



SLF's FANCY NEWSLETTER

November 2009

Last Sunday our family heard Jennifer Harris speak. I love to hear Jennifer speak. She's a pastor from Pucallpa, Peru, and we are honored to support her missionary work there. Jennifer spoke at our church the same day a big news article on her 12-year ministry was published in the *Statesman Journal*. Jennifer, a Salem native, has strong support from local partners (yay!). The room was packed and Jennifer amazed us with photos and stories from the jungles of Peru. Jennifer's church—Luz Divina—raises up local pastors and has planted 25 sister churches in a 'string-of-pearls' stretching upriver in the rain forest. Last year the mother church in Pucallpa built a new facility that not only serves the congregation, but the surrounding neighborhood (sound familiar?). In fact, it was also built to be a shared worship center for all the churches in the city, many of which have teensy meeting halls. What a model of unity and cooperation!

In addition to sharing the Gospel through word and worship, Jennifer and Luz Divina run a mosaic of ministries that serve the neighbors. Health care. Food. Clothing. College scholarships. Home ownership. But not as hand-outs. Luz Divina has developed a strong micro-enterprise system that makes small loans for local families to build homes and start businesses. The church also owns a 500-acre farm that raises corn, rice, beans, bananas and cows. Lots of cows—which are given to local pastors so they, too, can start sustainable economies in their area. It's a vibrant economic and social-service system which has, at its center, the church congregation. What a model of wholistic ministry!

Then I got to thinking . . . why are we so amazed at what Jennifer is doing in the jungle? Why do we marvel at the medical services, the food-growing operation, the college-bound kids, the church-sponsored housing? Don't get me wrong—we *should* appreciate (and support!) the work of Jennifer Harris and all missionaries around the globe. But why do we sit in our cushy pews and watch slides of far-away places and get emotional about what God is doing 'there' . . . when we could be doing exactly the same thing here, too? If churches overseas can provide food, clothing and medical services directly to their neighbors, why do we "outsource" this work to agencies and ministries? If churches overseas can be robust engines of job-creation and affordable housing, why aren't we doing the same? If Jennifer can open her home to raise at-risk children (23 and counting), will that inspire some of us to become foster parents? If Jennifer's church can create jobs for unemployed neighbors, will that inspire some of us to hire ex-prisoners coming home in Marion County? I am amazed by my friend Jennifer Harris and her life-work in Peru. I'm also eternally grateful for the divine inspiration she and her church provide for us back home in Shalom, Oregon. Let's replicate!

What's Your Neighborhood?

If you would like to support or learn more about Jennifer's ministry contact her at jenniferpageharris@yahoo.com

2010 FANCY DESSERT DATE—STAY TUNED. For several months we've been publicizing the date of Friday, April 30, as the "Fancy Date" for next year's annual dessert. However, we have just learned that another prominent non-profit in town needs that same date. It's a long story and we're still finalizing the decision, but it's very likely we'll release that date to the other group. One of SLF's hallmarks is to be supportive of other ministries and charities, and we refuse to "compete" with any of our colleagues. In fact, we spend a great deal of time cheering for other organizations and promoting their fundraisers (see next page). Thank you for understanding and please stay tuned. It will all work out for the good.

CAPITAL PARK'S DESSERT AND OTHER GOOD EVENTS. Good things are happening all over town. Church and State working together. Churches and schools working together. Churches and neighborhoods working together. All for the benefit of kids and families. Back in the mid-'90s this wasn't so. Relationships were chilly. Sectors of the community were fragmented. Churches were islands. Many people think 'SLF' is the reason things have changed. Well, we've certainly played a role. But the real hero is Capital Park Church. They were the first to 'give everything' for their neighborhood. To partner with nearby schools. To reach out to the mayor, the city council, the police chief, the sheriff . . . Yes, other churches were doing good things. Yes, SLF was in the mix. But if it wasn't for the pioneering faithfulness of Capital Park Church and its tireless pastor Jerry Sloan, who knows where Salem would be? All these years later, Jerry and the Southeast Neighborhood Community Center (SENCC) are still working hard to sustain the outreach. More than 80 kids every day. Teens at night. Community Garden. Food bank. GED and English classes. *It's the original CaN Center!* Let's rally together to keep Capital Park strong. On Thursday, November 5, the church is hosting its annual fundraiser at SENCC. Encourage Jerry by attending the event or making a donation—503-362-6626. At the same time, here are some other great organizations and great events for community support:

Nov. 3 – Habitat for Humanity 'Hope Builders' Breakfast
 Nov. 10 – Keizer Young Life Dessert and Auction
 Nov. 12 – Crystal Apple Awards for top educators
 Nov. 14 – NAACP 'Freedom Fund' Banquet

Nov. 17 – Life Directions Annual Dinner
 Nov. 18 – Pentacle Theater benefit for Salem-Keizer
 Community Development Corporation
 Dec. 3 – SOS Family Shelter Luncheon

SLF's FANCY MATCHING CAMPAIGN—\$60,000. Every year at this time we announce our year-end Matching Campaign. Every year we have been blessed by "nest-egg" pledges and grants that are leveraged into more donations. And every year, with God's help, we have successfully "made the match." But this year is different. Never have we needed the match so urgently. Never have we aimed so high. Our goal this year is \$60,000. That's a serious number. So is our need. Private donors (including SLF board members) have put up \$40,000, plus we have a Year-2 matching requirement of \$20,000 from the Murdock Trust. In fact, the Murdock Match needs to be confirmed by November 30. The private "nest-egg" pledges must be matched by December 31. If we can match these dollars, we will enter 2010 in the black. If not, we're looking at a difficult New Year. (By the way, our "Donate" button at www.salemmlf.org is up, running and getting results!)

In addition to asking for gifts that would help us "Make the Match," we are also appealing to our SLF pledgers to become current by year-end. We treasure all pledges made at the Fancy Dessert—we also understand that sometimes a pledge can fall behind. It would *really help* if we could catch up . . . as the Lord leads.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we offer our profound gratitude for your partnership and, even more, for your servanthood in Salem-Keizer neighborhoods.

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YES—we'll help SLF "Make the \$60,000 Match!"

_____ We'd like to help SLF raise \$20,000 by Nov. 30 and \$40,000 more by December 31. (Gift enclosed)

_____ We'd like to catch up on our Fancy Dessert Pledge: _____ Gift enclosed _____ Please contact us

_____ We'd like to make our gift by credit card: \$_____ Amount **MasterCard** **VISA** (circle one)

_____ Exp. Date _____

_____ We'd like to make a gift from our IRA account or Stock/Equities. Please contact us. (SLF uses Citi/Smith-Barney)

 Name/Signature

 Phone or email address