

MISSION CAPSULES

December 2011 – February 2012



Print these capsules in your Sunday bulletin or church newsletter, project them on a screen, integrate them into a presentation, or use them on your church's bulletin board!

Capsules, photos and a simple powerpoint presentation can be found at:

<http://www.presbyterian.ca/sunday>

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TAIWAN: Serving our partner church

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Louise Gamble as she teaches at Tam Kang High School in Taipei, Taiwan. In addition to teaching English and Biblical classes, Louise is working to transcribe the official documents of George Leslie MacKay, the first missionary to Taiwan. She writes, “The MacKay missionary story is an intriguing one. In some ways he was a man of his own times, but in other ways he was truly exceptional.” Let us pray for Louise as she faithfully serves our partner church, The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan.



CANADA: Supporting seminary students

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help seminary students gain valuable experience with the unique issues in rural and remote congregations. Each summer up to five congregations are paired with a student from one of our three theological colleges. Dennis Howard, a student at the Vancouver School of Theology, worked at Knox church in Winnipegosis last summer. He writes, “I would like to thank the Presbyterian Church in Canada for supporting me in what was an amazing summer experience. I taught and I learned; in retrospect I think I learned much more than I taught!” Let us pray for these theological students as they discover the joys and challenges of rural ministry.



MALAWI: Coordinating synod visitors

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Linda Inglis as she helps the Blantyre Synod welcome visitors from around the world. Working with the Synod’s General Secretary and various committees, Linda helps plan programs that engage people in the Synod’s mission work. Linda sees how mission visits “help people to witness the wonderful faith and joy of Christians in Malawi and awaken them to the realities faced by everyday people in one of the world’s poorest countries.” Let us pray for Linda and the Blantyre Synod as they engage people in Christ’s mission.



CANADA: Reaching out to South Asian communities

Your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Asian Christ Church, a unique mission in Surrey, British Columbia serving Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi-speaking South Asian communities. There are more than 500,000 South Asians living in the lower mainland alone! Asian Christ Church’s weekly television outreach ministry, “Jeewan Kee Raah” (The Way of Life) reaches thousands of people, many who don’t attend church. The program can be watched online at www.asianchristchurch.com. Let us pray for Asian Christ Church as it provides South Asian communities with a welcoming place to worship God in their own language.

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GUATEMALA Mission Trip: Building relationships

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help people support long-term mission partners through short-term mission visits. Wendy Renault learned a lot about mission when she went to Guatemala. She shares, “The remarkable women that we met taught me to celebrate our differences, to remember one another in our prayers and to remember that we must always act to promote social justice in our own communities and in the world. They taught me that mission is about building relationships and empowering each other.” Let us pray for participants in short-term mission, as they support our partners in mission.



CANADA: Nurturing Christian community

Your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help Toronto’s Boarding Homes Ministry connect teams of congregational visitors with residents of local, privately-owned boarding homes. Team members enter the boarding home humbly as part of the body of Christ, setting aside their own agendas and expectations of “fixing” things. One team member shares, “Through the years, our friendships have strengthened and we have built traditions together. Trust has grown, as we share joys and sorrows in the way that good friends do. My life is richer for having made these new friends.” Let us pray for Boarding Homes Ministry as they help nurture these Christian communities.



TAIWAN: Translating the Bible

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support the Rev. Dr. Paul McLean as he works with a Bible translation team in Taiwan to translate the Bible into the Hakka language. They are working to finish the complete translation by 2012, when The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan celebrates “The Year of Hakka Mission”. Paul says, “Since this is all God’s work, we pray that the Lord will help us achieve this very worthy goal.” Let us pray that the newly translated Bible will be a guiding light for Hakka Christians in Taiwan.



CANADA: Meeting needs in the inner city

Your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help St. David’s Inner City Outreach Ministry to meet the needs of families in Hamilton’s inner city. Their outreach activities, including after-school programs for children and teens, adult and seniors’ programs and a teen mom support group are geared towards not just alleviating, but actually preventing poverty. Let us pray for St. David’s outreach ministry as it works to develop a safe and healthy community for children, youth and families in Hamilton’s inner city.



JUSTICE MINISTRIES: Truth, reconciliation and equity

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Presbyterian participation in KAIROS’ *Truth, Reconciliation and Equity: They Matter to Us!* campaign. This campaign invites KAIROS members to support the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and to speak with Members of Parliament about how the Government of Canada will implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Let us pray for Presbyterians who are working to build bridges of understanding and respect with indigenous people in Canada.

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YOUTH IN MISSION: Transforming lives

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Youth in Mission. YIM allows youth to accompany Presbyterian mission partners in Canada and internationally through short-term mission experiences. As these young people share in the mission of the church, they enhance their personal growth, learn skills and grow in their faith. In 2012, YIM is offering mission experiences in Taiwan, Israel/Palestine, the mission track at the Canada Youth conference, and the International AIDS Conference in Washington, DC. Let us pray for our youth who are leading in mission!



CANADA: Supporting university students

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help chaplaincies across Canada to support and reach out to students. McMaster University's Ecumenical chaplaincy provides counseling, advocates for students in difficulty, and offers Christian worship. It also provides opportunities for students to get involved in social justice, anti-violence, poverty and prayer groups. McMaster's Ecumenical Chaplain, The Rev. Dr. Carol Wood, is a Presbyterian minister. She enjoys the diversity of the McMaster community and the opportunity to walk with students through the challenges of their university experience. Let us pray for McMaster's ecumenical chaplaincy as it provides a Christian presence on campus.



MALAWI: Worshipping together

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Mike and Debbie Burns as they serve the Blantyre Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Malawi. Debbie shares, "While we enjoy worshipping in St. James' main church, we look forward to Sunday worship at one of the three prayer houses and weekly Wednesday evening services at the different *mulagas* (cottages). These services provide an intimate time for prayer, praise, study and fellowship, something that is difficult to obtain in a sanctuary filled with 700 people!" Let us pray for Mike, Debbie and the people of St. James as they share the good news of the gospel in Malawi.



CANADA: Creating a safe space

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help Flemingdon Gateway Mission reach out to children and families in Toronto's Flemingdon Park neighbourhood. Its after-school program provides a safe space where kids can work on homework, spend time with friends and participate in various fun and educational activities. The Rev. Paulette Brown, Executive Director of the mission, says, "Our successes are not written on grant applications or on evaluation reports. They are written on the hearts of our children." Let us pray for Flemingdon Gateway Mission as it changes children's lives, for generations to come.