



April 2009 E-Connections

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Dear Friends,

I returned in late March from a trip to El Salvador, coming on the heels of a transformative Presidential election, and hoping that my visit on behalf of the IPM family would be a sign of our solidarity with the citizens of El Salvador as they enter this period of long-denied change. While there, I attended a commemoration of Archbishop Oscar Romero, a man who advocated for revolutionary changes on behalf of the most vulnerable, and is now a symbol of the spirit and potential of the Salvadoran people.

It was truly a blessing to be able to hear from my colleagues and partners in El Salvador, as they look ahead to a future in which new things are possible. IPM is committed to continued support of these men and women as they work for, with, and on behalf of their communities.



A Project Participant with FUSANMIDJ, in Armenia, EL SALVADOR, working with a new corn grinder.

Despite the excitement and spirit of change, we were reminded this week that our Project Partners continue to face significant challenges. *FUSANMIDJ*, a long-time IPM Project Partner that supports women's groups in the costal community of Armenia, communicated to us that they are facing significant opposition from the local mayor. The Project's work with women's groups and water has empowered the population of Armenia, threatening the previously secure power of the mayor. IPM stands with the women of *FUSANMIDJ* as they continue to do their important work in the face of increasing challenge.

That message of continued commitment to solidarity is part of what I shared with new and existing partners during my visit to Washington D.C. last week. I had a wonderful and productive series of meetings there, and I am particularly excited for some of the opportunities opening up through the hard work and bridge-building efforts of Friends of IPM.

In that spirit of renewal, we hope that all of those who celebrated Passover and Easter last week had peaceful holiday,

and that the season ahead might be one of peace and hope.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Cistone
Executive Director

Connect with Joe or IPM on Facebook, or follow Joe on Twitter @josephfcistone.

Celebrating 35 Years: 1974-2009

On May 10, 2009, IPM will celebrate our 35th Anniversary. IPM has grown immensely over the years, and we are grateful for the opportunity to continue to build upon our extraordinary history. Join us in celebrating 35 years in 2009! Consider making a special gift of \$35 per month to support IPM into the future, or a gift of \$350 (or better yet, add a zero or two!) to commemorate this landmark year.

Call the IPM Office at +1.216.932.4082 to make a gift, or donate online at www.ipmconnect.org (click "Donate").



P.I.M. Staff: L. to r., Marion Kretzschmar, Paul Strege, Jim Mayer and Bernie Marquardt. Project No. 100.

IPM Co-Founders, Paul Strege and Jim Mayer (center), with Marion Kretzschmar and Bernie Marquardt in 1974 at the founding of "Partners in Mission", the original name of IPM

As we celebrate our 35-year legacy, help us ensure that IPM's programs continue into the future with our 1974 Society. Planned gifts provide IPM with much-needed resources, and allow your commitment and dedication to IPM to be carried out as we celebrate our many anniversaries to come.

There are several planned giving opportunities available to those wishing to make a gift to IPM in this way:

- Bequests
- Permanent Named Fund
- Life Insurance Policy
- Retirement Plans
- Charitable Annuities & Trusts

Contact Ilze Fender at +1.216.932.4082 or ifender@ipmconnect.org for more information.

Journey of Self-Discovery: Enneagram Workshop Series

Longtime friends of IPM, and participants in our November 2008 Immersion Experience to Kenya, Betty McMahon and Sue Stewart have organized a wonderful fundraising opportunity to benefit IPM's Project Partners. Join friends of IPM for this 3-workshop series on the Enneagram Personality Tool. The workshops will be presented by Cheryl Rose, HM, who has a Masters in Religious Studies from John Carroll University, and is certified in Enneagram theory and presentation. Over the course of the series, you will discover your personality type, gain insight into why you and others exhibit certain behaviors, and find what is essential for spiritual growth. The program cost is \$95, a portion of which will be a tax-deductible donation to IPM.

Dates of the workshops are: Tuesday, April 21; Wednesday, April 22; and Wednesday, April 29. All sessions include a light supper, and run from 5:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. They will be held at Magnificat High School, 20770 Hilliard Road, Rocky River, Ohio 44116

For more information, visit www.ipmconnect.org under "Upcoming Events" or contact Sue Stewart at 440.871.7638, or Betty McMahon at 440.892.9876.

To make a reservation, contact IPM at +1.216.932.4082.

Upcoming Immersion Experience Programs—Sign up now!

Join us in 2009 on one of our upcoming Immersion Experience Programs, listed below, or consider organizing a group of your own! Contact Laurie Rodney at lrodney@ipmconnect.org or +1.216.702.2514 for more information.

KENYA: July 5-15

with IPM Executive Director, Joe Cistone, Maina Hellen Chepkorir, and Jared Odhiambo

EL SALVADOR "Educate the Educators": July 18-25

with Laurie Rodney and Julieta Borja

WYOMING: August 7-11

with IPM Board Members, Chris Henry and Caroline Mills

NICARAGUA "Holiday with a Conscience": October 10-17

with IPM Executive Director, Joe Cistone, and IPM Board Member, Zoraida Soza

INDIA: November 12-22

with IPM Executive Director, Joe Cistone, and Mahesh Updadhaya

ITALY: December 28-January 5, 2010

with IPM Executive Director, Joe Cistone



Julie on the 2008 Educate the Educators Immersion Experience to El Salvador, visiting with students in San Rafael, a program of Project Partner FUSANMIDJ

4th Annual Tea to Benefit *Speranza II* at Christ Episcopal Church

Join members of Christ Episcopal Church in Shaker Heights, Ohio, for their 4th Annual "High Tea" to benefit IPM Project Partner, *Speranza II* (Castel Volturno, ITALY), from 3-5 p.m. on April 26, 2009. This wonderful event will also include a fair trade handcraft sale and a fashion show, as well as an opportunity to hear more about *Speranza II*'s important work with victims of sex trafficking between Nigeria and Italy.

For more information about *Speranza II*, visit:

<http://ipmconnect.org/partners/regions/2/projects/47/>

Download the invitation and response card for the event at:

<http://ipmconnect.org/media/dynamic/publications/Speranza2009.pdf>

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