

The Anne Duncan Gray Visiting Scholar Program

Connecting Global Partnerships and Theological Education

By Patti Talbot

Connections between the United Church's global partnerships and theological education? One initiative that seeks to make these happen is the United Church Anne Duncan Gray visiting scholar program.

The Anne Duncan Gray World Outreach Teaching Fellowship was established in 1978, after The United Church of Canada received a bequest from the estate of George L. Gray in memory of his wife, Anne. These funds were used to set up an endowment that would support an annual "study/teaching Scholar/lecturer programme involving a Christian scholar from the two-thirds world" (original wording of bequest). Each year, the scholar is chosen in consultation among Emmanuel College, the General Council's Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations (JGER) Unit, and partner churches and agencies overseas.

Recent Anne Duncan Gray scholars and the United Church global partners they represented include

- Malawian **Fulata Moyo** (World Alliance of Reformed Churches), 2007
- Cuban **Reinerio Arce** (Presbyterian Church of Cuba), 2006
- Trinidadian **Harold Sitahal** (Presbyterian Church in Trinidad and Tobago), 2004
- Congolese **Kimpianga Mahaniah** (Centre de Vulgarisation Agricole), 2003
- Filipino Bishop **Erme Camba** (United Church of Christ in the Philippines), 2002

The 2008 Anne Duncan Gray Visiting Scholar is the **Rev. Moon-Sook Lee** of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK). Since 2001, she has served as General Secretary of Korean Church Women United (an ecumenical body of eight mainline Protestant denominations including the PROK), and as an executive member of the Korean Association of Women Theologians. Her ecumenical work and leadership in South Korea and the northeast Asia region has included involvement in the Korean Committee for World Day of Prayer, the Seoul Counseling Center for Women Migrant Workers, the steering committee of the Korean Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, and a wide variety of initiatives for peace-building and social development on the Korean peninsula.

Moon-Sook typifies a number of Anne Duncan Gray scholars. "This opportunity," she said shortly after her arrival in Toronto in early September 2008, "is the first time I have had more than two weeks away from my work—in 20 years!" Perhaps, because of the heavy workload she has handled over these years, she has become a woman who does not mind multi-tasking. In spite of her busy life in Korea, however, she enjoys going to concerts and theatres and talking to her son, who is a music critic, about various music from Mozart to Cuban reggae.

The Anne Duncan Gray program allows visiting scholars reading and reflection time and access to the university library and research system, and involves them in the community life of Emmanuel College students and faculty. The visiting scholar often participates in a college course, usually in a team situation with a faculty member. Special lectures given by the scholar, or gatherings on a more informal basis, give the college community insight into the scholar's context and personal engagement. Visiting scholars are also occasional resource people to the broader church. This has taken the form of participation or leadership in United Church gatherings, and participation or leadership in relevant workshops and conferences, sometimes in different parts of the country. Practical arrangements of the Anne Duncan Gray program are coordinated by the General Council's JGER Unit and its People in Partnership Program. Emmanuel College hosts the scholar and works out the details of each stay, in consultation with the scholar.

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