

mission crossroads

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RECONCILIATION: HEALING THE WOUNDS

WORLD MISSION INITIATIVE AIMS TO END VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

»In this issue

Read how the PC(USA) is helping
women and children around the
world

- **In Rwanda**, walking alongside women who have lost entire families to genocide
- **In Haiti**, lifting up the voice of women fighting back against injustice
- **In Russia**, supporting the work of Roma women creating a living for their families

Meet the new mission co-workers





Mission in the “Fourth World”

Scripture suggests that Jesus Himself—with all his superhuman knowledge, insight, and intelligence—still took 30 years to learn the language and the culture of the people he was called to serve. Before he gave his first sermon, he listened deeply, watched closely, and came to understand what made the people laugh and cry—their hopes and fears and dreams.

Understanding God’s mission in the south Asian nation of Bangladesh requires a deep understanding of the context.

You may know that Bangladesh is in what some commentators consider the “Fourth World”—those countries where the majority of the population live in extreme poverty. Imagine half the population of the United States living in an area of land that’s roughly the size of the state of Iowa. Bangladesh is massively overcrowded, and has all the negative consequences: poor sanitation and hygiene and a lack of basic nutrition, especially among children.

Recently, I visited a small, 160-square-foot kitchen in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. This tiny space was shared by 32 families for their daily cooking. They had 16 wood stoves and made all of their meals in that cramped area. In areas like this, where poverty is endemic, where foreign aid and donors’ best intentions rarely make much of a difference, I found a powerful example of change based on long-term relationships.

Because of the particularities of that setting, Presbyterian mission co-workers Les and Cindy Morgan found their original understanding of their call to mission in Bangladesh shifting. Both are physicians, and they arrived there in 1989 thinking they would run church programs to heal the sick. But they found they had to keep repeating medical treatments in the same area because illness spread so easily due to overcrowding and poor nutrition. Illness in this kind of setting is a community-based problem more than an individual problem, so they realized that to be more effective, they needed to be retooled professionally so they could truly help. They returned to the US to earn master’s degrees in public health, thus changing their focus from curative to preventive health.

I would argue that for Cindy and Les, this process was a spiritual exercise of listening to God’s Spirit through the people of Bangladesh. They, the well-educated Western “experts,” had to humble themselves and learn about the complex context through the eyes of the people.

After their additional studies, they returned to focus their ministries on the whole community. They also began to reflect with the Church of Bangladesh on how to understand the role of Christians in a context where diseases’ impact on poor families is massive. Both teach a class at a seminary and work in a variety of healing ministries at church hospitals and within community-based health programs. Through their work, the Morgans are helping church leaders to develop a deeper understanding of how the church’s relationship with Christ gives it healing power and moves it to reach out to those who are sick or dying. The results have been life-changing.

Les and Cindy understand that it’s not helpful in the long run to simply solve problems for others, but to help people solve their own problems. This commitment to listen before we speak—to learn deeply from the people—is a characteristic of Presbyterian World Mission that has kept me committed to our church’s understanding of mission for more than 32 years. Your prayerful support of that vision allows us to continue this life-giving work.

With you in Christ,
Hunter

Mission Crossroads is a Presbyterian Mission Agency publication about the church’s mission around the world.

Presbyterian World Mission is committed to sending mission personnel, empowering the global church, and equipping the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for mission as together we address the root causes of poverty, work for reconciliation amidst cultures of violence, and share the good news of God’s saving love through Jesus Christ.

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Presbyterian World Mission
www.pcusa.org/worldmission

A Wise Steward

Tamron Keith ensures World Mission is a high-impact ministry

By Jessica Denson

For Tamron Keith Sr., World Mission's new finance manager, mission is not just dollars and cents. He says effective mission requires the power of God at work in our efforts. "As followers of Christ hear of God's acts through us [World Mission], church members often look for ways to connect and contribute. My responsibility is to do all that I can to ensure the giving and disbursing of funds is easy and transparent; and to manage donor-provided resources with integrity. Essentially, I am called to be a wise steward of the resources God has given us."

"A wise steward must be both practical and visionary, understanding present needs as well as future needs that will arise. The resources God has provided go well beyond money in the bank but include human resources, good processes, [and] knowing when to be innovative and when to be traditional."

Keith has a background in both finance and within the Christian faith. His father, Bishop Raymond J. Keith Jr., was sent by his pastor in 1976 from New York City to Louisville to plant a church. For the last 37 years, he has led Refuge in Kentucky Apostolic Church. At first, Keith rebelled against Christian ideals and the church, but says he had a spiritual rebirth in Christ that led him to his own pastoral call.

He has also pursued his love of finance, serving as senior financial analyst for the City of Portland, Ore., and as operations manager for the New Covenant Trust Company Company (of the Presbyterian Foundation). He says his current work within World Mission has strengthened his understanding of Christ's mission locally and globally, in both biblical and practical ways.

Keith is already using his experience to improve financial processes within World Mission. One way he has done this is by ensuring that partner disbursement requests that meet the required criteria are entered into the system within 24 hours. This is important because, he says, "people no longer give for the sake of giving but instead, look for projects and activities they believe in and the value added by the recipient organization. World Mission provides an intersection for both of these."

"I am convinced, as long as the church remains faithful to its God-given call, even with declines in giving, World Mission has nothing to worry

about," he told us. "We have a vast array of mission co-workers doing all kinds of wonderful work around the world, and mission projects we support in partnership with our global partners, such that faithful Presbyterians and Christian brothers and sisters feel inspired to support as they learn about them."

» Support

To support World Mission's efforts, visit www.pcusa.org/supportwm. You may also use the giving envelope that came with this publication.



Presbyterian World Mission brings God's global family together to address poverty, work towards reconciliation and proclaim God's saving love in Jesus Christ.

God's Mission in Europe

Russia: A Light in the Midst of Division



A trip to Siberia would lead Mission co-worker Ellen Smith on a 13-year journey to assist a congregation helping others and sharing the Word of Jesus Christ even while facing rejection from those around them.

Pastor Vladimir Tashtiev heads a church in Nizhnevartovsk, located in the west Siberian oil-producing region of Russia. Ellen met Vladimir while on that trip more than a dozen years ago. She describes members of the church as filled with great love and determination. The congregation was worshiping in the home of one member, "filling the space and overflowing into the bedroom and kitchen."

The congregation supports mission work with the Khanti, a small group of native people in Russia. Ellen says Vladimir respects and understands the Khanti's culture, while sharing his own faith. Even as they reach out to share God's Word with others, the congregation endures its own pain and challenges.

Many of the members come out of the unregistered Baptist tradition—a group so conservative they separate themselves from both society and other Christian communities even today. But Vladimir and the church's members cross denominational lines in fellowship and ministry wherever possible.

"Again and again, I came across the pain of rejection this congregation feels, rejection from both Orthodox and unregistered Baptists," Ellen writes. "The church in Nizhnevartovsk is trying to be a church that does not see boundaries, one that can love the addict, gather clothing for the homeless, and work together with other Christians."

To give to support the Smiths' ministry:
www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/E200406

God's Mission in Asia

South Korea: YAVs Living Out Christian Values within the Community

Rev. Kurt Esslinger and his wife, Hyeyoung Lee, are serving as Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) site coordinators in South Korea. They began their ministry with young adults in the country in 2013, and their focus is on helping the most marginalized people within the culture.

Their work is based on the campus of Presbyterian-related Hannam University in Daejeon. The YAVs help extend the ministry of the university in the surrounding community through their work with children and families who are economically disadvantaged. Many of the people served by the YAVs are recent immigrants who face discrimination and exploitation.

As site coordinators, Kurt and Hyeyoung mentor the young adults in their service and encourage them to reflect spiritually on their experiences. They also seek to facilitate the building of an intentional Christian community among the YAVs.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has a long history in Korea, celebrating over a century of ministry in the country. PC(USA) involvement is through the Presbyterian Church of Korea, the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, and the National Council of Churches in Korea. In addition to the YAV program, the PC(USA) joins Korea's Christian community in a ministry that includes higher education, theological education, health ministries, women's and children's ministries, and peace education, reconciliation, and reunification work.

To give to support Kurt's and Hyeyoung's ministry:
www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/E200496



God's Mission in Central America

Nicaragua: God Transforms Approach to Disaster

Following 15 years of tragedy caused by Hurricane Mitch in Central America, church-based organizations including World Mission are forging a new school of thought for humanitarian action. Its focus is on not only the immediate needs of disaster response—such as sanitation, shelter, food security, and health services—but also on a community dialogue that helps people to reflect on the real roots of the tragedies.



Mission co-worker Carlos Cardenas has long served WM in partnership with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in Nicaragua and other Central American countries. During his time, he says God has transformed how Presbyterians and others help those in need.

“At the very beginning, we used to come to the disaster scenario and see chaos and despair everywhere,” he writes. “There was no one with whom to coordinate the response. There were no tools, no rules, just the intuition to help those in need. Now, churches working in disasters have become a global coalition named ACT Alliance with a wider mandate, which bases its work on three pillars: work on development programs, advocacy issues, and disaster response.”

Using the Risk Management Approach, the communities reflect on the roots of poverty and injustice and how to address the unjust distribution of wealth and well-being. It is a way of walking with God's people in partnership and support for the long term.

Carlos says God has led him to feel more compassion and armored him with a “critical sense of, and thirst for, justice on those tough issues that cause pain, illness, and mourning for the excluded of the world.”

To give to support Carlos Cardenas' ministry: www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/E550030

God's Mission in Africa

South Sudan: Providing Education for Both Genders

Mission co-worker Debbie Blane is seeing the mindset of those in South Sudan change through her ministry with Nile Theological College. In a place where the literacy rate for females is under 20 percent, she says there is a growing awareness of the importance of providing an education to all.

“This awareness extends to the understanding that females as well as males must learn to read and write and to think critically in order that their gifts can be tapped for the service of the church and of the country in government service,” Debbie writes.

Due to 50 years of civil war, there is very little infrastructure in South Sudan. Educational facilities and people with qualifications to teach are very limited, making the work at Nile Theological College, which is now at capacity, even more critical. Students are taking the lessons they have learned at the college into their homes in South Sudan.

“One of my students told me that over summer break, he had taken his illiterate wife and his three children to a refugee camp and registered them,” Debbie added. “He did this because of my emphasis in classes on the importance of education for girl children and women. Recently he told me that his wife has reached Level 2 and loves learning.”

At this point, the college has no female students. Debbie asks for your prayers that this will change and that the coming generations will see an improvement in literacy, in educational opportunities, and in gender equality and justice.

To give to support Debbie Blane's ministry: www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/E200453



Join Our Reconciliation Initiative

Presbyterian Mission Agency calls for push to end violence against women and children

By Jessica Denson and Shannon Beck

Stand up. Speak up. Dive in!

Be counted among Presbyterians across the world who are engaging in God's reconciling work to end violence against women and children.

World Mission invites you to experience God's justice and peace with and for women and children. We know that God's heart is broken with the pain of those lacking resources, power, and influence for even their own safety. And we know that we are all healed when one woman or child is honored, respected, and freed from their oppressor.

Energy is growing across the PC(USA) for collaborative work that more effectively addresses systemic violence against women and children. There are new pathways unfolding that will help us make a bigger impact strengthening and supporting the work already happening in our communities and around the world.

Here's how you can take part directly in our campaign to end violence against women and children.

UNITE Orange Days

The Presbyterian Mission Agency kicked off a campaign to observe UNITE's Orange Days in January. Join us throughout 2014 by:

- orange on the 25th of each month as a symbol of our solidarity and commitment;
- taking a photo of you, your friends, your church, or your mission committee; and
- using the hashtags #endviolence #pcusa and posting your photos on the World Mission Facebook page or Tweeting them and tagging @PCUSAMission.

We Will Speak Out Pledge

Sign the We Will Speak Out pledge as an individual and encourage your session to do so as well. Use it as a springboard into an educational opportunity or sermon on the plight of women in every country. Some statistics that help illustrate the problems of women and children around the world:

- 1 in 3 women are abused in their lifetime
- 14 million girls under 13 will be married every year
- 80% of the people trafficked are women and children

Sign the pledge here:

<http://wewillspeakout.us/sign-our-pledge>



A book worth studying

Read or view *Half the Sky* by Nicolas Kristoff. Invite your local domestic violence shelter to share their work as a follow up and connect with World Mission to learn about mission co-workers efforts around the world to help create a safer world for women and children.

Shannon Beck holds a bachelor's degree in Christian Education from Seattle Pacific University and a master's degree in Theology from Fuller Seminary. She is an educator, performing songwriter, poet, blogger, and peace seeker. Her last position was the Directory of Young People's Ministries at First United Methodist Church of Seattle. She has worked on peace and justice concerns in various capacities including chairing the Seattle Presbytery Peacemaking Committee for seven years, serving on the Synod of Alaska-Northwest Peacemaking Committee, assisting in founding the Israel/Palestine Mission Network, organizing for the Washington State affiliate of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, and co-writing the 2012 Season of Peace of the PC(USA). Shannon is energized around broad collaborations that work for common goals in pursuit of a peaceful, just, and generous world.

» Get Involved

Join the PC(USA) campaign End Violence Against Women and Children as we partner with other organizations, mission co-workers, and global partners to affect change. Contact *Shannon Beck* at Beck@pcusa.org with the subject line: I'M IN!

Together, let's raise our prayers, hearts, and actions and be part of God's reconciling work.

Editor's note: Each issue in 2014, Mission Crossroads will focus on a different area in our three critical global initiatives. This issue focuses on reconciliation. We invite your participation in these efforts. Read on for more information on how you can join with us in ending violence against women and children.

Linking lives

Churches in Montana buy baskets from Roma women, supporting their families

By Robyn Davis Sekula

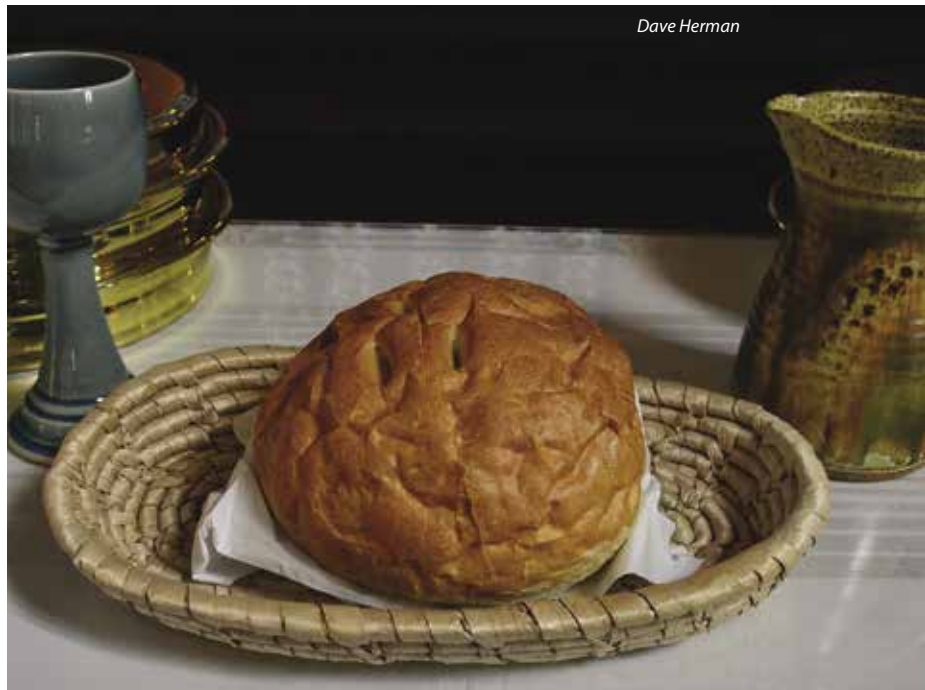
At a presbytery meeting in Conrad, Montana, members vote for an executive presbyter and place their ballots in a basket. In Polson, a similar basket holds a loaf of bread, soon to be broken and served as part of Communion. In Hamilton, a basket is part of a vacation Bible school lesson.

While the baskets are a simple tool for collecting and distributing various items, they're also a lesson in mission. The baskets are made by Roma women in Ukraine who are seeking a better living for themselves and their families. Glacier Presbytery in North-Central Western Montana bought baskets from Roma women through Rachel Yates, church support associate for the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

"The baskets have become a meaningful and tangible way for us to connect to the plight of Roma women, who are often subject to discrimination [and] abuse, and struggle to receive an education," says Marsha Anson, executive presbyter for Glacier Presbytery. "The women are able to help make a living from creating baskets."

The women making the baskets are primarily from two villages: Gat and Nagydobrony. The basket project started when 28 Presbyterian Women representatives went to the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Ukraine in 2008. The group visited the women making the baskets and wanted to find ways to help them reach a larger market.

"Roma in these villages are almost 10 percent unemployed," says Burkhard Paetzold, mission co-worker in Germany and regional liaison for Central and Eastern Europe, and facilitator of work with the Roma people. "They live on all kinds of informal work, like metal collection, repair work, day labor,



Dave Herman

and seasonal work in farms. The baskets create one piece of additional income only. Families cannot live on basket making."

In Montana, churches are sometimes as small as 12 members. Larger efforts to connect with mission, such as going on a trip or giving a large gift, are out of reach at this time. "This is a realistic gesture of support for mission," Marsha says. "Congregations now feel connected to the person who made the basket and the ministry to the Roma people. Our hope is to extend this support to other areas of mission in the future."

First Presbyterian Church in Great Falls, Montana, uses the baskets from the Roma women for Communion.

Buy a basket

The following trivets and baskets are available through Presbyterian Distribution Service (toll free 800-524-2612) Church Store (<http://store.pcusa.org/>):

Item number PWR10430;	Round trivet;	\$7
Item number PWR10432;	Oval trivet;	\$8
Item number PWR10433;	Star-shaped trivet;	\$9
Item number PWR11424;	Star-shaped trivet, medium size;	\$6
Item number PWR10431;	Rectangular-shaped trivet;	\$9
Item number PWR11435;	Pitcher-shaped basket with thin handle; ..	\$15
Item number PWR11426;	Small basket with one handle;	\$7



“We want something different for our daughters”

Walking with the women of Haiti

By Cindy Corell and Jessica Denson

Times have changed in Haiti over the past 20 years. Education has for several decades been of utmost importance to families there, but traditionally it has been more important to send boys to school. Recent generations of parents, many of them women raising children alone, now want to educate their daughters as well as their sons. This desire not only requires additional funds, but it also means mothers have more work to do at home.

“My mother kept me at home to help her,” one woman said. “She made my brothers go to school.”

But she wants something different for her daughters.

“I didn’t go far in school,” she said. “But I make a lot of effort to push my daughters, to make them finish high school. I want them to become another kind of woman. I don’t want them to be like me.”

Women are no longer standing on the sidelines, remaining quiet. They are becoming more vocal about their needs and their desire for a better life and more opportunities. One example of this is the recent protest of 1,000 women, all members of Konbit Peyizan Grand’Anse (KPGA), who gathered in the streets of Jeremie, a small coastal city on the southern peninsula of Haiti.

They chanted for respect for women and carried a white banner that read: *Nou menm fanm peyizan nou merite plis!*—“We are women farmers; we deserve more!”

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is walking

.....
“I want her to finish school,” one woman said. “She can become a nurse or become a tailor. Or anything that she wants to be. I want her to be able to choose.”
.....

beside these women through partnerships and programs in Haiti. KPGA is one of the 11 organizations of Fondasyon Men-lan-Men Ayiti (FONDAMA), the Joining Hands partner in Haiti.

An overarching mission of FONDAMA is to secure food sovereignty by promoting the benefits of family farming through Haiti. At the heart of this mission, and the programs to work toward it, is the desire to nurture and strengthen the role of women in agriculture.

Most, if not all, of the organizations that make up FONDAMA not only advocate for gender equality, but also rely on women for much of their work, and in Jeremie, KPGA is mostly comprised of women. KPGA’s companion group is Organizasyon Fanm Tet Ansanm Grandans (OFTAG), or the organization of women working together in Grand’Anse. OFTAG sponsors women’s rights seminars and supports microloan programs in many of its eight communities.

Some of the demands these and other women like them had were for accessibility to health care, improved credit programs, an end to land grabbing, and more integrated literacy education.

If this sounds like a lot, it is. The needs of farmers in rural Haiti are vast, and for the women, their needs are even more urgent.

A group of women who participate in a microcredit program that is sponsored by KPGA and OFTAG women live in Chadonette, a remote



» SUPPORT

To support the work of mission co-worker Cindy Corell in Haiti, individuals may visit www.pcusa.org/give/E200482 or congregations may visit www.pcusa.org/give/D507566. You may also use the giving envelope that came with this magazine.



mountain village. It's a 45-member group. The women have children and once attended school themselves, but none finished.

They rise at about 4 A.M., begin gathering their items for market, prepare breakfast for their family, and get their children to school. Then they begin what is at least a two-hour walk to Jeremie. When they have enough for a larger market, they carry the items on a tap-tap, a form of public transportation in Haiti.

The microcredit business has helped them buy more seeds. They plant more crops, which means more to harvest, more to carry to market, and more funds for the family.

"We want to get more members," one woman told me. "We want to grow even more food."

Most of these women are in their '20s or '30s. They work harder than their mothers did, they say. When they were growing up in the 1980s and early '90s, education was becoming more important, but more so for boys. When asked what their hope was for their own children, the answer was always the same: we want something different for our daughters.

"I want her to finish school," one woman said. "She can become a nurse or become a tailor. Or anything that she wants to be. I want her to be able to choose."

These mothers' dreams are universal. The

members of KPGA, OFTAG, and the other organizations within FONDAMA, by setting their own priorities and galvanizing for change, are already laying the groundwork for making these dreams a reality.

FONDAMA has the capacity to further these efforts by providing more training in leadership, advocacy, and agricultural practices. The women's protest was a great success, shedding light on the region's needs to strengthen the role of women in agriculture and society, both locally and regionally.

The next steps include advocacy training, examining existing laws that impede women's rights and opportunities, and working to change those laws and the prevailing attitudes in Haiti's government.

All of those efforts will be greatly enhanced by the hard work already being carried out, especially by the women who—at the heart of it all—want a better future for themselves and future generations.

Based in Port au Prince, Haiti, as a Joining Hands network companionship facilitator, Cindy Corell connects presbyteries and churches in the United States with a network of churches, grassroots groups, and nongovernmental organizations in Haiti. Cindy will next be in the USA, based in VA, in 2015. Email rachel.anderson@pcusa.org to extend an invitation to Cindy to speak to your congregation or organization.

The Spirit of Rwanda

January, 2014



I would like to introduce you to one of my new friends and hope that you will, with me, appreciate the spirit of the people of Rwanda.

Anysie is in her 30s, single, and holds a degree in business from a university in South Africa. She works in finance for the Presbyterian Church of Rwanda.

What makes her a standout is what she is doing as a survivor of genocide. I had the opportunity to see that firsthand on Christmas Eve. While many people were preparing for a time of worship and family, my colleague Meg Knight and I traveled with to the remote village area where Anysie had grown up. There, in a small church, 223 children and their Sunday school teachers were waiting for us.

Anysie asked them if they knew why she did not come to visit them more often. After several suggestions from the children, one spoke up and said it was because she no longer had family there. She said that was correct. All of

her family had been killed during the genocide.

But the reason she did come back was so they would know that they were still her neighbors and were loved and cared for. She said that the only way to make certain that genocide never happened again was for each of us to love and care for our neighbors. While visiting the area, Anysie met with a women's cooperative that she had helped to start that is enabling the women to earn money to support their families. Then she met with a group of farmers she is helping with a goat-raising project. All of this she is doing on her own, not as a project of the church, but as a genocide orphan from that area. She has, by God's grace, survived and thrived, sharing Christ's redeeming power with those in the remote area of her birth. She had saved and planned for four months to finance this trip.

After we left the church, we traveled over a mountain ridge to a Catholic parish that had a genocide memorial. This was a pilgrimage for Anysie. As we stood between the church and the memorial, she told us that her parents had been baptized, confirmed, married, and had died in that church building. It was where they fled when the genocide broke out. It was there that they, her siblings, and 5,000 others who sought refuge were murdered. She was spared because she was away at boarding school. She said that the only way she knows to deal with her grief and to fight against genocide ever happening again is to share Christ's love and encourage others to share in that love. She had invited us to share in her joy and in her remembrance. I was humbled. On that Christmas Eve, I had a new vision of Emmanuel, God with us, in the love of a generous, forgiving genocide survivor.

My prayer is that we can all live out Christ's love in such tangible ways in 2014. In that regard, I thank you for your generous support that enables me to be here and witness such expressions of Christ's presence. I ask specifically that you pray for Rwanda as it prepares even now for the 20th commemoration of the genocide in April. This will be an intense time and a great opportunity for witness to Christ's reconciling powers.

Kay has accepted a new assignment in Rwanda at the invitation of the Presbyterian Church of Rwanda. In April 2013, she began serving as a lecturer in English and Practical Theology at the Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PLASS) in Butare, Rwanda. Kay will next be in the U.S. in 2015, based in Pennsylvania. To extend an invitation for Kay to speak to your congregation or organization, e-mail the mission connections office at Rachel.anderson@pcusa.org.

» SUPPORT

To support the work of mission co-worker Kay Day in Rwanda, individuals may visit www.pcusa.org/give/E200502 or congregations may visit www.pcusa.org/give/D507542. You may also use the giving envelope that came with this magazine.

An act of discipleship

David and Martha Krehbiel sense a call to support mission financially

By Patrick Cole

When Rev. David Krehbiel was a pastor in upstate New York, a woman came to him complaining that he wanted everyone in the congregation to be a missionary. David, now retired and living in Ann Arbor, Michigan, didn't take the comment as an insult.

"With her, I got my point across," he says with a chuckle. He points out that Christians are commanded in Acts 1:8 to be Christ's witnesses to the entire world. "That means there is a seamless connection between the mission locally where we live and the rest of the world," David says. "That is something that is part and parcel to our being Christian. It's our calling."

While David realizes that not everyone will serve across cultures, both he and his wife, Martha, believe that everyone can pray for international mission, advocate for mission, and support it financially.

Every year Martha and David contribute to the Episcopal University of Haiti's School of Nursing in Léogâne, a program founded by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) partners in Haiti. It was Haiti's first bachelor's degree program in nursing, and the Krehbiels' congregation, First Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor, was an early supporter of the school.

In addition to their gifts to the nursing school, David and Martha give annually to the support of all Presbyterian mission co-workers. "We want



Rev. David and Martha Krehbiel

planned giving."

"We just want to help maintain a mission presence throughout the world," Martha adds. Both David and Martha have been supporters of mission since childhood. Martha grew up as the daughter of an American Baptist pastor. A missionary from what was then Belgian Congo used to visit their congregation regularly. Her stories from Africa helped stir Martha's interest in mission.

"This has been a passion of mine all of my life," Martha says. "My mother also had this passion for world mission. She used to go around [to various congregations] and talk about world mission and sometimes would wear clothes from the country [on which she was speaking]."

David grew up in Knox Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, where mission was a congregational priority. "We grew up with the understanding that as followers of Jesus, friends of Jesus, our calling was to bear witness to Christ through the ministry of the church," David explains. "That ministry is something we do where we are and throughout the whole world."

At First Presbyterian in Ann Arbor, David and Martha advocate for the financial support of international mission. "The wonderful thing about money is that it is flexible," David says. "It's a way to reach out in the name of Christ to people in the whole world."

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"We just want to help
maintain a mission
presence throughout the
world." - Martha Krehbiel
.....

to give to where the greatest need is rather than designate," Martha says.

The Krehbiels have included Presbyterian World Mission in their wills so their support of mission will continue after their deaths.

"We know that the church always has far more need than resources, and that will continue to be true," David says. "It's wonderful to be able to help the church in the future through our wills and

» Support

To join the Krehbiels in supporting Presbyterian World Mission, visit www.pcusa.org/SupportWM/.

Untold stories

Security necessitates silence regarding the ministries of some co-workers

By Terri Bate



Hearing and telling the stories of Presbyterian mission co-workers is one of the most enjoyable aspects of my job. I am inspired by these stories, and they stir many other Presbyterians. I am thrilled that thousands of Presbyterian World Mission supporters can learn about the transforming ministries of our mission co-workers through print publications, e-newsletters, social media, website postings, and videos.

Unfortunately, the stories of about a dozen mission co-workers cannot be shared online, nor can they be freely spread through print media. That's because they serve in areas with high security concerns, and telling their stories might endanger them or the people with whom they work. All of our mission co-workers serve with the permission of the governments of their host countries. They comply with the terms of their visas and observe all laws. Yet political, cultural, and religious dynamics in some settings demand that our mission co-workers maintain a low profile.

I have been blessed by the stories of these co-workers, and I regret we have to place strict limits on telling them in order to protect those serving in places with security concerns. However, I would like to introduce you to the work of a few of our mission co-workers serving in sensitive areas, without mentioning their countries of service or using their real names:

George is a medical doctor who helped introduce emergency medicine in a Western Asian country. He has trained doctors and has gained the respect of physicians across this country. He also maintains a hospital practice and participates in research projects. On Sundays, you will find George and his wife, Debbie, at a church greeting visitors, answering their questions about the Christian faith, and leading a Bible study. In a ministry outside the church, Debbie helps disabled people participate in sports.

Edward teaches theology at a seminary in the Middle East. Serving at the seminary since 1999, Edward has worked hard on his language skills and is able to lecture in Arabic.

He teaches alongside a faculty composed mostly of native Middle Easterners. His colleagues include two other professors and an administrative staff member who serve under PC(USA) mission appointment. This seminary produces dedicated ministers who lead the church in places where Christians are a distinct minority. "The complicated nature of political, economic, and social turmoil in the Middle East makes easy answers untenable for the 21st century," Edward says. "Nevertheless, by equipping students with theological, ethical, and biblical tools, I hope to assist these bright young leaders in addressing these challenges with hope, joy, and creativity. Even now, I feel great pride in our graduates who are planting churches, starting new ministries for the poor and marginalized, and serving as community leaders in the name of Christ."

In a Central Asian country, Julie works as a community development facilitator with a relief and development organization. In her free time, she helps strengthen the ministry of a congregation. "My call is to bring good news to the poor in Central Asia," Julie says. "God has brought forth and deepened a compassion in me that acts to help better the lives of those who struggle with a lack of material and spiritual resources."

Please pray for our co-workers who serve in sensitive locations. Since their stories are not told widely, funding these positions can be challenging. Without the support of congregations and individuals like you, the ministries of these mission co-workers would not be possible. They help meet incredible human needs, and they strengthen the Christian witness in the places where it is quite fragile. To learn how you can support these mission co-workers financially, please call 800-728-8228 x5611.

Terri Bate is senior director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Funds Development Ministry. She can be reached at terri.bate@pcusa.org.

How to Give



Sessions and Congregations

For your convenience, we are providing a few simple options for you to use in submitting your gifts. Congregations can send contributions through their regular receiving channels, or send your Directed Mission Support gifts directly to the address below. Those gifts designated to Directed Mission Support (DMS) accounts will be reported to your presbytery. We urge you to report DMS contributions directly to your presbytery in order to keep them informed of your denominational support.

Individuals

Individuals should use the numbers beginning with E to provide financial support to these mission workers. If you desire, you can also give online at www.presbyterianmission.org/worldmission.

You may also write the name of the mission coworker on the memo of the check, mail it to the address below and we will confirm your designation and intent.

Give to the sending and support of your mission co-workers:

- Visit www.presbyterianmission.org/give
- Call 800-728-7228, ext 5611

Please send gifts to:

Presbyterian World Mission
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700
Please make checks payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

For Additional Information Please Contact:

Nicole Gerkins
Program Assistant
Funds Development Ministry
Nicole.gerkins@pcusa.org
800-728-7228 x5611

News and developments from our mission co-workers and partners

Presbyterian World Mission requests your specific prayers for the following regions of the world, among many others

Please prayer for . . .

The families of South Sudan

More than 90,000 people have fled South Sudan in the wake of inter-ethnic conflict and gross human rights violations by the South Sudanese military. We are working with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and our partners in South Sudan to provide food, trauma recovery, and emergency supplies. Your prayers and financial support are needed so those displaced by violence can help.

The end of violence in Mozambique

In October, Mozambique's main opposition party, RENAMO, declared an end to its 21-year-old peace accord with FRELIMO, the country's ruling party, which ended a 16-year civil war. In recent months, dozens of people have died in clashes threatening to disrupt democracy and development in the country. Please pray that peace can be restored and that there will be justice and security for all of Mozambique's people.

To end a culture of fear in Honduras

Nearly 230 people have been killed in politically related attacks in Honduras. Others have also been tortured for such "offenses" as simply being related to someone who hopes to provide a better life for those living in the country, or for having a different point-of-view. Please join us in prayer for peace for the people of Honduras and in support of our mission work with those who are suffering.

News from around the world

Tragedy must not deter our Christian calling

Super Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest storms ever to hit the Philippines, has devastated families and left many of them struggling to survive. But within the tragedy is hope through God's love.

The United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), a partner of the PC(USA), is standing with the people, helping them cope with the loss of loved ones, homes,

and businesses.

"I feel that this tragedy must not deter us from our calling as Christians, whose commitment to serve is inspired by the giver of life himself, Jesus Christ," Bishop Reuel Norman O. Marigza, the general secretary of the UCCP, wrote to those within the church. "These are trying days and challenging times as well. Let us not falter nor shirk from that calling to serve, for this means also serving God, the greatest giver of all."

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) works in partnership with the UCCP, which was formed in 1948. The church has long been involved in theological education and leadership development, evangelism and new church development, social service and development, young adult and women ministries, justice and peace, and security and reconciliation.

Presbyterian Leaders Released Following Imprisonment in South Sudan

Members of the clergy in the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, a partner church of World Mission, have been released after nearly seven months of imprisonment. Rev. Idris Joshua Idris Nalos and Pastor Trainee David Gayin were taken from their homes on May 19 by armed men identified by Amnesty International as security forces.

The two were kept incommunicado—without access to lawyers or their families. Their whereabouts remained unknown until their recent release. Neither Rev. Nalos nor Gayin was charged with a crime.

Immigration: Finding Common Ground

A Presbyterian mission co-worker and a group of bishops—Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, and United Methodist—have joined voices to address some key immigration issues. The book *Bishops on the Border: Pastoral Responses to Immigration* grew out of their shared work and the relationships that developed among them.

» Read

To buy *Bishops on the Border* by Mark Adams (and others), visit www.churchpublishing.org/.

» Watch

To see Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather interviewed by CNN, visit the Presbyterian World Mission Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PCUSAWorldMission and look under videos.

They worked together on behalf of local immigrant populations in Arizona to address theological and pastoral concerns. Mark Adams, who works with the Frontera de Cristo Presbyterian Border Ministry, says the book is “a wonderful source of biblical and theological reflection on the practice of the Christian faith from four different expressions of the body of Christ.”

Mission Matters

The ministry of Presbyterian World Mission, which is supported by your prayers and financial gifts, truly matters. In an effort to share how our work together makes us better examples of God’s love in action, we launched a new monthly feature in late 2013 called “Mission Matters.”

This monthly, online update comes from Hunter Farrell, director of World Mission, and focuses on the impact of Presbyterian mission in the world and the issues that affect mission co-workers, the people we walk with and assist in service to God, and our partners around the globe.

Among the highlights shared so far:

- Hunter’s trip to Haiti, where he and other members of the Presbyterian Mission Agency assessed how gifts you made following the 2010 earthquake are transforming lives through God’s love.
- The healing power of faith in action in El Salvador, where our work together is making it possible for families to escape poverty’s shackles through a women’s cooperative to produce and sell organic chicken feed.
- Witnessing God’s power through a changing culture in Russia, where a summer camp for Roma children and youth demonstrated how Christianity can transform a past of discrimination and violence into a future of inclusion and friendship.

Experience how together, we’re demonstrating our faith and love for all God’s people through World Mission. Find this monthly column at www.pcusa.org/missionmatters

Mission Network Meetings

Engaging in more effective mission

Presbyterians have a long history of mission. Those who came before us have planted churches, built hospitals, and started schools on every continent. Today, 177 years since World Mission began, we continue to walk with others – serving all God’s people and sharing the love found through Jesus Christ in actionable ways.

We are even more effective when we connect with other Presbyterians also engaged in God’s mission around the world. That is why the following Mission Network Meetings are so important. They provide resources, connections, and understanding of how we can better work together.

- Ethiopia Mission Network: April 23-25, 2014; Ambler, PA, First Presbyterian Church
- Ghana Mission Network: July 8-11, 2014; Ho, Ghana
- Malawi Mission Network: July 31-August 3; Annapolis, MD
- Brazil Mission Network: August 14-16, 2014; Atlanta, GA, First Presbyterian Church
- Cuba Mission Network: October 1-4, 2014; Chicago, IL
- Israel/Palestine Mission Network: October 23-25, 2014; Chicago, IL

For information on attending any of these mission network gatherings, contact Christine Coy Fohr in the Equipping for Mission Involvement office at christine.coyfohr@pcusa.org.

Building on a Legacy

New Young Adult Volunteer Site in Colombia

Providing a “ministry of presence” is one of the goals for the newest, international site of PC(USA)’s Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program. Another goal, shared by the YAV program overall, is to train young people for future ministry or service.

“Our partners are great examples of how their lives are transformed through faith and following God’s call,” said Rev. Richard Williams, coordinator of the YAV program, who along with his wife, the Rev. Mamie Broadhurst, served a three-year term as a mission co-worker in Colombia.

PC(USA) works with the Presbyterian Church of Colombia’s (Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia, or IPC). The IPC strongly values young adult leadership and stresses the importance of appointing young adults to serve on councils and in worship. The denomination also values the input of women and internally displaced people, who make up a large percentage of the church.

“Their church in a lot of ways is made up of those people,” Williams said. “It’s not ‘those people over there.’”

Leaders hope to have volunteers situated in each of the IPC’s three presbyteries. The YAVs will work with ministries that align with World Mission’s three critical initiatives — addressing the root causes of poverty, engaging in reconciliation amid cultures of violence and evangelism.

Sent to Serve

New mission co-workers begin assignments that span the globe

By Patrick Cole

Thirteen people completed mission orientation in January in preparation for new international mission assignments with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Mission co-workers completing orientation included:



Luta and Rev. Jeremy Garbat-Welch, who will serve partners in five African countries. As Africa community health facilitator, Luta will work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, South Sudan, and Zambia. She will

make periodic visits to each country from her home base in Malawi. Jeremy is a trained chaplain and will explore opportunities to use his skills with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, which has expressed great interest in chaplaincy training. Prior to entering mission service, Luta was Catholic Charities of Louisville's statewide refugee health coordinator, and Jeremy was a chaplain at the University of Kentucky's Albert B. Chandler Hospital. An ordained Disciples of Christ minister, Jeremy is a member of Hurstbourne Christian Church in Louisville. Luta has been active in two Louisville congregations, Hurstbourne Christian and Beechmont Presbyterian.



Rev. Michael and Rachel Ludwig, who will serve as literacy and evangelism trainers in Niger. They will work alongside the Evangelical Church in the Republic of Niger. Michael comes to this position from Overbrook Presbyterian Church in

Columbus, OH, and Rachel enters mission service after a career as a middle school math and science teacher. Michael is a member of Scioto Valley Presbytery, and Rachel is a member of Overbrook Presbyterian.



Rev. Renée and Justin Sundberg, who will be partnership/delegation coordinators in Nicaragua. They will work with the Council of Protestant Churches in Nicaragua (CEPAD), an organization that receives many groups

from the United States. These groups seek to help CEPAD in its ministry to improve the lives of economically impoverished communities. Prior to her appointment to Nicaragua, Renée was associate pastor of community life at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle. Justin worked for Agros International, an international development organization based in Seattle. Renée is a member of Seattle Presbytery, and Justin is a member of University Presbyterian.



Rev. Kate Taber, who will work in Israel-Palestine as a facilitator for mission partnerships. She will be seconded to Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem. Kate will help Presbyterians in the US plan trips to the region

and introduce them to volunteer opportunities. Previously, she was a resident pastor at Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, working in a Lilly Foundation-funded three-year residency program for new ministers. Prior to her time in Atlanta, she spent eight months in Jerusalem and Bethlehem on a Parish Pulpit Fellowship, an award she received from her alma mater, Princeton Theological Seminary. She is a member of the Greater Atlanta Presbytery.



Sandi and Brian Thompson-Royer, who will serve in Guatemala. Sandi will be a facilitator for women's leadership development, working in partnership with the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church

of Guatemala. Brian will assist her in this ministry. Sandi begins mission service after a long career working in nonprofit agencies with women who have experienced domestic violence and/or sexual assault. She also managed Jubilee Global Gifts, a fair trade store in Leavenworth, WA. Brian was executive director of Upper Valley MEND, a faith-based nonprofit in Leavenworth that provides affordable housing, a food bank, and social services. They are members of Bethany Presbyterian Church in Leavenworth.



Ingrid Reneau Walls, who has moved from South Sudan to Ghana, where she will teach and do research at the Akrofi-Christaller Institute of Theology, Mission, and Culture. Appointed to mission service in 2007, Ingrid

has worked with South Sudanese partners to strengthen church-sponsored school systems. She is a member of Shiloh Christian Fellowship in Oakland, CA.



Claire Zuhosky, who will be a development specialist at a youth center in Niger. She will serve in partnership with the Evangelical Church in the Republic of Niger. Claire's ministry experience includes working as

a youth director/ministry assistant at her home church, Bethany Presbyterian Church in Mercer, PA. She now attends Grace Chapel Community Church in Hermitage, PA.

Another mission couple was also appointed, but their names are being withheld because they are serving in a sensitive location.



Mission co-workers gathered for orientation and commissioning earlier this year in Louisville.

Peace through partnership

PC(USA) visit to Syria included meetings with the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon

Presbyterian News Service

While a meeting with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad was the most headline-grabbing event of their recent trip to Syria and Lebanon, two leaders in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) said it was the time spent listening to and learning from partners on the ground that was most important.

For about a week in January, Amgad Beblawi, Presbyterian World Mission's coordinator for the Middle East, Central Asia and Europe, and Laurie Kraus, coordinator of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, visited with members of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL), a PC(USA) partner. Accompanying the delegation were also two Presbyterian mission co-workers who are assigned to work with global partners in the Middle East. They cannot be mentioned by name for security reasons.

NESSL invited Beblawi and Kraus, along with other U.S. Presbyterians and European Christians, to Syria and Lebanon to discuss the humanitarian response to the crisis in Syria and to learn about the holistic role the church plays in the situation.

The Presbyterians went “to listen to our partners and to learn about their efforts in addressing humanitarian need and listen to how they understand the conflict and the role of the local church in solving the conflict and being a witness during this time, and to come back here and help the PC(USA) partner with them in that,” Beblawi said.

The 220th General Assembly (2012) approved a resolution called “On Prayer and Action for Syria” that urges the U.S. government to:

- support a mediated process of cessation of violence by all perpetrators, including the Assad regime and armed opposition groups,
- call for all outside parties to cease all forms of intervention in Syria,
- to support a strong and necessary role for the United Nations, possibly including observers and peacekeeping forces, and
- to refrain from military intervention in Syria.

Beblawi and Kraus shared this information during their visit with Assad — a meeting that was unplanned but important for NESSL.

» Contact

If you'd like to know more about our work in the Middle East, contact Amgad Beblawi, Area Coordinator for Middle East, Central Asia and Europe, at 800-728-7228 x5314 or amgad.bebrawi@pcusa.org.



Syrian children gather round at a refugee camp.

Photo by a mission co-worker

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“There is definitely a weariness and a wariness from the people of Lebanon who really aren’t seeing any end in sight and aren’t sure how much longer many of these communities can withstand this burden on resources,” Laurie Kraus said.

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When applying for visas for a planned day trip to Syria, NESSL leaders and the visiting delegation were invited to meet with Assad. NESSL leaders asked their visitors to accompany them to the meeting.

“As partners in mission, the decision was very clear for us that we should accompany them,” Beblawi said. “This is what mission in partnership is all about.”

Such a meeting would help NESSL to be better supported in its relief work during the crisis and to have a stronger voice once the conflict is over, Kraus said.

“The partners very much wanted to get their European and American partners in front of someone from Assad’s government because they believe ... that if Assad’s regime believes that the West — and particularly the church in the West — is watching and supporting the church in Syria that it will increase their opportunities and their chances to be taken seriously as partners in mediating an end to the conflict and that they will be better supported or tolerated in terms of the relief work they’re doing,” Kraus said.

With the exception of Assad himself and a notetaker, no government officials were present at the meeting. The moderator and general secretary of NESSL were there, as was the pastor of the Presbyterian church in Damascus. The American Presbyterians were from the Syria/Lebanon Mission Network, the Presbyterian Foundation and Presbyterian World Mission.

Assad spoke of Syria’s history as a religiously and culturally pluralistic society and said that he’s committed to such diversity because of its importance to the stability of the Middle East and as an antidote to radical Islamists.

“He said at one point, ‘Coexistence isn’t good enough.’ He said, ‘We have to have genuine cohabitation,’” Kraus said. “Cohabitation means that we blend our lives and we blend our cultures and we

learn from one another and we reciprocate with one another.”

After telling Assad about the 2012 General Assembly resolution and presenting him with a letter from Stated Clerk the Rev. Gradye Parsons, Beblawi and Kraus focused their comments and questions on Syrian refugees and humanitarian aid for Syrians. They also praised the work of NESSL pastors, many of whom have remained in Syria despite the violence toward Christians.

“We’re concerned about the suffering of his people, and the pastors of the Syrian church are being very generous and brave both in sacrificing their own personal comfort and safety so that they could maintain a presence in communities whose Christian population have really been under siege,” Beblawi said. “It was important to us to say how much we honored our colleagues’ personal and professional sacrifices and how important it was that (Assad) continue to see them as a resource because they were providing care to people regardless of their religious tradition.”

Kraus spoke about PDA’s relief work and humanitarian aid, adding that the organization works with PC(USA) partners on the ground to determine the best course of action.

“It’s their country and their privilege and responsibility,” she said. “And it’s our great privilege to be able to help in a small way.”

During a visit to a refugee camp on the border of Syria and Lebanon, Kraus observed drastic inadequacies in living qualities. She visited the same camp in July and had seen a smaller, well-run camp. Now, with the total number of Syrian refugees surpassing 1 million, the camp and others have become overrun, with very limited facilities and no schools for refugee children.

Although NESSL is maintaining its commitment to service, “there is definitely a weariness and a wariness from the people of Lebanon who really aren’t seeing any end in sight and aren’t sure how much longer many of these communities can withstand this burden on resources,” Kraus said.

Presbyterians are intelligent and able to wrestle with complex issues with compassion and justice, and Kraus encouraged them to do so in this situation.

“The complexity of this story is something that I think Presbyterians are able to uniquely incorporate ... and find a faith way through it,” she said. “In our very best, that’s how we’ve spoken truth to power in the past.”

The group worshiped at the Damascus Presbyterian Church and saw the visit as an opportunity to express Christian solidarity. While the Western Christians were in Syria and Lebanon, many people expressed gratitude for their presence.

“Many said, ‘Please go back and tell the story that you see for yourself,’” Beblawi said.

Use mission co-worker prayer cards and make the P.L.E.D.G.E.



To order free copies of prayer cards,
contact Nicole Gerkins at 800-728-7228, x5611
or nicole.gerkins@pcusa.org

- Pray each day with and for mission workers, for our global partners and the people they serve
- Learn about mission workers' ministry
- Encourage people to become long-term mission workers
- Discern where and how you can better serve God by serving others in mission work
- Give your time, love, energy, gifts, and financial contributions
- Engage in faithful and effective mission with mission workers advocating for justice, sharing the good news of God's love, and seeking reconciliation in the world