

# mission crossroads

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**CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF  
PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION**



**175  
YEARS**  
OF PRESBYTERIAN  
WORLD MISSION  
1837-2012

**GENEROUS COMMITMENT / WORLD ROUNDUP / DALLAS II / SERVING IN  
BANGLADESH / TEACHING ENGLISH AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE + MORE**





Hunter Farrell

The heritage of Presbyterian World Mission is rooted ultimately in Christ's Great Commission to make disciples of all nations and his Great Commandment to love God and neighbor. Presbyterians have born faithful witness to the gospel around the world in settings that range from great urban centers to small rural villages.

As we celebrate the 175th anniversary of international mission by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, we give thanks for the faithful mission work that was already being done in 1837. Today, total personnel engaged in World Mission number almost 200, serving in approximately 50 countries. Presbyterian World Mission inherits that legacy.

Over the years, Presbyterian missionaries have planted churches, built hospitals, and started schools around the world. The seeds sown by those missionaries have in many places developed

into robust and self-sustaining churches and institutions now led by local Christians. Among them are the Presbyterian Church of Korea, the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, and Good Shepherd Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Thanks to longstanding bonds forged through a remarkable mission legacy, they now invite us to send mission personnel to work with them in partnership.

We help them meet crucial needs that the partner churches alone cannot meet due to lack of resources and/or trained personnel. We also send mission personnel into regions where there is not yet a church. Someday Christians in these places will form churches, and we will work with them in partnership.

World Mission chiefly does three things:

**Sending mission personnel.** Our mission personnel are God-called, highly skilled individuals whose work transforms lives every day. They are carefully chosen and well trained. They receive ongoing support and counsel from an experienced staff.

**Empowering the global church.** Our mission experience of 175 years has earned us a solid reputation as a faithful and effective mission partner. We believe the church in each place is most capable of discerning what God wants to accomplish in mission in that place. That's why we work in partnership.

**Equipping the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for mission.** We are committed to resourcing the thousands of Presbyterians who have come streaming out of the pews and into the world for short-term mission service. We assist more than 40 mission networks, offer seminars and produce training materials, and facilitate an online mission community where ideas and best practices are shared.

Together with our partners and U.S. Presbyterians, World Mission orients our ministry around tackling three critical global issues: we are accompanying communities trying to lift people out of desperate poverty; empowering the global church to reach more people with Christ's message of love; and facilitating reconciliation in some of the world's most troubled places.

Although we celebrate our 175th anniversary of mission work in 2012, there is still much to be done—and you can be a part of it! I urge you to get to know the transforming ministries of our mission co-workers by visiting [www.pcusa.org/missionconnections](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections). Join Presbyterian World Mission as together we bring God's global family together to help people experience an abundant life, both now and in eternity.

Grace and peace,  
Hunter Farrell  
Director, Presbyterian World Mission

*Mission Crossroads*  
is a General Assembly  
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about the church's mission  
around the world.

Presbyterian World  
Mission is committed to  
sending mission personnel,  
empowering the global  
church, and equipping the  
PC(USA) for mission.

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#### ABOUT THE COVER

Presbyterian World Mission  
celebrates 175 years  
of international mission  
by the General Assembly  
of the Presbyterian  
Church in 2012.



General Assembly  
Mission Council



# Generous commitment

## South Carolina congregation emphasizes mission giving and mission service

By Pat Cole

When members of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greenville, S.C., drop a dollar in the offering plate, 26 cents of it goes to mission causes that serve neighbors in their city and neighbors around the world.

Westminster's mission commitment is reflected both through its financial support of local charitable organizations and denominational mission and through its service to others. Around Greenville you'll see Westminster members participating in ministries such as building Habitat for Humanity houses, volunteering in food pantries, and working with people who have developmental disabilities. They also make regular mission trips to the Dominican Republic and Malawi.

"We have been intentional in declaring that ministry to others is an essential part of being a Christian," says Rev. Lud Weaver, pastor of Westminster for the past 25 years. While Westminster is committed to many congregational mission projects, the church also realizes that working with other congregations is necessary to do God's work. "We are so much stronger and more able to do God's work when we combine our talents and resources," Weaver says.

Westminster frequently invites Presbyterian mission co-workers to speak to the congregation as a reminder, Weaver says, "that the faith is lived out together." Mission workers who have spoken recently at Westminster include Carl Agsten, who serves in Nicaragua, Frank and Nancy Dimmock, who work in Southern Africa, and Jim and Jodi McGill, who serve in Malawi.

In 2012, Westminster pledged \$60,000 to help fund the ministries of 10 mission co-workers. This

*"We are so much stronger and more able to do God's work when we combine our talents and resources." – Lud Weaver*

commitment is part of a \$175,000 international mission budget, which represents one-third of Westminster's total mission budget. The remaining two-thirds support other denominational ministries, various local causes and Foothills Presbytery.

Mission education is another priority for Westminster. Each year it presents a program called



"November Nights," when people gather for three Sunday evenings and can take classes on a variety of subjects, including mission. In the mission component, church members look in depth at a particular country.

"Our members have really enjoyed delving into the needs of a particular country and how we got involved in mission there," says Susan McLarty, Westminster's mission outreach coordinator.

The congregation sees partnership as a key part of its international commitment, McLarty says. In the Dominican Republic, Westminster works with the Dominican Evangelical Church and has focused on bateys, company towns largely populated by Haitian sugarcane workers. Westminster members have helped build schools and churches and conducted medical clinics.

Later this year, the congregation will host a special guest from the Dominican Republic, Rev. Wilfrido Susana Perez. Prior to his ordination, Perez served as one of Westminster's translators when the church began working in the Dominican Republic in the mid-1990s. Now he facilitates a major part of Westminster's involvement in the country.

In Malawi, the congregation has sent volunteers to assist Embangweni Hospital, an institution of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, and to work at a nearby Presbyterian-supported school for the deaf.

Service to others, Weaver says, changes people and makes them more grateful for God's blessings. "It gives purpose to our human existence and our calling as Christians," he explains. "Mission defines our congregation, and we hope it will permeate our members' lives."

*Westminster realizes that working with other congregations is necessary to do God's work. Photo courtesy of Westminster Presbyterian Church.*

# World Roundup

By Catherine Cottingham

Presbyterian World Mission brings God's global family together to heal the wounds of poverty and violence, and proclaim God's saving love in Jesus Christ.

## World Mission needs your support

World Mission continues to advance as the preferred mission-sending agency for hundreds of Presbyterian congregations across the country, and relies on the generous, over-and-above giving of our congregations and individuals in order to send and support these committed mission workers. If your congregation would like to become a sending congregation for one of our almost 200 mission workers around the world—please contact Bruce Whearty at [bruce.whearty@pcusa.org](mailto:bruce.whearty@pcusa.org) or Chris Roseland at [chris.roseland@pcusa.org](mailto:chris.roseland@pcusa.org).

Mission co-workers are serving in the name of Jesus Christ around the world. Read more about any of the mission co-workers mentioned below by visiting [www.pcusa.org/missionconnections](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections) and searching under "Find a mission worker."

**To invite a mission co-worker to speak at your church or event,** please contact Ellen Sherby at (800) 728-7228, x5612, or [ellen.sherby@pcusa.org](mailto:ellen.sherby@pcusa.org).

Connect with mission co-workers at [www.pcusa.org/missionconnections](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections).

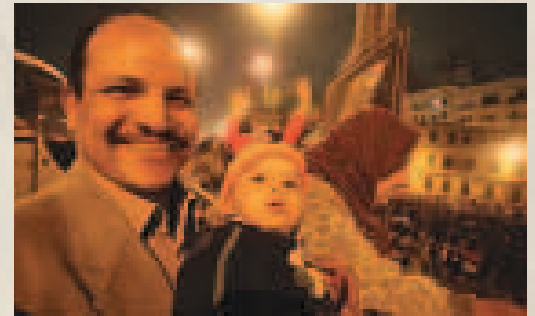
**To support mission workers** with your financial gift, visit [www.pcusa.org/give](http://www.pcusa.org/give) or call (800) 728-7228, x5611.

## God's mission in the Middle East EGYPT

Presbyterian work in Egypt is an undeniable mission success story. American Presbyterian mission activities in Egypt began in 1854, under the auspices of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. Hundreds of mission coworkers served in Egypt for about twelve decades as educators, theological teachers, medical teams, rural health workers, agricultural experts, engineers, and other specialists. The church planted by those early missionaries grew into the largest Protestant church in the Middle

East, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Egypt, Synod of the Nile.

**A report from Egypt:** "We are at a time in Egypt's history when things seem particularly bleak, especially for the poor and minority



groups like the Christians. But there is hope. Youth are coming to Christ and joining together from different churches to organize ministry and evangelism efforts together. Christian doctors journey to distant villages to meet the medical needs of the poor, regardless of their religious background. Daycare programs offer support to parents in need. Christian schools offer quality education to Muslim and Christian children alike. Praise music teams offer free concerts in the public squares of cities for the first time in history!"

**Arab Spring website:** The website "The Church and the Arab Spring" provides background to the Arab Spring and particularly how Middle Eastern churches are responding to these major changes affecting the region. Text and photos give an overview of the area, and included are links to related news, comments, and statements. Visit [www.pcusa.org/arabspring](http://www.pcusa.org/arabspring).

**Listen to Arab Spring webinar:** In this webinar, which was broadcast February 1, 2012, you'll hear directly from one of our global partners in Egypt, Dr. Atef Gendy, President of Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo. Discover what the church in Egypt is doing to provide a witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, gain deeper understanding of the revolutionary events that are sweeping the Middle East, learn about helpful resources for further reading and study, find out how you can pray for Egyptians, and discover ways you can be engaged with

*A father and his child in Cairo celebrate during last year's Arab spring.*



the work of Presbyterian World Mission as it stands shoulder to shoulder in solidarity with the Egyptian Church. Listen at [www.pcusa.org/arabspring-webinar](http://www.pcusa.org/arabspring-webinar).

friends, of all nationalities.” Read more: [www.pcusa.org/mcgaughey-mar2012](http://www.pcusa.org/mcgaughey-mar2012).

## God's mission in Latin America CHILE

Earlier this year Dennis Smith, regional liaison for Brazil and the Southern Cone of South America (Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay), visited a Roma community in Chile. There are about 15,000 Roma in Chile, he writes, who arrived fleeing persecution from eastern Europe a century ago. A few Roma have prospered, but most are very poor. Although they are Chilean citizens, they have little access to education or health care. They are ostracized by the larger community. A traditionally nomadic people, they migrate according to the seasons up and down Chile's great length. In recent years, World Mission has supported Rev. Carlos Hernández, who has been working as a missionary to the Roma for more than 30 years. A Chilean Presbyterian minister, Carlos lived in Roma camps for a decade, and Presbyterian mission dollars enabled him to participate in the Chilean Bible Society translation team that published the Romané New Testament in 2008. Every Roma camp, he says, now includes a number of believers. Carlos' dream is to witness the birth of a Roma Presbyterian Church in Chile. Read more at [www.pcusa.org/smith-march2012](http://www.pcusa.org/smith-march2012)

## God's mission in Africa CONGO

Bob and Kristi Rice have returned to Congo after a medical leave in the United States. They had previously reported a great need for Bibles in Kasai. Several churches and individuals responded, and upon return, the Rices found that their colleague, Pastor Mboyamba,

had been able to distribute 82 Bibles to people in rural areas and also the city of Kananga, and people received them with great joy. When Moise Kabongo, an elder in a newly established parish in a rural area about 80 kilometers from Kananga, was told that Bibles were available, he rode his bicycle all the way to Kananga to purchase his first Bible. The Rices look forward to distributing Bibles in more regions in the months to come. Read more: [www.pcusa.org/rice-feb2012](http://www.pcusa.org/rice-feb2012).

## SOUTH SUDAN

Nancy McGaughey writes: “The accepted measure of immunization coverage for children is the number who receive the third dose of DPT (diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus). We had set a target in 2011 of increasing our coverage by 15 percent—and reached 23 percent. A total of 1,697 children in our catchment area have now received full immunization! We had targeted an increase of 20 percent in women of childbearing age

who received their second dose of tetanus immunization—and reached a 33.6 percent increase! We were trying to increase the number of women attending the prenatal clinic by 20 percent—and achieved a 45 percent increase. There is still work to be done, but I praise God for the achievements of our medical team this past year. Please praise God with me for: achievements of our medical team this past year; safe arrival in Adol;



# GA 220 marks 175 years of world mission

New mission workers to be commissioned as World Mission celebrates 175th anniversary at GA 220

By Judson Taylor

**175  
YEARS  
OF PRESBYTERIAN  
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1837-2012**

The year 2012 marks the 175th anniversary of Presbyterian World Mission. On July 4, at the commissioning ceremony for new mission workers at the 220th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, that anniversary will be recognized. The commissioning, open to the public, is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, July 4, at 7 p.m. during the plenary session at the David Lawrence Convention Center.

It was originally mission-minded Western Pennsylvanians who persistently urged the denomination in the 1820s and '30s to establish its own mission-sending organization until the idea was finally adopted at the GA in Philadelphia in 1837.

Over the years this Presbyterian mission agency has operated under a variety of names. When the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America merged with the United Presbyterian Church of North America (UPCNA) in 1958 to form the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (UPCUSA), their joint mission board was dubbed the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations. When the southern and northern branches of the Presbyterian Church

united in 1983, their mission boards were combined five years later under the name Global Mission Ministry Unit. In 1993 this became the Worldwide Ministries Division, which eventually became simply Presbyterian World Mission.



*A Presbyterian missionary at work in Egypt, distributing tracts, circa 1920. UPCNA Egypt Mission. Courtesy of the Presbyterian Historical Society.*

## The Pennsylvania mission connection

Western Pennsylvania helped launch Presbyterian World Mission 175 years ago

By Michael Parker

The year 2012 marks 175 years of Presbyterian World Mission; but the denomination's commitment to mission is considerably older than this, and much of this history is rooted in Western Pennsylvania.

The General Assembly held in Philadelphia in 1837, chiefly remembered for the church schism between Old School and New School that occurred there, is also notable for launching the first national Presbyterian mission board, the origin of today's Presbyterian World Mission (PWM). A highly controversial decision in a GA torn by controversy, it was the result of an overture made by the Synod of Pittsburgh, which proposed that the national church adopt the Western Foreign Mission Society, the synod's missionary-sending organization.

### Western Pennsylvania pursues mission

Though Presbyterians can trace their origins in North America to the earliest settlements in New

England, it was the great migration of Scotch-Irish in the eighteenth century that inflated their numbers, making Presbyterians one of the largest denominations in the colonial era. Some of these immigrants decided to travel west beyond the Allegheny Mountains where land was cheap.

The year 1758 saw the temporary healing of the Presbyterian schism between the Old Side and New Side with the formation of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia. Seizing the opportunity to promote Presbyterianism in western Pennsylvania, the synod employed army chaplains and ministers to work in the area to establish churches among the new settlers. In 1781 this resulted in the establishment of the Presbytery of Redstone, which included a huge area; and as the population increased and churches grew, Redstone was subdivided into a number of new presbyteries.

When the Synod of Pittsburgh was established in 1802, the new body passed a resolution



committing itself “to diffuse the knowledge of the gospel among the inhabitants of the new settlements; the Indian tribes, and if need be, among the interior inhabitants, where they were not able to support the gospel.”

The missionary spirit of Presbyterians in western Pennsylvania must also be seen in the light of the larger Protestant mission movement in the first half of the nineteenth century. William Carey had launched this movement in 1793 with the establishment of the Baptist Missionary Society in England. The idea crossed the Atlantic in the first decade of the new century with the famous Haystack Prayer Meeting in 1806 at Williams College, Massachusetts, which four years later issued in the establishment of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Though largely an independent mission society of the Congregational churches, the American Board was a non-denominational mission society, and many Presbyterians supported its work.

### **The controversy: do Presbyterians need their own mission board?**

For Presbyterians the existence of the American Board raised an important theological question: Can the work of mission be rightly relegated to an independent society (essentially a para-church organization), or should it be seen as integral to the nature of the church and therefore an enterprise of the denomination? Those who took the former view, it was argued, might see mission as something that individual Presbyterians and congregations can do on an optional basis. Those who took the latter view saw mission as at the heart of what it means to be the church of Jesus Christ.

Overtures were presented to General Assemblies in 1812, 1828, and 1831 that called for the establishment of a Presbyterian mission board. The issue, unfortunately, became part of a new division of the time between the Old School and New School wings of the church. Those in western Pennsylvania who sided with the Old School also urged the General Assembly of 1831 to embrace a “conceptional change” in mission thinking. When their overture failed, the Synod of Pittsburgh chose to create its own mission organization, the Western Foreign Missionary Society, to be headed by Dr. Elisha P. Swift, an instructor at Western Seminary (one of the original institutions that later became Pittsburgh Theological Seminary).

The Western Foreign Missionary Society sent its first missionaries to Monrovia, Liberia, and Lodiana in the Punjab of North India (now Pakistan). The society also sent 21 missionaries to Native American tribes, and 39 missionaries to Liberia and India.

### **Presbyterian mission and Western Pennsylvania**

At the Philadelphia General Assembly of 1837 the theological dispute between the Old School and New School resulted in a second schism. The Old School wing adopted the Western Foreign Missionary Society as its denominational mission organization, changing its name to the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions and moving the headquarters to New York. The New School denomination chose to continue to send missionaries through the American Board. However, by the time this latest division in the denomination was healed in 1869, the New School had already begun to support the denomination’s mission board.

Western Pennsylvania has always been an important supporter of denominational mission, and strengthened by churches from the United Presbyterian Church of North America that joined the denomination in 1958, it has a strong record of missional engagement in Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Pakistan, and other nations. This region has contributed some of the great Presbyterian pioneer missionaries, such as John C. Lowrie in India, John Kelly Giffen in Sudan, and Don McClure in Ethiopia. All of these graduated from one of the progenitors of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, which continues to emphasize mission in its program.

*Congo missionaries William and Lucy Sheppard, Althea Edmiston, and Joseph E. Phipps (with Maxamalinge Sheppard) sitting in grass, circa 1905, American Presbyterian Congo Mission (PCUS). From William H. Sheppard Papers. Courtesy of the Presbyterian Historical Society.*



# Better together

Each member of the body of Christ has a vital role in God's mission to the world

By Hunter Farrell



In recent decades, a seismic shift in the understanding and practice of mission has opened the door to direct involvement of U.S. Presbyterians at unprecedented levels. As globalization has increased international communication, travel, and awareness, U.S. Presbyterians haven't waited on the denominational offices to engage in mission—they've gone themselves! Researchers estimate that 2.2 million Americans traveled on international short-term mission trips in 2008. There are signs that the Holy Spirit is calling the church to a broader understanding of partnership at the dawn of a new chapter of mission history.

## World mission: a story in three chapters

The story of Presbyterians' involvement in God's mission to the world is a long and beautiful one that can be understood in three chapters.

### Chapter 1:

Beginning in 1837, the Presbyterian Church's Board of Foreign Mission sent missionaries into the world to preach, teach, and heal. In Brazil, Congo, Egypt, China, and other countries, mission workers planted churches and helped them grow into witnessing, serving communities. Thousands of women and men came to faith in Jesus Christ as U.S. Presbyterians, sent by our denominational mission board, took the gospel around the world. This first chapter of Presbyterian mission history was a good and faithful response to God's call to our church at that time.

### Chapter 2:

In the 1950s and '60s, Presbyterian communities in other nations multiplied and matured. The developing world's clamor for self-determination in the waning years of the colonial era grew. U.S. Presbyterians discerned a movement of the Spirit and reformed the church's mission policy to respect the role of national Christian communities and their leaders in what was previously considered "the mission field."

General Assembly offices began working with churches around the world in the spirit of partnership, turning over the reins of leadership to them and empowering the national churches to serve their communities through ministries

of evangelism, health, justice, education, and development. Since then, the churches in Korea, China, Sudan, Ethiopia, Congo, Brazil, Mexico, and many other countries have exploded in growth, adding millions of members to the Church of Jesus Christ.

### Chapter 3:

In 1960 Presbyterians worked primarily through one centralized international mission agency. Today there are literally thousands of Presbyterian "mission agencies": congregational mission committees, international presbytery partnerships, and numerous Presbyterian mission organizations. This new context requires that, in addition to continuing to partner with churches around the world, Presbyterian World Mission partner with congregations and church members in the United States who are involved in God's mission.

## The need for networks

The changes in how the church does mission have brought positive effects: more widespread involvement, increased giving, and more opportunities for personal growth in discipleship and transformation.

Global partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have pointed out several problems, nonetheless:

- Mission efforts have become highly uncoordinated. For example, three congregations arrive at the same Central American community for a work trip.
- Mission outreach is less strategic. In a given year, for example, perhaps a hundred Presbyterian congregations take a mission trip to tourist-friendly Kenya, but only a few to neighboring Sudan, a poorer and less-evangelized nation with a longer history of relationship to the PC(USA).
- In some cases, mission projects are less responsive to the needs as perceived by the overseas local community. U.S. congregations offer what they have, which is sometimes not what the partner needs.

The rising tide of collaboration comes none too soon: in this age of rapid globalization, the causes of poverty and injustice often reach across national



borders. To truly make a difference, Presbyterians must coordinate their work with each other and with the church's global partners.

In many cases, global partners are unable to address the root causes of particular problems in their countries without the witness and advocacy of U.S. Christians.

Our partners request mission co-workers to fill positions that demand a long-term commitment and proficiency in the local language and culture. They need theological professors, primary and secondary school educators, physicians, community health and development specialists, and other highly skilled professionals to work for years rather than days or weeks. In fact, every year Presbyterian World Mission receives many more requests for mission personnel than we can fill. We celebrate that God continues to call people to work cross-culturally, and that every year new people enter Presbyterian mission service. However, too many of our partners' urgent needs go unmet simply because there are not enough dollars in our budget.

### How you can step into the circle

These challenges can be overcome, however. The more Presbyterians give, the more mission co-workers we can send and support. We are committed to being good stewards of the relationships we have built, the legacy we have inherited, and the funds we receive. Presbyterians can give with confidence, knowing that their gifts are wise investments in a ministry with a record of excellence and a commitment to a holistic understanding of the gospel. We are focused on making a long-term difference, working in partnership and grounding our efforts in cultural knowledge and sensitivity. These are the hallmarks of Presbyterian World Mission, characteristics that have been shaped by the hand of God.

Equipping the church for mission is a priority alongside sending mission personnel and empowering the global church as the three major functions of Presbyterian World Mission. We equip congregations by:

- Assisting nearly 40 mission networks that bring together people who share a common international mission interest.
- Offering numerous training opportunities

including Webinars, conferences, Web-based and printed resources, an online wisdom community ([missioncrossroads.org](http://missioncrossroads.org)) and podcasts.

- Helping congregations and presbyteries in their partnership relationships and consulting with them as they visit with partners and engage in mission projects. Some of our mission personnel spend the majority of their time in this role.
- Joining with grassroots Presbyterians and global partners to create "communities of mission practice" that are guided by prayer, Bible study, reflection and worship. They address critical global issues together and develop a body of shared mission knowledge and practice. A growing number of mission networks, international presbytery partnerships, and other programs provide concrete examples of this emerging phenomenon.

Presbyterians are increasingly aware that God's mission is not dependent on the World Mission offices, nor is it independent of them. Rather this third chapter of mission history is one of profound interdependence, where all members of the body of Christ bring to the common table all they have and offer it to God's mission. Presbyterians doing mission as the body of Christ can testify, "We're better together!"

*Jacob and Aliamma George serve alongside global partners in South Sudan, assisting in Community Health Evangelism (CHE), which transforms individuals and communities by integrating community-based development, evangelism, and discipleship.*



# Dallas II

## October consultation to create collective impact for mission

By Judson Taylor

This October, 250 mission leaders will gather in the Dallas area for an important mission consultation that seeks to shape concrete, measurable strategies for addressing life-and-death issues of poverty, reconciliation among cultures of violence, and witnessing to the good news of God's love through Jesus Christ.

The consultation, called "Dallas II – Better Together: Collective Impact for God's Mission," will take place in Dallas, October 5–7, 2012.

*Faithful discipleship  
in a globalized world  
requires us to focus  
our attention on  
women and children,  
and to support  
communities as they  
mobilize to address  
the root causes of  
poverty.*



Participants are expected to include the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Church's General Assembly Mission Council, and leadership from the Outreach Foundation, Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship, the Medical Benevolence Foundation, Presbyterian global partners, and other Presbyterian mission organizations.

"With the strategies developed at Dallas II, all Presbyterians will be invited to join hands to make a collective impact, bridging geographical and theological divides, and witnessing to the transforming love of Jesus Christ," says Hunter Farrell, Director of Presbyterian World Mission. "Many Christians believe that God calls us not only to encourage and train one another in daily obedience to God's will, but corporately to reveal God's grace in places of suffering and need, to resist the forces that tyrannize, and to support the forces that restore the dignity of all people as God's children so that the gospel is most fully proclaimed."

Farrell admits that addressing the critical global issues of poverty, evangelism, and reconciliation might seem like impossible issues to tackle, but in fact countless Presbyterian churches, mission

organizations, and individual Christians have been addressing these very issues in various ways.

"It's a little like mission work in general: in recent decades, a seismic shift in how we understand and practice mission has led to direct involvement of U.S. Presbyterians at unprecedented levels," Farrell says. "Millions of Americans participate in short-term mission trips each year. Presbyterian mission organizations are relating directly to national churches, presbyteries, church institutions and individual congregations abroad. But is all that mission activity necessarily effective? Is there adequate broad cross-sector coordination in order to address these critical global issues?"

Based on what World Mission has heard from global partners and our mission workers, there is a feeling that, in many ways, Presbyterian churches are less than effective in mission. "We often engage in God's mission by sending costly 'mission teams' to paint — and sometimes re-paint — churches and community centers, bring gifts, and organize Vacation Bible School complete with photo ops."

Farrell asks us to imagine what it would look like if a core group of church leaders agree to put aside individual agendas for gospel change and agree



*The church, imperfect as it is, remains one of God's instruments to share God's love through a multi-faceted witness to millions of people around the world.*

to collaborate on concrete strategies for the three critical global issues. "What if those same leaders went back to their congregations, presbyteries, and mission organizations with a commitment to work together, smarter, for collective impact? The impact would be phenomenal—women and children freed





BETTER TOGETHER  
**DALLAS II**  
Collective Impact for God's Mission

from poverty's grip, many people introduced to God's love, and violence reduced. And our own U.S. congregations will find renewal, a shared sense of purpose, and greater unity in a time of significant conflict. In order to make a real difference in the world, we need to work together."

Farrell says that Christian leaders across the global south are saying that while short-term missions and partnerships are important, their people are struggling with life-and-death issues. "They are asking for our help to address them," he says.

"Dallas II – Better Together" follows in the footsteps of the historic Dallas Consultation in 2008 that brought together leaders from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Presbyterian groups engaged in mission around the world.

At the first Dallas consultation, 64 people from across the church and around the world gathered to build greater trust and coordination among PC(USA) "mission initiators," mission supporters, and the GAMC ministries; and to identify and agree upon the "benchmarks" (core values) and consequent "mission practices" that should characterize all Presbyterian mission work.

Participants signed a document called "An Invitation to Expanding Partnership in God's Mission" at the conclusion of the Dallas consultation.

That invitation includes a covenant to live and serve together and a commitment to work cooperatively. The participants also pledged to celebrate diverse Presbyterian approaches to mission, to share responsibility for education and preparation of all Presbyterians for mission, and to seek and support more mission personnel.

The Dallas continuation committee is a small group responsible for continuing the vision of the first Dallas consultation. They created a second shorter, focused statement derived from the principals of partnership and mutuality embodied in the first Dallas consultation. "Doing Mission in Christ's Way" outlines the values that run through faithful and effective mission practice.

"At the first Dallas Consultation, it became clear that we are in the middle of a sea change in the way God's mission will be done across the world," says Rick Ufford-Chase, moderator of the 216th General Assembly and a facilitator at Dallas II.

"Since that gathering four years ago, our partners around the world have named the critical global initiatives that will define our work together for the next 50 years. Simultaneously, our church structures in the United States that have defined how we do mission together in the world for the last fifty years are changing dramatically. Taken together, these trends offer an opportunity to open ourselves to the



movement of God's spirit and to follow that spirit in new directions."

Dallas II is an attempt to take the next steps into this new way of doing mission together. "We are inviting participants to be consultants in this process in order to do mission collaboratively with other Presbyterians," Ufford-Chase says. "We need to be willing to cross firmly entrenched boundaries to do the work, and to seed a new movement for mission that is likely to further our work in the world for the next 50 years."

According to Farrell, "this consultation is about having the vision to dream of something new and different, and the commitment to help make that dream a reality."

#### **Call to discipleship**

Learn more about Dallas II by visiting [www.pcusa.org/dallas2](http://www.pcusa.org/dallas2). Please join Presbyterian World Mission and Presbyterians across the country and around the globe by praying for the consultation and committing to become part of our vision to work together to make a collective impact in God's world.

*Violence is a threat to God's vision for a reconciled world, and it comes in many forms in our families, churches, communities, and societies.*

# Serving in Bangladesh

Drs. Cindy and Les Morgan emphasize building relationships in a ministry of healing

By Pat Cole

Making her bimonthly visit to a day center for street children in Bangladesh, Dr. Cindy Morgan saw 11-year-old Alamgir learning to write his name.

Though he struggled to form the letters correctly, Cindy was impressed with the persistence of the unschooled boy. His father, a rickshaw puller, died of cancer four years ago, leaving Alamgir's mother and six children with no means of income.

Alamgir moved from his rural home to Dhaka, a megacity of 16 million. He supports himself by selling scraps of paper to recyclers, hawking newspapers on the streets, and helping push heavy carts loaded with cargo.

At Jokhon/Tokhon Day Center, he and other children play games, eat a nutritious snack, and participate in educational activities. Thanks to the encouragement of Cindy and a third grader who has recently reenrolled in school himself, Alamgir has now started school.

The center, which serves 400 children annually, is jointly sponsored by the Church of Bangladesh and a local nonprofit organization.

At the center, "Dr. Cynthia," as she is known in Bangladesh, sees lots of colds and skin ailments. She also treats wounds sustained in the rough-and-tumble life on the streets. Yet she brings more than medical care to the clinic. "I delight in affirming them as children who are precious in the sight of God," Cindy says. "Despite the hardness of their lives, many of them treasure a deep assurance of

God's love for them."

In addition to seeing patients, Cindy and her husband, Les, also a physician, consult with the health programs of the Church of Bangladesh. It's a small church, but Les says they do remarkable work in the poor, mostly Muslim country.

Financial resources are few, but Les says the ministry of healing should be built on relationships rather than money. He points out that early in Jesus' ministry he sent out his disciples to proclaim God's kingdom and told them not to take "money or even a staff, bag, bread, or extra tunic."

"One of the greatest challenges of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is its wealth," Les says. "It would behoove our church to listen carefully to what Jesus has told us. Put money in its proper place and bring to the forefront what Jesus gave us, his power and authority to be in relationship with a hurting world."

At clinics in some of Dhaka's most impoverished neighborhoods, Les works with limited medical supplies. If a patient needs more treatment than he can provide, he sends them to the nearest hospital along with a note. The referral, he says, will help them get special attention from a Bangladeshi doctor.

"There aren't Christians living in the area where we do clinics, but we help the church reach out to Hindu and Muslim neighbors and express to people the love of God," Les says.

## » Learn More

Support the Morgans' work in Bangladesh and read their letters at [www.pcusa.org/les-and-cindy-morgan](http://www.pcusa.org/les-and-cindy-morgan)



*Les and Cindy Morgan have served in Bangladesh since 1989.*

*Photo by Richard Lord.*





## Teaching English and sharing God's love

By Sharon Bryant, PC(USA) mission co-worker in Thailand

*Sharon Bryant was appointed as coordinator of Christian volunteers with the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT) in January 2011. She helps place volunteer English teachers in 25 schools supported by the CCT, orienting and equipping the volunteers, visiting them and the schools regularly, and ensuring the overall smooth functioning of the Christian Volunteers Thailand Program. By expanding English offerings, the CCT hopes to strengthen the church's witness as it gives Thai students an important tool for success in academia and international commerce. Sharon learned to love Thailand while growing up there as the child of Presbyterian missionaries.*

"It will be like a tsunami," says Ajarn Thanom Pinta, director of the Office of the Education Ministry of the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT), speaking of the flood of English that will immerse Thailand when ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) opens its borders to form a union in 2015. "We are not prepared for it, and we desperately need more English-speaking Christian volunteers to serve as English teachers." I am tasked with finding these volunteers for the 26 Christian schools of the CCT. The need is critical.

Many of these schools were started by Presbyterian missionaries more than 100 years ago to teach literacy and to offer a Christian education to Thai children. Even today, more than half of the 60,000 students who attend CCT schools are not Christian. The teachers in these Christian schools have the opportunity to share their faith and help

these Thai children learn about Jesus Christ.

In the 50 years since the first volunteer arrived in Thailand, thousands of Thai children have learned of the love and grace of God through those who come to teach English. Many of those children now are the leaders of the church today—pastors, teachers, evangelists, and officers. And those volunteers who have come to serve have been blessed as much as those they serve, for they return home with a new heart for mission and eyes opened to the challenges faced by those who do not know Christ and by those who serve Christ in this predominantly Buddhist nation.

### Let us pray

Gracious God, thank you for the volunteers you have called to share your love with the children of Thailand. May each seed that they plant blossom into wondrous ministries of your church, bringing your light and your love to each corner of this land. For we ask this in Christ's name. Amen.

### Call to discipleship

If you, or someone you know from your congregation, small group, or Sunday School class would like to prayerfully consider answering God's call to go and make disciples, consider becoming a volunteer English teacher in Thailand. Visit [www.teachingenglishinthailand.org](http://www.teachingenglishinthailand.org) or contact Mienda Uriarte, area coordinator for Asia at [mienda.uriarte@pcusa.org](mailto:mienda.uriarte@pcusa.org) for details.

*Sharon Bryant places volunteer English teachers to work with students at Jane Hayes Memorial School. Photo courtesy of Sharon Bryant.*

### » Learn More

Support Sharon Bryant's work in Thailand and read her letters at [www.pcusa.org/sharon-bryant](http://www.pcusa.org/sharon-bryant)



*Pastor Tom Rice teaches a young Haitian boy how to play pinochle.  
Photo by Jessica Reid.*

## Connecting through mission in Haiti

**"I've seen God at work here, and it's inspiring."**

*By Jessica Reid*

"I want to be a witness to what the Haitian people are already doing through God's spirit," pastor Tom Rice said while sitting on a porch in the rural area of Hinche, Haiti. "I've seen God at work here, and it's inspiring. I want to witness to other churches when I return and celebrate and support Haitians."

Rice was part of a small mission group of four people from Royal Oak (Mich.) Presbyterian Church that traveled to Haiti in February 2012. They decided to make the trip following a visit to their church from mission co-worker Mark Hare.

Hare shared the impact of his work with the Farmers' Movement of Papaye, known as MPP or more formally as Mouvman Peyizan Papay. MPP is a longtime partner of World Mission. Through MPP's programs, Hare has been helping Haitian farmers since 2004, sharing as well as learning new practices to grow more food on small tracts of land. The work of MPP helps more Haitians become self-reliant. Through small-scale farming,

they're able to feed their own families and provide a livelihood for themselves by selling what's left.

Royal Oak members learned about Hare's work with Presbyterian World Mission. The congregation supported him through donations to World Mission for many years. In 2011, Royal Oak asked Hare to come and speak to them. After hearing Hare's story of how working alongside Haitians was a spiritually nurturing experience, several church members wanted to help.

"The [World] Mission Network is so important because it provides a connection and way for us to help," Rice said. "It matters because this is a way for us to be deliberate in our mission and what we're called to do through Christ's love."

"We did mission work on the Gulf Coast, but when Mark came and spoke, I knew I wanted to do a mission trip outside the U.S.," noted Trish Sheen, a Royal Oak member who also traveled to Haiti. "When you're on a mission trip, you're actually living out what Christ teaches us."



Two young adults—Mariana Haughey, also a member of Royal Oak, and her friend, Leila Sears—made up the rest of the small mission group.

Hare took time to acclimate the four to their surroundings, introducing the mission group to farmers in Hinche who were eager to share how well their crops were doing and discuss ways to improve their yield. The group helped with some agriculture projects, visited a new eco-village (four additional villages are being funded by the Presbyterian Haiti Response Team), and were shown how the farmers are using tires as containers for growing more food, a project Hare spearheaded in Hinche. But the group had another focus: dental care.

Hare had asked Royal Oak members to think about what skills they might have that could help the people of Haiti. Haughey said she knew immediately what she could do.

“When Mark [Hare] spoke to our congregation, I started thinking I could do something to help by using my skills as a dentist,” Mariana Haughey said. “So I started asking other dentists if they had items to donate or could help.”

Sears, who is training to be a dentist, offered to assist her friend. They brought suitcases filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste, and other supplies, including several puppets.

“So, let me see. I brush from top to bottom, back and forth, and I brush my tongue, and I brush the inside of my teeth. Is that right?” Rice asked

a packed room while kneeling behind a table and holding a puppet.

With the help of translator Jessie James, the four mission workers put on a puppet show for parents, teachers, and children to explain the basics of dental care and why it’s important in disease prevention as well as keeping your teeth healthy. They even came up with a song that was translated into French Creole, the native language of Haitians.

For members of the mission group, the trip was not just about helping others but about living out their faith and getting to know Haitians.

“It’s important to take five minutes and think of someone else,” Haughey said. “Think how it would be for you if it were you. We all need help sometimes. Christ wants us to help each other.”

“They are opening their hearts to us as much as we are to them,” Sheen added. “Every time we give, whether through donations or by volunteering, we are enabling all of God’s people to help themselves.”

“Unfortunately, we in the United States know very little about who Haitians are and how beautiful their culture is and how faithful they are,” Rice said. “We are called to be witnesses and take part in what God is doing with and through the people of Haiti.”

What skills do you possess that might help others in Haiti and elsewhere? Connect with our Haiti Mission Network and learn how you can help spread God’s love through mission service. Visit [www.pcusa.org/groups](http://www.pcusa.org/groups) for details. You may also contact Maria Arroyo at [maria.arroyo@pcusa.org](mailto:maria.arroyo@pcusa.org).



*Haitian students watch a puppet show put on by members of Royal Oak Presbyterian Church.*



*Photos by Jessica Reid.*

*The missionaries from Royal Oak Presbyterian Church visited an eco-village that provides housing, livelihood and community to families displaced by the 2010 earthquake. Donations to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance are funding four of these villages.*

#### » Learn More

Support Mark Hare's ministry and read his letters at [www.pcusa.org/mark-hare](http://www.pcusa.org/mark-hare)



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# Global Kaleidoscope

*By Catherine Cottingham*

## Update on ministry with Mexico

There are many PC(USA) members committed to ministry in Mexico, and many sisters and brothers in Mexico who would like to continue partnering with PC(USA). World Mission is discerning how to do this. World Mission is helping the Presbyterian Border Ministry sites through a participatory evaluation to see how to continue their ministries. Most likely, Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar will continue their work with Frontera de Cristo. Andres Garcia and Gloria Salazar continue serving with Puentes de Cristo. We ask you to keep these processes in prayer.

## Tumekutana 2011

The Tumekutana conference, held in 2007 in Kenya, was a first-of-its-kind event at which women from diverse African countries discussed common issues and how they empower each other as Christian women to improve their lives and the lives of the women lead. Last fall, Tumekutana 2011, meeting in Rwanda, focused on strengthening the capacity of women to address violence in their cultures and their countries while allowing them to share about their own situations and be heard by sisters from around Africa. Fifty-three women from 18 African nations and the United States participated. The women wrote a conference Testament, which says in part: "We commit ourselves to set up strategies for mobilizing women to support each other and speak out with a common voice against all forms of injustices so that as women we can reclaim our God's giving place in creation."

## PC(USA) partner honored for peace efforts

Rev. Mitri Raheb, Palestinian pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem and a partner of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), was one of four recipients of the 2011 German Media Prize in February. The award recognizes his individual work and Palestinian churches' efforts for peace. In 2010 Raheb spoke at the PC(USA) pre-General Assembly conference on peace in the Middle East. Raheb's congregation and the Diyar Consortium, which he leads as president, have an outreach ministry to thousands of individuals and families in Jerusalem and other parts of the West Bank who live under Israeli occupation. Read more: [www.pcusa.org/rahebaward](http://www.pcusa.org/rahebaward).

