

June 16, 2008 **Major gift to mission**

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>. Submit story ideas to [patrick.cole@pcusa.org](mailto:patrick.cole@pcusa.org).

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**\$500,000 GIFT RECEIVED FOR MISSION PERSONNEL**

*Anonymous donor funds positions in Congo, Costa Rica, Pakistan and Poland*

Citing deep concerns for the health, education, and well-being of the world's children, an anonymous donor has made a gift of \$510,456 to undergird the deployment of several new mission workers. The much appreciated donation was received through the Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts & Hands (MIJHH) program.

According to his pastor, the donor tithes faithfully and believes strongly in the universal church as a vehicle of God's work in the world. His generous gift provides support for

mission workers who will be serving in the Congo, Costa Rica, Pakistan and Poland. They will be attending the PC(USA)'s comprehensive orientation program prior to departing the United States to serve in the fields of health, education, and church growth.

This half-million-dollar gift brings to 31 the number of new mission personnel who have been funded since MIJHH was launched at the 2002 General Assembly. The five-year \$40 million MIJHH campaign has underwritten both new international mission personnel and church development in the United States, particularly racial-ethnic and immigrant congregations.

Read more at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08449.htm>

### **MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN CHINA**

*Presbyterian teacher praises Christian response to earthquake survivors*

None of my colleagues were hurt in the earthquake, although two have been evacuated from their school in southeastern Gansu due to the fear of their campus buildings collapsing. Many of my students come from Longnan, a county that was hit by the quake, and while all of their families are alive and safe, many students' homes suffered damage.

While we have been thankful for the safety of our friends and students here, the devastation in Sichuan has been heart-rending to witness. In the midst of the pain of this disaster, I have found comfort by the presence of the church and other Christian witnesses. In addition to Amity's sending money and supplies, churches in Hong Kong and the United States have sent donations, churches in China are taking up charity drives specifically for the victims of the earthquake, and my own church had a special offering and prayers for the relief efforts in Sichuan.

I have been able to talk with students whose homes were damaged and give hugs to those who were clearly shaken (literally and figuratively) by this experience. Perhaps most important, prayers have been offered, and continue to be offered, by people all over the world. — Rachel Sterrett

Read Rachel's full letter at

[http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/sterrettr/sterrettr\\_0805.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/sterrettr/sterrettr_0805.htm)

### **SUCCESS STORY FROM NICARAGUA**

*Rejection, assistance, and now to a job helping others*

Maria del Socorro ("Coco") Luna was born with severe physical birth defects into a humble Nicaraguan family. When other schools wouldn't accept her, two former PCUSA mission co-workers supported Coco's secondary studies.

After years of struggle, Coco recently received her university diploma. A few weeks later she stumbled across a job offer in a piece of the classifieds wrapped around an avocado her mother brought home. The deadline was that week.

Coco applied, was called back for an interview, and then offered a job as a trainer for an organization that supports the rights and social integration of differently-abled people.— Ellen Sherby, Nicaragua Read more:

[http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/sherbye/sherbye\\_0804.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/sherbye/sherbye_0804.htm)

## **PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES**

*Torture, killings have not slowed since 2006 GA resolution*

The 2006 General Assembly passed a resolution lifting up the current human rights violations in the Philippines and expressing its deep concern for the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) and the men and women who have been murdered by forces opposed to the protection of human rights.

The Assembly further called upon the Philippine government to "bring to justice the killers of the pastors, other church workers, and other Filipinos similarly executed and/or tortured by paramilitary forces." The Assembly called for a full inquiry into these matters by the Philippine government.

Little has been done to investigate the killing of members of the church and civil society in the Philippines working for human rights. In fact, the count of those murdered and disappeared has increased and the human rights situation has steadily deteriorated. The Philippine government's own investigation by an independent commission has called for the government to take firmer action to resolve the killings.

A Presbyterian delegation visited the Philippines in February and found the UCCP targeted by political violence. The group urges Presbyterians to pray with the UCCP and lobby the government for fairer and more humane policies toward the Philippines. Other U.S. churches and faith-based organizations are also calling for sustained prayer for the people of the Philippines. For more information visit

<http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08385.htm> and

<http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08168.htm>.

## **OUTSTANDING MISSION SERVICE HONORED**

*PFR will recognize contributions of Bill and Lois Anderson*

Presbyterians for Renewal (PFR) will present its Bell-Mackay Prize to retired Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission worker Bill Anderson and posthumously to his wife, Lois Anderson, at PFR's General Assembly breakfast gathering in San Jose, Calif., on Wednesday, June 25.

The Andersons served as PCUSA mission workers for more than four decades in Sudan and Kenya. They spent their honeymoon in 1951 at language school preparing for mission service.

Lois Anderson and her daughter, Zelda White, were killed in 2007 in Kenya during a carjacking incident. The Andersons, who were making their retirement home in South Carolina, had gone to a family gathering in Kenya, where Zelda and her husband, Craig, were living.

The Bell-Mackay prize is presented at every General Assembly to honor the ideals embodied by its namesakes, the late L. Nelson Bell, a missionary physician and GA moderator, and the late John A. Mackay, a missionary educator, seminary president and GA moderator.

The prize was started in 1987 by the Covenant Fellowship of Presbyterians, a predecessor organization of PFR. PFR has continued the prize's presentation since it was organized in 1989. Winners receive a citation and \$5,000.

## **12 NEW INTERNATIONAL MISSION WORKERS PREPARING FOR SERVICE**

*New assignments stretch from Ethiopia to Poland, Korea and the Mexico–U.S. border*

Newly appointed mission workers will be participating in orientation next month in Louisville (July 8–12) and in an ecumenical program in Chicago (July 13–24). They will then depart for service in Egypt, Ethiopia, Korea, Lithuania, Malawi, Pakistan, and Poland and at the Mexico–U.S. border.

Details about the workers and the positions will appear in a future issue of the newsletter.

## **AND BRIEFLY . . .**

- **INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKERS** from other countries are available to visit presbyteries, synods and Presbyterian colleges and seminaries. **REQUESTS FOR THEIR VISITS MUST BE MADE BY JUNE 20.** The 2008 peacemakers—from 12 countries, China, Colombia, Congo (DRC), India, Israel/Palestine, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Sudan, and Syria—have been selected to speak on the theme of poverty—what this means in the context of their country, and how the church there is responding to local needs. For more information visit

<http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/intl/international.htm#intl>

- **2008 PEACEMAKING CONFERENCE, July 15–18**, Chapman University, Orange, Calif. The theme: "Sowing Mustard Seeds: Working for Gods Justice—Confronting Poverty." Workshops include such topics as Iran: What Hope for Peace? Fair Food, Human Trafficking, Sudan, Israel and Palestine: Could Presbyterians Be Peacemakers?

Racism, Iraq. Space is still available. Visit  
<http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008.htm>

- **MICHAEL PARKER** began his service as a coordinator of the International Evangelism/Frontier Areas office May 27. A graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary, he wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on the Student Volunteer Movement, and from 1995 to 2006 was a PCUSA mission co-worker in Sudan and Rwanda. Most recently he was interim pastor of the United Parish of Bowie, Md. Read more:  
<http://www.pcusa.org/evangelism/international/mike-parker.htm>

- **JUDY SEMARIA** is World Mission's new coordinator for operations and administration. Her new responsibilities, which began in early June, include WM's budget, finance, human resources and administration. Judy has worked as a CFO, corporate treasurer and financial management advisor in the private sector, has worked overseas, and speaks fluent French and proficient Spanish. She comes to WM from the Compassion, Peace and Justice ministry area, where she gave leadership in budget preparation and management.

- A Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) **MISSION CONSULTATION ON WATER** will be held Nov. 13–15 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Sacramento, Calif. Representatives of groups involved in water projects around the world will share information and compare approaches and best practices. Presbyterians who participate in mission projects related to water are invited to attend. More information, including registration details, will be available in a future newsletter. If you have questions, contact [gail.bingham@pcusa.org](mailto:gail.bingham@pcusa.org).

- The Spring/Summer 2008 issue of **HIGHLIGHTS** is going into the mail this month, with a cover story by Jerry Van Marter from his recent trip to Russia. To subscribe visit <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/highlights.htm#highlights>

- The **MALAWI MISSION NETWORK** will meet **Aug. 14–16** at Post Oak Lodge, Tulsa, Okla. For more information visit the network's Web site <http://malawinetwork.org/> or contact the Africa office <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/africa.htm>.

- The **2009 MISSION YEARBOOK FOR PRAYER & STUDY** can be pre-ordered now (at a saving of 50% off the \$9.25 cover price). The 2009 Yearbook shares the theme of the 2008 General Assembly, "Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). It will be shipped Nov. 1. Visit <http://www.pcusa.org/missionyearbook/myb.htm>

- The **CZECH MISSION NETWORK** has a new **Web site:** <http://czechconnections.org>. Although it is still in its infancy, the site will be a place where people can share stories of partnership experiences with the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB) and find information to aid them in starting, growing, and nurturing such relationships. The site will also provide an introduction to, and understanding of, Czech culture and history, including that of the ECCB, and will contain

information about special events. One of these is the **Congregation to Congregation conference Oct. 14–24** in the Czech Republic for PCUSA congregations interested in partnership opportunities in that country.

- **HOT OFF THE PRESS:** *A History of Presbyterian Missions 1944–2007*, edited by Scott W. Sunquist and Caroline N. Becker. A project of the World Mission Initiative of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, this is a comprehensive collection of interpretive essays on the work of missions in the Presbyterian Church for over 60 years. Among the contributors are T. Donald Black, G. Thompson Brown, David Dawson and Sherron George. It is published by Geneva Press and available from Cokesbury:  
<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=686443>

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