RESOURCES FOR MISSION IN MULTICULTURAL CONTEXTS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) RESOURCES ON-LINE

Mission Crossroads (www.missioncrossroads.org) - The PC(USA)’s mission learning community facilitates networking among mission participants, aids communication among members of mission-related groups, and provides a forum where those engaged in mission may share ideas and experiences, both good and bad, so that future mission endeavors can be more effective. The Resource Library section of the website contains tools for discerning a congregation’s call to partnership, connecting with Presbyterian missions around the world, and engaging in mission in culturally-sensitive ways. There are also links to book reviews and basic documents, such as Presbyterians Do Mission in Partnership (www.pcusa.org/resource/presbyterians-do-mission-partnership).

God’s Mission Matters (www.missioncrossroads.org/podcast.htm) – A series of twelve 15-minute podcasts that explore different aspects of effective and faithful cross-cultural mission and ministry. Each podcast includes stories and insights from Presbyterians engaged in long- and short-term mission and biblical reflections that illustrate principles of engagement and practical tips. Each is also accompanied by a downloadable study guide that includes the stories and biblical reflections, together with illustrations from popular culture and suggestions for group activities that enable mission teams, Sunday School classes, Bible study groups or other groups interested in mission to explore these concepts in greater depth. Many of the modules also include links to further audio or video resources and downloadable resources useful for individual or group learning.

Mission Crossroads magazine (www.pcusa.org/ministries/global/subscribe-to-mission-crossroads/) - Mission Crossroads is a thrice-yearly magazine focused on the worldwide work of the PC(USA). It offers news and feature stories about mission personnel, international partners and grassroots Presbyterians involved in God’s mission in the world. You can download past issues or sign up to receive future issues at the address above, or you can call (800) 728-7228, x5343 to subscribe.

Presbyterian World Mission Resources (www.pcusa.org/ministries/global/world-mission-resource-catalogue) - Features links to many of the PC(USA) publications mentioned below, plus many more, some of which may be downloaded for free.

Mission Connections (www.pcusa.org/missionconnections) - Learn more about Presbyterian Church (USA) mission co-workers and browse an archive of co-workers newsletters that share mission stories and explore the challenges of missiology in a wide variety of cultural settings.

These and other resources appear on the “Google Me a Mission!” page at http://www.missioncrossroads.org/resource-library/google-me-a-mission.htm.
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) PUBLICATIONS

Partnership, Solidarity and Friendship: Transforming Structures in Mission, Philip L. Wickeri, PDS# 7420003002 ($2.95). Companion piece to Presbyterians Do Mission In Partnership policy statement, the author critically assesses the history of “mission in partnership” and proposes new directions for the future. (Also available in Spanish)

Partners In Christ’s Service: The Practice of God’s Mission, Sherron K. George, 2004. PDS# 9780664502621 ($12.60)
Companion piece to Presbyterians Do Mission In Partnership policy statement, the author explores the why of mission partnerships; the how of missional attitudes; and the what of missional practices from Biblical groundings throughout the gospel of John. (Also available in Spanish and Portuguese.)

Better Together: The Future of Presbyterian Mission, Sherron K. George, 2010. PDS# 9780664503062 ($10.71) A layperson’s guide to many of the most common questions faced by churches working in mission. This is a wonderful resource for mainline Protestant churches active in mission projects and is perfect for individual or adult study, for training sessions for mission-committed congregants, and for the boards of mission initiators. Contains a study guide.

When God’s People Travel Together, Volume 1: A Trip Leader’s Planning Manual, Debbie D. Vial. PDS# 7027099009 ($9.95). Practical helps for trip leaders to plan a successful mission trip, including guidelines and procedures to follow before, during and after the journey, sample forms and handouts.

When God’s People Travel Together, Volume 2: Reflecting and Acting on Mission Trip Experiences, Barbara Battin PDS #7027099022 ($9.95). Methods and tools for facilitating the group’s orientation, processing and reflection on trip experiences in light of the gospel. Ideas for integrating those experiences into daily life and follow-up activities for after the trip.

When God’s People Travel Together, Volume 3: Bible Studies for Mission, Alice Winters. PDS # 7440099083 ($4.95) Five sessions for adults and older youth on mission and partnership with examples taken from Rev. Winters’ years of service in Colombia. (3 vol. set - $20.00)

Meeting Your Neighbor: Multiculturalism in Luke and Acts, Sherron K. George. PDS# 7230500001 ($4.95). This bible study on multiculturalism will spark thoughtful discussion and provide Biblical grounding for a deeper understanding of cultural diversity as seen in the early church.

Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study, Presbyterian Church (USA). PDS# 9781571531001 ($14.95 per copy or $13.50 each for 10 or more copies). Annual publication focused on mission stories, lectionary and prayer.
OTHER BOOKS

*Cultural Intelligence: Improving Your CQ to Engage Our Multicultural World*, David A. Livermore, Baker Academic, 2009. Livermore contends that preparation for cross-cultural ministry depends on an inward investigation and transformation to develop one’s “Cultural Intelligence quotient”. He draws on his extensive experience in cross-cultural ministry to explore the knowledge, interpretations and behavior one must develop to heighten one’s CQ. Questions throughout and a self-assessment test in the appendix give the book an interactive feel, drawing the reader into self-examination and application of the book’s lessons.

*Cross-Cultural Servanthood: Serving the World in Christlike Humility*, Duane Elmer, IVP Books, 2006. Drawing on both biblical exposition and personal experience in cross-cultural ministry, Elmer identifies principles for building respectful relationships across cultural boundaries and offers practical insights on becoming a more effective servant in cultures other than one’s own.


*Bridging Cultural Conflicts: A New Approach for a Changing World*, Michelle LeBaron, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2003. Dr. LeBaron introduces the concept of “cultural fluency” and its necessity for engaging situations of cultural conflict. An important new work with many applications to cross-cultural partnerships, mission trips, and the multicultural context of the contemporary United States.

*Beyond White Noise: Mission in a Multicultural World*, Tom Montgomery-Fate, St. Louis, Chalice Press, 1997. Intricately woven into personal essays based upon his missionary service in the Philippines, this author shares hard-won insights into how we can replace the old, neocolonial concept of mission with co-mission, a mutually liberating model for cross-cultural partnership.


*Gifts of Strangers: Meeting the Challenge of Inculturation*, Anthony J. Gittins, Paulist Press, 1989. This book offers several ways for first-time visitors to make sense of another cultural experience, understand the dynamic of belief and behavior and the crucial place of language in evangelization and mutuality in human relationships.