



WITNESS SEASON

MINUTE FOR MISSION

January 1, 2009

A Place to Gather in the Ukraine

Does Presbyterian mission in partnership promote the biblical charge to do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with your God? Gary Payton, World Mission's regional liaison for Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Poland, answers emphatically, "Absolutely!"

A community of Roma, possibly the most discriminated against ethnic group in Europe, has lived for years in the small village of Russki Komoroz in the Carpathian region of western Ukraine. The village is made of mud brick houses, scraps of wood, and tin. When it rains the village is a sea of ankle-deep mud. Not so long ago, of the 150 adults only five or six could read. Of one hundred children, none attended school. Now, through the partnerships of the Reformed Church in Carpath-Ukraine, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the PC(USA), and other European denominations, the dream of a church/school/community gathering place has been fulfilled. Built of mud and straw bricks much in the manner of the ancient Hebrew people in Egypt, the small structure provides



The church, school, and community gathering place in Russki Komoroz, Ukraine, lives out the belief that Presbyterians do mission in partnership.



WITNESS SEASON

MINUTE FOR MISSION

January 1, 2009

A Place to Gather in the Ukraine

Does Presbyterian mission in partnership promote the biblical charge to do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with your God? Gary Payton, World Mission's regional liaison for Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Poland, answers emphatically, "Absolutely!"

A community of Roma, possibly the most discriminated against ethnic group in Europe, has lived for years in the small village of Russki Komoroz in the Carpathian region of western Ukraine. The village is made of mud brick houses, scraps of wood, and tin. When it rains the village is a sea of ankle-deep mud. Not so long ago, of the 150 adults only five or six could read. Of one hundred children, none attended school. Now, through the partnerships of the Reformed Church in Carpath-Ukraine, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the PC(USA), and other European denominations, the dream of a church/school/community gathering place has been fulfilled. Built of mud and straw bricks much in the manner of the ancient Hebrew



The church, school, and community gathering place in Russki Komoroz, Ukraine, lives out the belief that Presbyterians do mission in partnership.

a warm and well-lit place to gather. Worship on Sunday accented by Roma music, education for adults and children during the school week, and community gatherings to plan for the future all happen inside the walls of this successful mission project.

Justice often comes one step at a time for marginalized people. Love presents itself in the teaching of reading and arithmetic for adults and children in Russki Komoroz. And worship and prayer from this small place allow people to walk humbly with God.

Creator God, you have called us to live out our faith in justice, love, and humility. Be this day with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Ukraine as they face the challenges of building a new society. Especially we pray for your Roma children. May your dream of wholeness be fulfilled for them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

people in Egypt, the small structure provides a warm and well-lit place to gather. Worship on Sunday accented by Roma music, education for adults and children during the school week, and community gatherings to plan for the future all happen inside the walls of this successful mission project.

Justice often comes one step at a time for marginalized people. Love presents itself in the teaching of reading and arithmetic for adults and children in Russki Komoroz. And worship and prayer from this small place allow people to walk humbly with God.

Creator God, you have called us to live out our faith in justice, love, and humility. Be this day with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Ukraine as they face the challenges of building a new society. Especially we pray for your Roma children. May your dream of wholeness be fulfilled for them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: www.pcusa.org/witness. New minutes for mission are posted on the 1st and 15th of each month.

For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org.

Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: www.pcusa.org/witness. New minutes for mission are posted on the 1st and 15th of each month.

For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org.