

## A Lasting Legacy

By Stephanie Beers, serving in Ecuador

Celebrating a missions presence of 112 years, Alliance missionaries in Ecuador gathered with national church leaders, pastors, and members of the 300 C&MA churches to officially “pass the torch” to the national church.

The June 19 service took place in the heart of Guayaquil at the Templo Alianza, which was founded by Alliance missionaries 81 years ago. The U.S. C&MA was represented by Dr. Bob Fetherlin, vice president for International Ministries, and Rev. Bill Mangham, regional director for Latin America. Rev. David Muthre, president of the Alliance national church in Ecuador, gave a message entitled “The Legacy of our Missionaries.” Dr. Miguel Lecaro, pastor of Templo Alianza, gave a historical overview of the mission’s work

The first Alliance missionaries landed on the shores of Ecuador in 1897, two years after religious freedom was proclaimed in that country. Previously, the nation was under the direct authority of the Pope and was closed to any influence except Roman Catholicism

By 1908, eight believers had been baptized, and in 1912 the first Alliance church in Ecuador was inaugurated. Ten years later, C&MA missionaries dedicated the first Protestant church in Quito.

Today, the Alliance national church in Ecuador has grown

to more than 31,000 inclusive members who are passionate about reaching their nation—and the world—for Jesus. On July 1, 2009, the local mission officially closed with the retirement of field leadership couple Mike and Carol Welty, leaving behind a mature national church that has a legacy of passionate evangelism, intensive discipleship, sound doctrine, and vibrant trans-cultural ministry.

The U.S. C&MA will continue to have a presence in Ecuador for several more years, as the country will be the base of operations for the regional ministry team, including Bill and Ann Mangham (regional directors), Guy and Denise Maurin, (administrative assistant and financial coordinator), Jon and Jessie Ritchey (missions/FATELA), and Rich and Lisa Brown (Youth Leadership Development) will continue living in Quito and ministering throughout the region.

Pastor Muthre stated that as the Alliance mission team members finish their task in Ecuador, they can join with the apostle Paul in saying: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7–8).

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## Ageless Ministry

Harriette is 87, blind in one eye, and has emphysema. But that doesn't stop her from the ministry to which God has called her. No longer does she believe she has anything left in this life but to wait for death. No longer does she feel unproductive and useless. Harriette spends her days engaged in a mission that benefits thousands of vulnerable women and children in one of the poorest countries in the world—Mali, West Africa.

Harriette attends Shelby Alliance Church in Ohio, where her daughter, Jean Viers, began a ministry for the Koutiala Hospital for Women and Children in Mali, collecting and distributing baby clothes and supplies for the hospital.

Harriette rolls long strips of bed linens into bandages that are used to wrap large wounds. She makes "mama packs," which include knit caps, booties, blankets and other hygienic basics for newborns. Harriette also extracts hundreds of postage stamps from used envelopes for a stamp ministry that helps to support the Koutiala mission. And she keeps inventory of her production line. "Don't tell anyone," she told Jean, "but I've rolled 587 bandages."

At 87 years young, Harriette received her high school diploma—and through her ministry to the *least of these*, she has found her purpose to live.

## A House of Prayer

By Brad Reynolds,  
serving in Léguevin, France

On May 23, 2009, nearly 70 invited guests gathered to help inaugurate the new church plant, Eglise Protestante Internationale (International Protestant Church), in Léguevin, France, along with many of the congregation's 45 members.

Officially organized in March 2008, EPI is a daughter church of the English-speaking Toulouse International Church.

A suburb of Toulouse, France's fourth largest city, Léguevin has not witnessed a new church since a monastery was established there in the 12th century. It's exciting to think that God has given EPI the opportunity to occupy a worship facility in this historic community of 7,000.

The president of the French Alliance Churches, Norbert Clément, delivered the inauguration address. Additionally, the worship team sang songs that expressed the heart of this new congregation to be a house of prayer, based on the church's theme verse, Mark 11:17. Refreshments following the cerem

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