

A New Approach To Westminster Missions!

For the past few years the Missions Committee has been pondering a way to expand the participation of missions in the Westminster family. One factor in that journey is better and more frequent communication about our various missionaries and fields of service that we support...in short...“getting the word out” on our mission teams around the city and around the world. In recent months we have sponsored the occasional “Lunch & Learn” to discuss particular mission trips and projects. This approach has met with such success that we are embracing it as our annual model for mission communication! We are taking a hiatus on scheduling formal mission’s conferences and will be focusing our 2010 efforts on more frequent “Lunch & Learns”. These events, placed throughout the year, will introduce missions to a broader portion of the Westminster family and invite a more regular and informed participation in prayer toward kingdom work. Our plan is to have these “Lunch & Learns” every other month, with the next one scheduled for February, 2010. Keep an eye on the weekly bulletin for specific dates and times!



Exciting news on how the gospel is advancing in San Diego from Mike & Mandy McBride

Dear Friends,

Praise God for his work in San Diego. In this city known for perpetual sunshine there is much brokenness and need for the good news of Jesus’ salvation. Yet we drive through the city and see the Lord working powerfully in many areas.

Where the Urban Poor and the Urban Professional Intersect

Mandy and I feel called to minister in an area “where the urban poor and urban professional intersect”. We started using this phrase four years ago to describe how we believed the Lord wanted to use our passions and life experience to serve in His kingdom. We both also had a passion for the poor, and valuable related experience – Mandy during her time as a counselor for families under investigation for abuse and neglect and me during my seven years coaching inner-city youth basketball and related ministries. So as we considered where the Lord was calling us to serve after seminary, the obvious answer was a place where these communities, the urban poor and urban professional, intersect.

These are the “gentrifying” communities where urban revitalization is dramatically changing the landscape of entire neighborhoods. Wealth is flowing into neighborhoods where poverty has reigned for a generation and a half. But even as appearances and crimes rates improve in these communities, the divide between rich and poor is still great. Even though rich and poor often live, literally, next door to one another, the communities rarely interact. What reason do they have to interact?

Our conviction is that they have one very important reason to interact, Jesus. What do we mean by this? First, the message of God’s salvation puts rich and poor on a level playing field. Both are utterly dependent on God for salvation. Second, without both rich and poor the body of Christ is incomplete. Each of these communities has a valuable contribution to make in the body of Christ. How do the poor contribute? James gives us a glimpse, saying “has not God chosen

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the poor in this world to be rich in faith...” (James 2:5). Without the message of the gospel and the

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Women's Ministry at WPC

Look for the following opportunities to get involved in 2010:

- ♦ **Bible Studies:** Joy in the Morning is studying Proverbs and meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays only at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. This class is co-led by Maran Grace and Karen Kee. The Hannah Circle meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am in the education wing. This study is led by Martha Akins who is teaching from The Christian Hall of Fame by Elmer Towns covering Christian leaders of the 1900's. Also note that the Women's Sunday School Class led by Jan Powell meets weekly on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the education wing. This year's study topic is "Philipians - A Woman's Study of Joyful Living".
- ♦ **The Book Club** will continue to meet monthly on the third Tuesday of each month in Marietta at the home of Karen Kee. See the bulletin for reading selection updates.
- ♦ **The Prayer Chains** continue to be a great way for us to provide both prayer and tangible support for each other. To email a prayer request to the prayer chain, send an email to womensministry@westminster-pca.org. To subscribe to the email prayer chain, send a message to prayerchain@westminster-pca.org containing "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line and reply to the confirmation message. The Westminster telephone prayer chain can be utilized by calling Jan Powell at 770-394-8078, or Pat Leak at 404-320-1524.

**We welcome your feedback!
Please contact any of the Women's
Ministry Leadership Team with questions
or suggestions:**

Sara Gentry (Community Coordinator)
Maran Grace (Co-Ministry Coordinator)
Meredith Hilton (Prayer Coordinator)
Karen Kee (Co-Ministry Coordinator)
Cortney Rice (Communications Coordinator)

Here is a recap of recent events:

- ♦ **Cookie Swap and Ballet Performance:** On Saturday, December 12th, the women's ministry hosted the 2009 Cookie Swap and Ballet performance. The event was well attended. Al LaCour set the tone for an encouraging Gospel-centered afternoon with a story time for the children that was enjoyed by all. The girls danced beautifully to selections from Handel's Messiah. They particularly enjoyed the grande allegro. It was fun to watch them dance with smiles on their faces. The festivities were topped off with several delicious cookies. If you missed out on the cookies, make sure to pick up a recipe book in the side hallway.

Going forward, the Women's Ministry will continue to offer ongoing and one-time bible studies for women, multi-media prayer chains, and a variety of fellowship events – all of which will tie to our theme "Living in His Image". The WMLT will also be praying for each woman in the church by name, praying for men in church leadership, welcoming visitors and new members, reaching out

to other ministries and committees to find out where they need help or have opportunities, and identifying and developing future leaders for Women's Ministry. What a wonderful journey the Lord is leading us on together! We appreciate your prayers of encouragement for each other, for the members of the WMLT, and for God's continued blessing of Women's Ministry at Westminster.

The Sounds of Westminster, Volume 1

New CD for sale! For decades music has been a vital part of our church's worship as our people gather each week to offer praise and thanks to God for His grace in our lives. Our church has been blessed with many outstanding excellent musicians who freely give of their time and talents to serve as choir members, soloists, and handbell ringers. It is with great excitement that we offer a portion of our music tradition to our church family and friends. Compact discs are available through the church office.

Chancel Choir: Come Sing With Us!

Our Chancel Choir resumes rehearsals on Wednesday, January 6th. With the start of a new choral year it is a wonderful time to join our choir. If you enjoy singing, can match pitch, and can attend our rehearsals we would love to have you. Our main and most important rehearsal is on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00PM. We also have a Sunday School Class/Rehearsal each Sunday morning. An abbreviated Sunday School Class is held from 9:30 to 10:00AM followed by a rehearsal until 10:40AM. All of these activities are held in the choir room downstairs across from the nursery. You may contact Jerry Naff at: jerry.naff@westminster-pca.org to express your interest. PLEASE JOIN US!



Exciting news on how the gospel is advancing in San Diego

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gathering point of the local church, the rich and poor have little reason to interact. This is why we are so passionate about planting a church where the urban poor and urban professional communities intersect, where the contributions of both rich and poor are valued, and where the light of the gospel can transform the community as it transforms individuals in the community.

A Season of Preparation

Communities of this kind exist in every urban center in America. Environments designed to sustain a young and inexperienced church planter and his family, however, are not as common. Harbor Church in San Diego is one of the best in the country at providing coaching from seasoned pastors coupled with a close community of other nearby church planters. So when Harbor called us for a one year church-planting internship to prepare to plant, we had to wrestle hard with the difficulties of moving so far from family and friends. But the Lord, our family, and our friends gently led us through the decision making process. The decision became very clear, and the Lord has affirmed it time and again since we arrived in San Diego four months ago. How? Through some specific places for practice and some amazing doors of opportunity. It is a lot easier to talk about bringing wealthy and poor together than to actually do it. Even with our experience in both rich and poor environments, rarely did those communities intersect. We wondered what would happen when the rubber met the road. The Lord is giving us some windows of insight during our internship year. One of my roles this year is to serve as an assistant pastor at our Downtown site (www.harborpc.org has a map of Harbor sites). Two months ago an opportunity fell in [Mike's] lap to lead a Bible study at one of the low income monthly rental hotels right in the center of downtown. It is literally across the street from where our downtown site meets for worship. I said "Sure, I'd love to lead it. But can we invite some non-residents also? Some of them are homeless, and others are professionals who work and/or live downtown." So for the past nine weeks we have been meeting for an "income diverse" study of Hebrews at the Dustin Arms. 12-16 people come each week. And I (Mike) learn something each week about how to lead the discussion or about how the Lord teaches his people.

[Mike's] internship year has many other components, not the least of which is the opportunity to preach twice per month. First I preach to a suburban congregation. Then I preach the same sermon to about 110 people who are homeless. Talk about great practice in making my sermons connect with both wealthy and poor.

A Door of Opportunity in Greater Golden Hill

Pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ... (Col. 4:3) Many of you have already been praying this for us and for Greater Golden Hill. Thank you. Greater Golden Hill is the area due east of Downtown San Diego. It consists of a few neighborhoods that are in various stages of

change driven by the explosive revitalization of downtown San Diego pushing eastward. This is our target area where we want to plant a new Harbor site. And the Lord has affirmed this direction through many doors of opportunity in the community. Here are just a couple. First, he provided a house for us to rent that couldn't be any more centrally located for the purpose of planting a church in Golden Hill. Our house is nestled in a spot where we have walking access to all of the major gathering places in our community - dog park, coffee shops, business district, local urban ministry, playground, etc. We spent our first three months learning our way around, peoples' names, and some of their stories.

Come October, we were ready to make a more concerted outreach to our neighbors. It is my (Mandy) favorite time of year and Olivia's birthday so we planned "A Pie Stop-by" in celebration of both. We invited all of our neighbors at our end of the block, folks we knew from the dog

park, and a couple of families from church. I (Mandy) was nervous no one would come except the church people. It was a pretty vulnerable feeling. EVERY person we invited came. They showered Olivia with generous gifts (such a blessing to her mother who was so sad for her to be away from everyone she really knew on her birthday). And they stayed...for a long time. One neighbor commented that they had lived on the street for 15 years and never been in anyone's home.

Just a few weeks earlier, I (Mike) spent a Friday at Starbucks prepping for my licensure exam and sermon the following day. On my walk there, I casually said to God, "I feel pretty ready for tomorrow; if you want to give me some people to talk to today, I am up for it." I talked with 12 people I had never met that day in Starbucks. That's not counting the workers, except the one whose mother I met and then she joined us on her break. Most of the conversations were initiated by others when they saw me reading the Bible. I passed my licensure exam too!

These are two of the most exciting stories, but they are not the only ones. The Lord keeps opening doors for us to meet people and even find favor in the eyes of others. Explanations escape us. The Lord's orchestration of it all is exciting to watch and be a part of. And the Lord's call for us to church plant in Greater Golden Hill has come into clearer focus even in the few months since we arrived in July.

Thank you for partnering with us in the work of the Gospel. Will you please pray that the Lord will raise up workers for the harvest here in San Diego, particularly in Greater Golden Hill? Will you pray for our family as we enter into the difficult endeavor of planting a new church? And please know that we pray for you. Not everyone all the time, but we have lists that hang on our refrigerator and a book of many of your pictures by our dining table. Thank you for all the ways you have already been supportive of us.

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

Mike and Mandy McBride

WESTMINSTER COMMUNIQUE

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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www.westminster-pca.org

Birthdays + January & February 2010

Sam Funches1/2	Martha Akins 1/31
Elaine LaCour1/4	Christina Vulov..... 1/31
Loraine Wright1/4	William Gordon2/2
Rob Hill.....1/5	Ruth Fisher.....2/3
Inman Phillips.....1/6	Toni Oliff.....2/4
Maggie Halbert1/7	Sarah Catherine Grace..2/8
Mike Foushee1/8	Mary Ann Reibel2/8
Greg Heston.....1/8	Becca Roberts.....2/8
Elizabeth Stelling.....1/8	Ray Aiello2/9
Cherry Sanders 1/10	Judy Heineman 2/11
Tim Toll..... 1/11	Sarah Hilscher 2/12
Beth Beaver..... 1/12	Carlo Davila..... 2/13
Kim Crawford 1/15	Richard Kissell 2/13
Duane White..... 1/15	Hwasook Seo 2/13
Allan Cadora 1/16	Sherry Hopper 2/15
Isaac Gee 1/16	Gewn Tiencken 2/15
Kristy Boyd..... 1/18	Vicki Walton 2/15
Perry LeBlanc..... 1/19	Mrs. F.R. Little 2/17
Perry LeBlanc IV 1/21	Robert Watt..... 2/17
Virgil Smith..... 1/22	Ethan Chinery..... 2/18
Maggie Rogers..... 1/24	Wade Grace 2/19
David Rawlins..... 1/25	Will Hilscher..... 2/19
Patrick Hope 1/27	Caleb Veerman 2/20
Bobby Hope 1/27	Michael Marten..... 2/23
Amy Veerman 1/27	David White..... 2/25
Franklin Beaver 1/29	Karen Hoffer 2/28
Neile Chesnut 1/29	Allison Robbins 2/29

SNAPSHOTS OF A LIFE

- a perspective on chronic illness -

a 15 year long struggle
shared by Andrea and Tim Kay

REALITY *of chronic illness*
Tuesday, January 19, 2010

RELIEF *in the battle*
Thursday, February 18, 2010

REDEMPTION *and hope for the future*
Saturday, March 20, 2010

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