

PCUSA WORLDWIDE

December 19, 2007 **Early Christmas gift**

PCUSA WORLDWIDE is a monthly e-mail newsletter about the international mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) You are invited to share this newsletter with others interested in the world mission of the church such as newsletter editors, mission committees and Christian educators. Free subscriptions are available at <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/list.htm>

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**AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT IN CONGO**

*A mission doctor delivers a healthy baby to a woman in distress*

Mike Haninger received a Christmas present early this year. At 1 a.m. on Dec. 11 came a knock on his door. Just a few days earlier he had given a lecture to his medical students about toxemia of pregnancy. Now maternity had just received a patient who was convulsing. Mike went immediately. It was an opportunity to show the benefits of a medicine that has been used forever in the United States to treat toxemia, but not in Africa.

After receiving the medication, Mamu Mujinga Ngudie stopped convulsing. The baby had been in distress but was delivered and responded quickly to resuscitation. Toxemia with convulsions, eclampsia, has a significant death rate as well as serious risks of brain

and kidney damage for survivors. Good Shepherd Hospital does not have the best means of preventing these problems pharmacologically, but Mike began treatment with what he had.

28 hours later Mamu Mujinga was still in a coma, but responded to certain stimulations. At 40 hours, she was little changed. At 52 hours, there was some minimal change again; hope was alive! That evening when Mike passed by maternity Mamu Majinga was sitting up in bed, drinking a cup of broth! The following morning as he approached her on rounds, she cried out, "Muoyo Ngangabuka Mike"—Hello, Dr. Mike. Tears flowed from his eyes. He wrote to his friends: "The Lord is Great and Good!"

Read more about the ministry about Mike and Nancy Haninger at <http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/haninger.htm>

### **NEW CURRICULA CREATED FOR TRAUMA HEALING, PEACE BUILDING** *A milestone for RECONCILE in Sudan*

It has been in the planning for some time to develop three-month curricula for both trauma healing and peace building. That planning finally came to fruition as writers worked for two weeks this fall to develop the content.

With the help of consultants from the PCUSA, the Mennonite Central Committee from Uganda, the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation from South Africa, the Mindolo Peace Institute in Zambia, and the entire staff of RECONCILE (Resource Centre for Civil Leadership), material was created that would speak to the Sudanese context.

"Some of the most special moments," wrote Debbie and Del Braaksma, "were during our daily devotions, when we shared stories and experiences from various places that captured not only the horrors of war and its effect on human lives, but also how God has been touching those lives to bring healing to traumatized people and using his servants to be peacemakers to the world around them."

The curricula are undergoing their final editing, and in 2008 extended courses will be offered in trauma healing and peace building. Read more about the Braaksmas' work with RECONCILE through their Web page and letters:  
<http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/braaksmad.htm>

### **IRAQI REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS TOTAL 4 MILLION** *Washington Office urges action to address the humanitarian crisis*

The PCUSA Washington Office urges action to help Iraq's refugees. The office's November 12 "Witness in Washington Weekly" says the Iraqi refugee crisis is the greatest humanitarian disaster in the Middle East in almost 60 years. The 2 million Iraqis displaced internally and the 2 million Iraqi refugees in neighboring countries, including

Jordan and Syria, have desperate needs. Those in nearby countries do not have a legal status, which limits their access to basic goods and services.

Visit the Washington Office's Web page at <http://capwiz.com/pcusa/issues/alert/?alertid=10530086> to help displaced Iraqis rebuild their lives in peace.

## **MISSION CONSULTATION SET FOR NEXT MONTH**

*Participants from diverse constituencies will discuss future opportunities*

A mission consultation in Dallas next month will include representatives from diverse Presbyterian organizations and constituencies as well as leaders from the PCUSA's international partner churches.

Titled "Consultation on the Worldwide Mission of the PCUSA," the Jan. 16–18 gathering stems from a 2006 General Assembly action that called for a meeting of World Mission staff, Validated Mission Support Groups and others to discuss mission history, practice and theology. However, the rate of change in mission practices and the opportunities and concerns that prompted the meeting, says Hunter Farrell, director of World Mission, convinced the moderator and the General Assembly Council staff that a broader-based meeting is needed.

Participating in the group will be representatives from mission networks, Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship, the Outreach Foundation, the Medical Benevolence Foundation, the General Assembly Council (GAC), mission professors, presbytery partnerships, mission pastors, the Presbyterian Global Fellowship, the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, the Witherspoon Society, immigrant churches, World Mission Initiative, the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, Young Adult Volunteers, Presbyterian Women, large churches, Joining Hands Against Hunger, global partner churches, mission co-workers, and the staff of the GAC and the Office of the General Assembly.

Presenters and topics include Scott Sunquist, a mission professor at Pittsburgh Seminary, "Continuity and Change in the Landscape of God's Mission"; Sherron George, a mission co-worker in Brazil, "Partnership in a New Century"; Setri Nyomi, general secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, "Mission in Unity"; and Bill Young, executive director of the Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship, "Emerging Roles of Mission Initiators and World Mission."

The participants will produce a written report at the conclusion of the event.

## **MORE ADVOCACY NEEDED FOR PEACE IN COLOMBIA**

*Letters can make a difference*

During the past 10 years Colombians have several times asked the Presbyterian Church and concerned Christians in the United States to help them deal with the problems here, and the PCUSA through its General Assembly has responded.

In 2004 the General Assembly voted to join the Presbyterian Church in Colombia, other Christian churches, and Christian organizations calling for the redirection of U.S. military aid into social, educational, health, and developmental assistance in the hope that peace would be restored.

Another resolution will be submitted to the 2008 G.A. But now letters to Congress from concerned citizens can make a big difference. Please write your senators and representatives and make it clear that you want aid sent to Colombia for social concerns, not military, especially now that we see paramilitary penetration in every level of government. Congress is also debating a Free Trade Agreement with Colombia, but it should not be approved until all human rights issues have been dealt with.

This is advocacy and it can be a powerful force. The stores in Colombia are resplendent with Christmas decorations, including pictures of Papá Noel (who looks just like Santa Claus). But Papá Noel does *not* bring presents—they are brought by El Niño Dios (the God Child). He slips into their rooms on Christmas Eve and leaves presents at the foot of the bed. Just maybe if you write (and pray!), El Niño Dios can give the gift of peace and hope for the children of Colombia—and for their families as well.—Alice Winters, PCUSA mission worker

[http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/wintersa/wintersa\\_0711.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/wintersa/wintersa_0711.htm)

## AND MORE . . .

• **INTERVIEW WITH HUNTER FARRELL.** Jack Haberer, editor of *the Presbyterian Outlook*, recently interviewed World Mission director Hunter Farrell for that publication. It can be read online at <http://www.pres-outlook.com/tabid/1990/Article/6436/Default.aspx>.

• **MISSION PASTORS MEET.** The Association of Presbyterian Mission Pastors met in Louisville in late November, 150 attending. Read the Presbyterian News Service reports at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07776.htm>, <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07777.htm>, <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07792.htm>

• **ANNIVERSARIES IN CAMEROON.** In a November visit to Cameroon, G.A. vice moderator Robert E. Wilson participated in two "Jubilee" celebrations. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Eglise Presbyterienne Camerounaise (EPC) was celebrated on the shores of the Atlantic by pastors and members "from far and near"; the celebration of the Presbyterian Church of Cameroon (PCC) was held in a stadium with more than 15,000 people attending. Read Wilson's column about his Africa visit at <http://www.pcusa.org/oga/newsstories/clerk-mod-nov07.htm>

- **"THREE-WAY MISSION."** Sherron George, PCUSA mission worker in Brazil, writes: "An exciting development in the partnership between the IPIB [Independent Presbyterian Church of Brazil] and the PCUSA is how we've collaborated in sending mission workers to third countries. The IPIB has sent missionaries to Portugal, Chile, Bolivia, and Venezuela. It is now in talks with Argentine churches about the possibility of sending missionaries to Argentina."

[http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/georges/georges\\_0709.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/georges/georges_0709.htm)

- Support for the teaching of English is only a part of the work that the **AMITY FOUNDATION** does in China. Amity also provides vocational and self-sufficiency **TRAINING FOR THE BLIND**. Don and Kate Lindsay, PCUSA Amity teachers, write about a young man who, after losing his sight in an accident, had been unemployable and dependent on his family for support. Trained by Amity as a massage therapist, he now has a successful practice in the city of Luzhou. To read the Lindsays' letters visit

<http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/lindsayd.htm>

- **IRISH SUMMER INSTITUTE.** The biannual Irish Summer Institute, scheduled for August 18–31, 2008, is a travel/study experience under the auspices of the Presbyterian Committee for Northern Ireland of the PCUSA and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Institute offers a firsthand opportunity to gain insight into the complex peace process being waged in Northern Ireland after decades of sectarian violence.

Application deadline: Feb. 1, 2008. A brochure can be downloaded from

<http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/northernireland/index.htm>

- The Presbytery of Western North Carolina is seeking a full-time **ASSOCIATE PRESBYTER FOR MISSION** to provide staff leadership and resources in the area of mission. The AP will help the presbytery discover, develop and use its special gifts of ministry in order to foster the vitality and faithfulness of its congregations in their witness to Jesus Christ. Details are available—CIF # 72247.AA2. WNC is known for its "mission mindedness" and support of local and global mission.

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