



MINUTE FOR MISSION

February 15, 2006

God Is Always Moving

For its first fifteen years after independence in 1980, Zimbabwe was Africa's rising star. This beautiful land was renowned for mining, agriculture, education, and its advanced infrastructure. Unfortunately, the country's wealth lay mostly in the hands of a white minority. When the governing party began forcible takeovers, the economy swiftly unraveled.



Children at a preschool run by the Mbare Presbyterian Church in Harare, Zimbabwe, get ready for prayer before snack time.

Today Zimbabwe faces enormous problems: runaway inflation, high unemployment, poverty, HIV/AIDS and other diseases, food and fuel shortages, the lack of free speech, and massive dislocation resulting from "Operation Drive Out the Trash" in 2005. This program bulldozed illegal settlements and sent thousands of urban poor fleeing to rural areas and camps. Some churches lost half their membership overnight. Since Africans have a tradition of extended families caring for their own, the church in Zimbabwe is attempting to care for its own—by finding and reuniting those who were lost.

Yet the Great Commission moves on. Evangelists go from existing congregations to plant new fellowships that eventually mature. Preachers proclaim the good news of Jesus—not only in pulpits, or at all-too-frequent funerals, but at rallies, at youth retreats, in prisons, and through the media. Presbyterian churches in particular are noted for addressing social ills. Despite cultural resistance, there has been quite a move toward openness in confronting the AIDS pandemic and in ministering with its many victims.

One key to this work is north-south partnership. Churches in Zimbabwe have—often seek—international partners. One example is the relationship forming with



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One fruit of such partnership was God's surprising call to us. We once served a congregation in Pennsylvania with a sister church in Zimbabwe. Then came the invitation to a new adventure, and today we represent the entire PC(USA) in five nations of southeast Africa.

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Ted and Sue Wright
Harare, Zimbabwe

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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.

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