

PCUSA Worldwide e-newsletter

April 12, 2007 **World Mission leader named**

IN THIS ISSUE

- **HUNTER FARRELL TO LEAD PCUSA WORLD MISSION**

Peru mission worker responds to a new call

- **"MISSION CHALLENGE '07" GAINS MOMENTUM**

125 presbyteries will participate

- **FIGHTING IN THE STREETS IN CONGO**

Walt Shepard writes

- **THREE NEW CHURCHES EACH YEAR**

Michael and Irene Sivalee write from Brazil

- **"TENDER BEAUTY BREAKING THROUGH THE SADNESS"**

Martha Sommers writes from Malawi

- **MISSION TO THE U.S.A.**

International colleagues enrich the life of U.S. congregations

- **PROSPECTIVE MISSION WORKERS READY TO GO-**

but are awaiting funding

- **CHOPSTICKS MISSION THEORY**

You can't eat with just one . . .

- **AND MORE . . .**

World Mission '07 conference, international M.Div. program in Thailand, "Spring Days of Prayer and Action for Colombia," remembering the Pyongyang revival, a visit to Hebron, learning Náhuatl

HUNTER FARRELL TO LEAD PCUSA WORLD MISSION

Peru mission worker responds to a new call

Hunter Farrell, longtime PCUSA mission worker, has been named director of the PCUSA's World Mission program area. In this position, which he will begin August 1, he will oversee the denomination's mission service and recruitment, national and international, as well as other forms of mission involvement, including relationships with ecumenical and international church partners.

For the past decade Farrell and his wife, Ruth, have served as mission workers in Peru, working with the "Joining Hands" program, affiliated with the Presbyterian Hunger Program. From 1991 through 1997 Hunter was on the national staff as coordinator of the denomination's mission work in Africa. Prior to this service for five years he and his family served in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where Hunter and Ruth taught at the Faculty of Reformed Theology of the Kasai (Ndesha) in Kananga. Earlier, in 1981-1982, Hunter was a Volunteer in Mission in Zaire for the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (PCUS).

The Farrells have three children, Ndaya, Billy, both age 18, and Andrew, age 14. Read more at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07174.htm

Like other PCUSA mission workers, Hunter and Ruth Farrell have communicated with supporters in the United States through letters. Below are several excerpts from letters the Farrells have penned.

"By God's grace I have become aware of the hole in my own soul that is being filled daily by God's love and forgiveness and grace extended to me through the ministry of persons living in extreme poverty of possessions but extreme wealth of the spirit. Persons whose love, together with Christ's, makes me whole. Persons I am privileged to consider as partners on this road toward personal and societal transformation."

"If God is our Father, then José, who has significant mental retardation, the result of chronic infant malnutrition, is my child-or at least, my brother's child. If I believe that José and his family are, together with me and my loved ones, part of the Body of Christ, then his malnutrition weakens me and all of us."

From a Lenten Prayer: "Holy God, help us to endure the difficult and celebrate the unexpected with unwavering faith so that our daily lives (no matter how routine they may seem to us) point others to you."

Read more about Hunter and Ruth Farrell's ministry in Peru at www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/farrellh.htm

"MISSION CHALLENGE '07" GAINS MOMENTUM

125 presbyteries will participate

To date 125 of the PCUSA's 173 presbyteries have agreed to participate in "Mission Challenge '07." This is the church's most intense effort in decades to build support for international mission personnel.

During the month of October 2007 30-plus PCUSA mission workers will crisscross the country and spend a week in each of these presbyteries.

They will share the story of mission and challenge presbyteries to try to enlist all their congregations in direct support of at least one mission worker-through prayer, letters, e-mails and a financial contribution. The financial commitment could range from an offering in a Sunday school class to a major item in the congregation's budget.

Presbyteries of all sizes and from every region of the country have joined the effort. These include the largest presbytery, Greater Atlanta, and the smallest, Dakota.

For more information visit www.pcusa.org/missionchallenge07

FIGHTING IN THE STREETS IN CONGO

Walt Shepard writes:

Four days of fighting in the streets has done a pretty thorough job of shooting up downtown [of Kinshasa, the capital of Congo]. Tanks and grenades and mortars were all used. Saturday brought a lull in the excitement, and so we had church services as usual in our church building, where the fighting was the fiercest. Only two sets of windows were shot out.

It was a great joy to have the service and celebrate the Lord's Supper as well as the Lord's Day. Many of our church folk had been near or in the midst of the fighting.

Read Walt's full letter at

www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/shepardw/shepardw_0703.htm

THREE NEW CHURCHES EACH YEAR

Michael and Irene Sivalee write from Brazil:

In January 2007 the Independent Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPIB) Presbytery of the Federal District celebrated its new partnership with the IPIB Board of National Mission by committing to plant three new churches each year-15 new churches by 2012. We praise God because three new churches have been opened this month (March).

The presbytery is also re-evaluating the mission fields that were opened many years ago and is in the process of revitalizing these congregations with new partnerships. It hopes that these existing congregations will be able to call pastors and be organized as churches in the next few years.

Presbytery is also working on a plan to divide itself into three presbyteries-Goiás, Tocantins, and Federal District of Brasília. This will be accomplished only when all the regions have enough strong and organized churches to support the new presbyteries. New pastors will be the driving force of mission in the new presbyteries. They are working in all three regions at the moment. By the time the new churches are organized, they will have enough experience to build on what was planted years earlier.

Read the Sivalees' full letter at

www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/sivaleem/sivaleem_0703.htm

"TENDER BEAUTY BREAKING THROUGH THE SADNESS"

Martha Sommers writes from Malawi:

As the only long-term doctor these last months, much of my job is advising on the patients with the most complications. We can do very little for many of these patients, so I sometimes feel I am going from one tragedy to another. There is so much suffering, with tender beauty breaking through the sadness.

One example: a 2-year-old who has AIDS. He is improving a bit, able to swallow specialized milk. His ngogo (grandmother) is acting as his guardian. She is elderly, struggles to understand the instructions from the nurses, yet cheerfully perseveres. The boy's mother was admitted to a bed on the children's ward because she too has full-blown AIDS and now is bedridden. The staff was trying to figure out whether the mother should be moved to the female ward where she can rest more. As this was being discussed, the grandmother brought the crying child to the mother, who although very weak was able to tenderly tuck the baby in next to her. The sobs were soothed, and both were soon sleeping peacefully. Clearly the mother and baby need to be with each other. We hope they will stabilize so they can be started on anti-retroviral medicines.

We continue our efforts to decrease the number of mothers and children with full-blown AIDS. We're expanding our programs to prevent mother-to-child transmission and to follow up children born to mothers who are HIV-positive. We have a two-room AIDS clinic, named the FULU clinic. FULU means "tortoise," and the name was given because initially patients slowly trickled in. Since then more than 800 patients have been registered. Thanks to recent donations, we now have enough funds to finish our integrated health building, and the FULU clinic will move into part of that structure.

Read Martha's full letter at

www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/sommersm/sommersm_0702.htm

MISSION TO THE U.S.A.

International colleagues enrich the life of U.S. congregations

The PCUSA believes that Christians in the United States have a great deal to learn and to receive from Christians in other parts of the world. The Mission to the U.S.A. (MUSA) program is one attempt to embody that belief.

Pastors and church leaders from international church partners are invited to serve from four to eight weeks as a colleague in ministry with the pastor and the members of a congregation in the United States. The Christian colleague from abroad helps the U.S.

congregation see the world through new eyes and hear the gospel through new ears. Overseas colleagues may preach, participate in worship, lead Bible study classes, address small discussion groups, and assist with pastoral care.

For more information visit www.pcusa.org/partnerships/getinvolved.htm#musa

PROSPECTIVE MISSION WORKERS READY TO GO— *but are awaiting funding*

The Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts & Hands (MIJHH) campaign reported to the General Assembly Council in March that several prospective mission personnel are ready to begin service but are not yet fully funded. These include Ingrid Reneau (Sudan), Brett and Shelly Faucett (AIDS work in southeast Asia), and Denise England (nursing in Egypt).

Churches from across the country have contributed to the funding of one of these positions for the first year. Read their story at www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07182.htm

Another mission candidate for whom MIJHH is helping to raise support is Rebecca Young (seminary professor, Indonesia), who served in Indonesia for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance following the Asian tsunami as well as earlier under the auspices of Church World Service. Visit www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07195.htm to read more.

The MIJHH, created by the 214th General Assembly (2002), is a five-year campaign in partnership with individuals, congregations, and presbyteries to raise \$40 million for national church growth and the expansion of PCUSA mission work abroad. For information visit www.pcusa.org/joiningheartsandhands/index.htm

CHOPSTICKS MISSION THEORY

You can't eat with just one . . .

In Taiwan a pair of chopsticks is a very important tool. A Chinese Christian told us about a chopsticks theory in mission: We can't eat fried rice with only one chopstick. When using chopsticks, one is stationary while the other one moves. This metaphor represents two types of missionary. Some missionaries are called to go out into a mission field while others remain [at home] in church, fasting and praying for the ongoing missionary work, and raising funds for programs and salary support. Therefore all of us have a part to play in mission according to our God-given gifts so that His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.-Choon and Yen Hee Lim, Taiwan

www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/limc/limc_0612.htm

AND MORE . . .

• The **WORLD MISSION '07** conference in Louisville, Oct. 2-6, will include featured speakers Kenneth Bailey, author and lecturer in Middle Eastern New Testament studies; Jerry Cannon, PC(USA) pastor and president of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus; Hunter Farrell, newly appointed director of the World Mission program unit; Sherron George, PC(USA) regional liaison and theological consultant for South America; and Hendrik Shanazari, executive secretary of the Synod of the Evangelical Church of Iran. Also participating in the conference will be General Assembly Council executive director Linda Valentine and deputy executive director for mission Tom Taylor, and General Assembly moderator Joan Gray and stated clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick. For more information contact Kathy Reeves: kreeves@ctr.pcusa.org

• **THE INTERNATIONAL M. DIV. PROGRAM AT PAYAP UNIVERSITY WILL GRADUATE ITS FIRST GROUP OF STUDENTS.** "It has been exciting for us to see the intellectual and spiritual growth of the students enrolled in this program. The graduates from Vietnam and Burma will go back home in May with their new degrees to work with Christian congregations and seminaries. They are a truly remarkable group of young leaders. Payap University continues to need financial support for students from neighboring countries to study in this important program."-John and Martha Butt, Thailand www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/buttj/buttj_0702.htm

• **"SPRING DAYS OF PRAYER AND ACTION FOR COLOMBIA,"** May 20-21. The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship is urging congregations and people of faith in North America and Colombia to pray and act for an end to the violence and suffering in Colombia. For more information about the Fellowship visit presbypeacefellowship.org

• Christians in Korea are **REMEMBERING THE 1907 PYONGYANG SPIRITUAL REVIVAL** that touched most parts of the peninsula and left its mark of dedication and serious discipleship on the Korean church. PCUSA mission worker Sue Kinsler is recruiting new support for North Korea with the slogan, "Celebrate the Pyongyang Revival by doing a five loaves and two fishes miracle of feeding one million North Korean children." She calculates that five dollars a month will provide a child with soymilk and bread and make a world of difference for these children. (Contributions can be made to ECO 051775, Children Nutrition Program.)-Sue and Art Kinsler, Korea www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/kinslera/kinslera_0703.htm

• **"THE SHADOW FALLS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE WALL."** New mission worker Shannon O'Donnell writes about visiting Hebron and a refugee camp in Israel/Palestine: www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/odonnells/odonnells_0703.htm

• **"NAH-WHAT?"** Náhuatl (nah-waht)-the first language of 1.5 million Mexicans-is the language Susie Frerichs is learning, after 12 years of service in Mexico, for her new assignment in central-east Mexico. Read her February letter at www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/frerichss/frerichss_0702.htm

• **CORRECTION.** In the March newsletter we incorrectly gave the name of the author of the "Big step forward in Northern Ireland" story as Wes Baker. It came from DOUG Baker, the PCUSA mission worker in Northern Ireland and regional liaison for Ireland and the United Kingdom.