



**Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**  
International Health Ministries  
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## REVIEW PROCESS BEGINS FOR AIDS POLICY

A comprehensive study of PC(USA)'s AIDS policy, mandated by the 218th General Assembly (2008), moved ahead in September when mission co-workers involved in AIDS programs in Africa and Asia provided valuable input to the study's leadership from the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP).

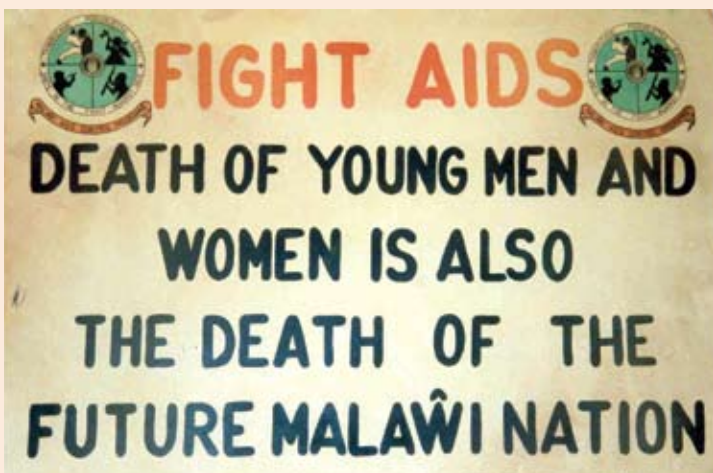
Mission personnel identified a range of issues impacting the AIDS pandemic, including poverty, food insecurity, the growing

number of orphans, vulnerable children, and commercial sex workers; gender violence, access to treatment and the shift in the AIDS epicenter from Africa to Asia

In addition to reviewing PC(USA)'s current policy statements, ACSWP will:

- Analyze the key role of the church in domestic and international public policy;
- Consider the enduring issues of personal and collective responsibility, racism, gender inequality, poverty and violence;
- Examine access to care;
- Explore homophobia related to HIV/AIDS;
- Explore the impact of human trafficking and sexual exploitation;
- Examine questions of scientific research; and
- Examine the impact of contraceptive and prophylactic availability.

*The results of the study will be reported to the 219th General Assembly in 2010.*





# HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Fall 2008

*PC(USA) International Health Ministries*  
[www.pcusa.org/health/international](http://www.pcusa.org/health/international)



*Akobo Hospital is one of the health institutions that will benefit from a collaborative initiative to provide health services to impoverished South Sudan. Photo by Bob Ellis.*

## IHM TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO RESTORE HEALTH SERVICES IN SUDAN

Beginning in 2009, International Health Ministries (IHM) will intensify its program work in Southern Sudan, an area ravaged by years of war and drought. IHM will support the IMA World Health Multi-Donor Trust Fund Basic Health Services program in the Upper Nile and Jongei States, which over the next three years will establish a health system in an area served by the Presbyterian Church of Sudan. IHM will collaborate with IMA World Health, ACROSS, and other church, governmental, and nongovernmental organizations working in the area to establish primary health care centers, reference hospitals, and water and sanitation systems in the two easternmost states of South Sudan.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP SUDAN

**ECO 862759:** Health Work in Sudan

**ECO 862703:** Water for All

**ECO 051716:** Women's Health International

A PC(USA) project team composed of Dr. Larry Shreshley and Frank Dimmock, PC(USA)'s two health coordinators for Africa; Doug Welch, World Mission Associate director for Mission Partners and Programs and Africa Office coordinator; Luke Asikoye, Associate for International Disaster Response in the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program, and

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## PC(USA) MISSION CONSULTATION ON WATER TO CONVENE NEXT MONTH

It's not too late to plan to join other Presbyterians at the PC(USA) Mission Consultation on Water, November 13 – 15 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Sacramento, California. Representatives of Presbyterian-affiliated organizations and mission groups engaged in water projects around the world will join speakers and panelists in sharing and learning about the multifaceted issue of water. Keynote speakers will be David Douglas, an environmental attorney and founder of the Waterlines and Water Advocates organizations; and Rajyashri Waghray, director of education and advocacy for Church World Service.

Two panel presentations will feature PC(USA) mission personnel who work with water projects, and representatives of Living Waters of the World and Marion Medical Mission who will discuss water and sanitation and water treatment. The program will also include opportunities for networking and fellowship.

Additional program information and registration are online at [www.pcusa.org/worldwide/get-involved/water.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/get-involved/water.htm)

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*At left: Rev. Dr. David Hudson, PC(USA) regional liaison for Asia, has been named World Mission Area Coordinator for Asia, succeeding the Rev. Insik Kim who is retiring at the end of the year. David and his family will move to Louisville from New Delhi, India where they now live.*

*At right: Dr. Salvador de la Torre.  
Photo by Gail Bingham.*

## NEWS OF OUR MISSIONARIES:

IHM's recent annual strategic planning meeting brought several mission co-workers to Louisville. The meeting included updates on their work with PC(USA)'s church partners.

**Janet Guyer**, HIV/AIDS consultant for Southern Africa, continues to provide training for the home-based care program of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Malawi and Zambia. She led a five-day workshop in Stellenbosch, South Africa, with the Network for African Congregational Theology, helping to review the HIV/AIDS curriculum used by a consortium of theological institutions and seminaries in eight African countries. Janet attended the International AIDS Conference in Mexico City in August. She is currently in the United States, on interpretation assignment through mid-November.

**Shirley Hill** is working closely with the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC) to create "HIV-Competent Churches" and "AIDS-Friendly Congregations" and also assisting PCC in the development of a long-range strategic plan. Shirley is on interpretation assignment in the United States.

**Dorothy Hanson**, who works with HIV/AIDS activities and women's issues in Ethiopia, is helping women leaders from PC(USA)'s partner synods in the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus collaborate for the first time. The

women are challenged by language differences and lack of transportation but are determined to work together to explore possible income-generating activities.

**Frank Dimmock**, PC(USA) health consultant for Africa, is working in seven African countries with the Christian Health Associations in Africa, PC(USA) partner churches, and Christian networks. Frank continues to be engaged in children's issues. An assessment of the needs of children that Frank conducted last year

**"LARRY REPORTED SEVERAL POSITIVE OUTCOMES, INCLUDING IMPROVED RATES OF ANTENATAL CARE AND CHILDHOOD VACCINATIONS."**

contributed to the development of a multi-agency strategy, the Early Childhood Development and Education program, to address the primary issues affecting young children and women. Frank will be visiting PC(USA)-supported hospitals in Malawi in November. He reported that the Ministry of Hope's six community-based programs for orphans and vulnerable children (including one in Mzuzu staffed by new mission co-workers Paul and Darlene Heller) are performing well.

Frank and his family are now based in Lesotho.

**Dr. Salvador de la Torre** is a consultant with the Christian Health Association of Kenya, working in Kenya's Anti-Retroviral Treatment Program that currently has enrolled 35,000 people from 21 faith-based hospitals in Kenya. Salvador is also involved with the successful Medical Male Circumcision program that integrates a traditional practice into a safe environment with reproductive health education.

**Dr. Larry Sthreshley**, PC(USA) health consultant for Africa, is based in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. In addition to working with Presbyterian partner church health programs, Larry has directed Project Axxes, a multi-organization effort to improve basic health care services and rebuild the health system, and the SANRU project in rural health zones of Congo. Larry reported several positive outcomes, including improved rates of antenatal care and childhood vaccinations.

**Brett Faucett** began mission service last year as HIV/AIDS consultant for Asia, based in Chiang Mai, Thailand. He is working primarily with the Church of Christ in Thailand, and will be expanding his area of responsibility. Brett is currently working on an empowerment project for children who have a family member affected by HIV/AIDS or who are living with HIV/AIDS themselves.



## NEW STAFF AT MEDICAL BENEVOLENCE FOUNDATION

The Medical Benevolence Foundation, a PC(USA) Validated Mission Support Agency that works to support health ministries worldwide, has added three former World Mission personnel to its staff.

Will Browne, former Associate Director for World Mission, is now the Executive Director of MBF, based in Houston. Bill Simmons, a World Mission associate director and former mission co-worker in Africa, has been named Grants Implementation Officer, facilitating MBF's role in grant-funded health projects for PC(USA) mission partners. Barry Almy, former PC(USA) Regional Liaison for Sudan, has begun work as MBF's new regional Development Officer for the central U.S. and upper Midwest.

## IHM TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO RESTORE HEALTH SERVICES IN SUDAN

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Bob Ellis, coordinator of IHM, will coordinate Presbyterian work in the area.

Frank Dimmock and other health-related mission personnel (Dr. Salvador de la Torre-Kenya; Jim McGill-Malawi and Michael Weller-Ethiopia) were part of an assessment team that examined the health situation in South Sudan. IHM staff met in September with the leadership of IMA World Health's Sudan initiative. "This is the worst health care situation that exists in the world," according to Charles Franzen, senior program officer for IMA World Health.

Trinity Presbytery in South Carolina is one PC(USA) group already engaged in the Akobo area. Other mission groups will be encouraged to participate in this important effort.

*World Mission Director Hunter Farrell addresses some of the more than 60 people who attended meetings of Mission Network leaders and Regional Liaisons, in Louisville in September. Over 30 Mission Networks were represented at the event, sharing best practices and mutual concerns, and learning ways to successfully engage mission initiators. Regional Liaisons, who work with mission personnel and partner programs in multicountry areas, gathered in Louisville to discuss their expanded responsibilities and learn about new resources available to assist them.*

## IHM STRATEGIZES TO MEET HEALTH PARTNERS' PRIORITY NEEDS

At its annual strategic planning session in September, International Health Ministries staff and mission personnel working in Africa and Asia examined current conditions and the critical needs of PC(USA)'s health partners around the world. IHM identified five countries as focal points for IHM's work.

"We will focus for the next two to three years on Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia, Cameroon, and Haiti," reported IHM Coordinator Bob Ellis. "This does not mean that we will ignore other countries, but we will approach our work in the target countries more intentionally and perhaps more intensively. We will be more integrated and collaborative in our health and development work, and will look at how we can coordinate with other church agencies and nongovernmental organizations."

Critical needs identified at the three-day strategic planning meeting were clean water and sanitation, income generation for partners' programs and institutions, maternal and child health initiatives, food security, support for orphans and vulnerable children, HIV/AIDS,

and malaria prevention. The planning session also examined the need for additional mission personnel to facilitate health and development programs.

"We plan to work more intentionally in a broader range of development issues, and we will invite groups such as the Medical Benevolence Foundation and Presbyterian Women to work with us," Bob stated.



*Responding to the health issues of women and children in the Democratic Republic of Congo is a priority for International Health Ministries and its partners in DRC. Photo by Bob Ellis.*