

Justice Ministries In Our Small Corner

...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6.8

New Resources from Justice Ministries

KAIROS Water: Life Before Profit!
2006-07 Materials

Sanctuary:
guidelines for con-
gregations

Time for Justice!

Social Action
Handbook 2006

Healing and Recon-
ciliation Sunday
Resources
(Available in the
January PCPak)

Project Ploughshares celebrates 30th anniversary

Earlier in November, Project Ploughshares celebrated its 30th Anniversary with a conference and a dinner to honour its co-founder Ernie Regehr. Ernie is also the recipient of the 2007 E.H. Johnson Award for his work on the cutting edge of mission. The award will be presented at the E.H. Johnson luncheon at General Assembly.

The conference kicked off with a key note address by Paul Rogers, Professor of Peace Studies at Bradford University in the United Kingdom. His most recent book is *A War Too Far: Iraq, Iran and the New American Century* (2006).



A series of workshops delved into some of the issues Ploughshares has worked at for many years including: controlling small arms & light weapons; nuclear disarmament; protecting people in extreme peril and responding to the global and Canadian agendas.

There was some good news to report on the global effort to control small arms and light weapons. Earlier in October, 139 countries at the United Nations voted in favour of taking the next steps in developing a comprehensive and legally binding agreement to establish international standards for the export, import and transfer of small arms. Only the United States opposed this measure.

The 132nd General Assembly approved a supplementary on small arms which included a recommendation that the Moderator write to the Minister of Foreign Affairs commending the Canadian Government for the leadership it has taken on this issue. Developing a comprehensive and legally binding treaty for the export, import and transfer of small arms will take several years. There will be a continuing role for churches and development agencies in moving this agenda. Given that 500,000 people are killed by small arms annually—almost one person every minute—success is a necessity, not a choice, and we will faithfully continue to work for a safer world.

Stephen Allen

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The *Record's* Mocha Mission: raising a mug to congregations supporting fair trade

The May 2005 issue of the *Presbyterian Record* featured a cover story on fair trade - the practice of paying farmers a fair wage for their work. In an effort to encourage congregations to switch to fairly traded coffee, the *Record* announced a contest to award those who made the switch. The response was tremendous, with contestants submitting creative and touching artwork, poetry, essays and songs.

Displayed in the photo is a section of a quilt submitted by Barbara J. Ormston of St. Paul's PC in Sault Ste. Marie ON. Ms. Ormston wrote "The interlocking circles of café au lait, café crème, coffee and black burlap represent the chains of economic slavery which exists in the absence of fair trade." The quilt won second place.

In the Global South, more than 5 million people (including producers, workers and their families) are involved in fair trade operations. For information on fair trade and fair trade products, visit www.transfair.ca.

Adapted from Andrew Faiz's *Record* article



***Water: Life Before Profit!* - Year 2 in motion**

In Year 1 of this initiative 285,000 Canadians sent post cards to the Prime Minister recommending that access to water be a basic human right. 185 municipalities across Canada have signed the *Water Declaration* affirming that water is a gift and not a commodity.

Year 2 of *Water: Life Before Profit!* focuses on the impact of Canadian corporations' activities on communities in different regions of the world and on the water and the watersheds these communities depend on for survival. The Canadian Government is holding a series of roundtables across Canada on Mining & Resource Extraction this fall. As a report from a Parliamentary Standing Committee noted, "Canada does not yet have laws to ensure that the activities of Canadian mining companies in developing countries conform to human rights standards, including the rights of workers and indigenous peoples".

Presbyterians attended five KAIROS regional meetings this year. Each meeting provided opportunities to learn about the 2006-07 *Water: Life Before Profit!* campaign, share success stories from the past year, plan future actions and worship. Each meeting had unique highlights. The Cambrian-Agassiz participants attended a highly praised ecumenical water service. Prairies North keynote speaker Dr. James Byrne of Lethbridge University presented *Water Under Fire*, a highly acclaimed educational video series which focuses on Canadian fresh water issues.

It is in hope and faith that KAIROS continues its work to stop the commodification of water and to affirm that water is a sacred gift for all. For more information on KAIROS resources contact Justice Ministries.

Katharine Masterton

Update on Gail Turner

Many of you have been in contact over the years with Gail Turner. Earlier in July, Gail was diagnosed with colorectal cancer and had surgery. She is recovering from the surgery and is currently on long term disability. If you would like to be in touch with Gail, please contact Justice Ministries. She enjoys hearing from friends and colleagues across the church. Keep Gail in your prayers.



A view of land at Mistawasis
Photo from The Presbyterian Church Archives

Healing and Reconciliation

"Of all the non-governmental institutions in Canadian society, religious institutions have perhaps the greatest potential to foster awareness and understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people."

The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, 1996

Ten years later

In October 2006, Reuben St. Louis, Youth-in-Mission Coordinator and I got stuck in the mud on the wrong road to Mistawasis, a First Nation community northeast of Saskatoon. Our spunky *little* rental car negotiated two icy, brambly, pot holes, before bogging down in the third.

That evening, we met community members at Mistawasis Memorial Church, for a "Fowl Supper." We had a great meal and great discussion about how the community and YIM leaders could work more closely together. Children ensured the atmosphere was lively, festive and fun.

I took the opportunity to tell them about my new role as Healing and Reconciliation Animator. The crux of the ministry is to support church members in gaining insights into the history and current concerns of Aboriginal people--encouraging and helping them strengthen existing contacts, and renew and make new connections that will lead to lasting relationships.

I asked the gathering what they would like me to tell the wider church about their community? They honour the memory of Chief Mistawasis, a remarkable leader of the plains Cree, who signed Treaty 6. Reuben and I spent a powerful moment at Chief Mistawasis' gravesite.

A young woman told us the people of Mistawasis have always had a lot of respect for churches. Five denominations have been welcomed into the community. And the three church buildings are centres of community life.

It's been 10 years since the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples challenged churches to help transform relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians. Since 1996, we've started supporting new Native ministries, negotiated an agreement on residential schools, pursued dispute resolution, distributed some healing funds, and been heartened to watch congregations, committees, and others reach out to Aboriginal people in various ways. Still we know so much more is required to grow our ministries with Native people and get the relationship right. The road can be icy and brambly, and we wonder sometimes if we're even on the right road.

By now you must be wondering how Reuben and I got unstuck. A call to our host, the Rev. George Yando, brought Blake, a man from Mistawasis, to our rescue. We were stuck, and were not quite on the right road, but we got to our destination, with the help of Aboriginal people.

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Lori Ransom
Healing and Reconciliation Program Animator

Justice Ministries Staff

Stephen Allen: Associate Secretary

Lori Ransom: Healing and Reconciliation Program Animator

Katharine Masterton: acting Program Assistant

50 Wynford Drive
Toronto, Ont. M3C 1J7
Phone: (416) 441-1111 or
1-800-619-7301
gturner@presbyterian.ca
www.presbyterian.ca/justice

Faithful Discipleship in Action

We receive requests to write to governments on issues requiring urgent attention.

Join us

Timely letters can accomplish miracles and save lives.

Up Coming Events

2007

JANUARY

In the January PCPak: worship resources suitable for use from Healing and Reconciliation Sunday (May 20, 2007) through Aboriginal Day Sunday (June 17, 2007).

FEBRUARY

5—20th anniversary of pastoral statement by leaders of the Christian churches on Aboriginal rights and the Canadian Constitution.

18—Promote social justice with KAIROS worship resources (available from Justice Ministries).

MARCH

KAIROS Global Partners Tour.

18-25—Racial Justice Week is organized by the Canadian Council of Churches. Resources will be available.

22—World Water Day (resources from KAIROS will be available).

MAY

20—Healing and Reconciliation Sunday.

Signs of Hope

"This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." Luke 2:12

Amidst the challenges facing the human family and our planet, it is tempting to feel hopelessness and despair—but to do so risks missing the many signs of hope.

Around the world, hundreds of thousands of committed people engage in social justice issues: reducing the gap between rich and poor; working for democratic and fair trade agreements; addressing climate change; tackling the HIV/AIDS pandemic; responding to the crisis in Darfur; working for peace; building a new relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians. Christians are present in so many ways in these and other issues.

In this Season of Hope, the Justice Ministries team thanks you for your efforts in our common project to build the Reign of God.

Christmas Blessings to you and your family.

Stephen Allen

Simply Christmas

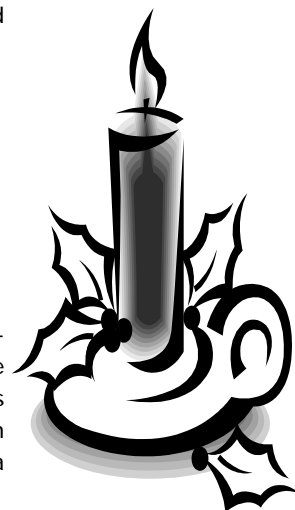
A simpler Christmas leads to freedom. Simplicity leads to generosity. It leaves more room for joy. It builds relationships. It leads to a whole life of simplicity. Only we can choose to simplify our own lives. Have a simpler Christmas.

Simple Christmas Gift Ideas for Everyone

- Buy a membership to a non-profit organization for a friend.
- Make a basket of organic and fair trade fruits, jams, coffees and teas.
- Give a gift certificate for an outing together.
- Donate to The PCC's *Something Extra* program.

What Kids and Young Adults Can Do

- If you have a talent, share it: write a poem, sing, dance, draw a picture, share a sport.
- With a parent, select a toy to donate to charity.
- Offer a special service: breakfast in bed for mom or dad, babysitting, care for a pet, shoveling the driveway for the month of February.
- Make a collage for someone—use photos, poems, cutouts from magazines and illustrate what is special about them.
- Plan a walking tour of your neighbourhood with family or friends to see the Christmas sights. Sing carols and share hot cider.



Adapted from *Whose Birthday is it, Anyway?*