

Special points of interest:

- Plans for 2013 ATS in Grapevine, TX
- Pictures from 2012 ATS

I.C.P.C. Auxiliary Newsletter

Message from President Karen Dixon

April 13, 2013

I am writing this letter from Malawi Africa, where Blair and I are on a 5 month volunteer mission. I am setting up a risk management program for the Malawi Unions of Savings and Credit Cooperatives, Blair is working with the chaplains of the Malawi Police Service and serving as priest-in-charge at a local parish, and together we are working on a project to promote financial literacy in women and youth. There is a video on our blog of the Bishop dancing and praising God at Blair's induction. (The Bishop lost no time in conscripting Blair to be priest-in-charge within minutes after we were introduced to him....it was an on-the-spot kind of moment!)

We have lots of stories and pictures on our blog. If you are interested in hearing about our work and experiences here, you can view our blog. [Using Google as your search engine](#), go to kerriemarg@blogspot.com and then click on Malawi 2013. Do use Google because our blog will come up close to the top of the list and you won't have to hunt for it. As I write, I can hear the sound of the gardener sweeping our compound with a short hand-broom made of twigs bundled together with twine. Blair just went out to give him and the other workers in our compound a small tip of 1000 MWK each, which is about \$4 USD. We do this every 2 weeks or so. It is a tiny amount of money to us but, by way of comparison, the salary upon which they must live is only 14,000 MWK per month, 10,000 MWK of which goes to their rent. To give you context, we are shopping and doing our own cooking here and often our daily grocery bill is as much as the 4000MWK upon which they must relay to pay school fees, pay for power and water, buy food, etc., etc. I have no idea how they do it. Most of the people we meet and work with in Malawi are beautiful, joyfully spiritual, gentle, and kind, which is in itself remarkable because they suffer from lack of basics such as food, shoes, clean water, and adequate healthcare.

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." Jim Elliot

Things to remember to bring with you to Grapevine.

- *Bring items to sell at silent auction*
- *Wear your favorite team jersey for the tailgate party Monday night*

The purpose of my letter today is not to tell you about Malawi (although I look forward to being able to do that face to face at our next ATS), but rather to invite to be part of our activities and gatherings for spouses and families of chaplains at Grapevine when we meet for the 2013 ATS. The planned activities are shaping up to be another wonderful experience and your presence will make it even more so.

For spouses, in addition to our worship, fellowship, and business gatherings, planned group activities include shopping at Grapevine Mills, a tour of the President George Bush Library, and a tour of the historic farmer's market and glass blowing and blacksmith exhibits. The Children and youth will enjoy visits to Paradise Springs Water Park, an airline museum, Ranger Ballpark, the sea-life aquarium-/LEGOLAND for the younger ones, and ice-skating and more water park for the older ones, and finally, Nash farm and DFW airport. The conference brochure sent to the chaplains includes more information.

I.C.P.C. Auxiliary Newsletter

Continued from page 1

If you are a “first-timer” or your children or grandchildren have not accompanied you before, please join us - you will be glad you did!

As you may be aware, I have been acting President of the auxiliary for the past two years. Although this certainly had its challenges due to my lack of experience, the benefit is that I have had time to think about how I might make a contribution that further builds on the legacy of the dedicated auxiliary members and auxiliary Presidents that came before me. I have a fundamental belief that, as human beings, when we participate and share our gifts as we feel in our hearts to be right for ourselves and others, we come to feel a sense of belonging and ownership, and are in harmony with the plan of our Creator. That is my wish for spouses attending ATS.

I have four main goals for my two year term as President: Consistent with ICPC principles, actively promote multi-faith and international inclusiveness during our gatherings;

Make a particular effort to encourage, invite, and welcome first timers and less active spouses to engage and participate in the activities we have planned for spouses during the ATS;

Promote a continual and sustainable renewal of leadership; and

Encourage and promote a spirit of joyful pursuit of activities (social, business, and worship) that bring us positive energy and are in harmony with God’s plan for us as his people. (My husband describes this as: “there is nothing we “we *have to do*””, we are doing the things we want to do, and the things that bring life and joy to ourselves and others.... So that we can be what God would have us be).

My theme for this year will be “In harmony with God’s plan). Not really all that different from my theme last year, but perhaps building on it is a good thing!

I look forward to seeing you in July at our 2013 ATS in Grapevine, Texas!

Report by Karen Dixon on 2012 ATS in Spokane – Auxiliary

The 2012 ATS in beautiful Spokane was an enjoyable and relaxing experience for spouses and families of chaplains. The host committee did an amazing job and the setting at the Doubletree Hotel on the waterfront was both beautiful and relaxing. Approximately 60 spouses, including 20 first timers attended the 2012 ATS in Spokane Washington. There was also a small but busy group of children and youth that enjoyed program activities designed specifically for them, including lots of time in the pool and at the water park.

Spouses were offered daily activities and a chance to network, pray together, and play together. The activities for spouses are organized and sponsored by the auxiliary; all spouses are encouraged to join and are made to feel welcome in attending activities that interest them. Our goal is to ensure we are inclusive in our approach, recognizing the multi faith and international scope of the ICPC.

A number of spouses volunteered to lead our morning devotions, which were based on the Old Testament, using the theme “Living our Faith by listening for God’s plan”. Activities included a tour of the beautiful and historic Davenport Hotel and lunch in its historic Marie Antoinette Room. We also enjoyed a shopping tour, and a boat tour and lunch at beautiful Lake Coeur d’Alene.

Perhaps the best part of the ATS for spouses is the opportunity to relax and share our ideas and challenges with new friends and old friends, who are also spouses of chaplains. It is certainly something I look forward to each year.

See you in Grapevine at the 2013 ATS!

Volume 5, Issue 1



Lake Coeur d'Alene

