



# THE NEWS

April  
2011

OF SAN FERNANDO PRESBYTERY

NEWS

## **SAN FERNANDO PRESBYTERY CONFERS WITH COLOMBIAN PRESBYTERIANS VIA SKYPE**

*The following article is by Lisa Patriquin, Chair of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Work Group.*

Since the September 2010 visit of Rev. Dayro Aranzalez, Executive Presbyter of Central Presbytery, Rev. Ken Baker and the members of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Work Group (JPIC) have begun exploring the possibility of bringing our two presbyteries into a sister relationship. Improved technology has allowed us to take a first step on that road to meet and talk together across thousands of miles. On Tuesday, March 22, we held a video-conference call on Skype with a team of pastors and lay leaders from the Central Presbytery, Presbyterian Church of Colombia. There are seven congregations in Central Presbytery: four in Bogota, one in Medellin, one in Ibague and one in Bucaramanga. The congregations average about 40-50 members, but the churches are all deeply engaged in their cities and neighborhoods, doing active outreach to approximately 5000 people in total.

We heard from Elder Olga Vaez, Director of Venid a Mi (Come To Me), a preschool program for single parent families run by the Cristo Rey congregation in Bogota, and from Pastor Cristian Gomez about Nueva Vida (New Life), a center for young people run by the Betania congregation in Bogota, which was established in cooperation with Compassion International. Both social projects are also supported by Central Presbytery, and are located in neighbor-

hoods whose people face poverty, unemployment, drugs, child prostitution and gangs. Both programs provide educational services, nutrition, basic health services, spiritual formation and entrepreneurship and other life skills training. Rev. Fernando of the Comunidad de Esperanza in Bogota spoke with us about a vibrant ecumenical partnership with Mennonites, Lutherans, Methodists and Franciscans to promote peace and human rights in Colombia in the face of the devastating effects of displacement and violence from more than fifty years of internal conflict among the Colombian military, paramilitaries and guerillas. Rev. Fernando also spoke about an initiative of Jews, Christians and Muslims working with the mayor's office to provide training workshops in local schools to teach peace and reconciliation practices.

We also talked about the need for American advocacy regarding the Colombian Free Trade Agreement and the U.S military presence at seven bases, both of which create substantial obstacles to a peaceful and sustainable way of life for Colombian farmers and small business owners.

This was the first of what we hope will be many conversations with our brothers and sisters in Colombia as we share our work and our walk with the Lord where we each are, strengthening the bonds of fellowship and service together. If you are interested in participating with us in our next Skype call in June, contact me, Lisa Patriquin, JPIC Chair, at [lpatriquin@glenpres.org](mailto:lpatriquin@glenpres.org) or 818-521-9252.

## **HELLO/GOODBYE, COLOMBIA**

*Ruth Mandernach, of the Communication & Church Support Committee, participated in the Skype conference with members of the Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia. She offers the following reflection on the meeting.*

On March 22 at noon, Ken Baker, Areta Crowell and several other members of the Presbytery of San Fernando connected via Skype to elders, candidates and ordained pastors in the Central Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia. It was a rich conversation about the realities of their work as Christians in the midst of a long-standing internal war. I would like to describe the closing of our conversation together, as we said goodbye. Rev. Dayro Aranzalez, Executive Presbyter (and the International Peacemaker who visited our presbytery last September), began the goodbyes with many thanks and gratitude to God for the time we had together. All of the participants expressed a desire to continue our discussion on a quarterly basis via Skype. Thanks were given again and again regarding our common purposes. Comments were made about the meals which were forfeited on behalf of this two-hour conversation during the lunch hour. Our Colombian brothers and sisters told us upon ending the conversation that they were going to share in coffee and thoughts about each one of us and they hoped that we would have some lunch. This sense of unwillingness to leave each other continued for about 20 minutes.

It reminded me of loved ones, unwilling to put down the telephone even though they know it is time to part. It reminded me of God's care and boundless love for us which never stops and is always present and with others across the world and throughout the universe.

Join us during our next conversation as we share the work we are doing for Christ in and around the world. It is inspiring, educational and is full of "sweet humor."

## ***BAKER'S DOZEN***

***Some Thoughts from  
Interim Executive Presbyter  
Rev. Ken Baker***



### **GOD'S EASIEST JOB**

A few weeks ago I locked my keys in my car. I've almost never done that, but I did it on a day when I was hurrying to a meeting. Also I locked my phone in my car, so I couldn't even call the Auto Club! Then, before I knew it, here came an Auto Club truck! I flagged down the driver, who managed to get the door to my car open and I got to my meeting on time.

I choose to believe that wasn't just a coincidence, and it did provide a good entry for my Lessons Learned File (Don't put your phone and your keys on the seat and close the door that can be locked without the key!) This wasn't really a bad habit; I'd only done it once, but once was enough!

In all our lives it's easy to get careless and do something once that shouldn't be done, or to neglect something that should be. We lash out in a fit of frustration; we should make one more phone call to confirm something, but we're tired and skip it. We need to follow through on an assignment, but wasn't that someone else's job? We conclude that it was.

Of course, that's when things go wrong! When we make the thoughtless comment when someone else is especially fragile; when we skip due diligence that one critical time; when we try to do too many things at once.

Keeping us humble is God's easiest job. But it's a chance to learn from the experiences that humble us and thank God that the lesson didn't cost more than it did.

BTW, a magnetic under-car key holder costs \$3 at Auto Zone. Don't ask me how I know that.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Glendale Presbyterian Church  
125 Louise Street  
Glendale 91205  
(818)242.8873

GLENDALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE BREHM CENTER  
AT FULLER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PRESENTS  
THE ORIGINAL ROCK OPERA

JESUS CHRIST  
**SUPERSTAR**  
BY TIM RICE AND ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER  
DIRECTED BY VALERIE MAYHEW

APRIL 15th & 16th @ 8:00pm  
April 17th @ 7:00pm

Suggested Donation  
Adults \$20, Students & Seniors \$15, Group Rates 10+

Reserve your Tickets Today  
Call (323)642-7448 or

Buy Online @ [www.gpcsuperstar.com](http://www.gpcsuperstar.com)

### **FAMILY RESCUE CENTER UPDATE**

**Construction of the Health Office has been completed!**

**Located inside our mobile unit facility,  
medical consultations and screenings will be offered  
to our registered families by volunteer doctors and nurses.**

**DONATIONS FOR EQUIPPING  
THE HEALTH OFFICE ARE NEEDED!**

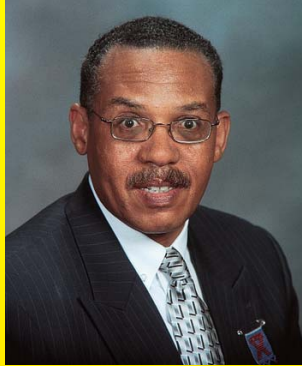
**For more information, contact Marlene Naumann:**

**[mnaumannpn@aol.com](mailto:mnaumannpn@aol.com)**

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN  
OF THE  
SYNOD OF SO. CAL. & HAWAII**

**ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING**

**“A Gathering Place for Men”**



**The Rev. Dr. Harold E. Kidd**  
**Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Inglewood**

**Saturday, May 14, 2011**


**Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church**  
11600 Los Alamitos Blvd., Los Alamitos, CA ([www.gspc.org](http://www.gspc.org))

**Breakfast\* at 7:30 a.m. (Donation \$10.00)**

\*Registration & Exhibits 7:30 a.m.  
Breakfast served at 8:00 & out by 10:00 a.m.  
Reservations by Wednesday, May 12, 2011

Take advantage of our “Express Advance Registration” by prepaying.  
Contact Don Travis: [Pmdtrav@aol.com](mailto:Pmdtrav@aol.com)  
Tel (714) 521-6891 • Fax (714) 521-9283  
Mail to: 5842 Crestview Circle, La Palma, CA 90623-1819

**Make checks payable to Presbyterian Men.**



TIRZAH INTERNATIONAL

Did you know that the average age of entrance into the commercial sex industry in the U.S. is 13?

joinus

Saturday, April 9  
10:30am - 12:30  
(light refreshment served)

Silverlake Community Church  
2930 Hyperion Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Tirzah International is partnering with NightLight for a training on how to identify and prevent the trafficking of young children in Los Angeles.

According to US law, any person under the age of 18 engaged in commercial sexual acts is considered a victim of human trafficking—and most individuals engaged in commercial sexual acts in our country begin at the ages of 12-14.

Emotional, economic and relational factors can all play a role in the lives of vulnerable youth in our communities. NightLight Los Angeles' team is targeting these young people and those who work directly with them. We are training teachers, social workers and mandated reporters within school systems to identify the warning signs before a child is trafficked, and how to intervene by partnering with available resources.

We hope you can join us to receive training on how to prevent trafficking in our city.

To RSVP, please email:

[clovejoy@tirzahinternational.org](mailto:clovejoy@tirzahinternational.org)

Or RSVP online here:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/textlinkwidget?eid=1470547447>

Please invite your friends!

**Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii**

**SUMMER CONFERENCE**

***Blessed Are You,  
Rejoice!!!***

**July 15-17, 2011  
Chapman University, Orange, CA**

**The Reverend Magdalena Garcia**  
**Keynote Speaker, Bible Study and Worship Leader**

**Marta Rodriguez**  
**Moderator Presbyterian Women Churchwide**

**Christian Muslim Consultative Group**

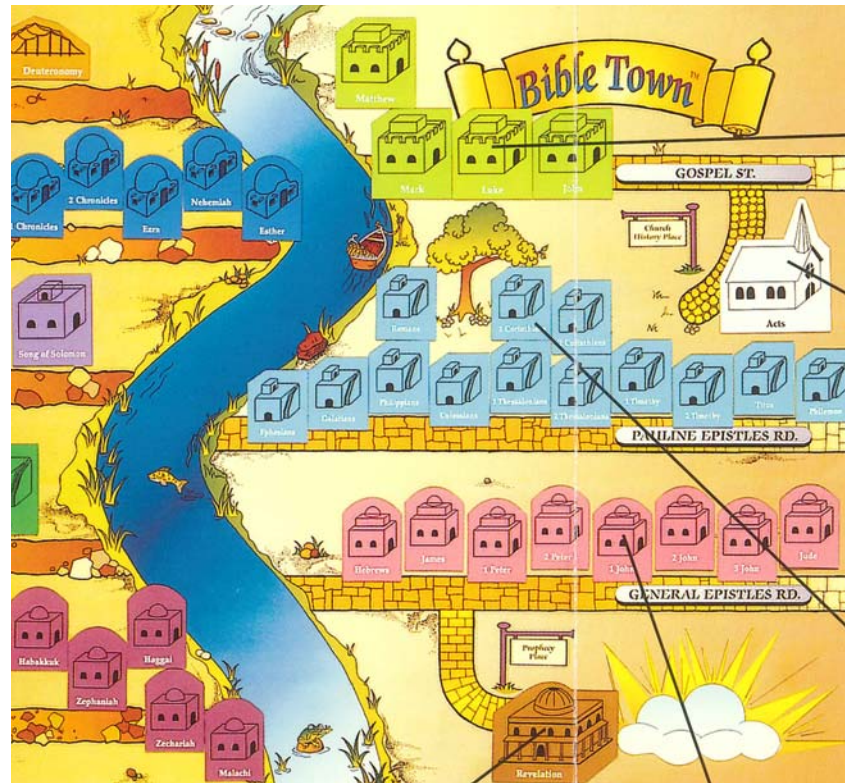
**“Take It to the Congregation” Team**

***Workshops \* Forums \* Mercado***

**Registration Forms are available from Carole Wheeler:  
661 259-4615 or [carolewheeler@pacbell.net](mailto:carolewheeler@pacbell.net)**

# BIBLE TOWN

THE  
FUN  
OF  
LEARNING  
THE  
BOOKS  
OF  
THE  
BIBLE



Bible Town is a unique learning tool which gives boys and girls an exciting overview of scripture. Teachers may use Bible Town to show students how each week's lesson fits into the big picture of the Bible. If you or your church would be interested in obtaining a FREE edition of Bible Town, please contact Ruth Gosting at: [RGMinist@aol.com](mailto:RGMinist@aol.com)

## **Full-Time Church Business Administrator** **Brentwood Presbyterian Church**

Brentwood Presbyterian Church, a warm, 700 member, dynamic, inclusive and active congregation strategically located at Bundy and San Vicente in the heart of the Westside of Los Angeles, is offering an exciting full-time Business Administrator position to manage the business affairs of the church including financial administration, facilities management and selected areas within personnel administration. This challenging and fulfilling position will work directly with our Finance and Facilities Committees in addition to supervising our IT director and outsourced custodial staff. ■ The successful candidate will need to be an extremely well-organized administrator with strong accounting, computer and people skills and will be an experienced and proven leader. If you are interested in a wonderful work atmosphere with great collegial relationships doing work that makes a big difference, we would love an opportunity to talk to you about this unique form of ministry. Competitive salary with benefits included. ■ Please email your cover letter and resume to the search team: [leopress@msn.com](mailto:leopress@msn.com) For more information about our congregation please visit: [bpcusa.org](http://bpcusa.org)

The News of San Fernando Presbytery is published monthly by the Communication & Church Support Committee, Areta Crowell, Chair. Submissions and comments should be sent to Casey Maddren, Editor. E-Mail: [cmaddren@sfpresby.org](mailto:cmaddren@sfpresby.org)