

Health & Development News

PC(USA) International Health Ministries

Spring, 2006

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“Training for Transformation” Planned to Nurture Health & Development Projects in D.R. Congo

A leadership development program, “Training for Transformation,” will bring together over two dozen church and community leaders in the Democratic Republic of Congo in May, to learn how to design and implement community projects that address local needs.

The 26 participants, mostly women, were chosen for the six-day training based on their leadership potential in PCUSA’s two

partner churches, the Presbyterian Church of the Congo (CPC) and the Presbyterian Church of Kinshasa (CPK).

The workshop is designed to build skills in assessing community problems and planning and implementing practical activities to address those problems. An example might be a project to grow vegetables to help local families feed children orphaned by AIDS. *(Con’t. on Pg. 2)*

Akobo Hospital Re-Opens in War-Torn Sudan

Closed for almost 20 years, the former Presbyterian Hospital at Akobo has resumed its mission of health services in war-ravaged southern Sudan. Patients are being cared for at the battered facility, which is now staffed by a clinical officer and two nurses.

International Health Ministries Coordinator Bob Ellis visited Akobo in March and saw more than 30 inpatients being cared for, despite an almost total lack of equipment. The hospital has only four beds, so patients were on the floor when Bob visited.

The International Health Ministries Office will be working with the local Akobo community and other agencies in the coming months to restore the hospital.



Akobo Hospital is woefully under-equipped.

(Bob Ellis)

Health & Development Ministries Growing in China, South Korea

The thriving fruits of partnership between PCUSA and our affiliated ministries in China and South Korea were evident in health, education and community development projects that IHM staff visited at the end of 2005.

In December IHM Coordinator Bob Ellis was a member of a delegation that traveled to China to see the work of our partner, the Amity Foundation, as it marked its 20th anniversary. The group visited health, development and education programs in four provinces: Guizhou, Shanghai, Nanjing and Shandong, and attended worship services in Beijing.

The Amity Foundation has fa-



The Presbyterian Church of Korea and Kwangju Christian Hospital hosted a delegation of PCUSA staff and friends of the hospital in November, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the hospital's founding by Presbyterian missionaries. The hospital has grown into a 600-bed full service facility, demonstrating both cutting edge medical technology and a strong Christian witness. The hospital has an ongoing mission to North Korea and has also sent medical mission teams to Bangladesh, Cambodia and regions of the former Soviet Union.

based projects that improve the quality of life in many remote rural areas, while providing it's partners, such as

cilitated effective community-PCUSA, an avenue for increasing Christian witness among China's vast population. Amity has become a well-known and respected organization in China, serving as a link between Christians abroad and those in China. Amity works with many organizations, including the government of China.

Training in Congo

(Con't from Pg. 1)

The workshop will also help men and women learn to work together effectively.

Trainers from Global Health Action in Atlanta will conduct the workshop, which is funded with a grant from the Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering. A follow-up to assess the outcomes of the program will be conducted by Jeff Boyd, PCUSA Regional Liaison for West and Central Africa.



Over twenty PCUSA mission personnel and their children from seven countries met for worship, Bible study, sharing and recreation at the Central/West Africa Mission Personnel Retreat in Kenya in March. Families came from Rwanda, Congo, Nigeria, Niger, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea and Sudan.

(Tony Aja)

Ethiopian Partners Focus on AIDS Prevention and Peace-Making

Innovative ministries in HIV/AIDS prevention and care, peacemaking and education are underway in Ethiopia, where IHM staff traveled in January to learn about the work of PCUSA's partner church and to visit recently-deployed mission co-workers.

Bob Ellis, Gail Bingham and Joy Raatz spent a week traveling to five of the Bethel Synods of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Jesus (EECMY,) accompanied by Dorothy Hanson, PCUSA's regional HIV/AIDS coordinator based in Addis Ababa.

The EECMY is facilitating a range of activities to reduce HIV/AIDS infection rates. Income-generating projects for poor women are providing a life-saving alternative to the commercial sex trade.

"Anti-AIDS Clubs" such as the Bakkalcha Bari ("Morning Star") Anti-AIDS Club in Dembi Dollo bring informative and entertaining programs to young people in their communities. The growing issue of care for children orphaned by AIDS is being addressed with assistance programs for families who take in orphaned youngsters, and with training programs to help older children find employment.

Basic health services are provided at clinics supported by the EECMY, such as the remote Tullu Gopho Clinic where one physician and his assistant work seven days a week, seeing patients who often travel by



This home-made chair was used to transport a patient to the remote Tullu Gopho Clinic in Ethiopia. Families often carry patients on the back of a mule.

(Gail Bingham)

mule to receive care. Last year over 6,700 patients were seen at Tullu Gopho.

The EECMY is also ministering to tribes in conflict in two remote synods, Eastern and Western Gambella, fostering collaborative efforts to reduce tribal violence. Members of the Nuer and Anuak tribes have formed a joint "Peace Choir" spread the spirit of Christ's peace in the Gambella region.

The IHM team toured the Bethel Evangelical Secondary School ("BESS") in Dembi Dollo and enjoyed an evening of fellowship with Mission Co-Workers Mike and Janelle McCarty and their toddler daughter Carolee. Janelle teaches English at BESS and Mike is taking on new responsibilities in community development projects. BESS offers a comprehensive curriculum that includes vocational training.

Mission Co-Workers To Return to Haiti

Nearly a year after civil unrest and a rash of kidnappings forced their removal from Haiti, PCUSA mission personnel have been given the go-ahead to resume their ministries.

Katie Griggs, Guest House Facilitator at PCUSA-supported St. Croix Hospital, returned to Leogane the first week of April.

PCUSA's partner, the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, invited Dr. Simon Park, a PCUSA financial management specialist, to consult with the administration of St. Croix Hospital. Dr. Park

recently spent a week at the hospital, reviewing its financial situation.

Rodney and Sharon Babe, who worked for many years as agricultural specialists in L'Acul, will return to Haiti as teachers at the Episcopal University in Port au Prince.

Although mission personnel are returning to Haiti, PCUSA continues to recommend that mission groups from congregations not plan trips to Haiti until advised that the security situation is more secure.

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HIV/AIDS PROJECTS IN FOUR COUNTRIES RECEIVE FUNDING FROM IHM

A broad range of HIV/AIDS prevention and care ministries in Africa have been funded through the 2005 International Health Ministries grant program for our partner churches. Over \$56,000 was awarded to HIV/AIDS projects from IHM.

The following HIV/AIDS projects received funding from IHM:

Ethiopia:

—Western Wollega Bethel Synod capacity building and peer education training: \$1,318
—Illuababor Bethel Synod Prevention and Care in Jimma and Mettu: \$8,000
—Southwest Bethel Synod home-based care and capacity building: \$10,000

—Eastern and Western Gambella Bethel Synods prevention and control projects: \$4,423

Kenya:

—Presbyterian Church of East Africa Presbyterian College HIV/AIDS training: \$16,554

Malawi:

—Church of Central Africa Presbyterian General Synod HIV/AIDS policy publication: \$6,930

Zambia:

Mwandi center for orphans and vulnerable children: \$9,200

HIV/AIDS activities were also funded last year by Presbyterian Women, who awarded \$40,000 in Thank Offering

grants to purchase a vehicle for the Presbyterian Community of the Congo Women's Guild, and bicycles for AIDS home-based care workers in Malawi.

The Medical Benevolence Foundation provided an additional \$30,476 in funding for HIV/AIDS projects in Africa.

Funding decisions for the 2006 IHM grant process will be finalized May 1.

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