

DONEGAL *Dialogue*



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Glory And Humility *By Charlie Gross*



Note to the reader:

Before reading this article, relax, put on some soft, meditative, calming music, and then read the following prayer slowly. Then continue reading. May you experience the overwhelming peace and humility of a child of God.

Start to play music and relax in the Lord, then pray.



“Let nothing disturb you, nothing distress you. While all things fade away, God is unchanging. Be patient, for with God in your heart, nothing is lacking. God is enough.”

*(Prayer of St. Theresa by Margaret Rizza—
from Pray-As-You-Go podcast, May 15, 2008)*

Let the prayer sink in. Let God fill your heart, mind, and soul. Then read on.

As we bask in the beauty of God’s springtime creation, feeling the sun’s warmth, seeing the budding of life and the greening (and growing) of the grass, we experience the awe and grandeur of the creative, life-giving, Holy, Sovereign, Almighty God! Our minds turn to the GLORY expressed by Isaiah in 6:1-3, “I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings; with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

“**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.**” (Look around you—put your arms out and your palms face up and say, “**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!**”)

As you let this scripture seep into your soul to change you and humble you, turn to Paul’s letter to the Philippians and read, 2:3-7, “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave.”

As you contemplate the holiness of God, the earth **full of God’s glory**, and the fact that God became a humble, homeless, hospitable, “looking to the interests of others,” person in Jesus Christ, consider what that means for your life. Who needs to be blessed? Who needs to be honored? What new adventures are possible as you put on the mind of Christ and bless this world?

May God fill your heart this summer and give you amazing peace!

Extravagant Blessings!

Charlie Gross



Humility and Mediation *By Doug Baker*

The theme for this month’s Donegal Dialogue, humility, is also one of the core values in mediation.

For the past twelve years, part of my ministry in Northern Ireland has involved coordinating the mediation service set up by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to offer assistance when disputes arise within congregations. I also deliver several short courses on “Handling Conflict in the Church” each year to ministerial students in three of the denominational theological colleges in Ireland, as part of in-service training for ministers, and for Session retreats and other lay leaders groups.

One of the presuppositions of mediation shared in those courses is this: In any conflict situation, we each have part of the truth, but only part of the truth. Therefore, we need to be open to discover new truths about what others’ words or actions actually meant—not just what we perceived them to mean, about what impact our words or actions actually had on others—not just what we intended, and about potential ways forward or areas of agreement we currently may not see.

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Humility and Mediation *(continued from front)*

Much conflict is either caused or made more intractable by arrogance and pride—the belief that we already know the whole truth and don't need to learn anything more. Whether we are one of the parties ourselves or one of those seeking to help other parties resolve a conflict, approaching conflicts with humility is often the first step toward resolving or transforming them. Humility helps us to move into a learning mode in which the other moves from being simply our opponent to also being our teacher. Humility recognizes that I don't know it all, and I need to listen and try to understand more than I currently do.

When conflict arises, far too often our default response is to become defensive, to want to protect ourselves. Next we tend to engage in blame games, in which we assert that the whole problem is the fault of the other person. Deep down, our preferred solution is that they should change. However, many conflicts are more complex than that, particularly those that have been going on for considerable time. Rarely is all the fault on one side. Even when an initial offense was clearly carried out by one party, the way in which the other reacted to it and subsequently treated that party has often exacerbated the situation. Conversely, when one party does acknowledge something negative they have done, that in itself often invites some acknowledgment from the other party which continual accusation would never bring about.

Humility invites us to ask “What part might my words, actions, attitudes have played in this? What responsibility for this conflict is mine? What change might I need to make?” At a very practical level when we focus solely on how we wish the other person to change we often become even more frustrated and angry, because the reality is

that we cannot control the other party's actions or reactions. What is more within our control are our own actions and reactions. Progress in transforming many heated conflict situations often comes after an invitation to the parties to go away and each reflect on one thing they could do themselves that would improve the situation. Changing the focus from what we wish the other would do to what we could do tends to become more productive. However, this requires humility in recognizing that quite often we also have been part of the problem and, therefore, need to be part of the solution. Paul writes to the Romans: “so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all” (Romans 12:18). Humility recognizes that I am not perfect, I may have contributed negatively to the conflict as well.

Finally, as parties in conflict, when we begin to try to identify how to move forward, adopting humility means we don't insist that our position is the only or indeed best option. Resolving conflict requires that parties move from defending fixed positions about what they believe must happen to identifying the interests and needs which each have (Phil. 2:4) and, then, exploring a variety of options which might meet as many of those interests and needs as possible. It moves from parties standing in opposition to working side-by-side in mutual problem-solving. Humility acknowledges that I am not self-sufficient—I need others to help find the best way forward (I Corinthians 12:20-21).

The next time we find ourselves entering into conflict, instead of praying either for victory over or a change in our opponent, let us ask for the humility to listen, to seek to understand, to be open to the need for change in ourselves and to see our “opponent” as quite likely a necessary partner in finding a healthy way forward.

How Our “Global Mission Advocate” Can Help Your Church

By Rev. “Mission Jim” Caldwell

At its March 20th meeting, our Presbytery approved me to be our Presbytery's Global Mission Advocate. *Why was this done, and what can I do for your church?*

First, **“why was this done?”** Two primary factors combined to lead to this action:

1. There are now nine PCUSA Mission Co-workers from our Presbytery serving overseas (versus less than an average of 1.25 per presbytery). These workers and our churches need someone committed to fostering good connections between them.

2. In 2009, Presbyterian World Mission called a gathering in Louisville to establish a network of Mission Advocates, to be channels of service and information. Their goal is for every presbytery to establish its own Mission Advocate.

Now to the question, **“what can I do for your church?”**

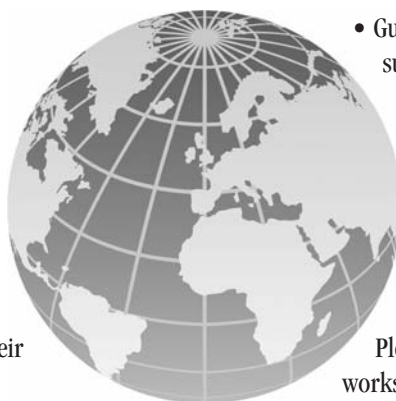
1. Look to me as your primary answer person about PCUSA World Mission, including

- Advice on choosing PCUSA Mission Workers to support;
- Guidance on Directed Mission Support and other support, including procedure;

- Help, including my personal service, in relating to PCUSA Mission Co-workers, including challenges in corresponding with them. (That includes not getting responses to your letters or e-mails to Mission Co-workers, and if your church doesn't receive at least three regular letters per year from those it supports.)

Please contact me, and I'll try to help! By the way, it works both ways: if Mission Co-workers don't get responses when they try to correspond with your church, they can call on me for help, too.

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How Our “Global Mission Advocate” Can Help Your Church *(continued from page 2)*

2. Since I have found that involvement in Mission is a great source of excitement in church life, because that’s where God can be seen clearly in action, I will try to stimulate the interest and desire of congregations

- To be blessed by becoming more involved in the PCUSA World Mission enterprise;
- To get to know, and form mutually satisfying *personal relationships* with, PCUSA Mission Co-workers already supported or being considered for support;
- To learn how to relate to and provide support for mission workers in ways which bless the congregation by blessing the Mission Co-workers.

Another goal is to equip and enable congregations to have stimulating experiences with PCUSA World Mission and Mission Co-workers. To accomplish this, I intend to try to arrange and provide training for the presbytery, for areas of it, and perhaps even for your church. Just ask!

A key to my being able to do all this is my ongoing connection with the Presbyterian World Mission staff in Louisville. These personal connections, which enable me to get the answers you need, are kept

alive by attending occasional conferences, such as the upcoming “Mission Advocates and Mission Network Leaders Joint Event,” Sept. 30–Oct. 2, 2010, in Louisville.

You might wonder how my position meshes with the Action in Mission Division (AIM), which also has the task of supporting Presbyterian World Mission. AIM handles major portions of that support; for example, they totally arranged our Presbytery’s involvement in Mission Challenge, when a PCUSA Mission Co-worker was sent to visit our Presbytery in 2007 and again in 2009. Actually, I am on-call for AIM whenever they think my long experience may help them, and my reporting to the Presbytery will be primarily through them.

Although this is a very-part-time position, I will try to serve you in the ways I have mentioned. You can reach me by e-mail at jimloiscaldwell@verizon.net or by phone at 610-269-4746 (until 9 p.m.).

I’ll be expecting to hear from some of you and, if you are your church’s “mission contact person,” you may sometime hear from me—all to the ends that God may bless the people of every nation and “to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus. Amen.”

The Donegal Digest

Bethany (A. Dickey)—On March 28, the church began the celebration of Holy Week with an event called Spirit Jam — a contemporary Christian sing-a-long concert. For Pentecost Sunday on May 23, the church will celebrate by wearing red, singing “Happy Birthday” to the church, and praising God for creating the church family. That afternoon, a red and white festival will be held from 4 to 6 p.m., featuring an outdoor concert by the band Soul’s Journey. Children’s games will be available to play, and there will be prizes and red balloons for all. Door prizes will include tickets to major league baseball games and gift certificates to local restaurants. Free hot dogs and drinks will be served.

Chanceford (Harry Robinson, Stated Supply)—The Palm Sunday service this year included a re-enactment of Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem with a live donkey. Riding the donkey was its owner. After the opening hymn, prayer, and scripture reading, the congregation filed out of the sanctuary and lined both sides of the driveway leading to the church, calling hosanna, waving branches, and laying them before the donkey as it approached.

Covenant (J. Moyer)—Among the many ministries of the church is the prayer shawl ministry which reaches out to both those who knit and crochet and those in need of the comfort a prayer shawl can bring. The women of the church were recently treated to a one-day retreat with facilitator Betsy Friend who spoke on the topic of finding God in a noisy world.

Donegal (T. McKinnon)—During the Easter season, the church reached out to those who may not have been experiencing the same joy as others because of a loss of a loved one. The Stephen Ministers offered to care, encourage, listen, and pray with those who were struggling with loss during the Easter season.

First Church, York (J. Morgan)—The church hosted the Presbybop Quartet on March 14 as part of its Abendmusik program. Presbybop is well known for playing sacred jazz at a variety of conferences and at General Assembly. Warren Carter served as guest vocalist. More music was in store on April 25, when graduating seniors showcased their musical talents for members and friends.

Highland (Dr. R. Rabey)—To be sensitive to the changing needs of church members and area residents, Highland offers two special programs. The career/job transition group workshop is a six-week seminar for members going through job transition. The support group for those with family members suffering from memory loss began meeting in April. The Support Group for Caregivers of Individuals with Memory Loss was formed to offer a way to connect with those facing similar issues.

Trinity (J. Wilkins)—The church will hold its first 5K Run/Walk and pancake breakfast on Saturday, May 22. The race course will run through the village of Berwyn, and proceeds will benefit the church’s facilities and outreach. In January, the church dedicated two works of art painted by member Barbara Webster at the invitation of the Library Revitalization Committee. Both pieces will have permanent homes in the church library.

The Presbytery of Donegal

Donegal Dialogue

Newsletter of Donegal Presbytery

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**READ
ALL ABOUT IT...**

*“Holy, holy, holy...
the whole earth is full
of his glory...”*

What new adventures are possible
as you put on the mind of Christ
and bless this world?

THE PRESBYTERY OF DONEGAL
HARD COPY—E-news that's jumped off line!

www.donegalpby.com

Condolences appreciated—Please remember the family of the Rev. Henry W. Heaps, H.R., in your prayers. Heaps died on April 22, 2010, at the age of 86. He had served five churches as interim pastor during his retirement, including Slate Ridge, Little Britain, and the Guinston Presbyterian Church. Cards of condolence may be sent to his wife at 3964 Street Rd., Street, MD 21154-1318.

Music will abound. At least two churches are planning upcoming musical celebrations.

The eighth annual community hymn sings, “Singspiration,” will begin on Sunday, May 2, at the 270-year-old Old Leacock Presbyterian Church, located at the corner of Old Philadelphia Pike and Old Leacock Road, Intercourse. The hymn sings, which will be led by Tom Perella, with accompaniment by Dianne Yuninger, who will play the church's 105-year-old Estes pump organ, will begin at 7 p.m. Lemonade will be served in the church courtyard. “Singspiration” will be held on the first Sunday of each month at 7 p.m. through October. Everyone is welcome.

Stewartstown Presbyterian Church will also sponsor and host a hymn sing each fifth Sunday of the month from 7 to 8 p.m., beginning Sunday, May 30, 2010, and continuing on Sunday, Aug. 30, and Sunday, Oct. 31. If your church has a choir, music group, praise team, etc., it is welcome to participate in this music night which will include prayer, but not a sermon. Because the first event is Memorial Day weekend patriotic music will be included. If your group would like to participate, please call Jack Osman at 717-993-3081 or e-mail josman@zoominternet.net. Please spread the word!

Coming up! A community fun day and yard sale will be held on Saturday, June 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at New Harmony Church, 2295 Delta Road in Brogue, PA. The event promises good food, children's games, live entertainment, bingo, and more. Ten by ten (10' x 10') yard sale spaces are available for a \$10.00 donation. Bring your own table. For more information, call Donna at 717-927-9195.