



Letter from the used-to-be editor

Passing the baton

By Bill Sanford

My love affair with Habitat goes back a long ways. HFH International was founded in 1976, and I was a “true believer” before moving to Atwater in 1980. Since then . . .

- + I preached a biographical sermon acquainting listeners with founder Millard Fuller’s remarkable life on December 9, 1984.
- + I arranged for Millard to come and speak in Atwater the night of January 6, 1985.
- + I covered the 10th anniversary of HFHI in Kansas City for the Dallas-based United Methodist Reporter. The report was published October 3, 1986.
- + Noticing the absence of any Habitat organization in Merced County, I began the process of creating a local affiliate. HFH of Merced County was born officially in 1994.
- + I have served a couple of stints as affiliate president, and edited the newsletter for a long, long time.
- + I have told the Habitat story to all of the service clubs in Atwater, not to mention other venues.

Last October I wrote a letter to the Board indicating I would not stand for re-election. I supplied a cluster of reasons (term limits in the by-laws, advancing age, declining health, etc.). I made a special point of saying I hoped no one in the community would jump to the wrong conclusion that I had gone sour on Habitat. NOT SO!

At the top I said my love affair with Habitat goes back a long ways. I marshaled above a few particulars supporting that assertion. Now, here at the bottom, I want to shout my love affair with Habitat continues. I encourage you, sisters and brothers, to keep breathing life into Millard’s vision of “No more shacks,” or, in the words of our own vision statement: “that everyone in Merced County has decent and affordable housing.”

I happily hand the editor “baton” to George Gallaher who has long proven himself to be a very valuable member of our board, and dedicated advancer of our shared vision. So, run George run!

I must add two special thank yous: (1) To Allied West Printing and owner Kevin Riedeman, and (2) Peggy Perkins, typographer, for their wonderful and generous contribution to our mission for many years.

Date announced for Home Dedication

The new home of Concepción Madrid and her children Shyan, Christian, and Brendon will be dedicated Saturday May 21, 2011, at 10:00 A.M. at 512 W. 11th Street, Merced, CA. (Near the intersection of 11th and Canal.)

New Electronic Newsletter

As the cost of paper increases and the use of the Internet expands, the idea of having an electronic newsletter increases. We are going to try this form of communication. If you would like to subscribe to our newsletter, please log onto our homepage at <http://www.hfhmerced.org> and navigate to the newsletter sign-up form. We will continue our print version for quite some time so please consider using both to see if the paperless version works for you.

