

# Health & Development News

PC(USA) International Health Ministries

Summer, 2008

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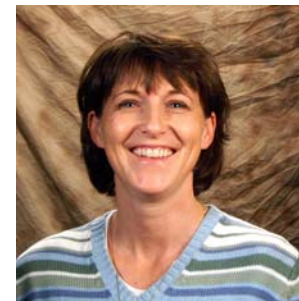
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## New Missionaries Ready to Begin Service in Malawi and Egypt

A Spirit-filled group of new PC(USA) mission co-workers completed Orientation in July and are ready to answer God's call to service around the world. Among them are three whose work will relate to International Health Ministries: Rev. Paul and Darlene Heller (pictured below), who will serve at the Ministry of Hope



Crisis Care Nursery in Mzuzu, Malawi, and Denise England, RN, (pictured above), who will serve as a geriatric and health management consultant with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Egypt.

All were commissioned at the 218th General Assembly in San Jose, CA in June. *(Con't. on Pg. 4)*

## PC(USA) To Convene Consultation On Worldwide Water Issues

The complex political, technical, social and financial aspects of one of life's essentials—water—will be examined at a consultation sponsored by PC(USA) Nov. 13–15.

Participants are expected to include representatives of a broad range of groups involved in water projects, as well as Presbyterians who work in water-related mission activities.

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Sacramento, CA will host the meeting.

The program will include plenary speakers, workshops and informal sharing and networking. A planning team coordinated by International Health Ministries is developing the agenda.

*(Con't. on Pg. 3)*

## 218th General Assembly

### Dr. Carol Brees Inspires Guests at Health Breakfast

Dr. Carol Brees who served for over 15 years as a missionary physician in Pakistan, was a thought-provoking and inspiring speaker at the International Health Breakfast in San Jose.

Carol's talk, on the critical importance of "partnership" in health missions, drew on her experience working as an obstetrician/gynecologist at Memorial Christian Hospital. She described a delicate "dance of partnership" based on faith, commitment, and mutual respect. "It is scary, exciting and humbling to be a part of this movement of the Spirit," Carol said. "Do we have

faith, even as big as the mustard seed, that He will use us, and our partners in all our imperfections to bring health and healing?" she asked.

Carol urged her PC(USA) colleagues to support on-going ministries of presence with our international partners, many of whom work and live in difficult and even dangerous circumstances.

Carol, her husband, Rev. Jim Brees, son Nate, and daughter Rebecca have relocated to Louisville, where Carol will teach at the University of Louisville School of Medicine.



*Mission Co-Worker Dr. Carol Brees returned from service in Pakistan just days before she was the featured speaker at the International Health Breakfast at General Assembly. The annual breakfast, this year attended by more people than ever, is co-sponsored by the Medical Benevolence Foundation and International Health Ministries. A videotape of Carol's presentation will be available in August through the International Health Ministries office. (photo: Danny Bolin)*

### G.A. Mandates Comprehensive Study For HIV/AIDS Policy

Noting the need for "compassionate action and prophetic witness" on behalf of persons living with HIV/AIDS around the world, the General Assembly voted to conduct a comprehensive HIV/AIDS study

and develop an updated policy that will guide the future direction of the church.

The action came out of an overture sponsored by New Castle Presbytery which states that

General Assemblies dating back 20 years have spoken on the AIDS issue, but have not committed "significant finances and programmatic resources for education, advocacy, prevention, treatment and cure."

### 2006 Malaria Initiative Dropped

A report detailing the inability of a proposed malaria initiative to garner sufficient financial support was accepted by the 218th General Assembly, thus marking the demise of the effort. It was originally approved by the 217th G.A. in 2006.

partners and civic organizations, to develop new malaria prevention strategies.

Donations made to ECO 053503 will be re-assigned or returned, according to donors' wishes.

International Health Ministries had collaborated with the initiative's sponsors, the Presbytery of Northern New York, in an effort to raise funds for the creation of a consortium of African church

The termination of the 2006 malaria initiative has no effect on the PC(USA) NetWorkers Malaria Prevention Program, which has supported malaria prevention activities of overseas church partners for over ten years.

The overture notes that "the face of AIDS is changing" with African-American and Latino populations in the U.S. disproportionately affected.

The study will be undertaken by the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, in consultation with other program offices, including IHM, as well as networks and church partners.

A report is to be made to the 219th General Assembly (2010).

## Partners in Mission Visit Ministries in Cameroon and Congo

The growing collaboration among International Health Ministries, Presbyterian Women and the Medical Benevolence Foundation on behalf of health missions in Africa was bolstered this spring, when representatives of the three groups traveled together to meet with church partners in Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In June, Mission Co-Worker Rev. Shirley Hill welcomed IHM Coordinator Bob Ellis and Medical Benevolence Foundation Outreach Coordinator Dr. Chip Lambert to Cameroon, where Shirley serves as an HIV/AIDS Consultant. The three visited the Presbyterian Health Centers at Doula and at Kumba and Besongabang. They also saw the health work of PCC at Manyemen, at Acha-Tugi Presbyterian Hospital and at the health center at Weh.

Reflecting on the trip, Bob Ellis commented on how frequently he observed Shirley's effective interactions with her Cameroonian partners, as both a health consultant and a pastor. "Her skills



*Rev. Shirley Hill talks with Dr. Peter Chunke, the Medical Officer at the Presbyterian Church of Cameroon's Douala Health Centre. (Photo: Bob Ellis)*

*Shirley was appointed to mission service in 2006. To learn more about Shirley's mission service, and how you can help support it, visit Mission Connections at <http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/hills.htm>*

women's programs and health institutions, including Good Shepherd Hospital at Tshikaji, which was built with a grant from Presbyterian Women.

in both roles are well-respected," Bob said, "and she is able to empower people, helping them identify issues and develop solutions."

Earlier in the spring, Bob Ellis led a contingent that included representatives from MBF and Presbyterian Women to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Kathy Reeves, the recently-named PW Associate for Mission, met with leaders of

"I was amazed by all the ways that PCUSA is engaged in God's mission in the DRC, through working with our partner churches there to improve the conditions of the hospitals, health care and schools," Kathy said.

PW is providing mattresses for hospitals and bicycles for hospital staff, and assisting with the renovation of guest houses to accommodate larger numbers of volunteers in DRC. "PW is looking forward to closer partnership in mission with our partner churches in the DRC, World Mission and MBF," Kathy said.

### New DVD Available

A new DVD, "International Health Ministries: Building Healthy Communities For Christ", is now available through the Presbyterian Distribution Service.

The 10-minute program (PDS #25384-08-001) illustrates how IHM carries on PC(USA)'s century-long tradition of health missions.



*Women in Kinshasa make and sell pastries similar to donut holes, as an income-generating project. (Photo: Bob Ellis)*

### Water Consultation

*(Con't. from Pg. 1)*

Further information and registration will be available on the PCUSA website at: <http://pcusa.org/worldwide/get-involved/water.htm>.

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## New Missionaries Begin Service

(Con't. from Pg. 1)

For each of these faithful servants, moving onto the mission field is the culmination of a long period of discernment and preparation.

Paul Heller, a pastor in upstate New York, and his wife Darlene, a public health nurse, had already made several mission trips to Malawi when they learned of the need for a director and nursing matron at the Crisis Care Nursery. The small facility in central Malawi cares for and finds homes for infants, many of them abandoned and infected with HIV.

Funding for the Hellers was secured primarily from the

Presbytery of Northern New York and the Malawi Mission Network.

For Denise England, the road to mission service has been a long one, beginning when she met the Rev. Dr. Victor Makari, coordinator of PC(USA)'s Middle East Office, in 2002 and began to learn of the need for geriatric care in Egypt.

Denise's growing sense of call outpaced the fund-raising for her position, but she remained committed to serve. Funding was in place in the spring, allowing her to attend Orientation in July. She leaves for Cairo on July 31.

(Photos: Mission Connections)

### To Support Mission Co-Workers

Donations may be sent to:

**PCUSA Individual  
Remittance Processing  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3678**

**Indicate the account number of  
the mission worker you wish to  
support on your check:**

**Hellers: E200463**

**Denise England: M1910061**

**Or donate online at  
[www.pcusa.org/mission](http://www.pcusa.org/mission)**