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NEW HOME FOR A GROWING MNA DISASTER RESPONSE

Since 2005, under the direction of Director Arklie Hooten, MNA Disaster Response has responded to 55 disasters in more than 20 states. Ten-thousand volunteers are mobilized annually, coordinated by a staff that has grown to 14 members.



Hurricane Sandy repair.

Arklie describes their services, “MNA Disaster Response recruits and mobilizes volunteers, receives and distributes supplies and equipment, brings awareness of specific needs, channels recovery funds, communicates prayer requests, and provides spiritual encouragement to our PCA family and their communities during a crisis.”



MNA Disaster Response warehouse building.

In May 2015, the ministry took a major step forward with the purchase of a 15,000 square foot former furniture warehouse in Rome GA, that will soon be transformed into a disaster readiness campus. The warehouse will serve as a training facility and will make it possible to preposition supplies for future crises.

Volunteers from PCA churches already have carpentry, sheet rocking, painting, garage door installation, and fence building underway to get the warehouse up and ready. They’ll need a warehouse manager, volunteers to staff the warehouse, and volunteers to regularly stock, perform maintenance tasks, and deliver supplies. Arklie emphasizes that all that is needed of volunteers is willing hearts.



MNA Disaster Response shower trailer.

Most recent additions to the staff are Mark Willett, Regional Specialist for the Mid-Atlantic Region, and John Browne, Specialist for Sheds of Hope, a project originating from Katrina response with the purpose to build 10 x 10 sheds in survivors’ backyards to store tools and salvaged possessions during the rebuilding process. The 1,000th shed was completed this year. “Now, with John’s leadership, we are seeing churches and presbyteries prebuilding sheds, so when a



Hurricane Sandy repair.

disaster hits, they are ready to go, and these sheds can be set up in no time,” explains Arklie.

“We have come to see storms as opportunities,” said Arklie. “The analogy I always think of is the cross. The cross is horrible, but Christ’s horrific suffering on the cross is what brings redemption. Our goal is to help the people of the PCA see that disasters open a door into people’s lives that has never been opened before,” said Hooten. Disaster Response Facilitator Sherry Lanier agrees, “When we were working in Iowa City, weeks after their flood disaster, a bouncer at a strip club whose home was being mucked out by our volunteers asked, ‘Why are you here?’ It was an amazing moment to be able to share with him, ‘We do this because our lives were devastated by the disaster of sin, and Jesus came and made all things new.’”

For more information on this ministry or to get connected, please contact Sherry Lanier: slanier@pcanet.org; 678-294-3012.

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-Arklie Hooten, MNA Disaster Response

RESPONDING TO THE NEWCOMERS AMONG US

With a large and rapidly growing number of refugees and immigrants in North America, PCA churches have before them unprecedented opportunities for Gospel witness, mercy ministry and practical service to these new and growing populations. During 2014, MNA responded to this opportunity by creating MNA Refugee and Immigrant Ministry, led by Director Pat Hatch.



Proud graduates of an ESL program sponsored by PCA-led For the Nations Refugee Outreach in Dallas TX.

“MNA Refugee and Immigrant Ministry was launched in recognition of the remarkable opportunities we believe God has presented His church in North America through the presence on our doorsteps of people from every corner of the globe—and many from people groups previously inaccessible,” says Pat. The mission is to coordinate efforts and provide guidance to churches as they initiate or collaborate in ministries to refugees and immigrants within their community.

“Almost every community in North America now has newcomers from abroad in need of the love of Christ. Often, the Gospel is understood for the first time when the spoken word is accompanied by response



For the Nations staff member supporting education and sharing the Gospel with refugee youth at Kids Club.

to practical needs. Some churches may be drawn to resettling refugees who have had to flee targeted violence in their homelands. Others may develop ministry to international students or professionals in North America on short term assignments. Yet others may sense a call to ministry among immigrant workers in their communities, or to joining with other Christians to form immigration legal clinics assisting immigrants who have open before them a legal path to citizenship,” explains Pat.

As we answer the call to serve newcomers in practical ways within our communities, these redemptive relationships have the potential for impact across the globe. “A single genuine crosscultural friendship has enormous potential for eternity. Such friendships can carry the Gospel into



For the Nations summer reading program for refugee children culminates in ice skating.

unreached people groups in North America. From there, the message of Christ may spread through family connections to the remote corners of the world, which may in turn support the work of missionaries abroad. As refugees and immigrants find an authentic welcome, churches can be revitalized with the perspective, energy and talents of new believers. And all of this will be a powerful witness to the unchurched, as they observe God’s power to unify hearts across cultures,” Pat explains. Her prayer is that all who consider ministry among immigrants will be captivated by God’s love for the stranger and the vulnerable, and His heart for the nations.



A child spontaneously outlines the Gospel at a neighborhood Bible Club that serves many refugee families, sponsored by Covenant PCA in Harrisonburg VA.

MNA Refugee and Immigrant Ministry grows as those already involved or newly called to crosscultural ministry connect with others. *Go to the website to learn more: pcamna.org/refugee-and-immigrant-ministry/. For more information contact Pat Hatch: phatch@pcanet.org; 443-604-5394.*

GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE GOVERNMENT WORKPLACE

“People from all different faith backgrounds come to us wanting to talk about Scriptures, prayer, and how these things apply to their personal life....You can see them wrestling with the Gospel and then sometimes, in time, see them surrender to Christ.”

-Chuck Garriott, Ministry to State

While Chuck Garriott served as pastor of Heritage Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City OK, he recalls, “A small group of four or five guys asked if I’d lead a Bible study. It grew to a group of about 70 people that met weekly in the Governor’s large conference room. The congregation at Heritage

provided lunch for that group every week. It became a great door to reach people in both political parties. After a few years, I got to thinking, ‘Why couldn’t the PCA, in a larger form, start a ministry like this?’”

five main things: conveying the Gospel, encouraging a biblical world and life view, developing a biblical conscience, promoting prayer, and praying for a healthy relationship between church and state.” The mission today is to bring the Gospel to lawmakers and other government workers in US state capitals, Washington DC, and capitals of other nations.

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Although Chuck guesses that people who identify themselves as Christians are in the minority, he still finds “Esthers and Nehemiahs scattered throughout government. We encourage those in the church to pray for people who work in government, and then to consider the government workplace as an ongoing place for them to pray and develop relationships.”



Oklahoma State Capitol.

From that beginning, and with a move to Washington DC as home base, the ministry grew to what is now MNA Ministry to State. Chuck explains, “We emphasize

With a steadily growing staff, MNA Ministry to State strives to develop personal relationships through events like prayer breakfasts, small group Bible studies, and dinner forums where 25-35 people come to a dinner to discuss a topic, such as what it looks like to be a Christian in Washington or how to avoid cynicism.

“For us, it isn’t about politics,” explains Chuck. “We are here for the person. That’s what gives us legitimacy, because the government staffers understand very quickly that we do not have a political agenda and are not about policy—we are about the person. People from all different faith backgrounds come to us wanting to talk about Scriptures, prayer, and how these things apply to their personal life. Some people grew up in the church but aren’t involved now. Some people have not been exposed to the



State Prayer Breakfast held in the US Senate, on Capitol Hill, Washington DC.

For more information on how to get involved in MNA Ministry to State, or for internship or employment opportunities, contact Chuck Garriott: cgarriott@pcanet.org; 202-316-5571.

A NEW CHURCH PLANTING CHURCHES



Harbor UTC church participants circa 2003.

For the past 12 years, a PCA church planter has been placed on the field in North America at an average of one every week. Here is the story of one through whom God has worked to send out others, illustrating the unexpected often encountered in walking with God.

In 2000, Bob and Karen Klein left their church in Delaware to start a new worship site for Harbor Presbyterian Church in San Diego CA. Four years later, although

Harbor UTC was relatively small, church leadership decided to begin Harbor Mira Mesa. Bob served as the primary pastor at both locations from 2005 to 2010, usually preaching at both services each week. In 2011, Harbor UTC called their Assistant Pastor Michael Bottomley as Pastor, and Bob moved on to lead Harbor Mira Mesa only.

“We believed the Lord wanted us to focus on growth at Mira Mesa and possibly start a second worship site out of Mira Mesa,” says Bob. Three years later in 2014, Redemption Church was launched out of Harbor Mira Mesa. While the new plant grew, Harbor struggled, so the decision was made in early 2015 to merge the two back into one congregation, at the new Redemption site.

“The combined church has a great anticipation the Lord will advance His work through us. With 150-200 in attendance, stronger finances and a bigger staff,

Redemption is set to launch even more churches in the future,” Bob explains. “We can take better care of people, build leaders, and train church planters for the next new church, we hope within three years. God’s love energizes us to ‘run and not grow weary.’ He has given us His promises in the



Gospel, which renew us repeatedly. He has given us amazingly gifted people who are patient and forgiving. And best of all, He Himself is in our midst—He is the One and Only Church Planter, and we are all muddling along, watching Him work His redemption in our midst!”



Left to right: JG Zoellner, FAREL | Faculté de théologie réformée (Montréal); Keith Kanavel, Église réformée St-Jean (Montréal); Ben Jolliffe, Resurrection Church (Ottawa); Satoshi Kawachi, Église réformée de la Rive-Sud (Lévis).



Toronto area church planters. Back row, left to right: Albert Chung; Albert Kooy, New City Church Newmarket; Paul Vanden Brink, new mission church in Dundas. Front row, left to right: Brian So, New City Church; Dan MacDonald, Grace Toronto Church; Connan Kublik, New City Church Hamilton.

Advancing the Gospel in Eastern Canada: during the past ten years, Grace Toronto has rebuilt to become a strong church planting congregation under the leadership of Pastor Dan MacDonald. During that time, Grace has been instrumental in launching eight other new mission churches in Ontario. Two of these began during 2014, one in Toronto led by Albert Chung, the other in Canada’s capital city of Ottawa, led by Ben Jolliffe.

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.pcamna.org. Material in *Multiply* may be reproduced with permission. Address comments to: Fred Marsh, Managing Editor. Writing and design provided by Big Bridge, Asheville, NC (thebigbridge.com). *Multiply* is published by MNA. [f](https://www.facebook.com/pcamna) [t](https://www.facebook.com/pcamna) Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/pcamna](https://www.facebook.com/pcamna) and on Twitter at twitter.com/pcamna

1700 North Brown Rd. • Suite 101 • Lawrenceville, GA 30043 • P: 678.825.1200 • F: 678.825.1201 • mna@pcanet.org • www.pcamna.org



Mission to North America
Presbyterian Church in America

1700 N. Brown Road, Suite 101
Lawrenceville GA 30043
T: 678.825.1200 • F: 678.825.1201
www.pcamna.org

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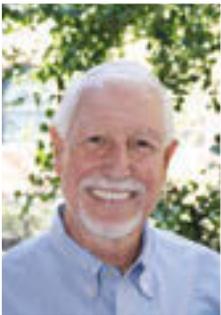
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From the Coordinator

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

— *Hebrews 10:24-25*



Dear Friend,

We are all in need of connection. From refugees to Capitol Hill-ers, everyone wants to have meaningful relationships with others. This desire comes from a longing God has placed in each of our hearts, in order to draw us into relationships with others, and ultimately to Him.

In this issue of *Multiply*, we take a closer look at what God is doing through friends who are reaching out to connect with those around them through the ministries of Church Planting, Ministry to State, Disaster Response, and Refugee and Immigrant Ministry.

While the landscape of these ministries may look starkly different from one another, the message is the same—when we meet others

in their lonely places, not only do we answer God's call to love one another, but we also open a door to usher God's redeeming love into each of our lives.

We hope that seeing what God is doing through these ministries will be an encouragement to you. We also hope it will draw you to prayer for these brothers and sisters serving in communities across North America.

Thank you for your prayers and support for these ministries. Your generosity and faithfulness are helping people connect in the most meaningful ways.

In His Name,
Jim Bland, MNA Coordinator