

PCUSA WORLDWIDE: **New mission workers deployed**

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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THREE NEW MISSION WORKERS APPOINTED

. . . for the Dominican Republic, Lebanon, and the Mexico-U.S. border

Three international mission workers completed orientation in January and have begun their assignments:

Carol Dolezal-Ng is a development associate for interpretation and support for the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Beirut, Lebanon. Founded by the PCUSA in the 19th century, NEST trains ministers for Protestant churches in the Middle East and Africa. From her home base in Berkeley, Calif., Carol is assisting the president of NEST in interpreting the school's mission and strengthening its support in the United States and around the world. The wife of Bill Ng, a retired PCUSA minister, Carol is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Oakland, Calif. Her position has been funded through gifts to the Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts & Hands.

Kristin Hamner is serving as a partnership facilitator in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, working with the PCUSA Self-Development of People program and the economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged groups with whom it partners in the Dominican Republic. Kristin has worked in the Dominican Republic as a missionary and assistant project coordinator for the Foundation for Peace since 2005 and will continue those duties. She is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Grand Island, Neb.

Elizabeth Toland is a U.S. coordinator with the Presbyterian Border Ministry (PBM) a joint mission of the PCUSA and the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico at seven sites in ministries of evangelism, new church development, community health and development, and mission education. Elizabeth works with *Companeros en Mision*, based in Nogales, Ariz., and Nogales, Mexico. She served with the PBM as a Young Adult Volunteer in 2006–2007. Her home church is First Presbyterian Church of Iola, Kan.

JOIN AN EXPANDING PRESBYTERIAN PARTNERSHIP

Endorse the covenant created at a recent mission consultation in Dallas

The document "An Invitation to Expanding Partnership in God's Mission" that was signed by the participants in the Dallas mission consultation is open for others to sign. Others are encouraged to join in this covenant to work together cooperatively "in a new collaborative model of Presbyterian mission."

Visit <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/invitation.htm> to see the list of the signees and to join the growing number of organizations and individuals who are pledging to serve in mission together.

To read more about the "Renewed Call to Presbyterian Mission in the World! A Dialogue for Our Shared Future" consultation visit

<http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/renewed.htm>

KIRKPATRICK LEADS ECUMENICAL DELEGATION TO KENYA

"There is a sense of urgency ... that this doesn't become another Rwanda"

Violence has plagued Kenya since December when presidential elections were contested. The violence has been especially troubling because of the relatively stable nature of the country over the years.

Rev. Cliff Kirkpatrick, stated clerk of the PCUSA General Assembly and president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, led a delegation of religious leaders sent by the World Council of Churches to Kenya January 30 to February 3.

Providing pastoral care to those affected and joining with the local church to find ways to support reconciliation were among the tasks the delegation tried to fulfill.

Kirkpatrick said it was dramatic to be with people whose homes had been burned and families killed and abused, and with people who were so intensely angry about the situation. He points out the complex layers involved in the situation, including the disputed election, ethnic tensions, land issues and the large gap between Kenya's rich and poor. "There is a sense of urgency," he said, "that this doesn't become another Rwanda."

For those in the United States, Kirkpatrick said continued humanitarian support is key. Hundreds of thousands of people need assistance.

Kirkpatrick was interviewed by the PBS newsmagazine program Religion & Ethics News Weekly, which aired in some areas on Friday, Feb. 8. To read the "Religious Concerns about Kenya" feature visit

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/week1123/newsfeature.html>

To read more visit <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08099.htm> and related stories on the PCUSA Kenya Web page, <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/kenya/>

"TRANSFORMATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE"

Lithuania Christian College's new name reflects its mission

Who could have imagined that this tiny new school in a former Soviet republic could grow to 600 students from 21 countries? In 2007 Lithuania Christian College changed its name to LCC International University to better reflect its mission to the international Christian community in this part of the world.

When we look back at the transformations that have taken place in LCC, our students, and in us, we are amazed at what God has done.

Lithuania joined the European Union in 2005. EU accession seems to have had as large an impact as the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991. Emigration was much larger than originally anticipated. Mostly younger, educated people have migrated to England and Ireland. As a result, the LCC student body has changed from predominantly Lithuanian to a more mixed Eastern European population. Over half of the students are now ethnic Russians. More students are coming from Belarus, Ukraine, and the so-called "stan" countries. This diversity is both a blessing and a challenge.

We have been blessed with many bright young men and women from these countries (2,500 students between us over the past seven years), but they have diverse traditions and come from different experiences and backgrounds. We face the challenge in the classroom to make this a meaningful and contextual educational experience for them. We need to understand and respect their traditions and equip them to become the leaders of their communities and churches when the temptation is there for continued emigration.—Eric and Becky Hinderliter, Lithuania

Read Eric and Becky's letter at
http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/hinderlitere/hinderlitere_0801.htm

A SUCCESS STORY IN THAILAND

Originally a leprosy hospital, McKean Hospital still serves . . .

Founded in 1908 by Presbyterian missionaries as a leprosy hospital, McKean Hospital in Chiang Mai was the first leprosy center in all of Thailand. In the early years leprosy sufferers walked to McKean from all over Thailand and from neighboring countries, even from as far away as China. There they found acceptance, shelter, and compassionate care, as well as the latest treatment for leprosy.

The hospital grew in stages of being a leprosy colony and hospital, to a leprosy rehabilitation center that provided physical and occupational therapy. Their goal was, and still is, to empower the patients to attain their maximum potential physically, to be psychologically healthy with a sense of self-worth and self-acceptance, and to be able to live productive lives with acceptance and dignity in their own community.

Leprosy is nearly eradicated, due to education and care, but McKean continues to administer treatment to a few rare cases of leprosy. The hospital is now more focused on elderly care and the care of disabled persons, and it also does vocational training. Quite a few former leprosy patients are now working for McKean, making handicrafts, constructing prosthetic limbs, and assembling and fixing bicycles.

McKean is a success story in Thailand. There no longer is a stigmatization of lepers, as there once was, because the public has been educated about leprosy and the caring and nurturing work of the people who work at McKean.—Brett and Shelly Faucett, Thailand

Read more about McKean at
<http://www.pcusa.org/health/international/profiles/mckean.htm>

Read more about the Faucetts at
<http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/faucettb.htm>

AND BRIEFLY . . .

• **CZECH REPUBLIC CONFERENCE.** An October 14–24 conference in the Czech Republic will explore partnerships between Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations and Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren congregations. First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis, Md., and the Czech Mission Network are co-sponsoring the event and invite interested Presbyterians to participate. Information, including the cost and a registration application, are available at <http://czechpartner.org/Conference%202008.html>

- The Church of North India runs a drop-in **SLEEP CENTER FOR STREET KIDS** in the central Indian city of Nagpur. Up to 30 of the hundreds, maybe thousands, of street kids in the city can come to the center, which is close to the bus and train stations where most of them "work," for a safe night's sleep and much more. "I marvel at the transformation of independent, tough, rather hopeless kids into a sort of extended family of brothers and sisters," writes PCUSA missionary Scott Smith, consultant for health and development in South Asia.

- **"THE BEAUTY AND UGLINESS OF THE NIGHT."** Andres Garcia writes poetically about one evening in Equatorial Guinea and requests prayer for the evangelistic ministry of the Presbyterian Church in that country. "Despite the obstacles and financial difficulties, our brothers and sisters in Christ here are taking sacrificial steps toward the renewal and revival ministry of the church and its mission in the name of Christ."

- **REV. WILLIAM (WILL) BROWNE**, formerly on the staff of the PCUSA's Worldwide Ministries Division, has been appointed executive director of the Medical Benevolence Foundation, a validated mission support group related to the PCUSA. Browne is one of those who signed the "Invitation to Expanding Partnership in God's Mission" at the Dallas mission consultation.

- **PRAY FOR TEBELLONG HOSPITAL**, a "former jewel of a hospital in a jewel of a setting" in LESOTHO. Frank Dimmock requests prayer "for the people in these mountain communities, discouraged yet faithfully doing the best they can with what they have, and for the church leaders and the board of directors, that they might be encouraged and motivated to do what is needed to get the hospital back on track." Read Frank's letter giving the background for this request at http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/dimmockf/dimmockf_0801.htm

- **TROUBLED WITH INSOMNIA?** Pray for this request from Becca Young, Jakarta Theological Seminary, **INDONESIA**: "My second class on Thursday is a doozy, a class called 'Reading Theological Texts' to the entire student body—270 undergraduates and 50 graduate students. All in one classroom at the same time. I'm going to start with the Brief Statement of Faith by the PCUSA, and work from there. If you have insomnia at about 1:30 a.m. EST on Thursday mornings, please focus in my direction."