



WITNESS SEASON

## MINUTE FOR MISSION

October 15, 2005

### “Paying Out” What God Has Paid In



Bob Abrams

Bob Abrams, his wife, Wanda, and their two young children—with enough luggage for many years of mission service—boarded a ship for Bombay, India, in 1960 after a pastorate in Oxford, Ohio. This was one of many trips in a long voyage of faith for the Abramses. In Bombay, Bob was the mission treasurer. In this capacity, he disbursed payments to mission hospitals and schools and served as paymaster for all of the Presbyterian missionaries in India, which numbered over one hundred at that time. Their plans of lifetime service in the overseas mission field ended abruptly, however, when they were expelled from the country by the Indian government.

Undaunted, they continued living lives characterized by “paying out,” or serving. Bob served the Synod of Ohio (when each state was a synod) as a mission interpreter, and he served two churches in Pittsburgh. He then served on the staff of the Synod of the Trinity until his retirement in 1990.



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At age 67 he embarked on a new chapter of mission service, that of a volunteer with a small stipend. He worked with Cliff Kirkpatrick in the Global Mission Unit, served as the administrator in the closing days of the Bicentennial Fund, and then served as a consultant to Worldwide Ministries in the long process of transferring ownership of mission property in India from the PC(USA) to the Church of North India.

Bob is now working as part of a volunteer team with John Motsinger in the Office of Men's Ministry. He works two days a week, keeping the books and answering phones and e-mails, making sure people always receive a warm and considered response. In July 2005, Bob celebrated his 82nd birthday. When asked about his life of service, he responded, "I have always received far more than I have given. I am continually enriched by the wonderful people I know and continue to meet each day. People's generous support of basic mission enabled my service for many years. I have enjoyed the privilege of giving back in some small way by volunteering."

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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](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).*

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