

## PCUSA Worldwide AIDS Ministry in the Congo

March 15, 2006

Welcome to PCUSA Worldwide, a monthly e-mail newsletter about the international mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We hope these updates will be helpful as you lend support to your church's international mission.

We also invite you to tell others interested in mission about the PCUSA Worldwide e-mail newsletter. Mission committee members, elders, pastors, Christian educators, and newsletter editors might like to know about this resource. They can subscribe by going to <http://www.pcusa.org/wmd/list.htm> and entering their names and e-mail addresses.

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### **DOES GOD HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT AIDS?**

*Congolese Presbyterians delve into Bible studies*

Why should the church be concerned with AIDS? Does the church have the right to reject traditional values and customs that might further the spread of AIDS? What does the church have to say to people who are infected with AIDS? These questions and others like them were the beginning of a process by Presbyterians in the Democratic Republic of Congo to look into God's Word and write Bible studies to help the average person in the average congregation, male, female, young or old, discover what God has to say to each person, and all of us, in the midst of HIV/AIDS.

Culturally it is difficult for Congolese men and women to sit and talk together, let alone talk about issues such as sexuality. But doing just that has broken the ice, broken the silence, broken the taboos that have kept the subject of HIV/AIDS hidden.

**Read more at** <http://www.pcusa.org/aids-international/sayAIDS.htm>

### **3 DISPATCHED TO MISSION POSTS**

*New mission personnel are assigned to Nicaragua, the Pacific area, Cameroon*

Three new Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) mission workers have begun overseas assignments. They completed mission personnel orientation in January.

The three are Carlos Cardenas, working in development and disaster relief in Nicaragua; David Walter, regional liaison for the Pacific area; and the Rev. Shirley Hill, HIV/AIDS consultant in Cameroon.

**Read more at** <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2006/06103.htm>

## **YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM IS THRIVING**

*Applications are still being accepted for 2006-07*

The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program, a one-year opportunity for people ages 19 to 30, continues to draw considerable interest. Approximately 100 people are in the application process for the 2006-07 class. Young Adult Volunteers serve in both overseas and U.S. assignments and perform a variety of ministries, including education, congregational life, community development, refugee assistance, and youth work. Applications are still being accepted for positions in the United States and the "Time for God" program in Great Britain. The application deadline for this year for other international sites was March 6. For more information, go to <http://www.pcusa.org/msr/youngadult.htm>.

## **"GOD WILL TAKE THE RISK WITH US"**

*Taiwanese Presbyterians take a chance by advocating independence from China*

Presbyterian minister Kho Sing-Doh sums up his aspirations for Taiwan's future in the name he gave his son: "Tai-li." It is composed of the first syllables of the Taiwanese words for "Taiwan independence." Kho says his son's name represents "a vision for future generations, when there will be more acceptance for this kind of identification with Taiwan." It is a vision shared by many of Kho's fellow Presbyterians in Taiwan.

"Self-determination means that Taiwanese are in the image of God, and Taiwan should be equal with other countries," says T. C. Chang, general secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. "It means that we have dignity and full rights in the global village."

**Read more at** <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2006/06077.htm>

## **CHRISTIAN AND KAY ZEBLEY WRITE FROM KAMAKURA, JAPAN.**

*2-year old Anna Elizabeth is an evangelist*

This year marks our eighth year of service as Presbyterian mission co-workers in partnership with the United Church of Christ in Japan. Giving thanks to our Lord who goes before us, we are encouraged by your continued prayers and support of our ministry.

2005 brought darkness to many in our world through natural disaster, war, and terrorism while roughly 50 percent of the human population continues to live on less than two dollars a day. If the media had the final word, one might conclude our world is controlled by the darkness of human suffering. At Christmas our worship centered on the "light of the world" becoming one of us and dwelling in our midst. Living on the mission field, we perceive God's light in many ways: in a child who brings daily laughter and praise, building Habitat houses with Japanese students in the Philippines, and networking with Japanese church leaders and youth seeking to share the good news with a new generation.

Anna Elizabeth, who turned 2 on December 5, kept us very busy in 2005. We are humbled by the impact little Anna has made on our community in just two years! People who never even glanced our way in the past now happily stop to chat with Anna. She can be quite the evangelist. A few weeks ago she was invited to dinner with the older couple next door. As they prepared to begin the meal with the traditional expression "Itadakimasu" (I humbly receive this), Anna blurts out, "Amen. Momma, Daddy!" Still recovering from Anna's outburst, they told us they may start to pray before each meal!

For the Zebleys' full letter see their Web page, <http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/zebleyc.htm>. For more letters from mission workers and Youth Adult Volunteers, visit <http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/>.

#### **AND MORE . . .**

- The Worldwide Ministries Division now has Web "**country pages**" for most of the countries where the PCUSA is at work through personnel or partner churches. Visit "Presbyterians at work around the world" at <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/>.
- Do you have questions about the PC(USA)'s overseas mission? See "**Frequently Asked Questions**" at: <http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/faq.htm>.
- **What is the PCUSA doing about AIDS?** Check out the "It's a matter of faith" emphasis and the congregational materials available: <http://www.pcusa.org/aids-international/>.
- **One Great Hour of Sharing** gifts support ministries that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. For more information visit <http://www.pcusa.org/oghs/>.
- **The Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts & Hands** is a 5-year PCUSA effort to raise funds for overseas mission personnel and domestic church growth. Visit. <http://www.pcusa.org/joiningheartsandhands/>.

**To learn more about the PCUSA Worldwide Ministries Division**, please visit <http://www.pcusa.org/wmd/>.

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