

Multiply • Spring 09



Mission to North America
Presbyterian Church in America

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“It’s important that we see the ministry opportunities in our own backyard—people right here in North America need the Gospel brought to them in a grace-centered way.”

~ Wilson Shirley, Director of Student Ministry at
Highlands PCA, Ridgeland MS



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Physical and Spiritual Provisions



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Changing Lives One at a Time

Relief Efforts Progress in Haiti; More Help Needed



In late August and early September 2008, Tropical Storm Fay and Hurricanes Gustav, Hanna and Ike pummeled the small country of Haiti.

Already suffering the loss of over 100 lives from mudslides and flooding since mid-August, the country saw much of its agricultural land wiped out by hurricane-induced floods—gravely affecting food supplies. Over 48,000 people in Gonaives, a capital city in northern Haiti, were forced into shelters. On the southern part of the island, roads were impassable, leaving people who had lost everything unable to evacuate to higher ground.

MNA Haitian Ministries Coordinator Dony St. Germain remembers a meeting he had with several pastors after the storms struck. “One of the pastors said he couldn’t stay, because the clothes he was wearing were borrowed from a friend,” says Dony. “That person needed the same clothes to wear later that afternoon. I’ve heard ten to fifteen stories just like that as I’ve traveled throughout the cities.”

Yet, in the midst of the devastation, there is hope. Because of donations from PCA churches through MNA, El Shaddai Ministries, led by Dony, has been able to provide clothing and shelter to many Haitians who lost everything they owned. Barrels of food—rice, peas, corn and sugar—have been delivered to 16,000 people. And a Gonaives orphanage run by El Shaddai was spared, the children safe and dry on its second floor.



El Shaddai Ministries airlifted ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) into Haiti and distributed it to **16,000 people**. They also distributed **thousands of military MREs** (Meal, Ready to Eat).

Still, the road ahead will not be easy. “Flooding caused the sewers to overflow, and the water carries disease,” says Dony. “We’ll see conjunctivitis, colds, skin rashes and—because of the infestation of mosquitoes—malaria.” Volunteer teams are needed to help clean and rebuild homes, and medical personnel are especially needed to care for the sick.

In addition to helping people obtain food, clothing and shelter, El Shaddai Ministries will continue to encourage people to rebuild away from the city, in more elevated areas. “Our orphanage, which was built on elevated land, was the only dry place in the area,” says Dony.

El Shaddai Ministries has launched 40 mission churches in Haiti, 12 of these in 2008.

The ministry also plans to educate people in how planting trees can help save them from future disasters. Charcoal is the main source of fuel for the Haitian population, and over 30 million trees have been cut down to provide for this industry. Due to soil erosion caused by the lack of trees, flooding was massive after all four storms hit the island.

“We must have more resources so we can continue to care for the Haitian people and show them the love of God,” says Dony. “And above all, we need prayer.” ■

To make a contribution online, go to;
www.pca-mna.org/support.php and click **Donate Now**.

You can select “**Disaster - 2008 Haitian Flood Relief**” from the drop-down menu. You can also mail contributions, made payable to Mission to North America, to:

Mission to North America

1700 North Brown Road, Suite 101
Lawrenceville GA 30043

Designate: 2008 Haitian Flood Relief.

To volunteer for relief efforts, go to www.pca-mna.org/getinvolved.php and select **Disaster Response Sign-Up**.



Ministering Among North America's First Peoples



In the summer of 2000, Chris Granberry, then youth leader at Oak Mountain Presbyterian Church in Birmingham AL, brought a short term missions team to the Yakama Reservation in White Swan WA to repair homes and lead Kids Clubs. "I'd worked with poverty stricken kids in inner cities before," says Chris, "but I was not prepared for what we would encounter."

Many of the children were neglected and abused. One little girl named Rachel would round up a group of younger kids and steal food for their breakfast before bringing them to the Kids Club. "The Lord used these children to make a deep impression on me," Chris says. He returned home but realized he couldn't turn his back on the Yakama Nation. He and his wife, Mary, moved their family to White Swan in 2003 and began to reach out to our hurting neighbors on the reservation.

The needs of the community were tremendous—alcoholism, broken families and poverty abounded—but God began to open doors almost immediately. That fall, Babe Sternbeck,



In the summer, teams from PCA churches work on renovating homes and lead Kid Clubs.



Left to right: Violetta "Babe" Sternbeck with her grandson Mikey, her son Mike "Big Mike", and Chris Granberry.

a Yakama woman, asked Chris to lead a Bible study. Reluctant to begin meetings without first making more personal contacts—"I didn't think anyone would attend"—Chris nevertheless decided to try it. In the first year 100 adults came. The group was even allowed to meet in the longhouse, the place of traditional Native American worship. Currently, 20-30 adults attend regularly and many others visit.

Years of broken promises from whites have deeply scarred Native Americans. Developing relationships is key to healing wounds and opening hearts to Christ. Each spring and summer, Sacred Road (the church planting ministry established and overseen by Pacific Northwest Presbytery and by the Granberrys) welcomes short term missions groups who repair homes and lead Kids Clubs. Long term and summer interns help lead the children's ministries, organize and oversee work sites and prepare food for the volunteer teams who come.

Such actions make a lasting impression on the Yakamas. Tribal leader Wendell

Hannigan says, "I find it phenomenal that people will pay money and take time out from their lives to travel here to help us." Wendell has become a tremendous help to Sacred Road. He serves as a liaison between Sacred Road and the tribal council and travels with Chris to churches across the PCA, speaking about the impact the ministry has had on the Yakama people.

Chris envisions establishing a church from the longhouse Bible study. He also plans to mobilize PCA churches and presbyteries to adopt reservations to pray for and serve. And, he hopes that church planters will work with Sacred Road to launch churches among other reservations.

"When we first arrived, we were told that even if we lived here 30 years, we wouldn't be accepted by this community," Chris says. "Already, many of the teenagers call me 'Dad' and refer to my kids as their brothers and sisters."

To become involved with Sacred Road, contact Chris Granberry at cgranberry@msn.com or at 509.930.1503. Visit their website at www.sacredroadministries.com.



Chris (left) with tribal leader Wendell Hannigan and MNA Native American/First Nations Ministries Coordinator Bruce Farrant.



The Work of Jesus Church in Canada

Further north, Marcus Toole leads Jesus Church, a PCA mission church of Western Canada Presbytery on the Cree reservation in Hobbema, a small town in Alberta, Canada. Marcus serves as a missionary with Mission to the World. At the time Marcus believed God was calling him to serve in Hobbema in 2000, MNA did not have staff members focusing on Native American and First Nations ministries; MTW was willing to facilitate Marcus beginning this ministry.

The Cree reservation is composed of four Nations: Louis Bull, Erminskin, Sampson and Montana. When Marcus launched Jesus Church, he was able to use an existing church building on the Louis Bull reserve that held children's services. He now leads children's church in the mornings and an adult service in the evenings. He ministers among a very young population: on the reservation, 60% are under 25 years of age, 42% are under age 15 and 30% are under age 10. Only 2% are over the age of 50.

Hobbema is plagued with crime and gang violence. "Gangs are prevalent on most reservations in Canada and the U.S.," says Marcus. "Of the men who attend Jesus Church, 80% are either in



Vernadee Applegarth with grandchild, Melena Applegarth.



Members and guests of Western Canada Presbytery, meeting in October 2008, at Jesus Church in Hobbema AB. Vernadee Applegarth, Melena Applegarth and Steven (see pictures below) were baptized during the presbytery worship service.

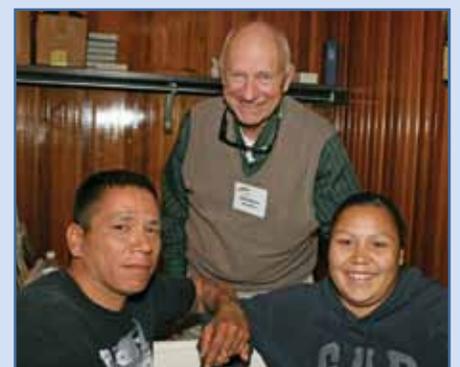
a gang or have been in a gang." During the late 19th century, North American governments placed thousands of children in residential schools in an attempt to assimilate them into white culture—resulting in a generation unaware of how to raise their own families. By age 20, a gang is the only family many young men and women know.

Many gang members have approached Marcus through a network of friendships and relationships he's formed. He once hosted a local Christian hip-hop radio show and regularly visited members in jail, but lately has had to concentrate more on discipleship as Jesus Church has grown. "We have a need for someone to step in and take over these projects," he says.

In addition to Jesus Church, Marcus plans to launch another church on the Montana reserve—the Nation of the four that, until now, has been most resistant to the Gospel. Carolyn Buffalo, who was recently elected chief, is friendly toward Christianity.

"If we can send volunteer teams to

help the tribe with housing issues and construction this summer, then Carolyn could make the argument that a Christian presence would be beneficial to them," says Marcus. Short term missions teams are most welcome at the Cree reservation. During July and August, volunteer teams do minor construction work for the tribal government, visit with families and lead Vacation Bible School. Music teams, puppeteers and other performing artists are needed year round.



Steven (left) and his wife, Angela, with Rich Mercer, a member of the Jesus Church presbytery commission.

To become involved, contact Marcus Toole at mtoole@telusplanet.net or at 780.352.0381.



Ways You Can Serve the Native American Community

“Short term mission trips to White Swan have given our church the chance to see that there’s a people group within our own borders who have a need,” says Wilson Shirley, Director of Student Ministry at Highlands Presbyterian in Ridgeland MS. This summer will be the fourth year Highlands PCA will send a mission team to the Yakama Nation. Wilson says the equal emphasis on mercy ministry—cleaning up a park or remodeling homes—and evangelical ministry, such as mentoring at-risk teens, is what makes the trips to White Swan unique. The church has also supported college student



David Hopkins (left), serving with CHIEF (www.chief.org), and also on the pastoral staff of Evergreen PCA in Beaverton OR, and Hugh Grant (right), from the Karuk Tribe, regularly offer biblical and leadership training to Native Americans throughout North America. On occasion they are accompanied by Boldbaatar M., from Mongolia. “Many people in the PCA think of missions as overseas,” says David, “but my desire is that we’d also see the mission field at our own back door.”



Rebekah Griffin with children from Sacred Road

Rebekah Griffin in Sacred Road’s 12-week summer internship. The internships provide onsite training in understanding crosscultural service.

“It’s all about relationships,” says MNA Native American/First Nations Ministries Coordinator Bruce Farrant. In addition to participating in short term trips, Bruce encourages PCA members to become part of a prayer team for those serving or preparing to serve Native communities, or to build relationships through careers or volunteer work at a nearby Native community, such as a nursing home or through artisan related activities. Moving on or near a reservation allows people to truly become a family with their indigenous neighbors. ■

To become involved, contact Bruce Farrant at 865.292.3098, or at bfarrant@pcanet.org, or go to pca-mna.org and click on Native American/First Nations Ministries.

How Native American/First Nations Ministry Can Be Most Effective

Effective Native American ministries will include a combination of individuals or families who are called, along with presbyteries or PCA churches who take ownership and provide resources for ministry. Consider the following:

1. Geographical challenges: 564 federally recognized tribes exist in the lower 48 states, but only 30-40 of these are located east of the Mississippi River, where PCA concentration is the greatest. Two hundred to three hundred Native American communities exist in Alaska, which has only one PCA church.
2. Roughly 3 million Native Americans live in the U.S.—only 2% of them profess Christ.
3. Over 600 First Nations people groups live in Canada—30% of the Canadian population.

Native American ministry is first and foremost relational—reconciliation and building trust begin with forming long term relationships.

Ministry to Native Americans must focus on encouraging Native leadership.

Each Native American/First Nations people group and culture must be understood individually to effectively communicate the Gospel.

MNA conferences (details at pca-mna.org)

MNA Hispanic American Ministries Convocation

June 15 - 16, 2009
Orlando FL

PCA 37th General Assembly
June 16 - 19, 2009
Orlando FL

North America Church Planting and Church Renewal Conference
July 21 - 25, 2009
Orlando FL

ESL Provides Ministry Opportunities to Internationals



Every Monday morning and Wednesday evening, Briarwood Presbyterian in Birmingham AL offers English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. A diverse group of people, including Japanese, Koreans, Hispanics, Thai and Brazilians, learn English through immersion in the language—students are asked, for instance, to name all the parts of a car they can think of, or talk about new American customs they discovered that week, such as going to a neighborhood yard sale.

“Only five to six minutes of the 1 1/2 hour class are spent talking about specifically Christian things,” says Joe Knox, a teaching assistant. But those few minutes have a lasting impact for Christ on many of the students.

Joe, who assists head teacher Michelle Hamby, experienced this impact firsthand when he was approached after class one day by a Japanese student he had befriended. The man had recently announced that his wife had found a job in another state and he would soon be leaving. With a smile, he told Joe, “Before I left Japan, I was warned by many people to avoid taking English classes at a church. ‘Christians will trick you,’ they said. ‘They don’t respect our culture—they’ll try to convert you



to their religion.’ But I’ve found that you and Michelle have great respect for my culture. I know you love Jesus, but you aren’t pushy about your beliefs. After I move, I’m going to find a Christian church to continue studying English.”

Joe has spent years teaching English to internationals but emphasizes that no experience is necessary to lead or assist with ESL. “If you are a believer, if you can speak, read and write English and you’re willing to spend time with people from different cultures, you can learn to teach a class,” he says.

Joe’s enthusiasm and dedication have been key in ministering among his students, says Briarwood ESL Director Panda Irwin. “I have watched Joe approach everything with determination, hard work and a sincere love for the students born of Christ’s love,” she says. “He inspires all of us to strive for excellence as teachers as we reach our community for Christ.”

“We never know what fruit will grow from the seeds that God has allowed us to plant for Him,” adds MNA ESL Ministries Director Nancy Booher, “Joe just loved his students all year and trusted that God would bring forth the fruit in His time.”

After Joe’s friend moved, someone reported that he may have become a Christian. “If he has, I might not see him again in this life,” says Joe of his former student, “but I know I’ll see him in the next.” ■



Debby Walsh (left) with Panda Irwin.



Joe Knox (right) with ESL students.

To become involved with ESL, contact Nancy Booher at nbooher@pcanet.org or at 410.465.0154.

MNA serves PCA churches and presbyteries as they advance God’s Kingdom in North America by planting, growing, and multiplying biblically healthy churches through the development of intentional evangelism and outreach ministries. For a list of MNA staff, visit our website at www.pca-mna.org. Material in *Multiply* may be reproduced with permission. Address comments to: Fred Marsh, Managing Editor/Photographer. Writing and design provided by Big Bridge, Asheville, NC (www.thebigbridge.com). *Multiply* is published by MNA.