

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS

OCTOBER * NOVEMBER * DECEMBER

2024

Dear LGPC Family and Mission Friends,

Ministry and mission work is something we are invited into. God's mission in the world will ultimately lead to beautiful restoration of individual lives to the entirety of creation. There is a place in this for all of us! Some of us are called to pray, some are called to give, some are called to go ... but we are all invited. I had the pleasure of hearing from Leopold Diouf (Senegal) when he came in April, and one of the things he said has come to mind on several occasions. To paraphrase, it is God who calls us, God who goes with us, and God who welcomes us into this work. However we join with Him in His Work, God is our catalyst and companion.

In that way, 2024 held a gift for me: connection with Agros International. In joining the Guatemala Go Team in March, I got to bear witness to the amazing and transformative work Agros is doing in Central America. I have learned much about the organization, built relationships with fellow LGPC folks through our engagement with Agros, and been filled with gratitude for the heart at the center of the Agros ministry. What a blessing it is for us as a congregation to join with Agros as they help equip families of Central America so that they are able to rise out of poverty and flourish. Maybe you would like to be a part of the March 2025 Agros Nicaragua Go Team?



Another touch point with mission partners came this summer, when about 15 individuals had the pleasure of experiencing the exhilarating outdoor ministry with YD Adventures. Two groups braved the white water of the Clackamas River and got a taste of what our support helps facilitate for hundreds of youth each summer. From the faith-oriented conversations as we floated the smooth stretches of river, the devo at lunch, and the camaraderie formed from making it through each rapid (more or less!), we got a snapshot of how YD is making a difference for youth. Keep an eye out for more opportunities to get on the river with YD next summer!



I'm curious where you find your place in the mission of God. I invite you to spend some time reading about our diverse Mission Partners and consider which stand out to you and especially touch your heart. How might you be able to engage and support this ministry? Prayer? Giving? Notes of encouragement?

Physically showing up to participate? If you're not sure how to get started, please reach out! We would be delighted to help connect you with any of our Mission Partners.

With hopeful assurance of God's provision,

Laura Fuller
Lead Director of Discipleship



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AND THAT'S A WRAP

PINK ERASER SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM 2024

Under the direction Kara Loffelmacher-Pettigrew and Kate Bethell fourteen (14) River Grove Elementary School families facing food insecurity received much needed assistance for 6 weeks this summer! With a budget of \$5,000.00; 62 people were served totaling 310 meals each week! With the increased cost of groceries in 2024 our volunteers were resourceful using sales and creating menus using items that they would normally feed their own children on a daily basis, being good stewards of what God has provided.

The most rewarding part of the program this summer was a participant from last year asked if she and her children could volunteer and assist in handing out the food boxes on Sunday afternoon at LGPC. By doing so, she taught her children the act of paying it forward!



If you are interested in volunteering your time in 2025 or would like to donate to offset the budget for next year feel free to contact Kristi Werner at kristi@lakegrovepres.org.



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URGENT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES!

Many of our ministry partners have immediate needs to continue to offer services to those that they serve on a daily basis. Would you prayerfully consider if you feel called to serve one or more of our various ministry partners?

MANNA MINISTRY

Immediate need for volunteer drivers to pick up from the following locations: St. Honoré' (downtown LO), Safeway (Boones Ferry), and New Seasons (Mt. Park). Drivers will then deliver the food to the Tualatin School House Pantry for families in need. On a monthly basis volunteers will be scheduled one or two days.



LOVE INC

Love INC is extending their hours of operation due to the number of calls that they are receiving. Due to the increase in calls; they need 4 volunteers per day from Tuesday through Thursday each week. Are you cheerful, wise, and spirit-filled? Could you spare a few hours each week or month to help fill the gap?



If you would like to receive information regarding any of our Ministry Partners please contact Kristi Werner at kristi@lakegrovepres.org or call at (503) 210-6074

LAKE OSWEGO TRANSITIONAL SHELTER MINISTRY

This ministry helps in guests transition from homelessness to permanent housing. Guests live in a fully furnished apartment for 3-6 months. Volunteers are needed to prepare the apartments between guests which can include laundering bedding, restocking supplies, and taking inventory. On occasion a meal may need to be prepared, a guest might need a ride to an appointment, or minor maintenance issues may need to be addressed. Volunteers are also needed for a communication team and the finance team.



CARE AND SHARE

Each month twelve (12) families facing food insecurity receive a much needed blessing through our Care and Share Program. In December, that number increases to 100 families. Are you able to help shop for food one time per month or better yet are you able to help deliver food once a month?



PRAY FOR OUR 2024 MISSION PARTNERS

Agros * Afghan Refugee Families * Angel Tree Ministries * Care & Share * Family Promise
Lake Oswego Transitional Shelter Ministry (LOTSM) * Love INC * Manna Ministry * Pink Eraser * Portland Rescue Mission
Presbyterian Urban Network (PUN) * Salaam International * Salvation Army West * Senegal Ministries * Shepherd's Door
Water Africa * Woodburn Ministries * World Vision * YD Adventures
Providing Food—Water—Shelter to “the least of these”



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MISSION PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

In May 2013 Lake Grove marked the end of a fruitful 19 year relationship with World Vision in Senegal. Since then Lake Grove partners with 3 resultant ministries in Senegal.

Senegal

- The “Way of Righteousness” (Wolof: *Yoonu Njub*) ministry, led by Malick and Feluine Fall. This church-based ministry runs a Christian school for girls, helps oppressed Muslim boys, visits prisoners, offers retreats, and has a radio ministry, always with the goal of sharing the Gospel with the Wolof people of Senegal.
- We continue to support Beer Sheba, a ministry of approximately 30 interns receiving agricultural training and Christian discipleship, which they take back to their communities.
- We also support long-time associate Leopold Diouf who works with Development Associates International (DAI). He visits the former “Lake Grove Land” villages to share the Good News of Jesus.

We hope to send a team in early 2025 to visit these partners. If you are interested in joining this team please contact Pastor Graig Flach at (503) 636-5656 ext. 113.



Provides a 14-month residential recovery program in a retreat-like setting, for women and women with children, providing addiction recovery and relapse prevention, relational and emotional development, spiritual growth, life skills training, legal and health care advocacy, daycare and children’s ministries, mother-child reunification, and job training.

The Family Life Center serves up to 25 children whose moms are staying at Shepherd’s Door. Staff engage children in healthy play, active learning, and group activities. Parenting skills are modeled and taught so mothers can become the moms they desire to be.

These services are critical to helping families heal and can truly change the trajectory of a child’s life.

Every year about 10 families are reunified at Shepherd’s Door. 85% of the women who have graduated in the last 5 years from our New Life Ministry Program have a home and are free of addictions.

Shepherd’s
Door



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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PARISH NURSE

By the Rev. Timothy Winslea

What exactly does the Presbyterian Urban Network (PUN) parish nurse do? That is a question that I sometimes get asked by others and one that I frequently ask myself! The truth is that this work is so varied and variable that definitions are somewhat illusive. Some things I might do even if I did not have this position but even those things take on a different weight and responsibility since I am working for this consortium of congregations that supports and directs my work. What I can say, to those who ask, is what I have done *this* week but different weeks, different months, different seasons bring different tasks.

This week started out with a complicated case of an 82-year-old man with Covid. Unfortunately, he is from the East Coast and although he can still travel by himself he becomes muddled when things don't go according to plan – like contracting Covid the day before he was supposed to fly home. When I was brought into the situation I started a text stream between him, his two daughters, and myself.

The daughters changed his plane ticket and secured him housing. I moved him to the hotel, brought him food and attended his doctor's appointment with him. This, however, turned out to be the easy work. Besides filling the Paxlovid order all his other standard medications needed new prescriptions as well since he had only brought enough for his intended stay. Multiple phone calls, emails, faxes and trips to the pharmacy ensued before he had what he needed. In the midst of this I was asked to help with someone who was having unexpected tachycardia - which entailed more phone calls, visits, and another trip to the doctor.



Between running around addressing these needs there were two meetings concerning a men's retreat I am leading at one of the PUN churches, some consultations made for parishioners at another church, a sermon to complete for yet another congregation and, of course, my own weekly PUN prayer service to produce. Was this an especially busy week? Yes...but every week has its twists and turns.

Yesterday evening I looked at my calendar for today and realized that I had nothing on until noon. Great, I could finally get some work done for my university job... but... then I remembered my ordination vows. Back in 1994, when I became an officer of this denomination, the very first promise I made was "To pray with and for my congregation..."

Being a parish nurse is more than just being a case manager, a health educator, and one who preaches about how the physical realities of our bodies and the spiritual health of our souls are intertwined. It is also about trusting that God is intimately concerned and connected with the journeys we are each on. (cont. on next page)



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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PARISH NURSE (CONT.)

Early this morning I slipped into a lengthy prayer service at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. Unlike ours, Orthodox liturgy is cyclical. This means that they do not have just one opportunity to lift up the prayers of the people - but many. Over and over and over again I lifted prayer for the safe return trip of the man from Baltimore, answers for the women with unexpected cardiac distress, engagement from the group of men I would soon lead on retreat, attentiveness from the congregation I would preach to on Sunday and patience from the faithful group who attend my weekly prayer service. I also prayed for a dozen other individuals from the PUN churches who health journeys I am privileged to be aware of.

The health ministry of PUN is unique *and* diverse. It is physical and educational and always fundamentally spiritual. At times, it can even be overwhelming. Thankfully, though, whether busy or quiet the ministry of PUN is held tenderly and passionately by the prayers of many. And I am honored to work, serve and pray along with them.

If you would like to learn more about the work of the Reverend Timothy Winslea please feel free to contact him at timothywinslea@gmail.com



A LEGACY OF SERVICE

Lake Grove has had a long history of serving the Lake Oswego, greater Portland areas in addition to our various ministries overseas. Over the past several months we have all had the opportunity to continue that long legacy of service through the various service projects to celebrate our Centennial Celebration. From the youth of our church preparing sack lunches, LGK offering a summer of service camp, Noah's Ark collecting backpacks, to old and young together assembling hygiene kits, to helping to build a classroom in Beer Sheba! You have all shown what the spirit of Lake Grove Presbyterian Church is by giving to support neighbors in need and you have done it selflessly and sacrificially! Thank you for sharing the Light of Christ to those around you! Here's to another 100 years of service!!!!



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