

Lorie and Phil Gates
Dr. George B. Brooks
Social Justice/Human Rights Award Recipients



Lorie and Dr. Philip Gates, members of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Prescott, AZ have worked faithfully as a team for many years in mission and are this year's recipients of the George Brooks Award for Social Justice/Human Rights. Nominated by the Stewardship, Mission and Communications Development Committee of the Presbytery, they received a standing ovation at the March 16-17, 2007 Stated Presbytery Meeting at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Phoenix when they were presented with the award.

Phil serves on session and is chair of Trinity PC's Mission Committee. Lorie is active with the church's Women's Association. Phil is vice-chair of the Presbytery's Stewardship, Mission and Communications Development Committee as well as a member of the Permanent Judicial Commission.

Since 2003, he has devoted his time to giving presentations about the mission work of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in sub-Saharan Africa. His focus has been on the countries of Zimbabwe and Mozambique in southeastern Africa, where he, along with thirteen other Presbyterian pastors and laypersons, spent two weeks, traveling under the auspices of The Outreach Foundation, a mission agency of the PC(USA) committed to providing resources for evangelism and new church development in the U.S. and worldwide.

In February 2004, Phil participated in a four-day training event for prospective companions to be sent to Colombia to serve the Colombian Presbyterian Church. He served as an companion in Barranquilla, Colombia July and August of 2005. Since then he has worked diligently to communicate the Colombia situation to church groups in the presbytery and in other parts of the United States.

In the 1990's, Lorie and Phil Gates were PC(USA) Volunteers in Mission, serving as interpreters for Presbyterian Border Ministry (PBM). During their three-year tenure, they lived and worked for extended periods of time at three of the seven border sites. They traveled throughout the Synod of the Southwest, and to Florida, California, Colorado, Washington, and Texas and communicating the important work and needs of PBM.

They represented the PC(USA)'s Worldwide Ministries Division as facilitators, offering one-day seminars, *Discerning Your Call for Mission*. These workshops informed and inspired groups about the extended mission volunteer opportunities, requirements and application process.

Prior to retiring in 1996, Phil was a career public school educator: English high school teacher, principal, assistant superintendent of schools, superintendent, and private educational consultant. Lorie and Phil have three adult children and four grandchildren.

After returning to the U.S. from Colombia, he learned that of the 246 Colombian soldiers cited by the UN Truth Commission, 100 of the perpetrators were School of the Americas (SOA) graduates. (The SOA is now called the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, or WHINSEC.) Congress came within fifteen votes of closing the SOA this past June. On November 19, 2006, Phil was arrested in Columbus, GA while participating with 20,000 in a demonstration outside the SOA at Fort Benning. Of the sixteen who trespassed on the grounds of Fort Benning, fifteen were arrested and booked. Over the past ten years 183 people have "crossed the line" onto the grounds in an act of civil disobedience to highlight the need to close the SOA. Phil began serving his 60 days in a Los Angeles prison on March 21st. Please keep Lorie and Phil in your prayers.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to help offset court related costs, travel expenses, loss of Social Security while he is incarcerated, etc., you can write a check made payable to:

The Synod of the Southwest
401 E. 4th St., #A. Tucson, AZ 85705.
Enter "Phil Gates" on memo line.

If you would like to write to Phil while he is in prison, address the letter *exactly* as follows:

Philip E. Gates, 92947-020,
MDC Los Angeles,
Metropolitan Detention Center,
P.O. Box 1500,
Los Angeles, CA 90053.

Note: Please send letters only. No gifts or news clippings will be permitted. All mail will be opened and inspected. Deviations will result in non-delivery.