

# The News

## of San Fernando Presbytery

Every Church a Mission Center September 2008

### North's Notes



Thoughts from Executive Presbyter Jerry North

### INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKER TO VISIT SAN FERNANDO PRESBYTERY

Members of San Fernando Presbytery will have the opportunity to hear a first-hand account of the state of Christianity in the Middle East. International Peacemaker Razek Syriani arrives from Syria at the end of this month to visit congregations and share his experiences as a member of the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch, one of the oldest Christian churches in the world.

Razek currently serves as Director of International Relations for the Middle East Council of Churches. His visit is being sponsored by the Peacemaking Committees of both San Fernando and San Gabriel Presbyteries.

Below is a partial list of events that he will be attending. Additional dates will be posted at: [www.sfpresby.org](http://www.sfpresby.org)



International Peacemaker Razek Syriani

#### Saturday, September 27

Presbytery Meeting, Glendale PC, 125 S. Louise, Time TBD

#### Tuesday, September 30

Knox PC, 225 S. Hill, Pasadena, Time TBD

#### Wednesday, October 1

Woodland Hills PC, 5751 Platt, Continental Breakfast, 8:00 – 9:30 am

All are invited! RSVP to church at 818-346-7894 by September 29

#### Wednesday, October 1

St. Stephen PC, 10034 Lubao Ave. Chatsworth, 7:00 pm

Dessert and coffee will be served with a freewill offering for the dessert.

RSVP required by 9/29 to Carol: 818 886-5531

Fall season is arriving, and with it the focus on new church plantings and the transformation of existing congregations. Following the direction of the presbytery to pursue these two areas in earnest, the process for new church plants and of transforming congregations is full speed ahead this fall. You will be reading more about these processes in this newsletter.

Here are some reasons suggested by Paul Nixon in his book "I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church" why we as congregations might not be willing to choose "now" over "later":

1. "We need to get out of debt first."
2. "We don't have enough workers for the things we are trying to do currently."
3. "We need to grow our current ministries to a certain level first before spreading ourselves to thin."
4. "We need to wait until for Mr./Mrs. Jones to die, because he/she runs the place and he/she would not like this."....

Excuses abound when it comes to change in the congregation and although there might be some wisdom to each excuse, a twist occurs that really makes the excuse invalid. We are called to be missionaries of the Good News to those around us (our communities) and to those beyond our boundaries. Let us use the example of the followers of Christ on the day of Pentecost, when God's spirit filled them with energy and passion to proclaim the Gospel to those gathered in Jerusalem. That Spirit ignited passion and zeal is

*(Continued on page 4)*

**DO YOU WANT TO HEAR ABOUT CHURCH TRANSFORMATION?**

THEN COME TO THE....

### SEPTEMBER PRESBYTERY MEETING

**Saturday, September 27, 9:00 am**

**Glendale Presbyterian Church**

The Evangelism & Church Growth Committee has been working hard on new initiatives regarding church transformation and new church planting. Check out the insert in this issue of the newsletter for more information.

## **MISSISSIPPI REVISITED:** ***The Gulf Coast Mission Trip***

*The following article is by Lisa Patriquin, Director of Children's and Family Ministries at Glendale Presbyterian, and one of the coordinators of this summer's mission trip to Diamondhead, Mississippi.*

The Presbyteries of San Fernando and San Gabriel, along with the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii, provided fantastic support for a group of 38 participants to return to Diamondhead, MS to continue post-Katrina rebuilding efforts. Included in this year's group were participants from nine congregations, ranging in age from early teens to early 70s. Participating congregations who provided support and team members included: St. Stephen's Presbyterian, Pasadena Presbyterian, Grandview Presbyterian, Glendale Presbyterian, Claremont Presbyterian, Woodland Hills Presbyterian, Sherman Oaks Presbyterian, Trinity Presbyterian and Village Presbyterian.

We worked on six homes, three of which had extensive projects including tiling, siding, flooring and painting. One of these homes belonged to the Diamondhead Site Manager, Mitch, who has worked for the last three years to help many Gulfport area residents rebuild their homes. We were blessed to be able to help Mitch get much closer to moving out of a FEMA trailer and back into his own home. We also worked on three other homes, gutting part of a home that had been burned in a recent fire and taking care of odd jobs in the other two.

And how have things changed since last year? In the areas where we have been serving, we saw a definite improvement. In Diamondhead and the larger Gulfport area, many new homes have been built in areas devastated by the storm surge and high winds of Katrina and Rita. We saw fewer FEMA trailers and more completed homes than in August 2007. In Waveland and the larger Long Beach area, 98% of which was destroyed by Katrina, virtually no improvements have occurred. These areas are still almost entirely vacant of homes and businesses, with weeds taking over lots that used to be home to thousands of native Missisippians. People talked with us about missing their friends and family who moved away after the hurricanes and have been unable to return, and of the difficulties of rebuilding their lives in their absence.



A Mississippi home leveled by Hurricane Katrina. While many houses have been rebuilt, much remains to be done.

People are mending their lives but still very much in need of the assistance that we provide as out-of-state volunteers. The Presbytery of Mississippi and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance are providing essential human and material resources to the elderly, the disabled and others whose rebuilding requirements have exceeded insurance benefits and/or federal and state assistance. The Gulf Coast Mission Team thanks you for your support and encourages the congregations of our presbytery to continue to send volunteers in the coming months and years. We are making the kind of difference that Christians are called to make in this world as we serve in the rebuilding of homes and hearts in Mississippi.

**EXPERIENTIAL WORSHIP:**

*Giving Yourself  
More Completely  
to God  
with  
Rev. Bob Rognlien*

**Saturday, October 18, 2008  
9:00am - 4:00pm**

**Kirk O'The Valley Presbyterian Church  
19620 Vanowen Street, Reseda, CA 91335  
Phone: 818 345-2535**

**Cost: \$10, includes lunch and copy of the  
book The Experiential Worshiper**

See [www.experientialworship.com](http://www.experientialworship.com)

**ATTENTION PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN!**

Rev. Dale Lindsay Morgan  
Donna Cadwallader  
to speak at Joint PW Gatherings

The Rev. Dale Lindsay Morgan, author of the 2008-2009 *Horizons Bible Study, Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor*, will speak at three PWP joint gatherings in October. Presbyterian Women in the Presbyteries of The Pacific, San Fernando, and Santa Barbara will have the opportunity to hear Dale on Saturday, **October 4, 2008** at the First Presbyterian Church, Encino, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Donna Cadwallader**, the Presbyterian Women in the Synod participant in the first PW USA Mission Experience (El Paso/Juarez) in April, will report on her experiences, and a human interest immigration story will also be presented.

The Church is located at 4963 Balboa Blvd., Encino, CA 91316 (from the Ventura Freeway, 101, exit at Balboa Blvd., go south on Balboa several blocks to the church on the west side of the street. Parking lot is south of the church building.)

The registration fee for this PWP Gathering is \$12 and includes lunch. Make checks payable to PWP and send to Carol Bolish, 851 Gaviota Way, Oxnard, CA 93033 (805-488-4694) by September 26 (deadline for child care is September 18; bring a sack lunch for each child).

If you are unable to attend on October 4 and want to hear Dale's presentation, you might consider the PWP Cluster Gathering on October 11, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Christ Presbyterian Church, Carlsbad, or the last one on October 18 at Claremont Presbyterian Church, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. For more information, contact Sara Bauer (818-363-7247; sarabauer@verizon.net).

**Mission Awareness Trip to Guatemala**

**November 7-16, 2008**

**Cost: \$1,619 : includes airfare, 10 days/9 nights hotels, meals, tours, & transportation**

The Kirk O'The Valley Presbyterian Church is hosting a trip to experience the life and ministries of Presbyterian churches and missions in Guatemala. The trip will focus on gaining an awareness and overview of Christianity in the Central American context rather than in making a hands-on contribution through work on a specific mission project.

*Please contact the Kirk O'The Valley Presbyterian Church office at 818-345-2535 for information, an itinerary and a reservation form.*

THE WOMEN OF  
PANORAMA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

present

THEIR FOURTH ANNUAL

**TEA AND FASHION SHOW**

with a

BABY SHOWER FOR PROJECT ANGEL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2008 AT 10:30 AM

Donation - \$10.00

Fashions by Draper's and Damon's

Jewelry by Cookie Lee

Food and Entertainment by the Ladies of Panorama Pres

Door Prizes and Surprises

Panorama Presbyterian Church

14201 Roscoe Boulevard

Panorama City

RSVP - Kay McNeil - 818 782-5357

**CROP Walks - Fall 2008**

**CROP Hunger Walks help children and families worldwide, and right here in the US. Each year some two million CROP Walkers, volunteers, and sponsors put their hearts and soles in motion, raising over \$16 million per year to help end hunger and poverty around the world - and in their own communities. And you can be a part of it!**

**The following communities are sponsoring CROP Walks this Fall.**

**October 5 - Antelope Valley (Lancaster)**

**November 9: Church of the Chimes, 14115 Magnolia, Sherman Oaks**

**For more information contact Nancy Reyes at 805 581-3679 or [nrmystery@prodigy.net](mailto:nrmystery@prodigy.net) You can also visit the CWS - CROP webpage at:**

**[www.churchworldservice.org/CROP/index.html](http://www.churchworldservice.org/CROP/index.html)**

**The Presbytery of San Fernando  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
14225 Roscoe Blvd.  
Panorama City, CA 91402**

**Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Van Nuys, CA 91406  
Permit No. 227**

### **The 2008 Peacemaking Offering**

The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. The 2008 Peacemaking Offering theme is "Break the Bread of New Creation."

Most churches receive the Offering on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October, which this year is October 5. Each congregation is encouraged to retain 25 percent of the Offering it receives to use for local ministries of peacemaking within the church and its community. Twenty-five percent is used by presbyteries and synods, and 50 percent is used by the General Assembly ministries through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

The Presbytery portion of the Peacemaking Offering has been used by the Peacemaking committee help fund the Gulf Coast work trips, pay for scholarships to peacemaking conferences and events, bring International Peacemakers to the Presbytery, financially support the Mission Advocate position (for which I'm grateful), and more.

For more details, information, and resources visit:  
[www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering)

The Presbytery office also has Peacemaking Offering packets available.

### **NORTH'S NOTES**

*(Continued from page 1)*

what we are asking God to rekindle in our lives and congregations today, now, not later. Let us be open to the moving of God's spirit in our midst as we move forward in the mission of God's work

Blessings,  
Jerry North  
Executive Presbyter

*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.

**Dr. Gerald O North**  
Executive Presbyter

Casey Maddren, Editor  
[cmaddren@linkline.com](mailto:cmaddren@linkline.com)