

August 31, 2007

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kingdom causes



Alhambra



**Church Pastor of the month:**



Pastor Richard Bentley is the Senior Pastor of 1st United Methodist Church of Alhambra and Kingdom

Causes Alhambra Board Member. He has served in a variety of capacities, always a pioneer in starting new projects to the benefit of all in the community, bringing God's shalom. He has been a person of God's peace in the urban chaos. Richard has extensive experience in cross-cultural communication and he has been a voice for the voiceless in many settings. He is a gifted intellectual with the ability to partner with others and empower others to walk in their callings.

**Quotes on peace/chaos:**

**Philippians 4:7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**The Prayer of St. Columba**

Let me bless almighty God, whose power extends over sea and land, whose angels watch over all. Let me study sacred books to calm my soul: I pray for peace, kneeling at heaven's gates. Let me do my daily work, gathering seaweed, catching fish, giving food to the poor. Let me say my daily prayers, sometimes chanting, sometimes quiet, always thanking God. Delightful it is to serve the King of kings.

Our MISSION is to be catalysts that inspire, connect and mobilize people toward personal and community transformation by bringing God's hope, love and shalom to all in the city of Alhambra.

Our VISION is to see Alhambra transformed as God's people live out the Great Commission in Alhambra and as people of good faith and people of good will work together for city transformation; to see God's Kingdom come to Alhambra as it is in Heaven.

**Inspiring** people to pray for Alhambra, to have a Kingdom paradigm and to share stories of what God is doing in Alhambra

We pray together:

*"God's Kingdom come, God's will be done in Alhambra as it is in Heaven"* Matthew 6:10.

Pray 4 Alhambra **August 2007** Prayer focus: **Businesses/Chamber of Commerce**

Prayer points are distributed to every Alhambra Church monthly in English, Chinese & Spanish and can be downloaded @ [www.kingdomcauses.org](http://www.kingdomcauses.org)

**Reflections from a Celtic Journey**

For the first half of August, I spent time on a pilgrimage to Ireland, Scotland and England. I went there to take a class "Following the Celtic Trail" with my school Bakke Graduate University. This was the last class I needed to complete my Doctoral program. I also went to see the birthplace of my grandmother who was from Sligo, Ireland. I am one of the last in my extended family to see this place. My grandmother was a foundational person in my emotional and spiritual development in the early years of my life. I understand more of who I am after visiting my home town and learning about Celtic Christianity.

Celtic Christians had a unique approach to living out their relationship with God, each other and nature. The saints of Celtic tradition (Patrick, Columba, Brigid, Aidan and Hilda) were used by God to bring transformation in Ireland, Scotland and England. They lived in a time of great chaos and yet found God's presence and peace. Patrick's breastplate/prayer (to the left) was written in response to the danger that was all around him. The Celtic cross is said to be symbolic of many things but most likely the circle is to respond to the Druid's use of "caim". In times of trouble, the Druids would call on "caim" or a protective spirit to look out for them. Patrick used this as an opportunity to talk about the presence and protection of God's presence in Jesus. Patrick explained to them that like a circle or sphere, God's love surrounds us, so whether we go to the left or right, forwards or backwards, there is no place that God's love and presence has not been first. This is a great symbol of God's peace in the chaos. We can't escape the chaos but God wants us to find his peace in the midst of it.

How do we practice God's peace in the chaos of our city Alhambra? I am reminded of a homeless couple (Sara/Anthony) I met this summer. They were homeless. He was on dialysis 3 times a week. Did they know God's peace in the midst of the chaos? 1st UMC extended great love to them during this time. They have just relocated to Las Vegas, now living with family. All of us live in some sort of chaos, how do we find God's peace in that context and how does this impact God's Kingdom work in Alhambra? How are we helping others to understand this idea of "caim"/God's peace? If you are interested in hearing more of what I learned on this trip, please email me.

Peace in the chaos

**St. Patrick's Prayer/Breastplate**

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.



**Connecting** the Church and engaging the Church and City

**Sunday, September 9, 2007 (1:00 pm Service, 1:30 pm BBQ)**  
**Alhambra Police Department Appreciation Service and BBQ** - Hosted by Alhambra PD Chaplains, the Alhambra Faith Community and Kingdom Causes Alhambra. This is our opportunity to build relationships with the heroes of our community, to honor them and to thank them for all that they give on behalf of our city. We thank God for every member of the Alhambra Police Department. We will be specifically honoring: **Alhambra PD Detectives.**

**Location:** St. Therese Catholic Church, 510 N. El Molino Street, Alhambra, CA 91801 626/282-2744

*We will have special activities for children.*  
**All are invited!!**



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## Prayer Needs:

1. Please pray for the Kingdom Causes Alhambra Board: Winnie, Debbie, Khiem, Nestor, Richard and Dennis.
2. Please pray for a unified prayer movement for Alhambra.
3. Please pray for youth task force for Alhambra (that is currently being formed) to join together all the agencies that are involved with youth in Alhambra for the purpose of building relationship, sharing resources and working together for the good of Alhambra youth.
4. Please pray for prayer & financial (to be 100% funded) partners; for expanded ownership of God's work in

## News, Upcoming Events and Opportunities to Serve

- Goodbye to Pastor Kenneth Goh of Mandarin Baptist Church who just relocated to Singapore to accept the call to be pastor in charge of a local Baptist church. We will miss him in Alhambra!

### Save the dates:

- **September 9th:** Alhambra Police Appreciation and BBQ at St. Therese Catholic Church. This is our opportunity to thank the PD for all of their service to Alhambra.
- **October 28th:** Hallelujah Harvest Festival in the back parking lot of Alhambra True Light Presbyterian Church from 4-7 pm. This is a free event for all ages. Many organizations, churches, individuals, etc. are partnering together for this Alhambra event. If you want to help or be part of this exciting event, email us at: [alhambra@kingdomcauses.org](mailto:alhambra@kingdomcauses.org)

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Kingdom Causes is a registered  
501(c)(3) non-profit community  
mobilizing organization.

### How can you partner with Kingdom Causes Alhambra?

God is bringing together people of good faith and people of good will to bring about His Kingdom purposes in Alhambra. Kingdom Causes Alhambra is responsible for raising ministry advancement funds for the work here including staff salaries and local program funds.

The monthly budget is \$5,498. We are grateful for individuals, local churches (ATLPC, Chinese Bible Missions Church, Emmaus Lutheran Church, 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church and 1st United Methodist Foundation) and businesses who have partnered financially. We are fully operational but not fully funded yet. **We are 64% funded and we need your partnership to keep this work going.** *Would you please consider joining the monthly partner/support team? Thank you!*



## Mobilizing people around key Kingdom issues

**Emergency Preparedness**—The Faith Community continues to participate in monthly training, relationship building and preparation for local Alhambra Churches. This task force is led by Alhambra Police Chaplains Phil Hilliard and Mary Glenn. Our last training on August 26th (3-4:30 pm) focused on 'How to help children in times of crisis'. We had about 20 people attend/participate in this training representing over ten churches and organizations. Our speakers Mary Malooly, MFT and Nancy Twist, MFT from Angeles Community Counseling Center provided a thorough explanation of children's developmental stages and how they determine children's reaction to stress/disaster. They provided tools/interventions to help children at each of these developmental stages. They recommended that we shield children from media exposure, remind children that they are safe and watch our own response to the disaster because that will impact children. This was a helpful training for us as the spiritual community, to know that children are a priority in times of crisis.

### Other task forces:

**Mental Health**—The mental health task force continues to be a needed resource for Alhambra. Their first goal is serving the faith community in providing resources, training and support. This task force is led by Dr. Christine Wong. Please see their web page on the Kingdom Causes Alhambra website for more resources and info.

**Youth**—We are currently forming a youth task force, to bring together all of the youth agencies in the community, to seek ways we can serve the needs of the youth together. We have already begun discussions with the Library, City Council, School District, YMCA, local Churches and PD. **Believe** (mentoring program for at-risk youth) is planning to be fully launched by Fall 2007. We are currently selecting and training mentors.

**Believe Directors:** John Lewis and Mary Glenn.

The truth is that our finest moments are most likely to occur when we are feeling deeply uncomfortable, unhappy, or unfulfilled. For it is only in such moments, propelled by our discomfort, that we are likely to step out of our ruts (*and chaos*) and start searching for different ways or truer answers — M. Scott Peck