

Adventures in Mission, Trona Mission Team, Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 2019

San Fernando Presbytery, Kehillah Chen v'Chesed Jewish Congregation

Attendees: Skye Huck Shadow Hills Pres

Havana Thomas, Kennedy Fayton Guzman, Betsy Lindsey and Ruth Mandernach
Encino Pres

Rabbi Eric Morgenstern, Lisa Morgenstern, daughter Jamie and son-in-law Jesse
Jean Throckmorton (Scouting trip in Aug) 1st Pres Burbank

Lynne Jackson (scouting trip in Aug) Encino

Engineering team from Newhall: Jack Irwin, Mechanical Engineer,
Art Moore, Mechanical Engineer
Barbara Irwin
Jim Combs, Architect
Harry Davis

Rev. Ralph Mueller, Josephine Mueller, Jackie Brennan, Clerk of Session, Ridgecrest
Presbyterian Church

Priscilla and Dennis Benadom. Director of Sr Center and Pastor Cumberland Pres
Church Trona

Priscilla's son Chris, Security Specialist Cumberland Pres

A Dozen folks from San Fernando Presbytery were joined by four folks from the Jewish congregation Kehillah Chen v'Chesed for a weekend of work, evaluation of damage to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church facilities, and conversation with folks in Trona affected by our recent earthquakes. The Engineering Team will be presenting a report of the findings in the near future; their preliminary findings indicated no significant structural damage. Given asbestos in the floor tiles of the fellowship hall, the recommendation will be to patch the crack and lay a laminate flooring over the existing floor. The recommendations are similar for the sanctuary. Additional work will be required to repair cosmetic cracks in walls in the fellowship hall and sanctuary.

During the afternoon of August 31 team members unloaded food and made preparations for serving a community dinner the following evening, and sorted clothes and helped families "shop" in the Trona community church. Folks seemed inclined to stay and visit for about an hour. The team returned to Ridgecrest for dinner which included John & Doris Swanson, and Byron & Amy Butler from the Ridgecrest Presbyterian Church. The team retired to the Ridgecrest Presbyterian Church for sleep.

The following day the Mission Team joined with the RPC congregation for worship, and then traveled to Trona to make preparations for the evening community dinner. Jackie Brennan and Ralph & Jo Mueller helped in the serving and clean-up, as well as joining in conversation with the people who came for dinner.

While future plans are still in formation, folks from San Fernando are hopeful to return to Trona in the future to provide whatever help may be needed—as well as to continue providing encouragement as people rebuild their lives and community. Additionally Rabbi Morgenstern is interested in leading the Trona and Ridgecrest congregations in a Seder Meal at Passover in 2020.

Many thanks to San Fernando Presbytery for providing \$500 in funds to cover the cost of food and other expenses of the Mission Team. We thank God for the experience of community, and welcome the opportunity to host and to serve in the future.

