

Chogoria Partnership Ministry Team (CPMT)
The Chogoria Presbyteries and the Presbytery of the Northern Plains
Presbyterian Church of East Africa and Presbyterian Church USA
Report to Presbytery of the Northern Plains

April, 2022

Greetings to you from the Chogoria Partnership Ministry Team!

We have just returned from a very quick trip to Kenya and we have so much good news to report regarding our continuing partnership with the 4 Chogoria Presbyteries in Kenya. For five days in February, Sharon Secor, Chair of the CPMT; Kayla Bones, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at 1st Presbyterian Church in Fargo; and Dr. Molly Secor, Associate Dean of Research at Montana State University, Bozeman were with our partners. What follows is a report of that trip.

Day 1 Conducted a full day seminar for Presbytery pastors and church workers and upper elementary and high school teachers.

Sexuality Education: Building Skills from a Faith Perspective for Adults and Young People

How we are equipped to address sexuality in the roles of educators and church worker.

Joan Rima (Nursing Services Manager at Chogoria Hospital) shared the biggest challenges facing adolescents in Kenya where sex is a taboo subject and children have been left on their own in regard to sexuality education; Kayla Bones led us through a study of Bible passages that guide us in identifying our core values, the formation of sexual ethics and making decisions based on those values and ethics. Molly Secor, using curriculum based on the research she has done in sexual and reproductive health in adolescents, led the participants in thoughtful consideration of how to provide access to accurate, truthful information and services to stay healthy. This involved discussions and skits provided by the participants.

At the end of the day, these were some of the comments of the 50+ participants: An eye opener; sexuality is a gift from God; we had to confront uncomfortable truths; church leaders, teachers and parents need training; successful, important and well received.

Day 2 Attended a full day meeting with the Chogoria Partnership Board (CPB) which includes representatives from the four Chogoria Presbyteries and our group, representing the PNP.

Results of this meeting:

We reviewed our past endeavors and the successes for which we are thankful. Key past endeavors include the building and equipping of the Chogoria Computer School which

continues to offer classes for the community; the completion of the Mpangua Primary School classrooms, latrines and kitchen; the ongoing hunger relief program and the scholarship program that awards students having completed the 8th grade the funds to attend a boarding school for their secondary education.

Future plans include:

- Establish a Youth Friendly Center with the church, the hospital and counselors working together to meet the needs of adolescents (a result of the seminar presentation).
- Make the sexuality seminar an annual event and expand it to more schools, churches, parents, teachers and students.
- We formed a team consisting of Kayla, Molly and local pastors and educators to equip trainers through curriculum development
- Invite a team from the Chogoria Partnership to visit PNP, possibly in October, 2022
- Take youth from PNP to Kenya in August of 2023
- Attend the 100 year celebration of the Chogoria Presbytery in October, 2022
 - If you have any members of your congregation who might be interested in this trip, please call Sharon Secor, 701-388-4699.
 - Details regarding this trip will be available by the end of April

We discussed plans for the implementation of the Bill and Carolyn Hunter Scholarship Fund and appointed a committee of elders from the 4 Presbyteries and members of the CPMT (Sharon, Kayla, Bill Hunter and Prakash Matthew) to develop a guide for the implementation of the program. The first scholarships will be awarded the middle of April, 2022.

Day 3 We traveled to Mpangua Primary School and had meetings with the school Board of Management (BOM), the Parent Board (PTA) and the teachers. The new building and the grounds were in good condition and it was a thrill to see the students working in their comfortable classrooms

Some of our findings include:

- Student enrollment is 182 (Pre-K through grade 8)
- The students currently are facing hunger, low crop yield, and challenges as a result of the Covid pandemic.
- Water harvesting is not enough and there is a need to pump water from the river to the school (about two kilometers). The county has not provided the pipes (the school owns a portable pump). A donation to purchase the water pipes has been received since our return!

- The school faces a shortage of teachers. Currently CPMT contributes the salaries of four teachers through a donor fund set up by the CPMT. The other six teachers are paid by the government.
- The school runs out of food well before the end of the term and students come to school hungry, there is no food for them at school and so many students stay at home. The CPB and the CPMT will continue to raise funds to support the **Hunger Fund** for families in the community and for the school lunch program.
- Performance is up at the school and the head teacher works with his teachers to encourage the children in their learning.
- Dreaming is a continuous thing and the head teacher will bring together a team to create a strategic plan for the school.

Day 4 We attended the festive dedication of the new dormitory for the Clive Irvine School of Nursing which is part of the campus of the Chogoria Hospital. In the afternoon we traveled to a secondary day school to visit one of our scholarship recipients who is graduating this spring. Four of our sponsored students are graduating this year. This is cause for great and thankful celebration! That evening we had dinner with members of the Chogoria South Presbytery.

Day 5 We returned to Nairobi where the three of us spent time going over the events of the busy days we had just experienced and we returned home on Day 6.

WAYS YOUR CONGREGATION CAN BE INVOLVED

There is a big need to support the partnership hunger fund. These funds support the Mpangua Primary School lunch program and provide food for needy people throughout the four Chogoria Presbyteries. Donations may be sent to the PNP with a note that the money is for the CPMT Hunger Fund.

Host members of the CPMT to come share this mission of the PNP with your congregation. Call Sharon Secor, 701-388-4699 if you would like to schedule a speaker.

Thank you, Presbytery of the Northern Plains for the generous ways in which you continue to support the Chogoria Partnership Ministry Team throughout the years. It has been transformative for and appreciated by our partners as we work together to be instruments of God's loving care in our world.

