

Dear Friends,

We are looking forward to meeting the folk at Mountlake Terrace. I say we as Diane and I are in ministry together in many ways. She has supported me and I her over the years and see all that we do as a partnership. She is involved in several projects relating to Art and Healing with the Brehm Center at Fuller Theological Seminary. She will also be one of the workshop leaders at the American Baptist Women's Conference at Green Lake, July 2007.

She was also instrumental in working with me and the church in an ecumenical outreach program for local youth at a congregation we served in New Hampshire. We are pleased to see that your congregation is seeking to be a part of a wider effort to provide resources for community youth and are exploring additional ways to use your facilities for both outreach and community involvement. The effort in New Hampshire involved opening a local school gym on Saturday nights for games, sports, etc. It is still providing a safe haven for youth in that community after 12 years. Diane was one of the key coordinators of the program and worked with one of the men of our congregation who has kept the program going after we left for the mission field. This man was named New Hampshire's Man of the Year because of his determined effort in keeping the program together.

While serving as commissioned AB missionaries in the Philippines I wrote and conducted continuing education programs for the pastors and church leadership. I am delighted to say that, when we visited last August for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Central Philippine University, the program is still being used by the University and is now being offered for credit towards their Master of Divinity degree. While there Diane worked with kindergarten teachers in upgrading their teaching skills and taught at Central Philippines University and Convention Baptist Bible College.

I also have a strong commitment to Christian Education. While in New England I was a member of the advisory team of New England Education Ministries Pilot Project. This group helped to coordinate Christian Education projects throughout the New England ABC regions. I am one of the contributors to the book, Embracing the Future, by Judson Press.

While at First Baptist of Los Angeles, during the summer of 2005, we sponsored a month long neighborhood theater camp for all interested youth in the community. The camp was a wonderful success and a real outreach to the community. The children wrote, directed and produced a two-act play for their closing program and were able to give two performances. The campers built and painted the scenery and wrote most of the music in conjunction with the adult staff. This camp opened the doors for our establishing an after school program for the community children.

My mentor and friend, John Drane, states that, *"Evangelism is more about inviting others to join us on the journey, because we share the same questions than it is telling people the 'right' answers to life's problems"* (Do Christians Know How to Be Spiritual, p. 134). As life grows more and more complex, we need to walk beside and along with each other.

This also fits into my style of leadership. I prefer working with a team of people exploring together creative ways of doing relevant ministry. I appreciate the input and leadership of others and seek ways to involve people both in worship and ministry. I enjoy and encourage lay leadership taking part in worship and planning events for the life of the congregation. I work closely with the Director of Music so that each service flows well from one part to the next. I also work with puppets, do some drama in worship and we have done Christian Clowning.

We have two sons who live in Poulsbo, WA, one daughter-in-law and two grandsons, ages 4 and 6.

With prayers,

Dennis and Diane Plourde