

November 15, 2008 Thousands join Vanuatu church

## IN THIS ISSUE

- **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VANUATU ADDS 7,000 CONVERTS**

"A lot of people came to tears when they saw this thing happen"

- **CHINESE FELLOWSHIP FLOURISHES IN KENYA**

During the last few years more than 100 Chinese have confessed faith in Jesus Christ

- **"HELP" WOMEN'S SHELTER IN JAPAN CELEBRATES 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

Christians are on the forefront in combating domestic violence

- **THANK YOU, PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN!**

Landcruiser assists the work of an HIV/AIDS consultant in Cameroon

- **YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS SPAN THE GLOBE**

34 "YAVs" have been appointed by the PCUSA to serve in 2006-2007

- **PCUSA SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR OVERSEAS SERVICE**

Some of the current opportunities in international mission . . .

- **AND MORE . . .**

World AIDS Day, 2007 *Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study*, Egyptian Christians, Presbyterian Coffee Project, prayer request from Korea, Fall *Highlights* coming soon

## **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VANUATU ADDS 7,000 CONVERTS**

*"A lot of people came to tears when they saw this thing happen"*

While a Presbyterian General Assembly watched in rapt attention, 1,300 new Christians in Vanuatu marched into the August meeting to declare their faith and to report the conversion of 5,700 others.

"We were sitting under the banyan trees, and when they marched in we were waiting for each one to shake their hands," says the Rev. Fiama Rakau, president of Talua Ministry Training Center, the only seminary of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. "A lot of people came to tears when they saw this thing happen."

The 7,000 new converts are the result of a major mission push in the South Pacific island nation by the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, Rakau says. We are excited about what the Lord is doing in Vanuatu."

The new converts live on the island of Tanna, the site of this year's General Assembly. They were followers of the John Frum movement, a cargo cult that believes an American named John Frum will deliver material bounty and bring prosperity to the island.

The movement began in the 1940s as U.S. military personnel arrived on Tanna carrying huge amounts of cargo.

Tanna has been the center of the movement and until now evangelism efforts there had limited success. I think its Gods time, Rakau says. For so many years the church has tried to get through and never succeeded until this time. I think God is putting his hand on the whole issue, and I think its Gods time for the island of Tanna.

Read more at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2006/06562.htm>.

### **CHINESE FELLOWSHIP FLOURISHES IN KENYA**

*During the last few years more than 100 Chinese have confessed faith in Jesus Christ*

I never would have guessed that by coming to serve in Nairobi, Kenya, I would be part of an ongoing outreach to mainland China. I recently had the rare privilege of being part of the commissioning of a new Chinese-speaking pastor who will begin a more in-depth shepherding of a Chinese fellowship that has been meeting in my local Kenyan church since 2002. Over 5,000 Chinese businesspeople and government personnel (news agencies and embassy personnel), primarily from mainland China, use Nairobi as their base, and it is here that Kenyans and other resident foreigners are reaching out to them and sharing the gospel.

Though attendance at the weekly fellowship is only around 50 people, during the last few years more than 100 Chinese have been publicly baptized as part of this fellowship in response to their confession of faith in Jesus Christ. Due to the nature of their businesses and contracts, there is high turnover-many people only stay in Nairobi two years-so the challenge of building continuity in the fellowship is great, as well as the challenge of long-term discipleship for these new believers.-Marta Bennett, Kenya

Read Marta's letter at

[http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/bennettm/bennettm\\_0610.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/bennettm/bennettm_0610.htm).

### **"HELP" WOMEN'S SHELTER IN JAPAN CELEBRATES 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

*Christians are on the forefront in combating domestic violence*

In 1986 HELP Asian Womens Shelter was established to reach out and help women who are faced with violence and human rights abuses. It was begun as a 100th anniversary project for the Japan Christian Womens Organization, Kyofukai. For 20 years HELP (House in Emergency of Love and Peace) has provided telephone counseling and a

temporary emergency shelter for women and children in need, regardless of their nationality or immigration status.

Read more about Kyofukai and its work for women's basic rights, including an end to legalized prostitution, the right to vote, and the establishment of social welfare projects, in Yukiko Altman's September letter at [http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/altmany/altmany\\_0609.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/altmany/altmany_0609.htm).

### **THANK YOU, PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN!**

*Landcruiser assists the work of an HIV/AIDS consultant in Cameroon*

A huge blessing has come my way in the form of a 1998 4-wheel drive Toyota Landcruiser: standard transmission, diesel fuel, dual gas tanks, and an extended back so I can actually use it as a motel when such occasions arise. God provided this blessing through the generous giving of Presbyterian Women in their annual Thank Offering. Thank you, Presbyterian Women! Thanks to all of you who prayed for God to help me find a car. This car will greatly aid my work as an HIV/AIDS and public health consultant for the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC). I have been delayed in getting to the field to see what's going on but now I will be able to step up my program and visit the PCC hospital in Manyemen. We are in the height of the rainy season and the road to Manyemen is impassible except with a large rugged off-road vehicle like the one I now have. One reason for the trip to Manyemen is to discuss the situation of HIV/AIDS and other public health issues like malaria and tuberculosis. In 2005 the hospital diagnosed 341 new cases of HIV, 1,042 new cases of malaria, and 269 new cases of TB. Please pray for us as we discuss reasonable actions with limited resources.- Shirley Hill, Cameroon

Red Shirley's full letter at

[http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/hills/hills\\_0608.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/hills/hills_0608.htm).

### **YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS SPAN THE GLOBE**

*34 "YAVs" appointed to overseas service in 2006-2007*

The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program offers opportunities in Christian service for one academic year for young adults (19 to 30 years of age). They work in education, youth ministry, hospitality ministry, community development, and other areas of service. For more information about YAV opportunities in the United States or abroad visit <http://www.pcusa.org/msr/youngadult.htm>. YAVs serving in overseas assignments in 2006-2007 include:

#### **GHANA**

Bonner, Leigh P.

Drake, Ashley Elizabeth

Frost, Kimberlee Michelle

Jorgensen, Nora

**GUATEMALA**

Acton, Leslie Diane

Burge, Lora L.

Grubb, Julia Katherine

Robinson, Sarah Lin

**HUNGARY**

Carter, Melissa Madelon

Norton, Rachel E.

**INDIA**

Carlson, Allison Eliabeth

Crane, Camill "Cammy" F.

Smith, Andrew Thomas

**KENYA**

Griggs, Emily Farrar

Harris, Kirk Andrew

Krummel, Anna C.

Scharstein, Lauren Wheeler

Speakman, Stephen Arthur

**NORTHERN IRELAND**

Hunter, Elizabeth "Libby" Kelly

Simmons, Sarah Lauren

White, Alison Atwood

**PERU**

Andrews, David

Fletcher, Emily Anna

Milton, Richard Jameson

Morris, Sutton Jonathan

Phillips, Kori Elizabeth

Wells, Jimmy David

Woods, Jason

**PHILIPPINES**

Marth, Erin Elizabeth

Morris, Rachel Elizabeth

Peil, Helen Irene

Reiter, Martha Faith

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Loveless, Emily "Kate" Kathryn

Smith, Monisha Mary

## **PCUSA SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR OVERSEAS WORKERS**

*Some of the current opportunities in international mission:*

CAMEROON: Seminary lecturer in theology  
CONGO: Development/food security specialist  
CONGO: Education consultant  
EGYPT: Young Adult Volunteer site coordinator  
MONGOLIA Christian educator/professor  
PAKISTAN: professor (philosophy, physics or religion)  
SOUTH AFRICA: Companionship facilitator  
SOUTH KOREA: Mission trainer  
SUDAN: Nurse

Candidates for these positions will be asked to help raise funds through the Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts & Hands to support their work overseas. For more information contact Mission Service Recruitment at (888) 728-7228, ext. 2530, or visit the MSR Web site <http://www.pcusa.org/msr/coworker.htm>.

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

- **DECEMBER 1 IS WORLD AIDS DAY.** Worship materials are available to help in preparing a worship service or other World AIDS Day event. Visit <http://www.pcusa.org/aids-international/resources.htm>. Some resources, such as a "Minute for Mission," are downloadable from this site. Read about the PCUSAs Its a Matter of Faith campaign to combat HIV/AIDS at <http://www.pcusa.org/aids-international/>.
- **The 2007 MISSION YEARBOOK FOR PRAYER & STUDY** and the **2007 CHILDRENS MISSION YEARBOOK FOR PRAYER & STUDY** are now available. The theme of the 2007 yearbooks is "People will come from east and west." Read more or order copies from <http://www.pcusa.org/missionyearbook/index.htm>.
- **EGYPTIAN CHRISTIANS** live their faith in amazing ways. Teri Peterson, Young Adult Volunteer, reflects on her experience in Egypt. Read her letter at [http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/yav/yav\\_petersont\\_0606.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/yav/yav_petersont_0606.htm).
- The **PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT** provides a link between congregations and communities around the world. Churches are now reaching out to neighbors overseas not only with the prayers and offerings, but with the goods and products they purchase. Fair trade practices complement mission with farmers in Latin America, Africa and Asia. By using fair trade coffee Presbyterians help guarantee that farmers will earn the income they need to feed their families, educate their children and improve their communities.

Fair trade means the difference between surviving and not surviving for small-scale coffee farmers. Read more at <http://www.pcusa.org/coffee/>.

- **PRAYER REQUEST.** Pray for the amendment of a new law in Korea regulating private school law so that the hundreds of Christian schools can continue to be Christian and minister through Bible classes and chapel worship.-Art and Sue Kinsler, Korea

- **SELF-DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ROMA PEOPLE.** The situation of Roma in some central and eastern European regions shows similarities with the social, economic and human rights situation of communities in developing countries. One of the key elements that seems to be missing in the development effort of this community is the involvement of the Roma themselves. An Extra Commitment Opportunity account, "Self-Development and Roma" (ECO #053728), assists Roma communities to identify their own needs and find their own starting point for change.

- **HIGHLIGHTS**, a twice-yearly print publication about the PCUSA's worldwide ministries, is available at no cost. The Fall 2006 issue is coming soon. To subscribe go to <http://www.pcusa.org/wmd/list.htm> or call (888) 728-7228, ext. 5258.