

AN OUTPOURING OF GOD'S LOVE FOR HAITI

Volume 1, Issue 1
FEBRUARY 2010

In the heart-break that has befallen Haiti as a result



of a devastating earthquake, God is at work for good. Your prayers and

the generosity that emerges from Christian character will be woven into the fabric of the world's response. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) represents the church's long term commitment to bind up the wounds and to aid widows, orphans and those left destitute by the recent earthquake. PDA encourages us to

“stand in the gap for disaster survivors and help the church in this response.” Presbyteries and congregations are sharing the generosity of their members and congregations by designated offerings through their normal denominational giving routes.

A RESTORATION PRAYER FOR HAITI

O God, incarnate in the One with a heart for the poor, who suffered even unto death but was raised in power and hope: through the voice of Haggai of old, we have heard your proclamation in response to the ruin of all held holy: “in a little while I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and dry land; and I will shake all the nations so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendor.... (Haggai 2:6-7). O God of all things holy, who promises that splendor and renewal can emerge from the rubble, You have mobilized the treasure of the nations for good. O Resurrection God, we trust that in Haiti destruction will not have the last word.

to rubble, the loss of so many souls creates holes in people's lives; deep grief overtakes whole families; the infrastructure of the country having collapsed.

Give the comfort of your presence, and the assurance of your almost incomprehensible promise that all which is holy and has been lost can be rebuilt. With that rebuilding of structures, may there be the rebuilding of hope and confidence. Let faith and endurance work together to build strong character.



Use your church, O God, for good. Let the product of our compassion be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to You, transforming all who are encountered by your Spirit through renewing and recreating work. Renew our minds, that we may discern your will anew, relearning what is good and acceptable and perfect, and important, bearing witness to your presence in Haiti so that the country and its people, and all whom the world encounters there as the stories of recovery are told, will reveal your splendor and our hope. This in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*Clint McCoy,
Executive for Partnerships*

We have heard the miracle stories; we have seen rescuers from across the globe lending their aid; we have heard the tales of logistical problems that need to be solved, of planes with supplies for which there was no room, or people who have felt forgotten because of the difficulties of distribution. You have shaken the nations, even as the ground of Haiti has been shaken: buildings crumpled

We know that Haiti's real wealth is in its people. Rebuilding lives requires more than gold and silver, and yet the generosity of neighbors has never been more important. Shake the nations so that their treasure shall come – the gold and the silver, and all that is good. Shake the nations so that they do not see the sun come up and forget Haiti as each new day dawns.

Contributions for Haiti relief may be made to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance by check made out to PC (USA), and sent to PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700, e-mail marked #DR000064. Donors may also give directly and online by credit card through this web site: www.pcusa.org/pda/response/latinamerica/haiti-

SYNOD MISSION DESIGN TEAM CONSULTING WITH PRESBYTERIES

The Synod's Mission Design Team, elected in October 2008 to make recommendations towards the Synod of the Northeast's mission design beyond 2010, has had teams meeting with presbytery councils. Questions that emerged

from a synod-wide consultation held at Stony Point in the late autumn of 2008 form the basis of conversation: 1) Is the current Presbytery Partnership Group structure effective in supporting the work of your presbytery? Are the presbytery groupings

appropriate? How might the partnership groups be more effective? 2) Where do you see the Holy Spirit leading your presbytery, and what are the top challenges the presbytery

See Mission Design on Page 2

5811 Heritage Landing Drive
East Syracuse, NY 13057-9360
Phone: 315-446-5990/800-585-5881
Fax: 315-446-3708

E-mail: Synodoffice@Synodne.org
Website: www.Synodne.org

Presbyteries of: ALBANY * BOSTON * CAYUGA-SYRACUSE * EASTERN KOREAN * ELIZABETH * GENESEE VALLEY * GENEVA * HUDSON RIVER * LONG ISLAND * MONMOUTH * NEW BRUNSWICK * NEW YORK CITY * NEWARK * NEWTON * NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND * NORTHERN NEW YORK * PALISADES * SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND * SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY * UTICA * WEST JERSEY * WESTERN NEW YORK



SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST

NOR'E-NEWS

Mission Design continued from Page 1

faces in living into that vision? 3) What does the synod do well for you? What does the synod do that you can do without? What is the synod not doing that you need? 4) What is it that the synod does or could be doing that presbyteries would not be able to do by themselves?



Nine consultations were held with presbytery councils during 2009, and the meeting schedule has heated up since, with four scheduled in February, six in March, two in

May 2010. The goal is to complete the consultations before June, so that discerned themes that emerge from the consultations can be fashioned into recommendations as part of a comprehensive report to the Synod Assembly in October 2010. Teams of two, usually including an elected Mission Design Team member and a synod staff member, represent the synod in these visits.

With the knowledge that the General Assembly will be considering an overture in July from New Hope Presbytery, recommending that synods be eliminated from the structure and governance of the PC(USA), and that questions are being raised in the Synod of the Northeast about issues of appropriate governance and mission resourcing, including whether the synod's role should be diminished, the consultations provide opportunity for conversations about the

vision, discipleship, and health of the church at all levels.

The Mission Design Team is chaired by Florence Fletcher, Elder from Hudson River Presbytery. Other design team members include Elder David Norton, Genesee Valley; Elder Laura Lawson, Susquehanna Valley; Rev. Raymond Bonwell, New Brunswick; Alicia Toke, (young adult representative), Elizabeth; Rev. Agnes Blackmon, New York City; Rev. Samuel Stone, Palisades; Rev. Stuart Buisch (Synod Moderator), Western New York; Rev. Deborah Brincivalli, (executive presbyter representative), West Jersey; Elder Alan Ford, Elizabeth; Elder James Tse (Synod Council Moderator), New York City; Elder Mary Lynne Flowers, Synod Executive for Administration/Stated Clerk; and Rev. Clinton A. McCoy, Synod Executive for Partnership.

There is a crisis in Madagascar, too. Read a recent report from mission worker Dan Turk. Pray for God to be at work in the midst of the turmoil felt by all people, including the church there at www.synodne.org.

**A PLACE TO CALL HOME: IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND DISPLACED PEOPLES
2010 ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS
MARCH 19-22 AT DOUBLETREE HOTEL, CRYSTAL CITY, VA**

Ecumenical Advocacy Days, *A Place to Call Home: Immigrants, Refugees, and Displaced Peoples*, will be held March 19-22, 2010 at the Doubletree Hotel in Washington DC suburb Crystal City, VA. Registration is \$160.00 before February 13, 2010 and \$175.00 thereafter.

Participate with hundreds of faith-based advocates through informed topical briefings and the work of advocacy for U.S. legisla-

tion that embodies the gospel by welcoming immigrants, protecting refugees, and preventing the displacement of millions.

Student scholarships are available through Ecumenical Advocacy Days on their [Young Adult Page](#) or by [email](#).



The Synod's [Public Policy Advocacy Network](#) (PPAN) offers a scholarship of \$500 per person (ask for less if you need less). Persons from churches with less than 150 members may request scholarship support from the Synod's [Mary Wallingford Fund](#).

[Click here](#) to go to the Ecumenical Advocacy Days website for registration and hotel information.

**EARLY MINISTRY INSTITUTE
MAY 2-6, 2010 AT STONY POINT CONFERENCE CENTER**

Early Ministry Institute (EMI) convenes May 2, 2010 around the theme *Who You Are: A Journey to Authentic Ministry*. The Rev.



Bill Golderer, Founding Pastor and Convener of the [Broad Street Ministry](#) in Philadelphia,

PA is the keynote speaker.

The registration fee is \$250.00 before April 1st with a late fee of \$20.00 afterwards.

The Presbytery and the Synod share a commitment to provide a personal support system and skills training new pastors with a goal to help assure an effective and healthy ministry experience for new pastor and congregation.

The first three years of a ministry are critical. During this time many ministers experience role confusion, isolation, and exhaustion caused by too many demands and too few resources. EMI provides the opportunity to be part of a supportive community of peers, faculty, and Design Team members. [Click here](#) for more information.

**BOARD OF PENSIONS SABBATH
SABBATICAL PROGRAM**

The final year of a 3-year pilot program sponsored by the Board of Pensions allows pastors of churches of fewer than 200 members a stipend of up to \$3,000 towards a sabbatical leave. [Click here](#) to For more information.



**INTEREST FREE STUDENT
LOANS/SCHOLARSHIPS**

Interest-Free Student Loans and Scholarships are available to all Presbyterians in the Synod of the Northeast for the 2010-2011 school year from the Wurffel-Sills Memorial Fund." Applications must be received in the Synod Office by April 1st. [Click here](#) for information.