

# Presbyterians Sharing . . . June 2010 Update

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



Children and youth leading worship at Almanarah Presbyterian Church, London, Ontario.

## Shining Christ's Light

Your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support new church developments like Almanarah Church in London, Ontario. Almanarah began in 2004 as a small group of Arabic-speaking Christians meeting informally to pray and study the Bible. In November 2008 they began to share the facilities of St. George's Presbyterian Church. In May 2009 Almanarah was officially constituted as a church by the Presbytery of London. By November 2009 over ninety people were worshipping together at Almanarah. The congregation is very excited that a grant from Canada Ministries is helping them move into their own building at the end of June. In Arabic "Almanarah" translates as "lighthouse"; and indeed, Almanarah is a shining beacon of Christ's love in the city of London. They hope the new building will help them shine even brighter. Pastor William Khalil shares the activities and dreams of Almanarah's youth.

If there is an example of pure energy, the Almanarah kids are it! The sizable youth presence at Almanarah is a clear result of hard work and faith. Even though the youth have limited space (they temporarily are meeting in the Khalils' house), there have been many accomplishments.

From vibrant worship to moving prayers, from building fruitful relationships to leading Sunday school, the youth of Almanarah are very busy. Some participate in the church's contemporary

music ministry through the youth band. Others have begun a weekly puppet ministry for the Sunday School, using professional puppets. Plays are recorded and posted on the church's website ([www.almanarah.ca](http://www.almanarah.ca)) for the kids to enjoy and view any time they want!

It is exciting to see the youth work with the Sunday school, creating a Christ-like environment in which to grow; with interactive lessons, exciting games, new songs to learn, and spiritual friend-

### **Presbyterians Sharing**

**Goal for 2010: \$8,675,000**

**Given by May 31, 2010: \$2,182,837**

**Given by May 31, 2009: \$2,235,662**

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 2010.

# Tentmakers in Nigeria

Your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria with grants for leadership development and for the translation of the bible into Abakaliki, one of the many languages spoken in Nigeria. Arlene Onouha shares one of the unique ways the Presbyterian Church in Nigeria equips people to minister to communities

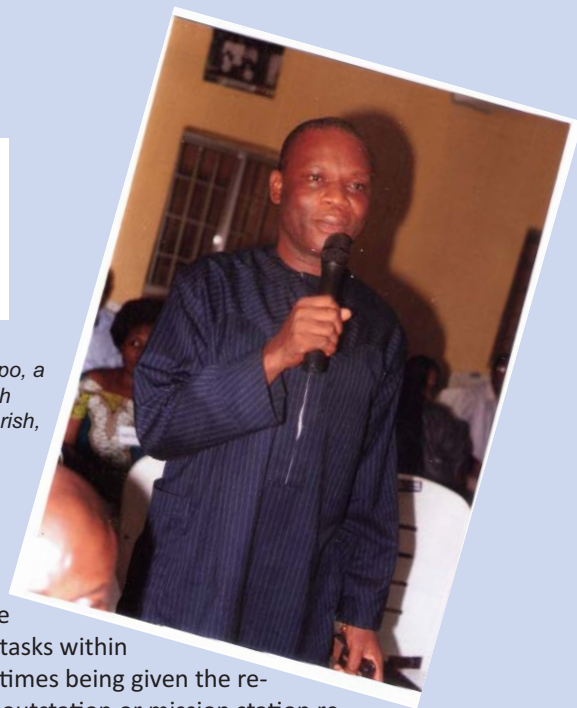
What does a busy professional do when they feel called to be both a Minister of Word and Sacrament and a witness for Christ through their own profession? What does the Church do with an active, committed member who feels called in both directions?

The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria has a category of ministry called "Tentmaking Ministry." Tentmakers are professionals (nurses, engineers, doctors, accountants, teachers, civil servants) who continue to work and support themselves with their profession, but who are also ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Aspiring tentmakers apply to their Parish Session which recommends them to the Presbytery and then to the General Assembly's Board of Personnel and Training. If they are accepted, they spend the next two to three years doing three to six week training courses at one of the PCN seminaries. When they graduate, they are licensed and serve one year probation as tentmakers before returning to their sending parish and presbytery. After a year, if recommended by the presbytery in which they serve, they are ordained and have all the ecclesiastical rights of a full-time ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Tentmakers are not posted by the General Assembly to a parish or ministry (PCN has a posting system, not a call system) and do not receive a salary, although a parish or presbytery may choose to provide them with an honorarium and cover some expenses. The tentmakers are members of presbytery like every other minister and are under the presbytery's discipline. They usually work

*Rev. Nkele Ikpo, a tentmaker with Umungasi Parish, Aba, Nigeria.*



in a parish under the Minister in Charge and are assigned tasks within the church, sometimes being given the responsibility of an outstation or mission station related to the parish. Since they are ordained, they can baptize and lead communion.

Tentmakers are especially useful in parishes that may not be very financially buoyant but which have a deep desire and zeal to open new outstations and mission stations in the surrounding area. Tentmakers also play a crucial role as witnesses to Christ and to Christ's love in their professional calling at their various places of work. While they work in their professions they are ambassadors for the Presbyterian Church and, most of all, ambassadors for Christ.

The Reverend Arlene Onouha served in Nigeria from 1978 to 2009 with the support of *Presbyterians Sharing*. She is now home on deputation and seeking a call in Canada.

## Shining Christ's light

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ships, the kids have really begun to enjoy the church.

Our goal for these kids is to come to know Christ and to be good Christians, now and in the future. We are not only busy in activities, we are also busy in prayer. In our prayer requests, we really dream of a place where the youth can meet every day and enjoy worship and spiritual friendship. The youth dream of a major increase in their meetings, not possible when they are meeting in someone's home.

Join with us in prayers, that God may give us, according to God's timing, a home church so that we may grow abundantly. Please also pray that we will succeed in sharing the message of salvation and hope to the thousands who live in London.



*Almanarah's group camp.*



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