

A MONTH FOR MTHATHA

Learn more about our sister Presbytery in South Africa. Cut out the label and attach it to an empty soup can. Put it on your family's regular dining table. Each day read the calendar and take some action where indicated. At the end of the month turn in the money you have collected. Your contributions will help our Presbytery to host visitors in 2010 and support the Computer Literacy Project.

<p>Before each worship service all the elders in a church gather together in a small room off the sanctuary to pray. Pray now for our partner churches and the partnership.</p>	<p>A dietary staple in Mthatha is corn, or maize, prepared as a mush known as pap. Pay \$.10 for each food item you eat today which contains corn or corn syrup.</p>	<p>A favorite way to entertain friends in South Africa is to have a "braai" - a barbeque . Pay \$.25 if you have a charcoal or gas grill.</p>	<p>The aloe is not commonly a house plant as it grows very large in South Africa. It appears in the official seal of the country, and on the money. It is a common plant in the Eastern Cape.</p>	<p>Most people walk where they need to go in rural South Africa. The Transkei highway is a dangerous road, where cows, sheep and goats roam free. Beep your horn and they will move, Maybe!</p>	<p>South Africa is at the southern tip of Africa. Mthatha is in the Eastern Cape province. Find the Eastern Cape on a map. Find the city of Mthatha. (formerly known as Umtata).</p>	<p>South Africa has a parliamentary form of government. The South African Council of Churches has a lot of influence in the government and is regularly consulted on social justice policy.</p>
<p>A Sunday church service in Mthatha often lasts 2 or 3 hours. Have each person in your household pay \$.25 for each hour you spend in worship at church this week.</p>	<p>South Africa has universal public education through 8th grade, but parents must pay for supplies and uniforms. Pay \$.25 for each child in school in your home.</p>	<p>Children in Mthatha love to play soccer. Pay \$.25 for each person in your family who has played soccer.</p>	<p>Donegal Presbytery is helping Mthatha Presbytery with its Computer Literacy Program. Pay \$.25 for each computer in your family.</p>	<p>People wait at bus stops along the highway to catch the next minibus taxi into town or back home. This is called a kombi.</p>	<p>Somerville congregation in Mthatha was the first to ordain a woman elder. The Ugie congregation ordained the first and only woman pastor in Mthatha Presbytery.</p>	<p>Nelson Mandela, the first President of the "new South Africa" grew up in the Eastern Cape. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.</p>
<p>In Mthatha, a congregation is composed of a central church plus outstations of people who gather. On Sunday, the pastor travels to one outstation, at the others elders preach.</p>	<p>HIV/AIDS is a major health problem in the region of the Mthatha Presbytery. The churches are active in prevention education and health care in this epidemic.</p>	<p>In South Africa, most people pay for internet by how many megabytes they transfer. Pay \$.10 for each email received in your household today!</p>	<p>The Garden Plot Project has produced cabbage, potatoes, butternut squash and maize (corn). Pay \$.25 for each of these vegetables you have eaten in the past week. (Don't forget the fries!)</p>	<p>People in Mthatha speak at least two languages, isiXhosa and English. Many also speak Zulu, Tswana, Sesotho and/or Afrikaans. Pay \$. 25 if you speak only one language.</p>	<p>The Presbyterian Women of the Mthatha Presbytery have a special uniform—a white tunic, black hat and skirt. The organization is key to the success of the church.</p>	<p>Thabo Mbeki, the second President of South Africa also came from the Eastern Cape. Jacob Zuma, the current President, grew up in KwaZulu Natal to the east.</p>
<p>Church Services in Mthatha are joyful and music filled. The whole congregation can spontaneously break into song or dance, praising God.</p>	<p>Some families collect rain water for household use. If there is no rainwater, they walk a long way to a community well.</p>	<p>Several of the world's largest automobile manufacturers have factories in the Eastern Cape including Volkswagen, Ford, GM and Daimler Chrysler</p>	<p>Most families in Mthatha do not have a "land line" telephone, but use cell phones instead. Pay \$.25 for each cell phone in your family.</p>	<p>Most families in the Mthatha Presbytery do not own a car. Pay \$.25 for each car in your family.</p>	<p>A favorite drink in South Africa is Rooibos or "red bush" tea. You can find it at the supermarket. Try some with sugar and milk and think of our brothers and sisters in South Africa as you drink it.</p>	<p>South Africa is known as the rainbow nation because of its many ethnic groups. Their flag represents the rainbow nation. Take a moment to look at the flag.</p>
<p>To raise money to pay their pastor, churches and outstations hold fundraising events immediately following a church worship service. These can last 5-6 hours.</p>	<p>Most homes in the Mthatha Presbytery do not have indoor plumbing. Pay \$.25 for each sink with running water in your house.</p>			 <p>Kombi</p>	 <p>UPCSA</p>	

Facts about Mthatha Presbytery and South Africa

The Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA) was formed by a union of two denominations, the former 'black' or Reformed Presbyterian Church and the former 'white' or Presbyterian Church of South Africa.



The new church chose the term 'UNITING' rather than 'UNITED' reflecting the clear intent to be joined in the future to the two other Presbyterian bodies in South Africa: the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and the Presbyterian Church of Africa.

-The Presbytery of Mthatha has more than 5,200 members in 16 congregations. Three of those congregations have been established since February 2000.

-The churches of the Mthatha Presbytery minister to one of the poorest regions of the Republic of South Africa located in Eastern Cape Province (formerly the Transkei Black Homeland in the days of apartheid).



For more information or to schedule a visit to your church by the members of the Mthatha Task Force contact Rev. Bill Hess, Taskforce Chair at 484-354-0191 or DMH15@verizon.net.
<http://www.donegalhungerprogram.org/umtataweb>



UPCSA

Mthatha & Donegal



"Walking in the Light of God" Together
Presbytery to Presbytery Partnership

A covenant relationship of encouragement, prayer,
learning and understanding.

2000-2010