
The Weekly RAG

For the United Ministries of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown and Donaldina Cameron House

Sunday, November 26, 2017

We welcome to the pulpit today Norman Fong.

Happy Birthdays

November

Shane Dale Linden
Caleb Badillo
Eunice Bejar-Lee
Lorna Wong
Terry Chan
Calvin Chinn
Katherine Maya Lim Chan
Norma Chan
Norman Fong
Jeanne Quock
Mary Wong Leong
Marcus Wong
Harry Chuck
JoJo Woo
David Lee
Jessica Leong
Gilbert Lee
Jeanee Quan Linden
Jeanine Lim
JoAnn Lee
Margaret Tong
Benjamin R. Tong

Light the Night

Light the Night, a ministry of Cameron House, is open to the public every 3rd Sunday at 2pm at Cameron House.

- 12/24

We are also looking for clean socks, beanies, mittens or monetary donations for snacks as well.

To donate or sign up or for more info, contact: lightthenightCH@gmail.com for more info.

SRO Christmas Gifts

Give a gift that makes a difference! The Mission & Evangelism Committee is again collecting gifts for children who live in Chinatown SROs (single-room occupancy buildings). Pick up the gift tags during teatime this Sunday. The gifts will be distributed on December 10th during Chinatown CDC's Super Sunday holiday celebration at Gordon J. Lau School.

There are currently 400 children (ages 2-12) living in Chinatown SROs. PCC has committed to providing 100 gifts; the remaining gifts will be donated by employees of Chinese Hospital, a company called HomeLending and other supporters of Chinatown CDC. The families will appreciate your generosity!

Suggested gift value: \$20-\$25

Gift ideas:

- Since their living space is small, toys that could be stored easily or are not too bulky
- Interactive games (to play with friends)
- No weapon toys
- Washable stuff toys (furry toys might collect too much dust)
- Remote control cars
- Drawing kits, do it yourself kits

Please wrap or use a gift bag and attach tag to outside of gift. Bring gift(s) to teatime by Sunday, December 3rd.

If you would like to volunteer at Super Sunday on December 10 from 1-3 pm, please contact Jeanette Huie for more information.

Mission & Evangelism will not be organizing an Alternative Giving Fair this year due to the additional logistics required without our church building. The committee still encourages us all to be mindful of our gift giving and holiday shopping and preparations.

Online Giving

Some great news for our congregation. You can now make a gift online to support your church community! Click on the "Give Now" button at the bottom of the PCC home page www.pccsf.org. You select how you would like your gift to be made and which worshipping community you would like it to go toward. You can add a note if you want to dedicate the gift to someone special. For questions about how to give, see Tad Hopp. For questions about your gift, see Dave Soohoo or Winchell Quock.

Tea Time for November/December

The Deacons would like to give special thanks to the following people for taking the time to provide treats for Tea Time for everyone to enjoy.

11/26 Birthday Cake & Donor's Treats

12/3 Sabbath Sunday

12/10 Birthday Cake & Donor's Treats

12/17 Sabrina Shin

12/24 Sharing of Holiday Goodies

12/31 Sharing of Holiday Goodies

If you're interested in providing treats, please sign up with Mary Wong Leong. If you'd like to make a monetary donation towards tea time, see Dayton Leong. We also are in need of volunteers to help clean up after Tea Time. If you are available to help, please stay after Tea Time.

Our Theme & Readings

November

26 Ezekiel 34: 11-16; 20-24

Psalm 95: 1-7a

Ephesians 1: 15-23

Matthew 25: 31-46

December

3 Isaiah 64: 1-9

Psalm 80: 1-7; 17-19

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Mark 13: 24-37

Minute for Mission

For more than 17 years, the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), through its Joining Hands initiative, has been tackling the root causes of hunger and poverty. The Presbyterian Hunger Program is made possible by gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing.

PHP staff recently gathered with representatives from several countries to look at the progress and where to go from here.

"Every four years, we have had a consultation with participating partners to see how the work is going and meet with churches to ensure they understand why we are still dealing with these problems," said Valéry Nodem, the PHP's international associate. "In the past, we've met in the states of Washington, California and Illinois. This year, we held a smaller consultation outside the U.S. for the first time, gathering in Peru."

Nodem said the weeklong session of sharing, reflecting and planning was an important step in helping member countries address some of the root causes of hunger and poverty.

"We brought partners from all of the involved countries that are doing this work together, sharing approaches, tactics and trying to determine how to move forward," Nodem said. "It was a very exciting time."

The Joining Hands initiative was launched by PHP in 2000 to address the systemic and root causes of poverty. Currently, there are eight participating networks in eight countries: Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Peru, Bolivia, Sri Lanka, El Salvador, Haiti and India. All of the partner networks in these countries address long-term poverty by working to improve policies and corporate practices at the local, national and international levels.

"With funding for this kind of work becoming more and more scarce in general, we discussed ways to make sure the good work that we started continues even if PHP's participation is reduced," Nodem said.

Nodem added that they were encouraged by the success stories that were shared.

“It’s really powerful to have everyone in the same room and hear from one country to the other about progress that’s been made,” Nodem said. “In Sri Lanka, for example, the group we’ve supported has been able to gather fisher folk, farmers and women; people with little power individually are now coming together and resisting efforts to confiscate land.”

While the work has been challenging, the Joining Hands partners have been inspired by the progress.

“People in these countries are speaking up and gaining confidence, like Peru, where giant multinational corporations are polluting the air, soil and environment,” Nodem said. “People who have no money or power are saying it’s not OK, resisting corporate efforts and prompting leaders now to propose new ways to design mining operations in the country.”

With funding sources getting smaller, Nodem encouraged participants to write grants and seek new funding partners.

“We’ve tried as long as we could to keep grants untouched, but we are also reaching the point where we can’t sustain the funding anymore,” Nodem said. “We had a lot of conversations on how to better connect with more U.S. churches and how to communicate the impact of our work to ensure the networks continue to be stronger and more efficient.”

Nodem said he’s been working to pull together a list of foundations and donors that support the kind of work that Joining Hands is involved with.

“We encouraged them to diversify more. You don’t want to put all of your eggs in one basket,” he said. “There is a lot of opportunity through grant writing, and we are here to help. If they have a proposal they wish for us to review, we are happy to do it.”

Nodem recommended a four-step process for the participating countries to keep moving forward. The first step, he said, is to continue to meet with other countries and share approaches, tactics and strategies.

“The second step is to make new connections while remaining connected with the church. There are many groups in the U.S. and Europe doing the same kind of work, and there needs to be global synergy around this,” Nodem said. “Third, diversify the sources of funding, and the fourth step is to share the stories of impact so that people are aware of what’s going on.”