

PCUSA WORLDWIDE Five New Mission Workers

August 15, 2007

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NEW MISSION WORKERS APPOINTED

Personnel will serve in China, Indonesia, Sudan and Thailand

Five new mission PCUSA missionaries have left for international assignments or will depart the States in coming weeks. They include:

Debbie Blane, an ordained PCUSA minister, will serve as an English teacher with the Amity Foundation, teaching at the China Pharmaceutical College in Nanjing. Previously she was an assistant to the Biblical Studies Department at Trinity Lutheran College in Issaquah, Wash., where she did pastoral care and vocational counseling for pre-seminary students. Debbie, the mother of two adult children, was ordained to the ministry in September 2002.

Brett and Shelly Faucett will serve as regional consultants for health and HIV/AIDS in South Asia, based in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Both served for two years with the Peace Corps in Moldova. Most recently Brett, a registered nurse, was on the staff of Hoag Presbyterian Hospital in Newport Beach, Calif. Shelly has had special training in teaching English as a Second Language. They are members of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach, Calif., and they will be accompanied by two daughters, ages 3

and 6. Their position has been funded through the Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts & Hands.

Ingrid Reneau will serve as an education officer in Sudan. She will help implement plans to expand the church-sponsored school system. Ingrid has taught at several colleges and has written articles for academic journals. She is a member of Shiloh Christian Fellowship, an interdenominational church in Oakland, Calif. Her position in Sudan also has been funded through the Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts & Hands.

Rebecca (Becca) Young, an ordained PCUSA minister, will teach systematic theology at Jakarta Theological Seminary, Jakarta, Indonesia. Most recently she has been a liaison for tsunami recovery for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).

In addition to the new PCUSA appointees, **Carmen Goetschius** is being sent to Zambia by Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City, following ordination to the ministry in her home church, University Presbyterian Church in Seattle, Wash., August 15. She will be Madison Avenue's first Global Ministry Fellow in a program funded by a congregational gift given through the Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts & Hands.

For more information about the new mission workers read the Presbyterian News Service story at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07506.htm>

THE GATE IS OPEN IN VANUATU

David Walter tells about a follow-up visit

The cover article in last winter's *Highlights*, a magazine about PCUSA world mission, featured the conversion of 7,000 former John Frum cargo cult members in Vanuatu. PCUSA regional liaison David Walter writes about a recent visit to what was the "headquarters village" of that cult at Sulphur Bay on Tanna Island:

When we got there, the gate was wide open! This was in marked contrast to all of my past visits, in which the gate was closed and only after summoning the village chief were we allowed to enter. We were led up the hill with singing to the new Presbyterian church. While it is still not officially open, the walls are up and the roof is on. Those in the village and many from surrounding villages eagerly look forward to worshipping there soon.

That open gate spoke louder to me than even the new building. It symbolizes a fresh new approach to the rest of the world. This village is one of the poorest in Vanuatu. Situated at the base of Mt. Yasur, a very active volcano, life is hard. They are geographically isolated, and ash from the volcano frequently ruins the crops. Having had little or no education for more than 50 years, they are ill equipped to deal with their many problems. But the people at Sulphur Bay, who previously had kept the outside world at bay even if

it meant no education for the children, now realize that they have brothers and sisters in Christ who care deeply about them and stand with them as they begin their faith journeys.

Read David's August 3 letter at

http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/walterd/walterd_0708.htm

WELFARE CENTER FOR THE DISABLED OPENED IN NORTH KOREA

The first of its kind in the country

The Potonggang Welfare Center for the Disabled (PWCD) was opened May 10 with a moving celebration just a year after the project was agreed upon, although at the time no one knew where the funds would come from. Sue Kinsler, PCUSA mission worker who was largely responsible for establishing the center, took nine persons with her from South Korea for the event: representatives of organizations that contributed, the Community Chest of Korea and the Kwangju Bethel Church, and representatives of an organization for the disabled, including a woman in a wheelchair.

The PWCD, the first welfare center for the disabled in North Korea, provides rehabilitation and job training for physically challenged people. Its sheltered workshops include a barbershop, a beauty shop, and tailoring and shoe repair workshops in which disabled work alongside others. There are women's and men's sauna rooms and a dining facility in the center, which is already known for the good quality of their service to customers.

Read Art Kinsler's letter and see a photo from a dressmaking workshop at

http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/kinslera/kinslera_0706.htm

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FUND MISSION AROUND THE WORLD

33 international projects receive grants from the 2006 Thank Offering

Presbyterian Women's 2007 Thank Offering has provided grants totaling \$983,194 for both domestic and overseas projects. This includes 15 projects in Uganda, 9 projects in five other African countries, and projects in Brazil, China, India, Lebanon, Peru, Philippines and Thailand.

The Thank Offering is one of two annual offerings of Presbyterian Women. It is collected each fall and disbursed in the spring. At least 40 percent of the offering goes to health-related projects. The grants facilitate a variety of projects—agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence and women's concerns. Three examples:

- The Muyambe Clean Water Project, Mengo, Uganda—\$19,400 to purchase water installation equipment to provide clean water to inhabitants of slum areas of Muyambe.

- Contact and Resource Center, Piece-Makers, Beirut, Lebanon—\$30,000 to enhance the roles of women with disabilities by providing training, equipment and raw materials for sewing workshops
- Miracles in Action, Inc., Ciudad de los Niños Automotive Training Facility, Lima, Peru—\$14,000 to provide vocational training for youth who have been abandoned, to break the cycle of poverty and offer help for the future

For more about the Thank Offering visit <http://www.pcusa.org/pw/thank/index.htm>

For a full list of the 2007 international recipients visit <http://www.pcusa.org/pw/thank/07international.htm>

A NEW CHILDREN'S CLINIC IN MALAWI

A mission team helped to make it possible

Barbara Nagy writes from Malawi: We have just said goodbye to another fantastic mission team and have sent them off with many thanks. Paint and wood scraps were flying, the ceiling was off, wires were stringing, doors were measured, mission statements were translated, pictures were painted, equipment was hung, and then, wonderfully, a new children's clinic appeared!

The idea behind its creation was that it would enable us to see acutely ill children more quickly and give us access to equipment specific for children. The floor wasn't even dry from cleaning before the first patient, a 10-year-old girl with hepatitis, rolled in. And marvelously, the system worked. Although she was quite ill, she was not sick enough to be picked out by the screening staff as an "emergency" and would previously have had to wait several hours in the general clinic waiting area before being admitted, started on IV fluids and other medicines, and sent to her bed. It might even have been several days before she was seen by me.

Read more of Barbara's letter at http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/nagyb/nagyb_0706.htm

AND MORE . . .

- **REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENDED.** The registration deadline for World Mission '07: A Celebration of Grace has been extended to **AUGUST 29**. To register for the Oct. 2–6 conference in Louisville, Ky., visit www.pcusa.org/missioncelebration
- **PRAY WITH IRAQI CHRISTIANS EVERY DAY AT NOON.** This invitation to prayer comes from the Middle East Office, the Iraq Network, and the Presbyterian

Peacemaking Program. For more information visit <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/iraq/today.htm>

• **HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA: A Time of Hope and Challenge. A TRAVEL STUDY SEMINAR TO SOUTH AFRICA AND MALAWI** is scheduled for February 22–March 7, 2008. The seminar, co-sponsored by the Peacemaking Program, the International Health Ministries Office and the Presbyterian AIDS Network, is designed to empower participants to learn how PCUSA partners are responding to HIV/AIDS and discern ways Presbyterians in the United States might respond. For more information and to apply—**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 31, 2007**—visit <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/ya.htm#seminar>

• **"AN EXCITING TIME" IN THE MINISTRY OF THE MOSCOW PROTESTANT CHAPLAINCY**. Bob and Stacy Bronkema wrote in June: "We continue to baptize adults who are recognizing for the first time what it means to become a disciple of Christ, attend church, and be a part of the family of God. Over these past couple of months we have had four adult baptisms and one infant baptism." Read more: http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/bronkemar/bronkemar_0706.htm

• In July representatives from PCUSA-related Arcadia University (Glenside, Pa.) and the East African Community (EAC) jointly opened **THE NYERERE CENTRE FOR PEACE RESEARCH IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA**. The center is a research facility that aims to build capacity for regional peace and conflict resolution with projects including refugee management and security training. The EAC is the regional intergovernmental organization of the republics of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda. For more information visit <http://www.arcadia.edu/news/default.aspx?id=4301>

• **LARRY STHRESHLY** and **NANCY HANINGER**, PCUSA mission workers in Congo, are quoted in an extensive article in the August 14 Baltimore Sun. The article "Healthier Outlook" features the work of a Maryland nonprofit group, IMA World Health, of which Sthreshly is the project leader. Read the article at <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/carroll/balte.congohealth12aug12,0,2122747.story>

• **JOHN MCCALL**, PCUSA mission worker in Taiwan, in July had a **BOOK ON SPIRITUAL FORMATION PUBLISHED IN CHINESE**. To read more about John visit <http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/mccallj.htm>

• **PAST ISSUES OF PCUSA WORLDWIDE NEWSLETTER** are available in PDF format from <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/newsletter.htm>

For questions or comments, send an email to <mailto:PCUSAWorldwide-owner@halak.pcusa.org>.

To learn more, visit <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/>

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