

# Mid-Southern California Area 09 Newsletter

Mid-Southern California Area 09 includes approximately 2,000 A.A. Groups in the counties of Los Angeles (south of Rosecrans), San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange



42 = Part of Nevada  
3 = Part of Arizona

## DELEGATE'S CORNER

### "A Purposeful Message"

This month, I have been challenged with preparation of the most prolific time of year for General Service stuff I get to do. It started with an ASC a couple weeks ago then... PRAASA, another ASC, the Pre-Conference Workshop, The General Service Conference, an Assembly, followed by countless visits to Districts for share back sessions, while all the time keeping our Area informed, participating in monthly Area Officers meetings, workshops, visiting Intergroups around the Area, sponsees, service sponsees, service sponsors, home groups, District meetings, speaking at conventions and meetings all over Southern California, oh yeah, my 20 birthday in AA. But while I am focusing on all I have to do, I am reminded of the greatest gift I am given.

In 1945, Earl T., prodded Bill W. to write the "12 Points to Assure Our Future," and from that, we got our AA Traditions. The 5th one reminded us that, "Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose--that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." What a tall order. Not just for any group to remember its primary purpose, but to know what 'its message' is. In order to know what its message is, a group would have to take an inventory to make sure it is living up to its primary purpose in the realm of AA.

## UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

(more on page 7)

### Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting

Sun., Mar 10<sup>th</sup>

Cesar Chavez Park

401 Golden, Long Beach, 90802

*Hosted by District 17*

### USUAL MEETING DAY SCHEDULE

9 am: Delegate Sharing, new GSR Orientation & Finance Committee

10 am: Standing Committee meetings & new DCM Orientation

11:15: Lunch

Noon: Area Meeting called to order.

### Pre-Conference

#### Workshop

Knights of Columbus

1729 Baseline St.,  
San Bernardino

*Hosted by District 25*



|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| When Love is Not Enough (2010) | Sat., Mar 16 |
| Clean and Sober (1988)         | Sat., Apr 20 |
| 28 Days (2000)                 | Sat., May 18 |
| Come Back Little Sheba (1952)  | Sat., Jun 15 |
| Days of Wine and Roses (1962)  | Sat., Jul 20 |

## 7111 Arlington Ave., Suite B

Riverside

(951) 785-0845

(Next to the Airport in the Riverside Air Park)

**Show Time:** Doors open at 7:00

The movie starts at 7:30.

Stay after the show and tour the Archives

+ Cartoon

**Cost: Free!**

*Bring your lawn chairs or chaise longue and enjoy classic Hollywood movies about AA in our own unique theater.*

*Refreshments available.*

### DECLARATION OF UNITY

This we owe to A.A.'s future: to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.

#### *Delegate's Corner – Continued from page 1*

Guess what, the General Service Conference is, for the next three years, taking its inventory. The group of 133 members will be trying to find out how well it is living up to the 5th Tradition in carrying its message to the alcoholic who is still sick. And what a gift for a guy like me to be able to participate in this quest as the delegated representative of all of the Mid-Southern California Area number 09's, sixty thousand plus members. Your thoughts, feelings, ideas and such, will be carried to this inventory by me, Jeryl T., the Delegate to the 63rd General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. Go figure.

I am awed at the magnitude of the potential growth that we could be looking at by doing this inventory. Not only will we have and participate in the regular business of the General Service Conference, but we trusted servants also get to represent our informed Group conscience with regard to how we are carrying the message of AA to those yet to come. We will actually get to participate in discovering exactly what OUR (its) message really is and how effective we really believe it is. A fact finding and fact facing mission, to face and be rid of that which has been blocking us from the Spirit. To search out the flaws in our makeup. To take stock, and not fool ourselves about values. These are guidelines laid down in our literature, and I get to see them come alive in New York in April.

It is with honor that I will participate. It is my honor to have the ability to represent. It is an honor to be a member of Alcoholics Anonymous in good standing. This is one of the greatest opportunities I have been avowed in my soon to be twenty years of sobriety. It seems like an innocent event...an inventory. But the trial and error that has produced such a rich experience in my life, can also come about in the continued growth of AA and be that for the still suffering alcoholic, just gives me that joy that I can't explain, but if you know what I mean, then you know what I mean.

*Continued on page 3*



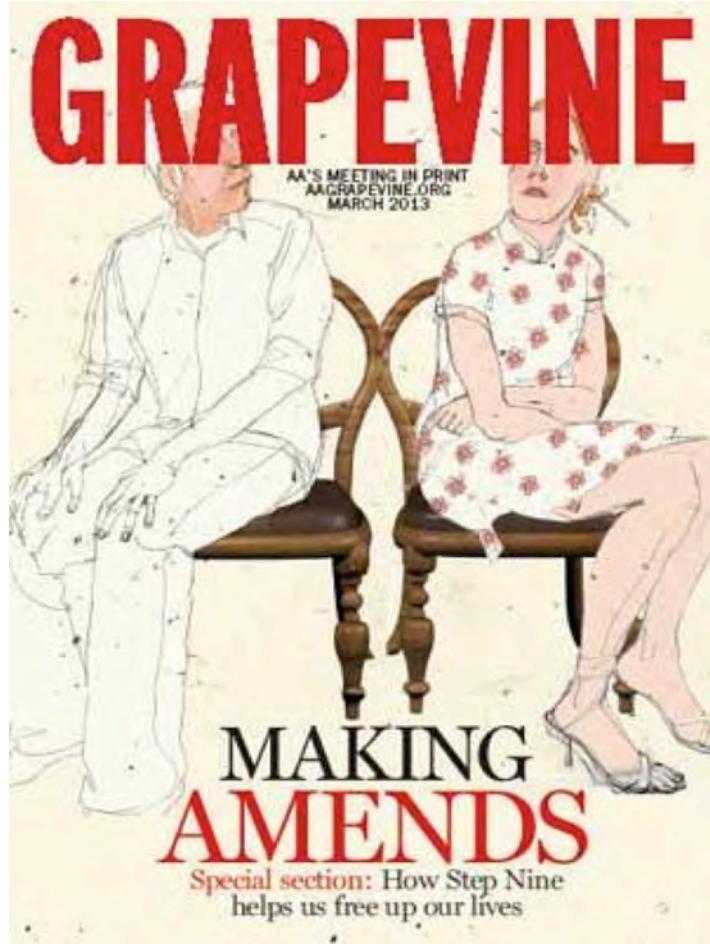
## DELEGATE'S CORNER (continued from p. 2)

I have to thank all of you who make this possible. My Area for sending me, my service sponsor for directing me, my wife for loving me, and God for making me. In fact, I am reminded that our 12th Concept ends by the blessing of freedom..."Freedom under God to grow in His likeness and image shall ever be the quest of AA. May the General Service Conference be always seen as a chief symbol of this cherished liberty."

It ends by saying, "To a man, we of AA believe that our freedom to serve is truly the freedom by which we live--the freedom in which we have our being." I am truly free to serve, and service to AA is my being. Thank you all for this life.

*Jeryl T., Delegate  
Panel 62 Area 09*

March 2013 issue of the AA Grapevine:



## What is the Purpose of the AA eBook Project?

One of the most important responsibilities of the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (AAWS) Board is to continue to provide access to A.A.'s message of hope through distribution of A.A.'s copyrighted literature. In keeping with this responsibility, AAWS has approved the creation of an eBook online store in order to provide digital access to most copyrighted AAWS publications.

In reaching a group conscience decision there was thorough discussion and research prior to the development and initial offering of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* in eBook format in English, French, and Spanish.

**Q:** What is the price of these eBooks?

**A:** \$6.00 each for the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. Check "eBooks" page for FAQ re AA eBooks at:

[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

####

## Opinion

### Is this a fact or just an opinion?

I was actively participating in division of our Area 9. It is a big area, geographically speaking. The distances and the commute times has always been an obstacle. There is a need to divide the area.

Recently, the area is talking about dividing the Area 9 based on population. It absolutely makes no sense. It will resolve no problem except separately high class orange county from low lives of Inland Empire! Are we getting involved with politics? We MUST NOT forget our mission and where we are coming from. For GOD sake, this is AA and our mission is solely to help each other and the ones who still suffer. Lets preserve our integrity.

If we divide the area based on population, the original problem of distances will still remain almost untouched. Lets preserve our integrity and do the right thing. Is this a fact or just an opinion?

Sincerely, David A.

Dear Service Sponsor,

I just got elected General Service Representative from my home group. What should I do now?

Signed: Panicked

Dear New GSR:

First, I recommend that you pick up and read a pamphlet entitled "G.S.R." and another one entitled "Twelve Traditions, Illustrated." Pick up an A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W. You can find these materials at your Central Office. I will send a copy of our Area's booklet called "What's it All About?" to you...take a look at it. When you've done that, let me know.

Signed, S.S.

Dear S.S.,

Well, I'm really confused! I read the pamphlets you recommended and purchased the Service Manual (which, I have to admit, I haven't even started to read, yet.) But the reason I'm confused is that it seems as if this is a pretty responsible and intense commitment! I was told by the outgoing GSR that I just had to attend one meeting a month and give a very, very short report (if any) to my group. Will I be able to get everything I need from the one meeting a month?

Signed: Confused

Dear Confused GSR:

Bill W. said that the General Service Representative may be the most important person in A.A...or words to that effect. The GSR is the conduit between the home group and A.A. as a whole. The responsibilities include that monthly meeting (the meeting of the District Committee), but that is certainly not the only responsibility and opportunity for the GSR. In the first place, I recommend that after you have gone to a couple of district meetings, you ask what district committees are doing and make a commitment to serve on one of those committees. I know that you have been saying you love the Grapevine magazine a lot...perhaps you would like to join the Grapevine committee and help spread the word about the magazine to the Fellowship, or maybe you'd like to work with Public Information, or Cooperation with the Elder Community? Check it out; see which committees are active and what they are doing...any of them will welcome your help and interest.

Then, you will need to go to the Area meetings as well. You have a vote at the District, but your very important vote will be at the Area...especially in electing the General Conference Delegate from our Area once every two years. The only way you will have any idea who to vote for is to get involved in the area work and get to know the people who are active and will be making themselves available to serve as Delegate.

You have a vote at the quarterly Area Assemblies and it is vital that you attend those. The Area Service Committee is just that: a committee. The GSRs are not part of the committee, but it isn't a bad idea to attend and hear the work of that committee, too. Also, you will want to join one of the area committees (probably the same one that you serve at the district) and they meet prior to all the area meetings.

Take notes and ask questions. It will all seem very confusing for several months...just like A.A. meetings did when you first got sober. Stick it out...this is where you will learn something about how to disagree in an agreeable way...and you will see many people who don't know how to do that in General Service...perhaps you can learn something from them, too. And be sure to report back to your home group about what you learn!

Learning how A.A. **functions**...not just how it works, is part of being a GSR. See you at the next area meeting!!

Signed: Service Sponsor and longtime service junkie

**Social Web Sites** "...One can consider social Web sites akin to walking through a large crowd of unknown people, while speaking privately to a friend through a loud amplifier. You will not know what others are hearing, how they are hearing it, or to whom or when they will repeat it. As we learn in A.A., it is our responsibility to protect anonymity, to avoid gossip, and to maintain our Twelve Traditions and the other tenets of our Fellowship. Caution is advised whenever referring to ourselves or others as A.A.s. In A.A. meeting groups, service structure events and other A.A. activities, wherever and whenever we are putting forth the hand of A.A., we are referring to Alcoholics Anonymous. We have a duty to be responsible 'in all our affairs,' and that includes in our use of social Web sites. A reminder is on page 293 from Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age where Bill W. writes '...we see anonymity at the general public level as our chief protection against ourselves, the guardian of all of our Traditions, and the greatest symbol of self-sacrifice that we know.'

---Art M., Panel 61 Delegate, Central Michigan

"In all of our lives, there are moments that cause us to pause and reflect about whether or not we can make a difference. Now, there are some who believe that our Archives is little more than a "black hole," one that constantly consumes valuable money and resources. It is not my intent to persuade you that archiving A.A.'s history is critical, but I respectfully submit that I am fortunate to have a career that does make a difference. In the grand scheme of things, what we do in the Archives is profound. We are the selectors and preservers of our history. The past will never even have a chance to meet the present should our resources become unavailable. We must preserve material to some degree or it will simply vanish, and for this reason the very act of preservation is a foundational belief for archivists. We save the records of today—including the debates of this Conference and, hopefully, many more to come—so we can share our experience, strength and hope with future generations of newcomers, just as the stories from our past have been saved and shared with us."

Michelle Mirza, GSO Archivist (non alcoholic)

## What About Anonymity Online?

"An A.A. Web site is a public medium, which has the potential for reaching the broadest possible audience and, therefore, requires the same safeguards that we use at the level of press, radio, and film."

*A.A. Guidelines on the Internet*

## Service: Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy

"...My alcoholic perception of becoming a delegate meant being an elite member of our service structure. During past years, I thought I was in service to become a delegate. I realize now that I was not in service to become a delegate, but rather that the Fellowship was training me to be of service and to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous in whatever capacity it takes to insure our survival and the survival of the alcoholic who still suffers. Being of service to my group, my area, and the Fellowship as a whole is not about becoming a legacy. It is about our survival. No matter what the cost, we have to make sure this program is here tomorrow."

Steve P., Panel 61 Delegate, Missouri



## At the 2013 General Service Conference, in April, the theme will be, "The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory."

Each of the Conference members is assigned to a specific Inventory Group, and asked to discuss 5 questions. Listed below are the questions that our Area 09 delegate, Jeryl T's Group will be discussing, and he would like much input from Area 09 members. He is interested in the opinions, recommendations, hopes and fears regarding these topics. You may send responses to the MSCA P.O. Box 51446, Irvine, CA 92619 c/o Area Delegate, email to [Delegate@msca09aa.org](mailto:Delegate@msca09aa.org) or these questions will be on the [www.area09.org](http://www.area09.org) website on the FORUM page. You may post your ideas and responses to others' ideas there and Jeryl will see them.

1. Reflecting on Concept One, how does the Conference ensure that it is the conscience of AA as a whole?
2. How well is the use of floor actions serving us?
3. Reflection on Concept Ten, how well is the authority of the Conference defined?
4. How well does the Conference fulfill the General Warranties of Concept Twelve?
5. Should delegate areas be more consistently based on actual membership numbers?

### Officers/Directors Reports

**Delegate:** Announced that one of our Spanish language interpreters will be interpreting at PRAASA; noted changes in PRAASA guidelines re location rotation and we will be hosting in 2018. Announced new Chairman of the General Service Board, Terry Bedient (non alcoholic). Conference Agenda item summary committee will be meeting later in February; Jeryl will send proposals and background material to anyone who is interested. AAWS wants feedback about selling ebooks through third party vendors. Noted that AAWS wants agenda items to reach on or before Dec 15 (instead of Jan 15). Encouraged everyone to read the GSB Quarterly Report: lots of interesting items in it. Jeryl did lots of visitations in the area, plus the board meeting; he submitted names for presenters at PRAASA and has booked some Conference share backs with districts.

**Alt. Delegate:** Has done a personal inventory about her performance as Alt. Delegate and although she believes she could have done more, she believes she had done some things pretty well. She will attempt to have the results of the Agenda Summary committee completed before PRAASA.

**Registrar:** Said he is more comfortable with the position. Encouraged new GSRs to see him. Registration Workshop next month.

**Treasurer:** Reported that the Area is doing well financially. About \$12,000 in bank (\$5,000 in Prudent Reserve). YTD: \$6,600 in and \$6,138 out; Usually have considerable cash out this time of year, mostly because of PRAASA. She thanked everyone who is accepting electronic receipts for donations and reminded everyone that it will save the area a lot in postage, so please remind groups. She asked for some help from someone who is expert in Excel.

**Chairman:** Working on 4-Area Sharing session. Thanked hosting district and sound, coffee, and food support. Announced that some districts are renting vans to drive to PRAASA. Appointed new PI co-chair to be confirmed in May.

**Secretary:** Thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers while he was in the hospital; he is working hard to catch up with the minutes.

### New Business

Motion (Martin J.): That the finance committee publish, on the website, each quarterly profit and loss statement, as soon as available and, in addition, publish the preliminary budget in October and final budget in January.

### Committee Activities

**Archives:** Enthusiastically invites District and Group Archive chairpersons to join the Area Archives Committee. Also encourages everyone to remember to contribute current material (flyers, meeting minutes, announcements, badges, pamphlets, etc.) to the Archives, as well as historic materials. Remember: today's material is tomorrow's history. Members of the Archives Committee are prepared to give presentations at Districts or Groups, as well as conferences and conventions.

**Area Communications Committee:** Can use one or two more Spanish translators for newsletter, as well as articles. Reminds everyone to check out the area Web site at [www.area09.org](http://www.area09.org)...check out the Forum where various points of view about a variety of topics are being discussed.

**Cooperation with the Elder Community:** Some districts are reaching out to health fairs and elder facilities; please let area committee know what is being done.

**Convention Liaison:** Reviewed convention schedule for 2013 and made roster for participation.

**Literature:** Literature workshop on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Asked for District Literature chairs to participate at area!

**Public Information:** New Spanish Co-Chair, Jaime F., to be confirmed at assembly. Working on PSA distribution; outreach to police departments.

**Special Needs:** Working on Braille pamphlets; outreach to people on meds, with autism, etc. goal: "incorporate all levels of special needs to all levels of A.A."

**Treatment:** Continuing discussions about how to approach resistant facilities.



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 10—Sunday  
**Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting**  
Cesar Chavez Park  
401 Golden, Long Beach, 90802  
*Hosted by District 4*

April 14—Sunday  
**Pre-Conference Workshop**  
Knights of Columbus  
1729 Baseline St., San Bernardino  
*Hosted by District 25*

May 19—Sunday  
**Area Assembly**  
**Delegate's Conference Report**  
Dales Senior Center  
3936 Chestnut St., Riverside  
*Hosted by District 8*

June 9—Sunday  
**Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting**  
*Hosted by District 30*

July 14—Sunday  
**Foro**  
(Spanish-speaking with English Interpretation)  
*Hosted by District 21 and 3*

August 11—Sunday  
**Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting**  
*Hosted by District 19*

September 8—Sunday  
**Area Assembly**  
*Hosted by District 11*

## Usual Area Meeting Schedule *at most assemblies and ASCs*

|            |                             |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m.  | Delegate's Sharing          |
| 9:00 a.m.  | GSR Orientation             |
| 9:00 a.m.  | Finance Committee Meeting   |
| 10:00 a.m. | Standing Committee Meetings |
| 10:00 a.m. | DCM Orientation             |
| 11:15 a.m. | Lunch                       |
| 12:00 Noon | Area Meeting                |

# Who's Who

## Officers/Directors

Delegate: Jeryl T.  
Alt. Delegate: Sharon K.  
Chairperson: Cesar F.  
Secretary: Jesus O.  
Treasurer: Annie D.  
Registrar: Raul C.

## Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs and other Area Service Positions

Archives (Eng) Matt W.  
Archives (Sp) (open)  
CEC Patricia P.  
Communications Martin J.  
Elec. Media Kris C.  
Elec. Equip John W.  
Translation Santiago S.  
Newsletter Linda C.  
Convention (Eng) Lois L.  
Convention (Sp) Mauricio T.  
Corrections Julio I.  
CPC (Eng) Catherine  
CPC (Sp) Jose F.  
DCM School (Eng) Nikki N.  
DCM School (Sp)  
Finance Tina B.  
Grapevine Catherine E.  
GSR School (Eng) Marita H.  
GSR School (Sp) Marcelo C.  
La Viña Paco G.  
Literature (Eng) Scott B.  
Literature (Sp) Martin G.  
P.I. (Eng) Bob D.  
P.I. (Sp) Jaime F. to be confirmed  
Registration Kristin F.  
Spec. Needs (Eng) Jennifer C.  
Spec. Needs (Sp)  
  
Archivist Pete B.  
Coffee Tony M.  
Copier Jim C.  
Sound Jim B  
Web Coordinator Rainer F.

**SPANISH INTER-DISTRICT MEETING  
MSCA 09 - District 24  
330 N STATE COLLEGE STE. 207  
ANAHEIM, CA. 92805  
December 23, 2012.**

At this meeting of Spanish-speaking districts, we want to thank the "Group Un Futuro Mejor/ A Better Future" located in the same building, for allowing the committee to hold its planning sessions for the "La Viña 17th. Anniversary". We also want to thank, the Steering Committee of Inter-district meeting for allowing us to give a report to the Spanish speaking community in MSCA 09 through their GSR's at this meeting.

We want to let you that the committee is visiting al 6 Hispanic Districts, we've been to Districts 20 and 23. We thank them for their participation and informed them, answered their questions and listening to their suggestions. Tomorrow Monday we will be visiting District 25, on Tuesday, District 24, on Wednesday District 21 and later we will visit District 22.

Yesterday we participated in the Writing Workshop Organized by the "La Viña" Chair from District 24, Panel 62. Our past Delegate to The Conference Al P. was our keynote speaker, The past DCM from District 21, the treasurer of the 16 th. Anniversary of "La Viña" from Area 92 Washington State and the Chair of the 17th. Anniversary of our meeting in print also spoke. Past delegate Al P., shared his experience in the Conference as to how we are a channel of our Higher Power to show the importance of our magazine as Twelfth Step tool and not to have an extention of our magazin but to have it stay around as long as we need it.

The experience of a DCM who met our Panel 58 Coffee maker in Alaska, in a remote area where their only meeting available is our meeting in print. The experience strength and hope that is keeping a couple alcoholics strong and sober. The experience of the 16th Anniversary treasurer in Area 92, Washington, his joy and gratitude to "La Viña". The shared experience of the Chair of the 17th. Anniversary at the introduction to writing workshop.

In our committee meeting, the treasurer of the 16th. Anniversary gave his final report and the treasurer of the 17th. Anniversary will in turn give his report, promptly. Our chair of La Viña and organizer of the workshop, reported that 14 stories were written.

The meeting was closed by the chair with the Serenity Prayer. He thanked all Districts and Groups for allowing the committee to hold their meetings in their meeting places.

Thank you for allowing me be at Service

17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee of "La Viña"

**PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP  
WHAT IS IT?**

The purpose of the Pre-Conference Workshop is to provide Area feedback to the Delegate regarding upcoming Conference issues. Our "Mid-Southern California Area Guidelines for Structure and Procedure" provides this guidance. The Pre-Conference Workshop accomplishes the task. In doing so, it helps the Delegate identify the Groups' views on the discussion topics that will be reviewed at the General service Conference in April.

Important activity for the Pre-Conference Workshop is accomplished before the day of the meeting. General Service Conference topics are reviewed by District GSRs and Groups are informed of the topics so they can develop their views and pass them on through their GSRs. The topics are discussed in depth at the Pre-Conference Workshop and the results are provided to the Delegate to carry to the annual General Service Conference.

The Delegate, however, is not simply a messenger. He or she takes into serious consideration the views and opinions of members of the area and will then listen carefully to new information provided at the conference. Having evaluated all of the information, the Delegate will search his or her own heart and mind and endeavor to make the best decision for the well-being and future of A.A. The Right of Decision, at all levels of A.A., gives requires that each person in service to A.A. has the right and responsibility to vote his own informed conscience.

**Pre-Conference Workshop agenda**

- 9:00 a.m. Registration, Coffee
- 9:30 a.m. Welcome, April birthdays, announcements
- 9:40 a.m. Importance of Pre-Conference Workshop
- 10:10 a.m. Introduction to Round Tables
- 10:30 a.m. 5 minutes to select roundtables
- 10:35 a.m. Round table #1 (45 minutes)
- 11:20 a.m. 5 minutes to select 2<sup>nd</sup> roundtable
- 11:25 a.m. Round table #2 (45 minutes)
- 12:10 p.m. Break for lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Roundtable #3 (45 minutes)
- 1:45 pm. 10 minute break
- 1:50 p.m. Report backs
- Closing prayer

