

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
PCCConnect Email Newsletter
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This newsletter is sent to all congregational contact persons and others interested in the latest church news and information. This newsletter may be printed, photocopied and distributed.

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JUSTICE MINISTRIES

REMEMBERING THE CHILDREN: ABORIGINAL AND CHURCH LEADERS' TOUR, MARCH 1-10, 2008

Canada will soon mark a pivotal moment in its history, as the Canadian Government officially launches the 5-year program of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The mandate of the commission is to provide former residential school students with an opportunity to share their individual experiences in a safe and culturally appropriate manner through statement taking or truth-sharing.

As key participants, along with the federal government, in the operation of residential schools, the Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian, and United Churches have committed themselves to full participation in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's process.

This is why in early March the spiritual leaders of the three Protestant denominations, along with representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, and the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, will be travelling together to help prepare the way for Truth and Reconciliation.

The Rev. Dr. J.H. Hans Kouwenberg, Moderator of the 133rd General Assembly, will represent The Presbyterian Church in Canada at events in the following cities:

Ottawa, on March 3, 2008;
Vancouver, on March 5, 2008;
Saskatoon, on March 9, 2008; and,
Winnipeg, on March 10, 2008.

Details of the events are not yet available, but church members in these cities are invited to keep their evenings free on these dates to participate in public events. Watch the PCC website for updated information. Information will also be distributed to local congregations in the tour cities through their presbyteries. A web site will be set up so Canadians, across the country, can follow the tour. (Ideally, add the link which may be available before Friday, Feb.1st.) For more information, contact Lori Ransom, Healing and Reconciliation Animator, at lransom@presbyterian.ca or call 1-800-619-7301 or (416) 441-1111 ext. 283.

FORUM FOR ETHNIC AND RACIAL MINORITY PERSONS IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

Presbyterian congregations are the church homes for people from many different countries. Come and share your story. Members of ethnic and racial minorities are invited to gather at **Crieff Hills April 4-6, 2008** to share their stories of being ethnic or racial minority persons in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Our featured guest speakers will be the Rev. Paulette Brown, a doctoral candidate at Knox College and former minister at University PC in Toronto and Mr. Steve Kabetu, program coordinator for the Race Relations Office of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. For more information, or to register, contact Katharine Masterton kmasterton@presbyterian.ca, or call 1-800-619-7301 or (416) 441-1111 ext 250.

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR YEAR 2 OF THE PEACE AND HUMAN SECURITY INTERNSHIP WITH PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES

The Presbyterian Church in Canada and Project Ploughshares invite applications for the second year of the Peace and Human Security Internship with Project Ploughshares in Waterloo, Ontario. The second year of the internship will run from September 2008 to April 2009. A stipend will be provided to the intern. Applicants must be members or adherents of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and have completed a post-secondary degree in political science, international studies or a related discipline. The deadline for applications is **Friday, May 16, 2008**. Internship

qualifications and procedures are outlined on the application form. This program has been made possible through undesignated bequest gifts to The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Project Ploughshares is an ecumenical agency of the Canadian Council of Churches and implements the churches' call to be peacemakers and to work for a world in which justice will flourish and peace abound. Contact Katharine Masterton at kmasterton@presbyterian.ca or call 1-800-619-7301 or (416) 441-1111 ext. 250 for more information.

RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE: REMEMBER EARTH DAY ON APRIL 22, 2008

How can we, as Christians, respond to climate change? Climate change is one expression of how our dependence on oil and gas harms people and the environment. There are practical steps we can take in our homes and in our churches to reduce our ecological footprints: investigate opportunities to reduce your church building's energy consumption; learn about non-fossil fuel energy providers; form a church or community based "green team" and learn about the impacts fossil fuel companies have on people and the environment; plan a worship service, bible study or prayer group focusing on God's sacred creation. Worship resources are available. KAIROS' *Re-Energize: Time For A Carbon Sabbath* campaign, and Justice Ministries can help. Visit KAIROS' Re-energize website for resources: www.re-energize.org, or contact Katharine Masterton at 1-800-619-7301 ext 250 or by email at kmasterton@presbyterian.ca for more information.

SUMMER SCHOOL CAMP ON WATER AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES –

Dates: 27 July to 5 August, 2008
Application deadline: March 24, 2008

Preserving the world's water resources and securing access to water for all is an ongoing challenge for the 21st century. In 2008, the Ecumenical Water Network (World Council of Churches) will bring together about 20 young people from all over the world in the first Ecumenical Water Network Summer School on Water.

The participants will have the opportunity to study - in an regionally diverse ecumenical group - the local, regional, and international manifestations and causes of the water crisis. They will examine the situation and challenges from a perspective of faith and ethics, and search together for possible ecumenical responses.

The Summer School on Water will take place from 27 July to 5 August 2008 at the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland. Participants have to be between 18 and 30 years old. English is the working language of the program and participants must be able to function well in English.

If you are interested in participating, please download the application form and the information brochure from the Ecumenical Water Network's website:

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/activities/ewn-home/resources-and-links/conferences-and-meetings/ewn-summer-school-2008.html>

The deadline for applications is March 24, 2008.

The Ecumenical Water Network is housed in the World Council of Churches, of which The Presbyterian Church in Canada is a member.

THE VINE HELPLINE . . . CONNECTING PEOPLE, PLACES AND PROGRAMS

The Presbyterian Church in Canada is excited to announce the launch of its new resource centre The Vine Helpline: Connecting people, places and programs. The Vine Helpline offers help to lay people and clergy in the areas of: ministry with children and youth, worship resources, educational ministry, congregational development, eldership training, evangelism and outreach and leadership development. Contact The Vine Helpline at vinehelpline@presbyterian.ca or 1-866-642-2830.

PRESBYTERIAN WORLD SERVICE AND DEVELOPMENT

PWS&D NEW EMERGENCY APPEALS PAGE

PWS&D is pleased to announce the launch of the online “Emergency appeals” page. This new page is your home for up to date information on PWS&D’s emergency responses. Stay current by bookmarking PWS&D’s Emergency appeals page and visiting regularly to see how you can help communities in emergency situations wherever and whenever they occur.

www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd/appeals

PWS&D IN AFGHANISTAN: IS PROGRESS ATTAINABLE?

Chris Herlinger, with [Action by Churches Together \(ACT\)](#), recently returned from Afghanistan — his third visit there since the summer of 2001. Herlinger reports on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan as well as the ongoing ACT network response, supported by PWS&D. This is an engaging three part series that explores some of the bigger issues of carrying out international aid operations with foreign troops on the ground.

www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

KENYA: FEAR OVERSHADOWS DESIRE TO RETURN HOME

Following initial food distributions supported by PWS&D, ACT partners in Kenya report that displaced people urgently require more food, tents, clothes, medicines, hygiene items and shelter supplies. Please pray for the people of Kenya affected by the violence and give today at:

www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

IRAQ: ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE AND REFUGEES

While general security inside Iraq has somewhat improved during the past six months, the security situation for the common Iraqi has not necessarily improved equally. Minority communities, including Christians and other groups, remain especially vulnerable because they have much fewer possibilities to organize networks of protection for themselves. In many places, people are deprived of clean water and electricity. Please pray for the nation of Iraq, for its people and leaders, that there will soon be an end to the violence. Donate to PWS&D to help

provide emergency support to civilians who have fled the country, as well as those displaced within Iraq.

www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd/opportunities

TSUNAMI: THREE YEARS LATER

In its biggest collective response, ACT International's members are marking three years of response to the tsunami that struck southeast Asia and parts of the east coast of Africa on December 26, 2004. ACT's 2006 evaluations underlined the importance of faith in the affected communities' healing process and that ACT members, already familiar with their multi-faith operating environments, were able to accommodate and incorporate a spiritual dimension to their work. Learn more about PWS&D's tsunami response at:

www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

PRESBYTERIANS SHARING . . . UPDATE

The final tally of gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing . . .* from congregations for 2007 was \$8,734,120!

While this figure is \$23,457 (0.26%) less than contributions in 2006 (\$8,757,577) it is still more than contributions in 2005 (\$8,672,200), 2004 (\$8,723,876) and 2003 (\$8,716,609).

This figure represents another year of congregations working hard to support the mission and ministries that we do together as The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Thank-you to all of the congregations and individuals who faithfully support *Presbyterians Sharing . . .* and make possible the mission and ministry of our church. Together we support new and specialized ministries in Canada and mission partners around the world. Together we train leaders - lay people and ministers - to do effective ministry and help grow innovative youth ministries. Together we speak for the voiceless in our country and our world and support healing and reconciliation ministries in our communities. It is amazing to see the strong commitment from congregations across Canada to reaching outside the boundaries of their local congregations and communities to do mission and ministry.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

The deadlines for the following mission trips are quickly approaching. Each of these trips is an excellent opportunity to do mission this summer. For applications and more information on the following mission opportunities go to www.presbyterian.ca/experiencemission/trips

XVII INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

Mexico City, Mexico

Dates: July 30 - August 9, 2008

Cost: Students & Youth fee - \$2900 - (\$2700 if registered on or before Feb. 18th)

Adult fee - \$3900 - (\$3500 if registered on or before Feb. 18th)

Application Deadline: ASAP

The Presbyterian Church in Canada will send a delegation to participate in the XVII International AIDS Conference and Ecumenical Pre-conference in Mexico City, Mexico. Some support for conference costs is available from the PCC. We are still looking for interested participants, so

please contact the Mission Interpretation Coordinator, Lindsey Hepburn if you would like more information on how to sign up. Contact Lindsey at lhepburn@presbyterian.ca or 1-800-619-7310 or (416) 441-1111 ext. 259.

GUATEMALA MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES SYNOD/SYNODICAL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Dates: May 5 – 15, 2008

Cost: \$2,500

Application deadline: January 31, 2008 – extended to Feb 11, 2008

Join other members of the BC synod to visit the partners of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Spend time learning from, and working beside, people associated with projects of the Fraternity of Mayan Presbyterians and visit the Francisco Coll School in Guatemala City. This trip complements the 2007-2008 PCC mission study on Guatemala. If you are a member of the BC Synod/Synodical and are interested in being a part of this delegation, please contact the regional educational ministries coordinator for the synod of British Columbia, Kathy Ball at ballteam@shaw.ca or 604-847-3916.

PROVIDE ECUMENICAL ACCOMPANIMENT IN THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Dates: 3-month placement any time

Cost: covered by The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Presbyterian World Service and Development and International Ministries are still seeking persons willing to take part in the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI).

The EAPPI mission is to accompany Palestinians and Israelis in their non-violent actions and concerted advocacy efforts to end the occupation. Participants of EAPPI are 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 and all those struggling against the occupation.

EAPPI accompaniers should be:

- 25 years of age or older
- knowledgeable of and/or interested in the Middle East region and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict
- committed to continue advocacy work upon return to home country including participation in public speaking

For applications and more information go to www.presbyterian.ca/experiencemission/trips

YOUTH IN MISSION INDIA

Dates: June 20, 2008 - July 6, 2008

Cost: \$3,000

Application Deadline: Feb. 1, 2008 - extended to Feb. 5, 2008

A youth in mission team will be visiting the Bhil Mission Field where they will discover how modernity impacts the aboriginal people who have been living with the same traditions for

hundreds of years. They will see first hand the Church of North India's ministry, health care, education and HIV/AIDS programs.

YOUTH IN MISSION TAIWAN

Dates: June 26 - July 12, 2008

Cost: \$2,500

Application Deadline: March 15, 2008

The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan's "I Love Taiwan Mission" program draws delegates from across North America and the world together to do two weeks of mission work at local churches in Taiwan.

YOUTH IN MISSION LOUISIANA

Dates: May 23 - June 1, 2008

Cost: \$1,000

Application Deadline: March 15, 2008

Help continue to rebuild out of the devastation left by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. This trip will provide you with the opportunity to use your skills to rebuild homes in Louisiana and give you a chance to witness the overwhelming hope that is present in spite of the disaster

YOUTH IN MISSION PRINCE RUPERT & VANCOUVER

Dates: 2 weeks in August (TBA)

Cost: transportation + \$500

Application Deadline: Mar 15, 2008

First, the youth in mission team will head up north to Prince Rupert, a logging and fishing community to lead a day camp and take part in the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Then they will head south to East Vancouver to do some inner city mission projects including various food programs.

YOUTH IN MISSION PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

Dates: July 25, 2008 - August 23, 2008

Cost: transportation + \$200

Application Deadline: Mar 15, 2008

The youth in mission team will lead a four week traveling day camp which will visit various congregations in the presbytery. In addition, the group will carry out different service and outreach projects to the various communities.

JOIN THE ONLINE EDUCATIONAL FORUM ON REFUGEE MINISTRY!

An online educational forum on refugee issues in Canada will soon be available on the PCC website. People interested in joining the 2009 Thailand Refugee Study Tour must be a part of this on-line discussion group. Contact mission interpretation coordinator Lindsey Hepburn at lhepburn@presbyterian.ca or 1-800-619-7301 or (416) 441-1111 ext. 259 to sign up. The forum will begin in February, so this is your last chance to join!

LEARN ABOUT MISSION WITH MISSION SPEAKERS

Mary Helen Garvin to speak in British Columbia & Edmonton
March 1 – 9, 2008

Mary Helen Garvin will visit the BC synod to speak on her recent work with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Malawi. Supported by your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* . . . Mary Helen volunteered for four months in Malawi. She trained grief counselors in Malawi to equip them to work with children who had been orphaned as a result of the AIDS pandemic. Her extraordinary stories and slides tell the story of the challenges the church in Malawi is facing today.

For information on where Mary Helen will be speaking during her visit, or to arrange for her to visit your congregation during her stay please contact the educational Ministries Coordinator for the Synod/Synodical of British Columbia, Kathy Ball at ballteam@shaw.ca or (604) 847-3916.

For information on her visit in Edmonton please contact the Mission Interpretation Coordinator, Lindsey Hepburn at lhepburn@presbyterian.ca or (416) 441-1111 (ext. 259). There are still times available for her to speak.

Missionary Nutritionist Denise Van Wissen to speak in Alberta
February 7 - 16, 2008

The Synod/Synodical of Southwestern Alberta will be hosting International Ministries' Nutritionist in Guatemala, Denise Van Wissen. Denise's work is supported through donations to *Presbyterians Sharing* . . .

Denise has recently moved to Guatemala to work with the Fraternity of Mayan Presbyterians as an on-site nutritionist. Denise will be speaking in Calgary and Edmonton during her stay in Southwestern Alberta. If you would like to hear Denise please contact the Director of Regional Ministries, Dianne Ollerenshaw at director@synodabnw.ca or call (403) 698-2523.

CANADA YOUTH 2009

Please forward this information to all youth, young adults and youth leaders/ministers...

Canada Youth is the National Youth Conference of The Presbyterian Church in Canada
The theme is rooted.
The scripture is Eph. 3:17
The dates are July 20-25, 2009.
The place is Brock University, St. Catharines ON
Check out www.canadayouth.ca
Look for your official Canada Youth Info Package in the mail this April.