

MISSION CAPSULES

September 2011 – November 2011



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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KENYA: Tackling HIV and AIDS

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Dr. Rick Allen, a community health physician serving the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA). In Kenya AIDS is a taboo subject that is still not openly discussed, and there is an incredible amount of misinformation about it. Working with the PCEA's HIV/AIDS Committee and teaching about HIV, AIDS, sexually transmitted infections and human sexuality at the Presbyterian University of East Africa, Rick is helping the Presbyterian church in Kenya tackle this difficult issue head-on. Let us pray for Rick as he continues to carry out God's work in Kenya.



ROMANIA: Sharing the gift of language and music

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Brian Johnston as he serves the Theological Seminary of the Hungarian Reformed Church in Romania. Brian teaches English to first and second year Reformed and Lutheran students, with an emphasis on theological language. He has also established a choir of seminary students that travels extensively in Romania, sharing the good news through music and helping to strengthen the ties between Romanian and Hungarian communities. Let us pray for Brian as he works with upcoming leaders who are sharing the good news in Romania.



CANADA: Companions for the journey

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help start and support new congregations like Keswick Presbyterian Church in Keswick, Ontario. Keswick has vibrant worship and a family friendly space. On their website they explain "We are fellow sojourners on the same road. None of us has yet arrived but we are learning how to become more like Jesus, the one who is a model for life worth living. We are friends and family, companions for the journey. We are ordinary people, learning together what it means to follow Jesus in our time." Keswick is currently raising funds to build a new church home. Let us pray for everyone involved in the planning and building process.



CANADA: Community in Christ

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help create new ministries like Cloverdale Korean Church in Surrey, British Columbia. This church began with the dream of encouraging first and second generation Koreans to use their talents to build the Korean Christian community, and to help and encourage the Korean Christian community to be an important and active part of the local community. Cloverdale's ESL program for Koreans has been very successful, even resulting in new families joining the church! Cloverdale also reaches out to the community through a homeless ministry in the downtown area. Let us pray for Cloverdale as it reaches out to neighbours in the name of Christ.

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NICARAGUA: Helping feed the hungry

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Denise Van Wissen, a nutritionist who, after three years of working in Guatemala, has returned to Nicaragua to serve as a technical advisor at *Soynica*. Soynica promotes the right to food security and helps families break the vicious cycle of poverty. Denise works in Managua with another Soynica nutritionist on the nutritional aspects of various projects. Among many other things, Denise updates the content of Soynica's educational workshops, keeps Soynica staff up-to-date on current nutrition topics and reviews and analyzes periodic reports. Let us pray for Denise as she works to make a difference in the lives of families in Nicaragua.



UKRAINE: Equipping children

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Dr. David Pándy-Szekeres as he serves with the Reformed Church of Sub-Carpathian Ukraine (RCCU). David coordinates four Christian secondary schools and helps to post and supervise RCCU missionaries serving communities in Ukraine. A special class run by RCCU missionaries for Roma children in the village of Nagyberég has been a great success. Nine students who went through the first session passed their final exams and were enrolled in regular classes. A multifunctional building which will serve as a prayer hall and kindergarten is being constructed to serve this Roma community. Let us pray for David and the important work that the RCCU is doing with Hungarians in Ukraine.



CANADA: Being part of the neighbourhood

Presbyterians Sharing supports St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Thompson, Manitoba as it reaches out and welcomes people from the surrounding community. Directly across the street from a high school, St. Andrew's decided to host a student BBQ for the hundreds of students who pass the church each day. Invitations were delivered to the school office a week in advance, and members of the congregation were excited to prepare food for the students. This is part of an intentional effort to help build community and establish a neighbourhood presence, so that St. Andrew's can be seen as more than just a place to go on Sundays. Let us pray for St. Andrew's, Thompson as it continues to reach out and grow.



CANADA: Growing a congregation

Parkland First Presbyterian in Spruce Grove, Alberta began as a Bible Study group in the mid-1990's and officially became a congregation in 1997. In 2005, with support from *Presbyterians Sharing*, they called their first minister, Mark Chiang, a recent graduate from Knox College. The seeds from this church plant have grown! Parkland received a grant from *Presbyterians Sharing* to purchase land and a building in a rapidly growing area. They took possession April 1, 2011 and are beginning renovations and looking forward to continued growth. Through *Presbyterians Sharing* we are helping to plant congregations like Parkland, and to spread the gospel message.



BIBLE TRANSLATION: Sharing the good news

Imagine trying to read or understand the Bible if it wasn't available in your native language. Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* are helping to translate the Bible into several languages: Hakka in Taiwan; Kotoko in northern Cameroon; Izii, Ikwo, Ezaa and Mgbolizhia in Nigeria; and Mauritian Creole in Mauritius. Bible translation is a complex process. It can be a challenge for translators to capture the nuances, imagery and poetry of the Bible stories and to keep the text faithful to the original Hebrew and Greek. Let us thank God for those Bible translators who are helping to shine the light of Christ for people who yearn to read the Bible in their own language.

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MISSION TRIPS: Being present in Malawi

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help people in Canada connect with long-term mission partners around the world through short-term mission visits. Karen Lye travelled to Malawi with St. Andrew's Coldwater in 2010. In the village of Sakata, a woman whose son is disabled sought Karen out. The woman had heard that Karen works with people who have disabilities and wanted to spend time with her. Speaking different languages, they spent a lot of time just sitting together. Karen writes, "In these moments of silence, I truly felt what it meant to be "present", and a feeling of peace washed over me like I had never experienced before. The song rang in my ears, "Be still for the presence of the Lord is moving in this place." Let us pray for the people whose lives these mission trips continue to transform.



CANADA: Serving with a smile

Presbyterians Sharing supports The Rev. Katherine McCloskey as she serves as chaplain at Evangel Hall Mission in Toronto. For almost 100 years, Toronto's Evangel Hall Mission (EHM) has worked hard to break the bonds of loneliness, isolation and despair in Toronto's downtown core. Everyone is welcomed with a warm smile and a kind heart as they take part in the various programs offered by the mission - youth programs, a daily drop-in, men's and women's groups, medical and dental clinics, community dinners, and a Sunday worship service. As part of a dynamic EHM team, Katherine helps people through transitions and difficulties in their lives, letting them know that God is with them and loves them. Let us pray for EHM, and for Katherine, as she witnesses the gospel through her compassion and love.



CANADA: Meeting students' needs

Presbyterians Sharing supports the University of New Brunswick's Campus Ministry in Fredericton. UNB's protestant chaplain, The Rev. Kevin Bourque, writes: "In addition to our regular presence on campus through participation in official university ceremonies, student groups, clubs and activities, our most successful venture has been in reaching out to meet the *physical* needs of our students." To help reduce the high stress levels that students feel during exams, the chaplaincy holds a regular exam-time "stress-buster social", offering free food and a space to step away from the busyness and stresses of studying. These events are positive experiences for both the students and the chaplains. Let us pray for UNB's campus ministry and the other university chaplaincies supported by *Presbyterians Sharing*.



CANADA: Working together on Justice Initiatives

Through *Presbyterians Sharing* we support Presbyterians working with KAIROS... Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. Presbyterians across Canada are involved in KAIROS campaigns, writing letters to the government and supporting Southern partners. On June 20, 2011, The Moderator of the 137th General Assembly (2011), The Rev. Dr. Rick Horst, joined church leaders from other denominations and over 250 people in Ottawa to celebrate the Canadian Government's endorsement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to encourage the government to implement the Declaration. The 2011-2012 KAIROS campaign will explore ways to build bridges of understanding and respect with our indigenous sisters and brothers in Canada and around the world. Let us pray for Presbyterians involved in KAIROS as they contribute to the ecumenical life of the church.