Icology Group

Shaping the future of affordable housing

PRESS RELEASE: For immediate release

Icology Group announces Partnership with Haitian Ministry of San Diego

April 15th, 2010: San Diego, CA.

Pastor Bill Jenkins of Christ United Methodist Church, San Diego and Mrs. Jacky Vel, President and CEO of Icology Group, La Jolla announced a new collaboration today in support of the recently expanded role of the Haitian Ministry of San Diego.

Based at Christ United Methodist Church in San Diego and led by the Rev. Joseph William Maitre and his wife, evangelist Madame Josephine Maitre, both born in Haiti, the goal of the new ministry is to coordinate humanitarian relief efforts helping Haitians rebuild their lives, homes and communities. Among the Haitian Ministry's dozen initiatives are 'Homes for Haiti' and sponsorship for Haitian orphans.

Included in the ministry outreach is raising awareness and financial support for those affected by the catastrophic earthquake of January 2010 which killed over 200,000 Haitians and displaced millions more.

"We are excited about our partnership with Icology Group, whose economic and ecological housing solutions are perfect for those Haitians still living in tents as the rainy season progresses," said Pastor Bill. "This partnership enables us to provide 'Homes for Haiti', one of our core goals. By connecting the resources of an ecumenical coalition of churches and individuals with our counterparts in Haiti, we insure that every contribution reaches those most in need and is used for the purpose intended by the generosity of donors."

"Our collaboration with the Haitian Ministry of San Diego to provide affordable, quality and ecologically sound emergency and transitional shelters to our Haitian neighbors is very gratifying." said Mrs. Vel. "Safe and secure shelter is a fundamental human need without which the community cannot even begin the process of healing or rebuilding their lives." she continued. "We are honored and excited to be working with such a respected organization to provide adequate shelter, not least because of the very direct link through the Methodist Church of Haiti with the affected communities, and the excellent reputation of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in the region."

The Haitian Ministry of San Diego and Icology Group have pledged to work together to provide some 20 self-assembly housing kits as a first phase in what is expected to be a long term funding and rebuilding collaboration in Haiti. Individuals and church groups interested to support this effort are encouraged to contact the Ministry at (619) 723-1371 or on-line at **www.HaitiSD.com** . Details about Icology Group and its innovative I RAD Rapid Assembly Dwellings can be found at **www.icologygroup.com** .

Icology Group: In collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international aid agencies, micro-finance groups and other social enterprises, Icology Group, a La Jolla, CA based corporation provides innovative technology to serve a largely un-served market at the base of the economic pyramid (B.O.P.) with affordable, ecologically sound homes and emergency shelters.

Christ United Methodist Church of San Diego: Formed by the merger of two previous congregations in 1951, Christ Church's roots in San Diego go back over a century. Located at the corner of 33rd and Meade Avenue in the Normal Heights neighborhood of San Diego, Christ Church provides a home to eight congregations and five weekday ministries designed to bring spiritual, economic and social wholeness to individuals, families and communities. Christ UMC is affiliated with the California-Pacific Annual (regional) Conference of The United Methodist Church.