

# MISSION CAPSULES

---

---

June 2011 ~ August 2011



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!

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

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

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

# MISSION CAPSULES: June 2011

---

---



## **The Upper Room: Worship in a former dance hall**

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help create new ministries, like The Upper Room, an extension ministry of Grace Presbyterian Church in Orleans, Ontario. This ministry, which meets in a former bar/dance hall in Rockland, Ontario, is developing good relationships with young people and their parents through a youth drop-in program, which ministers to 35 kids and has a contact list of over 100. So far, about 20 people are worshipping weekly in The Upper Room, but the community is learning about the ministry through various outreach programs, and new families have been joining. There are many young families in this area and many are seeking a church connection. Let us pray for The Upper Room as it reaches out to the Rockland community to share the good news of the gospel.



## **Almanarah Church: Creative youth ministry**

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Almanarah Presbyterian Church in London, Ontario, an Arabic Christian community that draws together people from many countries, including Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria. Both adult and youth attendance are growing. Almanarah's youth have started a puppet ministry, writing plays and skits and putting them on DVD. These videos are used in the church and are also posted on their website, drawing international viewers. The project brings gifted, artistic Christians together, allowing them to use their talents while learning and experiencing more about God. Let us pray for Almanarah as they bring Christ's message of love, hope and salvation to Arabic and non-Arabic speaking families and individuals in London and beyond.



## **JUSTICE MINISTRIES: Migrant agricultural workers in Canada**

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support the work of Justice Ministries. The Bible is full of stories of uprooted people. There are more than two hundred million migrants worldwide. In some provinces, the number of temporary foreign workers annually outnumbers the number of new immigrants. Each year, thousands of people travel to Canada to do seasonal farm work. Why is such a journey made? How can we respond to our uprooted brothers and sisters? Eleven Presbyterians will travel to the Niagara region of Southern Ontario June 24-26, 2011 to learn about and meet with migrant farm workers and labour union representatives seeking answers to these questions. Most participants of this gathering were participants of the migrant mission trip to the US/Mexico border (in 2007 or 2009) and have committed to learn about migrant workers in Canada.



## **TAIWAN: Murray Garvin**

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support the Rev. Murray Garvin who is teaching English at Yu Shan Theological College. Murray speaks highly of his students, and shares a story about one with whom he has a strong connection reaching back 2 generations! Michael is 20 years old, and a member of the Tayal tribe. His grandfather, a minister, was a mentor to Murray when he was first ministering in Taiwan in the sixties. His father and uncles are all ministers, and one works as a teacher at Yu Shan. Murray writes, "I am proud to have been able to work with three generations of this wonderful family." Let us pray for Murray and the students he is working with, as they seek to strengthen the ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan.

# MISSION CAPSULES: July 2011

---

---



## **Vancouver Younghwa Church: Reaching out to Koreans**

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Vancouver's Younghwa Presbyterian Church as it ministers to Koreans and international students in North and West Vancouver. This ministry reaches out to Korean immigrants, equips youth to navigate within a consumerist society and teaches young children what it means to be Korean. Language classes are held for children who have difficulties writing and speaking Korean, improving communication between children and parents. Worship is seen as the most important focus of the church and services are held several times a week. The Rev. Ki Tae Lee writes, "We are truly experiencing the Holy Spirit in this church." Let us pray for Younghwa as it equips adults, youth and children with the knowledge and skills necessary to live as spiritual people in a secular world.



## **Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre: Food for thought**

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support inner-city ministries like Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre in Montreal, Quebec. Tyndale's Brainsy Breakfast Club provides a nutritious and affordable breakfast – just a dollar a day – for children attending the ministry's summer day camp program. The program provides nourishment while also promoting good nutritious food choices for children who were arriving for a long day of physical outdoor activities without the benefit of a good breakfast. The breakfast club also gives senior volunteers the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the ministry's work. Let us pray for Tyndale as it brings together children, staff, volunteers, churches and community members in a meaningful way.



## **GRENADA: Jim and Ann Young**

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support The Rev. Jim and Ann Young as they minister with The Presbyterian Church of Grenada. One place Jim and Ann are seeing children's lives changed is through Belair Presbyterian Church's outreach to the primary school. Their Computer Assisted Literacy System (CALS) program helps children in the third grade who are having trouble learning to read. Volunteers from the church work one on one with these children. Jim writes, "The children continue to challenge and please us. The reports that the CALS program generates leave no doubt that the children involved are being taught at their own speed and to the extent of their ability. They are all on the right road. Ann, most days, has her life full of excited, smiling children." Let us pray for Jim and Ann as they minister to the children and the community in Grenada.



## **MALAWI: Mike and Debbie Burns**

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support The Rev. Michael Burns and his wife Debbie as they serve the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Malawi. Mike is an associate minister at St. James Church, while Debbie is finding different ways to use her gifts to help meet people's needs. Debbie writes about a recent visit by members of the *Mvano* (women's guild) from St. James: "When the women arrived at our home, they sang a welcome song. The *Mvano* secretary, Vera led the service which included prayer, hymns and a short sermon. The women expressed their appreciation for our presence, and presented us with gifts. Mike and I gave short speeches to thank them for the warm welcome we have continued to receive from the *Mvano* and the rest of the congregation, and to tell them how blessed we feel to be in Malawi with them." Let us pray for Mike and Debbie as they minister in Malawi.



## **India Mission Trip: "Send someone else!"**

When Crawford Sharp first heard about a short-term opportunity to go to India with his church, St. Andrew's Ottawa, his response was "Here am I. Please send someone else." For many reasons, he simply did not want to go. As decision time approached, Crawford felt something stirring. At the last minute, he truly felt that God was calling him to go. Crawford found Amkhut, India to be "a place where the veil between heaven and earth is thin, heaven seems somehow nearer, and God is very close." He was touched by the enthusiasm, joyous worship and strong abiding faith of his hosts, often in the face of persecution and hardship. Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* connect people with long-term mission partners around the world through short-term mission visits. Let us pray for the people whose lives these trips transform.

# MISSION CAPSULES: August 2011

---

---



## **Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry: Warmth, food and safety**

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry's work in inner-city Saskatoon. SNCM provides a clean, safe place where people can drop in for coffee, food and fellowship. During the winter months, many homeless people – including entire families – live outdoors. They often walk all night to keep from freezing in the bone-chilling temperatures. During the day, they come to SNCM for warmth, food and a safe place to catch up on sleep. The Rev. Stewart Folster writes "Our goal is to make people feel welcome, well-cared-for and loved." As SNCM builds trust, many of the people they serve join them for a weekly worship service which incorporates Native aspects of worship. Let us pray for Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry as it reaches out with the love of Christ to those in need of warmth, nourishment and friendship.



## **MALAWI: Todd Statham**

Through our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing*, The Presbyterian Church in Canada has sent Dr. Todd Statham, his wife Annika and their two children, Sophia and Mio, to serve the Blantyre Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Zomba, Malawi. Todd is lecturing in church history and theology at Zomba Theological College the CCAP's seminary. Annika is caring for the children and hopes, in the future, to use her training in pedagogy and her experiences working with physically and mentally disabled children and adults. This spiritual and physical journey began in Todd and Annika's home congregations where missions were avidly promoted and supported: Todd in St. Andrews Presbyterian church in Duncan, B.C, and Annika in the Lutheran Church of Germany. Let us pray for the Statham family as they acclimatize to their new life in Malawi.



## **HUNGARY – Mary Gorombey**

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Mary Gorombey as she reaches out to refugees in Hungary. Working through the Hungarian Reformed Church, Mary helps to integrate refugee youth into the Hungarian school system. She also teaches Hungarian as a second language and tutors students in various subjects. Last summer, Mary met a Palestinian mother and her two children. The mother could not find a suitable school for her children, so they ended up in a school for children with special needs, attending grades well below their abilities. With her colleagues, Mary was able to place the children into a proper school and in age-appropriate classes. After a rocky start, both children are acclimatizing and learning well. Let us pray for Mary and her colleagues as they work with refugees who are building new lives in Hungary.



## **Theological Colleges: Equipping leaders to serve**

Having a well-educated, well-prepared clergy is one of the commitments of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help our three theological colleges – Vancouver School of Theology, Presbyterian College in Montreal, and Knox College in Toronto – to equip leaders to be effective in the church today. The Rev. Dr. Glen Davis, a professor at the Vancouver School of Theology, says, "Every time you come to church on Sunday morning, and you see a minister in the pulpit, that minister is there because *Presbyterians Sharing* has played a role in the training and equipping of that minister." Let us pray for our theological colleges as they inspire and equip students for ministry.