

February 14, 2007

**New mission personnel**

IN THIS ISSUE

• **SIX NEW INTERNATIONAL MISSION WORKERS APPOINTED**

*New mission workers to serve in India, in Latin America, and at the United States/Mexico border*

• **LOIS ANDERSON AND DAUGHTER KILLED IN KENYA**

*Retired PCUSA worker shot Jan. 29 in a carjacking near Nairobi*

• **MISSION CONFERENCE SCHEDULED**

*"World Mission Celebration '07" coming in October*

• **A NEW INITIATIVE TO COMBAT MALARIA IN AFRICA**

*Malaria claims the lives of 1 million people every year*

• **INTER-RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM FLOURISHES IN INDONESIA**

*Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Buddhists listen to each other*

• **2007 BIRTHDAY OFFERING TO BENEFIT INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

*Five programs in Africa, South Korea and Tennessee will be recipients*

• **"IS IT POSSIBLE TO BE A CHRISTIAN AND HAVE TATTOOS?"**

*Young people ask questions at an event in Grenada*

• **RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER AND WITNESS FOR CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

*Web site provides worship, study, action aids*

• **AND MORE . . .**

*Witness Season, Networkers Mother's Day Project, prayer request from Cindy Easterday*

**SIX INTERNATIONAL MISSION WORKERS APPOINTED**

*New mission workers to serve in India, in Latin America, and at the United States/Mexico border*

Four newly appointed international mission workers have begun service and two others anticipate leaving the States in the coming weeks.

**Jacob Goad** ([www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/goadj.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/goadj.htm)), based in Lima, facilitates the visits of PCUSA mission teams and delegations who travel to Peru. He is a member of Alamance Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, North Carolina.

**David and Susan Hudson**, who have previously lived and served as mission workers in Korea and in Pakistan, will be the regional liaisons for South Asia. Based in New Delhi, India, they will travel as needed to Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. The Hudsons are co-pastors of Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Aberdeen, North Carolina. They will be accompanied by their daughter, Mary Elizabeth, 15. The Hudsons overseas service will begin once they have secured visas.

**Chris McReynolds** ([www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/mcreynoldsc.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/mcreynoldsc.htm)) is the U.S. coordinator of the binational United States/Mexico border ministry Project Amistad, which focuses its mission in Laredo, Texas, and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. For six years he had been treasurer and a member of the board of directors of Project Amistad. He is a member and an elder at First Presbyterian Church in Del Rio, Texas.

**Bill Richter** ([www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/richterw.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/richterw.htm)), who previously served as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) in Guatemala and has been giving volunteer service in the binational Puentes de Cristo border ministry, is now coordinator of this ministry in Reynosa, Mexico, and McAllen, Texas. He is a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in DeKalb, Illinois.

**Vicki Cooper Smith** ([www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/smithv.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/smithv.htm)), who has had 24 years of teaching experience, is serving with the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands teaching music at Iona Preparatory School in Tower Isle, Jamaica. She is a member and elder at Webster (Texas) Presbyterian Church.

The ministries of Goad, Richter and Smith are being funded through the Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts & Hands (<http://www.pcusa.org/joiningheartsandhands/>), a \$40 million campaign to renew the church for mission.

## **LOIS ANDERSON AND DAUGHTER KILLED IN KENYA**

*Retired PCUSA worker shot in a carjacking near Nairobi*

Lois Anderson, retired PCUSA missionary in Africa, and her daughter, Zelda White, were shot Jan. 29 in a village a few miles outside Kenya's capital city of Nairobi.

Anderson and her husband, Bill, served as PCUSA missionaries for more than four decades in Sudan and Kenya. The Andersons are known across East Africa for their decades of service to the church, especially in the area of theological education," said Doug Welch, the PC(USA)s area coordinator for Africa.

White lived with her husband in Kenya, and the Andersons had traveled to Africa from their South Carolina home for a family gathering. Anderson's memorial service was held

Feb. 2 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Nairobi, and she was buried in Limuru, the location of St. Paul's Theological College.

For more information see [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07055.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07055.htm) and [www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07066.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07066.htm).

### **MISSION CONFERENCE SCHEDULED**

*"World Mission Celebration '07" coming in October*

"World Mission Celebration '07: A Celebration of Grace" will be a conference for Presbyterians "passionate for mission." The conference, to be held in Louisville Oct. 2-4, has been planned to precede the monthlong special itineration of mission workers throughout the country ("Mission Challenge '07"-see <http://www.pcusa.org/missionchallenge07/>). Many of the mission networks will also meet immediately following the conference.

Among plenary speakers confirmed are Ken Bailey, Bible study leader and retired PCUSA missionary; Jerry Cannon, North Carolina pastor and president of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus; and Hendrik Shanazarian, executive secretary of the Synod of the Evangelical Church of Iran. Included in the conference also will be opportunities for worship, Bible study, workshops, and conversations with mission workers.

The conference will culminate in a mutual commissioning service for conference participants and for mission workers beginning their "Mission Challenge '07" itineration,

Coming soon: a Web page with detailed information about "World Mission '07."

### **A NEW INITIATIVE TO COMBAT MALARIA IN AFRICA**

*Malaria claims the lives of 1 million people every year*

Malaria. In the time it takes to say this word, 10 people-most of them young children in Africa-contract malaria and begin fighting for their lives.

Malaria is a health scourge that claims the lives of more than 1 million people every year and traps millions more in a cycle of poverty and disease. Lost work time due to repeated bouts of malaria means lost income for already impoverished families. It has been estimated that malaria costs African nations \$12 billion annually in lost economic growth. Malaria costs African families the precious lives of their children, who die from malaria at the rate of 3,000 a day.

The 2006 General Assembly of the PCUSA approved an overture calling for the creation of a special committee of U.S. Presbyterians and representatives of African partner churches to develop a multi-organizational plan for combating malaria. But before the committee can be formed, the overture stipulated that funds be raised to pay the projected

expenses of the committees work, which is estimated to be \$24,000 in 2007. A special Extra Commitment Opportunity (ECO) account, #053503, was established to receive support for the first stages of this new malaria initiative.

For more information visit [www.pcusa.org/health/international/gamalariamandate.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/health/international/gamalariamandate.htm).

## **INTER-RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM FLOURISHES IN INDONESIA**

*Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Buddhists listen to each other*

Bernie Adeney-Risakotta writes: Last March I became the director of the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS-Yogya), the first religious studies doctoral program in the world that is co-sponsored by major Muslim, Christian, and national-secular universities. We defied long traditions of mutual distrust and separation in order to build a program that integrates Islamic studies, Christian theology, and the social scientific study of religions. Perhaps only in Indonesia, the largest and most dynamic Muslim population in the world, could such an experiment succeed.

For centuries Westerners have come to Indonesia to study the unique religious communities of this country, where major religions are protected by law but atheism is illegal. ICRS-Yogya studies religions descriptively, listening to the convictions and observing the practices of real believers. There is creative power behind ICRS-Yogya. Muslims, Christians, Hindus, and Buddhists gather, and each one believes that his or her revelation is true. But we are learning to bear witness to what we see of the power and beauty of God, without neglecting to listen to our neighbors.

Read Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta's full letter at [www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/adeneyb/adeneyb\\_0701.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/adeneyb/adeneyb_0701.htm).

## **2007 BIRTHDAY OFFERING TO BENEFIT INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

*Five programs in Africa, South Korea and Tennessee will be recipients*

Since 1922 the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering has channeled nearly \$30 million to mission projects around the world. The goal for the 2007 offering—which is customarily received between February and June—is \$1.2 million. Grants will be funneled to these projects as Birthday Offering funds are received:

**NAMIBIA**—Hopes Promise Orphan Ministries, Talitha-Kumi Christian School in Arandis, a Christian humanitarian aid organization that seeks to establish homes in which orphans can be fed, taught, healed and embraced by Christ's love. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has left approximately 15 million children in Namibia without parents or caregivers to provide for their basic needs. This investment by Presbyterian Women will enable Hope's Promise to renovate a hospital and its facilities into a boarding school.

**SOUTH KOREA**—The National Organization of the Korean Presbyterian Women, House of Peace in Seoul, which assists North Koreans to adjust to South Korean society. Culture shock and a sense of alienation are some of the challenges faced by North Korean families seeking refuge in South Korea. The organization engages in mission, education and social service projects in South Korea and abroad.

**SOUTH KOREA**—Kwangju Christian Hospital, Gwangju, which hopes to establish a physical rehabilitation ward on its site, with plans eventually to expand the ward into a physical rehabilitation center. The construction of this ward will decrease the financial strain on patients families and maximize the range of activities that persons who are physically disabled can engage in.

**MALAWI**—Mulanje Mission Hospital, which needs to expand its family shelter. The hospital provides shelter for patients' relatives, but the HIV/AIDS pandemic has caused the number of patients to increase and the current facility is not adequate to meet the space and hygiene needs of their families.

**TENNESSEE**—Living Waters for the World, which through its Clean Water U training program in Franklin, Tenn., equips congregational mission teams with the skills needed to form partnerships with communities in need of clean water. Teams have installed water purification systems in Mexico, Haiti, Brazil, India, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Belize, the Philippines, Ghana and the United States.

Promotional materials for the 2007 Birthday Offering can be ordered by calling Presbyterian Distribution Service at 800-524-2612. For more information visit Presbyterian Women's Web site [www.pcusa.org/pw/birthday/index.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pw/birthday/index.htm).

### **"IS IT POSSIBLE TO BE A CHRISTIAN AND HAVE TATTOOS?"**

*Young people ask questions at an event in Grenada*

The tattoo question was one of many that arose in the community of youth and young adults from North America, the Caribbean, and beyond at the 2006 Youth and Young Adults in Mission Work Camp (YAM) held in Grenada late last year. Two PCUSA students were among the 37 who participated.

YAM work campers worked together to lead a vacation Bible school in one congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Grenada and to restore a hurricane-damaged building of another congregation. They prayed, studied the Bible, and wrestled with their different understandings of what constitutes a Christian lifestyle. They combined their talents and presented an evening of inspirational music in a mall in Grenada's capital city, St. Georges. The young people returned home inspired and motivated to participate in God's mission in their respective countries.

Sponsoring events for youth and young adults is a top priority for the member churches of CANACOM (Caribbean and North American Council for Mission), all of which are

very concerned about the impact of materialism, violence, sexual pressure, and economic instability on young people.-Tricia Lloyd-Sidle, Caribbean regional liaison

Read Tricia's December letter at  
[www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/lloydsidlep/lloydsidlep\\_0612.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/lloydsidlep/lloydsidlep_0612.htm).

## **RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER AND WITNESS FOR CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

*Web site provides worship, study and action aids*

New on the PCUSA's Web site for the Middle East are extensive resources for use in connection with the Week of Prayer and Witness with Christians in the Middle East. Last year's General Assembly urged Presbyterians to celebrate this special week between Easter (April 8) and Pentecost (May 27, 2007).

Visit [www.pcusa.org/worldwide/middleeast.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/middleeast.htm) to review, download, or order these resources. Among them:

- bulletin insert
- *The Cradle of Our Faith*, a new 18-page study booklet, and a teacher's outline
- "PCUSA mission in the Middle East," a CD providing an overview of the PCUSA's mission and witness in the Middle East

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

• **WITNESS SEASON.** "Make every season Witness Season," says the PCUSA's Witness Season Web site ([www.pcusa.org/witness](http://www.pcusa.org/witness)). The Web site stresses learning about and getting involved with mission both in this country and overseas. It is a source for Minutes for Mission, Bible reflections, frequently asked questions, and many mission resources.

• **NETWORKERS MOTHERS DAY PROJECT.** International Health Ministries is again offering congregations the Mothers Day Project to combat malaria. New Mothers Day cards in exchange for donations to the NetWorkers Malaria Prevention Program will be available (at no cost) after March 1, 2007. Gifts to this ministry provide mosquito nets and malaria prevention education to families in sub-Saharan Africa. For more information visit [www.pcusa.org/health/international/networkers-mothers-day.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/health/international/networkers-mothers-day.htm).

• **PRAYER REQUEST.** Mission worker Cindy Easterday's mother had a mild heart attack on January 14 while visiting Cindy in Lesotho. She was taken to Bloemfontein, South Africa, for medical treatment. While at the hospital there she fell and broke three ribs and also contracted pneumonia. On Jan. 24 Cindy wrote that she was doing better.

• **SHERRON GEORGE,** mission worker/regional liaison for South America, had an article published in the January issue of the *International Bulletin of Missionary*

*Research.* The article is entitled "Ecumenical Theological Education in Latin America, 1916–2005."