



## MINUTE FOR MISSION

March 1, 2005

# PC(USA) Funds Make Church School Curriculum Available to Visually Impaired

Over 1,000 copies each of *The Present Word*, printed in Braille and recorded on audiocassette, are mailed out to visually impaired adults every three months—free to anyone who asks for it. For many years the John Milton Society provided the funding for producing these resources for the visually impaired. However, since the John Milton Society closed its doors in 2002, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has financially underwritten the entire cost of Braille and cassette production for this interdenominational curriculum.



*The Present Word* church school curriculum is available to all visually impaired adults who request it.

“By providing *The Present Word* in Braille and on cassette, people who have visual impairments are equally equipped to participate in church school classes,” observes the Rev. Bill Owens, coordinator for curriculum development. Willis and Mary Ann Saunders, Sunday school teachers from Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church in West Virginia, both said that it allows them to give back to their church and to be very involved in church school—not just listen. Mr. Saunders went on to say, “It also shows that God put

me here for a reason as a blind person—not just to sit back, but to fully participate.” (Visit <http://www.pcusa.org/presentword> for a complete audio conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Saunders.)

*The Present Word* is published by a consortium comprised of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the Moravian Church (North and South), the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and the United Church of Christ. Learning activities in *The Present Word* are carefully tailored to the abilities and interests of the learners. Because teachers are important in the learning process, *The Present Word* has step-by-step guidance for teachers. Both the Teacher’s Guide and Student’s Book are included in the cassette version to allow for full participation by visually impaired persons.

The Braille edition of *The Present Word* is being produced at Braille International in Stuart, Florida. Audiocassettes are recorded at 5/16 speed and require a special playback unit available to the blind and visually impaired. For more information on the special playback unit, please contact your local library or community service agency.

To receive a copy of *The Present Word* in Braille or on cassette, or for more information, contact the Rev. Bill Owens at Congregational Ministries Division, (888) 728-7228, ext. 5480 or [wfowens@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:wfowens@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](http://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](mailto:Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org).*