

## Mission Memos – March 2008

**One Great Hour of Sharing:** “It’s you Presbyterians...again,” signed the Baptist in Gautier, MS. “You’re all over the place, and you keeping coming,” he went on enviously. It’s true. After most disasters there is a great rush of enthusiastic help for the victims, but it gradually peters out. But we Presbyterians... well, we hang in there. Even as these memos are being written, a team from PWNC prepares to go to D’Iberville from Feb 23 to March 1 to continue rebuilding homes. This is possible because One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) contributions were used to both begin our disaster relief efforts **and** organize for long-term recovery. Long-term recovery. Get it? Infrastructures and finances are in place so we can continue to send teams to the Gulf Coast for another couple of years. One Great Hour of Sharing responds to immediate needs but it also provides support for the long haul, for changes that really make a difference. Use the OGHS bulletin inserts sent to your church and the minutes for mission in the planning booklet to inform and inspire folks in your congregation to give generously. [www.pcusa.org/oghs](http://www.pcusa.org/oghs).

By the way, there are some weeks set up for youth (16+) participation in recovery efforts at the Presbyterian Volunteer Villages along the Gulf Coast. Father & Son Teams: June 8-21. Youth Teams: June 22-July 27. Team leaders, contact the PDA Call Center at 866-732-6121.

### **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. There will be a wide variety of jobs, from cleaning and sprucing up the buildings, to clearing trails, to doing repairs. 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, or look at the Wish List at [www.campgrier.org](http://www.campgrier.org). Designate “Helping Hands.” Please register using the form at [www.presbyterywnc.org](http://www.presbyterywnc.org)

**MALAWI MISSION:** There will be plenty of opportunities for churches, PW groups, youth, children and others to participate in the mission at Nkhoma! Our teams are leaving May 7 and May 20, returning May 20 and June 3. There may still be room, especially on first team. Contact Ginnie (828-443-7620; vestevens2@aol.com)

The information that Barbara Nagy sent regarding possibilities is copied below. As these projects are prioritized and refined, we will post them on the Presbytery website and send out information to churches and their missions contact person (usually chair of Missions Committee).

**GREAT RESOURCE:** For wonderful stories and information about PCUSA mission around the world, go to <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/newsletter.htm>

### **PARTNERSHIP CELEBRATION: Sunday, September 28 (Blk Mtn Church)**

Plans are for Partnership coordinators Cesar Taracena (Sur Occidente) and Edwin Gelista (Suchitepequez) to be with us, as well as representatives from the Women’s organizations and delegates from the presbyteries. This will be a special time to evaluate and celebrate the nearly 15 years we’ve been in partnership, as well as the beginning of a time of discernment about our future together. This is for all churches, not just those with individual church partners.

**FALL GATHERINGS OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:** In conjunction with the Guatemalans' visit, PW will celebrate the ministry of Ellen Dozier and the women of Guatemala at their Gatherings (September 20 and 27). Ellen will lead the Bible Study related to Women in the Bible (2009 theme) at the Gatherings. For more information, contact Patricia Clark (828-433-1726; patriciahc@bellsouth.net)

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- ✓ 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 7-20 and May 20-June 3: Malawi Mission Team
- ✓ September 28: Guatemala Partnership Celebration at Black Mtn Church.
- ✓ September 20 & 27: Presbyterian Women Fall Gatherings
- ✓ Frozen Chosen events have been postponed until late summer or early fall

**INFORMATION ABOUT MALAWI PROJECTS:**

***Work Projects:***

1. *Reynier Ter Haar (a missionary from South Africa who is the director of the whole health program operating out of Nkhoma Hospital) wants one group to do renovations at one of the ten village health centers, an outreach of Nkhoma Hospital.*

2. *We're trying hard for the main project to be helping build a new nursery school at Nkhoma. In the past year we have come to realize it is not only us expatriates that are agonizing over the trip into Lilongwe, but most of our staff who have no possibility of doing such and are sending their young children to live with family in town to get adequate education. This has caused us to lose some really good staff. Happy (Barbara's foster child), and David and Adam Ter Haar have been going daily to the only 'nursery school' available, which is in a very dilapidated building and basically is unstructured play time. This is fine for these three, but most kids actually need a structured preschool program to get them ready for school. Willeke has some money from the Tikondane Shop that she plans to use for a new preschool and follow up with early primary years, so that local people can send their kids to school at Nkhoma. There would be a fee, but the school would also then serve as a training center for the completely untrained volunteers staffing the nursery schools in the villages. These are very important since the issues of school readiness are much worse for the village kids, but the nursery schools in the villages also serve as a point of feeding kids, sometimes providing health education and sometimes simple medical care. This is sort of the natural outgrowth of the project you previously supported that brought the same group of village nursery school volunteers into Nkhoma to learn how to teach the children, but now they would team teach with an experienced teacher at Nkhoma. What the group from NC could do would be help with construction and help with funding for the building/equipment. I don't know what their budget is going to be yet.*

3. *Renovating a small room to be an isolation room is still a possibility.*

***Kits***

1. *For health centers with things like blood pressure cuffs, digital thermometers, those wind-up flashlights, heavy duty gloves, etc. We have ten health centers and several churches could combine if they wanted. Twenty extra dollars per kit could buy a metric bathroom scale in Lilongwe. However, it is very important to get heavy duty equipment that can stand up to steady use. The lighter equipment designed for home use just breaks after a week or so, which frustrates everyone involved. (We will develop a list and publish it on the web and e-mail it to the person in your congregation designated as the missions contact. One idea is that a specific group (Women's Circle, for example) signs up to provide one or more items on the list.)*

2. *More nursery school kits might also serve, as the previous you sent were very helpful and would also nicely dovetail with the project outlined above.*