

# Continuing the Journey

## 2007 Fellowship of the Least Coin

BY SUSAN JACKSON DOWD

Presbyterian Women has been a partner of the Asian Women's Church Conference and Fellowship of the the Least Coin, an ecumenical women's prayer movement for peace and reconciliation, for more than 50 years. Oversight for the Least Coin, which is the main program of the Asian Women's Church Conference, comes through the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Two staff positions support this international work—an executive director and a support person. For the last 10 years, Esther Byu has served as executive director and Apinya Korsrisuwan has assisted her. The two share an office in the Church of Christ Thailand building in Bangkok. Esther, who spoke at the 2006 Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, is retiring December 31, 2007, and will return to her native Myanmar. As she leaves her position, she offers Presbyterian Women these words.

### 2007 Fellowship of the Least Coin Grants

The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is first and foremost a prayer movement. When women pray for peace and reconciliation, FLC asks that they set aside the least coin of their country for the support of women and children around the world. The least coin is significant because women in any economic context can give equally. In more than 80 countries around the world, women are in solidarity through prayer and their least coins. Funds are collected regionally, but total income from each region is not publicized. Grants are distributed through the International Committee of the Least Coin to individual projects as well as to church conferences and organizations. In allocating the grants, the committee supports opportunities for

- awareness-raising and/or education for women on gender issues;
- programs on literacy, health, social concerns and leadership development;
- promoting justice, peace and reconciliation in families, communities and the environment; and
- gathering women to meet ecumenically, regionally, nationally and worldwide.

A small percentage of the money is used for administration. For more information on the FLC grant process, contact Susan Jackson Dowd, 888/728-7228, ext. 5368 or [Susan.Jackson-Dowd@pcusa.org](mailto:Susan.Jackson-Dowd@pcusa.org).



### A Letter to Presbyterian Women September 2007

Dear Presbyterian Women of the U.S.A.,

From the very inception of the Fellowship of the Least Coin prayer movement, you have been the cofounder, the midwife, the committed promoter, supporter and faithful participant. May you continue to be so in the continuing journey of the Least Coin towards its centenary, deepening your prayer life in the spirit of the Fellowship; renewing your commitment to the ministry of justice, peace and reconciliation; and living a life of jubilee.

On behalf of the International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin and myself, I would like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation for all that you have meant to the Fellowship of the Least Coin prayer movement.

With deep gratitude and prayers,

Esther Byu  
Executive Secretary  
International Committee of the  
Fellowship of the Least Coin



## Project Grants

### Africa—\$8,000

1. Wichlum Self-help Group; Molo, Nakura District, Kenya; \$4,000
2. Oridore Self-help Project; Seme, Kisumu District, Kenya; \$4,000

### Asia—\$19,000

1. Come Spring of Water in the Desert, Empower Us!—ecumenical church women's program, Kasimbayan Women's Collective; Quezon City, Manila, Philippines; \$4,000
2. Telephone Counseling for Women—"Sakdong" training course for counselors, The Korean Christian Center; Osaka, Japan; \$4,000
3. Timor Leste Protestant Church, Women's leadership child-care training; Dili, Democratic Republic of Timor Leste; \$3,000
4. "Rainbows," Launceston City Mission; Launceston, Tasmania; \$2,000
5. Choices, Decisions, Outcomes (CDO); Oaklands Park, South Australia; \$2,000
6. Publication Project—A gender education book for Chinese women in Hong Kong, Malaysia; Singapore, Taiwan; \$4,000

### Europe—\$9,000

1. "The New Voice"—community radio for women and young men, reaching the regions of SharaSur, Halabja and Hauraman (borders to Iran); Halabja, Northern Iraq; \$4,000
2. European Citizenship: Challenge for European Women; Helsinki, Finland; \$4,000
3. European Gathering for Clergywomen; Brannfels, Germany; \$1,000

### Latin America—\$12,500

1. Peace in our Homes and Families; Los Lagos, Heredia, Costa Rica; \$4,000
2. Right to Health Care—promotion and empowerment of women about their rights; an option for alternative medicine; Barranquilla, Colombia; \$3,500
3. HIV/AIDS education—youth and women of the churches working together to prevent, educate and overcome the stigma of HIV/AIDS, addressing factors of its spread, such as sexism, racism, classism and violence; Dominican Republic and the Caribbean Region; \$5,000

### Middle East—\$16,000

1. "Face challenges," a pastors' and wives' seminar, conference center in Lebanon; \$4,000

2. Help children of South Lebanon overcome violence; Alma Al-Chaab, South Lebanon; \$4,000
3. Children deserve a good kindergarten even in a small town; Mehardeh, Hama, Syria; \$3,000
4. Self-support Opportunities for the Physically Disabled, Evangelical Church of Shoubra; Cairo, Egypt; \$5,000

### Pacific—\$18,000

1. Catholic Church of the Solomon Islands' nonviolence program within the three Catholic dioceses—Honiara, Auki and Gizo—Solomon Islands; \$5,000
2. Moamoa Theological College Women's Fellowship, Moamoa Theological College; Moamoa, Samoa; \$3,500
3. Women of Hope Project; Nukualofa, Tonga; \$4,500
4. Tina Tautua (Women in Service); Kanana Fou, American Samoa (project activities vary in location); \$5,000

### World Day of Prayer International Committee—\$10,000

1. Developing Ecumenical Partnerships with Young Caribbean Women; Toronto, Canada; \$5,000
2. Women Agents of Healing in Latin America, Caribbean, Pacific; Toronto, Canada; \$5,000

**Total project grants: \$92,500**

## 2007 Block Grants

All Africa Conference of Churches, \$10,000  
Asian Church Women's Conference, \$20,000  
Christian Conference of Asia, \$10,000  
Caribbean Conference of Churches, \$10,000  
Church Women United, USA, \$5,000  
Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women, \$10,000  
Latin American Council of Churches, \$10,000  
Middle East Council of Churches, \$10,000  
Pacific Conference of Churches, \$10,000  
Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, \$5,000  
World Council of Churches Women's Programme, \$10,000  
World Day of Prayer International Committee, \$10,000

**Total block grants, \$120,000**

Visit [www.pcusa.org/pw/leastcoin](http://www.pcusa.org/pw/leastcoin) to learn more about the movement and to download brochures, prayer cards and brochures.

The International Fellowship of the Least Coin provides materials to supporters—some free, some modestly priced. Order the following materials through Presbyterian Distribution Service, 800/524-2612.

### FLC Coin Boxes

Use this box to collect your circle's or your personal contributions to the FLC.

Item PWR-06-460; \$5.00/pack of 10\*

### Circle of Prayer Devotional Booklet

Volume 18 includes prayers, thoughts and testimonies on living out the promise of peace and reconciliation; published annually, this volume is themed "Living the Jubilee."  
Item PWR-07-467; free\*

### A Legend and A Legacy: An Autobiography of Shanti Solomon

This book is the autobiography of Shanti Solomon, who founded the ecumenical FLC prayer movement in 1956. Tributes and photos included.  
Item PWR-06-462; \$3.00\*

### Many Prayer, One Prayer: Reconciliation and Hope Through the Fellowship of the Least Coin

This paperback book, compiled by Lakshmi Daniel, and published by the FLC in its 40th year, tells of the miraculous story of the FLC and the thousands of women from all over the globe who have prayerfully participated in FLC.  
Item PWR-06-461; \$10.00\*

### Celebrating the Legacy, Visioning the Future, Living the Jubilee

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the FLC, this book features women from around the world describing their encounters with and commitments to the ecumenical prayer movement; photos throughout.  
Item PWR-06-465; \$10.00\*

\*Plus shipping and handling (10% of order total, \$4.50 minimum, \$60.00 maximum)

### Web Extra!

Read an interview with Annam Arumanayagam, who was president of the Asian Women's Church Conference (ACWC) during the 50th anniversary celebration of Fellowship of the Least Coin in 2006. She reflects on ACWC, the Least Coin and PW's ongoing relationship with both.

