

## **Nebraska churches challenged to donate to Presbyterian Women Palm Project**

By Mary Ann Olson  
Presbytery of Central Nebraska

The Presbyterian Women of Axtell, Neb., are challenging all churches in the Presbytery of Central Nebraska to each donate \$20 to purchase 10 palm trees through the Presbyterian Women Palm Project in celebration of the 20th anniversary of Presbyterian Women.

The Presbyterian Women Palm Project is a mission program in which groups or individuals can make donations for the establishment of palm plantations in Congo, once the world's largest producer of palm oil, according to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Web site.

The PC(USA) Web site notes, "The destruction of agricultural capabilities in Congo has forced the country to import cooking oil from Malaysia for its domestic use. Rather than continuing this dependency, the Congolese could plant new variety of palms, providing both needed palm oil and income."

A \$20 gift to the Palm Project will purchase about 10 plants and if every church in the Presbytery of Central Nebraska would send at least \$20, the presbytery would be purchasing 300 palm trees for Congo.

In Congo there are 150 trees per hectare (about 2.5 acres). A small plantation of 300 palms would cover the high school tuition costs of 40 girls or could subsidize hospitals or clinics. These new palms grow low to the ground, allowing women to participate in the planting, maintenance and harvest of the crop.

The presbytery can make a big difference if it accepts the challenge of the Axtell Presbyterian Women. How have you celebrated PW's 20th anniversary?