

## **PCUSA WORLDWIDE: Peacemaking in Ethiopia**

PCUSA Worldwide is a monthly e-mail newsletter about the international mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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### **A TRUE-LIFE EXAMPLE OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE AND LOVE IN PRACTICE**

*Brian Gilchrest writes from Ethiopia*

In 2006 parts of western Ethiopia were gripped in violence between Muslims and Christians. In the remote western area of Beghi-Gidami a group of Muslim men burned churches, chased people from their homes, and murdered Ethiopian evangelist Michael Kano at his home in front of his family. Security forces took control and many Muslim men were detained in a building made of corrugated sheets of iron.

Michael Hundessa, president of the Beghi-Gidami Synod of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), visited the detainees. He observed that during the daytime they endured nearly unbearable temperatures while at night they shivered in

bitter cold. He saw that the prisoners had little drinking water and that the sanitation conditions were unhealthy. Then, with help from fellow Christians, he made sure that water was made available and pit latrines were dug for the detainees.

This is the true nature of the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Read Brian's reflections on violence by people of faith against other people of faith at [www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/gilchrestb/gilchrestb\\_0702.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/gilchrestb/gilchrestb_0702.htm)

### **PRAY WITH CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

*Presbyterians are called to pray with their brothers and sisters in this troubled area*

"Pray together . . . for elderly and ill Middle Eastern Christians as the capacity of their shrinking communities to care for them becomes increasingly fragile."

"Pray together . . . that Christians in Iraq will be accepted by their Muslim neighbors and contribute to the rebuilding of the nation."

These are two of the prayers suggested in "The Cradle of Our Faith," the resource booklet prepared for the Week of Prayer and Witness with Christians in the Middle East. Presbyterians are invited to celebrate this week between Easter, April 8, and Pentecost, May 27, 2007.

Since the end of World War I wars between states, civil wars, revolutions, ethnic cleansing, and foreign interventions have caused untold hardship for the peoples of the Middle East. After two millennia of continuous presence, Christianity is now on the decline in its birthplace. Over the last century in some countries the Christian communities have decreased to only 10 percent of their former size.

READ AND STUDY about the background and the present situation of Christians in Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel/Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. And "pray together that lasting solutions will be found to the problems of the Middle East." For more information visit [www.pcusa.org/worldwide/middleeast.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/middleeast.htm)

### **\$200 MULTIPLIED IN GUATEMALA**

*"Look what your money, and prayers and concern can accomplish!"*

It started with a couple of hundred dollars from an alternative Christmas project sent by First Presbyterian Church in Iowa City, Iowa, to the Sinódica (Presbyterian Women) in Guatemala through ECO #051618, "With the Women of Guatemala." These funds were passed on to the Christian Service Committee, which decided to use them-along with other moneys, a total of about \$400-for a sewing project. The money paid for the purchase of two treadle sewing machines, bus fare for the instructor, Marta, several yards of fabric for each student, and miscellaneous sewing supplies.

Every two weeks Marta packed up her sewing supplies and headed off to the community of Bujilla, traveling on a bus and a pick-up truck and then walking into the community, which is on a rubber farm. The young girls in the class learned the basics of operating the sewing machines, and at the end of 10 weeks there was a graduation for which each student wore the garments she had made.

The gift of money from the church in Iowa could have stopped there and you could say their money had been put to good use-but the story continues!

Marta identified one young girl in the class, Candelaria, as someone with exceptional ability to sew and potential to learn more. With Marta's encouragement, Candelaria enrolled in a 10-month sewing class. Not only does Candelaria now have new skills, she also has a new understanding of herself and what she can do. She has enrolled in weekend classes in another nearby community to get her high school diploma.

When you send a check to support mission work, you give much more than money; you give hope, the possibility for a different future, and the knowledge that others in Christ's family stand with and support sisters and brothers they have never met.—Ellen Dozier, Guatemala

Read Ellen's full letter at

[www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/doziere/doziere\\_0702b.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/doziere/doziere_0702b.htm)

## **A BIG STEP FORWARD IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

*A story for sports fanatics and for those in support of peace*

After centuries of conflict between Ireland and England and decades of conflict between people of British ancestry and those of Irish ancestry in what is now Northern Ireland, the road to a new future and the healing of relationships takes many forms. In Dublin's Croke Park, which has huge significance for Irish nationalism, on February 24, 2007, a big step forward was taken.

It was a symbolic match. Ireland played host to England. Something that was absolutely unimaginable just a couple of years ago. For weeks in advance there was speculation and concern about whether there would be protests, or even violence, by dissident Irish Republican groups. In particular, there was speculation about whether or not the Gaelic Athletic Association would allow the English national anthem to be played before the game and, if they did, how it would be received.

Come the day, the stadium was packed with over 83,000 people. The atmosphere inside and outside the grounds was electric. "God Save the Queen" was played and sung by English supporters while Irish supporters respectfully kept silence. And then when it ended, there was rapturous applause by Irish supporters-north and south, Catholic and Protestant-strongly signaling a desire to move on and not let history hold sport or

relationships back. When Ireland's anthems were then sung, the emotion of the buildup of the day was palpable. Tears were streaming down several Irish players' faces. The volume of singing by the massive crowd was phenomenal.—Doug Baker, Northern Ireland

To read Doug's story, "A whole new ball game"-and find out who won the game-visit [www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/bakerd/bakerd\\_0703.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/bakerd/bakerd_0703.htm)

## **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION NETWORK FORMING**

*May 31-June 2 in Louisville...*

The World Mission program area and the Self-Development of People office are working to organize a mission network of Presbyterians interested and/or involved in mission efforts in the Dominican Republic.

The first meeting of this Dominican Republic Mission Network will be in Louisville, Ky., May 31-June 2. The purpose of the gathering will be to hear from each other about ways in which PCUSA entities are active in ministry in the D.R. The group will reflect on together on what they, collectively, are doing in their mission relationships with Dominicans.

For more information contact Tricia Lloyd-Sidle, PCUSA regional liaison for the Caribbean, [revtjls@yahoo.com](mailto:revtjls@yahoo.com), 502-681-4059, or Wayne Gnatuk, Self-Development of People, [wgnatuk@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:wgnatuk@ctr.pcusa.org), 888-728-7228, ext. 5677.

## **PCUSA SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL WORK**

*Wanted: an accountant, a development coordinator, an ESL teacher . . .*

The optimal start date for most of the positions listed below is this coming July. Except where noted, the length of term is three years. To learn more about these and other positions contact Mission Service Recruitment at (888) 728-7228, ext. 2530, or visit [www.pcusa.org/msr/coworker.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/msr/coworker.htm)

For specific job descriptions visit the "One Door" Web site, [onedoor.pcusa.org/\(xnqhpqn5ve4ht2zjptr0zba\)/user/pages/jobsearch\\_search.aspx](http://onedoor.pcusa.org/(xnqhpqn5ve4ht2zjptr0zba)/user/pages/jobsearch_search.aspx)

Accountant-Kargel & Baedeker School, St. Petersburg, Russia (2-4 weeks)

Development coordinator-Ethiopia

ESL teacher, St. Petersburg, Russia (6-11 months)

Manager, information technology-Central Asia

Mission coworker for church growth and outreach-Poland

Peacemaker/evangelist-Korea

Professor of education-Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan

Program assistant-Twinning program, Moscow, Russia (3 months)

Teacher/education consultant-Equatorial Guinea

Mission workers filling the above positions may be asked to help raise funds for their support through the Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts & Hands (<http://www.pcusa.org/joiningheartsandhands/>).

#### AND MORE . . .

- The **JOINING HANDS** program, an initiative of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, has launched a newsletter that collects news from the nine Joining Hands partner networks and their related presbyteries. Visit [www.relufa.org/partners/jhnewsletter.htm](http://www.relufa.org/partners/jhnewsletter.htm) to see the latest online version. The first issue in December featured news from Bolivia, Cameroon, Egypt, India and Lesotho.

- "**WORLD MISSION CELEBRATION '07**" will be held in Louisville Oct. 2–6. Speakers include Ken Bailey, popular 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. For information, contact Kathy Reeves at [kreeves@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:kreeves@ctr.pcusa.org).

- "**A BETTER LIFE FROM BEES AND EARTHWORMS**" is a Minute for Mission about a Honduran beekeeper who was enabled to provide for his family and send his children to school. Minute for Mission bulletin inserts can be downloaded from [www.pcusa.org/witness/minutearchive.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/witness/minutearchive.htm)

- There are many **NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES** in Liaoning Province in China along the China-North Korea border. The Xi Ta Christian Church has been extending its service ministry to these refugees, and through ECO #047925 assists them with funds to provide food, clothing and other needs.

- **BICYCLES** purchased with funds from the Presbyterian Women Thank Offering are helping volunteers in Malawi bring care and counseling to persons living with HIV/AIDS. Home-based care volunteers in the three Malawi synods now share 100 new bicycles, making it possible for them to reach more homes at greater distances and spend more time with clients. Read the story of one farmer/bicycling volunteer at [www.pcusa.org/aids-international/bicycles.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/aids-international/bicycles.htm)

- In December mission workers Choon and Yen Hee Lim took a **PRAISE TEAM** (30 students) to Taipei to participate in the National College Gospel Song Contest. Seven universities and eight college Christian groups participated in the contest. Since the team goes to a mountain village church and holds a special praise night twice a year, they were well prepared-and **WON FIRST PRIZE!** Choon works with the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan's Aboriginal College Ministry in Hualien. Read more of the Lims' letter at [www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/limc/limc\\_0702.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/limc/limc_0702.htm)

• **PRAYER REQUEST.** Pastor Yoshioka, the pastor of the Tsuchiura Church in the city adjacent to us, had a major stroke in December. There was considerable brain damage. We are hopeful that his recovery will proceed to a near-full recovery, but even in the best-case scenario there will likely be significant disability.—Tim and Yuko Boyle, Japan ([www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/boylet.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/boylet.htm))