

# Called to a New Moment

## *The 2005 Presbyterian Women Global Exchange to Brazil*



**Participants of the 2005 Global Exchange to Brazil. Front row, left to right: Sherry Flyr, Mary Lou Davison, Nancy Penny, Selma Louzada Mantovani (one of our hostesses in Vitória), Laura Hovland, Liz MacGregor. Second row: Josephine Lu, Patricia Garrett, Flavia Alvarez, Janet Riley, Kathy Wareham, Susan McMichael, Sandra Wagenius, Shannon Roe, Lisa J. Houston, Sue Ella Rich, Susan Jackson Dowd. Third row: Stella Webster, John Davison, June Ramage Rogers, Kathryn Baker, Nicole Johnson, Barbara Snyder, Micah Emerson, Carol Smith, Gina Gustavson, Shirley Patton, Ann Ferguson, Roberta Mansfield, Loretta Bradley, Bligh Jones, Laura Lee.**

The Global Exchange of Presbyterian Women is a commitment. The organization is committed to supporting the mission of the church worldwide, working for justice and peace, and building an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom. It is also a personal commitment—participants agree not only to participate but to prepare beforehand and tell the story afterward. In preparing for the Brazil exchange, participants agreed to be guided by *Romans 12:9–13* as they “focused on how United States social, economic, political and educational policies impact people by

- hearing the cries of our sisters and responding with compassion,
- working for the end to all forms of violence,
- advocating for the rights of women and children,
- supporting our global partners and
- allowing ourselves to be transformed by partnership experiences.”

At the conclusion of the Global Exchange, participants collaboratively created the following commitment statement.

*Deus chama a gente pra um momento novo.*

God calls us to a new moment through the 2005 PW Global Exchange to Brazil—to walk in mutual love and solidarity with our Brazilian neighbors. Their faith and witness humbled us because these neighbors embody the joy only faith can provide. With each step together they taught us love and generosity. They showed us how they plant the realm of God. They taught us how to hope when there is no hope. Amazed and inspired by our sisters and brothers in Brazil, we commit to risk ourselves to pursue justice as we

- ❖ Tell the story of our Presbyterian and ecumenical partners in Brazil
- ❖ Bear witness to the Brazilian experience of injustice in their historic context
- ❖ Acknowledge the United States' role in these injustices and our complicity in the policies that perpetuate the gross inequalities
- ❖ Examine personal choices that support this complicity and work toward change
- ❖ Challenge the PC(USA) and society to take responsible action
- ❖ Live mission as *caminhada*: walking together in mutual love and hope.

***Caminhada—Walking Together in Mutual Love and Hope***



## Caring for the Whole Person

BY LAURA HOVLAND

a skin cancer clinic. Today, an ecumenical group of Presbyterians, Lutherans and Catholics representing 11 congregations provides a full-service clinic staffed entirely by volunteers.

As early as 6:00 A.M., the clients begin to gather at the church. Volunteers register clients and provide support services as necessary. Before the clinic session begins, a worship service for everyone is held in the church courtyard. Medical students and public health nurses use space in the sanctuary and church schoolrooms to conduct physical assessments. The volunteers provide education regarding the prevention of skin cancer. If minor treatment is required, there is a surgery area located in an adjacent building. Doctors refer patients who need more extensive treatment to a hospital clinic for follow-up. About 180 people are examined each month. In the four years of operation, the clinic has treated more than 1,000 people. There is no fee for these services. Global Exchange participants were especially touched to learn that the clinic date had been adjusted by one week in order to correspond with our visit.

On the first Saturday of each month, the Igracia Presbyteriana in Vila Velha is the host for a unique health care ministry. Carlos Cley Coelho, MD, a dermatologist and Presbyterian elder, has long been aware of the increased incidence of skin cancer in the descendants of Italian and German immigrants. A lifetime exposure to the sun from working outdoors in the fields of the mountainous interior of the state of Espírito Santo results in sun-damaged skin. To help counter this problem, Dr. Coelho asked the session of his church to provide leadership in the establishment of

Other participants wrote about the parts of the trip that affected them most deeply. Read all of the stories in the March/April 2006 issue of Horizons.

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