

WINTER
2008

KNOX NEWSLETTER

INDIA MISSION

It is just a year ago that I returned from my study trip to India. Since my return I have been privileged to show pictures and offer talks in many locations on Vancouver Island. Here is a short summary of the trip for those who have not been able to attend any of the presentations.

The purpose of the trip was to inform participants about the work of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in India. Our group of eleven spent 14 days in the country – traveling almost every day. Two focus areas of the trip were Tsunami Relief and HIV/AIDS. We were also fortunate to spend some time in the Bhil region of India where the PCC has been active in mission work for over one hundred years.

PCC work in India seems to be mostly undertaken within a partnership model and is focused on helping to improve day to day life rather than active evangelism. We learned about our work with the *Institute for Development Education* (IFDE) and *Roofs for the Roofless* in and around the city of Chennai and with the *Church's Auxiliary for Social Action* (CASA) in Kanyakumari on the southern tip of India.

IFDE works with men and women in city slums and rural villages to overcome poverty through education, preventative health care and income generation projects. Training programs in computers, typewriting and tailoring are teaching youth a valuable trade.

We toured the Sastri Nagar slum in Chennai (Madras); met with women's associations to learn about income generation projects such as making paper envelopes, phenol, candles, and soap powder. It is clear that education has a positive impact on community development. We learned about the significance of micro-loans and self-help groups in addition to being treated to some of the local culture.

We visited a village of tsunami resistant homes being built by CASA in the Tamil Nadu area of South India and were able to see how people were affected by the tsunami as well as how they lived. **CASA** is

an organization that has been responding to emergencies and disasters for sixty years. They respond to humanitarian needs regardless of victims' caste, creed, language, religion, ethnic origin or political affiliation.

We went to the fishing villages to see boats provided by PWS&D. This also gave us the opportunity to spend a few moments on the Bay of Bengal in one of those boats – very exciting! We saw local sights where the three waters meet.

In central India we spent time with Pauline Brown in the communities of Amkhut, Mendhar and Jobat. We were privileged to attend a nurses capping ceremony, to meet with community health workers in villages and to worship in local churches. While it was fascinating to see the long time mission presence of the PCC in this area we focused our attention on the current initiatives which are designed to improve nutrition, maternal and child health, and HIV/AIDS prevention.

This is also where I thought most of Canadians in Presbyterian Churches because I kept seeing your handiwork! Vests and hats made by Canadian Presbyterians are making a real difference to the health and wellbeing of people in India. Not only that but your donations to other medical equipment is so appreciated and valued by all the medical personnel.

We continued to tour hospitals in Indore, Ratlam and Neemuch. People often choose the Christian hospitals over the government ones even if the cost is slightly higher. Funding for hospitals is a constant concern as they struggle to provide primary care and offer support to community health initiatives.

One new project in the area is Project Nirmal ("hope") in the community of Neemuch which seeks to address the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS with an integrated testing and counseling program. Problems that affect the project relate to stigma and information dissemination.

There is a need for structure as they try to secure funding from PWS&D/CIDA to get the hospice running.

One of the most moving parts of the trip was meeting the Banchara people and hearing some of their stories. In the Banchara community sex trade is part of the culture.

Meera Bai is a female sex worker that we spoke with. She lives in village Sutod in near the town of Ratlam. She is the leader in her area and has 30 female sex workers with her aged 15 to 25. They are very vulnerable and need a lot of information on protection from infections. The Presbyterian Church in Canada partners with the Church of North India to visit these women from time to time and make them aware of many things. Meera Bai is a bold woman and can face problems and difficulties without much fuss.

Karuna Roy, Coordinator for the HIV/AIDS Program of the Church of North India, has spent a lot of time with the female sex workers of this village. She spoke to Meera Bai asking what future she had in mind for her two children, a girl and a boy. Meera Bai did not have much to say at first but eventually decided to put both her children in school and was not going to allow her daughter into sex work. It was absolutely overwhelmingly exciting to get this news!

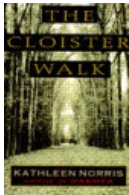
Meera Bai was also instrumental in getting all the young female sex workers to use condoms regularly to protect themselves. She not only imparts this information voluntarily to her village but adjacent areas too.

This is just one of the successes we were invited to participate in on our study trip and one that I am happy to share with you. I hope this whirlwind overview has been helpful in updating your understanding of current mission initiatives of the PCC in India.

Laura

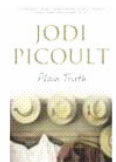
BOOK CLUB AT KNOX

The next book club date is Saturday, April 5th at 10 am. We will discuss Kathleen Norris' book *The Cloister Walk*. We meet at the manse for this interesting time of conversation and coffee. Everyone is welcome. Please talk to Laura for more information.



“Part memoir, part meditation, *The Cloister Walk* is the movingly written and thought-provoking record of a married, Protestant woman's time spent in a community of men in a traditional Benedictine monastery in Minnesota. Any reader seeking a meaningful life - not necessarily a religious one - will be inspired by author Kathleen Norris's experiences...”

In June we will talk about the novel *Plain Truth* by Judi Picoult. “An Amish girl gives birth and the baby is murdered, the defense lawyer is a cousin of the girl and there are lots of interesting and intricate twists in the story. It was a great insight to the Amish customs and their culture, without giving too much away, they put their gods before all, their family and basically everything else before themselves.”



KNOX CALENDAR EVENTS FOR MARCH & APRIL

MARCH	
World Day of Prayer service - at Knox	Friday, March 7 - 2 pm
Palm Sunday	Sunday, March 16
- combined service with Grace (Korean) Presbyterian Church	
Maundy Thursday Service	Thursday, March 20 - 6:45 pm
Good Friday Service	Friday, March 21– 10:00 am
Easter Sunday	March 23 - 10:30 am
“Extreme Outreach”	Sunday, March 30
Oak Bay Lodge Service	Sunday, March 30 - 2:30 pm
APRIL	
Book Club	Saturday, April 5
Communion Service	Sunday, April 6
Presbytery Workshop for Elders & Treasurers	Saturday, April 26
“Fresh Fruit”	Sunday, April 27
The Scott Woods Show	Saturday, May 31 - 7:30 pm

SPEEDING THROUGH LIFE

45 mph	God Will Take Care of You
55 mph	Guide Me, Oh Thou Great Jehovah
65 mph	Nearer My God to Thee
75 mph	Nearer Still Nearer
85 mph	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph	Lord, I'm Coming Home
Over 100 mph	Precious Memories



KNOX CONCERT SERIES

THE SCOTT WOODS BAND

Saturday, May 31 at 7:30 pm

This 5 piece band of multitalented musicians will play old time fiddle music as well as traditional country and gospel. Scott plays several instruments as do others in this band which was featured in the October 2006 edition of the Presbyterian Record. However his favorite instrument is the fiddle which he has been playing since age four from classical to big band, Celtic to country. Scott has captured all the major Canadian fiddling titles. For seven years he was the musical director and played the part of Don Messer in 'Memories of Don Messer's Jubilee', a tribute show which toured across the country. His father Mervyn was an original Don Messer fiddler. His mother Caroline on piano, brother Bruce-fiddle and drums are also mainstays of this band. Guitarist/vocalist Ivan Felker and Karl Watson- bass player, complete the basic unit. Sister Kendra Norris-fiddle joins them as able.

The Scott Woods Band which has performed to enthusiastic crowds across Canada, the USA and Holland is accustomed to sell out performances. Don't miss this upbeat and uplifting concert!!

TICKETS \$15 in advance \$20 at the door

A reception following the concert will provide a welcome opportunity for our audience members to sample good food, meet our guest artists and browse through CDs and Tapes.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

Jim Czeglédi

(former Associate Secretary for Worship and Evangelism in The Presbyterian Church in Canada)

I was asked an interesting question years ago. If I only had one sermon to preach, what would it be? This is my last Equip article. It has been a privilege to serve Christ and The Presbyterian Church in Canada as Associate secretary for Evangelism and Worship for almost nine years. During this time, I have been asked a number of times what evangelism and worship are all about. People also want to know what is important about them. Here is my answer, and my sermon.

It's all about leadership. Christian leadership is entrusted to us by Christ and involve a community of contributors. Contribution to Christian leadership comes from both the pulpit and the pew. It involves standing beside, in front of, and behind others. We have to ask ourselves-to what are we contributing? Leadership is determined by doing the right thing at the right time. It involves making the necessary changes and enduring the consequences. There is often a high cost to pay for taking leadership decisions. We have to realize that the church is always bigger than our own personal view of it.

It's all about being missional. The church is not just about the people who attend. It is about others and Christ. Archbishop William Temple was right when he said: "The church is the only society on earth that exists for the benefit of non-members." Christ came to our world with redeeming love. He created the church as a missional community that could share his mission of announcing the reign of God. Christ invites us to be part of this new community, to experience His salvation, and to participate in it by sharing the good news with others.

Its all about Christ. Be calm! It is Christ's church, not ours. This is the last thing and the most important one. It is Jesus Christ who separates the church from all human organizations and communities. What the church can uniquely offer is our lonely and isolated world is Christian fellowship. Churches are in the personal Christian relationship business. We have the opportunity to have personal relationships with Christ, and we need to model this by sharing genuine Christian relationships and encouraging to do the same.

So then, what does it take for a congregation to develop.

- Have a clear sense of mission and vision.
- Set people free to use their God-given gifts to live out the church's mission and vision.
- Manage conflict my dealing effectively with difficult issues.
- Connect with your community through ministry and mission.
- Be relevant to God's truth and to the current times.
- Follow Christ boldly.

OUTREACH (Canada to Africa)

What a wonderful effect this word has when put into action and how it can change lives whether it is in your local community or thousands of miles away around the world. By doing this, a group of ladies across Vancouver Island have brought great comfort and joy to each child in an orphanage in the Congo by knitting and making stuffed toys. These children have never received a toy or gift before and apparently would not even put them down when eating. In sharing this photo you can see that they are just getting used to having something to call their own.



THE BEADLE

Several people have asked about the meaning of the word Beadle which we use to refer to the person who brings the Bible in at the beginning of each Sunday morning worship service. Thanks to Rachel Lawrance for locating this information through the online encyclopedia, Wikipedia:

Beadle, sometimes spelled *bedel* is derived from the Latin *bidellus* or *bedellus*, rooted in words for "herald." The term moved into Old English as a title given to a Saxon officer who summoned householders to council. In England the word came to refer to a parish constable of the Anglican Church, one often charged with duties of charity. In the Church of Scotland, the title is used for one who attends the minister during divine service as an assistant. In Judaism, the term beadle (in Hebrew: *shammash* or *sexton*) is sometimes used for the *gabbai*, the caretaker or "man of all work," in a synagogue. In the medieval universities beadles were students chosen by instructors to act as assistants, carrying books, taking attendance, and assisting in classroom management. In the collegiate universities in the United Kingdom (for example Cambridge, Oxford, Durham, and the University of London), the post of beadle still exists. The beadle has varying duties, always relating to management or security (never instruction), and often represents the college to outsiders through wearing a uniform and providing information. The ancient universities in Scotland have a ceremonial *Bedellus*, who is also sometimes given the designation of head janitor. Officially, they are responsible for administration of the buildings of the university. They are most notable for being responsible for carrying the University mace in academic processions.