



NORTH'S NOTES



Thoughts from Executive Presbyter Jerry North

JUSTICE AND POVERTY ARE FOCUS OF PRESBYTERIAN PEACEMAKING CONFERENCE

In the parable of the mustard seed, Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed, small when it is planted, but spreading like wild-fire as it grows. And so the theme of the 2008 Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference, *Sowing Mustard Seeds: Working for God's Justice, Confronting Poverty*, refers to the way small acts can start a chain reaction, with the hope that with enough momentum the church can make a serious difference in the lives of people all over the world.



The conference will be held July 15-19 at Chapman University in Orange, California. The focus will be raising awareness about the causes and effects of poverty. The theme statement tells us that:

Today globalization creates new forms of poverty with more extreme disparities between the rich and the poor. The annual income of the richest 1 percent is equal to that of the poorest 57 percent, and 24,000 people die each day from poverty and malnutrition. The majority of those in poverty are women and children.

Among the speakers will be Anuradha Mittal, an expert on

trade, development, human rights and agriculture who serves as Executive Director of the Oakland Institute; Roberto Jordan, president of the Reformed Church of Argentina; and Lisa Schirch, Professor of Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University. Workshops topics include fair trade food, human trafficking, peacemaking, water privatization, immigration and child soldiers. A segment entitled *Living the Story* will allow attendees to hear stories of change from members of Joining Hands Against Hunger, a program that unites US churches with overseas churches in the effort to eradicate poverty. Music is also on the agenda, with a concert being given by children from Creative Planet School of the Arts, located in Baldwin Park.

It is hoped that the conference will equip participants to live as disciples of Jesus, working to ensure that all of God's children are cared for and have a place at the table. Limited funds are available for scholarships, and there are also opportunities for Theological Student Workers. (See also the Peacemaking Committee's related announcement on page 2.) For further information go to:

<http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008.htm>

The Scriptures tell us that "without a vision, the people perish." I want to remind us that the presbytery has a vital vision for the future of our churches and communities. The long range plan of the presbytery is to engage in new church plants, assist local congregations in the transformation (redevelopment) process and to support mission endeavors outside the western world. That is quite an undertaking, and with God's guidance those vision goals can be realized.

You may remember that the Evangelism and Church Growth committee has been divided into two working groups: New Church Plants and Church Transformation. Rev. Ken Baker is the chairperson for the New Church Plants and Rev. Randy Lovejoy chairs the Transformation Work Group. Both work groups are engaged in processes that will assist the presbytery in meeting the vision goals. Each group is working with specialists in both fields of endeavor to help in building a strong base for church planting and transformation.

By God's grace and a lot of hard work by all of us, we will begin to have even more vibrant and healthy congregations and new church plants. I trust and pray that each of us is willing to be a part of the vision and mission of our congregations and presbytery. You will be hearing more about the processing of each of these work groups in the near future, and my prayer is that you will be a partner in this God directed vision and mission.

Blessings,
Jerry North

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND THE
PEACEMAKING CONFERENCE?
WE CAN HELP!**

The Peacemaking Committee is looking for 2 non-committee members who are interested in going to the Peacemaking Conference and is offering scholarship money to help defray costs. The conference, entitled *Sowing Mustard Seeds: Working for God's Justice, Confronting Poverty* will be held July 15-18, 2008 at Chapman University in Orange, California. (See page 1 for more details.)

We're looking for one person to attend a Peacemakers Training event from the evening of Sunday, July 13 – lunch on Tues., July 15 and then the Conference through late evening on Friday, July 18. Past training events offered participants a chance to learn about resources offered through the Peacemaking Program, ways to discern one's "call" in the myriad of peace and justice issues, and ideas for creating successful programs, among other things.

We're looking for a second person that would like to attend the Conference only.

If you are interested, please contact Areta Crowell at 323 463-7535 by April 30. You can find more information about the conference on page 1 of this newsletter, and you can also visit the web site:

www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008.htm

Or simply contact any member of the Peacemaking Committee.



In keeping with the Peacemaking Conference's themes of working for justice and confronting poverty, below are two texts, one by Phil Skarin and the other by Ryan Pappan. Phil is a long-time member of Faith PC, Valley Village. Ryan is under care of San Fernando Presbytery's CPM and is currently attending Austin Theological Seminary.

Building Bridges

by Phil Skarin

Bridges are usually thought of as Structures to carry trains and cars Over rivers and canyons.

But there are other kinds of bridges.

What about bridges of communication, bridges of understanding, bridges of tolerance, bridges of friendship, bridges of love?

How do you build these kinds of bridges?

Bridges of steel and concrete

Can't span gulfs of misunderstanding.

Neither can bolts and rivets repair

A fractured relationship.

Reaching out to others

With a spirit of sensitivity and compassion

Will help to close many gaps,

But, sometimes you need to go

More than halfway.

A Prayer

by Ryan Pappan

Mighty King Jesus,

I retract in spirit with You into the desert;

Teach us how to fight the triple ambition of the flesh, pride and materialism.

You are the true Bread of Eternal Life,

Appease our hunger.

Beloved Creator,

Open our hearts to the voice of Your Word

And free us from the original darkness that shadows our vision.

Restore our sight that we may look upon your Son

Who calls us to repentance and a change of heart.

Renew our eagerness to work for you in building a better world,

So that creation may hear your gospel of peace and justice

And respond with humility, to love mercy, and to act justly.

In the transcending name of Christ, Jesus

Amen



**DO YOU DREAM ABOUT ENDING
HUNGER AND POVERTY?
MAKE YOUR DREAM A REALITY!**

Our world has made progress in fighting poverty. For the first time in decades, there are fewer than 1 billion people living on less than \$1 a day. But that's still too many. Please consider taking part in Bread for the World's 2008 Offering of Letters. Write to your members of Congress. Ask them to increase poverty-focused development assistance by at least \$5 billion per year—funding for programs that give people in developing countries the opportunity to work their way out of poverty. These programs include long-term investments in things like education, agriculture, nutrition, health, and clean water.

Why should people of faith engage in advocacy? God calls us to love and care for our neighbors, and biblical prophets such as Micah urge us to imagine and also do justice. We speak up for those who are hungry and oppressed just as Moses spoke to the powers of his day. Throughout history, people of faith have served as critic and conscience of their nations' leaders. Today, advocating for public policy change continues that essential prophetic task.

For more information go to the website:

www.bread.org/take-action/ol2008

or contact Mission Advocate, Wendy Gist at MissionAdvocate@sfpresby.org or 818-891-4781.

Just a reminder....

the next

PRESBYTERY MEETING

will be on

Saturday, May 3 at 9:00 am

at

*Valley United Presbyterian Church
16200 Chatsworth, Granada Hills*

We hope to see you there!

The Presbytery Office is offering the following items for the asking:

20-foot extension ladder

2 black metal cabinets, approximate dimensions: h 2.5 ft, w 3 ft, d 2 ft

Contact Casey at cmaddren@linkline.com or 818 891-4781.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OPPORTUNITIES

WHITWORTH UNIVERSITY CAMPUS PASTOR: WORSHIP

PRIMARY FUNCTIONS:

Integrate the overall vision for campus worship into the Whitworth culture, in coordination with other campus ministry staff, faculty, students and President's Cabinet.

Coordinate campus worship services and preach regularly

Involvement in special worship services

Involvement in student retreats

Pastoral mentoring of students

Function as a member of the Student Life Directors team

QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Masters degree/Master of Divinity degree; ordained, or eligible for ordination; a strong appreciation for the Reformed tradition is required; experience in university ministry desired (campus, church based, or equivalent); experience in pastoral counseling/spiritual direction and mentoring.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Please submit: a letter of interest that relates your education and experience to the qualifications of the position and includes a sentence confirming your interest in the position at the posted hiring range; current vitae or resume; a one-page statement describing your personal commitment to the Christian faith (see Faith Statement prompt at the end of this announcement); and a list with the names, mailing addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers of three employer references to:

Human Resource Services

Attn: Campus Pastor: Worship, Search Committee

Whitworth University, 300 W. Hawthorne Rd.

Spokane, WA 99251

Or by email to jobs@whitworth.edu

SYNOD UPDATE

by Don Inlay

As you may recall, Synod sold the property on Wilshire Blvd last year. Initially, they were to vacate by December 31, 2007. Also, the location of the new offices was undetermined.

On March 14th I spoke to the receptionist and found out that the new location is 332 Wilshire Blvd., Suite #850, Los Angeles 90010. The phone number is 213-383-3340 (same as before the move). The building name is Catalina Plaza, which is across the street from the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, just West of Vermont Ave. The office hours are 7:30 AM - 4 PM, Monday through Friday.

As it turned out, it took an hour and a half to pack up the old location. Moving was completed on February 12th. According to my informant, they are still in the process of



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PCUSA PER CAPITA WEB SITE GOES ONLINE

The Presbyterian Church (USA) has launched a new web site featuring interpretive and educational materials about per capita funding at the General Assembly level. The site, Per Capita: The Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund, is sponsored by the denomination's Office of the General Assembly (OGA). It is designed to address such questions as: What is per capita? Why is it important? What do General Assembly per capita dollars provide? Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger PC(USA). The money covers such things as the administrative expenses of the General Assembly, the OGA, and a portion of activities of the General Assembly Council (GAC) executive director's office. Per capita also funds the expenses of the PC(USA) General Assembly moderator and vice moderator, the Presbyterian Historical Society, and the production and distribution of the PC(USA)'s *Book of Order*, *The Book of Confessions* and other General Assembly publications.

And that's not all the funds go for. A complete list of church entities, agencies and programs supported by per capita funding at the General Assembly level is detailed on the web site's "What Per Capita Supports" page.

"Per capita is the primary funding source for OGA," said Sharon K. Youngs, OGA's Communications Coordinator. "There's always a lot of questions about it and so we wanted to offer some resources to help interpret it. And the plan is to add resources along the way."

The Presbytery of San Fernando News is published monthly by the Communication & Church Support Committee of the Presbytery. Contributions are welcomed. Deadline for each issue is the 25th of the preceding month.

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