



April 7, 2010

The Lamplighter

The Earth Moved...

After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb. Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God's angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it. Shafts of lightning blazed from him.

Matthew 28:1-4 The Message

Of the four gospels, the resurrection story that I appreciate most is the one from Matthew. There are subtle differences in all four, but Matthew is the only one who reports an earthquake. Earthquakes have been in the news a lot lately with horrific cost in property damage and loss of human life. We think of Haiti, Chile, and the latest centered in Mexico. Earthquakes have triggered tsunamis, huge tidal waves devastating Pacific islands and coastal regions a few years back. As a child living in California I experienced several earthquakes of various severity, though none like we have seen in the past months. For me they were more of a novelty than a source of fear, though I can remember seeing fear on the faces of adults around me. There was always a moment when people would freeze to assess the potential threat of the quake. There would always be a response: fear or relief.

On that first resurrection Sunday the reaction was fear. The guards at the tomb were frozen with fear. The two Mary's were given a message that rocked their world in another way: "There is nothing to fear here. I know you're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed. "Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, 'He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' That's the message."

Matthew tells us they ran from the tomb to share the message with the other disciples. Guess who they ran into on the way. Jesus! They met him on the way to tell others that he lives. That must have really set the ground under their feet moving! They responded by reaching out to Jesus and grabbing hold of him in worship. Like the Angel at the tomb, Jesus tells them not to be afraid, but to go and tell the others and to head to Galilee and he would meet them there.

It is interesting to contemplate the response of those who saw Jesus Risen from the dead: some believed and worshipped, some held back and waited, and some doubted the reality of the whole thing. All those who believed were sent out to tell others. And in the telling, lives were changed. For more than 2000 years now people millions of people have meet Jesus in the telling of this story. It is a story that has the power to move heaven and earth. It moves me every time I hear it retold. And now, in this week after Easter, I would like to know if it moved you? If you heard the angels words to go and tell; did you go and tell? Have you felt Jesus rise to life in you? In the 50 days of Easter Jesus appeared to disciples to encourage and send. He came to show that life and love have the last word over hatred and death. He appeared to reconcile those who fell away and encourage those who struggled with doubt. I believe he still does. And I believe his light shines in you and me. Let it again move the earth!

Please seek out another person to share your ponderings with and remember to....

Keep Shining,

Bill

"You are the light of the world" ...Jesus in Matthew 5:14



Healthy
Rural
Community
Living

By: Malakai
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Willits,
California
95490

The Church and Sustaining Rural Communities- a workshop for input from those committed to the Land and the People who live in it.

**The Church has heard a call to do what it can do best- Grow Community.
Remember our glorious heritage of building rural towns in the name of Christ.**

Weldon United Methodist Church is hosting a listening post, **Saturday, June 12 at Weldon United Methodist Church** 201 2nd Ave. West, Weldon, IA 10 am to 2pm. Lunch will be served by the church. \$5 per person.

We invite persons who want to sustain Iowa's rural communities and the people and environment where they live. If the Church's mission is motivated only by decline or a sense of impending crisis it will fail. But underlying this forum is a vision of the love of God and the power of the gospel to transform individual lives and communities.

The Church is listening: This must happen in response to how the church finds itself in our surrounding rural society. We want to respond to diverse organizations and communities sharing the same physical and cultural space.

It is not that programs of inspiration are wrong—but if they do not contribute to our growth—either individually or corporately—then we are missing the mark. We are called to rescue the perishing.” (“The Church as a Growing Community”, Galen Hickman)

That includes our rural communities here in Iowa.

We are seeking our parishioners who will commit to attending “A Time to Lead” The Conference Board of Church and Society and the Conference Board of Global Ministries invite you to a special opportunity to work together during 2010 to educate and participate in actions for leading our local churches to a greater understanding and involvement in **environmental justice and immigrant rights/civil rights.**

Our delegation will call for the church to include rural communities in its quest to involve Iowa congregations more deeply in environmental justice issues, this is an opportunity for you to stand up for Iowa’s rural communities and call the church to its responsibility to sustaining rural communities.

Let’s stand for Rural Communities... If the Church’s mission motivated only by decline or a sense of impending crisis it will fail. But underlying this our appearance at this meeting is a vision of the love of God and the power of the gospel to transform individual lives and communities.

The meeting is on Saturday, April 17 at Valley UMC, 4201 Ashworth Rd in West Des Moines (515-225-8128) from 1:30-4:00 they are hosting a meeting for United Methodists who want to be proactive in their approach to issues around environmental justice/climate change and advocacy for the civil liberties of all immigrants.

Combining our resources and our ideas, we have a process to help us focus on steps to bring education and action to our churches, districts and annual conference. Join us to prioritize and organize a number of activities that we can carry out together. Let’s use our faith and creativity to make a difference!

If you have a passion to involve your congregation more deeply in environmental justice and sustaining our rural communities, this is an opportunity for you.

Let us know that you are coming by CALLING THE CHURCH OFFICE.

The telephone number is 641-446-7342 .

Men’s Time at the Church

The church today has been feminized in a lot of ways which have left men feeling left out. So, what’s it mean to be a Christian man in the modern world? What is the man’s role in the family, the church and the world? You’ve heard it from a lot of people, so join the Chariton United Methodist Church, the South Central United Methodist Men and The Christian Motorcyclist Association as we explore this together on Saturday, April 17th.

The Christian Motorcyclists Association is an organization with the stated vision of *Changing* the world, one heart at a time. Their stated goals say “We will accomplish our vision through:

- Evangelism outreach primarily, but not exclusively, to the motorcycling community.
- Run for the Son, where we will partner with ministries with world-reaching potential.

- Equipping our members in ministry training that aligns itself with Biblical truths.
- A servant's attitude to the world and to our members (i.e., Here if you need us).
- Quality products that aid in evangelistic outreach.
- An effective Work Center support team".

Their mission is to inspire our leaders and members to be the most organized, advanced, equipped, financially stable organization, full of integrity in the motorcycling industry and the kingdom of God.

The Soul Patrol representatives will be here at 9:00 AM and we would like to greet them with a Show and Shine of motorcycles outside FUMC on Roland Ave. We invite bikers to bring your bikes to show. We invite the community to come and enjoy the bikes and move inside to hear Gary Ogren of the Christian Motorcyclists Association and others in testimony, witness and an exploration of being a Christian man in the modern world by Pastor Wiese. Want more information? Call 774-5023 for more information.

Please detach and send in your registration by April 10th to:

South Central District Office
 PO Box 282
 Osceola, IA 50213

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Church: _____

I am hoping all of your youth ministries are going well. I have a couple of opportunities that I wanted to tell you about.

1. Summer Mission Trip. **Early Bird Registrations Due April 15th!!** Some of you heard about this at the Next Step Conference. We are inviting all youth groups to join us in one of your mission trips. This one is June 20-25 and we will be working with the Harlan Methodist Church helping out those in need in the community. This may include some building projects, some painting projects, brush removal, and even some organizing of rooms. We have worship, small groups, and communal fun events every evening. Early bird costs are only \$190. For more information or to register go to: www.afumcyouthmissions.com

In His Service,

Rick Webb
 Co-Director of Youth Ministry
 Ankeny First United Methodist Church
 515-964-4249 Ext 134

EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, MINISTRY AND WITNESS

A Time to Lead

The Conference Board of Church and Society and the Conference Board of Global Ministries invite you to a special opportunity to work together during 2010 to educate and participate in actions for leading our local churches to a greater understanding and involvement in **environmental justice and immigrant rights/civil rights**.

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Combining our resources and our ideas, we have a process to help us focus on steps to bring education and action to our churches, districts and annual conference. Join us to prioritize and organize a number of activities that we can carry out together. Let's use our faith and creativity to make a difference!

If you have a passion to involve your congregation more deeply in environmental justice issues, this is an opportunity for you.

If you have a passion to welcome immigrants by helping your congregation to become more compassionate and understanding of their needs, this is an opportunity for you. Let us know that you are coming by emailing one of the contacts. You can communicate with anyone of us for more information.

Judy Kading judykading@yahoo.com Doris Knight DorKnight1@cs.com
Mark Young revmyoung.78@gmail.com Clint Twedt-Ball clint@hub25.org
Jim Turner jturnerfamily@yahoo.com
Scott Lothe Scott.Hopeumc@adiis.net

You Are Invited To a Seminar On Including the Mentally Challenged In Your Worship!
The Commission in Ministry With Persons With Disabilities is holding a Seminar during the Annual Conference on including people with mental challenges in worship. Staci Holms will be presenting during the evening meal of the first day of the 2010 IAUMC, June 5th.
To see the brochure and to attain the invitation letter and registration form please follow the following directions. To receive the meal you will need to pre-register!

Registration ends when April ends so Register Now! No Pre-Registration, No meal.

Go to the **Home Page of the Iowa Annual Conference** – www.iaumc.org

Click on the **2010 Annual Conference** link

Then click of the link;

For information on the 2010 Annual Conference to be held in Des Moines Iowa click here

Then click on

2010 Events Information (<http://iaumc.org/pages/detail/1685>)

Look down the menu for, and click on,

Inclusion for People with Disabilities

Then look directly under that new tab where you will find *to the right* of the lower “home” icon that if you click it will open up the side menu where you will find the initiation letter and the REGISTRATION form

Thanks! Rev Jud – CMPD Chair

Cleaning out the Closet

With wintertime behind us people are rearranging their closet and drawers to accommodate spring and summer items. In June 16 fourteen Iowans will travel to Nigeria as part of the Iowa Nigeria Partnership annual work team. Directors of various conference committees have asked us to bring a variety of “things” so perhaps you might help us find these requested items as you clean out the closet.

Choir and clergy robes & stoles, church paraments and candle holders to be given to newly established UM Churches

The UMC Book of Worship (could be Pastor’s Version)

Books including: Using Information Technology by Sawyer & Williams, 4th edition
Comdex/Computer Course Kit by Vikas Gupta, Comdex Computer Programming Course Kit, Comdex Desktop Publishing Course Kit by Vikas Gupta, any books on Excel

Camera tripod for small camera

Screen for use in power point or for projector

Panasonic Digital Camera Battery: SDR-S7P, Model #VW-VBJ10, MH27866/84VN

Any left over 2010 graduation decorations, napkins, plates, etc. (may be taken to Annual Conference in June)

Test strips for glucose monitors: Accu-Chek Active, One touch Fast *Take*

New or used laptops in working condition with/without software, cords

For further information on above listed requests, contact Beverly Nolte, bnmedical@aol.com, 515 266 4186.

Iowa Justice For Our Neighbors

P.O. Box 41006, Des Moines IA 50311, Phone: 515-255-9809

Central and Western Iowa JFON Attorney - Trina Scott Zuor

Serving the Des Moines and Storm Lake JFON Sites

Eastern Iowa JFON Attorney - Gary Walters

Serving the Cedar Rapids and Columbus Junction JFON Sites

Iowa Advance

Special #375

March 25, 2010

Report to the Districts of the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church,

I am attaching our 2009 Annual Report and Income/Expense Statement. Iowa Justice For Our Neighbors and our clients are very grateful for the contribution of the East Central, the Southeast, the Northwest, and the Southwest Districts of the Iowa Annual Conference to the vital ministry of Iowa JFON. The Northwest, East Central and Southeast Districts gave a total of \$14,702 from their district askings in 2009. An additional grant of \$5,000 from the Southeast District Latino Task Force and \$1,000 from the Southwest District helped to ensure that low-income immigrants in Iowa had access to free professional legal services in their immigration process from the Iowa JFON attorneys. Donations from Iowa churches, individuals and law firms increased by 80% to almost \$34,000. We ended the year with income of more than \$193,409, expenses of \$190,155 and a balance of \$3,254. Your support helped to make it possible! Thank you!

The Iowa JFON Committee was very encouraged by this outstanding response. However, there were months last year when a positive balance was not assured until the last day, and funding sources have less money to grant in these economically troubled times. Considering the need to make the program more sustainable, the committee decided to move both attorneys to the Des Moines office with one full-time staff person, cutting our 2010 budget by more than \$30,000. Iowa JFON will need the same kind of support from districts, churches and individuals that we received last year. The committee is also working with other denominations to offer the opportunity to their congregations to give immigrants the chance to stabilize their immigration status and be better able to contribute to their communities. We continue to research granting opportunities.

Eastern Iowa JFON Attorney Gary Walters and Central and Western Iowa JFON Attorney Trina Scott Zuor now have the advantage of supporting each other as they share the office in Des Moines. Gary continues to spend several days each month in Eastern Iowa serving new clients at legal clinics in Cedar Rapids and Columbus Junction and working with current clients. Trina continues to serve clients in Storm Lake and Des Moines. In their first full year of service these two young attorneys represented our clients with professional commitment and zeal, providing them with support and hope in their quest for immigration benefits.

The work of Iowa JFON continues to be vital to our clients. As clients receive favorable decisions, they are much better able to offer the gifts and skills which they bring to the lives of their schools, churches, and communities. Manuel Catalan became a citizen in 2008 and his wife Ena is working toward her citizenship. Manuel and Ena are leaders in their community of faith and this month they led a medical mission team to their home village of Chipilapa, El Salvador. Along with all of the clients who have been and are being served by Iowa JFON, Manuel and Ena thank you for your vital support of this ministry. The volunteers and staff are also very grateful as you participate with us in this program of legal immigration services which "welcomes the stranger" and offers the hope that their dreams will become a reality.

Sincerely,

Doris Knight, Volunteer Executive Director Iowa Justice For Our Neighbors,

515-277-4719 dorknight1