
The Weekly RAG

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

Sunday, May 20, 2018

Today is the Day of Pentecost

Happy Birthdays

May

Kimberly Elliot

Adam Lam

Desi Ng

Mildred Hall

David Chan

Justin Wong

Heidi Wong

Pamela Jang

Stuart Go

Lianne Leong

Pauline Hee

Tea Time for May/June

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.

5/20 Marie Chin & Birthday Cake

5/27 Jojo & Jerrick Woo

6/2 Sabbath Sunday

Regional Presbytery Gathering

Our next gathering of the Western Region of the Presbytery will be held on Wednesday, May 30th at Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church in SF. The gathering will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Dinner will be provided but we ask for a \$5 donation to cover it.

Please RSVP by May 25th to office@sflpp-church.org or by calling (415) 751-1140.

Do you have a passion that you are willing to work on?

Join us as we form working groups based on regional passions. Groups will develop projects/programs to implement.

Some regional funds will be used to support these projects/programs.

If you are unable to attend, let us know what your passion is so that we can add your name to one of the groups being organized.

PCC Crafting Day

Calling all crafters and interested bodies!

Needing some way to unwind this Memorial Day weekend. Want to serve and play?

Then join us for an afternoon of crafting at PCC Saturday, May 26th from 2:00 to 5:00 in Fellowship Hall.

Activities we plan to have are rubber stamping, card making, origami folding, bearing and jewelry making, coloring, ladder yarn necklace making (crocheting), and board games for those who don't craft but want to hang out with us.

We will have snacks during the afternoon.

If you are interested in coming, please RSVP to Diane Go by Sunday, May 20th.

Please also contact Susie Wong if you are interested in helping with Food Pantry as well on the 26th.

Doors Open

Join us on June 23rd for a special musical presentation in our Fellowship Hall. We will be presenting Doors Open, an original musical written by Mark Teagle of Wesley United Methodist Church in San Jose. The show is about coming out, the LGBTQ Christian experience and coming out as an Asian person. There will be a pre-show reception at 6:30 with the show to follow at 7. The show is powerful, provocative and relevant and will be a good alternative to the other festivities happening during Pride weekend. Make plans to join us.

May**20**

Acts 2: 1-21

Psalm 104: 24-34

Romans 8: 22-27

John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15

27

Acts 2: 1-21

Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b

Romans 8: 22-27

John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15

Minute for Mission

Sri Lanka faces enormous economic and social challenges, but when a group representing several ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency visited in January, they saw a couple of fair trade and innovative workplaces beginning to flourish.

The group represented Presbyterian World Mission, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI). Group members traveled to Sri Lanka in fulfillment of Overture 10–01, which was passed at the 222nd General Assembly (2016) in Portland, Oregon, and directs the denomination to help ensure that the scourge of slavery is eradicated within the supply chains of those with whom we do business. In addition to investigating what is not working, the group also visited two outstanding examples of best practices.

In the capital city of Colombo, the group visited a bright, colorful retail store named Selyn, the only guaranteed fair trade company in the country. The business sells products such as fabric, clothing, soft toys and home décor made of 100 percent cotton. Selyn was founded in 1991 by Sandra Wanduragala with 15 women in Kurunegala. She was later joined by her brother, Hilary Wanduragala, and the company now has more than 1,000 members in the cooperative who make products for the store.

Today, the company has over 16 workshops in handloom villages in the rural outskirts of the Northwestern, Eastern and Southern provinces of Sri Lanka. The artisans can create their masterpieces within the

comfort of their own homes instead of going to a factory and worrying about child care. Because some women in rural areas must travel nearly all day, Selyn is creating areas for nursing mothers. The company also provides annual health exams for the entire family.

Women who travel abroad are subject to the “kafala” system, a sponsorship program that monitors migrant workers throughout the Middle East. Some sponsors take the women’s passports as soon as they land, and if the women want to leave their jobs for better ones or go home, they have no recourse.

Selyn also offers classes in money management and tries to help women stay in the country with their families to achieve their goals.

The ministry group also visited garment manufacturer MAS Holdings during the week. The garment industry is Sri Lanka’s largest, responsible for billions of dollars and nearly half of the nation’s total exports, and MAS is Sri Lanka’s largest apparel manufacturer, employing nearly 35,000 people in 16 countries. The label names are known internationally — Puma, Gap, Calvin Klein, Victoria’s Secret, Nike and Ralph Lauren. The company was founded by three Sri Lankan brothers, Mahesh, Ajay and Sharad (MAS) Amalean, who wanted to not just offer employment but to “build human potential.”

Rather than produce mass quantities of merchandise cheaply, MAS produces intimate apparel, athletic wear and swimwear that require a high degree of technical acumen. The ministry group visited a factory that primarily makes bras, which have more than 30 components.

But that’s not all that sets MAS apart from its competitors. The company’s corporate values include honesty and integrity, humility, passion for excellence, freedom with accountability, trust and mutual respect. And the company upholds those values in unique and innovative ways.

Mostly women work in MAS’ well-lit, pristine factory outside Colombo, the national offices for the corporation. MAS makes transportation available at no cost. Every worker receives a free breakfast every day and a subsidized nutritional lunch. Child care is available and employees select the music for their own radio station within the plant.

“MRTI has a practice of engaging with both the leaders and the laggards within a given industry,” said Rob Fohr, PMA’s director of the Office of Faith-Based Investing and Corporate Engagement. “With the laggards, the conversation revolves around how they can improve their weak policies and practices, while with the leaders, the conversation focuses on what can be learned from their strong policies and practices and how those practices can be replicated by others. Based on our experience at MAS Holdings, there is much to be learned. The values espoused by the company’s leadership seem to cascade throughout their operations, and while no company is perfect, MAS appears to get a lot right with respect to environmental and social responsibility.”