

News Briefing

March 2011

Celebrating our Ministry together
in the NT-NL Mission Area

Congregational Newsletter Insert. More information available at www.ntnl.org



Living DiscipleLife gathering at Calvary, Richland Hills, Jan. 29

Living DiscipleLife opens door to DiscipleLife Alive!

In this day and age, when money is tight and people are less inclined to support or trust institutions, it would be natural that people would ask questions of their churches. Why do we band together? Isn't the local congregation standing alone where it's at? What can we do better because we are grouped together than we can do separately? These questions have been at the heart of the *Living DiscipleLife* gatherings. Responses have suggested that by working together we can (1) have a larger impact on the national and global needs and trends, (2) share ideas, energies, and resources to help each other in mission and ministry, (3) cooperate in training and formation of lay and rostered leaders for the 21st century, and (4) help every baptized person affirm and live out the Great Commission in daily life.

DiscipleLife Alive! is the "next step" in the transformative process that NT-NL congregations and leaders have been engaged in over the last several years. It calls for a bold three-part initiative to enliven our *DiscipleLife*:

- To establish a **DiscipleLife Center for Mission at Briarwood** as a place of leadership formation, using the best training and technology.
- To establish the **Leadership Formation Fund** as an endowment within the Mission Endowment Fund so we can sustain mission projects, training events and scholarships.
- To complete the **Jubilee Center** in Freetown, Sierra Leone, as a place of worship, service and leadership formation for our companion church.

Learn more about *DiscipleLife Alive!* at www.NTNL.org and get involved!



MISSION ASSEMBLY: Hurst Conference Center, April 29 – May 1

Assemblies have become festivals of inspiration and engagement – and the 2011 event will do the same. **Ken Medema** is our presenter and lyricist. Blind since birth, he is an inspiration to others as he engages his audience in song. We also welcome **Pr. Kendra Mohn** (Trinity, Fort Worth) as our Bible study leader and ELCA Vice President **Carlos Peña**. The theme is *Serving DiscipleLife* – which will be experienced as well as discussed as the assembly participants give their Saturday afternoon to a wide variety of service opportunities. *Serving* will also be explored as Bishop Kanouse and other leaders unveil the details of our vision of a new and exciting future in ministry. Learn more at www.NTNL.org.



Greater Fort Worth Conference in Mission

Last June the Greater Fort Worth Conference rose to the challenge of helping the mission start in Alvarado financially support its lay evangelist, Jesus Escamilla, in the face of declining grant dollars. Their goal was to raise \$8,400, but in the end they raised over \$9,000. What a wonderful witness to what we can do in mission together.

FYI (Learn more at www.NTNL.org)...

March Emphasis: Mission Support for DiscipleLife

- ❖ **Grounded in Grace to Run the Race** is a six week Bible study to help individuals and groups reflect on *DiscipleLife* and prepare for the upcoming Mission Assembly and *DiscipleLife Alive!* initiative.
- ❖ **North Texas SeniorFest 2011: "The Path to Joy"** is the topic for this annual event; the speaker is Dr. Terry Germann. The event is March 5 and includes workshops. It is hosted by King of Glory, Dallas.
- ❖ **The Cathedral Choir**, composed of students from over 30 high schools in Minneapolis & St. Paul, will lead worship at Advent, Arlington, on March 13. The choir originates from Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Minneapolis.
- ❖ **Dr. Walter Brueggemann**, internationally acclaimed theologian and Old Testament scholar, speaks at King of Glory, Dallas, on Sunday, March 6 ("A Rest from the Rat Race") and Monday, March 7 ("Giving In Without Giving Up").
- ❖ Christ the Servant, Denton, is host to an **Interfaith Stewards Leadership Workshop** on March 26. The event is sponsored by Denton Faith Communities Caring for Creation.