

October 2008 **Encountering Iraqi partners**

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.

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PRESBYTERIAN NETWORKERS MEET IRAQI CHRISTIANS

"An emotional and at times tearful encounter"

Twenty-two Americans representing a variety of Presbyterian congregations met in Damascus, Syria, earlier this month for an emotional, and at times tearful, encounter with leaders of the five Presbyterian congregations in Iraq. At least two representatives came to the gathering from each of the four cities where the Iraqi Presbyterian churches are located—Baghdad, Basra, Kirkuk and Mosul. Two other Iraqi Presbyterian leaders came from Jordan, where they are living as refugees.

The unprecedented three-day meeting was organized by Marilyn Borst, director of global missions for Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, and Nuhad Tomeh, PC(USA) regional liaison for Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and the Gulf, with assistance from the Iraq Partnership Network.

The Iraqis described in great detail the dangers and hardships that all Iraqis face, as well as the special challenges they experience as Christians. Several of the Iraqis said the tenuous security situation has made it difficult, if not impossible, for the churches to carry out their usual programs and ministries. They also said that a wave of church bombings and kidnappings, along with the assassination of at least one church elder, has created an ever-rising tide of emigration, which is

seen by many as the biggest single threat to the Christian presence in Iraq.
Read more: <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08742.htm>

DAVID HUDSON SUCCEEDS RETIRING INSIK KIM

World Mission has a new area coordinator for Asia and the Pacific

Leadership for the PC(USA)'s work in Asia and the Pacific is switching hands. Insik Kim, who has coordinated PC(USA) involvement in this part of the world for 35 years, will retire Oct. 31, to be succeeded by David Hudson. David and Susan Hudson have been serving as the denomination's regional liaisons for South Asia.

The area coordinator for Asia and the Pacific works with international partners, mission personnel, mission networks and other Presbyterians directly involved in mission in this area.

Kim, a native of North Korea, came to the United States as a seminary student in 1967. Prior to joining the staff of the former Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS) in 1973, he served churches in South Carolina and New York.

Hudson says he is honored to be following the "significant work" of Kim, who "has made numerous contributions to the Christian witness in Asia and the Pacific in more than three decades of remarkable service.

"Among his many accomplishments is his work to re-establish PC(USA) mission relationships in China, helping to build a strong partnership with the China Christian Council, and facilitating the sending of mission personnel to that country. His enduring efforts with Koreans to promote peace and reunify North and South Korea have broken new ground."

The Hudsons previously served as PC(USA) mission workers in Pakistan and Korea. They were co-pastors of Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Aberdeen, N.C., before returning to mission service in 2007. David also has been pastor of Troy (N.C.) Presbyterian Church, interim general presbyter of Peace River Presbytery in Florida, and director of an international exchange program in Atlanta.

Read more: <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2008/08705.htm>

MISSION WORKERS HIGHLIGHTED IN SEMINARY PUBLICATION

Princeton graduates respond to the call to mission service

Three PC(USA) mission workers were featured in the Spring/Summer issue of Princeton Theological Seminary *inSpire* publication—Ted and Susan Wright, PCUSA regional liaisons in south central Africa, and Karla Koll, professor at the Latin American Biblical University (UBL) in Guatemala.

"Sue and Ted are missionaries, but not like the missionaries they admired in their youth," says the article "Choosing to Go Far." "They don't take the gospel to places that haven't heard it. They don't plant churches. They neither teach nor practice medicine. Instead, they bolster the efforts of indigenous Christians and foster connections with the PCUSA. "Our purpose," says Ted, 'is to build their capacity-not to do for them, but with them-to strengthen their hand.' This is the goal of today's Christian mission: mission in partnership, where both sides give and receive."

"Christ's Call in Guatemala" tells Karla's story: "What do you do when you firmly believe that mission is 'the working out of what we pray every Sunday when we ask for God's reign to come'? What steps do you take when you understand mission as 'inviting people to be part of God's reign,' and 'helping equip church leaders to participate in God's mission and to lead communities of faith'? Well, there's a chance you could end up in Central America. . . ."

To read the articles: <http://www.ptsem.edu/PUBLICATIONS/inspire/13.1/feature2.php> and <http://www.ptsem.edu/PUBLICATIONS/inspire/13.1/feature5.php>

FIRST INDONESIAN WOMAN TO BE ORDAINED STILL ACTIVE AT 83

At first "the men didn't know what to do with me!"

Mission worker Rebecca Young writes about meeting Margaret Dharma-Angkuw, the first female graduate of Jakarta Theological Seminary, where Rebecca is now serving, and the first woman in her denomination to be ordained (in 1955):

"The men didn't know what to do with me!" Margaret says. Instead of assigning her to a pastorate, they placed her in a synod office, where she had a variety of roles in women's work. She then moved to the offices of the Indonesian Communion of Churches (DGI), where she served with social programs, including women's work. She was there for 25 years, and during that time also began serving as a chaplain at the nearby Cikini Hospital, which is run by the DGI. At the age of 83 she goes every Monday through Friday to the chaplain's office and does her rounds.

In 1958 Margaret was invited to attend some sort of U.S. Presbyterian meeting. The group was invited to tour the White House, and Margaret was chosen to address Mrs. Eisenhower when she received them. The First Lady was completely charmed. She even invited Margaret to an event where Eleanor Roosevelt was in attendance, and Margaret was thrilled to get to shake hands with another First Lady.

Margaret is a remarkable example of the dedication of the many graduates of this seminary who continue to serve throughout their lifetimes in various roles as Christian leaders, whether in a pastorate, chaplaincy, or administrative positions.

Read Rebecca's full letter at

http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/youngr/youngr_0806.htm

SCHOLAR SHARES MISSION TRIP RESEARCH WITH NETWORK LEADERS

More than 2 million U.S. Christians travel internationally each year on mission trips

A total of 44 people from 31 mission networks heard mission professor Robert Priest talk about short-term mission trips during a gathering of network leaders in Louisville in late September. Priest estimates that more than 2 million Christians from the United States travel internationally each year to participate in short-term mission. Drawing from his research, he reviewed some outcomes, both positive and negative, that frequently result from short-term mission trips. Read more: <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews//2008/08718>

The mission network leaders met with World Mission staff and 23 PC(USA) regional liaisons from around the world who had gathered for a meeting just prior to the network event. Network

leaders participated in training activities and shared "best practices" they have learned through their participation in mission. World Mission director Hunter Farrell says he is sensing "a growing culture of collaboration among Presbyterians involved in God's mission around the world." Read more: <http://www.pcusa.org/worldmission>

AND BRIEFLY . . .

- December **MISSION NETWORK** meetings:
Sudan Mission Network, December 1–2, Louisville, Ky.
Vietnam Mission Network, December 2, Louisville, Ky.
For more information see the Sudan or Vietnam country page at <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/>
- **WATER CONSULTATION.** The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will hold the denomination's first Mission Consultation on Water Nov. 13–15 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Sacramento, Calif. The event will bring together Presbyterians engaged in water projects around the world. Read more at <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/get-involved/water.htm>
- **NEW MISSION TRIPS WEB SITE.** "A mission trip is an exciting, engaging active experience in which faith is put into action," says the new Web site. For more information visit <http://www.pcusa.org/missiontrips>
- The **ASSOCIATION OF PRESBYTERIAN MISSION PASTORS** (APMP) will hold its 2008 Conference December 2–4 in Louisville. Theme: Leading the Church During "The Fullness of Time for the Muslim World." Plenary speaker: J. Dudley Woodberry, professor of Islamic Studies at Fuller Seminary, one of the foremost Christian scholars of Islam. To register: <http://www.missionpastor.org/registration.htm>
- Continuing the denominational focus on the global food crisis, the specific foci for the next suggested churchwide **MONTHLY FAST**, October 31–November 2, are **FOOD AID** and the country of **HAITI**. New fast materials are made available each month at <http://www.pcusa.org/foodcrisis/> Gifts can be made online to a special fund created by the General Assembly to support hunger relief and poverty reduction initiatives related to the Global Food Crisis: <http://www.pcusa.org/give/online/projectSelectAction.do?numberString=H333333>
- A new **Web page for MISSION NETWORKS** is now available at <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/get-involved/networks.htm>. Included are contact information, links to current network Web sites, and a downloadable PDF of the scheduled network meetings for 2008–2009.
- **RUTH FARRELL** has been named coordinator for the **PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM** (PHP). A former PC(USA) mission worker in Congo and Peru with her husband, Hunter Farrell, since last August Ruth had been a missionary-in-residence in Louisville, working on fair trade issues.
- **DENNIS SMITH**, PC(USA) mission worker in Guatemala, has been elected president of the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC). Read about his installation at www.wacc.org.uk/regions/north_america/north_american_news/communicating_peace_is_the_solution_to_world_wars Read his Mission Connections profile at <http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/smithd.htm>

- A **DELEGATION TO THE PHILIPPINES**, January 2–17, 2009, sponsored by the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, offers North Americans an exposure to the life and struggles of people of faith in the Philippines. Cost: \$1,500 plus international airfare, Applications due November 1, 2008. For more information visit <http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/delegations/philippines/2009jan>
- **WHOSE BIRTHDAY IS IT ANYWAY** from Alternatives for Simple Living provides excellent resources for navigating the holidays and celebrating creatively. Useful for church and personal devotions or as a pre-holiday gift. Made available through the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Order from PDS, item #25432-08-302; call (800) 524-2612; \$1.50 each (\$1.00 each for 50 or more).
- The **DEADLINE** for applying for participating in the 2009-2010 **YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTER** year is January 20, 2009. Read YAVs' stories, letters and blogs and watch short videos on the YAV Web site <http://www.pcusa.org/yav/>. The site also offers an easy link for supporting individual YAVs or the national or the international YAV program.
- Hope in **HAITI**. "Because we are Christ followers, we hope, and there is nothing that can separate us from that hope. As we were heading into Port au Prince Monday, September 8, we passed through an area just north of the city of Mirebelais where the farmers have access to irrigation. In field after field, farmers were out in those fields transplanting rice, hoeing rice, irrigating rice. Just one day after Hurricane Ike had passed through, the fields were already moving from devastation into abundance, farmers moving from being victims to being the agents of their own resurrection. —Mark Hare, Haiti
- **PAST ISSUES** of the PCUSA WORLDWIDE newsletter are available in PDF format from <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/newsletter.htm>