

Inside

West Side

Issue Highlight this month:
Missions

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Inside West Side

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Missions 101: How to attend the 2005 West Side Mission Conference

by Carolyn Slippert



West Side Church Mission Council hopes you will attend the 2005 Mission Conference. It will be held Friday evening, September 30 thru Sunday lunch, October 2. The theme for this well planned and jam-packed event is *A Waiting World—A Willing Church.* The theme verse is Psalm 67:1-2. Please know that from the time you walk in the door on Friday evening, we have had you and your children in mind. We want to please you, educate you, tempt you, and challenge you.

Bring the whole family to the kick off event Friday night. The adults will see the movie, *The Mouk Story*, the journey of a tribe in Papua New Guinea from a history of murderous sorcery and deceit to a discovery of love and understanding. Then the adults will join the children for an intergenerational time filled with fun activities. The children will have had a head start in learning about missions during their Sunday school times throughout the month of September. It will be fun for them to watch the adults try and catch up.

On Saturday, October 1, enjoy your morning at home, but come to the church at 12:30 for an afternoon with a myriad of opportunities. While you will be educated and challenged, your children (grades 1-5) will have their own separate program especially planned for them by Renee Root, Kay Janecke and Sue Hinkle.

Five speakers have been invited to convey what God is doing in China (Gary Waldron), Ethiopia (Tom Theriault), with the Muslim community (Connie Bissen), and the Mormon Church (Scott Johnson & Joel Kramer). The schedule is set up to allow you the opportunity to hear each speaker. During break times please browse through the many booths that will have been set up for you by many ministry agencies. Pick up a latte at the West Side North Coffee Shop (proceeds to missions) to sip along the way.



see **Conference**, pg 4

Conference, cont. from pg 1

Saturday evening will provide dinner and theater—Wycliffe Dinner Theatre that is. This is a nationally known troupe presenting a cultural dinner and a powerful drama depicting the challenges faced and the resulting faithfulness of God to those who seek to translate the Word of God into the heart language of a people. Since there are only 250 tickets for the whole of the Tri-Cities, email your reservations to Dave Shupe at the Mission Mobilization Center: 946-0374 or wsmmc@charter.net as soon as possible.

Your breath may be taken away Sunday morning during the worship service with a beautiful procession into the sanctuary by the children with flags representing the many countries where West Side supports mission work. Tom Theriault representing the Afar people in Ethiopia will be preaching. You will have the third workshop opportunity during the Sunday school hour. The children again will have their own program with Sue Hinkle. Lynn Jones with the Manna Project will lead the Mid-High and High School youth.

Sunday lunch—*Taste of the World*—at West Side Center will culminate the weekend and hopefully leave you well versed in what God is doing in the world, and perhaps challenged to participate with Him in some way, be it quietly or with great fanfare.

Thanks for coming and bringing the kids!



Mission Mobilization Center has busy six months

by Dave Shupe

The MMC, located in the basement of West Side South, directly under the sanctuary, has been open for six exciting and very busy months. This is the first step in the Mission Council's long-standing vision to develop a nucleus to help facilitate projects and ministries that God has and will bring to our hearts.

In January, we helped launch the first *Perspectives* course in the Mid-Columbia area. Fifty-nine students registered and attended the 17 weekly classes. They came from as far away as Grandview and Walla Walla. While most were lay people, there were 3 pastors attending. Many different instructors brought fresh insights into what



God is currently doing around the world. We were left challenged as to how we could strategically live a life of purpose in God's world-wide

purpose. This course will be offered again.

A deputation team of 16, an intergenerational group, traveled to Costa Rica in July to serve alongside a local church in Tucurrique. All returned feeling that they had gained far more than they had given. The team worked hard and reached out in love, forming strong bonds. Living with local families, a cross-cultural experience, proved to be the most memorable experience, and the greatest blessing.

Now we are focused on the Mission Conference—September 30 to October 2. God has provided speakers, helpers, and a wide world of missions to explore. It is our prayer and hope that our whole congregation will attend, enjoy God, and grow.

Visit the center downstairs in West Side South. Call 946-0374 or Email: wsmmc@charter.net

Mission Conference Schedule

Friday	
7:00 pm	Movie Night, WSN Children's activities
Saturday	
12:15 pm	Children's activities, WSC
12:30 pm	Mission speakers, WSN
1:30 pm	Break/Mission booths
2:30 pm	Mission speakers
4:00 pm	Break/Mission booths (children join parents)
5:00 pm	Mission speakers
6:30 pm	Wycliffe Dinner Theater
Sunday	
8:15 am	Worship service - mission speaker
9:45 am	Adult workshops children & youth activities
11:00 am	Worship service - mission speaker
12:30 pm	Luncheon, WSC

Perspective on Perspectives

by Donna Koussa

“Totus tous”. In English that means “I am all yours!”

Have you ever wondered why God selected you to live on this earth at this time, with the people that surround you every day? If you took a look at a time-line from the beginning until eternity, you will discover that the time you spend on this earth is a mere “parenthesis of eternity” according to Sir Thomas Browne. It is a preparation for the next life we will get to enjoy as His followers. It is of great significance because it lasts only about 75 years, far less time than we will spend in eternity.

So what are we to accomplish? What is our purpose? Many of us ask this question daily and some spend their entire lives trying to figure out the answer.

Just eight months ago I thought that I knew that answer and also knew who God was. I thought that I was on the right track, pursuing the “Godly path” that He had set before me. I was serving the Lord, attending church, serving my family in various ways, occasionally giving children’s sermons and serving coffee. But, in January 2005, as 59 of us met for seventeen weeks to hear dynamic speakers from around the globe, the *Perspectives* class changed all of that for me. We worked through two work books, as the Bible was attached to our hip. I sat each day and read and discovered in the pages of my Bible—a NEW GOD! A God with purpose! I discovered through my daily walk,

and sometimes struggle, God’s heart for us.

God’s intention is for us to worship Him—to make Himself known to the world. We do this (worship) not for ourselves, but for God. In



reality the Bible is far more about God than it is about us. God has placed himself in the center of it all and has woven His “Gold Thread” throughout each book. He is found at the beginning, the middle, and the end, each revealing the same plan, the same purpose. What binds all of this together is the unfolding and gradual execution of God’s missionary purpose.

I had thought that the Great Commission was only found in Matthew 28, when, in fact, it is found in almost every book of the Bible.

The *Perspectives* class challenged me with a new world view. Through this course I came to know that this earthly world no longer rules my heart. I know now that this is just a temporary dwelling place. My greater purpose is to live for God and to do as Jesus did, and “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.” (Galatians 2:20). My heart has been changed and my greatest hope, prayer, and desire is to proclaim His name all over the earth. To be His hands and feet to every tribe and tongue, to worship Him like never before, to plant churches, to discover new places to reach the unreached peoples of the world.

I discovered that through finding out where God’s heart is and His Mission Plan that God has a heart that is bigger than anything we could ever dream, hope or imagine. His heart’s cry is for us to know Him, to be in relationship with Him, to discover His plan, His purpose, hope and desire for us, to be on our knees daily and to surrender ourselves to Him. Finally, to reflect the Son-His Son!

It has changed my entire outlook on what it means to say, “Totus tous”—“I am all yours!”

Donna and Lou Koussa were among 19 West Siders who participated in the 2005 Perspectives class.

The next Perspectives class begins January 17, 2006 on Tuesday evenings from 6:15 - 9:15 pm. The class runs through May 9. Location to be determined. More information will be available in September in the MMC office or at the church office.

Deputation 2005: Tales of two countries

Oakland, CA

by Glenda Schlahta

Twelve teens and five adults renewed acquaintances in inner-city Oakland ministering with Fruitvale Presbyterian Church for a second year and participating in community service projects.



Fruitvale Presbyterian Church is a major reclamation project. More than a hundred years old, it has gone from being a thriving congregation of prosperous farming families to hanging on to survival amidst freeways, homeless people, high crime rates, and widely diverse ethnic populations. Its few members are mostly elderly, mostly poor, and mostly distrustful. But their pastor, Monte McClain, fights daily to convince them, as well as the church's neighbors, to believe that there is a God who has not forgotten them, and he is making slow but steady headway.

West Side youth attempted to help his efforts by leading a Vacation Bible School for 11 unchurched neighborhood children (so needy and undisciplined that they seemed like 50!). It was a joy to watch the kids go from wary and wild on Monday to beaming and (somewhat) cooperative by Parent Night on Thursday. Several of the kids asked Jesus into their hearts, and they all relished the love and attention lavished on them by our teenagers.

A group of women, mostly without kids themselves, came daily just to watch. They couldn't believe anyone would do this for someone



else, and for free! Monte reported that the Sunday after we left, seven new children came to church and one new family.

The deputation team spent the afternoons cleaning the yard of a nearby school, scouring the church, and exploring China Town and San Francisco for some lessons in cultural differences. And bonding! What better way to form friendships than by serving together? Well, maybe by sleeping on hard floors together or enduring terror together on the rides at Great America Theme Park . . .

All in all, the trip was a perfect combination of hard work, hard play, much laughter, and many blessings. Thanks to all who helped send us there!

2005 Deputation Teams

Oakland

Kim Cooper
Diana DeBattista
Kailie Erhart
Tyler Holm
Heather Long
Zane McEachren
Derek Nuzum
CJ Olson
Kyle Schlahta
Steve Schlahta
Glenda Schlahta
Katy Schlahta
Matt Serene
Nat Smith
Matt Winter
Jennifer Wodrich
Lindsey Wodrich

Costa Rica

KaraLynn Barton
Bob Carbaugh
Joanna Cox
Gene Dudley
Michelle Jones
Aaron Paul
Stephen Pratt
Dave Shupe
Becky Shupe
Josh Shupe
John Stevenson
Kate Stevenson
Suzi Strickler
Monique Webb
Trinity Webb
Jenni Winter

Costa Rica

by Joanna Cox

Joanna Cox (granddaughter of Joanne Fankhauser and Vince and Mary Cox, and niece of Dan and Jeanne Hultgrenn) came from Idaho to join one of West Side's most diverse deputation teams. The members included 7 high school and 2 college students, 1 young married couple, and 4 adults ranging in age from late twenties to retirement age.



Hola, friends and family of West Side Church! I cannot thank you enough for your financial support and prayers for the two weeks that our Deputation Team was in Costa Rica. It was one of the greatest and most life-changing experiences of my life.

My first night in Costa Rica I was dizzy with excitement. Right off the bat I began conversing with people in a different language. Difficult? Yes, but what fun!

The house we stayed in that first night had huge windows through which you could see God's wonderful landscaping. Hills everywhere were covered in ferns and palm trees. It was a picture straight out of the Jungle Book.

We started working on the Oasis church's soup kitchen the first full day in Tukurrique. Each day we worked outside under the hot sun. We shoveled, sifted and lifted, laboring along side the locals. This whole process was new to me and I loved it. Although we were not able to see this project completed, it gave me great pleasure to know people watching were asking why

were we there to help.

Off the construction sight I formed friendships with some of the local teenage church girls. They too helped with the project occasionally. I have so many great memories of teasing, laughing, singing, playing games and praying with them. If I had a doubt in my mind that I touched lives in Costa Rica it disappeared with these girls' tears at our departure.

As my relationship with other people in town grew, so did my relationship with my host family. Greiben, Elizabeth, Armando (15) and Emmanuel (9) were only too happy to help us with anything we needed. They were definitely a substitute family for the 10 days that Suzie Strickler and I stayed with them. The first night we were in their home, they gathered in our room and prayed with us. Emman-

uel was a eager participant in the Bible School we lead for three days.

Another aspect of the trip that meant a great deal to me were daily worship times. Each morning our team gathered together to sing, pray and listen to what someone had to say about a portion of scripture. Not only did God speak to me during these times, but these times drew me closer to my teammates and provided a strong foundation for the rest of the day.

I just want to close by saying - WOW! I wish I could give each one of you who supported and prayed for the 2005 Deputation team to Costa Rica a big hug! I, along with the 15 others on the team had an unforgettable experience. Everything meant so much to me, from the spectacular scenery to the way God worked in my life and the lives of others. Without your help it would not have been possible.

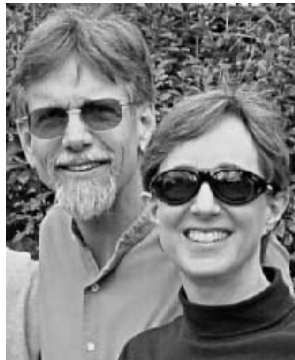
I also want to thank Dave & Becky Shupe for their leadership and letting me be a part of this team - what an incredible couple. Gracias.

Voices from the field

Building bridges in Asia

"Tell us one more time what you do?" Our starting point - and our ultimate vision - for Scripture Impact is two incredible promises from the Word of God. The first in Habbakuk: "The earth will be *filled* with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD..." The second comes from Revelation "there before me was a great multitude ... from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb."

For this to happen, every people group on earth needs to be able to interact with the Word of God in their own language. The goal must not simply be translated Bibles, but worshipping communities, as lost people are found and progressively transformed by the Word. So several years ago, a number of us asked ourselves, "What will it take - in addition to the translated Word - to see worshipping communities established in every



language group in the world?" "And what can we do to facilitate that happening in specific countries?" Gradually the vision for Scripture Impact was born.

At present, pilot projects are envisioned in Kenya and Tanzania in Africa and two sensitive countries in Asia. Scripture Impact is the future expectation of God's glory covering the earth, and of worshipping communities being established in every people group. And in the present, it is the slow, hard work

of moving in that direction in a few specific countries - through persistent and fervent intercession, through relentless commitment to unity in the Body of Christ, and through discovery and training in how to actually work together in new ways in ministries like Bible translation, church planting, and discipleship.

Todd & Karla Poulter
Wycliffe Bible Translators

Thanks from Costa Rica

Speaking for Roblealto, we appreciate SO much all the support West Side Church has shown to Roblealto through- out the years and we ESPECIALLY need prayer support right now as we are in a leadership crisis. Thank you for your interest and for being part of the team to reach needy children and their families for Christ!

Suzanne Emery
Latin America Mission
Roblealto Child Care Association



Summer greetings from Tokyo

At 4:35 pm on July 23 we had one of the strongest earthquakes we have ever felt. Praise God for safety. There have been only 18 people injured in the greater Tokyo area. On Sunday, July 24 Mr. Sugi, who comes out of a Mormon background, will be baptized! Praise God with us for a new believer! We will also say "sayonara" to Jon and Chieko Reasoner and their family as they head to the US for a year of home assignment.

Immediately following [the celebrations] a funeral will take place at TMC. The father of a former student, who was a missionary, died suddenly of a stroke. Please pray for the family of this dear, faithful worker. Pray that the testimony given at the wake and the service will bring many to Christ.

As church members, we find the juxtaposition to be interesting.... we welcome one, and say goodbye to another on the same day. Thank you for praying for us. The work here is slow, but there are signs that perhaps God is getting ready to do a new thing. Wouldn't that be wonderful, and may we all be ready when He does! Much love on a warm Saturday night in Tokyo....

Steve and Martie Tarter
SEND International

Encouragements from Albania

[In July] our junior high camp was full with 120 campers. Twenty of those were sponsored by World Vision—the first time World Vision has done this. None of the campers had heard the Good News of Christ. Our staff was so encouraged by the campers' response. It was obvious that God touched them during the week and changed lives. This week we have a high school camp. Tonight I watched our staff praying with small groups totaling about 25 campers who gave their lives to Christ.



Niko was our language teacher when we came here 11 years ago. He is a close friend and leader in the church. Several weeks ago his 7 year old son Johan was lost for 21 hours. The people in the village, Niko and his family, and even the police had given up hope. In the morning a group from our church arrived. They split up and searched for nearly five hours. They found Johan dehydrated and asleep on a rock in the blazing sun. He had traveled about four miles! When they returned, the village was transformed from a place of

mourning into a place of dancing and celebration.

The village people remarked, "We gave up hope, but these Christians didn't give up hope!" What a witness. Eric led the throng in a time of prayer of thankfulness to God.

Mark & Ruthie Stoscher

Family Room

Welcome to

Tyler Jacob born May 30 in Kansas City to Jeremy and Ashley Parsons. Grandparents are Paul and Susan Parsons, great grandparents are Ken and Sue Hinkle, and great great grandmother is Jaunita Ryel.

Rachel Lauren born June 19 to Jake and Kim Tucker.

Michael Alexander born June 28 to Brian and Annette Barnes. Grandparents are Fred and Pat Reich, and great grandparents are Chuck and Dorothy Finley.

Kylie Marie born July 19 in Tacoma to Jeremy and Stephanie Fox. Grandparents are Jim and Karen Sanders.

Lauren Christine and Emma Jean born July 19 to Mitch and Heidi Ellerd. Grandparents are Dan and Jeanne Hultgrenn, and great grandparents are Vince and Mary Cox.

Same job, new title

On July 17, 2005 at our regular worship services, Rodger York of the Central Washington Presbytery participated in a special recognition of Karel Coppock as an **Evangelist of Presbytery**. With the departure of Bob Paul as Senior Pastor, Karel's designation as a Parish Associate with West Side terminated. However, during the CW Presbytery meeting earlier in July, Karel's work throughout the Presbytery, particularly as a regional coordinator for Alpha, was recognized as a significant ministry. His new title is an affirmation of what he is already doing in bringing Alpha to many churches throughout the mid-Columbia, and gives him a line of accountability and support directly to the Presbytery. We are privileged to have Karel and Julie as active members of our West Side family even as their ministry involves them with many other churches of several denominations. Watch for more news about Alpha in future issues of *Inside West Side*.



Happy Birthday

LaVanda Roberts celebrated 97 years on August 8, 2005.

Jaunita Ryel celebrated 90 years on August 20, 2005.

Congratulations to

Beth Isaacson and Cleve Corner who were married May 14 in Pittsburgh.

Whitney Long and Casey Johnson who were married July 23.

Linnea Shaw and Adam Banta who were married July 30.

Megan Janecke and Theo Prince who were married August 6 in Seattle.

Kate Isaacson and Mike Giardenilli who were married September 3 in Seattle.

West Side Church

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Mementos from around the world serve as reminders for the mission work in which West Side participates and the missionaries we help support. Read more about the people and places where God is at work inside this issue.



Our staff

Rev. Faye Serene, Associate Pastor
C.J. Olson, Director of Youth Ministries
Dan Wodrich, Children & Family
Ministries Director
John Lipp, Lay Minister for
Pastoral Care
Rev. Karel Coppock, Evangelist of
Presbytery
Sarah Franco, Director, Music Ministries
Kim Cooper, Youth Life Partner
Judy Wagenblast, Financial Specialist
Sharon Isaacson, Financial Assistant
Pat Cassidy, Administrative Assistant
Sheila Phillips, Ministry Associate
Maja Shaw, Communication Specialist
Colette Root, General Ministry
Kiet & Ngan Dang, Custodians
Izudin Porobic, WSC Custodian