

Inside...

Pray & work
for peace in
Jerusalem, p. 2



Community food
security workshops
bear fruit, p. 3



EMO celebrates
30 years of
service, p. 4 & 5



Volunteer
appreciation
event, p. 6



Campolo lecture
draws packed
house, p. 7



Calendar of
events, back page

“Render unto Caesar ...”

EMO sponsoring tax reform workshop featuring Marcus Borg

Nationally-known Jesus scholar Professor Marcus Borg will be the keynote speaker for the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Christians for Peace and Justice Advocacy Network’s symposium on tax reform. The symposium is designed to give clergy and laity a better understanding on the role taxation plays in civil society and how the religious community can provide guidance on faith, justice and taxes in Oregon. Borg, Distinguished Professor in Religion and Culture and Hundere Endowed Chair in Religious Studies at Oregon State University, will give a lecture entitled “Framing the

Question for People of Faith: The Bible’s Passion for Justice.”

Fellow scholar, Professor Rob Kugler, chair of Lewis and Clark College’s Religious Studies and an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, will join Professor Borg in discerning the role of clergy and laity in the public debate on taxes.

The symposium includes a bipartisan panel of four state legislators who will offer their perspectives on tax reform in Oregon. The panelists are Albany Senator Frank Morse; Milwaukie Representative Dave Hunt, current national president of the American

Baptist Church; Eugene Representative Pat Farr; and Portland Representative Diane Rosenbaum.

The four-hour symposium is entitled, “Render unto Caesar ... Faith, Justice & Taxes in Oregon.” It begins at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19, in the Collins Hall at the First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland. The cost is \$25 (\$20 for students); includes study materials and light snacks and refreshments.

To register, please call (503) 221-1054 or download the registration brochure at www.emoregon.org.



Marcus Borg, Ph.D., will be the featured speaker at the “Render unto Caesar . . .” tax reform workshop.

Collins Foundation awards EMO \$160,000 grant Challenge grant will double the impact

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) recently received a grant in the amount of \$160,000 from the Collins Foundation. Of this grant, \$70,000 was awarded for general support of programs and \$15,000 for affordable housing/addiction recovery. Included in the award was \$5,000 to support the Annual Collins Lectures (see article on page 7). The remaining \$70,000 will be paid to EMO when we have raised an equal amount in new and increased contributions.

Beginning with this edition of the *Voice*, EMO is embarking on a critical

campaign to seek matching donations to the Collins Foundation Challenge of raising \$70,000 in new or increased gifts.

This challenge is important during these financially difficult times. EMO’s programs are serving more people in need with fewer resources. With your help, we can double our support to people

in need. We invite you to personally partner with EMO and the Collins Foundation by

either increasing your giving level to EMO over previous years or, if you have never given to EMO, become a

new donor. In either event, Collins will match your gift dollar for dollar. What a great way to double your gift and expand your commitment to people in need!

The Collins Foundation was founded in 1947 and provides funding for religious, charitable and

educational purposes in the state of Oregon. The Collins Foundation has a rich history of supporting community organizations like EMO. We are blessed to have a collegial partnership with The Collins Foundation in effecting change in the lives of so many Oregonians.

To make a contribution and double your gift, please use the form on page 2. For more information on the challenge grant, please contact Bob Baker, director of development and communications, at (503) 221-1054 or bbaker@emoregon.org.

*Collins Foundation
offers matching grant*

**Double your
impact now!**

See page 2 for a
donation form.

Pray and work for peace in Jerusalem

“He only says, “Good fences make good neighbors.”
 Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder
 If I could put a notion in his head:
 “Why do they make good neighbors?
 ... Before I built a wall I'd ask to know
 What I was walling in or walling out,
 And to whom I was like to give offense.
 Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
 That wants it down.”

Robert Frost, *The Mending Wall*



David Leslie

On Easter Monday, I left Portland for the long flight to Tel Aviv—my first trip to Israel. With trepidation and a lot of excitement, I arrived at the Notre Dame Center in Jerusalem across from the Old City for a conference sponsored by the Sabeel Institute on the impact of Christian Zionism on Israel and Palestinian relations. I could not help but experience a sense of privilege of journeying this far and the anticipation of the responsibility that comes with a pilgrimage to one of the most important sacred cities in the world.

While Jerusalem is a city of religious edifices on every street corner and communities of faith living side by side, the separation between people of faith is very apparent. As Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kellman, founding member of Rabbis for Human Rights, said, “With today's increased tensions between the Palestinians and Israelis, there is not a strong

operative interfaith center. There are clearly walls—both literally and figuratively—that are keeping people of good will from one another.”

An important and very visible sign of this division is the wall dividing the Palestinian town of Abu Dis. This 30-foot wall is part of the Israeli security barrier. In Abu Dis, the wall divides families and land, restricts travel and increases tensions between the Palestinians and Israelis. For many Palestinians, the wall is seen as the “apartheid wall,” meant to divide, restrict access to work, homes and communities, take land and increase Israeli power in the region.

But for David Horovitz, editor of *The Jerusalem Post*, “The security fence is needed to deter suicide bombings. In the last three to four years, there have been more than 1,000 attempted suicide bombings with more than 130 successes. Could the wall be placed with more sensitivity to people's needs? Of

course, but it is desperately needed.” As one can easily tell, the two descriptions are diametrically opposed and hard to merge into any mutual agreed upon descriptive metaphor—a telling symbol of the troubles in the region.

While I have traveled extensively, I do not think I have ever been to a more tiring place. While in Jerusalem, the Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi was killed. President Bush and Prime Minister Sharon announced their agreement impacting the future of the Gaza Strip, Palestinian refugees' right of return to Israel, and the settlements in the West Bank. A woman was caught with 25 kilos of explosives at a checkpoint, and a suicide bomb killed an Israeli soldier at another. More than 30 Palestinians were killed in Gaza and Holocaust Remembrance Day—Yom Hashoah—was observed. Every night I would go to bed exhausted, and every morning I would wake up wondering what had happened while sleeping and what would be in store during the new day.

Peace seems so fleeting and many peace activists in the region feel marginalized and their work is not producing many results. House demolitions continue, the wall keeps being built and anti-Jewish sentiments are being preached in some of the mosques, yet as one peace activist said, “In spite of the futility of our efforts, we must continue to work for justice and

humanize the situation for not only today but tomorrow. Hopefully, there will be a day when peace will prevail and today's efforts will contribute to that reality.”

I left Israel with many questions and a deeper commitment to the need for a lasting peace. How best to achieve this end is a perplexing problem. Clearly, the future must be driven by Palestinians and Israelis, who, while living on opposite sides of a fence, will walk the fence together and ask, “Why do fences make good neighbors? Why are these needed and how do they enhance or detract from regional economic development, national and cultural identity, and ultimately, peace and prosperity?” Also needed are U.S. policies that support Israeli-Palestinian cooperation and do not intentionally or unintentionally place one group above the other.

In the end days, Jesus wept and prayed for Jerusalem. He was driven by the visions of the prophets, where people of differing backgrounds could live together in peace. Today, this vision is needed more than ever. Needed is a culture of life and possibility. As we continue our Easter journey, let us commit ourselves to this vision, for indeed, as goes Jerusalem, so goes much of the world.

I'd like to double my gift for the Collins matching grant!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

Please make tax deductible checks to EMO or pay by:

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Card No. _____

Exp. Date _____

I would like more information about making a gift of appreciated securities.

Remember EMO in your will – an estate gift is a lasting memorial to your generosity.

Please add the following person to the *Voice* mailing list.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

Please send your gift to:
 Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
 0245 SW Bancroft St., Suite B
 Portland, OR 97239

You may also make a credit card donation over the phone by calling EMO at (503) 221-1054.

YES! I (we) would like to support EMO.

\$2,500
 \$1,000
 President's Club

\$500
 \$250
 \$100
 \$50
 Other _____

EMO celebrates recent grants and gifts

The board of directors and staff extend their appreciation to the many supporters who have given their time and talents in support of EMO's program ministries. The following is a list of recent foundation and community support received by EMO since the Feb. '04 issue of the *Voice*.

Donor (Fund)	Program
Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ	EMO Annual Fund
Children's Trust Fund of Oregon Foundation	Parent Mentor Program
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon	EMO Annual Fund
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon	EMO Annual Fund
Episcopal Diocese of Oregon	EMO Annual Fund
Fremont United Methodist Church	Northeast Emergency Food Program
National Religious Partnership for the Environment	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
Presbytery of the Cascades	EMO Annual Fund
QUALCOMM Incorporated	Parent Mentor Program
Saint Luke Lutheran Church	Northeast Emergency Food Program
Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church	Northeast Emergency Food Program
The Collins Foundation	EMO Annual Fund, the Collins Lectures and Oregon Recovery Homes
The Jackson Foundation	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns & NE Emergency Food Program
The Susan B. Komen Foundation	Russian Oregon Social Services
United Church of Christ Cleveland	Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
United Church of Christ, Justice & Witness Ministries	Public Policy Advocacy
United Methodist Church Oregon-Idaho Conference	EMO Annual Fund
Westminster Presbyterian Church	Northeast Emergency Food Program

Community Food Security workshops bear fruit

Food has the potential to weave together the land, people and communities into a fabric of relationships that foster justice and sustainability. Unfortunately, the food we eat often represents unjust relationships and a degraded Earth. Community food security (defined as all persons in a community, at all times, having access to fresh, local, culturally appropriate food that honors the Earth and those who produce it) is a concept and process that creates healthy relationships around food.

Since Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC) started its efforts to promote community food security ministries in the faith community in 1997, community food security is providing connections for the faith community's long-standing concern for hunger with sustainability and economic justice.

Thanks to support from the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the United Church of Christ Hunger Program, INEC partnered with four local congregations and community groups to host Community Food Security workshops this winter in Portland, Hillsboro, Salem and Corvallis. The workshops explored the connections between food and faith, ways to educate congregation and tools for starting and sustaining community food security projects and ministries. Each workshop was organized to build a local network for mutual support and action. Staff support for the Community Food Security project includes Northwest Service Academy AmeriCorps member, Dawn Caldwell, who came on board mid-February to serve as environmental stewardship coordinator.

From the workshops, two exciting outcomes have sprouted in the following areas:

§ *Hillsboro*—as a result of the workshop in January, a committee of representatives from community organizations and congregations, as well as interested citizens, developed with the idea of starting a much-needed community garden that will serve people with low-incomes and is accessible by public transportation.

§ *Corvallis*—over 20 people gathered at a follow-up meeting, committed to forming a community food security coalition.

Resources

INEC now offers several resources to help congregations educate their members and take action on community food security. Visit EMO's Web site at www.emoregon.org/inec_food.htm to access the following resources.

For Education

- § Bibliography of useful videos
- § Bibliographical list of faith-based community food security resources

For Action

- § "Building a Better Food Community Food System" handout
- § "Things Congregations Can Do for Community Food Security" handout

INEC also has a resource library with items to loan. For more information, please contact Dawn Caldwell at (503) 221-1054, ext. 210. Visit EMO's Web site for list of CFS leaders at www.emoregon.org.



Photo credit: Jenny Holmes

Panelists at a Community Food Security Workshop (from left to right): Sharon Thornberry, Oregon Food Bank and Community Food Security Coalition; Tracy Noel, Youth Garden Project; Elizabeth Kerle, Denison Farms; Nancy Hendricks, Fresh to You Produce and Garden Center; and Lauri Heilman, First Alternative Cooperative.

A call to engage in environmental stewardship within the Portland metro area

INEC's Environmental Stewardship AmeriCorps member, Dawn Caldwell, is currently coordinating with SOLV—an organization that builds community through volunteer action—to develop outreach and education methods to assist congregations in their local environmental ministries. Youth and adult groups with an interest in connecting to watershed restoration and protection are encouraged to contact INEC, who can assist in designing ongoing opportunities, or you can participate in one-time events.

If you would like more information on engaging with the watershed in your area, call Dawn at INEC at (503) 221-1054, ext. 210.

12 actions congregations can take to promote community food security



Celebration and Worship

- 1 In most traditions, there are already religious holidays or special worship days where an appreciation for food and the call for building a just and sustainable food system can be lifted up.
- 2 Learn about a faith other than your own by exploring the meaning of food and religious practices around food in that faith tradition.

Education

- 3 Visit a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm, or plan a day of education, service and celebration at a CSA, which often have work that needs to be done and are happy to educate in the process.
- 4 Organize an educational series at your congregation on food, faith and care of the land—include a potluck of locally-grown food and a visit by a local farmer. Conclude by exploring practical action steps and create a follow up plan for your congregation.
- 5 Convene a small group-study using curriculum such as *Food and Faith: Justice, Joy and Daily Bread* by Living the Good News Publishers (to order, call (800) 824-1813) or *A Home Like This: Seeking a Sacred Ethic of Community and Land-Songs, Stories and Discussions* by John Pitney (to order, call (800) 821-6153). Both guides are available through INEC's lending library.

Congregational Lifestyle

- 6 Use local produce for congregational meals.
- 7 Use the congregation's kitchen as a community kitchen for food preservation and shared meals.
- 8 Buy a share from a local CSA farm for your neighborhood food pantry or find a farmer who will grow for congregation members.
- 9 Consider offering the church parking lot as a site for a farmers market.

Community Ministry and Public Awareness

- 10 Provide support to local, regional and national organizations that promote farmland protection and sustainable agricultural practices, such as co-sponsoring a conference, financial support or in-kind support.
- 11 Work with farmland protection organizations to uphold and strengthen land-use laws protecting farmland. Write letters to your elected representatives.
- 12 Advocate for policies that address root causes of hunger as well as policies that support the development of community food systems. Contact EMO's public policy director, Phillip Kennedy-Wong, at (503) 221-1054 or visit the Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger Web site at www.ofrah.org.

Global Warming Campaign enters new phase

In its fourth year since the 2000 kick-off, the Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign will place emphasis in 2004 on amplifying a prophetic vision and message on climate change and strengthening leadership within diverse religious communities. Advocacy at the state and national levels will continue.

Over the next few months, Oregon's faith community, with INEC's coordination, will develop an Oregon Climate Stewardship Charter, rooted in moral and religious values. A series of roundtables throughout the state in May and June at denominational meetings, in congregations and with local interfaith groups will provide input to the charter. The charter will be sent to a major national effort to create a new vision and values statement on climate change. The charter will also be presented to state, local and regional officials and the West Coast Governors' Global Warming Initiative.

If you are interested in hosting a roundtable in your congregation or community, please contact Jenny Holmes at (503) 221-1054, ext. 278. A kit for these self-organizing gatherings will be available in early May.

EMO celebrates the past and looks to the future at the

Over 300 guests from throughout the country attended *Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) 30th Anniversary Community Celebration & Dinner* on Feb. 18, 2004, at the Benson Hotel. It was an evening of old friends and associates getting reacquainted, sharing memories of EMO's work over the last 30 years and reigniting enthusiasm for the future.

During the reception, guests enjoyed display booths and a slide show, which put faces on the past and gave a visual reminder of various milestones from EMO's history. EMO traces its roots back to 1917, with the formation of the Home Mission Council, which was formed to promote evangelism among Oregon's churches and to provide a vehicle for cooperative service. Two years later, local Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox Congregations organized to form the Portland Council of Churches. In January of 1974, the Portland Council of Churches and the Oregon Council of Churches merged to create Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

Outgoing president of the EMO board of directors, the Rev. Eugene Ross, welcomed everyone, and the Rev. Dr. Pat Ross provided the invocation. Eugene Ross recognized several



Guests at EMO's 30th Anniversary Celebration enjoyed dinner and conversation at the Benson Hotel.

Photo credit: Gary Logsdon

Celebration attended by faith, community & political leaders

Honored guests attending the *EMO 30th Anniversary Community Celebration & Dinner* included former EMO executive directors the Rev. Dr. Wayne Bryant and the Rev. Dr. Rodney Page; Portland Commissioner James Francisconi; Lynn Magnuson, Church World Services; State Representative Diane Rosenbaum; Antone Minthorn, chairman, Don Sampson, executive director, and Olney Platt, Jr., Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Cheron McGuffey, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission; Tim Nesbitt, president, and Brad Witt, secretary, AFL-CIO; Dennis Keenan, executive director, Catholic Charities; and Rachel Bristol, executive director, Oregon Food Bank. Others present were State Senator Avel Gordley; Lutheran Bishop Paul Swanson; Barbara George, former EMO deputy director; and the Rev. Stephen Schneider, former EMO director of the Center for Urban Education.

former executive directors, including the Rev. Dr. Wayne Bryant and the Rev. Dr. Rodney Page. *For a list of other honored guests who attended the celebration, please see box below.*

Installation of the 2004-05 EMO board of directors also took place during the evening. Outgoing board president Ross handed over the gavel to the new president, the Rev. Mark Knutson, senior pastor at Augustana Lutheran Church in Portland. *Please see related article below.*

Testimonials

The celebration provided the opportunity to familiarize guests with the variety of programs EMO offers – from basic human needs, low-income housing and refugee and immigrant services, to ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, public policy advocacy and environmental ministries. Testimonials were given by volunteers, staff, clients and colleagues, which illustrated the personal impact on those served by EMO's ministries.

Sharing thoughts on EMO's groundbreaking work on interfaith dialogue were Rabbi Joshua Stampfer and Frank Afranji. Stampfer is retired from Congregation Neveh Shalom and Afranji is a leader in Oregon's Palestinian Muslim community. Together, these two men have been instrumental in establishing interfaith dialogues on local, national and international levels regarding peace in the Middle East.

Susan Mellinger, a volunteer ESL instructor with EMO's Russian Oregon Social Services for more than seven years, shared her experiences as a volunteer. She found meaningful work assisting immigrants from Russia adjust to life in America by learning enough English to manage daily interactions at work, school, church and while shopping.

Oregon State Representative Diane Rosenbaum and Norene Goplen, director of Lutheran Advocacy Ministries, spoke passionately about economic justice issues such



State Rep. Diane Rosenbaum (right) and Norene Goplen (left) spoke about EMO's public policy advocacy efforts in Oregon.

Photo credit: Gary Logsdon

as an equitable tax structure, civil and human rights, sustainable environmental policies, increased affordable housing options and efforts to reduce hunger in Oregon—key aspects of EMO's Public Policy Advocacy ministry.

"This program [Oregon Recovery Homes] proves that, like the prodigal son, individuals can return to society and be productive citizens." - Mike Morgester

Poignant testimonies were given by two people whose lives were greatly improved through EMO's Oregon Recovery Homes (ORH). The program helps establish low-income housing for individuals in recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction. Using the Oxford House model, more than 110 homes are now open throughout the state—serving hundreds of Oregonians in recovery—with many more to be opened in the next two to three years.

Mike Morgester, ORH program manager, and Andrea McGlaughlin, a former Oxford House resident, powerfully personalized this aspect of EMO's faith commitment.

Gavel exchange: New board leadership installed

On Feb. 18, the 2004-05 Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) board of directors were installed at *EMO's Annual Community Celebration and Dinner*.

Over 20 members of Augustana Lutheran Church in Portland were present to applaud the installation of new board president, the Rev. Mark Knutson, senior pastor at Augustana. Outgoing president, the Rev. Eugene Ross, conference minister of the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ, also installed the following officers of the board of directors: *president-elect*, the Rev. Dr. Daniel Bryant, senior pastor of First Christian Church in Eugene; *treasurer*, Ron Means, member of Saint Andrew Lutheran Church in Beaverton and retired CPA; and *secretary*, Trudy Gregory, business manager of First Christian Church in Portland.

The following individuals were also installed as new and re-elected board members (member denominations are listed in parentheses): the Rev Ben Dake (Presbyterian Church USA), Debra H. Mantey (Evangelical Lutheran), the Rev. Dr. Patricia Ross (United Church of Christ), Georgia Vareldzis (Greek Orthodox), and the Rev. Stephen Whitney-Wise (Episcopal Diocese of Oregon).



The Rev. Eugene Ross (far left) installed the following board members (from left): the Rev. Mark Knutson, the Rev. Dr. Daniel Bryant, Ron Means, the Rev. Dr. Patricia Ross, Debra Mantey and Trudy Gregory.

Photo credit: Gary Logsdon

30th Anniversary Community Celebration & Dinner



Photo credit: Gary Logsdon

Mike Morgester, Oregon Recovery Homes program manager, gave a moving testimony of lives changed by EMO's programs, including former resident Andrea McGlaughlin (seated on left).

Morgester began his connection with ORH as a resident in one of the houses. He was later hired to manage the program and has been instrumental in its success. "This program proves that, like the prodigal son, individuals can return to society and be productive citizens. All we are asking is that you allow us to do so," said Morgester. "It doesn't cost much money to create these life-saving environments. All it will cost you is your understanding and willingness to give us a second chance."

The Patton Home: *Miracle on N. Michigan Avenue*

David Leslie, executive director of EMO, introduced the Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr., board member, and newly installed board president Knutson. They gave an overview of the



Photo credit: Gary Logsdon

The Rev. Dr. Rodney Page, former EMO executive director, was honored with the naming of the *Rodney Page Community Ministries Center*. From left: David Leslie, EMO executive director; the Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr., board member; the Rev. Mark Knutson, board president; and Page.

Patton Home—the "Miracle on Michigan Avenue." Patton Home has beneficially impacted the community and developed into a symbol of EMO's future. Dr. Haynes described Patton Home as a representation of *agape*—selfless love—as it provides service and hope to people who are in recovery, homeless or low-income. Dr. Haynes stated, "Truly, Patton Home is love in action."

The Rev. Dr. Rodney Page, former EMO executive director, was presented with a special honor: the future community ministries center at Patton Home dedicated in his name. Knutson stated, "Tonight, we want to recognize the significant contributions the Rev. Dr. Rodney Page has made to the work of EMO. These stories we just heard reflect the changes in lives that EMO has played a role in. In honor of Rodney's contributions to changing lives and communities, we formally name the third floor of the Patton Home *The Rodney Page Community Ministries Center*." Page reaffirmed the important work of EMO over the last 30 years and how the mission of EMO is still very much relevant today.

The first phase of the Patton Home Redevelopment Capital Campaign raised 5.25 million dollars to renovate the home and bring this dream alive. To complete the *Rodney Page Community Ministries Center*, EMO is embarking on the second phase of the capital campaign to raise \$300,000. *Read more about the Patton Home Capital Campaign below.*

Future vision for EMO: The next 30 years

The celebration closed with music, concluding remarks by Knutson and a benediction by Page. "As we look ahead to the next 30 years, what is the vision for the future?" asked Knutson. "Is it the same vision of the past 30 years of EMO? Is it the same vision as the past 100 years of ecumenism in Oregon? Is it the same vision that the church experienced over the past 2,000 years? Is it the vision of God's kingdom as we have experienced it in Jesus Christ ... one of *healing* and *hope*, one of *reconciliation* and *renewal*, one of *justice* and *peace* in God's abundant creation? We are

gathered together tonight in the call of God's abundant grace. May we press on toward the goal, keeping our eyes on the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."

"I feel proud of EMO's past and confident that future generations will continue to make a difference in the lives of others." - David Leslie

The celebration of EMO's past and future came to a close with a rousing rendition of "Keep Your Eye on the Prize," led by Brian Ward, pianist, and Marilyn Keller, vocalist—members of Augustana Lutheran Church. During the song, David Leslie looked at his 11-year old son singing and clapping and observed an elderly gentleman reacting with the same enthusiasm—both generations fired up and enjoying the evening. Leslie commented, "In those two people—young and old—I witnessed a bridging of the generations, as well as a metaphor for the past and future, which is what this celebration is about. I feel proud of EMO's past and confident that future generations will continue to make a difference in the lives of others."



Photo credit: Gary Logsdon

David Leslie, EMO executive director, with his son (left), reminisces with former EMO board president Catherine Lingas and her husband John Lingas.

Patton Home capital campaign entering final phase

Phase I

EMO realized the dream of Phase I of the Patton Home Redevelopment Capital Campaign with the completed renovation of the residential facility's 63 residents' rooms, kitchen and dining facilities, nurses station, sunroom and administrative offices.

Other interior renovations included replacing all windows as well as the heating, cooling, plumbing and electrical systems. Exterior improvements included new roofing, brick facing, foundation repairs and landscaping. Residents and neighbors can now utilize an extensive community garden.

The original budget for both phases of the project totaled 5.5 million dollars, of which 5.25 million was raised and spent on completing the first phase.

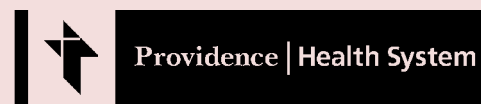
Phase II

The Phase II goal is to raise \$300,000 to complete the third floor *Rodney Page Community Ministries Center* by building out and furnishing offices for social service agencies and conference meeting rooms to serve the residents and neighbors in north/northeast Portland, as well as an interfaith chapel.

Once completed, the *Rodney Page Community Ministries Center* will further allow Patton Home to provide increased services to people who are in recovery, homeless or low-income.

We invite you to participate in supporting the second phase of completing the *Miracle on N. Michigan Avenue* by sending in your generous donation as another act of selfless love—*agape*. Please use the donation form on page 2.

Event sponsors



A caring difference you can feel

WELLS FARGO

Table sponsors

- Allen Temple CME & Bethel AME
- Augustana Lutheran Church (2 tables)
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon
- Community of Christ, Portland
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Coordinated Resource Group
- First Christian Church, Eugene
- First Congregational UCC, Portland
- First Presbyterian Church, Portland
- Greek Orthodox Church and Catherine Lingas
- Income Property Management
- Jim Ahl Insurance Agency
- Legacy Health Systems
- Ron & Carol Means
- Northwest Portland Ministries
- Oregon AFL-CIO

EMO celebrates the work of volunteers

“Volunteers inspire by example,” was the theme of this year’s Volunteer Appreciation Month. On April 21, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) showed its appreciation for the work of its volunteers with a dinner and celebration, held at the Patton Home. Over 80 people attended the event.

Several volunteers gave testimonials praising the “good works” EMO programs do and pointed out how by giving in time and spirit to EMO clients, they are doubly blessed.

Svila—an ensemble of women performing both traditional and contemporary arrangements of melodies from the Balkans—provided the entertainment. Svila sang six *a capella* pieces with rich melodies, asymmetrical rhythms and moving harmonies.

The Rev. Mark Knutson, president of the EMO board of directors, gave the benediction. He told the audience of volunteers, their families and friends, that we, the community, nation and world, are somewhere between, “Oh, Lord!” and, “Thank you, Jesus.” While there is much in the world about which we say, “Oh, Lord!” we can look to all of the EMO programs sustaining and uplifting clients and say, “Thank you, Jesus.”

Volunteers inspire by example. EMO volunteers provide inspiration everyday, and for that, we thank them.



Photo credit: Fauna Doyle

Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees volunteer Erik Pearson (second from right) with his parents and Jannine Kearney (right), volunteer coordinator with St. Vincent DePaul, enjoy dinner together at the EMO volunteer appreciation celebration.

The following are just some of the many services EMO volunteers make possible, for which one can say, “Thank you, Jesus”:

- *HIV Services* volunteers help make hot meals daily, which brings nourishment and nurturing to clients coming to the Day Center.
- *Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns* volunteers mobilize hundreds of people in their congregations to advocate for sound energy policy, recruit them for global warming trainings and educate their congregations on global warming.
- *Northeast Emergency Food Program* volunteers create a feeling of respect, dignity and acceptance for all who enter the “food house.”
- *Parent Mentor Program* volunteers help mothers recognize strengths in parenting, homemaking, self-esteem and confidence.
- *Portland International Community School* volunteers give to the life of the school and the students.
- *Russian Oregon Social Services* volunteers taught 16 ESL and four citizenship classes to more than 350 people in 2003.
- *Shared Housing* volunteers served 183 individuals last year—including 16 seniors, 23 people with disabilities and 30 homeless people—who were seeking home sharing situations in the Portland metro area.
- *Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees* volunteers collect donations from all over the Portland metro area such as furniture, clothing, sheets and towels and other needed household goods in order to set up apartments for hundreds of newly arrived refugee individuals and families.
- *EMO Board and Committee members* donated over 2,100 hours of their time in 2003, valued at \$81,000.

Russian Oregon Social Services nominated Public Health Hero

EMO’s Russian Oregon Social Services (ROSS) was nominated to be a *Multnomah County Health Public Health Hero* as part of their local celebration of National Public Health Week during April 5 to 11. The Multnomah County Health Department celebrated Public Health Week by honoring people or organizations that promote public health. An award ceremony was held on April 8 and was attended by Yelena Hansen, ROSS program manager, and Tatyana Galina, ROSS breast health outreach specialist.

ROSS promotes public health by breast health education and mental health, nutrition and dental services for the local Russian-speaking community. These services improve public health and the quality of life in the community.

ROSS is the only agency that works exclusively with the Russian-speaking population in Oregon. Since 1994, ROSS has served thousands of Russian-speaking refugees/immigrants through various services including ESL, citizenship and nutrition classes, in-home tutoring, case management, cross-cultural and community orientation, free dental care and legal consultation. ROSS also offers translation, interpretation and notarization services for a small fee, as well as free tax assistance with the help of AARP volunteers.

Since 1998, the program has provided domestic violence services and mental health services to the Russian-speaking community. Since 2001, ROSS has been supported by the Susan G. Komen Foundation to conduct a breast cancer education outreach program and provide direct assistance to Russian-speaking women. The same year, ROSS began providing services for Russian-speaking, elderly refugees.

For more information about ROSS, call (503) 777-3437.

NEFP welcomes new program manager

John Elizalde struck gold! At least, that is the story he’s telling, as he assumes the role of program manager for EMO’s Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP). In January, Elizalde was hired on a temporary basis while program manager, Millyellen Strayer, was on maternity leave. Much to EMO’s chagrin and her young son’s glee, Strayer decided to resign from her position and remain home with her son. Elizalde is the beneficiary of that decision.

An east coast native, Elizalde wandered west after graduating from Wittenberg University and spending a few years in the service during the late 1960s and early 1970s. By 1974, he was hired on at the Bonneville Power Administration in Portland. Almost three decades later with over 20 years experience in various management positions, he retired to Beaverton with his wife Chris, a real estate agent. They raised Sara (an account manager in Portland) and Claire (a junior at Loyola University of Chicago) while living in that west Portland suburb.

For many years, Elizalde has volunteered at the St. Matthew Lutheran food program—serving as a delivery driver and, lately, as part of the leadership team. According to Elizalde, “NEFP provides a means for me to match my management background with my service commitment.” He has also volunteered for the American Red Cross and Oregon Trout Salmon Watch.

NEFP serves over 1,200 people a month, providing three to five days of nutritious food. The significant volunteer staff at the “food house” provides the real service to the hungry in our midst. Elizalde says of the volunteers, “It is their commitment to service and their hours of dedicated service four days a week that brings EMO’s mission to life. And, of course, it is due to the generous contributions from EMO member congregations, denominations and individuals who keep the doors open and allow the distribution of over a ton of food a day!”



Photo credit: Gary Logsdon

John Elizalde named new NEFP program manager.

For more information about NEFP, call John Elizalde at (503) 284-5470, or you are welcome to visit NEFP in person at 1912 NE Killingsworth, Portland.

Collins Lecture with Dr. Campolo draws packed house

Diverse audience of over 700 people attended lecture

Dr. Tony Campolo attracted a packed house of over 700 people as the guest lecturer at the 2004 Collins Lecture on March 2 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Portland. He lectured on "Peace, Patriotism and the Prophetic Voice of the Church."

"The Jesus of Scripture comes not in power but in love. Do we know how to talk about this Jesus who came in love? You've got to know your Bible."
- Dr. Tony Campolo

During the lecture, Campolo challenged Christians in mainline churches to really know the Bible, so they would be better able to dialogue with their evangelical "brothers and sisters." Campolo stated, "The Jesus of Scripture comes not in power but in love. Do we know how to talk about this Jesus who came in love? You've got to know your Bible. Our ignorance is problematic. The reason your fundamentalist, nationalistic brothers and sisters cut you to pieces on 'Good Morning America' is ... they know the Bible and we don't." If Christians know what the Bible says about the Middle East, as well as other important issues, they can speak from the scriptures with a Christian response to the violence in that region and elsewhere in the world.

Campolo also challenged the audience to compare the vengeful "Nationalistic Deity," created by some Christians in the United States, with the Jesus of the scriptures who "takes the form of a servant" and empties himself to serve the world in humility and love. Campolo questioned that the Jesus who blessed the poor,

the merciful and the peacemakers has been turned into the champion of a prosperity theology, capital punishment and the wars in the Middle East. With this in mind, he told the audience to ask themselves, "What would Jesus do?" when we consider actions such as dropping a bomb or killing another human being.

Following Campolo's lecture, a panel representing three Christian perspectives gave their responses to the lecture. The Rev. Roula Alkhoury, pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Bend, challenged audience members to listen to the oppressed instead of aligning themselves with the powerful in the world. The Rev. Claude Pomerleau, director of the Social Justice Program at the University of Portland, spent six years in Chile. While there, he witnessed "Jesus crucified many times" under the reign of Pinochet, who was supported by the United States. Elie Wiesel, Pomerleau added, saw Jesus crucified in the concentration camps of Nazi Germany. And, Jesus, he said, "continues to be crucified in many places throughout the world."

Panelist Ron Mock, director of the George Fox University Peace Center, reminded Christians to remember the story of the Good

Dr. Campolo's March 2 lecture available on VHS or CD
- Order your copy today!

To order a copy of Dr. Campolo's lecture, "Peace, Patriotism & the Prophetic Voice of the Church," you can download an order form at www.emoregon.org or call (503) 221-1054. The video is \$15 and the CD is \$12 (includes shipping and handling).



Photo credit: Gary Logsdon

Before the Collins Lecture, a reception was held in Campolo's honor (second from left). Others attending included (from left): the Rev. Claude Pomerleau, a lecture panelist; the Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr.; and David Leslie.

Samaritan and to ask, "Who is the one on the side of the road needing help?" He stated that the blood of the Iraqis is on all of our hands and that one cannot walk by when there are so many people living in tremendous poverty and grave injustice.

Dr. Campolo also facilitated a seminar the following morning entitled "Hot Potatoes Christians Are Afraid to Touch," based on one of his books. He taught over 150 ministers and lay leaders how to pastorally address controversial topics in a church setting.

"This model of dialogue, education and training is very effective in enhancing the church's ability to address difficult issues in society," commented David Leslie, EMO executive director. "This a model we will continue to use in upcoming Collins Lectures." The next Collins Lecture will be held in 2005.

Forbes to speak in Portland

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) in coordination with the National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) is arranging to bring the Rev. Dr. James Forbes, senior minister of New York City's Riverside Church, to speak in Portland on June 27. Details for Forbes' visit are being finalized and will be publicized as soon as available at www.emoregon.org.

Forbes will be coming as part of the NCCC campaigns "Mobilization to Overcome Poverty" and "Get Out the Justice Vote." The campaigns will center on a national voter registration effort among churches and raise concern for poverty issues during the election.

Forbes, an ordained minister in the American Baptist Churches and the Original United Holy Church of America, is a nationally recognized preacher and known for his work in transforming Riverside Church into a congregation that models social justice through diverse ministries that include social services and a focus on diversity.

Newsweek Magazine named Forbes as one of the 12 most effective preachers in the English-speaking world. *Ebony Magazine* twice named him as one of America's greatest Black preachers.

EMO is seeking donations to help defray the costs of Forbes' stay in Portland. If you are interested making a donation, please call Bob Baker at (503) 221-1054.

National religious leaders kick-off hunger conference in Oregon

National hunger advocates Dr. Eric Shockman, president of Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger, and the Rev. James L. McDonald, vice-president for policy and programs for Bread for the World, a Christian advocacy organization for the world's hungry, will kick-off the Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger conference. Members of the roundtable include Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry, the Oregon Catholic Conference, the Portland Jewish Federation, the Presbytery of the Cascades, United Methodist Women Oregon/Idaho Conference and the American Jewish Committee. Shockman and McDonald will give keynote speeches and join a daylong series of workshops for religious groups, hunger advocates and service providers on May 17 and 18.

The conference will present over a half-dozen workshops on subject matters that include identifying the root causes of hunger, examining current research on hunger and poverty, developing sustainable food systems, providing effective emergency food services, confronting hunger's impact on childhood learning and

combining service and advocacy.

Oregon has been identified as the second leading state in the nation in hunger and food insecurity rates. Over 200,000 households in Oregon receive food stamps—almost doubling the number of households in just six years. Religious charities play a significant role in providing food to hungry residents, representing close to 70 percent of the Oregon Food Bank's emergency food services network. Religious groups and leaders have been vocal advocates on hunger.

An evening forum with Dr. Shockman and the Rev. McDonald will be at 7 p.m. Monday, May 17. The workshops will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18. Both events will take place at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 6835 SW 46th St., Portland. The cost is \$10 for both days (no one will be turned away for inability to pay). Breakfast and lunch are included.

For more information or to register, call Bob Horenstein at (503) 245-6496 or Norene Goplen at (503) 502-6211.

Calendar of Events

May 14 & 15

Lecture: Invisible Lines of Connection – When God Makes an Appearance in Ordinary Events, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on May 14; Workshop: *The Jewish Mystical Imagination – A Study of Kabbalistic Writings on Creation*, 7:30 p.m. on May 15. At the Center for Spiritual Development, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Kempton Hall, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland. The lecture and workshop will be led by Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, Emanu-El Scholar-in-Residence at the Congregation Emanu-El in San Francisco. Kushner is widely regarded as one of the most creative religious writers in America. Cost for the lecture is \$15; the workshop is \$50 and includes lunch. To purchase tickets, call (503) 478-1218.

May 21 & 23

Lecture: Faith and the Environment – A Christian Call to Action, 7 p.m. on May 21; *Gospel-Based Discipleship in a Post-Christian World (a teaching mission & workshop)*, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on May 23. At Grace Memorial Episcopal Church, 1535 NE 17th Ave., Portland. The lecture and workshop will be led by the Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, Seventh Bishop of Alaska. The lecture will address such issues as the divergent interpretations of environmental stewardship in American history and in the history of people of faith. The suggested donation for the lecture is \$10. In the workshop, participants will learn how to engage the Gospel in a way that sheds light on the true nature of the church and how the church can best engage the world. Cost of the workshop is \$35 and includes lunch. For more information, call (503) 287-0418.

June 4 to 6

2004 Oregon Synod Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Friday 9 a.m. to Sunday 12 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel, Eugene. The assembly theme is, "Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered and sent for the sake of the world." Keynote speaker will be Dr. Richard Bliese, academic dean at Luther Seminary. For more information, call (503) 880-3099 or visit www.oregonsynod.org to download a registration form.

June 4 to 6

Exploring Healthcare in the Spiritual Context. 8 a.m. on Friday to 11 a.m. on Sunday at Wallowa Lake United Methodist Camp, Joseph, Oregon. Designed as a professional seminar for those in the health professions, this conference is open to anyone interested in exploring the dynamics of faith and its impact on healing and wellness. Conference facilitator will be Dr. Stephen Kliever, OHSU. For more information, you may contact Dr. Kliever at (541) 398-0547 or e-mail kliwers@ohsu.edu. To determine fees and lodging rates, please contact Miranda Lovegren at 1-866-WALLOWA or visit www.gocamping.org/wallowa.html.

Upcoming EMO sponsored events

May 18

Oregon Faith Hunger Conference: Common Concern, Common Action. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 6835 SW 46th, Portland. Keynote Speakers: Dr. Eric Shockman, president of Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger and chair of the National Anti-Hunger Organizations, and the Rev. James L. McDonald, vice president for policy and programs for Bread for the World: A Christian citizen's movement seeking justice for the world's hungry people. Cost: \$10 (no one will be turned away for inability to pay), includes breakfast and lunch. Sponsored by the Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger (EMO is a member organization). There will also be an evening forum with Dr. Shockman and the Rev. McDonald at 7 p.m. on May 17. For more information, contact Bob Horenstein at (503) 245-6496 or Norene Goplen at (503) 502-6211.

May 19

"Render unto Caesar ... Faith, Justice and Taxes in Oregon" – A symposium for clergy and laity. 4 to 8 p.m. at First United Methodist Church (in the Sanctuary), 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland. Presented by EMO's Christians for Peace & Justice Advocacy Network, this four-hour symposium will explore the moral and theological implications of taxes in society. Featured speaker Professor Marcus Borg, Distinguished Professor in Religion and Culture and Hundere Endowed Chair in Religious Studies at Oregon State University, will give a lecture entitled "Framing the Question for People of Faith: The Bible's Passion for Justice." A Response Panel Discussion will respond to Professor Borg's remarks and discuss their perspectives on tax reform in Oregon. Professor Rob Kugler, Paul S. Wright Professor of Christian Studies at Lewis and Clark College, will respond to Professor Borg's remarks and the panel's response. Registration is \$25 (\$20 for students) and includes materials. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided. Download the registration brochure at www.emoregon.org. For questions, call Phillip Kennedy-Wong at (503) 221-1054, ext. 204.

Save the date

July 5 to 10

A Summer Institute for Pastors. The Pacific Institute, in collaboration with the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ, has developed a week-long summer institute designed for pastors from all theological and denominational backgrounds interested in the ethical, theological and pastoral consequences of contemporary social controversies. This year's topics include same sex marriage, abortion, the war on terrorism and the social impact of genetic technologies. Instructors will be Marc Marengo, M.Div., D.Phil., and Lisa Sardinia, Ph.D. The cost for registration, materials, banquet and certificate of course completion is \$500; housing and food for five days and four nights is \$250. Deadline for registration is June 1, 2004. Registration materials are available by calling (503) 352-2296 or e-mail pacinst@pacificu.edu.



July 11 to 16

Cascades Summer Conference: A Wideness in God's Mercy – Christian Faith in a Multi-Faith World. Linfield College, McMinnville. The Summer Conference is an annual event nurturing Christian faith in congregations and their members. The conference fee is \$85; registration is due by June 15. Sponsored by the Cascades, Olympia and Eastern Oregon Presbyteries and by the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. For more information or to register, call (800) 701-7313. You may also register and pay on-line at www.cascadespresbytery.org.



August 3 to 7

Oregon Faith and Sharing Retreat: "The treasure you seek lies within you." Mt. Angel Abbey Retreat House, St. Benedict, Oregon. The experience of a Faith and Sharing Retreat is one of unity: breaking bread, listening, sharing diverse life stories and discovering what we have in common. For more information, contact Cathleen Corbett at (503) 281-5831 or e-mail sdtquinn@yahoo.com.

November 5 & 6

You Are Not Alone: 2004 Caregiver Conference. At Lake Grove Presbyterian Church, 4040 Sunset Dr., Lake Oswego. This conference is for family caregivers, professional care providers, clergy, nurses, congregational care teams, service providers and other related support professionals. For more information, visit the Oregon Caregiver Coalition Web site at www.oregoncares.org.

voice

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

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To submit calendar items for the *Voice*, please e-mail mbush@emoregon.org.