

## Snapshots of Interpretation Ministry Visits from Doug Tilton

Dear friends,

I hope you enjoy these snapshots of my recent Interpretation Ministry visits.

Doug



Photo 1. In deep conversation with Samuel Clemens

As soon as I arrived, I headed for Galena, IL, where I preached at First Presbyterian Church at the invitation of Rev. Jim McCrea and shared more with members of the congregation at a delightful potluck lunch after the service. The next day, I joined staff and students at Dubuque Seminary for devotions and then spoke at a lunch for students hosted by Westminster Presbyterian Church adjacent to the campus. My wonderful hosts, Kathy and Ron Pearson, collected me after lunch and took me to the Mississippi River Museum and some eclipse-watching along the river. I also got to meet my old friend, Samuel Clemens.



Photo 2. Exciting and Joyful Worship at Witherspoon Presbyterian Church

On Sunday, I was at Witherspoon Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis for exciting and joyful worship at one of the nation's oldest historically African American Presbyterian congregations. I appreciated the warm welcome that Rev. Dr. Winterbourne LaPucelle Harrison-Jones extended, and the opportunity to have lunch with him after the service. We discussed the PC(USA)'s missiology and how we engage in partnership, and he has invited me to make a virtual presentation to Witherspoon's next session meeting.



Photo 3. Legacy Trunk Ministry: Accompaniment at its Best

I was especially interested in Witherspoon’s “Legacy Trunk Ministry” which focuses on accompanying and encouraging students embarking on tertiary education. The church collects a range of items that they anticipate that the scholar will need during the course of their studies—including a graduation gown!—and provides a “trunk” to each of the nominated students. Even more importantly, they identify members of the congregation who can act as mentors to each scholar, so that there is someone who can walk with them through their studies. It was a powerful testament to the value of accompaniment!



Photo 4. Partners in the Freedom Network USA. Addressing Human Trafficking

I arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah, to take part in a meeting and training offered by the Freedom Network USA, which brings together organizations working against human trafficking. I attended along with two other PC(USA) colleagues to be better able to resource and accompany partners in the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM) who are confronting a range of trafficking concerns, including labor trafficking and sex tourism.