

MISSION CAPSULES

December 2009 – February 2010

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

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NIGERIA

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* have supported the Rev. Arlene Onuoha's work in Nigeria with the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria (PCN) for more than 20 years. Arlene has left a legacy of people continuing to do mission and ministry in Nigeria. She taught and inspired church workers – evangelists, diaconal workers, and ministers – and worked with women, children and youth in various capacities. She also equipped the church through her work in Christian education and administration at the General Assembly level. Arlene has now returned to Canada and is doing deputiation as she seeks a call. Let us thank God for Arlene and her many years of dedicated service, and pray for her as she moves into ministry in Canada.



KENYA

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Dr. Rick Allen, a community health physician working with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) to educate people about HIV and AIDS. This year is the twelfth year of the PCEA's AIDS programs, which equip lay people and ministers to teach people both within the church and in the community about HIV. Rick also teaches at the Presbyterian University of East Africa, which opened last fall. Rick says, "As always, I see the hand of God in this work." Let us pray for Rick and the PCEA as they work to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS in Kenya.



CANADA: Presbytery of East Toronto

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support the Ecumenical Chaplaincy at the University of Toronto. Heather Paton, a student at Knox College who volunteers with the chaplaincy, says that life for students can be very stressful and overwhelming. "People may not have friendships, and they can be isolated from their home congregations. They need to find a place to connect in terms of their spiritual life and their faith. I think the chaplaincy provides a good starting point for that - it can connect people with different opportunities for worship and faith community." Chaplain Ralph Wushke says, "This is an important ministry and an important opportunity for national churches to be in ministry with students who either are the church today or to some degree can still become the church today as they seek out their spiritual paths." Let us pray for the Ecumenical Chaplaincy at U of T and for the thirteen other University chaplaincies supported by *Presbyterians Sharing*.



CANADA: Presbytery of Winnipeg

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support new ministries across Canada, including Trinity Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg. While the congregation waits for a permanent home, services are held at a local movie theatre. Seats are comfortable, there are cup-holders for morning coffee, and the large screen is perfect for anything that needs to be projected during the service! The theatre is an excellent land mark, and is just down the street from the property that awaits a church building. Sheila, a member of Trinity, writes, "I feel God's spirit here in fresh exciting ways. I'm looking forward to sharing the challenge and growing with this congregation." Let us pray for Trinity Presbyterian Church as it moves towards having a church building of its own.

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TAIWAN

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support the Rev. Murray Garvin as he teaches English at Yu Shan Theological College and Seminary in Taiwan. At the college, Murray teaches basic English and an English drama elective class. At the seminary, he teaches advanced English and an elective in theological English. In addition, he works with several students after class to help with conversation, reading and translation skills. Murray writes, "I am enjoying my classes very much this term. (The students) are a fine bunch of young people." Let us pray for Murray and the staff at Yu Shan Theological College and Seminary as they work to prepare students for ministry.



HUNGARY

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Mary Gorombey as she ministers to refugee students in Budapest with the Reformed Church in Hungary. Mary is helping to integrate refugee youth into the Hungarian school system. She teaches Hungarian as a second language and tutors many students outside of class time in various subjects. An important part of her work is helping change stereotypes and attitudes in a climate that is not favourable to refugees. Mary feels called to this work as she is the daughter of a refugee. Her father fled Hungary and found a new home in Canada. As a result, she has experienced first-hand some of the challenges faced by children in a new culture. Mary says, "I really thank *Presbyterians Sharing* for enabling me to be in Hungary and to be able to work with these youth. We're here to make change in this world, and it can be done." Let us pray for Mary as she helps refugee youth discover a new home.



CANADA: Presbytery of Vancouver Island

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help support West Shore Presbyterian Church in Victoria, British Columbia. This small congregation has a big heart and big ideas. Their blend of contemporary and traditional worship is currently held in a renovated house which can accommodate about 60 people, "if everyone holds their breath!" They are hoping to begin building a new church soon. The church ministers in the community by conducting services at three seniors care facilities and collecting food items for the West Shore Food Bank. Let us pray for West Shore as it serves the needs of members, reaches out to the community and plans for a building of its own.



JUSTICE MINISTRIES: Biotechnology Reference Group

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support the Biotechnology Reference Group, a project of the Canadian Council of Churches which brings together volunteers and church staff with an interest and expertise in genetics. To mark 10 years of ecumenical learning and theological discernment, the Reference Group held a forum in December to explore the promises, and anticipate the challenges, that biotechnologies will offer humankind in the next ten years. Let us pray for our volunteer representative, the Reverend George Tattrie, as he works with the group to offer insights into the ethical questions Christians wrestle with as biotechnologies open up new possibilities and challenges for human life, health and well-being.



CANADA: Presbytery of Kamloops

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support the Rev. Charles McNeil as he ministers with Cariboo Presbyterian Church in the Cariboo-Chilcotin Region of British Columbia. This house church ministry serves those in rural and remote areas who are out of reach of the traditional church. Charles spends much of his time teaching and instructing elders and others through Bible study and short courses. He also provides pastoral care and attention to those who want nothing to do with the church. He says, "Being as Christ to a range of people is a calling, a challenge and a privilege." Let us pray for Charles, the house church elders, and all those who are part of Cariboo Presbyterian Church, as they continue to be faithful, obedient and present – as Christ to the Cariboo.

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INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES: Equipping Leaders

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help International Ministries equip leaders to share the gospel in Ghana and Malawi. Three Presbyterian Church of Ghana lay training centres - Ramsayer, Nsaba and Tamale – each receive annual grants of \$5,000. Zomba Theological College in Malawi, an ecumenical seminary that trains ministers for the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, receives \$10,000 each year. Theological Education by Extension (TEEM) in Malawi, which provides theological education for lay people and clergy in remote areas, receives \$3,000 yearly. Our gifts are helping ministers and lay leaders to share the good news in Ghana and Malawi. Let us pray for teachers and students in theological schools around the world.



NATIONAL OFFICE: Mission Interpretation

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* connect congregations and individuals with long-term mission partners around the world, through mission visits organized by The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Mission Interpretation program. These trips allow participants to gain first-hand mission experience and build deeper connections with our mission partners. Jay Brenzil writes of his experience in Guatemala, "I always thought that "doing mission" meant doing work projects. I have learned that mission is not about doing work for others, but about working with others: forming relationships and bettering ourselves." Let us pray for Mission Interpretation staff and for congregations who participate in mission visits that encourage and support our mission partners.



CANADA: Presbytery of Brampton

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Mississauga Chinese Presbyterian Church. The congregation was formed fifteen years ago and has grown into a bustling church which ministers to new Chinese Canadians and the second generation. Leonard Yeung, an elder at the church, says "We realize that God put us here for a purpose, and our purpose is to service this community, and also to spread the gospel within this community and among the Chinese population." This vibrant community continues to grow, and the church will shortly be self-sufficient. Let us pray for Mississauga Chinese Presbyterian Church as it reaches out to its community and gives people an opportunity to worship in their own language.



CANADA: Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry (SNCM), an inner city ministry offering food and friendship to those in need in downtown Saskatoon. The Rev. Stewart Folster works to establish a relationship of caring and trust with everyone who comes through the front door of the drop-in centre. He invites people to SNCM's healing circle and worship service, which are held in the same building, and helps them to feel that they belong. "We are trying to provide a place where street people can drop in and feel at home," says Stewart. "I think we are like family, and we take care of each other." Let us pray for Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry and for Stewart, as he works to make a difference in the lives of people struggling to survive in inner city Saskatoon.