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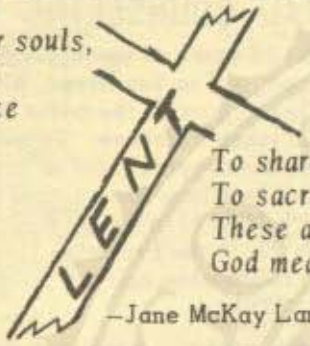
MARCH
1973

Conference Call

SAN DIEGO COUNTY
ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE

PHONE 232-6385

TO WITNESS FAITHFULLY AND VISIBLY TO OUR UNITY IN CHRIST



To search our souls,
To meditate,
Will not suffice
For Lent.

To share the Cross,
To sacrifice,
These are the things
God meant.

—Jane McKay Lanning

TRAINING FOR PERSONAL EVANGELISM

The Lay Institute for Evangelism (L.I.F.E.) will be conducted April 2nd to 6th at First Presbyterian Church in San Diego. Duplicate sessions will be offered each day at 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and from 7:30 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. Campus Crusade is providing husband and wife teams for the leadership: The Dennis Johnsons and Bob Georges. The Henry Schneiders will be in charge of the lectures and workshops for Clergy meeting mornings only from 9:30 to 12:30.

Bill Bright will preach at morning services March 18 and then conduct an information meeting on L.I.F.E. at 3 p.m. for those wishing to know more about the program before registering. There will be another such session at 3 p.m. April 1. Clergy cost is $10 which includes materials on the WAY OF LIFE PLAN centering on recruiting and training their own laity for evangelism. Laity fee is $6 and includes materials on THE FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS.

While recognizing that this program will not be universally accepted theologically (which would?) EC has endorsed it as part of the Key 73 emphasis for deepening our faith and motivating believers to reach out to the unchurched with the Gospel. First Presbyterian Church is underwriting its costs.

CONCERN ABOUT PROSELYTIZING

The Key 73 theme: A CONTINENT FOR CHRIST has raised concern among other faiths. These questions have caused the Ecumenical Relations Committee to prepare this statement which was approved by the EC Board February 22:

"The purpose of Key 73 is to confront the people of our continent (more fully and more forcefully) with the gospel of Jesus Christ by proclamation and demonstration, witness and ministry, word and deed. Key 73 hopes to unite Christians in the task common to all Christians – evangelism.

(continued, p. 3)

One Great Hour of Sharing

On April 1 Christian churches will be receiving special offerings for overseas relief. Through international agencies Protestants and Catholics have co-operated in meeting human crises in Biafra, Bangladesh, Nicaragua, and resettling refugees from Ugunda. All of these are long term projects that are slow to phase out as other challenges arise.

> *The story usually goes untold since it happens so regularly, so widely and so variously. But it's a steady function of the nation's churches and it mirrors their heart. It's their help to people in trouble, whoever and wherever they are.* (George B. Cornell, S.D.Union 1/27/73)

INDO CHINA WILL BE NEXT

In response to an EC inquiry to Church World Service in New York, the following letter was received:

Dear Mr. Harter:

Thank you for your inquiry of February 5, 1973 concerning funds for the re-building of the Bach Mai Hospital in Hanoi.

We have been in contact with the World Council of Churches on this important matter for some weeks. Preliminary information from the officials concerned would indicate that there has been such a generous international governmental and private response that virtually adequate funds are in hand for the re-building. However there will be additional medical needs.

We would be prepared to receive funds designated for Bach Mai Hospital or for medical needs in North Vietnam, which we would transmit 100% as received directly to the World Council of Churches in Geneva for appropriate implementation.

If this would meet your need, feel free to forward the funds either through us or directly to the World Council of Churches, 150 route de Ferney, Geneva, Switzerland.

Sincerely,

James MacCracken, Executive Director

Your dollar for overseas aid through your churches, or other causes, will go farther through your church. The current newsletter of the Southwest Synod (LCA) quotes Dr. Ralph Lowe of Buffalo, N.Y.: "To deliver a $100 gift to recipient costs $30 through federal agencies, $27 by voluntary agencies, and $8 through your church."

THE WORLD IN ONE PEACE

People with this concern are urged to join in a peace education and action strategy meeting and luncheon with David Nesmith to be held at Cafe del Rey Moro in Balboa Park on Tuesday, March 27. He spent two years in voluntary service in Vietnam, has been with the United Methodist Office at the United Nations, and is now being made available for international affairs seminars in western US.

The public is invited to participate in seminars now planned under his leadership in United Methodist churches Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 3 to 9 p.m. at the following places and dates (registration $4):

March 24–25 – Imperial Beach
March 29–30 – Trinity in San Diego
Apri. 6 – 7 – Fallbrook

PRAYERS FOR A LASTING PEACE

A public service of thanksgiving with petitions for justice and peace was held at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park on February 11, taking the place of the Organ Concert by Douglas Ian Duncan, organist for the Service. Message by the Rev. Ralph Johnson, proclamations by Mayor Pete Wilson and Supervisors, along with copies of the program have been mailed to member congregations.

Standby plans for such a service, two months in preparation, were put in motion when plans for prisoner release on that date became public. Release was delayed, media gave little attention, and it rained. About 300 braved the storm to attend.

Representatives of the following organizations participated in planning the service as co-sponsors: San Diego Chamber of Commerce, Church Women United, City of San Diego, Clergy and Laity Concerned, National Conference of Christians and Jews, Navy Chaplains, Navy League, Rabbinical Association. EC is especially appreciative of the support from Mayor Wilson, who attended, and the work of his staff.

District Navy Chaplain E.Vaughan Lyons, Kenneth All of Chamber of Commerce, Msgr. John Portman and Rabbi Joel Goor met at EC office to complete plans for peace prayer service on February 11.

ETHNIC FOLK FAIRE DATE SET

Ethnic costumes, foods, entertainment, and articles for sale will be featured at the EC fund-raising event August 25–26 in the Mission Valley Masonic Hall. Those interested in participating will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 29, in the Ecumenical Center at USD.

Julia Schilling, Chairman of Special Events Committee, has recruited Mercedes Gleason of All Hallows Catholic Church to head committee on publicity.

ACCENT ON YOUTH

Outstanding groups from First Presbyterian of San Diego and First United Methodist of La Mesa have been presented on **HOUSE OF HAPPINESS** during the past two weeks. Time for this program has been moved from 6:55 to 6:25 am.

If you would like to have the showing at the later time, send postcards to KGTV at EC address. This is the only local ecumenical religious program carried by Channel 10.

Paulo Freire (right), Brazillian educator and author, is seen here with the Rev. John Hurtado, Diocesan Director of Ethnic Affairs, and Rosa Maria Vega of the Padre Hidalgo Center. Freire held conversations in January with Mexican American leaders at the Hidalgo Center, California State University, and in San Ysidro with others from Tijuana. He is now Educational Consultant to the W.C.C., which with N.C.C. made him available to E.C.

PREMARITAL COUNSELING REQUIRED

When youth under 18 years of age apply for a marriage license, a judge can, and in San Diego, WILL, require premarital counseling to provide the basis for his decision whether or not to issue a license. To set guidelines and prepare clergy for this special kind of counseling, the local chapter of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors is having a 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. training session on Thursday, March 29, at the Probation Office, 2901 Meadowlark Drive. For information call the president, Rev.Arthur Elcombe at 298–8339.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

The precipitate dismantling of anti-poverty programs was the focus of concern at the February 26 meeting. Reports indicate that revenue sharing funds "with no strings attached" would not be adequate to continue these programs under local administration. Nor has any lead time been allowed for their transition or phasing out. Some were terminated March 1.

Those present were dismayed that this action and reaction was becoming politically involved with proposals for funding Indo-China reconstruction. They were unanimous in supporting the following statement:

> The Ecumenical Conference urges its affiliated churches to give financial help, especially for food, clothing, and medical care in Indo China through the World Council of Churches and Church World Service or the World Society for Propagation of the Faith and Catholic Overseas Relief. Individuals are urged with equal vigor to use all possible persuasion with local, state, and federal governments to take adequate care of our pressing domestic problems, such as poverty, housing, and education where programs are no longer being financed by Health, Education, and Welfare orHousing and Urban Development; and the Office of Economic Opportunity is being closed.

EC would appreciate receiving copies of correspondence regarding church programs having their funds withdrawn in these fields.

OTHER BUSINESS

Problems and needs of aging persons have been high on SCC agenda. In January Sister Elizabeth Sandmeyer told of work being done by the Catholic Diocese. Speaker in February was Gary Biehler from Senior Adult Services which serves as consultant to churches, trains volunteers, offers special services to Spanish speaking. Meals on Wheels program is being extended from Hillcrest to North Park, and now the Ocean Beach area. (To volunteer,call 297–3268.)

Plans were made for a food and clothing plus people Caravan to Calexico March 17 to aid farm workers. Karen Lepper (270–2230) is in charge.

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KEY 73 VISITATION PROGRAMS

EC has been informed of the following current activities:

Feb. 12 – Pacific Beach Churches conducted visitation to launch Luke-Acts Bible Study groups that began Feb.19.

March 6 – Coronado Churches had dinner rally to launch distribution of 6,000 copies of Luke-Acts. Religious census was completed last month.

March 11, 18, 25 – Clairemont – Scripture distribution with information about FISH and new Clairemont Christian Service Agency.

March-April – Vista will conduct canvass of area by phone using staff from Southern California Southern Baptist Convention, which **is available** to any denomination and area.

April 15 – Poway/Rancho Bernardo – Scripture distribution.

THE FISH SERVICE VOLUNTEER'S CORPORATION

recently elected officers for 1973. President Nancy Miller, Unit 3; Vice-President Sharon Popp, Unit 5; Secretary Anne Sarsfield, Unit 2; and Treasurer Lars Hellberg, Unit 1. The next meeting of the Corporation will be March 28th, 7:30 pm at Mission Hills Congregational (UCC) Church. Goals will be set for the coming year, such as increasing units to 10. Volunteers are always needed for Fish services, with transportation heading the list of requirements.

....EVANGELISM (continued from p. 1)

Key 73 implements in its program Christ's mandate to Christians:

> *Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.*

This duty to spread the faith and the saving work of Christ has weighed upon the Church. Christians are called to proclaim Christ to all persons who know Him not, with the purpose of seeking a prsonal response to Him.

Christ freely offers Himself to persons, and invites them to make a free response. Those communicating this faith to others can do no other than freely offer Christ to persons and invite them to make a ree response. It is in this spirit that Key 73 is conducted. Undue pressure, or intimidation of any kind in the proclamation of the Gospel is contrary both to the spirit of Christ and to the nature of Christian faith.

The San Diego Ecumenical Conference believes the principles of Key 73 express clearly the mission given us by Jesus Christ. It deplores any method of proclamation which violates the free response of persons to the invitation of Christ, or denigrates the truths to be found in other religious traditions."

Officers and Board members were installed by the Rev. Ralph Johnson at EC Annual Meeting January 28. Dr. William MacInnes, who heads Church Membership Committee, and Dr. Carroll Cannon, head of Individual Donor Committee, appealed for increased support of programs.

Many delegates returned COMMITMENT CARDS volunteering participation in Program Areas and offering to report back on EC to their congregations. Latter will use annual reports in January issue of the CALL or present EC STORY available in colored 35 mm. slides.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY
ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE
1875 Second Avenue
San Diego, California 92101

THE CONFERENCE CALL
SUBSCRIPTION: $1.00

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MS. DOROTHY LLOYD
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SAN DIEGO, CA 92109

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March 10, 1973

Rev. Msgr. John R. Portman
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Rev. Ralph B. Johnson
Vice President
Mrs. J. Hall Schilling
Secretary
Mrs. Kenton Lint
Financial Secretary
Rev. Heber H. Pitman
Treasurer
Rev. Melvin H. Hartet
Executive Director

MARCH CALENDAR

15 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 7:30, at EC office
19 – COALITION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS Luncheon, College Park United Presbyterian
19 – Installation of Rev. Priscilla Chaplin as Southern California Council Executive Director, 7:30 p.m.
20 – YOUTH COUNCIL, 4 p.m., College Park United Presbyterian
25 – EUCHARIST SERVICE, 7:30 pm Immaculata (USD), Msgr. John Portman officiating
27 – THE WORLD IN ONE PEACE Luncheon, Cafe del Rey Moro in Balboa Park
29 – ETHNIC FOLK FAIRE participants meet at USD, 7:30 p.m.

APRIL

1 – ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – Christian community gives for overseas aid
2 – LAY INSTITUTE FOR EVANGELISM begins 9:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, S.D.
3 – ECUMENICAL RELATIONS at USD, 10 a.m.
4 – SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE 11:00 a.m., USD
10 – CLERGY CLUB dialogue Luncheon at USD
13 – POLICY & PROCEDURE Luncheon at USD
17 – Passover begins
22 – EASTER
23 – SOCIAL CONCERNS at EC, 7:30
26 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 7:30 at EC
27 – YOUTH CONFERENCE overnight begins at 6 p.m. College Park United Presbyterian
30 – EC PROGRAM WORKSHOP 5–9 p.m. $2 Regis./supper

MAY

4 – MAY FELLOWSHIP DAY – Church Women United
5 – WALK FOR DEVELOPMENT
21 – Inter-Religious Dialogue for Clergy, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Mission San Luis Rey

JUNE

2 – DAY OF RENEWAL – Old Mission San Diego de Alcala, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

E.C. MEMBERSHIP LIST AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 1973

CATHOLIC

All Hallow's
Blessed Sacrament
Christ the King
The Immaculata
Mary, Star of the Sea
Mission San Diego
Our Lady of Angels
Our Lady of Grace
Sacred Heart, Coronado
St. Brigid's
St. Catherine Laboure
St. Didacus
St. James, Solana Beach
St. Joseph's Cathedral
St. Michael's, Paradise Hills
St. Michael's, Poway
St. Rose of Lima
St. Therese
St. Vincent de Paul

CHRISTIAN (Disciples of Christ)

Central
Chula Vista
Clairemont
Kearney Mesa
Pacific Beach
University
Vista La Mesa

EPISCOPAL

All Saints, San Diego
All Saints, Vista
All Souls
Christ, Coronado
Holy Trinity
St. Dunstan's
St. Elizabeth's
St. Luke's
St. Paul's
St. Peter's, Del Mar

LUTHERAN (A.L.C.)

Good Shepherd
Our Savior's

LUTHERAN (L.C.A.)

All Saints
Ascension
Calvary
Christ, Pacific Beach
First, San Diego
Gethsemane
St. Peter's By-the-Sea

North Park Community Advent Christian
First Church of the Brethren, San Diego
St. John's A.M.E. Zi..n
Church of the New Jerusalem

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Alpine
Chula Vista
Carlsbad/Pilgrim
Escondido
La Jolla
La Mesa
Lemon Grove
Poway
Ramona
San Diego
Chinese Community
First
Kensington
Mission Hills
Mission Vi lage
Ocean View
Old San Diego
Paradise Hills
Pioneer
Plymouth
University City

UNITED METHODIST

Christ
Chula Vista
Encanto
Fallbrook
First, San Diego
La Jolla
La Mesa
Mission Hills
National City
Nestor
Normal Heights
North Clairemont
Pacific Beach
Parkhill
Point Loma
Rolando
San Carlos
Santee
St. Mark's
St. Paul's, Coronado
Trinity
Vista
Wesley

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

College Park
El Cajon
First, San Diego
Fletcher Hills
Golden Hills
Graham Memorial
Linda Vista
Pacific Beach
Pacific Portal
Trinity
Westminster, Escondido

ECUMENICAL FAITH SHARING EVENT was held in South Clairemont January 20 with Mike Milch, Devore Smith, and Richard Duncan as leaders. Next event will be an overnight from 6 p.m. Friday, April 27 to 9 p.m. Saturday at College Park United Presbyterian Church. Theme will be **I AM!** Bring finger foods for Friday pot luck and $2 fpr Saturday meals. $1 advance registration is to be sent to EC before April 24. Father Robert Pinta is Advisor.