



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HE HAS REASONS TO SMILE,

one of them is you.



2016 Leader's Guide | February 10 - March 27

PAUL JEFFREY/ACT ALLIANCE

THREE WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE

† Through your congregation

☎ Text OGHS to 20222 to give \$10

🌐 presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, people lack access to food, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) serves to help change the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need.

One Great Hour of Sharing, received during the season of Lent, makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

- Works within communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters
- Receives 32% of funds raised



Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)

- Takes action to alleviate hunger and its systemic causes, and helps create access to healthy food for entire communities
- Receives 36% of funds raised



Self-Development of People (SDOP)

- Partners with people and communities with tools for development and education to alleviate poverty, oppression, and injustice
- Receives 32% of funds raised

HISTORY

Started in 1949, One Great Hour of Sharing is a long-standing ecumenical effort aimed at raising the funds necessary to provide relief and reconstruction for communities in the aftermath of disaster. What started as an hour-long radio appeal has evolved over the years, varying from eight to 29 participating denominations, and has become the most participated-in Offering in the PC(USA).

Today, projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are underway in more than 100 countries.



WHAT'S IN A LEADER'S GUIDE?

This tool was created for you.

You are busy, likely swamped with responsibilities and requests. We understand the importance of giving you a clear guide, explaining the best way to promote One Great Hour of Sharing in your church. Research shows when church leaders encourage their congregations to support initiatives like the Special Offerings, their members give significantly more.

You play a crucial role.

You have likely received a shipment of materials. These are intended to help your church members understand the work funded by their gifts, and motivate them to contribute again. Please distribute these items, and help us share this message. This guide will walk you through effective ways to promote and celebrate One Great Hour of Sharing. But don't feel limited! Your enthusiasm and creativity are invaluable to this cause.

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OUR OFFERING AT WORK

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People) all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need.

From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

- » **International aid:** 15 countries received aid and support after catastrophic events, including the Vanuatu cyclone, Nepal earthquakes, flooding and drought in Malawi, response to religious minorities fleeing ISIL, and ongoing assistance for refugees and internally displaced persons related to Syria.
- » **National aid:** 25 states received help following natural and human-caused disasters, including severe winter storms in the Northeast, California and Northeast wildfires, flooding in Texas, ongoing response to Superstorm Sandy, and various gun violence incidents.
- » **Nepal:** The April 25, 2015, and subsequent June 3 earthquakes in Nepal destroyed 500,000 homes and left 8,700 people dead. PDA assisted in providing 220,000 people with basic humanitarian needs of food, water, shelter, and medical care in the immediate aftermath of the disaster.
- » **Syria:** PDA assisted in providing immediate humanitarian care to the tens of thousands of Syrian refugees who sought safety through various European countries, and continued to provide relief for Syrian refugees in neighboring countries and internally displaced people remaining and returning to Syria.
- » **Northeast snowstorm:** Boston and Northern New England endured more than 100 feet of snow—a record-high. At least 33 Presbyterian congregations sustained damage from the winter storms. PDA responded to the Synod of the Northeast with an OGHS grant of \$300,000 to help in the response.
- » **Superstorm Sandy:** Ongoing response includes nine PDA-related sites serving communities in New York and New Jersey. More than 7,900 Presbyterians have volunteered their time and efforts.

[Find out more about the ongoing work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at \[presbyterianmission.org/pda\]\(http://presbyterianmission.org/pda\)](http://presbyterianmission.org/pda)



Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)

- » **International development:** Over 308,000 people who were living in extreme poverty in more than 30 countries now have increased food security and livelihoods and stronger leadership and organization through international development work. Take a Reflection-Action Trip.
- » **National development:** 65 grant partners in the United States impact local and national change in maintaining effective safety nets, addressing worker and immigration issues for the working poor, and developing robust and healthy alternative food systems that impact rural and urban poverty in sustainable ways. Do a Mission Trip or Volunteer with a US partner.
- » **Policy and law:** Millions of people are directly impacted by programs that drive changes to laws and corporate practices that affect hunger and poverty. Activities include successful congressional petitions to maintain funding to safety net programs like SNAP and WIC, as well as campaigns with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and other farm and food workers to encourage companies to pay a better living wage and monitor working conditions. Join a campaign action.
- » **Environmental action:** 170 Earth Care Congregations are leading the way in Biblical reflection and action to lessen carbon footprints and create more sustainable ways to live as a community. Become an Earth Care Congregation.
- » **Fair trade:** 995 congregations participate in Eco-Palms; 1,619 congregations purchased over \$1 million of fair trade products—predominantly coffee—to increase farmers’ income in 40 cooperatives; sold over 12,000 sweat-free T-shirts, encouraging Presbyterians to reflect on garments and where our clothes come from. Switch to Fair Trade for Coffee, Palms, and Clothes.
- » **Hunger action programs:** Partnered with 32 presbyteries with hunger action enablers to leverage \$1.6 million for local, national, and international hunger work.

Find out more about the ongoing work of the Presbyterian Hunger Program at presbyterianmission.org/hunger

OVER 308,000

people who were living in extreme poverty now have increased food security and livelihoods.

\$1.6 MILLION

was leveraged for local, national, and international hunger work.



Self-Development of People (SDOP)

» The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People continues to work with low income communities across the United States to overcome oppression and injustice, including the focus areas of New Orleans, Detroit, Baltimore, and Los Angeles. In 2015, SDOP entered into partnerships with 20 self-help projects in the United States, focusing on literacy, human rights, rehabilitation, and skill development.

The projects are:

- Calumet Laurium Holistic Senior Center, Calumet, MI
- We the People of Detroit (Detroit Water Crisis Hotline), Detroit, MI
- Unity in Our Community Time Bank, Detroit, MI
- Asbury Park-Statewide Education Organizing Committee, Asbury Park, NJ
- Bonded Women (Tailoring, Alterations & Consignment Group), Claxton, GA
- The Next Door, Inc. (Roots Community Greenhouse), Hood River, OR
- African Immigrant Support Group, San Jose, CA
- Rockaway Wildfire, Far Rockaway, NY
- Capital Park Women's Empowerment Project, Columbus, OH
- JUNTOS, Philadelphia, PA
- Providence Student Union, Providence, RI
- Neighbor to Neighbor, Western Massachusetts
- Jobs Not Jails, Holyoke, MA
- ONE Right to Housing and Income, One DC, Washington, DC
- Camden Community Youth Development Center, Inc., Camden, AL
- New Zion City Preservation Association, New Orleans, LA
- Southeastern Goat Cooperative, Tuscaloosa, AL
- Hispanic Affairs Project, HJAP, Montrose, CO
- Phat Beets Produce, Oakland, CA
- Economic and Skills Development Project, Davis, CA
- Migrant Organizing and Anti-Labor Trafficking Campaign, San Francisco, CA

» **Prisoner re-entry advocacy:** Ex-Prisoners Organizing for Community Advancement (EPOCA) played a major role in getting laws passed in Massachusetts that affected thousands through “banning the box,” an effort to encourage employers to remove a checkbox from their employment applications that asks whether applicants have a criminal record. Additionally, EPOCA advocated for reforms that have resulted in over 8,000 children, youth, and families across Massachusetts annually receiving the assistance and services they need.

» **Belize:** SDOP continues to work with economically poor communities in Belize. In 2014 and 2015, SDOP funded Sandy Beach Women's Cooperative, Stann Creek District; Trio Farmers in Development Cooperative, Toledo District; and Seine Bight Village Council, Seine Bight Village.

» **India:** This ministry resulted in more than 1,000 families seeing their income increased by 52% through small enterprises, 583 obtained full-time employment, and 483 engaged in outside labor work along with running their own enterprises. Simultaneously, in these rural Indian villages where there are SDOP projects, school attendance reached 100%, and the voices of women were no longer suppressed.

» **Dominican Republic:** More than 10,000 children and their families in five bateyes have access to clean water in the Dominican Republic, helping to alleviate water-related diseases, which are a major cause of death across the world.

» **45 years of support:** The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People celebrated its 45th anniversary in 2015. During those years, through the generosity of Presbyterians giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, SDOP has entered into partnerships with communities of economically poor and oppressed people with 4,964 projects in the United States and 692 globally.

» See the article about the Self-Development of People ministry for March 13, 2016 in the *Mission Yearbook*.

Find out more about the ongoing work of the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) at presbyterianmission.org/sdop



BEFORE THE OFFERING



Plan

Life is easier when a plan is in place. If you make arrangements ahead of time, promotion will go more smoothly and be less stressful. Plus, you'll likely be even more successful at motivating your congregation to get involved in supporting OGHS.

- **Set dates to receive the OGHS Offering** with your session. Congregations commonly receive the Offering on Palm Sunday (March 20) and/or Easter Sunday (March 27), though any date is appropriate.
- **Commit to an ambitious goal** with the session; aim higher than the sum raised last year.
- **Locate and unpack the shipment** of materials you received, and find other tools to help with developing your interpretation plan by reviewing the outline of available resources on the next page.
- **Call PDS at 800-524-2612** to order any additional materials you may want or need.
- **Recruit a church member** to read a Minute for Mission. For the follow-through on each of the other areas, inform those preparing the Minute for Mission of the examples available on the website, and note that this year, the bulletin inserts feature unique messages that are not tied to the Minute for Mission. Feel free to pair as you like.
- **Distribute the fish banks** and copies of the Sharing Calendar to all children in church school.



Be creative

Though we've laid out a plan for you, your creativity and voice is an important part of this process. We'll never know your congregation the way you do. What kind of activities do they love?

- **Create an eye-catching display** in a prominent place, which can include the posters, fish banks, photos from past involvement with OGHS projects, and thank-you letters.
- **Plan special congregational events**, which can include church and school activities. Popular choices include dinners or mission fairs that highlight the ministries supported through One Great Hour of Sharing, or events centered around "**PDA Blue Shirt Sunday**" on February 14, and "**SDOP Sunday**" on March 13.
- **Create a plan for involving your children** and youth in promoting the Offering through a skit or other worship activity. A new option is having your youth choose one of the OGHS-supported gifts from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog to sponsor and present it to the congregation, sharing how they think this gift can make a difference for others.
- **Think about how you can integrate all of the worship resources** into your service holistically—rather than treating them as add-ons—to emphasize the central role our witness in the world plays in our own discipleship.



Resources and Materials

Hopefully you'll find this guide answers most of your questions. However, there are other great ways to learn more about One Great Hour of Sharing, and stay in touch with the Special Offerings. Your standing order contains the foundational materials you'll need to promote the Offering. Our website has even more. Visit us for the following OGHS materials at presbyterianmission.org/oghs/resources.

OGHS MATERIALS

- » **Worship resource document**
Contains a Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, Declaration of Forgiveness, Litany of Dedication, Invitation to the Lord's Table, Prayer after Communion, Blessing, Charge
- » **Sharing calendar**
Calendar can be used for church-wide daily giving activities, and highlights challenging situations we address when extending care to our neighbors in the U.S. and around the world
- » **The newest (and all past) lesson materials**
for *Gracie the Fish* children's lessons on Christian love, sharing, and compassion
- » **Downloadable bulletin inserts**
One Spirit and *So Much Accomplished*
- » **Downloadable poster**
- » **Sample pastor's letter**
Source of reference when writing a letter to your members
- » **Facebook cover photo**
Cover photo can be used on your church's Facebook page throughout Lent
- » **Blog post content**
Brief article can be shared with your church through your blog or newsletter
- » **Minutes for Mission**

ADDITIONAL PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES

- » **Presbyterian Hunger Program Bible Study:** This one-session Bible study will give participants the opportunity to reflect on the biblical call to work as partners with people who have been made poor to address hunger and its causes. You can download the Bible Study and watch videos here: pcusa.org/hunger/biblestudy/.
- » **PHP Post:** Download current and previous issues of the Hunger Program's quarterly journal. Each issue focuses on one hunger- and poverty-related topic and includes updates about PHP programs, as well as reflections, scripture, and activities. You can download the PHP Post here: pcusa.org/phppost. Email jenny.oldham@pcusa.org to sign up to receive the PHP Post.
- » **Earth Care Congregations:** Is your church active in earth care or interested in becoming more involved in being stewards of God's earth? Become a certified Earth Care Congregation, and take the "Earth Care Pledge" by completing activities and projects in the fields of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. You can learn more and download additional resources here: pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations.
- » **Facebook.com/PDACARES:** Follow PDA on Facebook so you can Like posts that are helpful, and share the information with others.
- » **Rapid Information Network (PDA-RIN):** Share in the Presbyterian response to national and international emergencies by signing up for the PDA Rapid Information Network. Receive bulletins about relief efforts delivered to your email inbox. Subscribe at pcusa.org/subscribe.
- » **Mission Mosaic:** Read stories of disaster recovery from around the world. The *Mission Mosaic* is an update of responses by PDA in a magazine-style format sent two times a year. Email pda@pcusa.org to request the complimentary magazine.

(continued next page)



ADDITIONAL PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES

- » **SDOP Informational Brochure:** This trifold brochure includes basic information about the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP). It shares examples and pictures of types of established partnerships with low income community groups, and the funding criteria for groups wishing to complete an application. Written in a simple-to-understand format, persons from communities unfamiliar with SDOP, as well as those familiar with SDOP, will find this brochure useful for a variety of settings. Download at: pcusa.org/resource/sdop-informational-brochure/
- » **Sermons and Liturgy** is a thematic collection of sermons and liturgical materials celebrating the ministry of the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People. Find these materials at: pcusa.org/resource/sermons-and-liturgy/
- » **“Sharing Our Blessings”** is a video expressing thanks to Presbyterians for the lives and communities they have changed through the Self-Development of People ministry. (Length: 3:20) Watch video at: pcusa.org/resource/sharing-our-blessings/



Contacts

Get in touch if you have questions or need help!

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

Pamela Burdine
800-728-7228, x 5839
pamela.burdine@pcusa.org
presbyterianmission.org/pda

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)

Jennifer Evans
800-728-7228, x 5819
jennifer.evans@pcusa.org
presbyterianmission.org/hunger

Self-Development of People (SDOP)

Mary Lewis
800-728-7228, x 5791
mary.lewis@pcusa.org
presbyterianmission.org/sdop

Special Offerings

502-569-5047
specialofferings@pcusa.org

Standing Orders

Presbyterian Distribution Service
800-524-2612
pds@pcusa.org



DURING THE OFFERING



- **Hang the Offering poster** in a prominent location, if you have not already created a display.
- **Place a folded insert in the Sunday bulletin** every week. There are two inserts (*One Spirit* and *So Much Accomplished*) this year, so feel free to use the same insert for multiple weeks if you are promoting all month.
- **Put Offering envelopes in pew racks** every week.
- **Present Minutes for Mission**, and encourage your members to give generously, with reminders of the goal you set with the session.
- **Use the worship resource** found on the website, and focus on the Offering in a sermon.
- **Involve children and youth**, and ask them to hand out bulletin inserts as an alternative to placing them in pews.
- **Promote the Offering on your church Facebook page** with the OGHS cover photo.
- **Use the provided art, graphics, and copy** in your church newsletter, blog, or website.
- **Enclose the brochure/envelope in your church mailing**, along with a letter from the church pastor (surveys show this makes a significant difference in congregant giving) for members who might have missed the Offering collection. (See sample on website.)
- **Remind parents** to encourage their children to fill up their OGHS fish banks.

THREE WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE

† Through your congregation

✉ Text OGHS to 20222 to give \$10

🖥️ presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs



AFTER THE OFFERING



Thank your congregation for their generous gifts, and share the total raised. Celebrate meeting or exceeding your original goal! Remind them of the causes they have supported: hunger, thirst, disaster recovery, refugee assistance, education, and community development.



Send in your congregation's funds. At the direction of the 220th General Assembly (2012), congregations are encouraged to remit OGHS gifts directly to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, with "One Great Hour of Sharing" on the memo line. Your contribution can be mailed to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

The Agency will record and notify presbyteries of congregational donations.
Congregations may continue to remit to their normal receiving agency if so desired.



Update your congregation throughout the year on how the money is being used, and remind your members they can contribute to the Offering all year.



Complete the evaluation form you will receive through email, and share your stories with us! We'd love to hear the unique ways you promoted One Great Hour of Sharing.



Stay up-to-date on all things Special Offerings by subscribing to the Special Offerings blog, "Liking" the Special Offerings Facebook page, and following Special Offerings on Twitter.



pcusa.org/blogs/Daily_Offerings



facebook.com/specialofferings



twitter.com/pcusa_so



MINUTE FOR MISSION

West Africa Initiative

FAITHFUL PRESENCE

One local villager said, “The most significant thing is...the value and importance of working together. We have learned and benefited so much from each other.”

For nearly 18 months, life ground to a halt in Liberia. The Ebola virus not only ravaged the people, it robbed them of their ability to provide for their families. The deadly disease took away more than people’s health: businesses and schools closed, flights in and out of the country were suspended, and for those inside the country, there was a sense of abandonment from the international community.

As the economy deteriorated and people fled the region, the Liberian Council of Churches, a partner of the ministries supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, stayed to pray with families and seek help for those in need, especially the thousands of children left orphaned by the virus and further abandoned by their communities.

“People are afraid of the children and don’t want to be near them, even though the disease is now gone,” says Rev. Kortu Brown. “This will be a long road to recovery for the children.” Helping these children has been especially important, as their abandonment mirrors the experience of the Liberian Council of Churches as a whole.

Brown says, “During the Ebola crisis, we felt the ecumenical community abandoned us, especially in North America. But the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) stood by us and kept the line of communication open.”

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development

of People) have been working together to help both Liberia and Sierra Leone rebuild and rehabilitate. The partnership though, began much earlier when the West Africa Initiative was started in 2007, following years of civil wars, with the goal to improve food security and the economic status of individuals, families, and communities.

The communities involved in the West Africa Initiative have experienced the same crisis as their neighbors, but the work supported through One Great Hour of Sharing has supported their resiliency. Thanks to your continued support and the efforts of the OGHS programs to remain connected to their partners in the region, these communities are now on the road to economic recovery and able to support the orphaned children abandoned in their midst with access to education.

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing support strong, compassionate, and resilient partners in West Africa on their long journey of recovery. Your generous and consistent support has brought gifts of sustainable development and food security and joined them with the gifts of creativity, expertise, and commitment of our church partner there. The impact has been communities that remain resilient in the face of the most difficult circumstances, and the knowledge that, in their time of great crisis and abandonment, the most important gift of your presence and commitment does not disappear.

Please, give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing to help support the progress in West Africa.



MINUTE FOR MISSION

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

REBUILDING LIVES FROM THE GROUND UP

“This is so much fun! I could swing here for the rest of my life,” screams six-year-old Roshan Karki, who can now use a swing for the first time in his life, thanks to his temporary new home in emergency housing—supported by Finn Church Aid, ACT Alliance, and PDA.

In early 2015, in a span of just two short weeks, Nepal was rocked by two massive earthquakes that devastated the tiny country. More than 500,000 homes were destroyed, 280,000 more were damaged, and nearly 9,000 people died.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) was on the ground almost immediately. Today, many months after the second quake, PDA continues its response with disaster assistance through its partnership with ACT Alliance and their local Nepali partner organizations. Their response capitalizes on ACT’s substantial experience in developing humanitarian programs to distribute aid to more than 200,000 earthquake-affected individuals, including:

- » Ready-to-eat food and food rations
- » Family water treatment and personal hygiene kits
- » Tarps for emergency shelter
- » Basic survival items like kitchen utensils, baby kits, and quilts

But there is unique concern for hundreds of thousands of children who have been distressed, displaced, and traumatized by the horrific devastation that surrounds them. Numerous aftershocks contribute to the fear of entering buildings, for parents and children alike.

PDA has worked as a member of ACT Alliance to support Finn Church Aid, an organization that specializes in arranging education in catastrophes, by building 300 temporary schools and child-friendly spaces that

enable children to return to school and to a sense of normalcy. Students prefer studying in the temporary buildings, as their construction from bamboo, canvas, and corrugated iron makes them lighter than permanent structures. Finn Church Aid offers much more than just structural support; it also provides emotional support to Nepalese children. Special education teacher Johanna Kurki organizes teacher training and psychosocial support in disaster areas.

“My work focuses on training the teachers. We give them a box of tools—practical instructions on how, as teachers, they can support children after a catastrophe,” she says.

The most important thing is to meet and listen to the children openly. Games, visual arts, and drama are good tools to help children recover from trauma, according to Kurki.

This is just one example of how PDA partners with groups on the ground in disaster-affected areas. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are having a huge impact on the lives of nearly 900,000 Nepalese children who need your support to overcome the trauma of earthquake devastation and, ultimately, to continue their education.

Please, give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing to help the children of Nepal.



MINUTE FOR MISSION

Presbyterian Hunger Program

SEEDS OF SUSTAINABILITY

“At the end of the day, it’s not just about bean and corn seeds,” says Doris Evangelista, RUMES national coordinator. “We’re sowing the seeds of hope, of community, and of resilience.”

“It’s getting hotter and drier every year. Many of my neighbors have lost crops due to drought, and some have decided it’s simply not worth the risk to even plant,” explains Silverio Morales, himself a small-scale farmer who grows the Salvadoran staple crops of corn and beans, as well as a variety of fruits and vegetables on a shared plot of land near his home.

For the second year in a row, El Salvador is experiencing severe drought conditions during what should be the rainy season. The effects have been devastating, threatening the food security and the very livelihoods of farming families across the country. Silverio, however, is an exception. With native seeds, organic fertilizers, and agro-ecological farming practices, Silverio and his family have enjoyed an ample corn harvest and are preparing to plant a second, late-season corn crop as well.

Red Uniendo Manos El Salvador (RUMES), the Presbyterian Hunger Program’s Joining Hands Network partner in El Salvador, works closely with farmers like Silverio in their struggle to produce local, healthy, and sustainable food for their families, their communities, and the country. RUMES connects farmers and farming communities around the country to share their experiences, exchange ideas, and to learn from one another about the ancestral techniques and accessible technologies that can help to increase crop yields and mitigate the effects of climate change.

As farmers, communities, and agricultural organizations come together, they recognize they are not alone in their

struggles. RUMES and PHP’s Joining Hands partners in other countries accompany communities in working with local leaders, as well as national governments, to ensure policies are in place to preserve and protect native seeds and to promote agro-ecological, organic, and sustainable practices in food production.

U.S. Presbyterians also come alongside RUMES to learn from the experiences of Salvadoran partners and support them through advocacy, adding their voices in favor of agriculture, trade, and development policies that build up local, sustainable food economies. Last year, thanks in part to advocacy efforts by Presbyterians, Salvadoran corn farmers were able to provide the seeds distributed to 400,000 subsistence farmers as a part of the Salvadoran Government’s Family Agriculture Plan. This purchase of national seeds from local farming cooperatives meant significant investment in local economies, and enabled numerous rural families to make a dignified living as vocational farmers.

This is just one example of how the Presbyterian Hunger Program connects communities, partners, and Presbyterians through the Joining Hands Network to address the root causes of poverty and hunger, and you are a part of it! Your gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering have a huge impact on the lives of our sisters and brothers in places like El Salvador.

Please, give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing to help others like Silverio.



MINUTE FOR MISSION

Self-Development of People

CONFRONTING THE STRUCTURES OF INJUSTICE

Of 250 abandoned uranium mines, only about 130 have any record of clean up.¹

July 16, 1979 is a day the Navajo Nation in New Mexico will never forget. An earthen dam gave way, releasing 1,000 tons of radioactive mill waste and 90 million gallons of acidic and radioactive liquids into the Rio Puerco. The waste traveled downstream across nine Navajo chapters and the community of Gallup. Residents described “a wave of green liquid” heading their way, covering them as they headed home.

The Uranium Tailings Spill is still listed as the largest uranium spill in United States history. Recently, the Red Water Pond Road Community Association hosted its annual commemoration near Church Rock.

“In 36 years, we’ve had three minor cleanups in the area, but the contaminated waste is still here,” says the association’s Edith Hood. “We’ve been told by the Environmental Protection Agency that they are waiting on the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to complete their reviews of the area before additional cleanup work can be done.”

Among the organizations connected to the region is the Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment (MASE). This grassroots initiative involves several groups working to remove uranium contamination and prohibit future mines in the area. Participants include the Acoma and Laguna Pueblos, residents of the Navajo Nation, the Post 71 Uranium Workers, ranchers, and other communities throughout the affected area.

In January 2014, the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) partnered with MASE to assist in cleanup and public awareness efforts.

“This community is facing an uphill battle, considering the government’s sensitivity concerning uranium contamination,” says Cynthia White, SDOP coordinator. “This battle is for clean air, land, and water, and about maintaining spiritual harmony and balance in an indigenous community. SDOP is proud to assist the community in its struggle for a healthy existence on native land.”

The area, known as the San Juan Basin, lacks basic rights to electricity or running water because of radioactive contamination of the land, air, and groundwater. According to MASE, there have been significant numbers of miscarriages and birth defects, as well as confirmed cases of liver and pancreatic cancer in the San Juan Basin.

“There are many with breathing problems, including children suffering from asthma and bronchial problems,” says Hood. “I have worked in one of the mines and have been through chemo treatments for lymphoma.” Hood’s group conducts public awareness activity and has been successful at keeping old, abandoned mines from reopening to this date.

Please, give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing to support oppressed and disadvantaged people in changing structures that perpetuate poverty and injustice.

1 - <http://masecoalition.org/?s=san+juan+basin&x=0&y=0>



2016 ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING ORDER FORM

FOUR WAYS TO GET ADDITIONAL COPIES OF ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING RESOURCES:

-  Contact Presbyterian Distribution Service at 800-524-2612 between 9:00 am – 5:30 pm EST or email pds@pcusa.org
-  Mail this form to Presbyterian Distribution Service, 3904 Produce Road, Ste. 104, Louisville KY 40218
-  Fax this order form to 502-569-8030
-  Download copies online at presbyterianmission.org/oghs

All materials are FREE unless otherwise noted.

Qty.	PDS#	UOM	Item
___	12138-16-101		Poster (Limit 2)
___	12138-16-102	P25	Brochure/Envelope Mailer
___	12138-16-103	P25	Bulletin Insert— <i>One Spirit</i>
___	12138-16-104	P25	Bulletin Insert— <i>So Much Accomplished</i>
___	12138-16-107		Leader’s Guide
___	12138-10-125	P25	Children’s Coin Box
___	12138-16-17	P25	Offering Envelope

Spanish Materials:

___	12138-16-131		Poster (Limit 2)
___	12138-16-133	P25	Bulletin Insert— <i>One Spirit</i>
___	12138-16-134	P25	Bulletin Insert— <i>So Much Accomplished</i>
___	12138-16-151	P25	Offering Envelope

Korean Materials:

___	12138-16-141		Poster (Limit 2)
___	12138-16-143	P25	Bulletin Insert— <i>One Spirit</i>
___	12138-16-144	P25	Bulletin Insert— <i>So Much Accomplished</i>
___	12138-16-152	P25	Offering Envelope

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