

April 30, 2007

Pray4Alhambra@juno.com
www.KingdomCauses.org

kingdom causes



ALHAMBRA



Church Pastor of the month:

This month we recognize Father Rick Byrum of Holy Trinity/St. Benedict's Episcopal Church of Alhambra. Father Rick is a man of many talents. He is a man of God's peace and a shepherd, demonstrating compassion and mercy to people. He serves as an LA County Sheriff's Chaplain. He works to build bridges with many groups of people, helping to deepen understanding and dialogue especially across religious groups. Some may not know but he is also a very gifted artist!

He is a blessing and gift to this community, bringing both pastoral gifts and expertise in the area of emergency "preparedness".



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 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 April 2007 Prayer focus:

Alhambra Police Department

Prayer points are distributed to every Alhambra Church monthly in English, Chinese & Spanish.

Monthly prayer points are available @ www.kingdomcauses.org



Prepare—is a word, thought and attitude. It is a state of readiness, putting things in order, etc. Be prepared for life, prepared for the future, prepared for anything. Our cities encourage us to be prepared all the time, especially for emergency/crisis situations.

And God calls us to be prepared for His call. Esther is a book of preparation. Esther was a Jewish orphan who became the queen of Xerxes (in some respect the greatest of the Persian kings). Esther was brought up by her cousin Mordecai in Susa; Jews living in exile there. Vashti, the Queen of the time refused to display her beauty during one of Xerxes banquets. Because of her rebellion, Vashti was banished from the king's house and the search began for her replacement. After twelve long months of preparation, Esther was chosen by the king as the most beautiful woman presented to him and she was made the new queen. This didn't happen over night. This was a result of twelve months of preparation and beauty treatments. Once she was chosen, God placed her in a position to save her people from destruction. Esther's role in saving the Jews would not have happened had she not prepared and not heeded God's call. God used both her and Mordecai to save their people. They were positioned to have influence in the court of the king as a result of hours, days and months of preparation.

prepare

Billy Graham

"Our days are numbered. One of the primary goals in our lives should be to prepare for our last day. The legacy we leave is not just in our possessions, but in the quality of our lives. What preparations should we be making now? The greatest waste in all of our earth, which cannot be recycled or reclaimed, is our waste of the time that God has given us each day."

Hope for the best, prepare for the worst—**English Proverb**

We learn through this story that preparation is not just about us. Preparation is about us saying yes to God and what He is calling us to be and do. He is calling us into community and our lives are to be spent on it. When we think of preparing, it is not just for ourselves, it is for the whole of community. Let's ask God to prepare us to be His servants, instruments of His love, voices of hope and people of peace. God is calling us to respond to crisis and to the call of preparing ourselves for His Kingdom work in the City.

Alhambra Fact of the Month:

The Alhambra Fire Department is leading the way in community preparation by offering the CERT training program (Community Emergency Response Team) formerly known as A.L.E.R.T. The CERT training program is designed to provide skills and techniques related to emergency disaster preparedness, first-aid, as well as communications and good team work. For more info or to sign up for this FREE training, please call the Alhambra Fire Department at 626/570-5190.

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Connecting the Church and engaging the Church and City

The 2007 Alhambra Good Friday Service @ Holy Trinity/St. Benedict's Episcopal Church on Friday, April 6, 2007 brought together over 450 people (from over ten churches and various community organizations, neighborhoods, etc.) for this sacred day to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Many children participated in the children's program including a puppet show, craft and Bible story time. It was a blessing to see the diverse expressions of faith and love for Jesus. For more info/pics: www.kingdomcauses.org (click on Alhambra)



Prayer Requests:



Please pray for the Kingdom Causes Alhambra Board.

Please pray for a unified prayer movement for Alhambra. Please pray for all the Alhambra faith community to participate in the Emergency Preparedness Task Force that meets monthly and for God's vision/direction and for the faith community to be people of God's hope/peace to our city.

Please pray for upcoming city wide forums on emergency preparedness June 5, 6, 7—for all of the city to participate.

Please pray for the Alhambra Pastors who meet monthly for prayer—please pray for God's protection, encouragement and blessings upon them.

Please pray for prayer and financial partners: for an expanded ownership of God's work in Alhambra.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities to Serve:

- **Life without Limbs** speaker Nick Vujicic (www.lifewithoutlimbs.org) on Saturday, May 12 at 11am — Alhambra Seventh-Day Adventist Church (The Grace Place), 220 S. Chapel Ave. Come and hear his amazing life journey. For more info please call 626/289-6137 or see website: www.thegraceplace.ws
- **Alhambra Public Forums on Emergency Preparedness** at City Hall (111 S. First Street) on June 5, 6 and 7th from 6:30-8:30pm. Please come and hear from the City's first responders and partners: Hospital, Gas Co., Businesses, Faith Community, School District, etc. on the plans for emergency preparedness in Alhambra and how you can be prepared. Please see the City of Alhambra website for more info.
- **Alhambra Day @ LA Dodgers Game** at Dodger Stadium. (LA Dodgers vs. Colorado Rockies) on Friday, August 17th 7:30 pm. Limited tickets available!! To purchase tickets: email Mary: mary@kingdomcauses.org Tickets \$10/each with part of proceeds benefiting the Heart Institute - Children's Hospital Los Angeles). Cash or check accepted (made payable to Alhambra Chamber of Commerce).

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

Ministry Advancement Funds. God is bringing together people of good faith and people of good will to bring about His Kingdom purposes in Alhambra. We are excited to serve that cause. 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 \$4,998. With individuals, local churches (ATLPC, Emmaus Lutheran Church, 1st Methodist Foundation and 1st Baptist Church), and businesses we have on the team already, we are at \$3,127/month. *Would you please prayerfully consider joining the monthly partner/support team? Thank you!*



\$4,998

\$3,127



Mobilizing people around key Kingdom issues

Task Forces:

1. **Emergency Preparedness of the Faith Community**—this taskforce began in January and has grown to almost 20 churches represented. Pastor Phil Hilliard (Bethany Church) and Mary Glenn are the co-leaders. In light of the Virginia Tech tragedy, we are even more motivated to partner together to bring God's hope and peace in day to day times and in crisis. We'll be participating in the City's forum on emergency preparedness June 5, 6 and 7th. You are invited to come and to represent the faith community for this city wide event. If you are interested in being involved with this task force, please contact us. We meet the last Sunday afternoon monthly.
2. **Youth**—BELIEVE is a mentoring program for at risk students. The directors: John Lewis (UYWI) and Mary Glenn are working with the PD to provide alternatives to the court system for first time offending high school students and for at-risk students. We are currently looking for mentors. If you are interested in being a part of the work with Alhambra youth, please contact us.
3. **Mental Health**—Dr. Christine Wong leads this task force of gifted mental health professionals. They are currently working on ways to encourage and equip/resource the churches in the area of mental health. If you are interested in volunteering for upcoming events/programs, please contact the Kingdom Causes Alhambra offices.

We need representatives from the community to be part of these task forces, collaborating for Alhambra! Together we can partner for God's Kingdom Causes! If you see a need in the community, an area that needs to be looked at, please let us know and let's work together!



May 17th-19th, 2007

Kingdom Causes will be leading three workshops (on police chaplaincy, citywide networking and citywide prayer) at Urban Youth Workers Institute's upcoming annual conference at Azusa Pacific University. Please come and join us. For more info on the conference and how to register: www.uywi.org

There will be people from all over the U.S. We are excited for the work that UYWI is doing to train urban/city people. God is calling people to work together, to love youth and their cities.

Ephesians 6: 13 **Be prepared!** We're up against far more than we can handle on our own. Let's take all the help we can get...