

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Proactive Prayer Vigil in East Palo Alto

East Palo Alto, CA (December 12th, 2008) – Beginning Friday, December 12, 2008, at 12:00 PM, Bayshore Christian Ministries, a local EPA non-profit, is hosting a twenty-four hour prayer vigil for the East Palo Alto community, called “Pray24EPA”, at its Beech street site to pray for the EPA community and against the rise of violence in December.

“In previous years, faith communities have united and prayed in response to surges in violent crime,” said Rolando Zeledon, Executive Director of Bayshore Christian Ministries “It’s time we proactively unite and pray for the youth and the East Palo Alto community.” Zeledon refers to the Peace and Unity March through East Palo Alto, organized in reaction to 25 shootings in 6 weeks that left 6 teens dead in December 2006 to January 2007.

According to an October “Letter to the Community” from East Palo Alto Police Chief, Ronald Davis, “Over the past 3 years, the highest levels of violence have occurred in the 4th quarter each year.” In a recent 5 day span, 9 individuals were shot in 6 separate incidents.

“We’ve been planning this event since mid-November, to promote unity and pray for community transformation,” said Amy Joh, Director of Ministries at BCM. “The recent shootings illustrate the very real concerns of this community.”

“Pray24EPA” is a twenty-four hour prayer vigil. Individuals are asked to sign up online for a one-hour prayer slot or to pray at Bayshore Christian Ministries’ site on Beech Street. All people of faith are welcome. For more information, please visit www.pray24epa.org.

Bayshore Christian Ministries, established in 1984 and located on 1001 Beech St in East Palo Alto, runs after-school academic programs and spiritual programs for youth of all ages. Its mission is to equip east-of-Bayshore youth with the life skills and spiritual foundation to develop as leaders. To find out more, please visit www.bayshore.org.

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