

Porter's Page

Glimpses from the Los Angeles Nehemiah Project (LANP)
 Dr. Arthur Porter, Iowa District West missionary
 serving the Los Angeles Nehemiah Project

Family Gathering

The Nehemiah quarterly time together with all member churches was again a spiritual and fellowship success. Six member churches participated at First Lutheran Church, Culver City. As usual this time is set aside for members to enjoy each other at different church locations and see each other in different settings and roles. It continues to be a rich time for bonding. The usual features were present and stimulating: the food, the games and the camaraderie were quite evident. The original purpose for the Family Gathering was to build unity and a sense of community among sister Lutheran churches with so much common history and so many common families in their history. Most of these churches relate back to the first churches in Los Angeles and some have been planted by others. This was our ninth Family Quarterly Gathering, and it is still meeting its primary goal. Nehemiah is working on many fronts to build this unity and urging the churches to abandon doing things alone and come together in a profound way to revitalize themselves.

Anniversaries

Member Church Good Shepherd celebrated its 50th year of the dedication its sanctuary. Hundreds of former members returned to join the celebration. One of the highlights was the pastor who preached at the dedication was on hand to preach the 50th anniversary celebration. There were many poignant moments shared by members. One of the most nostalgic moments was opening the vial sealed away at the dedication and comparing the situation today for the city of Inglewood. Several members from other Nehemiah churches were in attendance to celebrate with their sister church, Good Shepherd.

Also another sister Nehemiah church, St. Paul Lutheran celebrated its 84th anniversary. This was also a festive occasion as the St. Paulians are forever ready and quite capable of celebrating in grand style. St. Paul has more than its share of good cooks, excellent event planners and always enjoys huge support from members. Although this was not a "special number" year for them, nonetheless, the occasion was special and a huge success.

Men on the march

The men's group, the Vanguard, will be on retreat May1-3 under the theme of "Called to be..." The Vanguard is committed to strengthening its membership in the Word. The topics will strengthen men in the roles God called them to serve in: including called to be leaders, fathers, and husbands. The retreat will afford ample time for reflection without distraction and quiet time with God. Sometimes with the hustle and bustle of the city the distractions inhibit quiet and pensive times. The Vanguard is preparing its members to serve as mentors for the growing number of young boys who without proper fatherly

images have no sustained connection to church or means to be connected to Jesus Christ. This is a rich mission field that we are committed to reach.

Visit with seminarians

For the several consecutive years Nehemiah has met with seminary students to share the inner-city experience and to give them a practical idea what it means to serve as pastor or missionary in the inner-city. The mission field in the inner-city is misunderstood and neglected by many in the ministry. We need new and passionate pastors in the city, and I pray that we can persuade some to seek to serve in the inner-city.

Nehemiah is pressing on in our mission goals and we are continuing to work with other churches to help build the Kingdom.

Serving joyfully,

Rev. Arthur L. Porter

Thanks for the prayers and support of our fellow pilgrims in mission.

Los Angeles Nehemiah Project

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Your partnership through financial support of this mission is most appreciated. Donations for the Nehemiah Project can be sent to Iowa District West (PO Box 1155, Fort Dodge, IA 50501). Your support will be forwarded to Dr. Porter and related ministries.

