

Presbyterians Sharing . . . September 2009 Update

Presbyterians Sharing is the national fund supporting the mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.



The Reverend Harvey Self, Moderator of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and The Reverend Mercy Chilapula, Vice-Moderator of Blantyre Synod, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian participate in the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church of Ghana.

Rise up and Build!

In August, the Moderator of The Presbyterian Church in Canada the Rev. Harvey Self, his wife Jayne, and Karen Plater (Associate Secretary for Stewardship and Education for Mission) attended The Presbyterian Church of Ghana's General Assembly and visited programs supported by the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Assembly's *Rise up and Build* theme challenged congregations and individuals to find ways to build up the church and their country. Indeed, the Canadian team found a vibrant church reaching out to people in all aspects of life from education, health care and vocational training programs to dynamic mission and evangelism programs. Throughout the journey, the trio spent much time encouraging and praying with committed workers who are sharing the gospel message in word and action with the support of *Presbyterians Sharing* and *Presbyterian World Service & Development*.

Presbyterians Sharing

Goal for 2009: \$ 8,975,000

Received by August 31, 2009: \$3,979,301

Received by August 31, 2008: \$3,956,160

Thank you for your faithful support of *Presbyterians Sharing*. Let us continue to work and pray together as we encourage congregations to reach and surpass their commitments in 2009. We are currently 0.58% ahead of where we were in 2008!

Programs in Ghana supported by *Presbyterians Sharing*

The three lay training centres in The Presbyterian Church of Ghana – Ramseyer, Nsaba and Tamale – each receive annual grants of \$5,000. The Nsaba Training Centre, where the Rev. Dr. Donald MacKay and the Rev. Marion Barclay-MacKay served from 2006-2008, received a grant of \$11,000 in 2007 for the restoration of its main building. The Ramseyer Training Centre received an extra grant of \$15,000.00 in 2007 for the publishing of manuals for their lay training modules and inherited the truck used by the MacKays when they left Ghana. Trinity Theological Seminary, an ecumenical seminary that educates clergy for the PCG and other churches, received grants of \$15,000 in 2005, \$20,000 in 2007 and \$10,000 in 2008.



The Rev. Harvey Self shares words of inspiration in Ghana.



Linda enjoys a sandwich at Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry. Below: Stewart Folster welcomes anyone to share a meal or come to worship at Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry.

Is there soup today?

Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry provides food for the body and soul

The bell on the front door jangles cheerily as the first customer of the day enters the cafe at Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry's drop-in centre. "Hi, Stewart!" she calls out to Stewart Folster, the Director of SNCM. "Is there soup today?" There is.



All afternoon, the bell rings as the door opens and people arrive to seek

lunch and companionship. They come to the counter and make their own sandwiches out of the tinned meat, bologna, cheese spread and peanut butter that are set out for them. The coffee is hot and strong. There are donuts donated by Robin's Donuts for dessert. As he spreads mustard on his sandwich, a man says that the bread is always fresh, that it's his favourite place to come for lunch. "Nobody is looked down upon here, that's the beautiful part of it." A woman asks if she can make a few sandwiches to take to work the next day. Stewart hands her an empty bread bag to wrap her sandwiches in.

A little girl comes to the counter and points to the blue dream-catcher on the wall. It has a little silver cross in the centre. "I like the sparkly beads," she says, as she selects a chocolate donut. She sits with her father and they eat their lunch together, under a banner that reads, "Feed My Lambs."

Many of the people here struggle each day to find food and a place to spend the night. At SNCM, they find a safe and supportive space. People know each other. They look out for each other.

Stewart works to establish a relationship of caring and trust with all who come in the front door. He invites them 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 the street people can drop in and feel at home," says Stewart. "I think we are like family, and we take care of each other."

Gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* are helping Stewart make a difference in the lives of people struggling to survive in inner-city Saskatoon.



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

50 Wynford Dr. Toronto, ON M3C 1J7

416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301

www.presbyterian.ca