

Health & Development News

PC(USA) International Health Ministries

Spring, 2007

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PCUSA Ministries Collaborate to Help Partners In D.R. Congo Build Healthy Communities

The shared commitment of International Health Ministries, Presbyterian Women and the Medical Benevolence Foundation to our partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo was demonstrated and strengthened during a two-week trip in DRC in May. An eight-person team traveled throughout the country, meeting with church leaders, key personnel in projects for women and at mission hospitals, and with mission co-workers, at a wide range of institutions and project sites.



Women and their children at the nutritional rehabilitation program at IMCK receive nutritional supplements, growth monitoring and health education information. (Photo: Bob Ellis)

Led by IHM Coordinator Bob Ellis, the team from PCUSA included JoAnn Saunders, IHM Program Assistant for Finance; Joy Raatz, HIV/AIDS Initiative Facilitator; Cheri Harper, Program Associate for Presbyterian Women; Pauline Rowles, Chair of the PW Creative Ministries Offering Committee; Jimmy Hite,



Joy Raatz and Pauline Rowles exchanged warm greetings with women from the Presbyterian Community of Congo, at Lake Munkamba. (Photo: Bob Ellis)

former MBF president; Dr. Chip Lambert, MBF Outreach Coordinator, and Toya Hill from the Presbyterian News Service. (Con't. on Pg. 3)



Women in Mbujimayi show the cassava that they grow to help support various women's programs, and to help feed their families. (Photo: Bob Ellis)

Presbyterians Respond Generously Again To NetWorkers Mother's Day Project

The participation of Presbyterians in the annual NetWorkers Mother's Day Project was unprecedented again this spring, as over 28,000 NetWorkers Mother's Day cards were sent to loved ones, each in exchange for a donation to PCUSA's malaria prevention program. Donations will provide mosquito nets and malaria prevention education for women and their young children in Africa.

In 2006, over \$140,000 was contributed to PCUSA's malaria prevention program through the Mother's Day Project.

If Mother's Day cards were offered in your church, or if you want to donate to the NetWorkers Malaria Prevention Program as an individual, donations should be sent to the addresses in the box at right – not to the International Health Ministries Office. Thank You!

WHERE TO SEND MOTHER'S DAY PROJECT DONATIONS:

From Churches:

**PCUSA Church
Remittance Processing
P.O. Box 643678
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3678**

From Individuals:

**PCUSA Individual
Remittance Processing
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700**

**Make checks out to PCUSA.
Write ECO 048013 on the memo
line.**

New India Mission Network Sets Inaugural Meeting for "Mission Celebration" Week

A new Mission Network for Presbyterians engaged in or interested in the work of the church in India is being formed, adding to a growing list of 26 country-specific Mission Networks. Mission Networks are intended to build and maintain healthy mission relationships and provide a means for representatives of PCUSA partnerships to coordinate their efforts. The new India Mission Network will be a forum for sharing, learning and helping the diverse and historic PCUSA ministries in India.

The India Mission Network will hold its first meeting Oct. 1-2 in Louisville. The group's first meeting is scheduled just prior to a major conference in Louisville, "World Mission Celebration '07," on Oct. 2-4. Several of the other Mission Networks will also meet in Louisville during that week. Information on the conference is on the PCUSA website at www.pcusa.org/missoncelebration.

To learn more about the India Mission Network, contact Rev.

Dave Van Dam at djvd63@sbcglobal.net.

"Training for Transformation" Shows Results

The seeds of empowerment planted at a "Training For Transformation" workshop in Democratic Republic of Congo last year are clearly bearing fruit now, according to Joy Raatz who met in DRC with several of the workshop "graduates".

In 2006, 26 participants from throughout DRC, mostly women, participated in the six-day program, building leadership skills in identifying community needs and developing strategies for activities, management and evaluation to address those needs.

Several participants in the 2006 workshop have led training sessions in their home communities to share their skills, and have coordinated the develop-



Women in Kinshasa put new skills to work, earning income by selling hand-made purses.

ment of grass-roots projects. In Kinshasa, a group of women is earning income by making and selling woven purses. In Lubondai, Training for Transformation participants conducted a community assessment that identified lack of durable housing as a priority need. Plans are now underway to construct five new houses per year.

PCUSA Delegation Meets with Health and Development Partners in Congo

For International Health Ministries, the trip was significant in several ways, according to Bob Ellis. The medical directors of five of the hospitals supported by the Presbyterian Community of the Congo met and established funding priorities for their institutions for the next three years.

“They challenged each other to think beyond seeking funds for ongoing operating expenses to thinking about ways that the institutions can increase their income.” Bob reported. “Some hospitals are considering starting palm groves (as Bulape and Bibanga have done) to produce palm oil for sale. Bibanga Hospital is thinking about installing a small one-car ferry, which would both reduce travel time to the area from Mbujimayi and produce income from tolls. They are starting to think in self-supporting terms...”

The PCUSA group was joined at the Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai by Dr. Mike Hanger, who has returned to service as an obstetrician/gynecologist at Good Shepherd

Hospital. Nancy Hanger showed the visitors the nutritional rehabilitation program that is one aspect of her nursing and community health work.

While at IMCK, Jimmy Hite gathered information for the possible construction of a new graduate level nursing school. Dr. Chip Lambert assessed IMCK and other mission sites for their potential to host short-term medical mission volunteers.

For the two Presbyterian Women representatives, Cheri Harper and Pauline Rowles, the trip was a first-time opportunity to meet with leaders of the women’s organizations of PCUSA’s two partner churches in Congo. Cheri and Pauline, along with Joy Raatz, learned

Community Development Training to Begin in Ethiopia

The first phase of a Community Health Evangelism (CHE) training program for leaders of the five partner synods of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus will begin in June. The

New Resource Readied on Behalf of African Children

A new resource to help congregations engage in ministries for children in Africa will be available in July. This will be a comprehensive educational publication, providing an overview of issues, including HIV/AIDS, that impact children in sub-Saharan Africa, and suggesting ways that Presbyterians can respond.

Frank Dimmock, PCUSA’s regional health consultant for southern and east Africa, is a primary contributor to the new publication, (as yet un-titled) along with the Africa Office of World Mission, the Child Advocacy Office, and International AIDS Ministries.

(Con’t from Pg. 1.)



Young women in Kinshasa learn sewing skills that will generate income.
(Photo: Bob Ellis)

about the women’s work, such as day care centers for orphaned children and income-generating activities, and visited projects funded by PW.

Toya Hill’s diligent work, reporting for the Presbyterian News Service, will help interpret the group’s diverse experiences, as they saw the needs of our Congolese partners first-hand.

CHE program trains participants to identify health-related local issues and use available resources to develop projects that address problems while also witnessing to Christ in their communities.

Participants in the CHE training, primarily women, will come from throughout Ethiopia, to Gambella. The training is partially funded by Presbyterian Women. Funding is needed to continue the multi-phase CHE program. For information, contact Joy Raatz in the International Health Ministries office.

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Medical Benevolence Foundation Expands Staff

New leadership, new staff and an evolving strategic plan for the Medical Benevolence Foundation are expected to have a positive impact on the partnership of International Health Ministries and MBF.

At its Board of Directors meeting in April, MBF's new President, Dr. Maria Zack, guided the board in a strategic planning exercise, and called for the formation of a search committee to fill the position of Executive Director, following the recent resignation of Rev. Dr. George Pope.

New staff in MBF's Houston home office are Fred Kingston, Chief Financial Officer, and Daniel Strain, Director of Mar-

keting. MBF also recently added the position of Outreach Coordinator, held by Dr. Chip Lambert (who traveled in May

to Africa with IHM staff) and Network and Data Administrator, held by Sam Urick.

Covenant Hospital Network Supports Health Work in Mombin Crochu, Haiti

After serving the people of Mombin Crochu, Haiti at Covenant Hospital, Dr. Paul McLain and his wife Joan are now dedicated to building support to sustain the hospital. The McLains are part of a group in the U.S., the Covenant Hospital Network, that is working with PCUSA and the Medical Benevolence Foundation to raise funds for operating expenses and equipment.

Covenant Hospital, built in the

1980's, was developed by the Medical Benevolence Foundation into a full-service medical facility with a guesthouse for visiting medical mission teams.

PC(USA) medical missionaries worked at the hospital for a number of years until 2005 when the McLains' service ended.

More information on the work of the Covenant Hospital Network is at <http://www.covenanthospitalnetwork.org>.