

**Youth Spearhead Music Festival**  
**By BARBARA LAMBERT**  
**Oceanside, Calif., July 27**

A sense of purpose infused the first-ever Festival of Life music festival, presented at the Shell Amphitheater in San Diego County. "The festival was a dream of mine," said Scott MacKenzie, a young men's division leader who spearheaded the event. "I want to reach out to the community and show them who we are and what we stand for. It was a tremendous challenge for me to spearhead this festival, working with performers and the sound people. With the support of my leaders and these wonderful performers and crew, we are winning today."

This was the first open-to-the-public festival in San Diego Joint Territory's history and the first festival spearheaded by the youth division here. From performers to behind-the-scenes support, young people each had their own reasons for participating.

Elaine Horrall, a saxophonist for the jazz band, had to overcome a health problem to participate. "I was very ill from bronchitis while I was rehearsing," she said. "I could not breathe at times." But thanks to the support of others and sincere prayer, she overcame. "I developed the faith to push through my illness," she said. "This is the most interesting day I've had."

Fife player Colleen Griffin struggled with self-confidence. "I did not believe in myself or my musical talent," she said. "And I could not play very well because I have no musical background. This musical piece we are playing today is long and difficult. It took all my free time, but I learned it." She smiled and continued: "We all work together and help each other. This has taught me that I can accomplish anything when I try."

Chad Lutu, a young stage hand, hurried to get the heavy instruments on stage. Pausing for a moment, he said: "I was goofing off and got dropped from the Mercury Music Corps. My goal is to play with the band again. I learned that unity in this activity can help me shoot through my obstacles. Whether it's moving instruments and props or changing my life-condition, I am bringing unity to my life."

Men and women's division members also supported the event. One of the happiest people there was Irma Jackson. "I was determined from the first planning meeting to support this festival with my life," she said. She is raising a 7-year-old daughter and three grandchildren, ages 11, 6 and 3 months. "Before every meeting and rehearsal, I have to pack up the clothes, diapers and food the children will need," she said. But she said all the work was worth it. "I am so happy to share in presenting all these talented people to the public," she said. "I wouldn't have missed it for anything."

As the festival came to a close with jazz and reggae, the walkway to the beach and pier was filled with families, fishermen and skateboarders. They were drawn by the contagious air of joy and spirit expressed in the music one could hear all along the beach. Many asked, "Who are you?" "Why do you do this?" The SGI-USA members who staffed the information, refreshment and face-painting booths replied, "We're SGI, and we want to share our dream of world peace."

**WT**