



## MINUTE FOR MISSION

February 15, 2007

### Mama Lois 1927-2007

Funeral services were held Friday, February 2, in Nairobi, Kenya, for retired Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission worker Lois Crawford Anderson, known as "Mama Lois" to thousands of Sudanese, and her daughter, Zelda White, who were killed in a January 27 carjacking.



Lois Anderson was a friend to all.

Lois and her daughter were shot just a few miles outside the capital city. The carjackers escaped with the vehicle but soon abandoned it, and according to international news reports, police later killed two of the assailants.

Lois Anderson grew up in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, where she graduated from Geneva College in 1949. She was a member of Park Presbyterian Church in Beaver, where her husband, Bill Anderson, served as assistant pastor in 1952 and 1953.

With support from their congregation, as well as a number of other local Presbyterian churches, the Andersons left Pennsylvania to spend over four decades in mission work, first in Cairo, Egypt, and later in Sudan and Kenya. The couple retired to South Carolina several years ago.

"The Andersons are known across east Africa for their decades of service to the church, especially in the area of theological education," said Doug Welch, PC(USA) Coordinator for Africa. "They are known through much of the PC(USA) for



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their unending commitment to God's mission and their selfless presentation of the work that God called them to do."

"Lois was a gracious woman who was always smiling," he continued. "She was a humble servant. We are deeply saddened by the death of Lois and Zelda. We pray that the Holy Spirit will surround and care for the whole family."

According to former PC(USA) mission workers Fred and Margie Stock, Bill Anderson's brother-in-law and sister, the Andersons had gone to Kenya during the Christmas holidays to spend time with their two daughters and other family members.

"This Christmas they decided to have an almost complete family reunion in Nairobi, where their two married daughters live and work," the Stocks said in an e-mail letter about the tragedy to friends.

The Andersons remained in Kenya into January. On January 27 Bill and Lois were riding in a U.S. Embassy vehicle with their daughters, Zelda and Sylvia, and Sylvia's son Alexander on their way to visit friends on the outskirts of Nairobi. Zelda was driving and Lois was seated beside her. Suddenly a vehicle pulled in front of them, and four armed carjackers jumped out and motioned for them to get out of the car. Without waiting for them to obey, they opened fire, killing Lois and Zelda. The others were unharmed.

Funeral services were held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Nairobi, where the Andersons often worshiped. More than one thousand people were in attendance. A private family burial service took place in Limuru, in the highlands above Nairobi. It is the location of St. Paul's Theological College, one of the places Bill taught when Zelda and Sylvia were girls.

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*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](mailto:Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org).*

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