speaking church members presented for their community a live reenactment of Christ's life, death and resurrection. This is a continuation of the vision conceived by Chino members Isac and Jaidete Ribiero, who longed to use their ranch, Rancho Rio Grande, in Perris, for an Easter outreach event.

This is the second year this church has presented an Easter passion play. They decided to take it a few steps further than last year. With the help of members from the Glendale Brazilian church and the Portuguese Speaking Sabbath school at the Azure Hills church, they added scenes in English and Spanish as well as Portuguese. They also included additional scenes of Jesus' life that led up to His death on the cross, highlighting some of

them closer to our Savior, Jesus, so I prayed to be inspired through His Word and The Desire of Ages."

"It was a beautiful event," reflected Paulo Bechara, pastor of the Chino Portuguese Speaking

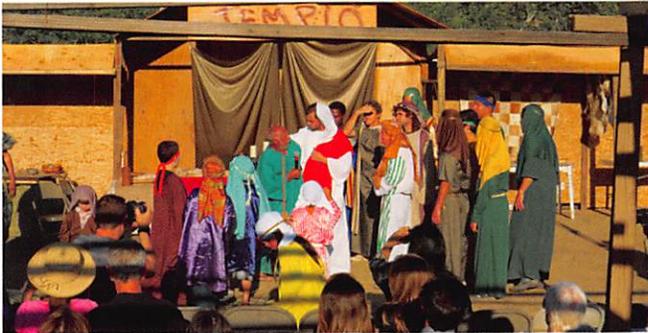


Crucifixion scene of Jesus and the two thieves on their crosses moved some to tears.

church. "It was interesting to see how different parts of the play affected different people. I could tell people were having very personal, spiritual experiences — even the actors. They would speak very loudly at the right parts, and the story would come to life."

More than 200 people attended, many of them shedding tears at the powerful portrayals of what Jesus had to endure to save the world from sin. "One lady said how emotional the program was," reported Bastos. "She said she felt motivated to maintain a better relationship with God."

Several guests requested Bible studies. Members took their addresses and have sent them thank-you cards and missionary magazines, "because the objective of this program was to reach out for Christ," said Bechara.



Jesus heals a blind man.



Jesus rides a donkey for the triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

His miracles and His interaction with the disciples.

This free community event started at 4:30 in the afternoon on April 4 after guests gathered for prayer and singing. Then the guests walked around the property to view the different scenes.

After viewing the powerful closing scenes of Jesus' life, guests watched a children's feature by Rebecca Reis of the Glendale Brazilian church. Refreshments afterward allowed for casual fellowship.

The play was written and directed by Chino member Maria Bastos, an educational counselor and homeschool teacher. "I felt the weight of responsibility, because I would have to write about the most important event in the history of this world," said Bastos. "I knew that what was spoken there could influence people and bring



Simon the Cyrenian is forced to carry Jesus' cross.

The program continued reaching people even after it occurred. A video clip of the production posted on Chino's Facebook page received more than 2,000 views and several shares.

"This was a union of efforts," added Bechara. "We appreciated our members inviting their family, friends and neighbors. We also appreciated the support and involvement from Glendale and Azure Hills churches, as well as help with setup and singing from La Sierra University students."

Chino Portuguese Speaking church members plan to continue this tradition at Rancho Rio Grande for Easter next year, hoping to translate even more scenes into Spanish and English.

Amy Prindle