

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA**  
**PCCConnect Email Newsletter**  
**June, 2008 – Issue 91**

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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## **2008 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAPPENINGS**

General Assembly is just around the corner and everyone is making final preparations.

This year we will try to keep you as informed as ever with our General Assembly page on the PCC website. It will include what is already there plus our Daily Digest "To Seek Justice", along with highlights of the day's activities through podcasts and a photo gallery.

There will not be a daily PCCConnect this year since the information is available directly from the General Assembly page at [www.presbyterian.ca/assembly](http://www.presbyterian.ca/assembly). Bookmark this page for the latest information.

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## **PRESBYTERIAN WORLD SERVICE AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **SICHUAN (CHINA) EARTHQUAKE: PWS&D RECEIVES MATCHING FUNDS**

The Canadian government has announced matching funds to Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) in response to the May 12, 2008 Earthquake in Central China. All donations received by PWS&D, marked "Sichuan (China) Earthquake Relief" from May 15 - June 23, 2008, will be matched by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Help PWS&D respond to this massive tragedy. View and download photos from the PWS&D photo gallery as well as find a bulletin insert for use in your Sunday worship services.

[www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd](http://www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd)

### **CYCLONE NARGIS: IMMEASURABLE LOSS, CONTINUED RESPONSE**

Despite humanitarian access and logistical challenges, PWS&D and other members of the global alliance, Action by Churches Together (ACT) International, have already mobilized resources through local organizations to provide clean water, emergency food and non-food items to more than 100,000 people. Your prayers and donations are needed to help ensure relief is available.

[www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd](http://www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd)

### **CARE FOR CREATION PHOTO EXHIBIT**

This is a series of 15 photos from projects supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) in Africa, Asia and Central America. These photos can be downloaded and printed for display in your church or used in a slide show. The series can also be ordered as 21" x 25" prints on a tear-resistant background. Velcro is attached to the back for easy display.

<http://www.presbyterian.ca/resources/galleries>

### **PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL: BULLETIN INSERT**

The World Council of Churches and Presbyterian World Service & Development are inviting churches from around the world to join in advocacy and action for a just peace in Palestine and Israel. Help contribute to a common international witness for peace on June 8, 2008. The ongoing tragic events in Israel and Palestine call people of faith and goodwill to act on their shared hopes that peace will be achieved. Download a bulletin insert for use on June 8, 2008 at

<http://www.presbyterian.ca/node/3078>

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## **www.presbyterian.ca**

### PRESBYTERIAN.CA FRONT PAGE TABS

As you have probably already noticed, the front page of presbyterian.ca has changed dramatically. We've rolled out a tabbed display that helps you keep track of the most up-to-date information on the site. Clicking on a tab will display the five most recent items in that category along the right, and then clicking one of the items will display that item in the content area on the left. Be sure to check out the 'Featured' tab for items of particular interest.

### WEBSITE RESOURCES SECTION GETS A FACE-LIFT

The Resources section of the site has undergone some changes to increase usability. You can now search by resource type and we've cleaned up the presentation for the resource categories. [www.presbyterian.ca/resources](http://www.presbyterian.ca/resources)

### NEW FONT-SIZE PICKER ON PRESBYTERIAN.CA

If you look up in the right corner of every page of presbyterian.ca you will find the new font-size picker. You can use this to conveniently select from three font sizes, the default size being the smallest.

### PCC FORUM

As changes continue to be rolled out on the website, updates will be posted in the 'News and Announcements' forum. Be sure to register for the forum where you can gather and discuss news and events, ask questions and share ideas and information. Registration is free and all are welcome.

<http://www.presbyterian.ca/community/pccforum>

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## **THE VINE**

### LEADERSHIP LINKS

Looking for some leadership development in your congregation for the fall? New ideas for worship, evangelism, Bible study, outreach, faith sharing, elder training, children and youth? Look on line for leaders in your synod at [www.presbyterian.ca](http://www.presbyterian.ca). under "Leadership Links." Look under Resources/The Vine Helpline. Identify the leadership development needed, locate a leader and negotiate the time and location directly. Then, let the staff at *The Vine Helpline* know. The national church covers 2/3 of the cost for the leadership.

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## **E.H. JOHNSON AWARD RECIPIENT**

The 2008 E.H. Johnson Award Recipient is Dr. Mercy Amba Oduyoye, a Ghanaian Methodist, married to a Nigerian Anglican, Adedoyin Modupe Oduyoye. She founded "The Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians" and still serves as the Coordinator of their study commission. She also established the Institute of African Women in Religion and Culture at

Trinity Theological Seminary, Legon, Ghana, where she currently serves as its director. She has also had extensive involvement in the ecumenical movement over three decades.

Her theological studies were undertaken in the University of Ghana, Legon and in Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. She has taught high school in both Ghana and Nigeria and for twelve years was on the faculty of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Her professional service to the ecumenical movement, totaling thirteen years, consists of three years as Youth Education Secretary at the World Council of Churches; three years as Youth Secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches; and seven years as Deputy General Secretary of the World Council of Churches. She has served in ecumenical and theological bodies like the Standing Committee of the Faith and Order Commission of the WCC and in leadership capacities in several, including serving as President of the World Student Christian Federation and being the current President of the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians.

Mercy has travelled the globe and published in the area of Missiology and women-centered theology. She has been recognized and honoured in several ways including four honorary doctorates in Theology and Ecumenical Leadership.

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## **JUSTICE MINISTRIES**

### **ABORIGIANL DAY SUNDAY (JUNE 15, 2008)**

June 15 is Aboriginal Day Sunday, preceding National Aboriginal Day on June 21st. This is a day to celebrate the wonderful heritage and culture of Aboriginal people, and the contributions they make to Canadian society. Take this opportunity to reflect on how the Holy Spirit is moving in our lives today to help us find ways to grow in faith and love with our Aboriginal brothers and sisters.

Worship resources are available from Justice Ministries, or online at <http://www.presbyterian.ca/node/2078>. Lori Ransom, Healing and Reconciliation Program Animator, welcomes the opportunity to speak with you. She may be reached at [lransom@presbyterian.ca](mailto:lransom@presbyterian.ca) or by phone at 1-800-619-7301 ext 283.

### **HEALING AND RECONCILIATION LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

The Healing and Reconciliation ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada offers funding up to \$5000. for Presbyterians wishing to build relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. The next deadline for funding proposals is September 30, 2008.

Become a local healing and reconciliation leader. You do not need previous experience or involvement. Your commitment to learning and a passion to meet new people are all that's needed. Training is available.

### **OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN CHRISTIANS INVOLVED IN FAITH AND PUBLIC WITNESS**

In the fall of 2007, 21 Presbyterians attended KAIROS regional meetings across Canada. Participants learned about KAIROS' three year campaign *Re-Energize...Time for a Carbon Sabbath*. This program looks at the effects the fossil fuel industry has on people and the

environment. You are invited to attend a regional KAIROS meeting in the fall of 2008. We particularly invite young adult participation! Contact Katharine Masterton for registration information before June 30, 2008 at [kmasterton@presbyterian.ca](mailto:kmasterton@presbyterian.ca) or by calling 1-800-619-7301 ext 250.

#### KAIROS Regional Meetings 2008

Atlantic Region: September 26-28 at the Tatamagouche Centre, Tatamagouche Nova Scotia.

British Columbia/ Yukon Region: October 3-5, Vancouver BC at the YWCA downtown.

Cambrian-Agassiz Region: Winnipeg, MB. Date to be announced.

Great Lakes-St Lawrence Region: Sept 19-21 at Mount Mary Immaculate retreat center, Ancaster, Ontario.

Prairies North Region: October 3-5, at the Christian Life Centre, Calgary AB.

Réseau Oecuménique Justice et Paix (francophone partner): date and location to be announced.

#### *IN OUR SMALL CORNER* SPRING EDITION 2008 NOW AVAILABLE

The current issue of Justice Ministries' newsletter "In Our Small Corner" has been printed and mailed. Electronic copies have also been distributed. If you would like to receive this semi-annual publication, contact Katharine Masterton at [kmasterton@presbyterian.ca](mailto:kmasterton@presbyterian.ca).

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#### **DEPUTATION**

##### MACKAY-BARCLAYS HOME FROM GHANA

Rev. Donald MacKay and Marion Barclay-MacKay have recently returned from a two year period of service in Ghana where they were assisting in the development of a pastoral training program at the Nsaba Lay Training Centre. They begin their deputation assignments following general assembly. For more information on where you can see them to hear about their work and experiences please contact [lhepburn@presbyterian.ca](mailto:lhepburn@presbyterian.ca)

##### MEXICAN MIGRANT STUDY TOUR

We are still looking for people interested in going on the Mexican Migrant Study Tour in November 2008. This trip is designed to give people a first hand witness experience of the situation for migrant workers on the Mexico/Arizona border. The group will be accompanied by Justice Ministries' Stephen Allen. For more information on how you can participate in this trip please contact Lindsey Hepburn at [lhepburn@presbyterian.ca](mailto:lhepburn@presbyterian.ca) or (416) 441-1111 (ext. 259)

##### JOIN A MISSION TO GUATEMALA THIS AUGUST

Ever wanted to visit our partners in Guatemala and participate in hands on mission? Join the group from Hamilton that will visit our Guatemalan mission staff and partners of PWS&D this August.

For more information on how you can be a part of a mission trip to Guatemala contact [lhepburn@presbyterian.ca](mailto:lhepburn@presbyterian.ca) or call (416) 441-1111 (ext. 259)

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### **YOUTH IN MISSION**

YIM is looking for a few youth/young adults to lead a travelling Vacation Bible School for three weeks in Peace River Presbytery. Contact Reuben St. Louis for details ([rstlouis@presbyterian.ca](mailto:rstlouis@presbyterian.ca))

Dates: August 2-23, 2008

Cost: Flight to Grande Prairie, AB

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### **CANADA YOUTH 2009**

The Canada Youth conference is just over a year away. Promotional material will be coming out this June and the website will be going online in just a couple weeks. Make sure that your congregation has marked July 20-25, 2009 on their calendar.

For more information visit [www.canadayouth.ca](http://www.canadayouth.ca) or email [rstlouis@presbyterian.ca](mailto:rstlouis@presbyterian.ca).