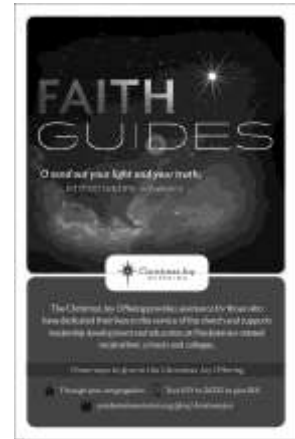


2014 Christmas Joy Offering

Minute for Mission
Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges

Living the Christian Life

Patricia Hsu Payan was born in Taiwan, lived her childhood in Brazil, and grew up a Buddhist. Today, she is a devoted Presbyterian and wants to thank people like you for making that possible.



“If I hadn’t gone to Presbyterian Pan American School, I might not be Christian today,” she says. “Coming from a third-world country, we couldn’t afford the school. It was very difficult for my parents to even send me to the US, let alone pay for school.”

She was able to attend Pan Am in the mid-’80s because of gifts to programs like the Christmas Joy Offering.

“While I was there, I received a scholarship,” Payan says. “I knew that scholarship didn’t just happen. Somebody had to give the money to the school in order for me to get the scholarship. It taught me how to give. Today, in the world, we’re so busy with our lives and making money, but Pan Am taught me there is something more important.”

Payan arrived at the school hoping only to learn English and prepare herself for college. She says a strict schedule and small, close-knit community setting helped her develop good study habits and a strong work ethic. But, it was a deeper lesson that meant the most.

“We had chapel every day; we had church on Sunday,” she said. “Every morning after breakfast I would stop by our chapel and pray. I would sit there and reflect and talk to God. That was the foundation of what I do today—this is something I developed at Pan Am.”

Payan graduated from Pan Am in 1986. She went on to college at the University of Texas, where she received her Master’s in Business Administration. She is now the owner and president of Physicians Management Services. And she still believes in giving as others gave to her—serving on the Mission Committee for Forest Hills Presbyterian Church in Helotes, Texas,

“I’m growing closer to God as I move along,” she said. “Now, I’m so very grateful for being able to go to the school. Presbyterians who contribute should know that, no matter how big or small the donation, they are doing something good. It’s not just an opportunity for education, but an opportunity to expose a child to the Christian faith who might not otherwise have that. To learn about to the Christian faith—to me, that’s the most important part.”

Please give generously.