

MISSION CAPSULES

June 2010 – August 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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GRENADA

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* have sent Jim and Ann Young to serve The Presbyterian Church in Grenada. Jim is minister at Belair Presbyterian Church. Ann is teaching English and math at MacDonald College, a secondary school of the Presbyterian Church in Grenada and working at Belair Primary School as part of a literacy test program. Jim writes, “Belair Presbyterian Church is a source of delight, challenge and community to us. We are part of a happy, healthy worshipping community. God is good.” As Jim and Ann work with this worshipping community to reach out to the broader community on the island, they find a growing source of encouragement, care and understanding. They ask us to pray for God’s abundance to continue to surround their work in Grenada.



PAKISTAN

Presbyterians Sharing supports Dr. Bill McKelvie, a physician working in various medical ministries with the Diocese of Hyderabad, Church of Pakistan. Bill writes, “There has been a cure for TB for more than 50 years. Yet, every year, 1.5 million people die of this disease. Millions more are disabled and impoverished. The cure is there, but it requires more than just handing out drugs. It requires getting close to people and finding out what their needs are.” Like those with leprosy, TB patients often feel ashamed of having the disease. For many, it is problematic to take their medication or to complete their treatment once it has begun. The TB program is working to ensure that patients take their medicine and complete their treatment. Since the program began, cure rates have risen to almost 90%. Let us pray for Bill as he works to provide hope and healing for people suffering from TB.



CANADA: Presbytery of Halifax-Lunenburg

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Grace Presbyterian Church in Upper Tantallon, Nova Scotia. The children who attended last summer’s vacation bible school began raising money to support a Gifts of Change project in Malawi. Rev. Sara Macavei-Katocz writes, “It was amazing to see children bringing in coins and bigger paper bills. One small five-year-old boy asked his parents if he could take money from his monthly allowance, saved to buy model cars. He chose a \$20 bill. When he was told that this was quite a large sum, one that would buy him many cars, he was simply very pleased that he was in the position to offer such a lot of support to needy children. What a blessing to lead little children in the service and worship of the Lord!”



CANADA: Presbytery of London

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Almanarrah Presbyterian Church in London, Ontario, which began in 2004 as a small group of Arabic speaking Christians meeting informally to pray and study the Bible together. Almanarrah is now reaching more than 90 people and was constituted as a congregation in 2009! The youth began a weekly puppet ministry for the Sunday school – buying professional puppets, recording the plays and posting them on a website for the church kids to enjoy. The Reverend William Khaliil writes, “It is exciting to see our youth work with the Sunday school, creating a Christ-like environment in which to grow.” Almanarrah means “lighthouse” in Arabic. Let us pray for Almanarrah Presbyterian Church, as they become a beacon, shining the light of Christ in the city of London.

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ROMANIA

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Brian Johnston, as he teaches English and music at the Theological Seminary of the Hungarian Reformed Church in Cluj, Romania. After a choir trip to visit small villages in Romania, Rad Andras-Laszlo, a first-year theological student and member of the choir Brian directs, wrote, "I am grateful and happy that I can be a part of this spirited group and I hope we will have many more opportunities to let our light shine. These excursions take the gift of music to people who haven't heard praise and worship in four parts in a very long time. They are truly happy when we are there, and it is such a great feeling sharing something so wonderful with them." Let us pray for Brian, his students, and the choir as they share God's light through music.



MALAWI

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Linda Inglis as she works with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian's Blantyre Synod in Malawi. Linda helps the Synod host visitors from various church partnerships from around the world. She works with the Synod General Secretary and various committees to plan programs that will engage partners effectively in the mission work of the synod. She writes, "Mission visits help people witness the wonderful faith and joy of Christians in the synod, and awaken people to the realities faced by everyday people in one of the world's poorest countries." Let us pray for Linda as she continues this important work with our partner church in Malawi.



CANADA: Presbytery of East Toronto

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Flemingdon Gateway Mission, where church and community work in partnership to enhance the quality of life for children, youth and their families living in Toronto's Flemingdon Park community. The mission runs an after school program where over 70 Muslim and Christian children and youth from many different countries come together to develop social, academic and leadership skills that will help them succeed in school, society and the working world. They are helped with homework, given leadership training, taught health and nutrition and given the opportunity to do arts and crafts, dance and structured play. The leaders believe that, with opportunities for learning, leadership development and leadership modeling, all children and youth can learn to believe in themselves, develop the resilience to overcome the barriers they face, participate in their own self-transformation and make meaningful contributions to their communities and society.



CANADA: Presbytery of Kamloops

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support outreach to the Nazko and Area Dakelh communities in British Columbia's Cariboo-Chilcotin region. Working with Cariboo Presbyterian Church, the Reverends Jon Wyminga and Shannon Bell Wyminga serve house church ministries in Nazko and Quesnel, a children and teen girls program in Nazko, and a visitation ministry in the remote village of Kluskus. They dream of building up a missionary team, made up of Native and non-Native people, serving side by side in the name of Jesus. Shannon writes, "When the apostle Peter took the first step of cross-cultural mission some 2000 years ago, it must have been exhilarating and terrifying at the same time. We find mission in our area is like that today. Yet Jesus' love for all people and the leading of the Holy Spirit compel us forward."

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TAIWAN

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support the Reverend Dr. Paul McLean as he works with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and the Bible Society in Taiwan to translate the bible into the Hakka language. In February 2010, Paul and the Hakka translation team finished translating the book of Malachi; after 15 years of work, they have now translated and double-checked the entire Hakka Old Testament! Over the next year, Paul and the team will review and make minor revisions to the Hakka New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs. When this work is completed, the Bible Society will typeset and publish Taiwan's first-ever Hakka Old and New Testament Bible. Let us pray for Paul, the translation team, and Hakka churches in Taiwan, as they work to share the Good News with Taiwan's four million Hakka people, most of whom are not Christians.



KENYA

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Dr. Rick Allen, a community health physician serving the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA). He oversees the PCEA's HIV and AIDS Control Program and teaches at the Presbyterian University of East Africa. In Kenya AIDS is still a taboo subject. As a result it is not discussed openly in safe environments, and there is an incredible amount of misinformation spread about it. The need for education is urgent. The PCEA's HIV and AIDS Control Program is integrating information about AIDS into church services and school curriculum and they are training volunteers to present the material in a clear concise way to people in their own communities. Let us pray for Rick as he continues to share his expertise in this life-saving ministry.



CANADA: Presbytery of Hamilton

Our gifts to *Presbyterian Sharing* support chaplaincies at universities across Canada. McMaster's Chaplaincy Centre provides support, guidance and a safe space for students, many of whom are away from home for the first time. With its open door policy it offers pastoral support to the whole community. Personal counseling, bereavement support groups and public memorial services reach out to students in need. Guest speakers, forums, regular worship services, seasonal celebrations and many other activities help students worship and learn together. In the past year the chaplaincy has seen the number of students who are struggling financially increase significantly, and its benevolent fund has helped many students with food, rent, winter clothes and travel costs. Let us pray for McMaster's ecumenical chaplaincy as it reaches out to students with the love of Christ.



CANADA: Presbytery of Winnipeg

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Anamiewigummig in Kenora, Ontario. Also called Kenora Fellowship Centre, Anamiewigummig provides a place of refuge, sanctuary and fellowship for people who live on the streets. In addition to providing clothing, food and shelter, the fellowship centre can be the first stage in a move towards a more stable lifestyle. The Reverend Henry Hildebrandt writes, "What many people really desire is someone who will listen with compassion. Some need to open up with issues of grief and pain that they have bottled up for too long. Others need to share how abuse impacted their lives. Some crave a sense of belonging, acceptance and hospitality. The pastoral availability of listening, prayer and counseling is an essential aspect of the work of Anamiewigummig (House of Prayer.)"



EAPPI: Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* send people to the Middle East to accompany Palestinians and Israelis in their non-violent efforts to work for peace. Participants like the Reverend Noel Gordon spend three months monitoring and reporting violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, offering protection through non-violent presence, engaging in public policy advocacy and standing in solidarity with churches. Let us pray together for a peaceful resolution to conflict in the Middle East.