

News and Information About Presbyterian Women and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



Louise Davidson

PCUSA Mission Coworker Sook Hee Bae (in the pink suit) with (left to right) Han On Kyo, director of the Another Home for run away juveniles, Nam kum Ran, director of the Good News Shelter for survivors of domestic violence, and Kwon Jung Hye from the Women Ministers Association.

Presbyterian Mission Work in Korea

BY LOUISE DAVIDSON

I have heard PC(USA) mission stories for years, but they never seemed quite real until I traveled to South Korea. At the invitation of the Keisung Schools in Daegu, South Korea, I traveled with Insik Kim, PC(USA) coordinator for East Asia and the Pacific, as a representative for Presbyterian Women and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We greeted and congratulated the staff and students on the occasion of the schools' 100th anniversary.

Through their contributions to South Korean society and the Christian community, 65,000 graduates have made Keisung schools some of the most prestigious in the country. Edward Adams, a Presbyterian missionary, founded Keisung Boys' School in 1906. Now coeducational, the Keisung system has grown to include separate kindergarten, primary, middle and secondary schools.

Other institutions with Presbyterian connections exist in Daegu, among them Keimyung University, which turned 50 in 2004, and Dongsan Medical Center (at Keimyung University). The latter was begun by Presbyterian medical missionaries. The original missionary residence has been preserved as a museum.

Sinmyeong High School in Daegu was begun in 1907 by a "blue-eyed 20-year-old" missionary, M.S. Bruen. Ahead of her time, she believed women should

be educated. The school began with 12 students, and now, nearly 100 years later, has graduated 46,000 students. The curriculum today is challenging and includes Bible study as well as academic subjects.

In Seoul we met the administrators of the Kwangju Christian Hospital. The 2007 Birthday Offering will include a grant to this medical facility, which Presbyterian missionaries founded. It was exciting to learn that Kwangju Christian Hospital is developing a hospital in Bangladesh in partnership with the PC(USA). Our mission has begun a mission beyond its own country's borders!

In 2003, a Birthday Offering Grant to the Good News Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence provided for renovation of a leaky, rundown building in Seoul. I was pleased to witness the results of the renovation when I toured the clean, renovated spaces with Sook Hee Bae, PC(USA) mission coworker, and met the girls and women housed and counseled there.

A mission project of the National Organization of the Korean Presbyterian Women, the House of Peace, also will receive a 2007 Birthday Offering grant. Sook Hee Bae, who works as a partner in mission with Korean Presbyterian Women and the Women Ministers, has encouraged these ministries.

It is inspiring to see the way South Korean people have responded to and expanded the work of Presbyterian missionaries. As PW and the PC(USA) continue to focus on mission partnerships around the world, more wonderfully real mission stories will emerge, encouraging us to broaden our understanding of mission.

Mark Your Calendar for Encuentro V

Encuentro V, the national, triennial gathering of Hispanic/Latina Presbyterian Women will take place in Irving, Texas, July 27–29, 2007.

The theme is "Go, Share and Serve," based on *Matthew 10:8b*: "You received without payment; give without payment."

La tema es "Vayan, Compartan y Sirvan" basada en *Mateo 10:8b*: "De gracia recibieron, den de gracia."

More than 400 women of all ages are expected to attend the event, with workshops offered in Spanish, Portuguese and English.

The registration fee is \$225 until May 1, 2007. After May 1, 2007, the registration fee is \$275. A downloadable registration form is available on the PW Web site, www.pcusa.org/pw.

For more information about Encuentro V, contact Cecilia Casal, acting moderator for Hispanic/Latina Presbyterian Women, 1710 Normandy Lane, Midland, TX 79705; 432/684-4822; shiccasal@sbcglobal.net.



The Search Committee Needs You!

The Search Committee of the Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women is beginning the process of finding leaders for the 2009–2012 triennium. To find the best candidates possible, the search committee is turning to the woman in the pew—you!—who knows talented women who could serve as leaders for Presbyterian Women.

The leadership roles to be filled are moderator, vice moderator for justice and peace, vice moderator for mission relationships, secretary, historian, search committee moderator and six racial ethnic members-at-large. Nominees should be energetic, capable, racially diverse women who can serve as visionaries, organizers, doers and leaders, who are committed to the PW Purpose. Candidates should work well as team players and be open to growth, change and travel.

Anyone may nominate a candidate using the Endorsement for Nomination Form, which is available on www.pcusa.org/pw and from the members of the search committee (see below). Send the form to the PW Search Committee member from your region no later than October 1, 2007. If you have additional questions, contact Carolyn Jordan, moderator of the search committee, 1508 Verdure Cove, Birmingham, AL 35226, or csjordan4@charter.net.

Please prayerfully ponder the perfect person for these powerful positions!

Search Committee Members

Northeast Region

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East Central Region

Nicole Johnson, 926 S. 6th St., Clearfield, PA 16830; nicjohn@verizon.net

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Women's Ministries Loses Director

In response to goals set by the General Assembly Council in its Mission Work Plan and continued denominational budget constraints, a reorganization and downsizing of staff occurred in late 2006. While the reorganization offers the opportunity for exciting partnership opportunities and new approaches to work, several beloved colleagues' positions were eliminated in the new structure. One

of the losses felt most acutely by Presbyterian Women was the position of director of Women's Ministries, held for the last five years by Mary Elva Smith.

During her tenure, Mary Elva encouraged and celebrated the participation of women in the life of church, always focusing on ways to enrich the PC(USA). While Mary Elva will be greatly missed in Women's Ministries, we look forward to witnessing the new ways she will advocate for women and help the denomination flourish.

New Year, New Web Pages

Presbyterian Women has a newly reorganized Web site! The Web address remains the same, www.pcusa.org/pw, but is more streamlined and offers more information that will help you.

Note that updates regarding synod leadership may be submitted through the Web site (see www.pcusa.org/pw/about/synods). Bookmark the PW main page, www.pcusa.org/pw, and visit often for updates, resources available exclusively through the Web and the newest information about PW!

National Health Ministries Blog

National Health Ministries is now hosting a blog (Web log) to provide a discussion forum for current health-related issues, particularly as they intersect with public policy and ethics. Located at www.presbyterian.typepad.com/nationalhealth, the blog contains stories that are timely or tied to a current event. Visitors to the site can comment on each story and share thoughts and opinions.