



MINUTE FOR MISSION

July 1, 2005

Partners in North Africa

For several years PC(USA) has been participating with an international Christian development agency in North Africa. Through this work you have been supporting education for children and young adults with special needs. You've been involved with rural development by bringing water in the drought and through small loans for remote hill farmers and for women to purchase carpet looms.

But all of this may sound remote and, although worthy, not very exciting as you—so far away in miles—read this.

One story brings our work, your work as our partners, to life.

A woman living on an isolated hilltop with her five small children was contacted through a rural development extension worker who visited families about receiving water from a reservoir project. She was given a micro-credit loan enabling her to buy two goats. A later visit revealed that two of her five children were unable to walk, and thus unable to attend school. We arranged for the children to get medical help, which led to corrective surgery. Contact with the family over several months, assurance that we not only provide practical help but also uphold all our work to Father God in prayer, was the start of a conversation about faith. The whole family is illiterate, but they were delighted to receive the Gospel of Mark on audiocassette. Just before the last visit to the hospital, the mother herself reassured our colleague that she was not worried or anxious: "We're on Jesus' team now," was how she described the change in her life. As you support us, this is your story too!

Of course there's so much more to do! So many more people in isolation, so many with no access to practical help or spiritual food. We have invitations from local groups to work in parts of the country where no other believers are able to go. But as well as prayer support, we need



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workers with skills in special education, in occupational, speech, or physical therapy. We need people willing to share their small business skills with those who want to turn their lives around. We need people willing to work with young people who have dropped out of society because of crime, drugs, or pregnancy.

As PC(USA), you are already part of all that's happening. Thank you! We rely on your prayers, not just for our workers, but for new believers who will never see the inside of a church and who may never meet anyone else who believes as they do that Jesus is Lord.

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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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