

MISSION CONNECTION



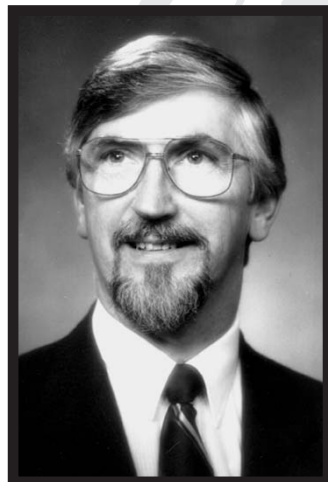
Inspiring News from PC(USA) Medical Missions Around the World

Winter 2002 Volume 9, Issue 5

MISSION CONFERENCE 2003 PROMISES INSPIRATION AND CHALLENGE

Where could you go to hear one of the most engaging preachers in the PC(USA), complete with Irish accent; for a first-hand report on PC(USA) medical ministries in Malawi, Nepal, and Haiti; for the latest information on challenges in global health care presented by a doctor from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; for ways to meet those challenges by an official of USAID?

All of the above, and more, will delight, challenge, and encourage Presbyterians who attend the Mission Conference International Health 2003, April 25-26 in Ohio. Sponsored by the Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF), International Health Ministries of the PC(USA), and Scioto Valley Presbytery, the conference will be held at the Indianola Presbyterian Church in Columbus.



The Rev. Dr. Alan J. Meenan will speak at the opening session of Mission Conference International Health 2003.

The Rev. Dr. Alan J. Meenan, Senior Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, will speak Friday evening on the healing ministry of the Gospel. Saturday, representatives from PC(USA) health partner ministries will be followed by Dr. David Addiss of the Centers for Disease Control and Dr. E. Anne Peterson of USAID.

Workshops promise to be timely and practical. Attendees may choose topics such as how their congregation can help fight the diseases of poverty, how to plan a mission trip, what can be done to help the nearly 50 million world refugees, and how to handle the delicate issues of a health ministry in the context of other faiths. Round table conversations will bring together speakers and representatives of overseas partner organizations to discuss issues emerging from the main sessions and workshops.

Because of the size of the expected attendance, MBF encourages early registration for this conference. Visit www.MBFoundation.org for more information, or call MBF's international office at 800.547.7627.

Dr. E. Anne Peterson of USAID's Bureau of Global Health, will address the conference on "Our Response to the New Global Health Challenge."



"I hope that the [MBF/International Health Ministries] conference will have the same transforming effect for others as the Pittsburgh conference had for me."

*Dr. Charles W. Kim
Setauket, NY*

"My husband and I were so impressed with the 2001 MBF/Health Ministries conference that our church, Valley Presbyterian, will be host church for the 2005 conference."

*Joan Fortune
Paradise Valley, AZ*

"We attend MBF/Health Ministries conferences as a way to remain involved in the mission of our church."

*Rev. John Seibert (retired)
Carbondale, IL*

"The MBF/Health Ministries conference provided the occasion to lift a developing missions emphasis in this congregation to one of greater significance."

*Rev. Steve Bacon
Peachtree Presbyterian
Atlanta, GA*

MBF's 40th Year—New Challenges

The year 2003 will mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Medical Benevolence Foundation. We give thanks for being allowed to continue this ministry for almost 40 years. We give thanks to the supporters of this ministry for their role in changing lives of untold numbers of people around the world. We give thanks to the hundreds of trustees who have guided and supported the work.

After the success of the PBS program featuring MBF, we were caught off guard by the economic downturn of the US economy. Suddenly, we were experiencing what is being felt by so many non profits. Our support is down more than 30% compared to last year. In the last few weeks, it

became necessary to lay off two senior staff. In addition to the loss of staff, we are concerned about the loss of aid that will not go to those in need because we do not have the funds. We are taking every possible step to cut expenses and to raise additional funds. Our staff and trustees are going that extra mile to see if they can locate more funds that will make a difference.

I know that your life is also feeling the impact of this current financial dilemma. As with the wise men of old who came bearing gifts, we ask you to do whatever you can do this season to support this ministry of spiritual and physical healing to the poorest of the poor. Thank you!

Daniel L. Force

Now You Can Make a Recurring Donation to MBF

At the request of donors, MBF joins the growing number of organizations who make it easier for you to give over a period of time, rather than in one lump sum. Through electronic transfer from your bank account, or through a credit card, you can set up a monthly donation amount.

For more information visit www.MBFoundation.org
or call 800.547.7627

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL NURSING SCHOOL

A few weeks ago, Holy Cross Hospital in Haiti saw the first sign of a dream come true. Construction began on a nursing school that will eventually graduate well-trained nurses to fill that critical need at Holy Cross and other Haitian hospitals.

To complete the school, Holy Cross is depending on the continued generosity of MBF and PC(USA) congregations, and grants from American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA).

Haiti, only one hour and 45 minutes from Miami, is the poorest country in the Western



Hemisphere. Though so close to the richest country in the world, life expectancy is still only 48 years for males, and 30% of the population lives in hopeless poverty. Since 1968, Holy Cross Hospital in Leogane has served a population of 110,000 people with an aggressive community outreach program that greatly depends on qualified nurses and health workers.

When completed, the new nursing school will help fill the critical need for nurses in Haiti, and lighten the load for nurses like this one at Holy Cross Hospital.

An artist's rendering of the proposed nursing school at Holy Cross Hospital in Haiti.



WHAT CAN PRESBYTERIANS DO ABOUT THE GLOBAL AIDS CRISIS?

PC (USA) Explores Questions at New York Conference

by Pam Ator, MBF Associate Executive Director

In late October, I joined 80 Presbyterian ministers, educators, and health care professionals meeting at the UN office of the PC(USA) to learn more about the global AIDS pandemic and the role the church can play in addressing this crisis, particularly in Africa.

Rev. Howard Matiya Nhkoma and Anderson Kawendo from two Malawi synods, and Dr. Phiri from Ekwendini Hos-

pital in Malawi spoke about the fear and stigma associated with AIDS and its affect on the most vulnerable—women and children. They told about how AIDS has left thousands of children without parents, and how hospitals and churches are working on providing home-based care, compassion for care givers, and programs in the African church for prevention and AIDS education.

The global AIDS crisis is a wake up call for the American church. It's time to take a look at how this pandemic is affecting the courageous work of our worldwide partners and what we can do to help. For that reason, the Worldwide Ministries Division of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has established an AIDS Task Team to develop a comprehensive response. Pray for them, continue to educate yourself and your congregation, and continue to provide support, through MBF, for the fight against AIDS.

"The most serious problem facing the world today is not terrorism, but the AIDS pandemic."

SECRETARY OF STATE

COLIN L. POWELL

November 12, 2002

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) SENDS CONSULTANTS TO AFRICA

Since May, 2002, PC(USA) Mission Co-workers Caryl Weinberg and Janet Guyer have been in Africa consulting with partner churches and institutions on the AIDS pandemic. Their job as HIV/AIDS Consultants includes providing first hand information to U.S. congregations on the impact of AIDS on this disease-ravaged area of the world.



Caryl Weinberg, a registered nurse with an M.A. in adult education, serves Central West Africa. She is a former MBF trustee and veteran of several short-term mission trips with her Evanston, IL church. Caryl also served as a community health program developer in a remote area of Ethiopia.



Janet Guyer consults with Presbyterian partners in southern and east Africa. Janet worked with the Church of Christ in Thailand in development training, and has more recently assisted PC(USA)'s International Health Ministries develop the AIDS Task Team.

AIDS has robbed thousands of children in Africa of both mothers and fathers. This child is being cared for at the Ntambueâ Konanga orphanage near Good Shepherd Hospital, a partner hospital of the PC(USA).



A funeral procession in Africa for an AIDS victim. Every eleven seconds worldwide, a person dies of AIDS. The majority of those deaths are in Africa.



Medical Benevolence Foundation
P.O. Box 770636
Houston, TX 77215-0636

**Non Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 11118
Houston, TX**

Healing Ministries in a Changing World



"MBF reaches out to Presbyterian congregations throughout the U.S., creating a circle of giving that connects American parishioners with 3 million people worldwide who are served by their clinics."

Sam Waterston
on "The Visionaries"



Videos of "The Visionaries" TV program featuring MBF are available from your regional director or MBF's international office. (A shortened version is also available.)

It's Not Too Late to Send Your Alternative Christmas Gift!

You can still send a miracle around the world this season. Our staff will send your designated gift to the project of your choice, and provide a gift card for the one in whose name it is given. Those on your Christmas gift list who have so much can still be blessed by a gift given in their name to those who have so little. Just call us at **800.547.7627** or you can make your gift online at:

www.MBFoundation.org.

Regional Contact Information

Serviced nationally 800.675.9250
(info@MBFoundation.org)

IA, MN, SD, IL, OH, ND, WI, IN, NE, MI

Michael D. Haggin 800.225.4999
(mhaggin@MBFoundation.org)

AK, CO, MT, OR, WY, AZ, HI, NM, UT, CA, ID, NV, WA

David B. Jenkins 888.649.0222
(djenkins@MBFoundation.org)

DC, DE, SC, MD, VA, NC, WV

Jan Schneider 800.891.7623
(jschneider@MBFoundation.org)

AL, KY, FL, MS, GA, TN

Susan J. Sommerville 800.990.6492
(ssommerville@MBFoundation.org)

CT, NY, MA, PA, ME, RI, NH, VT, NJ

Lynn Swinke-Workman 866.331.2525
(lswinke@MBFoundation.org)

AR, MO, KS, OK, LA, TX

Forrest Eggleston 888.343.9518
(feggleston@MBFoundation.org)

Medical Consultant and volunteer

International Office 800.547.7627
(info@MBFoundation.org)

The Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) with the Presbyterian Church (USA) proclaims and demonstrates the gospel of Jesus Christ by encouraging and supporting the healing ministries of our worldwide partners.

Medical Benevolence Foundation

P. O. Box 770636

Houston, TX 77215-0636

phone: 800.547.7627

e-mail: info@MBFoundation.org

MBF Mission Connection is published 5 times a year by the Medical Benevolence Foundation. Editor: Catherine Davis,

Designer: Gary Gnidovic.

For information on FREE subscriptions, call MBF at 800.547.7627.

Visit MBF's Web Site at: www.MBFoundation.org