

Presbyterians Sharing Mission Capsule

TAIWAN: Serving our partner church:

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Louise Gamble as she teaches at Tam Kang High School in Taipei, Taiwan. In addition to teaching English and Biblical classes, Louise is working to transcribe the official documents of George Leslie MacKay, the first missionary to Taiwan. She writes, "The MacKay missionary story is an intriguing one. In some ways he was a man of his own times, but in other ways he was truly exceptional." Let us pray for Louise as she faithfully serves our partner church, The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan.

PWS&D Bulletin Bit

A Chance for Children in Afghanistan: It's not easy being a teacher in Afghanistan, a country with a youth literacy rate of only 34%. Since PWS&D's partner began working in the area, head teacher Mohammad has seen a substantial increase in the number of children attending his school. Students receive textbooks and supplies to reduce the costs for families, teachers receive training and program staff raise awareness in the community of the importance of education. Mohammad is thrilled to see how the school has been a positive influence on the lives of so many. This Advent season, you can help children around the world build brighter and more peaceful futures through support of PWS&D. www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

~ We will be sponsoring 4 children through the Angel Tree, a program that ministers to the families of parents who are incarcerated, the innocent, invisible and often forgotten victims through no fault of their own. You will find envelopes in you bulletin to make a financial donation to assist in purchasing Christmas presents for the children. If you would like to be involved in purchasing the gifts or delivering them, please speak to Greg Fraser or myself.

~ Hope Cottage has expressed a need for sandwiches for the folks who use their facility each week. They have asked us if we would be able to provide them with 9 dozen sandwiches on the last Wednesday of each month. If you are interested and able to participate in this important ministry or would like more details, please speak to me following the service. We will need to know how many are prepared to commit before we can let Hope Cottage know.

~ If you are looking for a unique Christmas gift or maybe you have someone on your list who "has everything"; why not consider purchasing something from the PWS&D Gift Guide? Copies are on the resource table and you can know that your gift will reach the people who truly need it and will make a difference in their lives.

A Nova Scotia Christmas Celebration

Researched and performed by Clary Croft and featuring Gordon Stobbe and Margo Carruthers

December 11: St. Alban's Anglican Church – 7 p.m.

345 Pleasant Street, Dartmouth.

For tickets call 463-2493

"Clary and his musical friends rekindled the spirit of a traditional Nova Scotian Christmas with a mixture of stories - some joyful, some poignant, but all of them moving - and music which evoked Christmas in a kinder, gentler time." - George Brothers. Manager of Program Development, Sherbrooke Village"

The *Nova Scotia Christmas Celebration* came out of an earlier work I researched and wrote and performed with several singers and musicians at Saint George's Church, Halifax in 1992. The next year, we recorded a version of the show for CBC radio and that was turned into a CD - *A Maritime Christmas Celebration*. The show was also taped for a CBC television special and broadcast for the next two Christmas seasons. For the past seven years, I have been presenting the show in conjunction with churches and heritage organizations and have invited well known Gaelic singer, Margo Carruthers and multi-talented instrumentalist, Gordon Stobbe to join me in a reworking of the original show I titled *A Nova Scotia Christmas Celebration*.

The show is a collection of traditional and contemporary songs from the Maritimes, interspersed with stories of traditions, beliefs, superstitions, customs, foods, and short readings from the works of Maritime writers who have used the Christmas holidays as their themes. The main part of the show lasts approximately 50 minutes and then we like to follow that with a sing along session featuring old time Christmas songs - both religious and secular. We are also thrilled to feature a CD of the songs from the show.

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~ Every night from Nov 27 to April 30, homeless folks are given a hot meal and a warm bed to sleep in. This is a volunteer organization which relies on the generosity of folks and churches in the city. There are some staples they need regularly which include coffee, tea and sugar. They also need clothing, toiletries and so on. If you are able to help out, a complete list of needed items is posted on the bulletin board in the lobby. A collection box will be set up and I will deliver the items collected each week to the shelter.

~ All through the month of December, the PCCWeb *Daily Devotional* features wonderful Christmas devotionals. Join more than 6000 subscribers around the world and enjoy devotionals each day from our Presbyterian Church, delivered free by e-mail to your inbox. Subscribe at <http://daily.presbycan.ca/email/subscribe.html>