

MISSION MOSAIC

FALL/WINTER 2002

A publication of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

A hopeful
mother and child
in Malawi suffer
from malnourishment

A SILENT CRISIS

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**Presbyterian
Disaster
Assistance**

Out of chaos, hope

Editorial from the Coordinator

In 1 Kings, we read the story about Elijah going to Zarephath. He goes with the understanding that the Lord has chosen a widow to feed him. This was a time of great drought and hunger in the land. As Elijah meets the widow at the city gate, she tells him, "I am now gathering a couple of sticks so that I may go home and prepare a handful of meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die". In the midst of the great drought and her completely diminished resources, hope was gone as she went about to prepare the last meal for her family. Yet, Elijah speaks words of comfort and hope, "do not be afraid". By the time he leaves her house, her jar of meal and oil were full and miraculously continued to provide.

In this issue, you will learn about the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance response in Malawi. It is overwhelming for us to see the size of the need; the drought and hunger are now extending across the Southern regions of Africa and require a response in several countries. There are days when I feel that even with the thousands of people being fed, the grain we offer is but a widow's handful. We ask, can we help the churches in Malawi and other affected countries in Southern Africa meaningfully meet needs of the most vulnerable? Will we raise enough resources? Will the meal last? Yet, like Elijah, Christ also shared words of comfort and hope with his disciples, "Fear not". The words of scripture, Old and New Testament remind us that fear must be replaced with trust in our Lord. We invite you to trust us together and pray for Malawi and those who serve in difficult circumstances that many will find hope.

Hope is being found other places as well. We rejoice in the response by New York City

Presbytery to September 11. Twelve churches in the city's five boroughs have opened their doors as HUB locations, providing services to the survivors of the tragedy. How thankful we are that, through our connected system, a loving Presbyterian is offering words of comfort and encouragement to those seeking help.

On a program note, we were pleased to welcome the Rev. John Robinson, Jr. to our staff as the new Associate for Refugee Ministry and Government Relations. John is located near the D.C. area where many important meetings and gatherings occur. He brings a passion for ministry, years of experience in racial-ethnic work, and as a member of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Team, and a broad network of colleagues. We hope that many of you will be able to connect with John this coming year.

We continually give thanks for the many faithful Presbyterians who so generously support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Together we reach so many with the news that, out of all of the pain and chaos of disaster, there is one who offers hope and healing. It is that One, Jesus Christ, whom together we serve.

Blessings,

Susan Ryan

Coordinator

A SILENT CRISIS

Disaster Assistance in Malawi

Information for this article was provided by Vera White, Leslie Olmstead, and the Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian

*Restore our fortunes, O Lord...
Those who sow in tears
Will reap with songs of joy.
He who goes out weeping,
Carrying seeds to sow,
Will return with songs of joy.*

Psalm 126:4-6

Between 3 and 4 million people in the Southern region of Africa are at risk of starvation and many others are in danger of malnutrition due to severe food shortages. They had not been prepared for severe floods in 1998, followed by drought in 1999, more floods in 2000, and drought again in 2001. Crop failures for two seasons put them over the edge; to survive many ate the seeds set aside for the next season's planting.

While most of the southern regions are affected, the country of Malawi suffers most severely from the crisis. What tipped the fragile balance for Malawi was the government's action in selling off previously acquired grain supplies. A letter from the General Secretary in Blantyre Synod reads, "People behave as if they are drunk, a sign of not eating solid foods only pumpkin leaves which cause swelling and wobbly walking." The children are the most vulnerable members of society, many joining the growing population of street children, begging, selling drugs, or engaging in child prostitution. "Most of the children have abandoned schools to

join parents searching for food in the bush," according to a report by the Synod of Blantyre of the Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian. Young girls are forced into early marriages to reduce the number of dependents in a family.

Desperate people are digging up roots, eating livestock feed, consuming seeds intended for future crops, and even boiling sawdust for food. Famished people ransack the gardens of their neighbors in search of food sometimes eating green corn before it is ready for human consumption. The Malawian government estimates that, due to early flooding, the situation will not improve this year. Family food stocks in general will probably be exhausted by August. That means

a severe food shortage from September 2002 until March and April of 2003.

Where is the church of Jesus Christ in this bleak picture? The Presbyterian Church has a long and rich history in Malawi. Within a panorama of hopelessness, the PC(USA) and our partner denominations have provided a vision of hope and new life. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has sent \$200,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing funds to initiate a response in the Blantyre Synod region by the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) and has committed an additional \$400,000 of OGHs for needs in Malawi over the coming year. We are partnering with Presbyterian World Service



PDA relief specialist spends time with some children during assessment visits in Malawi.

and Development (PWSD) of the Presbyterian Church of Canada as they take the lead in assisting the CCAP in a response in the Synod of Livingstonia, and with the Reformed Church of America in the Nkoma Synod. This is only the beginning.

The CCAP has chosen to involve the local church to channel additional resources to meet the crisis rather than setting up a foreign structure. This church-to-church program has hired and trained compassionate, competent local Christians to serve as food monitors. These monitors move into the community and live among the people for easy consultation and confidence building. They assess the crisis and develop local volunteer committees to assist the relief work. With the support of local chiefs, volunteer relief committees have been established in each area.

Results and positive accounts have already been reported. 225 metric tons of white maize has been distributed to over 4500 households in four villages. Each family (averaging six people) received a month's supply of maize.

More than 3,000 severely malnourished children under the age of 5-years have been fed with high protein food supplement (UNIMIX), seen by nurses, and treated for measles, malaria, worms, chest infections, and other diseases. The mothers of the children, who were also severely malnourished, have been trained in safe cooking methods for their children, hygiene education, AIDS awareness and other safe motherhood methods.

A school-feeding program reaching more than 5,000 children has begun. This has led to children reporting back to school in large numbers. An observation in one school saw a return of 1,360 students to classes where attendance had dropped to 600.

In addition to the food and medicine, seeds for maize and beans have been provided along with agri-

cultural training to help improve the fields. The maize seed (short maturing variety) has been distributed to over 4500 farmers. The agriculturalist from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is participating, especially in the training of the farmers.

Food security cannot be achieved solely with relief distributions, steps must be taken to ensure that people are prepared for the future. Future Plans include continued monitoring of the food situations in Malawi and neighboring countries, consulting and coordinating with other organizations including USAID, and continued training for farmers on better methods of farming in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture.

Prayer Requests

We share the following prayer requests so that this situation will be surrounded with the prayers of God's people.

- Please pray for our staff in the field working in difficult conditions, remember Joyce the Nurse as she sees large number of malnourished children; pray for the volunteers working with our nurses in the distribution of food. Many of the volunteers are single mothers

- Pray for Edith in the school feeding programs at Fikira. Edith has been a role model to the girls in a Muslim setting where the dropout rate from schools is very high.
- Pray for Gladys as she counsels women who have lost their babies, for Fuvu working with farmers along Shire River, and for Ndoka as he works with the pastors at the grassroots levels.
- Pray for the pastors as they bring words of encouragement to the team in the field.
- Pray that we have enough resources to expand the program and meet more need. ■

Affected Areas in Southern Africa



REGIONAL RESPONSE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is developing a regional strategy to deal with this growing need in the Southern Africa Region. We have extensive experience in partnering with the Projects Department of the Presbyterian Church of Mozambique and will be working with them in the Northern drought-affected areas of the country. In addition, we have worked closely with Christian Care in Zimbabwe, a very strong ecumenical development and relief program. Funds to support this expanded response can be marked for Account# 9-2000158 Africa- Southern Regional Drought. For information concerning educational and advocacy resources related to this crisis, contact Gary Cook, Coordinator Presbyterian Hunger Program, gcook@ctr.pcusa.org. ■

PDA: FOCUS ON AFRICA

STRENGTHENING OUR PARTNERS WITH TRAINING

By Susan Ryan

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is giving focused attention to the continued support of Emergency Management Training for disaster response in Africa. This training looks at many aspects of disaster ministry including preparedness, mitigation, and managing and implementing a response. Disaster mitigation is a holistic program that focuses on those activities that reduce a person's or a community's vulnerability to natural and human caused hazards and that increases the local sustainable capacity to predict, plan for, cope with, adjust to, and overcome the hazards that make them vulnerable to disasters.

This year we have supported a major training event in Kenya that included 43 participants from nine different churches and their related emergency and development programs. Prior training has generally been regional with participants drawn from several different countries. Church World Service trainer Ivan De Kam writes, "The participants for the training in Kenya were wisely selected. They were field people who needed the connection and training. I would rank this as one of the best trainings to date. This has been a real high for me working with this group."

In March, training was held at a national level in Sierra Leone. The event, hosted by the Council of Churches of Sierra Leone,

included 40 participants from 10 different churches and relief departments. The participants in Sierra Leone training cited peace building as a mitigation measure. Participants explored what could be done on a political and social level to minimize conflict. Ivan says the people here "lapped up the training, worked long into the night reviewing notes, and found it a valued experience for learning and building networks of cooperation."

PDA will sponsor similar training in Malawi in July bringing together the three synods of the

Central Church of Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), as well as Lutheran and ecumenical participants. This training will be two tiered, there will be a regular disaster training followed by a special training for church leadership, and will serve as a test model.

All of the training events are customized to the particular learning needs identified by the partners. PDA Associate Luke Asikoye has been working closely with Church World Service to make these possible. He has made several visits to partners to discuss needs and content of training, develop budget, and identify training venues. We are pleased to support the broader ministry of the churches in this way, and to also make certain that our own particular historic partners can participate in these important opportunities. ■



Luke Asikoye (left) with Rev. Gibson Gichuki of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa during training in Kenya.



Participants in Emergency Management Training in Kenya.

Photos (top and bottom): Moses Sakwa



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE



A School Kit and \$10 Will Help Educate an Afghan Child

Schools in Afghanistan, particularly in rural areas, are few in number and lack adequate supplies and facilities. As we move from responding to the crisis in Afghanistan to supporting rehabilitation, Church World Service (CWS) is working to improve educational facilities and opportunities for school-age children in the Hazarajat region in the central highlands of Afghanistan.

A GIFT OF A SCHOOL KIT AND \$10 WILL PROVIDE:

- A study chair and desk for a student
- A teacher's desk and chair for each classroom
- Much-needed school supplies for a child

With your help 50,000 girls and boys, in seven communities throughout Hazarajat, will be assisted.

The Hazarajat region has a population of approximately 1.5 million and is an area that has often experienced severe food deficits. Literacy rates in the Hazarajat region range from 8 percent for men to 0.5 percent for women. Desks and chairs will be purchased from producers within the region as a means of positively contributing to the local economy.



Paul Jeffrey/ACT-CWS

An Afghan refugee girl

Gift of the Heart School Kit

- One pair of blunt scissors
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One pencil sharpener
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One large eraser
- One box of 24 crayons
- Twelve sheets colored construction paper
- Pads or notebooks of ruled paper 8-1/2" X 11" containing 150-200 sheets of paper
- One 12" X 14" cloth bag with cloth handles and a closure (Velcro, snap, or button)

Packing and Sending "Gift of the Heart" School Kits

- Pack these items in the cloth bag and secure contents with the closure.
- Or, if you prefer, a donation of \$11 per kit will allow CWS to buy school supplies.
- Complete School Kits should be packed in boxes and secured with packing tape.
- Clearly mark the outside of the box with the contents.
- Include the name and address of the church, group, or individual sending the kits at the top before sealing the box. (**Do not include money in the box** — see below for sending your desk and chair gift.)
- Secure the boxes with packing tape. Ship all Kits *prepaid* to:

School Kits for Afghanistan
Church World Service
Brethren Service Center Annex
601 Main Street, P.O. Box 188
New Windsor, MD 21776-0188

Send your gift to purchase school desks and chairs (\$10 each)

Presbyterians can support these important initiatives to provide children in Afghanistan hope for a different future. Checks should be made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and marked for Account #9-2000159 – Afghan Children. Send gifts to: **Central Receiving Services, Section 300, Louisville, KY 40289**. Secure online giving by credit card can be made on the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance web site (www.pcusa.org/pda) or can be made by calling PresbyTel at 1-800-872-3283.



PRESBYTERIAN
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CHURCH WORLD SERVICE 1-888-297-2767 www.churchworldservice.org

PDA WELCOMES KATHY ANGI

The first PC(USA) mission co-worker appointment directly connected to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

By Susan Ryan

We welcome Kathy Angi, the first PC(USA) mission co-worker appointment that will be directly connected to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). Kathy has worked closely with PDA over the years first as a volunteer and then on contract working with war-affected children in Croatia. During the Kosovo crisis, she worked on contract in Albania heading up psycho-social services in the five ACT (Action by Churches Together) managed refugee camps. It was out of these experiences that a sense of call to full-time service and ministry developed. Kathy closed her private counseling practice, enrolled at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, and began a new journey. In June of 2001, she was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament; in September 2001, she began her service under the direction of the Reformed Church in Hungary.

With Kathy's appointment, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance began a journey of discernment and development of more intentional work in international care giving. We recognize that although the physical needs of disaster survivors and refugees must be met immediately, it is the quality of care for the whole person that makes the response of the church different. We recognize that people, made in the image of God, have deep spiritual and social needs that also must be met.

During the Kosovar emergency, Kathy and PDA worked alongside VARSTA, the Crisis and Catastrophe Program related to the Church of Sweden. This was a very rich relationship and one that we continue to develop. Together with the Church of Sweden Aid, PDA is explor-

ing developing a team of licensed therapists who are willing to volunteer during international disasters to assist in care giving. Recognizing cultural and language limitations, we consider that these teams would work to support primary caregivers and relief workers offering them respite and comfort. As we work to form the team and fully develop protocols and opportunities for using their gifts, we would use these volunteers to support PC(USA) mission personnel by being available to care for them at regional retreats, and offering assistance during re-entry events as they return from the field. In this way, we will seek to integrate these volunteers more fully into the Worldwide Ministries Division. This is a big step for PDA and it will take time to develop appropriately. We are pleased to have Kathy as part of our team now to support this new initiative.

If your church does not currently support a Presbyterian mission worker, consider connecting to Kathy. Read her

newsletters and learn about her prayer requests at her Web page at: <http://horeb.pcusa.org/mc/profiles/angij.htm>. Hundreds of PC(USA) mission workers covet your prayers, letters, and support. ■

If your church does not currently support a Presbyterian mission worker, consider connecting to Kathy



Rev. Kathy Angi, PC(USA) mission co-worker, with Tesfai Skoglund of Church of Sweden Aid (right), with a reporter.

If your church doesn't list mission workers in its bulletin, visit the Web site with biographies and newsletters of all PC(USA) mission workers at: <http://horeb.pcusa.org/mc/home.htm> and take a special interest in a part of the world and a PC(USA) mission worker serving there. For more information, call Peter Kemmerle (PKemmerl@ctr.pcusa.org), Associate for Mission Connections, at (888) 728-7228 x5612. ■

INTERFAITH SPIRITUAL CARE FOR DETAINEES

PDA and other faith groups build a new interfaith organization

By Rev. Edie Gause, Interim Executive Presbyter,
Genesee Valley Presbytery

At any given time, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) holds approximately 18,000 persons in detention throughout the United States. Some are held in large INS detention centers like those in Florence, AZ, or Miami, FL. With its own detention facilities full, the INS also placed administrative detainees in county jails, state prisons, or privately owned prison facilities.

None of the persons held in INS detention are citizens; some have been picked up by the INS because they overstayed a visa — visitors, students, or employed persons in a variety of professional or labor positions; some are asylum seekers without papers; others are being detained pending deportation after serving time in the U.S. for a crime they have committed.

Until now, these persons have had little or no access to spiritual care. Now, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working with Church World Service and other faith groups to build a new interfaith organization, Interfaith Spiritual Care for Detainees (ISCD). The Rev. Edie Gause represents Presbyterian Disaster Assistance on the national board of ISCD and on the management team.

The INS is under a mandate to provide spiritual care for all detainees, and ISCD is working closely with the INS to meet that directive. ISCD is working to establish local coordinating teams to recruit, train, and certify spiritual caregivers to work in INS centers in cooperation with the INS staff. Caregivers must agree to work with a person of any faith, not to proselytize for their own faith, and not to advocate against the INS center where they serve. ISCD has developed training programs and a certification program for both local sites and for care givers. ■



The Rev. Edie Gause

When a Cuban mother arrived at Krome INS Center in Miami after a rough crossing during which the waves snatched her toddler, she had no spiritual caregiver to talk with. Throughout the whole Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Detention system care for detainees faith needs is lacking.

All this is changing and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is deeply involved through the pres-

ence of the Rev. Edie Gause on the new Interfaith Spiritual Care for Detainees (ISCD), a national cooperative effort with the INS by major faith groups in the USA to provide trained and certified spiritual caregivers throughout the INS detention system. Edie Gause can be contacted by email at momgause@att.net or by phone at 585-305-6021.

INTERVIEW WITH REV. EDIE GAUSE

MISSION MOSAIC: How did you get involved in this ministry?

REV. GAUSE: PDA sent me a report on the Krome Detention Center regarding the needs and conditions of women. The report was published by the Women's

Commission on Refugees. The report was accompanied by a letter asking about potential interest in organizing spiritual care for Krome. God was speaking loudly to me through that request.

MISSION MOSAIC: What excites you most about this? I understand that you have now amended your Doctor of Ministry work to focus on this more clearly.

REV. GAUSE: I like the implied justice of serving forgotten people and the involvement of people of so many different faiths. As Christians, Christ calls us to serve the forgotten. Detainees are some of the most forgotten people in our country.

MISSION MOSAIC: What has been your role in the development of Spiritual Care Teams?

REV. GAUSE: In response to the call I felt, I became the Coordinator for the model project we developed in Miami. At the request of PDA I now serve on the national committee that provides oversight to the development of this program. This team meets quarterly with the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) detention services. These meetings are held in order to help the program grow and develop in ways that are mutually acceptable, and to quickly address any problems that might arise. The INS has been very cooperative as they are mandated to provide opportunities for spiritual care to detainees. Recently I have been asked by that group to assume a leadership role to resource spiritual caregiver groups. Every caregiver is asked to be in a personal support group to deal with

Model Legal Program for INS Detainees

By John Robinson, Associate Refugee Ministry & Government Relations

“You saved my life.” Those are the words of one client who was assisted in preparing his asylum petition by a volunteer attorney working with one of the 23 non-profit agencies receiving Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Refugee program grant funding. It is the practice of the INS to hold in detention those entering the country seeking asylum from persecution and possible death. Unlike civilian jails and prisons detainees have no constitutional right to legal representation. These non-profit agencies provide detainees with information about their rights and how to present their petition for asylum at their detention hearing. The model program developed at the Eloy, Arizona detention center by the Florence Immigrant & Refugee Right Project in Arizona recently won the Peter F. Drucker Award for Nonprofit Innovation.

In addition, some agencies, such as Freedom House in Detroit, provide housing and support for asylees who have been paroled from detention. Others provide legal, educational and social support for both asylum seekers and newly arrived immigrants.

All of these agencies provide an opportunity for Presbyterians to be engaged in the ministry of hospitality to those who come to us seeking a safe place to live and a new start for their lives. ■

compassion fatigue, and we need to develop ways to help those support groups work for the members.

MISSION MOSAIC: Can you say a little about those people the team serves?

REV. GAUSE: Persons in detention are asylum seekers without papers who have been through traumatic experiences. For many, it is only their faith that has helped them hang on, but in detention they need the support of others to keep faith and hope alive. Others are potential deportees, lots of them are overstays, and some are folks who have served their time in a jail for an offense. Being deported will disrupt family life and some deportees can't go because home countries won't take them back and so they enter limbo. Our ministry seeks to help these people deal with high levels of personal trauma and maintain personal balance. ■

*Remember those who are in prison,
as though you were in prison with them;
those who are being tortured,
as though you yourselves were being tortured.*

Hebrews 13:3

Cherished possessions in Maryland

By Susan Kim, Disaster News Network

In the rubble that used to be a home, there are Christmas lights, a child's Matchbox cars, an embroidered apron, a cap for the World's Best Granddad, a well-worn cake pan, a box of chocolates still in its outer plastic wrap.

Someone — the homeowner, perhaps, or a volunteer — has carefully set these cherished possessions on the edge of the concrete foundation where they're drying out in the sun.

At this point it's the little things that count after a monster tornado tore through this town of 6,500. And volunteers helping out are on the lookout for just that. In many cases, they've put their lives aside to help people salvage what they can, whether it's a cherished family photo or the inventory of a shattered business.

The nearest PC(USA) church is Good Samaritan Presbyterian Church in Waldorf, MD. Members of the congregation, pastored by Reverend Don Benjamin, are helping their neighbors salvage belongings, cut up trees, and are encouraging them to eat a good meal. They're also simply listening to stories of survival and loss in La Plata.

Bob Stevens, construction manager for Security Vault Works, said he'd seen so many people reaching out to one another that “I don't think we can categorize individual deeds. It's this community's faith and spirituality at work.”

“You can talk about things like spirituality, and you can live them. This is living them. Most times we admire somebody who can go to the bank and get what money they need. But right now the person to admire is the person who can go to their spiritual bank and get what they need. That's the person to envy.” Looking at the smashed homes and buildings surrounding him, Stevens compared the scene to a war zone. “Looking at this you realize what a blessing it is to enjoy life, to sit here and eat a sandwich.” ■



Condemned homes, shattered by the April 28, tornado stand abandoned along Oak avenue in La Plata along with stripped or felled trees. Generally they simply stand empty and abandoned until demolished.

Courtesy Kirkwood Presbyterian Church,
by Robert S. Patton

HELPING THE HURTING:

The Ongoing PDA Response to September 11

Edited by Pamela Burdine

Like other clergy in New York City, the Rev. Samuel Atiemo has endured some difficult months. Since the September 11 terrorist attacks, Atiemo, the pastor of the Ghanaian Presbyterian Reformed Church of Brooklyn, has had to keep up with his regular duties while also helping to dispense temporary financial aid to people in his community who lost jobs or income as a result of the tragedy.

"Oh, yes," he says, "the people who are hurting are hurting more."

In January, the Ghanaian church, which is affiliated with both the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Reformed Church in America (RCA), distributed \$27,000 in RCA funds to 40 families so they could pay their rent.

Atiemo's church is continuing to help the economic victims of September 11 - those who lost jobs or wages because of the attacks - as part of a program implemented in early April by the Presbytery of New York City. Under the program, whose benefits are available to people all faiths, the Ghanaian church joined 11 other PC(USA) congregations as "hub" churches in New York City's five boroughs.

Disaster Response Coordinator Janet Parker states that one of the presbytery's goals is to make assistance readily available to people who are not receiving help from other sources. Many of these people have "fallen through the cracks" as governmental and charitable agencies have channeled relief to those whose family members were killed.

"The people we are targeting with our help are not the kind of people who walk up to the next place and pick up a job," says Atiemo, whose congregants are mostly immigrants from Ghana,

West Africa. "They are people who have lost their jobs. For many of them they haven't had any kind of severance package that will keep them going."

Funds to support the work of the hub churches come from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and contributions made to the presbytery after the attacks. Hub churches were selected for their geographic location, their willingness to participate, and their access to a variety of ethnic and language groups. After church volunteers conduct intake interviews with the disaster survivors, part-time case-workers meet with the applicants, verify their eligibility, make referrals as needed, and recommend financial disbursements.

Reverend Charles Brewster, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills, reports that the program is an unqualified success. "We see clients Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings and it is "booming". The church members who are doing the intake interviews have found this to be an exciting activity, very meaningful. We are happy to be a part of this endeavor. Some of the clients are really up against it. Others have resources, but face a painful process. Almost all the clients have been to other assistance centers and they all say they appreciate the sympathy and compassion they find at the church. It's just folks like them trying to help and that means something."

Other churches participating include:

University Heights Presbyterian Church, Home Presbyterian Church (Bronx); Bedford Central Presbyterian Church, Ghanaian Presbyterian Reformed Church of Brooklyn, Zion Presbyterian Church (Brooklyn); Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Fort George Presbyterian Church, West Park Presbyterian Church. (Manhattan); First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills/Korean Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills, La Promesa Presbyterian Mission, St. Albans Presbyterian Church (Queens), Calvary Presbyterian Church (Staten Island).

Some of the information for this article was taken from a Presbyterian News Service article by Evan Silverstein.

SEPTEMBER 11 RESPONSE UPDATE.

Thanks to the generosity of Presbyterians across the country, PDA has provided \$1.9 million for response to September 11.

In addition to meeting direct



Reverend Charles Brewster, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills, walks a labyrinth at a retreat for clergy held at Stony Point Center (Stony Point, NY) last fall.

Photo: Pam Hasegawa

financial needs of the survivors and providing psychological counseling, training and respite programs for caregivers, particularly Presbyterian clergy is being provided. The New York City Presbytery's administrative commission has approved the development of a clergy respite program to provide pastors and lay ministers a much deserved break for replenishment of their bodies and souls.

As with any disaster, PDA is working in partnership with other faith groups. A grant of \$35,000 is being used to support the respite care center being provided by St. Paul's Episcopal Church at Ground Zero. According to Disaster Response Coordinator Dr. Janet Parker, "St. Paul's has been working above and beyond the call of duty in providing crucial services to all those responding and has been engaged in the clean-up and recovery efforts. They have provided food, counseling, medical care, massage therapy, and other services to the workers and uniformed service members working at Ground Zero." Presbyterian funds made it possible to maintain the center well past the planned closing date of Easter Sunday.

From our experience in responding to the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, we know that long-term recovery will be measured in years, not months. We are thankful that our financial and human resources, combined with our connectional system of middle governing bodies and churches, will make it possible for the Presbyterian Church (USA) to continue to bear witness to the healing love of Christ as it ministers to those affected by the tragic events of September 11. ■

2002 Interfaith Listening Pilot Project

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is partnering with the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program to bring international teams of Christians and Muslims to the United States during the period September 10-23, 2002. As the teams itinerate in congregations, middle governing bodies, and communities, they will share their experiences of responding to the challenges of Christian-Muslim relationships. For more information, please contact Peggy Thomas at 888-728-7228, x5289 /orrthomas@aol.com or Will Browne at x5348 /wbrowne@ctr.pcusa.org.

September 11 Resource

Out of the Depths: Voices from September 11 is a new resource being developed by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to mark the commemoration of the terrorist attacks. It is a collection of reflections and worship resources from Presbyterians close to the disaster sites.

One copy will be provided to each PCUSA congregation, along with information on ordering additional copies. We pray that *Out of the Depths* might contribute to our nation's healing process.

Food Resource Bank: A Gift Made to Order

Presbyterian Churches engage in Food Resource Bank growing projects

BY Roberta UpdeGraff

"What happened to our soybeans?" The Reverend Jeffrey Moore asked during his children's sermon Harvest Sunday at Jefferson Center Presbyterian Church in Saxonburg Pennsylvania. He stood in front of them, studying a brittle branch dangling silver-gray nodules. Their beautiful field of green had withered, seemingly overnight.

Giggles and sparkling-eyed smiles met his question. The kids delighted in their citified pastor's lesson in agriculture—one he got from their soybeans. The heart of that brown stock was the seed of hope. Soybeans not only provided life-sustaining protein, but bud to the future.

The children sat proudly beside dads and grandpas sporting carnation boutonnieres, encircled by friends and family who'd come to celebrate the harvest represented by that spindly branch. They knew full well what happened to their soybeans, and it was time to celebrate the harvest!

Pastor Moore recognized an unfulfilled need in a segment of his flock; pragmatic members, hands-on folks felt more at peace in the field than the pew. Launching a Growing Project seemed uniquely suited to this rural Pennsylvania community. Although only a few families are still actively engaged in agriculture, their roots run generations deep: They are still farmers at heart.

Food Resource Bank (FRB) offered that opportunity. A nondenominational organization dedicated to alleviating hunger in practical ways, FRB encourages farm communities to organize Growing Projects. Churches, farmers and agricultural businesses team up to plant, harvest and sell a crop, donating profits either through FRB or denominational causes directly to farm projects in underdeveloped countries.

The small country church joined with a large congregation in nearby Sewickley to become the first Presbyterian churches to launch a Growing Project in spring of 2001. Rural churches may have land, equipment and talent for bringing in a crop, but money is often short in today's farm economy, according to Food Resource Bank volunteer director Norm Braksick. He borrowed the *Atwinning* concept from F.R.B. mentors (Canadian Food Bank), matching churches with financial resources with those having access to farmland.

Norm was at Jefferson Center for the Harvest Celebration. The Michigan farm boy never misses the

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE IN THE UNITED STATES

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opportunity to nurture a heart for mission in the people he knows best, and had pitched the project to Sewickley Presbyterian a year earlier. Associate Pastor Jean Henderson jumped on the chance to return to her roots. Six years prior to coming to the suburban Pittsburgh church, Jean served Jefferson Center. "We may be urbanites, but we still feel a connection to the land," Jean said. "Those farms provide the bread we eat."

And Sewickley's women's organization takes bread seriously, kneading bake sales, and mission projects with an annual Harvest Festival. They pledged to pray and raise \$5000, much of which came from the food and baked goods the women sell at the fair.

"There's something about working the land," Roy Kennedy will tell you. "Something that causes folks to pull together." It was evident that God rolled up His sleeves and worked right along side of the men in that soybean field.

An indulgent twinkle betrayed pride Craig Miller obviously felt when asked what he got out of the project. Although "A day away from the farm," was all he said. Craig and his dad farm 150 acres and milk 40 heads of cows. In truth, the job fit

like the Carharts Craig's been wearing all his life. He and the other farmers joke about which is better John Deere or Cat equipment, teasing the collectors in the group about using antiques to turn over rock-and-root rutted field, but smile-sharing camaraderie has melded them in a way only the land could do.

Farmers helping farmers, it seems only natural, according to one of those pragmatic fellows. Octogenarian Bob Wiley says the farmers were only giving back a portion of what had been loaned by God. He didn't see anything out of

the ordinary in offering the church the use of twenty acres. The congregation stood confident in their faith; their hope having been met in fields of soybeans. "We're giving the gifts we can give."

That crop has now become seed of hope for farm families on the other side of the world. "God has done a wonderful thing and it was marvelous in our eyes," Pastor Moore said that Harvest morning. And so He has. Profits are slated for Presbyterian agricultural mission projects, and Jackson Center is planning next year's Growing Project.

Pastor Moore recognizes the

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Photo: Roberta Updecraft

Members of the Jefferson Center Presbyterian Church in Saxonburg PA Growing Project. Bob Wiley (seated) donated the land for the project.

FOOD RESOURCE BANK INFORMATION

Several Presbyterian churches have been engaged in Food Resource Bank growing projects. Following the relief work in Malawi, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will be establishing a food security project, and will be working with the Presbyterian Church in Mozambique to continue food security work begun after the massive floods a couple of years ago. Our goal is to have these projects clearly defined by the fall. In the meantime, we have used funds in our bank to support a number of Food Security initiatives. Funds have been applied to:

Land Reclamation in Guinea Bissau

In cooperation with Church World Service

Kitchen Gardens in the Punjab and Sindh regions in Pakistan

In cooperation with Church World Service

Agricultural diversification and improved storage in Malawi

Central African Church Presbyterian and Christian Reformed Church

Both the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance are members of the Foods Resource Bank. For information on developing a growing project in your area contact:

FOODS RESOURCE BANK

2141 Parkview, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-3925

616-349-3467 E-mail: NormFRB@aol.com

PASTORAL CARE FOR CHURCH LEADERS

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Team (PDAT) develops support for local clergy working in the aftermath of U.S. terrorism

By the Rev. Robert Barnes

For many, Hurricane Hugo in 1989 marked the emergence of a new awareness for the need for organized response to natural disasters. For many more the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in 1995 exposed a similar challenge of preparation for response to domestic terrorism.

Some, of course, were already organized and quickly mobilized. Critical Incident Teams poured into Oklahoma City providing debriefing to those directly involved in the rescue efforts. Firefighters, paramedics, police and hospital employees had multiple opportunities to meet in groups with their peers and under the leadership of a debriefing unit to gain strength to go back out and continue their work. For months and for some even to this day, Critical Incident Stress Debriefing and application of the principles of Compassion Fatigue have emerged beside traditional psychotherapy to assist all

those front line personnel directly affected by this disaster. All, that is, except for the clergy.

Members of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Team (PDAT) decided that support for local clergy in the aftermath of terrorism, or any event of intentional human cruelty, must be developed. Based upon the well-tested system of Dr. Jeffrey Mitchell, a modified version intended specifically for clergy was drafted. Critical Incident Teams of firefighters meet with firefighters, police with police, and now clergy with clergy; PDAT began to seek members with a background of training and experience in pastoral work and specifically in critical incident stress debriefing.

Within six months of developing a proposal and concept paper, the shootings at Columbine High School sent our first team member into Littleton, CO within twenty-three hours of the event. There he met with local clergy, helped organize their response as part of the

community in crisis, established support and began critical incident interventions. PDAT debriefers traveled into Littleton after the first few weeks, again at six months, and again at the one-year anniversary of

*Through PDAT,
the PC(USA) is
present learning
more with...*

the shooting. Offering more than group debriefing, these PDAT members maintained person-to-person relationships throughout with phone calls, correspondence, and with personal visits.

PDAT has since responded to other school shootings, including Deming, New Mexico, and Santee, California. PDAT has also been called into a shooting within a Florida congregation and has offered its assistance for several other crises.

With the attacks of September 11 came a need for additional resources. PDAT members with special skills, such as worship, grief reduction, compassion fatigue, and art therapy, were mobilized to minister to front line clergy. Today your Church is THERE, learning more with each experience how to effectively provide pastoral comfort and support. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Team is dispatched through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in Louisville, KY. Stan Hankins is the contact person for those requesting services or information about the work of disaster response in the United States. ■

Photo: Jim Hackbarth



Critical Incident Stress Debriefers of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Team.

DONOR LETTER: Small Does NOT Mean Dead!

In my 40 years of pastorates, I have seen many ideas and programs designed to make churches grow. Many of these have questioned the need to have small churches or seem to suggest that the small congregation is dying, at best, or dead and does not know it. After 40 years of serving these little churches, I wish to take umbrage with the people who for one reason or another believe this. I presently, serve a small congregation in the Philadelphia Presbytery, Lawndale Presbyterian Church on the corner of Levick and Oakley. We only have 75 members, but we are far from dead.

The church is a loving, caring group of Christians, mostly older, who support each other in the practice of their common faith and ministry. We have a small Sunday School, and two women's circles that meet monthly in the parlor. Small, yes we are, but dead hardly.

Our small church is big enough to share its facilities with a second congregation, a congregation of Korean Presbyterian background. Every morning at 6:00 a.m. they pray in the building. They have a prayer meeting Wednesday evenings, and hold a monthly prayer vigil that begins at 10:00 p.m. on a Friday and continues until dawn. Truly they, along with our congregation, have made this into a house of prayer for all peoples.

Now let us talk money! Lawndale is not in the survival mentality! We support missions. Our mission budget last year was \$12,037.55. Our One Great Hour of Sharing offering was \$2,080. This amount was after taking a special offering of \$1,931 for India. How you might say did we do this. The One Great Hour is a soft sell. We always, like Jerry Lewis in his Telethon, ask for one dollar

more than last year. But throughout the year we interpret the mission of the church by reprinting in the news letter or weekly bulletin for worship the e-mail announcements received from PDA. This helps us to keep a perspective on mission and then focus on what our response should be.

What does all this say about the small church, or at least this small church? If every Presbyterian member or every Presbyterian Church were to give to missions as this little church does, here are the amounts we would raise for the mission of the church. What follows is the per person cost of our mission giving extrapolated to the Denomination numbers.

One Great Hour of Sharing	General Mission
\$0.07 per day equals	\$0.35 per day equals
\$25.00 per year	\$125 per year
x 2.5 Million equals a	x 2.5 Million equals a
total of \$62.5 Million	total of \$312.5 Million

Am I proud of my small congregation? You bet I am! Their zeal for mission amazes me. We are small but we are alive, well, and ministering in the Name of Jesus on the corner of Levick and Oakley Streets.

Dr. James A. Brown

Pastor of Lawndale Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia

MID-EAST UPDATE

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

May they prosper who love you

Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.

For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say,

"Peace be within you." For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

Psalms 122:6-9

In response to the deeply distressing and growing humanitarian disaster in the Israeli occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza during the spring, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance participated in the international humanitarian relief effort by providing \$30,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing funds for the purchase of emergency food parcels for families affected by the violence.

As the Israeli army withdrew, local church partners and agencies appealed for assistance in their relief response to the massive humanitarian needs. PDA sent an additional \$20,000 to support the efforts of the Augusta Victoria Hospital and International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) in the provision and distribution of food and medicines.

Letters from the stated clerk and other resources can also be found on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) web site: www.pcusa.org. Following is a suggested prayer for the peace of Jerusalem.

Suggested Prayer for Jerusalem

Almighty God, Source of peace: We lift our hands to you in supplication for the peace of Jerusalem, praying for Israelis and Palestinians caught in the web of conflict. You alone turn hatred into love, fear into trust, bitterness into joy. Your Spirit alone restores wholeness when we have torn the fabric of human relationships and failed to live according to your will.

We come to you grieving for those who live under the bondage of terror and angry aggression. Deliver



A Palestinian elder looks at the damage next to the rubble left after Israeli bulldozers toppled part of his home in the West Bank town of Jenin, Monday, April 22, 2002. After the Israeli troops withdrawal, cleaning up and rebuilding has begun again for Palestinians in West Bank cities.

(AP Photo/Elizabeth Datzic)

growing excitement for the project, and not just in the church but in the community as well. Area folks see land being gobbled up for development projects, and many express a longing to preserve their heritage. Instead of a swanky new family living center, perhaps they'll invest in land.

"I think we've added another seventeen acres," Jeff said proudly referring to the offer too late for the first growing season of the use of land owned by an area retirement community. "We're dreaming big now that Jefferson Center has harvested her special gifts."

Perhaps, the rest of us, with talents God has cultivated, can discover our special gifts, jobs made to order. And if Jackson Center's compensation is any indication; job satisfaction is contagious. The Presbyterian Church could be in for a joy epidemic. ■

Israelis and Palestinians from the power of death and deprivation, from despair and hopeless suspicion. Grant wisdom and good will to all leaders in Israel and the Palestinian Authority, we pray. May they guide their people into paths of justice and love, that they might live in peace and security.

We pray as well for the leaders of the nations; for all who seek to mediate in the current impasse; for the leaders of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities around the world. Give them the spirit of good counsel, that they may guide in the pursuit of peace.

We pray for ourselves as citizens of a mighty nation. Grant that our disquieted hearts may be joined with clear minds, that we may speak for those who are voiceless and pray with those who know you as their only strength.

You have been our refuge and our rock, O God. Our trust is in you. Amen.

FALL 2001 – WINTER 2002 DISASTER RESPONSE

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE

Afghanistan #9-200038	\$351,000	Emergency aid to internally displaced refugees
Angola	\$15,000	Humanitarian aid to internally displaced
Central America	\$25,000	Disaster preparedness management training
Cuba #9-2000150	\$11,000	Hurricane Michelle emergency relief
Dem Rep of Congo #9-2000088	\$72,000	Goma volcano eruption/emergency relief
Emergency Management Training	\$85,000	Emergency response capacity building for partners
India	\$494,000	Earthquake relief & rehabilitation/ response to civil conflict
Indonesia #9-2000146	\$70,000	Humanitarian aid & emergency relief
Liberia	\$25,000	Emergency relief & humanitarian aid to internally displaced
Malawi #9-200158	\$200,000	Emergency food relief
Middle East #9-2000081	\$30,000	Emergency aid to Palestine
North Korea #9-2000122	\$60,000	Emergency relief & rehabilitation
South Africa	\$19,000	Emergency flood relief
Venezuela #9-2000144	\$95,000	Home rebuilding post landslides

NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE

Church Burnings	\$10,000	National Coalition for Burned Churches
Drought	\$20,000	Cascade Presbytery-Klamath Basin
Fires	\$10,000	Shennandoah Presbytery- Mt. Horreb PC, Grottes, VA
Fires	\$10,000	Palisades Presbytery-Wst Side PC, Ridgewood, NJ
Fires	\$10,000	Sierra Blanca Presbytery-Ruidoso, NM
Fires	\$10,000	New Covenant Presbytery-First PC, Navasota, TX
Floods	\$10,000	Abingdon Prsbytery
Floods	\$50,000	West Virginia Presbytery
Hurricane Floyd	\$20,000	North Carolina Interfaith Disaster Response
Hurricane Floyd	\$20,000	New Brunswick Presbytery-Bound Brook, NJ
Ice Storm	\$30,000	Southern Kansas Presbytery-Southeastern Kansas & Westminster Woods Camp & Conf Center
September 11 Terror Attacks	\$20,000	Long Island Presbytery
September 11 Terror Attacks	\$22,000	National Capital Presbytery
September 11 Terror Attacks	\$105,000	Newark Presbytery
September 11 Terror Attacks	\$500,000	New York City Presbytery
September 11 Terror Attacks	\$7,000	International Traumatology-Compassion Fatigue Seminars for New York City & Monmouth Presbyteries
Miscellaneous\$10,000		Cherokee Presbytery-Crematory disaster in Georgia
Miscellaneous\$20,000		Northeast Georgia Presbytery-Garden Springs Comm

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SILENT Six-minute Video **CRISIS**

Between 3 and 4 million people in the Southern region of Africa are at risk of starvation and many others are in danger of malnutrition due to severe food shortages. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, working together with the Presbyterian Church in Canada, is supporting the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) in their ministry of disaster response. A 6 -minute video on this response has been sent to all PC(USA) congregations and presbyteries. Please request the video to share with groups interested in the mission activities of PC(USA). You may also borrow one from PDA by contacting:

Roxanna Farris, 888-728-7228 ext 5805 or pda@pcusa.org.