

Porter's Page

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

God has given the Nehemiah Project another year, and we would be wise to spend it to His glory. The following is the charge and the challenge we have set for ourselves.

We have to revitalize the churches if they are to return to a viable status. The greatest deficit we face is the lack of fulltime pastors with the right skill mix and passion for inner-city ministry. We are seeking grant funds to help us for without shepherds our flock will wander.

This year our specific focus will be continuing those activities that promote unity and cooperation.

The Thursday night Nehemiah Bible Study will continue. It is a nurturing component and the linchpin that sustains us in our Christian practice. We will continue building a strong unified church by engaging in joint servant events and by sponsoring joint mission activities.

We will continue work towards a Christian community demonstrating caring for each other. The quarterly Family Gathering where we all meet in a relaxed and festive environment has been quite successful in causing bonding to grow among the churches. We will encourage ailing and at-risk churches to consider other means to individual spiritual growth. Thus we will focus in a variety of ways to promote some manner of consolidation among churches with similar needs and dynamics.

As for outreach, we will be consolidating social services to be provided to the larger community by Nehemiah churches by joining together to provide these services. The expansion of the athletic program is needed and plans are being made.

The men's group, The Vanguard, will be strengthened and expanded in its mentoring and service activities.

We also look to expand the number of Nehemiah congregations working with the IOWAY volunteers this year.

Scripture says, there is a time for everything. 2009 is a watershed year for Nehemiah. It is the time for us to put our hands on the plow and not look back. Solomon said, "So I saw that there is nothing better for a man than to enjoy his work, because that is his lot" (Eccl. 3:22). Nehemiah's lot is to joyfully do its work in the time God has allowed us. He has given us a start in 2009; but how long we have is unknown. We know we can only work while it is still day. The time for our work is now. We pray God will guide and sustain us as we go about the work of His Kingdom.

We look forward to working with our partners in mission in Iowa District West.

Serving Christ together,

Rev. Dr. Arthur L. Porter

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.

