

Presbyterians Sharing Mission Capsule

TAIWAN: Translating the Bible – Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support the Rev. Dr. Paul McLean as he works with a Bible translation team in Taiwan to translate the Bible into the Hakka language. They are working to finish the complete translation by 2012, when The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan celebrates “The Year of Hakka Mission”. Paul says, “Since this is all God’s work, we pray that the LORD will help us achieve this very worthy goal.” Let us pray that the newly translated Bible will be a guiding light for Hakka Christians.

PWS&D Bulletin Bit

Educating Girls in Afghanistan: Many girls in Afghanistan will never have the chance to attend school. With youth comprising 50% of the population and the female literacy rate below 18%, investing in the education of girls is more important than ever. PWS&D is working with our local partner to train teachers, provide girls with textbooks and supplies, repair schools, and raise awareness and support for female education. Shanaz, leader of a parent-teacher committee, says, “Before this program, we did not allow our girls to get an education. But now with the program we see the need for education and we send our girls to school.” For the 2011-2012 school year, PWS&D aims to increase enrolment from 1,350 to 1,800 girls. Together with your support, we are creating opportunities for girls and helping them realize their dreams.

~ As you know, the special committee of Presbytery with whom we met in November made their report at an emergent meeting of Presbytery on December 7th, 2011. Their recommendations were two-fold: “1. That the Session and congregation of Knox Halifax invite the Rev. Ruth Houtby in to work with them on assessment of options/visioning”; and “2. That the Session and congregation of Knox Halifax be commended for being proactive regarding their future situation”. To that end, we are starting back at square one. Rev. Ruth Houtby, the Synod Mission and Education staff person, whose responsibilities include among other things, helping congregations in transition, has been contacted and we have scheduled another congregation round-table discussion much like we did in November for Saturday January 21 at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Ruth has a copy of the special committee’s report; the same one which was made available to you on the 11th of December. However, she would like to meet with us so that she can get a better sense of where our energy and vision lies; to hear from you what your dreams are for Knox. I am appealing to you again to make a concerted effort to come and share with Ruth your thoughts and dreams for this congregation. Your support, your prayers and your ideas are valued and are an important part of how we see the future of Knox take shape. God has begun to reveal His glory to us, let us not ignore the opportunities He is providing for us to grow in Him as a community of faith.

~ **Lay Readers:** The Session has agreed to encourage the use of lay readers in our regular worship services. I have put a sign-up list of readings for the next 6 Sundays on the table in the lobby as well as small take-home slips with each week’s readings. If you would like to participate by reading the passages of Scripture on a particular Sunday, sign your name beside the week you’d like to do and take the slip with the corresponding readings as a reminder. I encourage you to share the gifts God has blessed you with by participating in sharing the good news of God’s Word for His people.

~ **Your Ideas:** The Session is considering a number of initiatives to open our church up to the wider community and invite folks to join us in worship and fellowship. If you have any ideas, please do not keep them to yourselves. Let one of our Elders know or speak to me personally. It has been said, the only dumb idea is the one that is not voiced.

~ **Greeters:** Due to health reasons Mary Redmond has ceased being able to look after getting greeters for each Sunday. The Session has decided to adopt the “Duty Elder” approach to serving the congregation and have taken on the responsibility of getting greeters. Each Elder has a “call list” of folks they are responsible for keeping in touch with; each month, the duty elder will be contacting the folks on their list to ask for help in serving as a greeter. It is our hope and prayer that you will support them in this vital aspect of our ministry of welcome here at Knox.

~ **Mitten tree:** You may have noticed the mitten tree is now up. It has been our practice to collect mittens, gloves, scarves and toques during the month of January to donate to Ward 5 Food Bank for the children they serve. Please bring in your offering between now and January 29th so that we may deliver them to the children who need them.

~ **Visioning Survey:** The Presbytery and the National Church are both engaged in a visioning process for the future of the denomination/ Presbytery. We have received a request to fill out a survey which, through the Session, Knox’s response is to be returned by the 15th of February. If you would like a copy of the survey to fill out yourself, copies are on the table in the lobby. We will need them back no later than January 29th so that we can incorporate your responses into Knox’s reply to the survey.

~ **Annual Congregation Meeting:** The Annual congregation meeting has been set for March 4th. As we did last year, we will move from the service into the meeting which will likely be relatively short and will conclude with the benediction. We will have a light lunch in the hall following the meeting to allow us a have a time for fellowship. Please ensure that Jean Dunn has the reports as soon as possible, but no later than February 5th as the annual reports will need to be printed and available for pick-up as of Feb. 19th.