

MISSION CAPSULES: December 2008



TAIWAN

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* . . . support Louise Gamble as she works with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan teaching English Tam Kang High School in Taipei. One of the earliest educational institutions in Taiwan, Tam Kang is a private Christian high school seeking to present a strong Christian image to all students. Louise teaches English conversation classes to all grades, and Biblical courses to senior classes. Let us pray for Louise as she shares her gift of teaching with students at Tam Kang.



HUNGARY

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* . . . support Mary Gorombey as she works with the Reformed Church in Hungary's School Integration Program, helping refugee students integrate into life in Hungary. Her one-on-one tutoring helps the students succeed in school. She walks with both refugee and Hungarian students to help bridge the gap between cultures. By accompanying those with undetermined residency status to refugee hearings, she encourages them through the process and is there for them if the hearings end with a negative result. When students are sick, Mary accompanies them to health care facilities, translating and advocating on their behalf. She also spends time just having fun with them, going to movies and visiting museums and other places of cultural interest in Budapest – an important ministry for people who have too often only known pain and conflict. Let us pray for Mary as she cares for refugee youth in Hungary.



CANADA: Presbytery of Vancouver Island

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* . . . support West Shore Presbyterian Church in Victoria, British Columbia. Set in a region experiencing rapid growth, West Shore has run out of room in its small building (a renovated house). Still, the session continues to plan for outreach, and the congregation dreams of a larger building that will help them minister to the growing community. The congregation is active in local mission through monthly food bank donations and worship with residents of a local nursing home. The children are also involved in mission, raising money for a well in Africa and placing their money each Sunday into an old pump that was turned into a piggy bank! Let us pray for West Shore as it actively reaches out and ministers to its community in word and action.



CANADA: Presbytery of Winnipeg

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* . . . support Anishinabe Fellowship Centre (AFC), part of Winnipeg Inner City Missions. Last year, AFC opened Anishinabe Place of Hope, a residence for single, unemployed Aboriginal people. Anishinabe Place of Hope offers a variety of services encouraging a wholesome lifestyle. The approach is holistic, dealing with the physical, emotional, spiritual and mental health of each individual. Residents may need to take many steps before they will be able to function in a healthy way – conquering addiction, learning life skills, improving education and health levels, clearing outstanding charges in the justice system, and healing from abuse and family violence. Anishinabe staff members assist each individual in identifying their own path and then provide support and advocacy to help them successfully achieve their goals. Let us pray for Anishinabe Fellowship Centre as it provides a vital support system and community to people living on the margins in Winnipeg.

MISSION CAPSULES: January 2009



MALAWI

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* . . . support the Rev. Edward (Ed) Hoekstra as he works with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) as Associate Minister of St. Columba CCAP Church in Blantyre, Malawi. Ed is accompanied by his wife Jackie and two of their five children, Jacob and Nico. From September through December 2008, the Hoekstras studied the Chichewa language and visited and spoke in many churches throughout the Blantyre Synod. In January, Ed was inducted at St. Columba's, joining senior minister Rev. Thomas Maseya in ministry. Ed is involved in all areas of pastoral ministry at the church, but has special responsibility for the English language service. Let us pray for the Hoekstras as they adjust to life in a new country. Learn more by reading Jackie's letters online at www.presbyterian.ca/international/letters



GUATEMALA

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* . . . support Denise van Wissen, a Nutrition Coordinator working with the Fraternidad of Maya Presbyterians in Guatemala. She leads workshops on basic nutrition and healthy eating for women's groups in the Quiché and Mam communities. Many Maya women, especially those in rural areas, do not speak Spanish or understand it well and so Denise uses visual aids, skits, games and in some cases, translation to Mam or Quiché, to teach about nutrition. Her classes are practical and fun, with hands-on food preparation. Denise has just finished her maternity leave. Let us pray for Denise as she makes the transition back into her work with the Fraternidad.



CANADA: Presbytery of Oak Ridges

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* . . . help to renew ministries like St. John's Presbyterian Church in Bradford, Ontario. St. John's has been a Christian faith community since 1819, sharing the love of Christ through worship, education and service. Now that the construction of its new building is complete, the congregation is focusing on outreach, both locally and globally. Members are inviting people in their community to worship. They are working to build relationships and meet the physical and emotional needs of their neighbours. They support PWS&D, and raised over \$1700 last year for the purchase of commercial sewing machines in Guatemala. The new church building is equipped with a large gymnasium that is used by several community groups on a regular basis. Let us pray for St. John's Presbyterian Church as it reaches out to others in the name of Christ.



CANADA: Presbytery of Kamloops

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* . . . support Cariboo Presbyterian Church in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region of British Columbia, where Rev. David Webber is working to initiate house churches in rural areas. David shares that the ministry flowing out of these churches is amazing - people are helping people and communities, people are speaking and doing gospel, ministry is happening within both the faith community and the secular community. This is the 20th year of mission work in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region. Last year, David's visits to congregations, WMS groups and the national office made him very aware of the power and support of the *laos* - the whole people of God - for Christ's mission. He and his family continue to be aware of and thankful for the prayers and support of people across Canada. Let us pray for David's ministry in this remote region of Canada.

MISSION CAPSULES: February 2009



MALAWI

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* . . . support Glenn and Linda Inglis in Blantyre, Malawi. Glenn works with the Blantyre Synod Development Commission (BSDC) as Executive Director. He is working to strengthen existing relief and development programs, develop sound management and accounting systems, promote leadership development, and strengthen and renew relations with partners and donors. As Ecumenical Officer with the Blantyre Synod, Linda coordinates the visits of church partners, donors, work parties, mission groups and individuals wanting to learn more about the Church's work in Malawi. Let us pray for Glenn and Linda as they use their gifts to strengthen the mission and ministry of the church in Malawi. Learn more by reading the Inglis' letters online at www.presbyterian.ca/international/letters.



UKRAINE

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* . . . support David Pándy-Szekeres as he works with the Reformed Church of Sub-Carpathian Ukraine (RCCU), a church of ethnic Hungarians in Ukraine. As Supervisor of External Missions, David helps to post RCCU missionaries to designated mission fields and supervises their work. As Director of Schools, David coordinates four Christian secondary schools that are renowned for their high academic standards and Christian teachings. Many of those who graduate continue on to college, university or other institutions of higher learning. Let us pray for David as he uses his gifts to help the RCCU continue its mission and ministry in Ukraine.



CANADA: Presbytery of Essex Kent

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* . . . support Kent Regional Alternative Ministry (KRAM) in Duart Village, Ontario. KRAM began in 2004 as a mission ministry, offering innovative monthly alternative worship events to draw unchurched youth and adults from the north shore communities of Lake Erie. Last year, KRAM's mission expanded to include events at schools and other community organizations that would help young people in the development of character. KRAM's special worship events that are led by youth bands and drama and puppetry teams continue to reach out to the larger community. These events explore timely issues including caring for the elderly, dealing with bullying, and celebrating relationships built on respect and honesty. Scripture is incorporated in such a way that people with no church background can see how the Bible provides insight and advice on dealing with the day-to-day issues of life. Let us pray for KRAM as it reaches out in creative ways to proclaim the gospel message.



CANADA: Presbytery of Hamilton

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* . . . support McMaster Campus Ministries in Hamilton, Ontario. When Kim first came to the Chaplaincy Centre in her first year of university. She was feeling lost, anxious and alone. This visit marked the beginning of a relationship that lasted for her entire university experience. Kim believes that the chaplaincy kept her in school. A committed Catholic, Kim expanded her horizons as she learned from the ecumenical and collegial environment at the Chaplaincy Centre. She made lasting friendships as she helped facilitate a discussion group, and volunteered with chapel services and exam hospitality. She has begun a Master of Divinity program. Let us pray for campus ministries across Canada as they offer a quiet space, a friendly welcome, and Christian hospitality to students.