

MISSION CAPSULES

March 2012 ~ May 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>

The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 50 Wynford Dr. Toronto, ON M3C 1J7

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ROMANIA: The Gift of Music

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Brian Johnston, an English and music teacher at the Hungarian Theological Institute in Cluj, Romania and an avid photographer. Brian's choir of theological students travels throughout Transylvania, sharing their gift of music with people needing hope and grace. The choir was recently able to purchase a portable piano, helping them minister in areas that lack instruments. Brian is thankful for the support and inspiration he receives from Canadian Presbyterians. Let us pray for Brian and his choir and they share music and hope.



CANADA: Building relationships

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry (SNCM) in inner-city Saskatoon. Besides food, warmth, safety and a weekly worship service, the ministry now offers a tutoring program that allows people from the street to work towards the completion of grade twelve. When the ministry moved to its current location in 2008, some people criticized it for being a faith-based organization. SNCM Director, the Rev. Stewart Folster writes, "Now, (these same people) attend our worship service occasionally, and express how they appreciate everything we have to offer." Let us pray for this vital ministry that offers hope to a population that is too often neglected.



NICARAGUA: Nutrition education

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Denise Van Wissen, a nutritionist working in Nicaragua. Denise and the SOYNICA team are helping families break the vicious cycle of poverty by teaching about nutrition and healthy food. As a technical advisor to SOYNICA, Denise updates content for educational workshops, leads workshops, and reviews and analyzes periodic reports. Let us pray for Denise and her co-workers as they help families live healthier lives.



CANADA: Support through difficult times

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help congregations going through times of significant transition. In Nova Scotia, the two-point charge of St. Matthew's church, Elmsdale and Hardwood Lands Church have been helped through a difficult time with our gifts. The Rev. Gwen Robers writes, "We are grateful for the continued support of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, which continues to give needed and extremely valuable oversight, leadership and assistance through Presbyterians Sharing." Let us pray for St. Matthew's and Hardwood Lands churches as they move forward in their ministries.

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HUNGARY: Educational scholarships for youth

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Mary Gorombey as she serves the Hungarian Reformed Church in Budapest. Mary is coordinating a program that provides financial aid to help young people from Serbia, Romania and Ukraine access education. Mary writes, “I was fortunate to meet some of our supported young people in Romania and Ukraine. It was a heart-warming and touching experience.” Although no longer working directly with refugees, Mary still serves them at St. Columba’s church in Budapest. Let us pray for Mary and the Hungarian Reformed Church as they help make education accessible to young people.



CANADA: Equipping future leaders

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help to equip theological students who are attending our theological colleges: Knox College in Toronto, Presbyterian College in Montreal, and St. Andrew’s Hall (Vancouver School of Theology) in Vancouver. The Rev. Dr. Victor Cavino, now minister at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Pierrefonds, Quebec, felt called to formal theological education after serving as a lay minister. He says, “I came to Presbyterian College for theological training and I got drawn into the Presbyterian church. I really thought that it was just right for me.” Let us pray for our theological students as they work to become faithful leaders in our churches.



KENYA: Helping to combat HIV&AIDS

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help Dr. Rick Allen, a community health physician, and the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) address the health and socio-economic problems of HIV&AIDS. Rick is also teaching classes on community health, HIV&AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, and human sexuality at the Presbyterian University of East Africa. All university students in Kenya are required to take a course in HIV&AIDS, which reflects just how important the whole issue is for the nation. Let us pray for Rick as he continues to carry out God’s work in Kenya.



CANADA: Justice for Refugees

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Action Réfugiés Montréal (ARM) as it seeks justice for refugees. Since it was founded in 1994, ARM has helped over 2000 refugees find safety and go on to contribute to Canadian society. The refugee experience is one of exile and loss. When people are forced to flee their country, they lose home, community and often family. ARM’s programs help refugees rebuild their lives in their new community. Let us pray for ARM and for refugees who are rebuilding their lives in Canada.



***Presbyterians Sharing*: Making mission and ministry happen!**

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* are making mission and ministry happen in Canada and around the world. Together, we share in a wide range of ministries – supporting inner city, native, refugee, urban, remote and chaplaincy ministries in Canada; starting new churches; equipping congregations and leaders; and sending mission personnel to work with international partners. Our gifts help share the good news of the gospel; they are making a difference!

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MALAWI: Theological training

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Todd Statham as he teaches church history and theology at Zomba Theological College, the CCAP's seminary. The college trains ministers and their spouses to serve churches in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Todd writes, "The college is in a time of restructuring and re-visioning. Money is short and resources are stretched. But the classrooms are crammed with students, professors are enthusiastic and devoted, and the CCAP is growing and vibrant!" Let us pray for Todd, his wife Annika and their two children, Sophia and Mio, as they serve God in Malawi.



CANADA: Ministering in remote regions

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Cariboo Presbyterian Church, which serves 87,000 square kilometres of central British Columbia. Rev. David Webber's passion for rural ministry led him to develop a house church model in this vast Cariboo region. Anne, a member of the house church in Punchaw, shares: "We always went to church, but when we came up here we were 90 km from town. Now we have our own church. It's meant a lot to us." Let us pray for the house churches in the Cariboo as they reach out to people in areas not served by conventional churches.



MISSION TRIP: Taiwan

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help connect people in Canada with long-term mission partners. In November 2011, 11 people from across Canada travelled to see first-hand the mission work of The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT). Journeying through Taiwan from north to south, the group visited theological colleges, hospitals, schools and churches of the PCT. Everywhere they went they heard stories of deep faith and experienced incredible hospitality and generosity. PCC leader Heather Chappell says, "It is good to find a place to call home on the other side of the world. Thanks be to God for this amazing and humbling experience." Let us pray for our partner church in Taiwan as it is a living example of God's grace.



CANADA: Hope for the future

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* provide hope and grace through Winnipeg Inner City Missions. Director Margaret Mullin writes, "Your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* are invested in the lives of the people we met every day. Your prayers positively affect their lives and strengthen us for the task at hand. Through your generosity, you are giving people hope for the future; you have helped many families in crisis; and you have been there for many children, youth and adults in desperate human need." Let us pray for WICM's dedicated staff and for the people they faithfully and lovingly serve.