

MISSION CAPSULES

December 2010 – February 2011



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Insert these capsules into 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!

A Stewardship/Mission Education Resource
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
50 Wynford Dr. Toronto, ON M3C 1J7

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CANADA: Presbytery of Westminster

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* are creating and supporting new ministries across Canada. Burnaby Taiwanese Presbyterian Church (BTPC) in Burnaby, British Columbia began in 2008 with 55 chartered members. It now has over 110 worshippers, and continues to grow! The congregation currently worships at Brentwood Presbyterian Church, and reaches out through the church choir, pastoral visitations, Sunday school, Bible studies and fellowships of different age groups. Sermons are in Taiwanese, and a hot, home-made Taiwanese lunch is served after the service. Let us pray for this vital and strategic ministry as it reaches out to Taiwanese people in Burnaby and the north-east Greater Vancouver area.



CANADA: Presbytery of East Toronto

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* allow us to reach out with the love of Christ to students in universities across Canada. The University of Toronto's ecumenical chaplaincy provides guidance, support and ministry to students, allowing them to find a space for God in the fast-paced and often stressful university world. The chaplaincy's "Morning Paper Program" gets students sitting down together with newspapers and the Bible. Discussions take many directions as students try to figure out how they, as Christians, can engage with the world around them. Let us pray for chaplaincies across Canada as they minister to university students.



TAIWAN

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Louise Gamble as she works with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, teaching English at Tam Kang High School in Taipei. One of the earliest educational institutions in Taiwan, Tam Kang is a Christian high school seeking to present strong Christian values to all students. Louise teaches English conversation classes to all grades, and Biblical courses to senior classes and teachers at the school. Each Christmas, a 75 foot tall evergreen tree in the centre of the campus is decked with lights, which are turned on in a special ceremony. Louise writes, "All other lights are turned off, and then suddenly the massive tree is aflame with colour. This is quite spectacular!" The school orchestra and school choirs and choruses gather for Christmas music in the chapel, and a nativity pageant is presented. This is followed by a Christmas banquet that the students and teachers attend. As we prepare for Christmas in Canada, let us pray for Louise and for the teachers and students at Tam Kang.



NICARAGUA

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help connect congregations and individuals with mission partners in Canada and around the world through short term mission experiences. Cathy Finlay, a member of Leaside Presbyterian Church, participated in the Presbyterian Church in Canada's Fair Trade Study Tour to Nicaragua last year. The group consisted of nine Canadians from across the country who were eager to see the tangible benefits of fair trade, and to experience first-hand the work of our Church. Cathy writes, "In addition to learning about fair trade, we saw our national church in action. While I have always financially supported *Presbyterians Sharing* and PWS&D, on this tour I saw first-hand how a donation affects real people."

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CANADA: Presbytery of Winnipeg

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support new ministries across Canada, including Trinity Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg. The congregation initially worshipped in a local movie theatre, but found that, while it was a highly visible and comfortable location, it made participatory worship challenging. So the congregation has moved to a small church near the University of Manitoba until their new building is completed. Over the past year, a building committee has worked hard to assess community and congregational needs, and an architect has been contracted. Rev. Matthew Brough shares, "There is a great sense of excitement at Trinity, and a strong belief that God can use a small group of people to accomplish great things."



CANADA: Presbytery of West Toronto

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support specialized ministries like North Park Presbyterian Church's Spanish Ministry in Toronto. This multicultural congregation serves an immigrant community, some of whom are refugee claimants who will eventually be sent back to their home countries. North Park's outreach includes a program for new immigrants and refugees and an after-school tutoring and sports program for youth. It also offers settlement workshops to help people understand the Canadian school system and Canadian society, and to teach them about programs and services that are available to them. As a result of this ministry, many of those who do return to their home countries are doing so with a new, Gospel-centred approach to their lives. Rev. Elias Morales shares that a father of three said, "Now I am prepared to live



MALAWI

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Stephanie Macdonald as she works as a project management intern at Blantyre Synod Health and Development Commission in Malawi. Understudying Glenn Inglis (the Executive Director) and working with administrative, managerial and technical staff at the Synod, Stephanie hopes to get an insight into the inner workings of a faith-based development organization and find ways she can support this important work. Stephanie is also visiting clergy in their parishes to discover the unique role that the Church plays in development activities in Malawi. Please pray for Stephanie as she settles into a new country and a new job



JUSTICE MINISTRIES

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support opportunities to learn about the complex issues surrounding migration and undocumented workers. In 2007 and 2009, Presbyterians from across Canada visited the United States/Mexico border to learn why thousands of people make the perilous desert journey into the US in search of work and hope for a better life. Participants returned home with a commitment to learning about migration issues in our own Canadian context. Justice Ministries is working to connect them with migrant agricultural workers that come to South-western Ontario for seasonal work. Through our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* we are helping Presbyterians build relationships of understanding and respect with the stranger in our midst.



CENTRAL ASIA

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Sam and Linda L, who have been serving in Central Asia jointly through Interserve Canada and The Presbyterian Church in Canada since 2006. For security reasons, their exact location cannot be disclosed, as it is a sensitive area of the world. Sam's work as a computer consultant helps to support the projects and ministries of the foreign Christian volunteers who work through Interserve. Sam and Linda are also involved in teaching English to university students through an English Club. Friendships that have formed through the club have provided, Sam and Linda with opportunities to share their faith, and some of the students are interested in learning more about Christianity. Let us pray for Sam and Linda and their work in Central Asia.

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CANADA: Presbytery of Edmonton-Lakeland

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* are helping to create new ministries in Canada, including Parkland First Presbyterian Church in Spruce Grove, Alberta. This congregation describes itself as a group of young families and retired seniors who follow the teachings of Jesus, value hospitality, care deeply about their community, place an emphasis on education, and love to eat together! Worship is highly interactive and multi-media driven, and provides children with the opportunity to play and express themselves. Over the past year, a youth group and board of managers have been established, and attendance is growing. The congregation continues to search for land to purchase so that one day they might worship in their own building. Let us pray for Parkland First PC as it grows together as a family, forming strong connections with one another and with God.



UKRAINE

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Rev. David Pandy-Szekeres as he serves with the Reformed Church of the Sub-Carpathian Ukraine, a church of ethnic Hungarians in Ukraine. David supervises the work of RCCU missionaries and coordinates four Christian secondary schools. Ferenc Homoki, one of the missionaries that David supervises, is working with the Roma community in Nagyberég. Ferenc has established regular worship services and Bible studies, and has built a good relationship with the people. He and his wife Dianna have started an informal school for children who have not attended school before. Plans are underway to construct a multi-purpose building to serve as a place of worship and as a kindergarten. Let us pray for David, Ferenc, the missionaries of the RCCU and our partner church in Ukraine.



GUATEMALA

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Denise Van Wissen, a nutritionist who helps educate women's groups on how to improve health in their communities. One of the topics Denise emphasizes is the importance of an adequate weaning diet, as many babies stop growing adequately after about six months of age. She teaches the importance of introducing beans and meat earlier, the benefits of lots of vegetables and fruits, and the importance of not purchasing pre-prepared "jello" for babies. Currently on maternity leave from her work with *Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Mayas (FPM)* in Guatemala, Denise is getting to practice what she preaches. Let us pray for Denise, the *Fraternidad*, and women's groups in Guatemala as they work together to better their family's lives.



PRESBYTERIANS SHARING

Through *Presbyterians Sharing*, we are making a difference in Canada and around the world. Our gifts help create, sustain and renew congregations in Canada. Together, we support inner-city, native, refugee, urban, remote and chaplaincy ministries. We equip church leaders for Christian education, worship, evangelism, mission, stewardship, youth ministries and justice work. We train ministers and lay leaders through our theological colleges. We recruit and send mission personnel to serve our partners around the world, facilitate exchange visits and work with other churches in ecumenical partnerships. Together, we speak on issues important to us at national and international forums. Through *Presbyterians Sharing*, we make mission and ministry happen!