

MISSION MEMOS – February 2008

One Great Hour of Sharing: Churches will be receiving their OGHS materials at the end of the month...only a week before Lent begins, so be on the look-out!

The green OGHS fish will identify your packet or box. Be sure to check to see that you've got enough bulletin inserts, offering envelopes and fish banks. Churches have been collecting OGHS offerings and working together around the world since the end of World War II. Our immediate response to disasters in the US such as Hurricane Katrina and the Virginia Tech massacre are made possible by OGHS. The same is true of international disasters such as the tsunami in Asia, famine in Malawi, or the recent flooding in Tabasco, Mexico. OGHS also supports on-going programs to help people help themselves, such as the agricultural project in Haiti which Warren Wilson College grad and PCUSA missionary Mark Hare works with, or a similar one in Republic of the Congo with which missionaries Larry and Inge Streshley work. Locally OGHS has supported two programs that help our Hispanic neighbors, Avery Amigos and Latino Advocacy Center in Hendersonville. These are just a few ways OGHS is at work. To learn more go to www.pcusa.org/oghs or read the printed material.

Order Eco-Palms now! See the attached information sheet to purchase palm leaves for Palm Sunday service. If your local florist can't get palms from one of the Charlotte distributors, use order form enclosed.

Helping Hands Work Days at Camp Grier – APRIL 5 & 12

Come on one or both of the dates to prepare the camp for the summer season, and enjoy the fellowship of others. If you can't come (or even if you can), consider contributing for the needed supplies. Send checks to Camp Grier, PO Box 490, Old Fort, NC 28762. Designate "Helping Hands." Please register using the enclosed form.

Souper Bowl! Nickel a Meal money is once again being used to SUPERSIZE Souper Bowl on February 3. Churches should register at www.souperbowl.org and report on-line afterwards. Those who report by March 1 will supersize each dollar collected with another 50 cents and each food item with 25 cents. Last year together we contributed more than \$37,000 and 5279 food items to local agencies. Find resources at web site. GO TEAM!

Mission 2007 Facts: (Complete Outreach Division report will be at Presbytery mtg and on the Presbytery web site)

	# of Churches Participating	\$ Contributed
Nickel a Meal	76	\$128,073.57
One Great Hour of Sharing	80	79,547.34
Peacemaking Offering	38	20,570.38
PCUSA Missionary Support	64	~180,000.
PCUSA Mission Program Support	19	~57,000.
Partner Churches in Guatemala	31	9,000.
Guatemala Children's Scholarship (+400 children)	22	~63,000.
Pentecost	27	\$10,173.39

More than 100 people participated on Presbytery-sponsored mission trips to Mexico, Malawi, Guatemala & the Gulf Coast.

Coming Soon to Presbytery Resource Center: DVD's on current topics of importance: environment; immigration; "restorative justice" (dealing with crime, criminals and victims in ways that maximize the potential for healing). As well as the DVD's which can be used with Adult or High School Sunday School classes and other programs, there will be printed material to help with discussions. Come to the display area at the January 26 Presbytery meeting to pick up some popcorn and descriptions of what's available.

Prayer Requests from our missionaries:

Del and Debbie Braaksma, serving in Sudan, sent these urgent matters for prayer:

- 1) The Presbyterian Church of Sudan in the Pibor/Gummuruk area region has serious concerns about the inter-ethnic tensions and violence occurring. At their invitation, RECONCILE is conducting peace-building training this week. Pray for Rev. John Okumu, Debbie Braaksma and Ama Annan as they lead this workshop and that it will bring about social transformation – a culture of peace- particularly among the youth.
- 2) The Africa Union Hybrid Force has met resistance as it has begun its peace keeping mission in Darfur - a UN convoy was attacked. Pray that such resistance would cease so that the mission can be effective in saving lives and providing humanitarian assistance.
- 3) Pray for peace in Abiyei where SPLA soldiers were attacked by militias allegedly supported by the Government of Sudan that resulted in many lives being lost - a serious threat to the Peace Agreement.

Thank you for your prayers and continued interest in promoting peace in Sudan!

Barbara Nagy, serving in Malawi

- 1) For both her parents, who are very frail.
- 2) Some progress on the adoption of Happy. Everything seems still at a standstill.
- 3) That efforts to improve maternal and children's health will continue, and for Barbara as she begins to share the very successful protocols developed at Nkhoma Hospital with others in the region.
- 4) For Nkhoma Hospital which still faces significant financial difficulties. While not as dire as last year this time when its closing was imminent, staff still meet each week to decide which bills will be paid (pay the nurses or order meds, for example).
- 5) For the PWNC mission team (or teams) going to Nkhoma in May. One team is definitely going the end of May and there is the possibility that another one will go and camp on the mission station grounds at the beginning of May. Contact Ginnie for more information.
- 6) For their home assignment in WNC this summer.
- 7) That Melia and Anna will be happily situated in schools in the fall.

Ellen Dozier, completing her ministry in Guatemala

- 1) For someone to continue the ministry with women when she leaves in March, and the Guatemalan women who lead the Presbyterian Women at national, presbytery and congregational levels.
- 2) For time and energy to get packed up; she returns on March 13.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ✓ Feb 3: Souper Bowl Sunday
- ✓ Feb 23 – Mar 1: Disaster Recovery Team to D'Iberville, MS. Contact Carol & Stinson McCrosky at 828-675-4927; carols1house@earthlink.net.
- ✓ Mar 23: Easter Sunday & One Great Hour of Sharing
- ✓ Mar 24-Apr 1: Partner Church Delegation to Guatemala
- ✓ Apr 5 & 12: Helping Hands Work Days at Camp Grier
- ✓ May: Malawi Mission Team (dates tba announced by Jan 26)