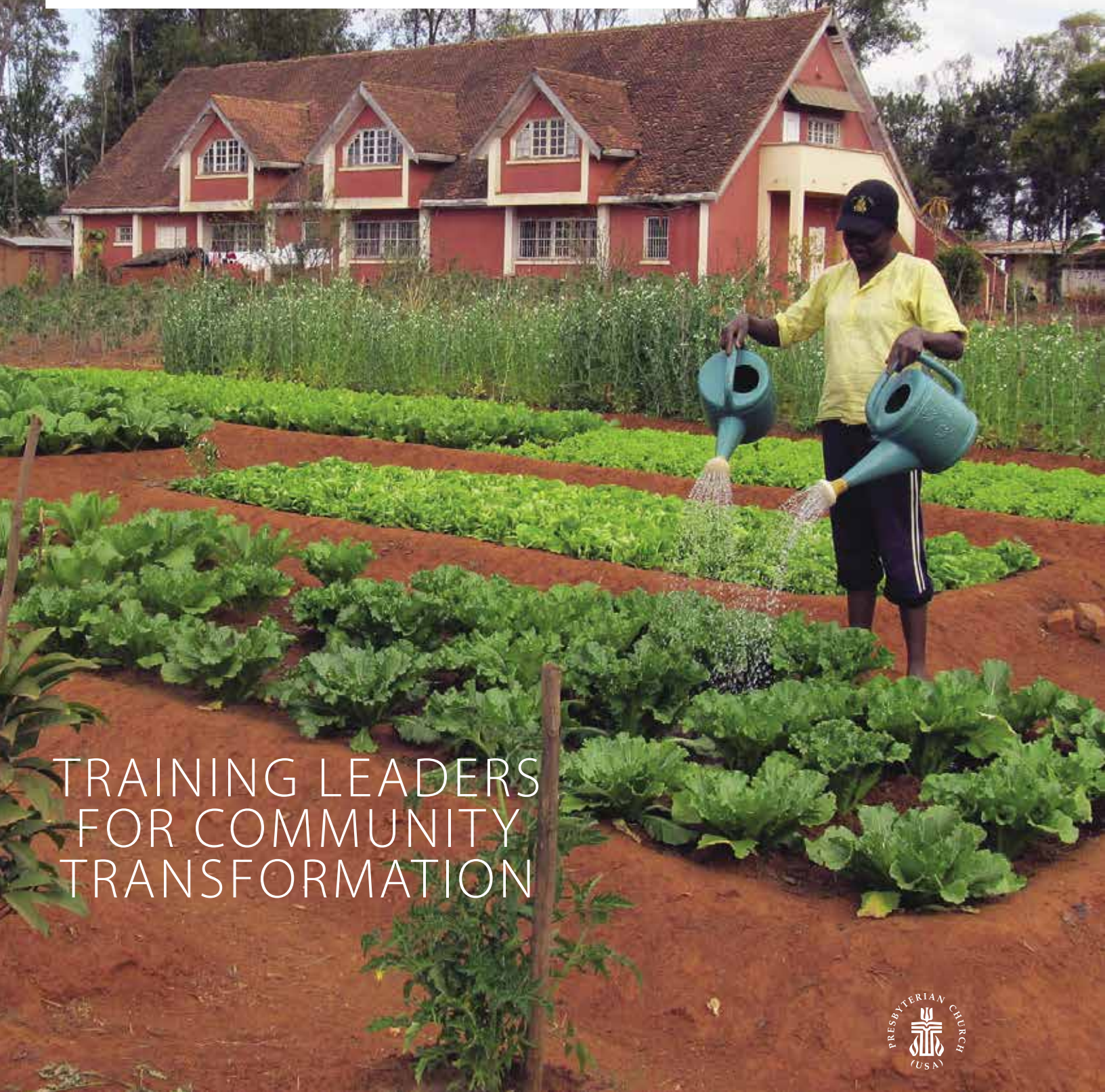


# mission crossroads



TRAINING LEADERS  
FOR COMMUNITY  
TRANSFORMATION





## Evangelism: a deep commitment to sharing the good news of the gospel around the world!

*Director of World Mission Hunter Farrell was on sabbatical working on a book for congregational mission leaders that will be released in 2015. Greg Allen-Pickett, general manager for World Mission writes this issue's column on international evangelism.*

In 2012, after a multiple-year process of surveying, speaking with, and listening to US Presbyterians, our global church partners, our mission co-workers, and other key constituents, Presbyterian World Mission defined three key priorities we call “Critical Global Initiatives”: evangelism, poverty alleviation and reconciliation. This process of defining the “Critical Global Initiatives” and naming evangelism as one of them builds on a 177-year history of sharing the good news of the gospel around the world.

Our first missionaries were sent abroad with evangelism as a one of their central tasks, and it continues to be a key priority for Presbyterian World Mission today. We do that through traditional methods like sending mission co-workers to work alongside global church partners in church planting and evangelism efforts. We also continue to work in frontier mission with unreached people groups around the world including the Middle East, Central Asia, parts of Africa, and work among the Roma people in Europe and South America.

The number one request from our global partners in the area of evangelism is help in theological education and leadership development. By teaching in local seminaries, our mission co-workers are able to provide sound Reformed theological education in a context-appropriate way, equipping future church leaders to follow the Great Commission and grow the church far and wide.

Because this is the number one request of our global church partners, Presbyterian World Mission has started a campaign to engage Presbyterians in the US in helping our global partners. This campaign is called “Training Leaders for Community Transformation.” Our global partners have challenged US Presbyterians to help equip leaders to become agents of transformation and lead their communities towards local solutions.

The most effective way our congregations can help grown the church of Jesus Christ around the globe is to help train leaders: evangelists, pastors and lay leaders who speak the language and are excited about sharing the Gospel with their neighbors.

Examples of “Train Leaders for Community Transformation” include:

- equipping pastors and church leaders with sound Reformed theological education that empowers them to address pressing local needs and challenges;
- leader training that combines theological education with the development of practical skills such as agricultural development, literacy training, health, conflict resolution, teaching, and peace-building; and
- leaders trained in Community Health Evangelism (CHE) to address the overall health of the community—basic health, hygiene, food security and respect for human rights, all while sharing the good news of the gospel.

On the next page, you will see an article about our new catalyst for international evangelism, Juan Sarmiento. I am very excited that Juan has joined our team in World Mission; he brings great experience and passion for collaborating with our global church partners in evangelism. If you or your congregation is interested in this work, please contact Juan, [juan.sarmiento@pcusa.org](mailto:juan.sarmiento@pcusa.org). He would be delighted to share with you how you can get involved.

*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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**ON THE COVER:** Ms. Onivah Arilalao watering pak choi at Ivato Seminary. (October 2014)

# Juan Sarmiento brings a pastor's heart to new role as international evangelism catalyst

by Kathy Melvin

Juan Sarmiento, the new international evangelism catalyst for Presbyterian World Mission believes that “the mission of the church is to not only announce God’s reign of peace and justice but to tangibly display its reality.”

Greg Allen-Pickett, general manager for Presbyterian World Mission, believes that Sarmiento is the right person to lead the evangelism campaign. “Juan brings with him a pastor’s heart, a keen sense of how to network with US Presbyterians and connect them with our global church partners and the energy and excitement to inspire congregations and global partners in the work of international evangelism,” Allen-Pickett said. “His background, education and experience uniquely equip him to equip others to engage in this vital work.”

In 2012, Presbyterian World Mission, along with global church partners and US mission leaders, identified three critical global initiatives as evangelism, poverty alleviation and reconciliation. Sarmiento will support the church’s international evangelism efforts with global church partners and help lead the campaign, “Training Leaders for Community Transformation.”

An ordained minister, Sarmiento has been active in many roles in the PC(USA). In the Presbytery of San Fernando, he served as a member of the Evangelism and Church Growth committee and moderator of the presbytery. He also co-chaired a committee of the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii, was a commissioner to the 216th General Assembly (2004), a member of the Reforming Ministry initiative (Office of Theology and Worship) and assessor with the New Beginnings program with the office of Evangelism and Church Growth.

For the past six years, Sarmiento worked as director and chairman of the board for PM International (U.S.A.), a Latino-based mission society that works with groups in 11 North African, Middle Eastern and Asian countries.

Sarmiento helped launch the first evangelical organization to serve the needs of the HIV-positive community in Brazil, was an organizer for the Hollywood-Wilshire cluster of PC(USA) churches in Los Angeles, assisted new immigrants through founding a non-profit organization in the San



Fernando Valley, served the homeless as part of the ministry team of the Los Angeles Mission and facilitated the formation of a health/faith partnership in South Los Angeles.

Born in Venezuela, Sarmiento is a graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary and has done doctoral studies at Columbia Theological Seminary as well as advanced studies in linguistics at California State University-Los Angeles and Islamic studies at the Fuller School of Intercultural Studies. He has served as a leader for English-, Spanish and Portuguese-speaking congregations.

His call to service began as a teenager in Caracas, Venezuela. “I was invited to attend a Presbyterian sponsored group that focused on praying for people in remote places such as the Amazon, Andean Mountains, Africa, Asia and the Middle East,” he said. “There I came to the realization that God wanted me to dedicate my life to sharing the gospel beyond my own culture. Little did I know that I would pastor churches in two countries and in two languages other than my own.”

Sarmiento feels blessed to serve as the new international evangelism catalyst. He believes faith plays an increasingly important role in today’s growingly diverse world. “It is our privilege to invite all peoples, including ourselves, to “Turn to the Living God.”

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

### **Dustin and Sherri Ellington, Zambia**

Well-trained pastors are increasingly needed in southern Africa and that need drew Dustin and Sherri Ellington to Justo Mwale Theological College after they served five years in theological education in Egypt. The growth of the Christian faith has far outpaced the number of trained pastors.

The Ellingtons returned to Zambia in July and Dustin says they had been looking forward to many things, including a preaching practicum. During every academic term at Justo Mwale, a group of professors facilitate for a group of 8-10 students who meet once a week and take turns preaching. After each student's sermon, the other students offer responses and comments.

Dustin writes: "I'm excited to get back to Practical Preaching partly because of ways I've seen students grow. One special aspect is getting to stick with the same group over several academic terms, so there's time to see progress. When we began, the class seemed rather like an initiation rite where older students made first-year students sweat. But as we worked on group dynamics, class members increasingly tried to keep their comments to what might genuinely serve the preacher.

"In addition to all this, I'm excited to get back to this group because of what it does for me. As I see students develop, it increases my faith that God isn't finished with me, and that God isn't finished with the church. Practical Preaching time is also a highlight each week for my own education about the African church and African ways of thinking. It's in these times that I observe firsthand some secrets of the African church's vitality, including Africans' experience of Jesus Christ as the source of abundant life, and the gospel as truly good news.

*To support the Ellington's work in Zambia:*  
[presbyterianmission.org/donate/E200478](http://presbyterianmission.org/donate/E200478)

### **Kurt Esslinger and Hyeyoung Lee**

Kurt Esslinger and Hyeyoung Lee are serving as Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) site coordinators in South Korea. The program is for people 19-30, who serve in communities of need for one year. YAVs are placed in 11 sites

in the United States and five sites overseas. The YAV site in South Korea 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.

This year, Kurt took on a position in addition to serving as YAV site coordinators with his wife Hyeyoung. The PC(USA), together with the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK), agreed that Kurt would be an asset to their Reconciliation and Reunification Department. Kurt will stay in Seoul for part of each week at the NCCCK offices. He is working toward a stronger focus on more closely connecting world partner churches to peaceful reconciliation in Korea.

Kurt writes: "I thank you all for the ways you have supported Hyeyoung and me through our first year of service and into our second year. You have provided me with the opportunity to step into this new role with a growing list of partners doing amazing work with God on the Korean peninsula. Please continue with your support, and if you have not yet, consider joining our work of reconciliation."

*To support Kurt and Hyeyoung's work in South Korea:*

[presbyterianmission.org/donate/E200496](http://presbyterianmission.org/donate/E200496)

### **Leslie Vogel**

Leslie Vogel began her service in Guatemala in 2013, serving with the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA). She works as a facilitator for CEDEPCA's Intercultural Encounters Program, which provides North American church groups, theological seminarians, and college/university students the opportunity to discover Guatemala in all its diversity, beauty, and complexity and to experience the everyday life of Guatemalans





through immersion programs.

Leslie writes: “As a teacher, I’ve always believed education plays a fundamental role in eliminating poverty, so CEDEPCA’s motto, “education that transforms,” struck a chord with me, even before I set foot in Guatemala. In 34 years of teaching Spanish, I’d covered Mayan history without really understanding the daily struggles Mayan women face today. I taught about the terrible civil war in Guatemala without having ever spoken directly to a survivor of that bloody conflict. I was unprepared for the emotional impact of talking with Guatemalan women, many of them Mayan, whose lives had been fundamentally transformed by the classes CEDEPCA offers. In turn, their stories of overcoming obstacles I couldn’t even imagine experiencing transformed me. The courageous people I met through CEDEPCA not only made me a better Spanish teacher, they gave me hope for a better future.

“CEDEPCA works with women’s ministry, theological training, and disaster assistance.

But for most of us, an intercultural exchange—a trip through Guatemala—makes all the other programs come alive in a way no printed brochure ever could. Meeting people, staying in their homes, sharing conversations about our two nations, and helping with projects in small villages all make Guatemala come alive. If you have the chance,

sign up for an intercultural exchange. I think you’ll discover, as I did, that you will be transformed by the education you receive from the program and the people.”

*To support Leslie’s work in Guatemala:*  
[presbyterianmission.org/donate/E200483](http://presbyterianmission.org/donate/E200483)

## Alan and Ellen Smith

Alan and Ellen Smith, PC(USA) mission co-workers based in Germany, also serve Russia and Belarus. Ellen is the PC(USA) regional liaison for Eastern Europe, while Allen serves as the outreach facilitator for minority peoples in Russia.

Ellen traveled this fall as a PC(USA) International Peacemaker with Victor Ignatenkov, who is senior presbyter or bishop of Russia (from the Russian Union of Evangelical Christians/Baptists), as well as pastor of Central Baptist Church in the city of Smolensk.

For the past 13 years, with her husband Alan, Ellen has coordinated the Congregational Twinning Program, a partnership program that brings congregations together for friendship and mutual encouragement. The program connects US Presbyterians with Baptist, Orthodox, and Lutheran congregations in Russia, crosses the barriers of culture, denomination, history and language and seeks to break down Cold War stereotypes. Much of the Smiths’ work focuses on orphanage ministry, ministry to special needs children, rehabilitation ministry and the issues of HIV and AIDS.

As they travel, Ellen and Victor talk about the drug rehabilitation program run by the Smolensk church. Ellen writes in one of her letters: “Over the years, the rehab program has been in rented facilities, in varying parts of the region, but they were finally able to buy an old house in a village near Smolensk. What they had purchased was a tilting, tumbledown house, but they shored up the foundation, rebuilt the “pechka” (a traditional brick stove used for heating and cooking), laid new flooring, and added insulation. What was broken and falling down has been beautifully restored to its purpose. Dima, the director of the rehab program, shared that to him, this rebuilding process has been an analogy for what they are trying to accomplish with the men who come to them broken and falling down. The returning light was evident in the eyes of the men in the program. Interest in life was clear as they shared their hopes for gardening this summer and maybe purchasing a few pigs. They have a large piece of land behind and an old apple orchard beside the house. In the old sty they already have a few chickens. It was a blessing to me to be in their midst and to hear hope blossoming.”

*To support the Smiths’ work in eastern europe:*  
[presbyterianmission.org/donate/E200406](http://presbyterianmission.org/donate/E200406)



# A presbytery's construction project helps build relationships with Peruvian hosts

By Sy Hughes

A summer mission team from New Covenant Presbytery laid the building blocks of partnership with Peruvian brothers and sisters while constructing the foundation for a seminary kitchen and dining room. I was privileged to join this group for the weeklong project in Sicuani, Peru. Together we forged friendships with individuals, deepened partnerships with the community, and renewed our faith.

The Sicuani trip was one of seven New Covenant mission trips throughout the summer to different areas of Peru. Mission co-workers Sara Armstrong and Rusty Edmondson—a married couple—scheduled, planned, and organized the trips for the Houston-based presbytery in consultation with our international partners. We went to Peru to work with partners in the ongoing construction projects at Sicuani Presbyterian Seminary, but Rusty phrased the goal differently upon our arrival. He said, “It does not matter what they ask us to do; the goal is to build partnerships and friendships through prayer, sharing, and sweat.”

Rusty and Sara were invaluable resources to the group. Rusty accompanied us throughout the trip while Sara kept a commitment she had in the United States. As we spent time with Rusty, our admiration for Rusty's command of the culture and his commitment to partnership continued to grow.

When we arrived in Sicuani, the residents were thrilled to see us. It was Sunday so we were able to join them for worship. We sang, prayed, and praised God together. It was one of the most joyful experiences I have ever witnessed.

The next day we began our work at the seminary.

Santiago, the seminary director, asked that we begin digging ditches, laying rebar, building forms for concrete, and pouring concrete. Santiago said the seminary hoped to secure funds to add a women's dormitory on the second floor of the dining facility that we were building. We were blessed to work alongside men from churches in the surrounding area. Although many of us did not speak the local languages, it was clear we spoke the language of friendship, hard work, and Christian kinship.

Work progressed slowly throughout the week. The labor was extremely difficult; we worked with tools that were few in number, broken and ill-suited for the task laid before us. However, with faith, sweat, and perseverance, we made do and pushed on. By the end of the week, we had poured the foundation and erected wooden forms for the cement pillars that would eventually hold the ceiling and roof. We were exhausted, filthy, and very proud.

There were many incredibly touching moments during our visit to Sicuani. They ranged from playing soccer (badly) with the local volunteers, to shaking worn and weary hands, to realizing just how hard life is in Sicuani, and watching and discussing American movies with Santiago's children. However, the most touching moment came from Santiago's three-year-old son, who looked up and shyly asked one of our team members in Spanish, “Papa says you my brother. Are you?” A tearful and joyful “si” was given in reply.

Rusty's instructions to focus on building friendships and partnerships proved to be wise counsel. We worked hard, lived in uncomfortable conditions, slept in unheated rooms, took cold showers, ate meals together, laughed together, and prayed together. Everything we did, we did with our Peruvian brothers and sisters to the glory of God. This experience helped deepen our relationships with God, our hosts, and each other. We were blessed to see the effectiveness and dedication of our mission co-workers. This opportunity made me even prouder of our mission co-workers and filled my spirit with gratitude for the work they do alongside our global partners.



## » Support

Support Sara Armstrong and Rusty Edmondson in Peru: [presbyterianmission.org/donate/MI910073](http://presbyterianmission.org/donate/MI910073)

*A week-long project in Sicuani, Peru forges partnership and friendship.*

*Sy Hughes is a regional development manager for the Presbyterian Mission Agency. He is based in Lexington, Virginia.*

# Don Coffey focuses on stewardship rather than ownership

by Pat Cole

Don Coffey is on a path to follow Jesus that leads through Wall Street.

The retired Presbyterian minister and professor spends a good part of his days following the stock market and weighing his investment options. His goal is to make money and give it away.

"I've tried to follow Jesus, who had some pretty radical things to say about what we do with the things we call our possessions," he says. "We are stewards of what we call our own. We're not really owners. I try to be a good steward with what I have and share it with people who don't have."

In 1980 Coffey retired early from the faculty of Erskine Theological Seminary in Due West, South Carolina. He moved to a place very dear to him, Davidson, North Carolina, which is the home of his undergraduate alma mater, Davidson College. There he began a serious focus on investing. "It was a hobby back when I was teaching at Erskine," he says. "Since I moved here, I've learned something new every day. I've learned enough to make money and that's what I am doing."

When Coffey's stock market earnings total \$1 million, he begins reducing his assets through charitable giving. Then he starts the process over again.

The global mission work of Presbyterians is a longtime interest of Coffey's and is one of the causes that benefits from his generosity. His support of mission follows a passion instilled in him by his mother. "We've got a lot people working around the world and it just makes sense to give to their work," he says.

Coffey, a doctoral graduate of Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, served in congregational ministry for four years and taught at Erskine for 20. Though he retired from the seminary classroom, Coffey has never given up teaching. However, his content has changed from pastoral care, Christian education, and biblical theology to stock trading. He especially enjoys teaching people who are interested in giving away money.

His most prized student was his wife, Ruth, who died three years ago. "My wife was wonderful," he says. "We always thought of ourselves as a team."

Coffey has educated himself about investments through seminars and books. The old adage, "buy low and sell high," is his guiding principle for



*Don Coffey has taught others how to invest, including his wife, Ruth, who passed away three years ago.*

investing. Asked if he worries about losing money, "I worry about it all the time," he says with a chuckle.

However, wise investment can avoid the perils of bear markets, he insists. "You can make money whether the market is up or down."

In Davidson, Coffey enjoys using the college library, taking walks on campus, and attending Davidson Presbyterian Church. Amid this placid atmosphere, Coffey keeps current on the stock market by watching CNBC and following the market online.

The stock market is often associated with unmitigated self-interest infamously articulated in a line by the character Gordon Gekko in the 1987 movie "Wall Street." "Greed, for lack of a better word, is good," Gekko said.

That type of thinking is far removed from the mind of Don Coffey. He's a successful investor who believes giving is good.

## » Support

Please support mission co-workers financially by giving to Extra Commitment Opportunity (ECO) E132192 via web: [presbyterianmission.org/supportwm](http://presbyterianmission.org/supportwm) or by mail: PC(USA), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.



# Holistic leader training leads to life-changing local solutions

by Haemin Lee

## Manuel Soren in Bangladesh with Les and Cindy Morgan:

Born into a poor Christian family, Manuel Soren grew up in the small Shantal tribal village of Paitapukur in northwest Bangladesh. Sensing Manuel's zeal to serve God, his pastor recommended him for admission to St. Andrews Theological College in Dhaka, which trains all clergy and lay leaders in the Church of Bangladesh, a PC(USA) partner Church. Our



*Dr. Les Morgan meets with a local pastor.*

PC(USA) mission co-worker, Dr. Les Morgan, was Manuel's professor at St. Andrews. He says, Manuel was a faithful, bright student who was deeply dedicated to Christian ministry. After Manuel completed a diploma in social ministry, the Church of Bangladesh chose him to be part of a team to share the gospel among other tribal people living in rural villages near his home. Now a husband and new father, Manuel is serving as the resident catechist in the small village of Tatihati. He sits with the new believers on a woven straw mat, spread on a dirt floor of a bamboo hut to lead them in worship. Noticing illiteracy is a big problem in this poor village, Manuel and his wife also started to teach them to read by using the Bible. And the Church of Bangladesh is growing in numbers and spiritual depth as a result of the faith and dedication of young men like Manuel.

## Lahu Bible College in Thailand with Barry and Shelly Dawson:

Lahu Bible College in Chiang Mai, Thailand, is a ministry supported by our PC(USA) partner, Church of Christ in Thailand. The school's representative, Mr. Martin Chairuriya, says that



*The Dawsons pray with staff at Chiang Mai, Thailand.*

since 2003, Lahu Bible College has graduated more than 100 students, all from a minority hill tribe called Lahu. Most of the graduates go back to serve their communities in Lahu villages. In addition to theological education, Lahu Bible College has a sizable piece of land that they have developed to support students and their families. They teach students practical skills in agriculture, fish-farming, gardening, pig and chicken farming, and basket weaving, to help students become self-sustainable during and after their study. Our brothers and sisters at Lahu Bible College are committed to teaching and training new leaders to holistically share the gospel with tribal villages scattered in remote areas of Thailand and neighboring countries.

## John McCall in Taiwan:

Hsin-Ren and his wife Fong-Joon were both students at Taiwan Seminary in the capital city, Taipei. Hsin-Ren received his Master of Divinity degree and Fong-Joon studied in its Lay Academy. They both have a passion for youth ministry and expected to be called to a big city church to work on staff specifically with youth. Instead they were called to a rural church in a farming community. On their first Sunday at that church there were only eight elderly people in worship. Their hearts sank, but then they began to pray for the families, children, and youth of that community. They visited the local schools, walked the streets of their new town and opened the church doors after school as a place where children could come and get help with their homework. They offered music





*John McCall*

classes and began a praise band. And the children and youth started to come.

When PC(USA) mission co-worker John McCall, Hsin-Ren and Fong-Joon's professor, preached there during a weekend renewal service, this church--which had been on life-support--was full of youth. Word got around the neighborhood and non-Christian parents, who previously opposed their children going to church, now saw that the church was vital in changing their children into good students and citizens. John stopped to get a key made at a small hardware store. The owner asked why he was visiting, for few Westerners come to their town. John told him that he was speaking at the Presbyterian church. The owner said, "We love what Hsin-Ren and Fong-Joon have done for our three children". When John asked him if he was a Christian, he said, "No, but we sure see a change in our children."

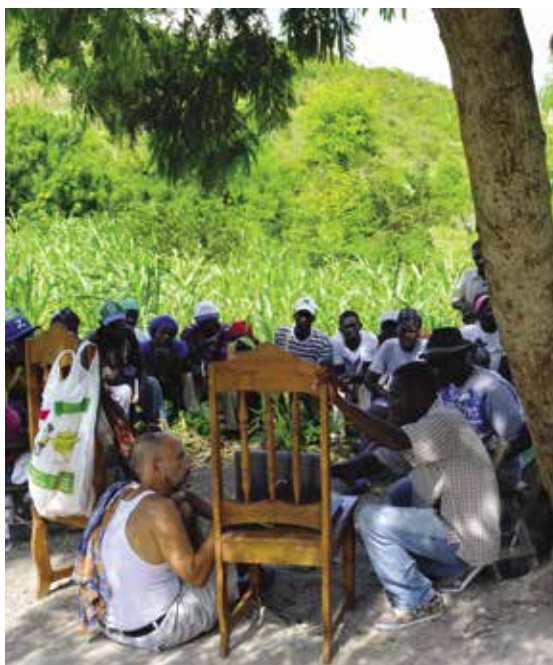
### **Mark Hare / Jenny Bent in Haiti and the Dominican Republic:**

Mark Hare and his wife Jenny Bent, PC(USA) mission co-workers in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, returned to their house in Barahona after finishing a two and one-half day workshop with Community Health Evangelism (CHE) volunteers from Batey 7, a sugarcane workers' town with mostly people of Haitian descent. Mark and Jenny's ministry is part of the health program that PC(USA) church partner, the Dominican Evangelical Church (IED) is developing. Since the middle of 2012, they have been working in

Batey 7 using the CHE method, which integrates all of the elements that affect a person including spiritual, emotional, physical and social needs. It is geared toward the renewal of an intimate relationship of each person with God, with themselves, with their neighbor and with their environment.

During the workshop Mark and Jenny were responsible for 13 young people, ages 13-19. It was everyone's first time to write a Biblically-based lesson. The youth had opportunities to develop a lesson by drawing upon biblical texts and their personal faith journey. They also prepared prayers and greetings that they will use as they enter into their neighbors' houses. Then, the youth role-played the visits and they gave helpful feedback to each other.

Jenny and Mark invite us to reflect with them on the passage from Matthew 10 that they shared with the youth. How often have we believed that wealth and material goods simply resolve poverty and afflictions? How often have we come into a community like Batey 7 and told them what is best for them? Stop for a moment and listen to our brothers and sisters in the local community. They have all the wisdom from their community to create a new reality. That is what Community Health Evangelism is all about.



*Mark Hare meets with a group in Antibonite, Haiti.*

## Experiencing transformation through faithful living and giving

By Terri Bate



The Presbytery of New Covenant embarked on an ambitious venture last summer. The presbytery, located in the Houston area, sent seven mission teams to different areas of Peru.

Mission co-workers Sara Armstrong and Rusty Edmondson helped facilitate the trips. One of our regional directors of development, Sy Hughes, traveled with one of the teams and wrote about his experience (see page 4). These teams wanted to assist the local church and make life better for their sisters and brothers. However, the Americans came away realizing they were changed more than the Peruvians.

.....  
"The wind blows where  
it chooses, and you  
hear the sound of it,  
but you do not know  
where it comes from or  
where it goes. So it is  
with everyone who is  
born of the Spirit."  
.....

The New Covenant teams worked alongside faithful people who live on the margins and depend on God daily for basic sustenance. They encountered people who shared their lives with them and gladly extended hands of friendship. They sensed a oneness in Christ with their Peruvian hosts that transcends barriers of culture, language, and ethnicity.

Of course, New Covenant's experience is not unique. Transformation occurs when Christians join hearts and hands to work toward a common goal. This seems especially true when we leave the comfort zone of our own context. These experiences can affect how we pray, read the Bible, interpret the news, and

use financial resources. They can even change how we define discipleship.

In Romans 12:2, Paul says to "not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds." Perhaps relationships with international brothers and sisters help us avoid the trap of mindlessly conforming to the values of our culture. Instead, our minds are renewed when we see the gospel at work among people who live in circumstances radically different than our own.

In my work, I am privileged to invite people to help make ministries of transformation possible by sharing their financial resources. I'm always blessed when I tell donors about the difference their gifts have made. I enjoy thanking them for their generosity. However, more often than not, donors thank me for inviting them to participate in the work God is doing. Such words, I believe, come about because God has transformed their lives, and they feel the transformation in a powerful way through their giving. I pray fervently through my role in this process that God is transforming me as well.

I've learned one can never fully know how God will use an act of generosity. I'm reminded of Jesus' words in John 3:8 when he told Nicodemus, "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

The Spirit can bear witness to God's love in all aspects of our lives, including our stewardship. In his book *A Spirituality of Fundraising*, the late Henry Nouwen said, "When those with money and those who need money share a mission, we see a central sign of new life in Christ." I invite you to share in this new life by praying for and giving to Presbyterian World Mission above and beyond congregational giving. I also pray that your service in Christ's name, whether at home or abroad, will be a catalyst for change in your life and in the lives of others.

---

*Terri Bate is senior director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Funds Development Ministry. Contact her at [terri.bate@pcusa.org](mailto:terri.bate@pcusa.org)*





# An Invitation

## 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, usually presbyteries, 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 [presbyterianmission.org/supportwm](http://presbyterianmission.org/supportwm).

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.

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- Call 800-728-7228 x5611

## Please send gifts to:

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## For additional information please contact:

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Program Assistant  
Funds Development Ministry  
[nicole.gerkins@pcusa.org](mailto:nicole.gerkins@pcusa.org)

# Experiences deeply impact students at Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo

by Dr. Atef Gendy

The Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo (ETSC) was established in 1863 by Presbyterian missionaries and is the largest Evangelical (Protestant) Seminary in the Middle East. As part of their four-year course of study for the MDiv, every full-time student spends three summers in a series of internships. Following their first year, students shadow a pastor/mentor in order to experience a full range of pastoral responsibilities. Second-year students engage in a Compassionate Care ministry in a hospital, drug rehab, prison, or community social service setting. Third-year students take on the full responsibility for a church that is not being served by a pastor. These experiences, along with their academic courses, have a deep impact on the students and congregations in the Synod of the Nile.

A few years ago the seminary sent a third-year student to spend his summer field ministry in a rough area south of Cairo where several rural families had emigrated from their villages in search of work. The community has a special nature, culturally rural, while newly urban in their view of life and facing many challenges in their new context. The student, Emad (pronounced I-mad) succeeded in bringing many of these poor families in for weekly gatherings to worship God together at any available home.

As graduation neared, a committee formed by the synod including representatives of the Seminary and the Council of Pastoral Care and Evangelism (CPCE) met to assign each of the nominees for graduation to their first placement. The CPCE cared for the graduates and assigned them to licensed, established churches where each one would have at least a recognized place for worship and housing for the pastor. I gathered the nominees for graduation (now fourth-year students) to inform them of their assignments and to explain how caring and considerate the CPCE was in sending them to established churches.

I was shocked by Emad's reaction. He started to cry and told me, "Dr. Atef, I did not ask to go to a comfortable place and I have not complained about my last year's assignment. You know how committed I am to those people." I responded, "Emad, this is not going to be just a summer. Your after-graduation assignment may last for years and



there is no housing for you or a proper place to worship!"

Emad replied, "I asked my dad and he bought me a small flat there and the place for worship will not exist if there is no ongoing worship and ministry there." Then he urged me, "Please review the matter with CPCE and return me to my last summer's assignment."

I was surprised and moved by Emad's commitment and had to consult with the members of the CPCE, by phone, to fulfill Emad's desire. It was easy to get unanimous agreement. It took me awhile to make sense of Emad's response. The only answer was the exposure to people's needs, agony and despair had brought forth his compassion. Here I believe we are recovering a basic principle about mission. Mission is not about escaping the world. God's saving action in its fullness took place through the mission of his Son. In order to practice true mission, the church must be willing to be like our Lord, living in the world with tender hearts open to being moved with compassion."

Dr. Gendy has been president of ETSC since 2000. ETSC celebrates its 150th anniversary in November.



# Community Health Evangelism tackles child sexual abuse in Kabwe

by Rev. Happy Mhango and co-written with Rev. Kari Nicewander

“Do not lower your heads. These things are real. They are in your community.” They don’t want to talk about this. Not in the church. Not in our culture. It is taboo. But I told them to listen, to ask questions, to do something. And now the youth know that they have a right to protect themselves.

It was our Seed Project, the beginning of Community Health Evangelism (CHE) in Kabwe, and we wanted to do something about child sexual abuse. So I spoke with the community leaders, with other pastors, and we decided. We would hold a seminar in the church, and we would address it. It may be taboo, but it is happening, and we needed to do something.

There were a lot of incidences of child sexual abuse in our community. We are suffering in Kabwe. Many people were laid off when the mines were closed. Others lost their jobs when the textile factory shut down. Families live with one meal a day or less. They are afraid, and they are suffering. And now, the children are suffering because sexual abuse is increasing. People have no hope.

We told them that this is not about politics. We are the church. This is about the love of God in Jesus Christ. This is about telling the truth; for the truth will set us free. And so, we began. At first, everyone lowered their heads. They did not want to hear.

We started with a role play, a story where a niece was defiled by her uncle. And after this, people began to ask questions. It is true we can take these cases to the police? Is it true that there is support for the victims? The youth in our church learned that they can come out into the open. “We have the right to protect ourselves,” they said.

The good news is that we can do something about child sexual abuse as a community. We can hold people accountable; we can advocate for victims; we can stop this sin. This is the good news of God’s love: the power of Christ’s church to stop this devastation.

The CHE project in Kabwe began with good news in the midst of a terrible reality and continues to spread good news through agricultural programs, feeding programs, and sustainability training. This good news is bringing people into the church. They hear the great news of what is happening in the church – people are being fed in body and in spirit so they come to our congregation, and they receive even better news: God’s love in Jesus Christ.

CHE begins with a seed project, and then



*Rev. Happy Mhango with  
Rev. Kari Nicewander in  
Zambia*

continues through the work of Community Health Evangelists (CHEs) who visit people’s homes with lessons in health, agriculture, sanitation, and God’s love. In Kabwe, nine villages have been trained in CHE. Each of these villages has 25 CHEs, volunteers who visit homes and teach people how to care for their bodies and their souls.

The CHE program has also been incredibly successful in the area of agriculture. They called in a trainer from the Conservation Farming Unit in the government’s agricultural program. The participants raised bumper crops; all of sudden, people were able to eat three meals a day. The training began with 75 women; and the following year, 150 men and women were trained in conservation farming.

As the bumper crops increase, the CHE program offers nutritional supplements to people in the community living with HIV. Lincoln Matala is a 13-year-old HIV positive child. He had sores all over his body, and his bones were so weak that he could not stand. After receiving the nutritional supplements, Lincoln’s mother contacted me. “Reverend, he is so strong now. He is even going to school.”

I know that Christ is doing things in Kabwe. It is not me, it is not even CHE. It is Christ who works through CHE. It is only the beginning and I strongly feel that we are going to go miles from here. This is good news for everyone. God’s love is strong enough to address child sexual abuse, to feed the hungry, to heal the sick, and to bring us all together, through the power of faith in Jesus Christ.

# Evangelism in Madagascar

## Working to feed the hungry and protect God's creation

by Kathy Melvin

In Madagascar, an island nation off the coast of southeast Africa, over 80 percent of plants and animals occur naturally only there. PC(USA) mission co-worker, Dan Turk, believes that Christians have a responsibility for preserving creation, as written in Genesis 2:15: "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

Deforestation of Madagascar's remaining native forests is proceeding at a rapid pace, leaving many species in danger of extinction. Less than 25 percent of the country's native forests remain today. Reforestation is not keeping pace and is done mostly with exotic species like eucalyptus and pines. Even the ornamental species planted in the city are non-native, like Jacaranda trees and Royal Palms.

In addition to protecting God's creation, new pastors of the FJKM, (the Church of Jesus Christ of Madagascar), PC(USA)'s partner church, not only are tasked with spreading God's word through evangelism, but also face the challenge of ministering to people who are not getting enough to eat. With a per capita income of less than \$250 per year, many Malagasy people have difficulty feeding their families. Sometimes pastor's themselves, have a difficult time feeding their own children on their meager salaries.

In the past eight years, Dan and his FJKM colleagues, have taught more than 250 students from the Ivato Seminary in Madagascar, how to grow vegetables and fruit trees from grafted plants. "Knowing a little about how to grow fruits and vegetables helps these new pastors relate to the people they have come to serve," he says. "Most of the people in rural areas grow their own food. In effect, having knowledge and experience in growing fruits and vegetables is a tool for evangelism and helps them connect with unreached people."

Planting native trees is one way to draw attention to, and provide education about the value of native flora and fauna. Madagascar has several native trees that are widely planted for their ornamental qualities. Others have value for environmental education because of their rarity or stories related to the history of the island.

"There are nine species of Baobabs in the world. One is native to Australia. Two are

native to Africa, and six occur naturally only in Madagascar," he says. "Many Malagasy children, especially those living in central and eastern Madagascar, have never seen a Baobab tree, much less know that Madagascar has twice as many species as the rest of the world combined."

With Dan's help, FJKM plants baobabs and other native trees at seminaries, churches, schools and other public areas. At the Ivato Seminary, school groups are making field trips to see the native trees and learn about them. By helping young people know the value of native trees, Dan is helping protect the future of the island biodiversity.

In 2014 Dan and FJKM initiated the program called, Fruits, Vegetables and Environmental Education (FVEE) at seminaries and synods in Madagascar, beginning with the Fianarantsoa Seminary in South Central Madagascar. In addition to training new pastors, the program will provide follow-up with those pastors, who have already received fruit and vegetable education in how to incorporate gardens and orchards into their ministry.

The program also involves professionalizing the Ivato Seminary orchard and nursery, which will produce grafted plants to be grown at other locations. There are also plans to continue to grow and label native plants at Ivato to attract school field trips and foster environmental education. Ivato will continue to offer a course on practical gardening and fruit growing with lessons in orchard management and plant propagation. About \$25,000 will need to be raised for the five-year project.

Born in Atlanta, Dan graduated from Davidson College in North Carolina with a bachelor of science degree in biology. He earned a master's of science in agronomy and soil science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a PhD in forestry from North Carolina State University. His doctoral research focused on the growth rates of more than 60 native Malagasy trees. Dan spent two years as a consultant in agroforestry to the Ranomafana National Park project in Madagascar. He is the author of *A Guide to Trees of Ranomafana National Park*.

Dan, and his wife Elizabeth, were invited to serve in Madagascar through the FJKM's



development branch, which includes departments of health, environment, agriculture and safe drinking water. The FJKM believes that Christian witness should include ministry to the physical and spiritual needs of God's people and care for all of God's creation. Dan and Elizabeth work as advisors to FJKM's environment and health departments.

Dan writes: "Madagascar is a special place, both in terms of its biodiversity and its people. The country is beautiful, and its animals and plants are a naturalist's paradise. The people are gracious. They are amazingly happy and positive in outlook, despite widespread poverty. The needs are great here, but so are the rewards," he said.



*A Pomegranate grown by students at Ivato Seminary.*



*Dan Turk teaches seminary students how to grow fruit trees.*

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