

Presbytery of the



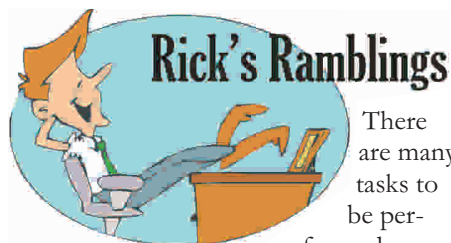
Inland Northwest

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February 2009



There are many tasks to be performed as one year ends and another begins. This year there is either more to be done or I'm not handling the tasks as efficiently as in the past. Am I alone in thinking that the electronic age rather than saving time has increased the speed at which tasks accumulate. One of many quotes I have taped on the wall in my office reads, "Time is nature's way of preventing everything from happening at once." Sometimes it does seem like everything is happening at once. When I'm "with it" I know and remember that God has provided me with enough time to accomplish all that needs to be done. The problem is that I'm not always "with it" and I panic, which compounds the problem. I'm in a vicious cycle that feeds on itself.

In the 1960's Harper's Bizarre recorded Simon and Garfunkel's "59th Street Bridge Song" with the opening line "Slow down you're moving too fast." It's not just the slowing down that's important but the change in focus. With emails and telephone messages piling up I fall victim to what seems urgent rather than what I know is important. There are plenty of books on time management. Often they seem to be designed to "comfortably" squeeze more tasks into less time. I'm convinced that's the way to go. Rather I think it is a matter not of finding time but of making time to focus on and accomplish what really needs doing. A scene in "Jesus Christ Superstar" that is sung in my memory is where a group of folks were reaching out not just to touch Jesus but to grab him for their

needs. His response was to "get away." We read of him doing that often. It's not just the needs trying to grab us but also our (my) need to give myself to so many different things that makes for a depleted soul that needs time apart. A quote attributed to Martin Luther seems appropriate, perhaps more appropriate that Harper's Bizarre: "I am going to have such a busy day today that I cannot start it without three hours of prayer." Edward Santana-Grace who was one of the leaders of the Vitalized Pastors Retreat a week or so ago has said that for most of us 3 hours in prayer isn't likely to

happen and rather than 180 minutes of prayer at the beginning (or end) of the day 60 one minute prayers throughout the day may be more realistic and more helpful.

I hadn't thought about this being a "resolution rambling" but in re reading what I've rambled that certainly is what it is. Thanks for the opportunity to "preach to myself." You may want to check in with me periodically to see how I'm doing. I think I'd appreciate that. I hope you'll allow me to do the same.

How are you? Groovy, I hope.

Rick

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is a great joy to have my PCUSA mission service supported in 2009 by the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest!

My name is Gary Payton. I live in Sandpoint, Idaho, and serve you and all in our denomination as the Regional Liaison for Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Poland. Every day of the year, I communicate with partners and colleagues in these four countries or visit them and their many ministries. In short, my mission service is to be a "bridge" between partner churches (Russian Orthodox, Baptist, Lutheran, and Reformed) and other mission coworkers in the region and all those pieces of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) engaged in mission in the four countries: individuals, congregations, presbyteries, synods, the General Assembly Council staff, and mission support groups.

In February, I'll be in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Krasnoyarsk (in Siberia). The trip will provide opportu-

nities to follow up on many mission projects and to discuss new ways the Lord is calling us to serve. Among the topics will be congregational twinning, theological education, outreach to Roma in European Russia and native peoples in Siberia, and assistance to the victims of the August 2008 war between Georgia and Russia.

Read more about my service as a PCUSA mission coworker at: www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profile/paytong.htm

If I may serve your congregation in 2009, please ask! Mission presentations, PW meetings, mission fairs – I am eager to share the good news of how we Presbyterians do mission in partnership in these former communist countries. My sincere thanks for your support this year. I humbly ask for your prayers for the success and safety of the February trip to Russia.

Yours in Christ,
Gary
gdpayton@aol.com

The Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning

The Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning provides resources, training, and encouragement for clergy and laity. In addition to sponsoring the annual Whitworth Institute of Ministry, the Weyerhaeuser Center provides workshops, short courses, reading groups, certificates and a diploma, and other programs designed to renew clergy and lay leaders and equip them to serve Christ in the church and the world.

Pastors' Reading Group

The purpose of the pastors' reading group is to help pastors and interested laypersons explore the themes of vocation and ministry through the reading and discussing of books related to these topics. This reading group is designed to provide intellectual stimulation and personal enrichment by engaging in significant conversation regarding the nature and purpose of the church as it moves into the 21st Century. The reading group meets the first Tuesday of the month from 7:00 – 8:30 a.m. A book and light breakfast is provided to each participant at minimal cost. All pastors and interested laypersons are invited to join. Next group begins February, 2009.



Certificate in Teaching the Bible

Church leaders are expected to teach the Bible in various settings with a variety of different constituents. The Certificate in Teaching the Bible is designed to give pastors, lay ministry leaders, and Sunday school teachers greater insight into how to teach the Bible more effectively with children, youth, and adults. The certificate is specifically designed to provide an overview of the narrative and key theological themes of the Bible; practical skills and tools to teach the Bible with power and effectiveness; and support in ministry and networking opportunities with others who regularly teach the Bible. Topics include:

- Major Themes in the Old Testament
- Major Themes in the New Testament

- Major Themes in Christian Theology
- Teaching through Catechesis and Mentoring
- Teaching Skills 101
- Teaching the Bible in Small Groups
- Teaching the Bible to Adults
- Teaching the Bible to Children/Youth

The program meets every other Saturday (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.) beginning February 2009.

Diploma in Lay Pastoral Ministry

Churches and religious organizations are increasingly looking for qualified men and women to serve in non-ordained positions of pastoral leadership in the church. Unfortunately, many otherwise qualified people are reluctant to pursue these positions because they do not feel adequately prepared biblically and theologically, or they find themselves lacking in the practical skills they need to be successful in ministry. Others are already involved in ministry positions but feel limited by their lack of training and ongoing opportunities for development and support.

The Diploma in Lay Pastoral Ministry is designed to help train, equip, and support lay men and women to serve more effectively as commissioned lay pastors, lay ministers, or in other lay pastoral positions in the church or other religious organizations.

Program Schedule

Morning courses meet from 9 a.m. – noon, and afternoon courses meet from 2 – 5 p.m. Tuition for each course is \$250. Any interested layperson is invited to take one or more courses.

Summer 2009 Courses

June 1 - 5

- 9 a.m. – noon
 - Survey of the Old Testament
 - Christian Theology
- 2 – 5 p.m.
 - Polity and Church Leadership
 - Pastoral Care and Counseling

June 8 - 12

- 9 a.m. – noon
 - Survey of the New Testament
 - Preaching: Principles and Practice
- 2 – 5 p.m.
 - Church History
 - Worship and the Sacraments

Master of Arts in Theology

Developing deeply committed, spiritually disciplined, visionary leaders for the church.

- Convenient: A schedule that allows students to enroll in the program without leaving their jobs or having to be residents of Spokane. All courses are offered during Friday/Saturday sessions or week-long summer or January intensives.
- Self-paced: Designed so that students can finish in two years, or take courses at their own pace taking longer for completion.
- Flexible: Students take core courses covering theology, church history, and biblical studies and additional electives in areas of interest (12 courses total).

For additional information about these programs, call Michelle Pace at (509) 777-3275 or mseefried@whitworth.edu. or Dr. Tim Dolan at (509) 777-4676/ tdolan@whitworth.edu.

Northfork Presbyterian Church Fire

Two days after Christmas, a fire destroyed the building of the Nez Perce Joint Session's Northfork Presbyterian Church, Ahsahka ID. The parishioners managed to save a few bibles, hymnals and Christmas gifts. The church was not insured. The Joint Session has decided to rebuild on the site. An account has been set up with Wells Fargo Bank under Nez Perce Indian Joint Session Northfork Building Fund. For more details, please contact Corbett Wheeler at (208)790-3361.

NEWSLETTER

Published Bi-monthly
Presbytery of the Inland Northwest
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Purpose: to encourage, support and inform the churches of our Presbytery

February 2009
Vol. 33, Issue 1
Cindy Enos, Editor

GUATEMALA

SA DIOA ANG HIMAYA
(To God be the Glory) Fanny J. Crosby 1875

Daygon ta si Jesus! Pasuidunggan ; Daygonta Si Jesus!
Magmalipayonta;

Ang dalan Siya ngadto sa Amaban, Siya himayaon kay gamabananan man.

I have been to Guatemala 4 times with the GTF, and each time I heard the K'ekchi with great enthusiasm sing this hymn in remote villages on top of the mountains. What a blessing that God used Fanny Crosby who was blind to compose this hymn that has been sung all over the world in many languages.

Begin preparing and praying for serving the Lord in Guatemala with the GTF.

Nine Commandments for Mission Trip Team Members

- I. Thou shalt not expect to find things as thou hast them at home, for thou hast left thy home to find things differently.
- II. Thou shalt not take anything too seriously. A willingness to accept things as they are lays the foundation for a good trip to another country.
- III. Thou shalt not let other group members get on thy nerves. Thou raised good money and set aside this time to enjoy thyself.
- IV. Thou shalt not forget that, at all times, thou dost represent thy own country and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- V. Thou shalt not be overly worried. He who worrieth hath no pleasures. Few things people worry about are ever fatal.
- VI. Remember thy passport so that thou knoweth where it is at all times. A person without documents is a person without a country.
- VII. Blessed is the person who says Guatemalans do as the K'ekchi do. If in difficulty, use common sense and thy American friendliness.
- VIII. Do not judge all Guatemalans by the one person with whom thou hast had trouble.
- IX. Remember, thou art a guest in

Guatemala. He who treateth his host with respect shall be treated as an honored guest.

I know these nine commandments weren't given to Moses on Mt. Sinai. They are based on some foundational principles of success in short-term cross-cultural experiences. So, breaking them can spoil your short-term experience and even tarnish your witness for Christ.

Guatemala is located in Central America. It has an area of 42,043 square miles, slightly smaller than the state of Tennessee. Because of its consistently temperate climate, Guatemala has been called the "Land of Eternal Spring." Crops such as coffee, sugar, bananas, and cocoa are grown both for consumption in Guatemala and for export. Guatemala, with parts of Mexico and Honduras, occupies the Yucatán peninsula, where the lowland forest of Petén, once the home of the Mayas, is found. Guatemala's main environmental problems are caused by deforestation—more than 50 percent of the nation's forests have been destroyed since 1890. The nation's water supply is also at risk due to industrial and agricultural pollutants.

The food in Guatemala is so delicious. They do not have a national dish, but there are many foods that have become a part of their meals. Corn continues to be a staple food. It is eaten in the form of a tortilla (a thin corn pancake). These are served warm and wrapped in cloth. Black beans (frijoles) is another K'ekchi staple, and eaten at almost every meal. They are usually refried (volteados), mashed, or

eaten whole (parados).

Chicken, turkey, iguana, coati, and beef (roasted, grilled, or fried) are very popular meats and are eaten with beans and rice (frijoles con arroz). Pepián, a thick meat and vegetable stew, is common in Antigua, the last town for the GTF team before boarding the airplane to return back to the States.

Guatemalan coffee I love, which is mostly exported, is considered some of the best in the world. Most K'ekchi drink weak coffee loaded with plenty of sugar. Aguas, their soft drinks are everywhere. It is sweetened fruit juice mixed with either water or milk, called licuado, which is a refreshing.

Here is a delightful recipe for a radish salad that they call Picado de Rabano.

½ pound radishes (about 20). 12 fresh finely chopped mint leaves, ¼ C orange and ⅓ C lemon juice mixed together.

Trim the ends and slice the radishes. Combine sliced radishes with mint leaves, salt, and orange and lemon juice. Mix in a bowl and serve as a salad. ENJOY

A great pocket book to read before you go to Guatemala, and to take along with you is POCKET ADVENTURES GUATEMALA By Shelagh Mc Nally Hunter Publishing Co. 2006 ISBN 1-58843-528-8

Till the next time think, pray, take action, and call 1-800- 618-6553/509-924-4148

Joyce Bippes at the PIN office and she will send you an application for the summer GTF mission trip.



Joan S. Hust John 3:16

Comings and Goings



Rev. John Noah joined our Presbytery as an honorably retired member from Wyoming Presbytery.



New in the Resource Center

BOOKS

Short-term Missions Workbook: From Mission Tourists to Global Citizens, by Tim Dearborn. 8 week course for teens to do together, Bible Study, summary of crosscultural principles and help in facing spiritual conflict.

Peter and Paul: I Believe: 40 Daily Readings for the Purposeful Presbyterian, editors Frank T. Hainer and Mark D. Hinds. Small group study included.

All for God's Glory: Redeeming Church Scutwork, by Louis B. Weeks.

Reaching Out in a Networked World: Expressing Your Congregation's Heart and Soul, by Lynne M. Baab. Encourages the use of technology in our churches.

Cross-Shared Leadership on the Rough



Dates for the Calendar

February 3	Personnel Committee at Presbytery Office
February 10	Committee on Ministry at Millwood Church
February 14	Presbytery Meeting at Bethany Church
February 16	Presbytery Office closed
February 17	Prep. For Ministry Committee at Presbytery Office
March 10	Committee on Ministry at Millwood Church
March 10	Prep. For Ministry Committee at Presbytery Office
March 19	Presbytery Newsletter Deadline

and Tumble of Parish Practice, by John A Berntsen. Gives a Bible based guide to challenges met each day in the modern church.

Earth-wise: A Biblical Response To Environmental Issues, by Calvin B. DeWitt.

One Step at a Time: A Pilgrim's Guide To Spirit-Led Living, by Timothy C.

Geoffrion. Written during a 500 mile pilgrimage, with his family, across northern Spain.

Alive to God in Jesus Christ: 40 Daily Readings for the Purposeful Presbyterian, The Moderator's 2009 Lenten Bible Study, editors Frank T Hainer and Mark D Hinds