

Request to Justice and Peace Representatives:

If you have information concerning activities you have accomplished and/or promoted since the last Synod Coordinating Team (“SCT”) meeting (June 2007), please send the information to me on or before Friday, May 2, 2008. I will incorporate it into my 2008 SCT report. Thank you in advance.

Advocacy and Horizons:

1. The following website contains advocacy opportunities from the Washington Office of our denomination -----
<http://www.pcusa.org/washington/christiancitizen/advocacy.htm>.
2. Make your voice heard about the horrible conditions at the Tar Heel, North Carolina Smithfield hog processing plant where some 5,500 employees have reported crippling injuries. This hog processing plant, considered the largest in the world, has been cited by Human Rights Watch for violating international human rights standards (www.smithfieldjustice.com).
3. Our denomination’s National Office of Presbyterian Women is Supporting the Good Deed Foundation of the Women’s Funding Network, which promotes simple acts about consumer actions that lift women and girls out of poverty. Purchase of items with the “Good Deed logo” will provide funds for 125 non-profit organizations that work to both dismantle poverty and address other issues (www.GoodDeedFoundation.org). Poverty issues are also being addressed by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, where we have representation from the Churchwide Coordinating Team (www.endpoverty2015.org and www.voicesagainstpoverity.com).
4. The International Peacemakers for 2008 (usually from several countries) will share their expertise and experience on the issue of poverty; they will be stateside and available for speaking engagements

from September 26, 2008 through October 19, 2008. More information should be available in April

(www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/intl/international.htm).

5. Purchase of the following Palestinian products will support Palestinian families, artisans, farmers, and entire Palestinian communities:
 - Import Peace: a direct source of Fair Trade, organic, extra virgin olive oil from the most recent olive harvest in the West Bank ---- www.importpeace.org.
 - Pal Craftaid: sells needlework and items made out of olive wood. They regularly sell items at General Assembly meetings, Presbyterian Women Gatherings, and Youth Triennium meetings ---- www.palcraftaid.org.
 - Sunbula: a non-profit Fair Trade organization located in St. Andrews, the Presbyterian Church of Scotland in Jerusalem ----
 - selling such items as handmade cards, olive oil and olive wood items, embroidery, and carved mother-of-pearl ---- www.sunbula.org.

6. Many of you have probably already received the Horizons Bible Study for 2008-2009 --- "*Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor.*" This year, for the first time, there is an ecumenical edition available for \$6 (PDS #HZN-08-102). There are also two interesting Bible Study supplements at \$5 each ----- "*Eyewitness News: Transcripts of Live Interviews with Those Who Saw Jesus*" by Dale Lindsay Morgan (PDS# HZN-08-103) and "*On the Road: A Storytelling Journey with Luke*" by Kikanza Nuri Robins & Anna H. Bedford (PDS #HZN-08-104). The telephone number for ordering any of these items is (800) 524-2612.

Free Resource:

"Africa's Children" is a free resource that concerns the HIV/AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa; it contains questions for use by individuals and/or congregations. One can download this item at www.pcusa.org/aids-international , or call in their order using the telephone number above. The PDS ordering # is 25384-07-003 (shipping/handling costs apply).

Conferences of Interest:

1. Intergenerational Peacemaking Conference ---- July 15 – 19, 2008 at Chapman University in Orange, CA. the theme is “Sowing Mustard Seeds: Working for God’s Justice – Confronting Poverty;” more information can be found at www.pcusa.org/peacemaking.
2. Peace and Justice Week at Ghost Ranch---- July 28 – August 3, 2008 in Santa Fe, New Mexico; more information can be found at www.ghost ranch.org.
3. Multicultural Institute at Ghost Ranch ---- August 4 – 10, 2008. \$250 plus housing & meals until May 1, 2008; after May 1st – \$350 plus housing & meals.

Mission Trip Planning:

A three-volume set traveling tool on sale for \$20 (shipping & handling charges will apply; each volume written by a woman! The trilogy is entitled When God’s People Travel Together ---- “A Trip Leader’s Planning Manual” (Volume One); “Reflecting and Acting on Mission Trip Experiences” (Volume two); and “Bible Studies for Mission.” The order number is PDS#24358-07-014.

Quote for Thought (from the “2007 Mission Yearbook”):

“His is a ministry of mercy, not of might, of expectation, not of condemnation, of relationships, not of pronouncements, and as the church of Christ we are direct descendants of this revolutionary legacy.” The Rev. Curtis A. Kearns, Jr., former Director of the National Ministries Division, National Office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)