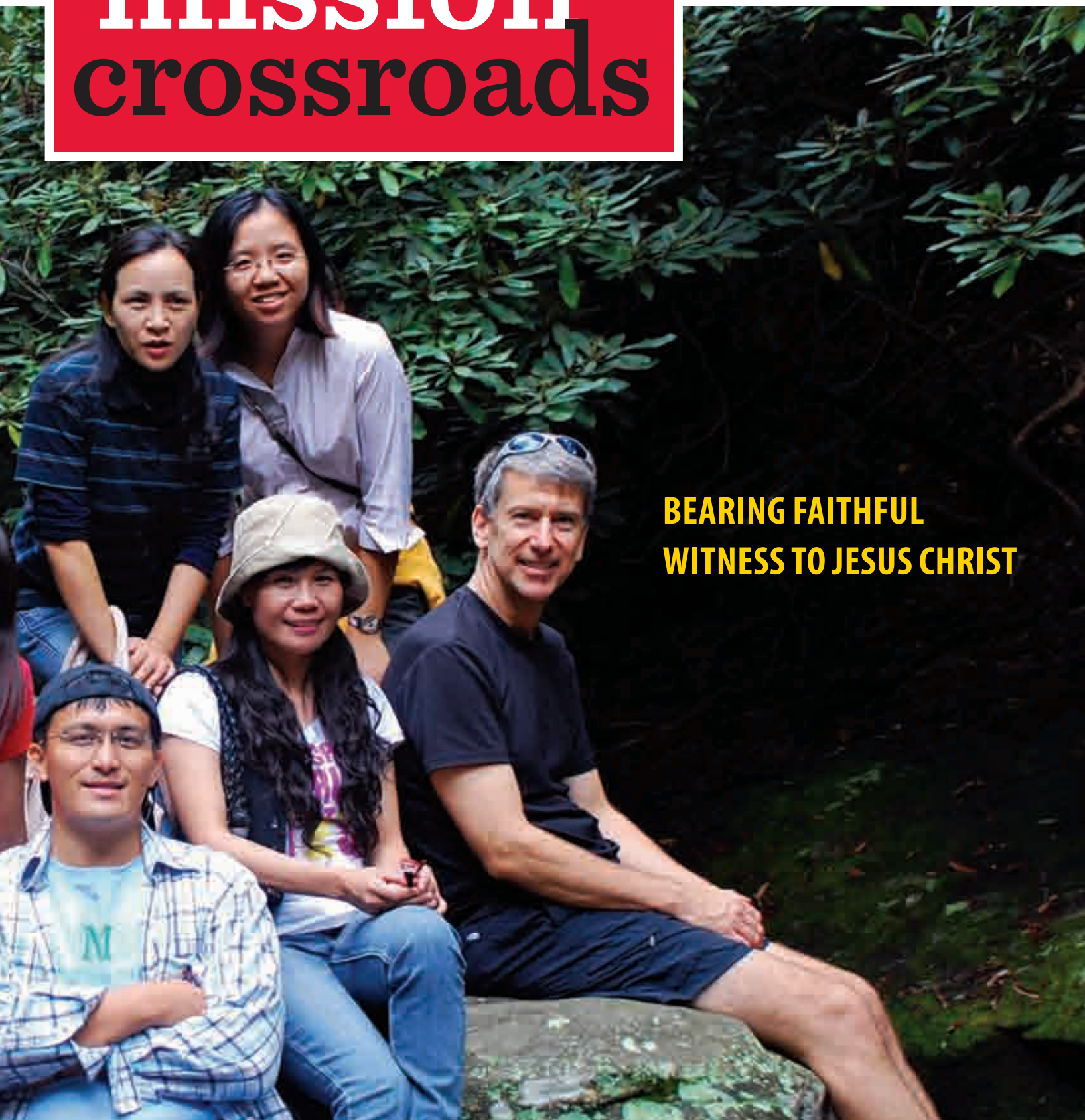


# mission crossroads

[www.pcusa.org/missioncrossroads](http://www.pcusa.org/missioncrossroads)



**BEARING FAITHFUL  
WITNESS TO JESUS CHRIST**

**WORLD ROUNDUP / BEARING WITNESS IN TAIWAN / SHARING CHRIST'S GOOD NEWS  
GOOD NEWS FROM PAKISTAN / CONGOLESE TEACHERS FOLLOW IN CHRIST'S FOOTSTEPS / + MORE**





Hunter Farrell

## A Change of Heart

Twenty years ago, two Congolese colleagues and I traveled for three months in a Chevrolet Impala in eight PC(USA) presbyteries, sharing with 66 congregations about mission work in the Congo (then Zaire). We had worked together at the Presbyterian seminary at Ndesha (Democratic Republic of the Congo) for several years, and as we itinerated across the presbyteries, we shared stories of poverty and hope, oppression and liberation, and sensitive, culturally appropriate pastoral care resulting in church growth.

After this exhausting, exhilarating mission marathon of Sunday worship services, midweek Bible studies, women's circles and more potluck meals than you can count, one of my Congolese

companions looked at me and asked, "We've talked with hundreds of Presbyterians in these weeks, and we haven't heard one person share about what God has done in their life. Why is that?" I was speechless.

Over time I realized that our society was much more secularized and that most Christians found it difficult to talk about their own faith, about prayer and about God's power in their life. The thought of actually sharing one's faith with another person — well, that was more than a little awkward. Yet through mission experiences, I watched Congolese and Peruvian sisters and brothers share their faith easily at work, at school, on the road. For them, it was merely telling the story of what God had done in their life.

Our church, like most American denominations, has shifted its emphasis to a short-term mission focus, opening up the possibility for thousands of congregations to engage directly in mission. Yet most short-term mission teams work exclusively in ministries of compassion that meet physical needs — construction projects, programs for children, the distribution of eyeglasses. Very few teams engage in evangelism in distant contexts. Our global partners have shown us that attention to physical needs is important — but it's not enough. "The abundant life" that Jesus promised us touches all aspects of life together: body, soul and spirit.

Mission is not exclusively about acts of compassion or the prevention of violence or fighting poverty. In fact, poverty alleviation by itself can merely empower some community members to oppress others unless there is a change of heart as well. This change of the heart is the mark of all those who have responded to God's offer of forgiveness in Jesus Christ. It's the change that transforms the proud into humble servants, the self-satisfied into the Christ-centered.

Our partners remind us that we are the church, called to do something that secular non-profit organizations — and even some faith-based ones — cannot do: share the wonderful news of God's love in Jesus Christ for all people. This is why World Mission has listened to our partners, mission workers and Presbyterians across the country and is lifting up this critical global issue:

"Together with other members of Christ's body, we will share the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ."

Won't you join us?

In Christ's peace,  
Hunter Farrell  
Director, Presbyterian World Mission

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

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

### EDITOR

Judson Taylor

### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Shellee Layman

### CONTRIBUTORS

Terri Bate, Kati Cannon,  
Pat Cole, Catherine  
Cottingham, Hunter Farrell,  
Bethany Furkin, Michael  
Parker, Jan Sullivan, Judson  
Taylor, Rob Weingartner

For free additional copies,  
contact Presbyterian  
Distribution Service at  
(800) 524-2612 and request  
PDS 11145-11-002.

To be added to  
the mailing list, call  
(800) 728-7228, ext. 5343.

### ABOUT THE COVER

Mission worker John  
McCall takes a break with  
some of his students during  
a hike in Taiwan. He served  
as a seminary professor  
from 1996 to 2009.



General Assembly  
Mission Council



# Bearing Faithful Witness to Jesus Christ in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

By Rob Weingartner

God is at work in the world in amazing ways as Jesus' followers bear faithful witness to him.

Take Ethiopia, for example, where in the last fifty years the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, our partner there, comprised of both Presbyterian and Lutheran synods, has grown from 50,000 to 5.6 million members. As the late Harold Kurtz put it, "The Holy Spirit is out of control!"

When I asked a group of Mekane Yesus leaders how they accounted for their church's dynamic growth, they immediately affirmed that it was the work of the Holy Spirit. When asked what that work looks like in the life of their congregations, they replied, "People say we pray a lot because we are so poor."

I had to think about that for a while. How does a radical, prayerful dependence upon the provision of God in a context of great need drive the growth of the church? Paul Pierson, dean emeritus and Senior Professor of History of Mission and Latin American Studies at Fuller Seminary, describes the context in which new Christian communities are arising around the world this way: "Often they are born in situations of poverty, persecution, and corruption in which the Gospel is heard as incredible good news, a word of hope and meaning to people who have lacked both.... They take seriously the powerful work of God today and the victory of Jesus Christ over evil and death."

The Ethiopian leaders went on to describe how they have been a persecuted church and that were it not so, they would be more careless.

The Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba has known persecution, too. Yet when the Cuban constitution was changed from atheist to secular and some of the controls on the churches were relaxed, faithful followers of Christ began reaching out in new and creative ways. The Cuban churches are growing as new people come to faith in Christ.

Part of what characterizes Cuban believers' witness to the gospel is the way they hold together proclamation, compassion and justice as essential dimensions of Christian witness. Too often we in the U.S. have fallen into debate about whether evangelism (words) or acts of compassion (deeds) are more important. It is a false, debilitating debate. As retired missionary and professor Sam Moffett reminds us: "Without deeds the good news is scarcely credible. Without the word the news is not even comprehensible."

The church is not growing everywhere, and for the most part the places where the church is in decline are places where the church enjoys comfort and prosperity. So it was encouraging to me to see the recent example of the Presbyterian Church of Korea, a PC(USA) partner in a relatively prosperous context.

The PCK felt that their church was flagging in zeal for evangelism and needed a revival of the passion that has marked them through the years. PCK Moderator Sam Whan Kim called for what he termed a "Three Million Souls Movement"

to move the number of active participants in the PCK from 2.7 million to 3 million. A national campaign was held, beginning in November 2008, with special meetings in churches, presbyteries and among groups of men, women and young adults. A former moderator, the Rev. Dr. Young Ro Ahn, was the coordinator of a campaign that was grounded in prayer and focused on building relationships that would become bridges for bearing witness to Christ. The PCK reached its goal early last year, two and one-half years ahead of schedule!

As we work with our global partners to help build their capacity for evangelistic witness, whether they are in situations of explosive growth or in settings where the witness to the gospel is threatened, and as we share in reaching out to unreached peoples and unbelieving neighbors, we can learn from our partners. Their faithful example can help us to discover what respectful, holistic witness to Christ can look like in our own communities. And that is important because it is now just as likely that a young person in one of our suburbs does not know the gospel as a young person in much of the rest of the world.

The first Great End of the Church remains "the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind" (*Book of Order*, G-1.0200). Our privilege as Christ's witnesses is well expressed in the 201st General Assembly's (1989) wonderful definition of evangelism — "joyfully sharing the good news of the sovereign love of God and calling all people to repentance, to personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, to active membership in the church, and to obedient service in the world."

In his final words to the disciples Jesus says, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

That makes sense to me. As our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world consistently remind us, there is only one thing to do with good news—share it!

---

*Rob Weingartner is the executive director of The Outreach Foundation of the Presbyterian Church.*

*The Outreach Foundation of the Presbyterian Church is a Validated Mission Support Group in covenant relationship with the General Assembly Mission Council of the PC(USA). Its mission is to engage Presbyterians and global partners in proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Learn more at [www.theoutreachfoundation.org](http://www.theoutreachfoundation.org)*





# World Roundup

By Catherine Cottingham



**A**cross (Association of Christian Resource Organisations Serving Sudan) is one of the three designated recipients of Presbyterian Women's 2011 Birthday Offering. Two PC(USA) mission workers in Sudan work with Across: **Nancy McGaughey and Ingrid Reneau**. Through education and community building, Across works to end the intertribal violence that has ravaged southern Sudan for more than two decades. Read more [www.pcusa.org/birthdayoffering2011](http://www.pcusa.org/birthdayoffering2011)



**A**s **Joe and Hannah Kang** retire from mission service in 2011, they lift up examples of the fruit of their ministry at the theological seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (ELCROS): a 2005 graduate has been elected as a bishop of the Lutheran Church in European Russia; Joe's interpreter has been ordained and is taking over his teaching responsibilities in biblical studies; one of the first graduates was reappointed as rector of the seminary. Read more [www.pcusa.org/april11-kang](http://www.pcusa.org/april11-kang)



**A**manda Craft is working with a Faith Stories Project in Guatemala; through the use of drama and leadership development training, women are learning to share their stories, giving voice to their significant and meaningful experiences. Read more [www.amandacraft.wordpress.com/july-2010-newsletter-2](http://www.amandacraft.wordpress.com/july-2010-newsletter-2)

**B**ob and Kristi Rice were involved with a national youth conference held this summer in the village of Tshikaji, near Kananga, in the Congo. "Our hope," the Rices said, "was that this conference would be a 'shot in the arm' for youth in the church who often feel overlooked or without a voice. Those who attended went away feeling empowered and encouraged." Next year the plan is to hold regional youth conferences in each of the Presbyterian Community of Congo (CPC)'s 12 synods and empower the Christian Education directors and youth leadership in each synod to organize the conferences. Read more [www.pcusa.org/rice-august11](http://www.pcusa.org/rice-august11)

**T**he Rev. **Mienda Uriarte** has begun duties as coordinator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s mission work in Asia and the Pacific. Uriarte is a Presbyterian minister and a clergy member of Pacific Presbytery, with more than 25 years of experience working in the PC(USA) and other religious organizations. Prior to joining the PC(USA)'s World Mission department, she was the case manager for the Refugees of the World program at Kentucky Refugee Ministries in Louisville, Kentucky, where she successfully resettled more than 1,000 Asian, south Asian and southwest Asian refugees. Uriarte had also previously worked as Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministries at the PC(USA)'s national office.

"I believe Mienda will quickly fit in as a member of the World Mission team, having previously worked for the General Assembly Mission Council," said Doug Welch, World Mission's associate director



for mission partners and programs. “She brings her rich experience in the PC(USA) to this position, as well as her commitment to ministry to the poor and marginalized, opening up new ways for our work to take place.”

Uriarte received her Master of Divinity degree at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, and is working toward a Doctor of Ministry degree at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. She lives in Louisville with her husband Vince Patton.



**Janet Guyer**, Presbyterian HIV/AIDS consultant for southern Africa, works with partner churches in Malawi, Zambia and South Africa to broaden their response to the HIV/AIDS crisis. She says the HIV/AIDS pandemic has not only robbed children of their parents, it has robbed older parents of their adult children. She calls these parents the “older orphans” because, at an age when they would expect to be cared for by their children, they are parenting their grandchildren. Read more [www.mbfoundation.org/news.php?a=57](http://www.mbfoundation.org/news.php?a=57)



The PC(USA)’s International Health and Development (IHD) office is committed to helping Sudanese partners restore health services at Akobo. The service of **Dr. Michael Tut Pur**, a former “Lost Boy” and son of a Presbyterian evangelist, is highlighted in a short IHD video filmed at Akobo Hospital in south Sudan. View the video at [www.pcusa.org/internationalhealth](http://www.pcusa.org/internationalhealth)



**Mark Hare** and colleagues in the Farmer’s Movement of Papaye use discarded auto tires to help people increase food production for Haitian families. The tires are converted into miniature vegetable garden plots, which can grow a relatively large amount of food with a small amount of water. These tires and other innovative techniques helped extend a lifeline to Haitians who came to the Papaye area in the aftermath of the January earthquake. Read more <http://www.pcusa.org/may10-hare>

**Foyer de Dibindi** is a Presbyterian transition home for girls at risk operated under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church in Congo. It was built in 2000 when retired PC(USA) mission co-workers the **Rev. Bill and Ruth Metzel** returned to Congo as volunteers to help the local church community launch this ministry. Support comes from churches and individuals in Mbuji Mayi as well as Presbyterians in the United States. PC(USA) World Mission provides counsel through mission co-worker **Dr. Frank Dimmock**. Read more [www.pcusa.org/december12-boyd](http://www.pcusa.org/december12-boyd) and at [www.pcusa.org/march11-dimmock](http://www.pcusa.org/march11-dimmock)



**Amie Broadhurst and Richard Williams** serve as pastoral companions with the Presbyterian Church of Colombia. Typical of the Colombians they work with is “Roberto” (not his real name), a campesino, small farmer, and a leader of displaced people, whose life has been threatened. He has been targeted because he stands up for his rights and is showing others how to do so as well. Read more [www.pcusa.org/november10-broadhurst](http://www.pcusa.org/november10-broadhurst)



*Mission worker John McCall has taken three Taiwanese groups to Taize, Saone-et-Loire, Burgundy, France.*



## Bearing Witness in Taiwan

Mission workers John McCall and Jonathan and Emily Seitz help strengthen Taiwanese Presbyterians' evangelism efforts

*By Pat Cole*

After 13 years of Presbyterian mission service in Taiwan, John McCall has learned that being a good neighbor opens the door for effective mission.

"I love the way Eugene Peterson translates John 1:14: 'The Word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood,'" McCall says. "As Christians and mission co-workers, we are called to move into the neighborhood to live with and love the folks to whom we have been called. It's a privilege and a wonderful opportunity."

Later this year, McCall will go back to Taiwan, where he served as a seminary professor from 1996 to 2009. His ministry will be multifaceted, but it will center on strengthening and growing the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan (PCT). The church has started an evangelism campaign called "Each One, Bring One." Taiwanese Presbyterian leaders realize that successful, flourishing congregations need passionate and effective pastors, so they have invited McCall to travel throughout the country helping pastors form intentional communities of mutual support.

"The goal is to help nurture visionary, joyful and faithful pastors who are going to have a lifetime of ministry," McCall says. The groups, he says, will focus on prayer, Bible study and mutual encouragement. In a country that's only 3 percent Christian, outreach can be challenging and the possibility for burnout among pastors is high.

McCall says a "renewed sense to serve again" in Asia led him to leave the pastorate of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, North Carolina, to return to mission service in Taiwan.

John's duties will include some part-time teaching at Taiwan Theological Seminary, a PCT school in Taipei. At the seminary, he will join another Presbyterian mission worker, Jonathan Seitz, a professor who has served in Taiwan with his wife, Emily, since 2009. The seminary supports the PCT's aspirations for numerical growth.

"I admire the students' depth of faith and their enthusiasm about sharing their faith," says Seitz, who teaches missiology. "The larger church is tackling major social changes as it seeks to welcome a new generation to the faith."

Seitz says the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan grew rapidly from the 1940s to the 1970s. He notes three major factors leading to growth:

- A denominational campaign called the “Church Doubling Movement”
- The rapid conversion of aboriginal people who live in rural areas of Taiwan
- Rapid population growth; Taiwan grew from 3 million to 21 million in the 20th century

“Politics probably affected things too,” Seitz says. “Chiang Kai-Shek’s army had occupied Taiwan (after its defeat in mainland China), and the church had long been an institution for Taiwanese identity. It also offered one of the few forms of acceptable public gathering, and, on a few key occasions, advocated on behalf of the Taiwanese people.”

However, changing times have presented challenges for growth in the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan. “The Presbyterian Church here,” Seitz says, “is primarily a rural church, while Christianity seems to be growing faster in the cities.”

In addition, population growth has slowed tremendously. Taiwan has one of the lowest birthrates in the world. “This isn’t all bad, but it changes the picture of a local church,” Seitz says. He notes that a small church with five or six families that might have had 20 children in Sunday school a generation ago now may have only a handful.

Aborigines are moving to the cities in increasing numbers to find work. The exodus from the rural areas has been accelerated by earthquakes in 2009 that left entire villages covered in mud.

McCall, who worked extensively with aboriginal people during his previous service in Taiwan, will be helping the PCT in outreach efforts among urban aborigines as well as those living in villages. The Taiwanese government recognizes 14 aboriginal ethnic groups. An estimated 65–70 percent of them are Christians. The aborigines compose about 25 percent of the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan.

Aborigines are community-oriented and generous, McCall says. “They share with their neighbors. They have no word for thank you (in their languages). Sharing is taken for granted.”

In the cities, they find life much different from in the villages. “They live in high-rise apartments and they work long hours,” McCall says. “They often do construction and factory work, although some have good jobs and educations. New immigrants to the cities have low-paying jobs. Sometimes they have good bosses. Sometimes their bosses take advantage of them.”

In the cities, aborigines continue to maintain the identity of their ethnic group and usually worship with members of that group. Some, however, worship in churches that include various aboriginal groups. Still other aborigines fail to identify with any congregation after moving to urban areas.

“When the lure of the city calls, sometimes the flame of faith can begin to die out,” McCall observes. Taiwan Seminary has developed a small Urban



Aborigines Center to help strengthen ministry with aboriginal city dwellers. “One of my students,” says Seitz, “is currently working on a study of some of the model Atayal (ethnic group) churches in urban areas, to try to understand what has helped them to grow in a challenging time.”

McCall says when he sees his former students at work he is encouraged about the prospects for the PCT’s future. A few years ago he took a student group to visit the ecumenical community in Taizé, France. Tachus, an aboriginal student, met a young man from Lithuania named Linas. Tachus told McCall that he felt led to help Linas get back to Lithuania since Linas had hitchhiked for four days to get to Taizé. McCall knew that Linas probably had more money than Tachus and told him that it was a wonderful thought, but that Linas would probably find a way to get home.

The next day Tachus told McCall that he had prayed about it and that God wanted him to make an offering to help Linas. McCall said, “If God told you to make an offering, you should do it.” Tachus replied that wasn’t all that God told him. McCall asked what else God had told him. Tachus replied that God also wanted McCall to make an offering. “So often my students become my teachers,” McCall said.

Tachus is now a pastor and that same generous spirit is at work in his ministry, McCall says. He serves in a village that struggles with poverty and a high rate of alcohol abuse. McCall has visited the community where Tachus works and was impressed with how well he and his wife related to every age group and segment of society. “He walks in the village and visits with both church members and non-church members.”

Seeing the potential for ministry in every place is a characteristic of many aborigines, McCall says. “Their passion and their depth of faith could help evangelism in Taiwan,” he emphasizes. “They have a wonderful gift to share with Taiwan and the world.”

*An aboriginal group playing music together. Taiwan Seminary has developed a small Urban Aborigines Center to help strengthen ministry with aboriginal city dwellers.*



# World Mission Sharing Christ's Good News

By Catherine Cottingham and Judson Taylor



*Bob and Kristi Rice are mission workers with the Congolese Presbyterian Church (CPC).*

## In Congo...

Bob and Kristi Rice are mission workers with the Congolese Presbyterian Church (CPC), Bob serving as a consultant in Christian education and evangelism. In this role he has an opportunity to visit many different parishes and regions. In every location he finds one particular need—Bibles, with songbooks a close second. The problem is that the price of a Bible makes it prohibitive for most of the population. In a visit to one of the rural Pastoral Institutes, students training to be pastors often do not have a Bible of their own. The CPC has expressed a priority and hope for reinstating a subsidy program to make Bibles available, especially in the rural regions of Kasai. Bob says the challenge as twofold: first, finding funding to subsidize the cost of Bibles; second, ensuring that Bibles reach the rural regions of Kasai.

The CPC Department of Evangelism is working to share the gospel “in each town, village, family and individual heart,” Bob says. Its aim is to increase the number of parishes, to bring inactive Christians back into the church, and to invite each Christian to feel personally responsible for building up the church.

*Rev. Leith Fujii teaches English and assists with a program for lay theological training.*

## In Thailand...

Rev. Leith and Carol Fujii serve in Bangkok, where Leith is an instructor in theology and evangelism at the Bangkok Institute of Theology (BIT). He also teaches English and assists with a program for lay theological training for the Church of Christ in Thailand, and both Leith and Carol are involved in outreach ministries with Thai congregations. Their students at BIT are growing in a vision for “unreached” people groups. Instead of sending a member abroad in 2010, the mission team chose to focus their time and energy in a “diaspora” ministry to internationals studying in Thailand. Some Thai churches are also catching a vision to minister to international students. One BIT student, Pim, who will be serving on the staff at a local church when she graduates this year, also desires to continue reaching international students for Christ.

The Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT) has been involved in evangelism throughout its history. In addition it has ministries to AIDS patients and to people in slum areas, to express to them the love of Christ.







*Tim and Marta Carriker  
serve in Florianópolis,  
Brazil, with the  
Independent Presbyterian  
Church of Estreito.*

## In Brazil ...

Tim and Marta Carriker serve in Florianópolis, Brazil, with the Independent Presbyterian Church of Estreito, where Tim is part of the pastoral team and Marta is involved in a ministry with women. They have been meeting in small cell groups in homes during the week. Each member is encouraged to testify to friends and later disciple those who come to faith. After a while the groups are modified to include others and to keep the number of people up to 14. Another group, which Tim supervises, focuses on non-Christians in the neighborhood called Campeche,

On Tuesdays at the church Marta meets with women, many of whom are not yet Christian, for crafts. During their coffee break she leads devotionals that focus on relationships with God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and one another. "Through this ministry," she writes, "we have seen change, for which we are grateful to God at work in us. Some examples are Z., who is feeling much better from her depression and compulsion and is now bringing others to the group, and D, who told us we are her only friends and who also brought her mother to the group. This week R. shared with us about her alcohol-dependent husband and we prayed for them. Prayer is an important part of these devotionals."

Tim has published a number of books and articles on missiological and biblical themes in Portuguese, and he travels throughout Brazil conducting continuing education seminars for pastors and teaching in theological institutions. The Carrikers have a special interest in preparing

the Brazilian church to do mission in other countries.

## And in other areas ...

The Presbytery of the Northern Coast of Colombia gives priority to evangelism by training evangelism enablers who assist Christian communities to work within their own neighborhoods.

This work in at least six northern cities has borne fruit in 15 new churches. The School for Evangelists anticipates starting 41 new churches.

Evangelicals in the Middle East are tiny minorities within minorities. Most churches suffer from a sense of isolation and abandonment. Through the Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches (FMEEC), these partner churches are supported in their commitment to sharing the gospel in their societies.

## To support mission workers with your financial gift:

- go to [www.pcusa.org/give](http://www.pcusa.org/give)
- call (800) 728.7228, ext. 5611
- send a check to:  
PC(USA)  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

## To contribute to the general sending and support needs of Mission Personnel:

*(Your gift to this program gives World Mission the ability to use your gift where it can make the greatest impact)*

- In the memo of the check write E132192 – Second Mile Missionary Support.
- To support specific mission co-workers, write their name in the memo line of the check.

# Congolese Teachers Follow in Christ's Footsteps

By Jan Sullivan



Second grade classroom in a rural Congolese school.

*Due to the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its government's lack of support for education, its Presbyterian schools are in critical need of durable buildings; books; teacher training programs; scholarships; and vehicles. A group of U.S. and Congolese Presbyterians have joined forces to raise funds for these schools by forming the Congo Education Excellence Project (CEEP). Join them!*

**"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching," (Matt. 4:23)**

Christian educators in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and across the world have dedicated themselves to teaching others, much like Jesus taught his followers. These teachers have been (and are) one of the primary reasons Christianity has flourished. Teachers in the Congo need support more than ever, if Christianity is to continue to spread and if Christian leaders are to be developed for the Congo.

When American Presbyterian missionaries arrived in the Congo in 1891, educating children and transcribing Tshiluba into a written language were two of their highest priorities. They wanted to teach about Christ. Congo's first Presbyterian school was built by Sheppard and Lapsley shortly after they arrived in West Kasai. Some of their first students were ransomed slave children.

As a result of the seeds planted by these early educators and because of the Congolese dedication to education, there are now 834 Presbyterian schools in the Congo educating over 160,000 students in five provinces — Bandundu, Bas Congo, Kinshasa,

West Kasai and East Kasai. These schools are usually on the grounds of churches, and work cooperatively with the churches to provide the best education they can. The challenges are immense. Teachers walk great distances to school. They work without books and the children have almost no books. They have no teaching materials, deal with leaking classroom roofs and hold at least two jobs because the government's pay is so low.

When we — Tom and Jan Sullivan with Caryl Weinberg, then PC(USA) co-worker — first visited Congolese teachers in their classrooms in 2003, we were stunned by their lack of resources, but also inspired by these teachers who managed 50 to 75 students per class with improvised blackboards, rags for erasers and notes from their own school years for curriculum guides.

Bibich, a high school science teacher, told us how she walks to school before dawn, teaches biology, anatomy and chemistry without books for herself or her students, leaves school for the market to sell palm oil, walks home to prepare dinner for her



children (which she buys with the few pennies she earns at the market), pays school tuition weekly with some of her food money, borrows a book to prepare lessons and then starts the whole process over the next day. She seemed very weary.

In 2007 and 2008, Congolese education leaders (working with a team of U.S. educators) developed the Congo Education Excellence Project (CEEP) to provide textbooks, teacher training, motorcycles, durable buildings and scholarships for girls and orphans.

In August 2011, these Presbyterian educators met again in Kinshasa and Kananga to review progress on the CEEP's initial goals, to develop a comprehensive teacher training program for all 834 schools and to learn to write grants for educational improvements. These educators also met with USAID and UNICEF to urge support for the Presbyterian schools of the Congo.

There is hope for the Congo's schools and their teachers, because U.S. Presbyterian individuals, churches and organizations are donating time and money to the schools. Grants are also being written, including a recent one by Gwenda Flethcher to the Presbyterian Women for a High School Girls' Empowerment Project and another by Bill Sager to Oregon and Kananga Rotaries for textbooks.

Many educational goals have been met since 2008, including the provision of:

- Some teacher textbooks, teacher education programs, motorcycles and durable buildings for primary and secondary schools (over 500 schools still need renovations or rebuilding);
- Strategic planning meetings for Congolese education leaders;
- Attendance of education coordinators at the 2010 eLearning Conference, Zambia;
- Annual planning meetings of the CPC's education coordinators
- Government accreditation for 145 schools;
- School scholarships for orphans and girls;
- Equipment for women's microenterprise education programs;
- Medial supplies, buildings and administrative support for hospitals and clinics where medical education occurs;
- Transportation for Congolese educators to come to the US to strengthen education partnerships; and
- A computer center in Kananga to improve communication and computer training for pastors and educators.



*Congolese teachers thanking the Presbyterian Women for a grant that made their teacher training institute possible*



*Curriculum guides provided for teachers by funds from the First Presbyterian Church of Evanston to the Education Excellence Project*



*Mulunguyi School in the Congo being constructed with a grant from the Presbyterian Women*

## Help build strong education programs in the Congo

1) Come to the Congo Mission Network Conference in Norfolk, Virginia, October 6-8, 2011 ("Empowerment Through Education in the Congo") to hear Congolese speakers explain how education is and will transform the Congo. To register, visit [www.congopartners.org](http://www.congopartners.org). If you are reading this story after the conference, visit the website for a report on the conference outcomes.

2) Congregations seeking to make a measurable impact in the lives of Congolese children can contact Tom or Jan Sullivan about ways to become involved in or donate to the Congo's Education Excellence Project – [sull1300@comcast.net](mailto:sull1300@comcast.net). — or donate directly to the Congo Education ECO accounts of the PC(USA).

*Jan Sullivan is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Evanston, Illinois, and chair of the U.S. Congo Education Excellence Project Team.*

# Presbyterian Education Strengthening the Global Church

By Michael Parker

Presbyterians have a long tradition of founding educational institutions and supporting theological education in many countries of the world in order to train leaders and build the local capacity of churches. From Forman Christian College in Pakistan to McGilvary Theological College in Thailand and Nile Theological College in Sudan, we have gained a reputation for educational excellence. Approximately a quarter of our current mission co-workers are engaged in theological education, either teaching in formal settings in colleges or seminaries or less formal settings in churches or whatever venues are available. The following are a few of the many examples that might be highlighted.

## Marta Bennett – Teaching Christians to Lead Amid Conflict

In a continent known for its political and social strife, Marta Bennett teaches pastors, church leaders and also government officials essential principals of good leadership and conflict resolution. While professors sometimes find that students are not engaged in their classes, this has not been Marta's experience. She writes, "The wonderful challenge is to get through the planned topic each day; the participants are so highly engaged and interactive that yesterday half of the three-hour class was gone before I realized we had only made it through my first PowerPoint slide of the day."

After receiving a M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in educational leadership from Seattle University, Marta worked as a parish associate for twelve years before traveling to Kenya to serve as a Presbyterian mission co-worker at Daystar University in Nairobi. In 2006, after twelve years as a professor, with some of these as department chair, she became the new chair of postgraduate leadership studies at Nairobi International School of Theology (NIST). NIST was established in 1981 by Campus Crusade for Christ International to provide graduate and post-graduate education for pastors and Christian leaders and educators.

She also teaches leadership skills at conferences and training sessions in other locations in Africa. Recently she taught at the International Leadership University in Burundi. In one of her letters home she wrote that her course on Conflict Transformation

and Reconciliation Processes was attended by "the first vice president of the country (of the current opposition party), several former cabinet ministers, peace negotiators, UNESCO staff, pastors, journalists and more. "The students were mostly Burundian, but there were also others from Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Marta's ministry is much needed and greatly valued by Christians and others in Africa who wish to see their leaders guide the continent into a just and peaceful future.

## Bernie Adeney-Risakotta – Working for Inter-religious Peace

While on sabbatical from the University of California at Berkeley in 1989, Bernie Adeney visited Indonesia and fell in love with its beautiful islands and diverse people. Indonesia is an archipelago of 17,508 islands, of which about 6,000 are populated. These equatorial islands lie south of Vietnam and north of Australia. The most populous island is Java, which has 58 percent of the population. There are about 300 distinct ethnic



*Marta Bennett teaches pastors, church leaders and government officials essential principals of good leadership and conflict resolution in Africa.*



*Bernie came to Indonesia as a mission co-worker in 1991 to help establish a graduate program at a Christian university.*



groups native to these islands, and 742 different languages and dialects. Eighty-six percent of the population is Muslim, which makes it the largest Islamic country in the world. Some 9 percent are Christian, 3 percent Hindus, and 2 percent Buddhists.

Within this rich diversity, with all of its potential for cultural flowering as well as violent interaction, Bernie came as a mission co-worker in 1991 to help establish a graduate program at a Christian university that would study how religion affects Indonesian society. In 1996, in addition to marrying Farsijana Risakotta, he became the assistant director of the Graduate Program in Theology at Duta Wacana Christian University at Yogyakarta. Six years later he began to teach courses at the State Islamic University and at Gadjah Mada University. In 2006 he was instrumental in bringing these three institutions together – one Christian, one Islamic and one secular – to form the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies in Yogyakarta (ICRS-Yogya). Its purpose was to create a Ph.D. program in interreligious studies.

As Bernie recalls, “ICRS-Yogya was just an idea held by a group of Muslim and Christian professors from different universities who trusted each other. This was the initial miracle that made it all possible.” Until last year he was the director of the consortium, and now, having completed his term of service, he will continue as a faculty member and as the institution’s International Representative. With thirty-five faculty members and forty-six doctoral students, the consortium is well poised to be a potent influence for peace in Indonesia and the surrounding countries.

## Tom Harvey – Training Doctoral Students for the Global South

One of the commonest requests Presbyterian World Mission receives from its global partners is for professors to serve in seminaries, colleges, and universities. Ph.D.s are much coveted in the Global South, but they take years to obtain and often are far beyond the financial reach of most people and many churches. Moreover, even when dedicated students and funding sources means are found, the students often lack the technical skills to work at the doctoral level. Nearly thirty years ago a solution was found in the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies (OCMS), in Oxford, England.

OCMS is a graduate program founded for students from the Global South. It trains students in the research and writing skills necessary to do graduate-level work. It currently has about 120 part-time and full-time students who come from places as diverse as Romania, Kenya and Malaysia. Though

located in Oxford, the master’s and doctoral degrees it offers are validated and conferred by the University of Wales and its professional degrees by the City University of London. When the students complete their degrees and return home, they generally serve in graduate programs in their own nations and in the highest leadership levels of local churches.

In 2008 Tom Harvey was a PC(USA) mission co-worker serving as a professor of systematic

**Ph.D.s are much coveted in the Global South, but they take years to obtain and often are far beyond the financial reach of most people and many churches.**

theology and ethics at Trinity Theological Seminary in Singapore. At that time he was asked to become the dean of OCMS. Presbyterian World Mission agreed to second him to this Oxford institution, and he has served there since with great distinction. Noting the spring 2011 intake of new students from Africa, Asia and Latin America, Tom writes, “The great legacy of OCMS has been to take these very individuals and train them to be capable researchers who empower transformational mission globally. Indeed, our graduation rate exceeds that of most universities in the UK.” Tom, who was a delegate at the Edinburgh 2010 conference as well as the Cape Town 2010 Lausanne Congress, is also engaged in the world Christian community.

---

The three mission co-workers highlighted here are only a small sample of the scores of Presbyterian professors and lecturers who serve around the world in a variety of settings. Some teach in modest classrooms, such as those in Sudan where the blackboards are painted on the mud-cement walls and classes are sometimes suspended due to violence in the area. Others serve in nations in the Middle East and other regions that cannot be mentioned here because it would endanger their ministries and the work of the churches they serve. Many work in well-established institutions on a par with any in the West, while others work in nontraditional settings, in continuing education or leadership training programs that are held in churches and meeting halls and move from place to place. But in whatever setting they find themselves, Presbyterians excel in building the capacity of local churches through theological education.

---

*Rev. Dr. Michael Parker serves as the coordinator for International Evangelism, Presbyterian World Mission.*

# World Mission Matters Partner Conference at Big Tent 2 Creates Excitement about Critical Global Issues

The World Mission Matters partner conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 30–July 2, 2011, part of Big Tent 2, wasn't just another conference to attend—it was the beginning of a God-shaped movement around three critical global issues—core concerns raised by global partners, U.S. Presbyterians and mission personnel—that need coordinated attention.

If you want to know more about the critical global issues, visit [www.pcusa.org/criticalglobalissues](http://www.pcusa.org/criticalglobalissues)



Stories By Bethany Furkin, for Presbyterian News Service

## 'A new texture of relationship'

### World Mission Matters addressing three issues in mission

This is a time of remarkable mission work, but it's also a time of rapid decentralization, said the Rev. Hunter Farrell, speaking at a World Mission Matters lunch as part of Big Tent 2.

Farrell, director of the General Assembly Mission Council's World Mission area, said that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) now has 11,000 mission agencies — congregations that send mission workers and organize mission trips.

But often, mission agencies' best intentions are thwarted when they don't listen to feedback from their partners. For the past 18 months, World Mission has been carefully listening to its global partners about how to do mission in the 21st century.

Three central issues have emerged: the root causes

of poverty, reconciliation amid a culture of violence and sharing the love of Jesus Christ around the world.

Valéry Nodem, the Presbyterian Hunger Program's associate for international hunger, said that the church has the moral obligation and authority to fight poverty because it works alongside people every day.

The Rev. Sarah Henken, World Mission's regional liaison for the Andean region, asked attendees to imagine what the world would look like if we really dedicated ourselves to reconciliation.

Although governments and NGOs can and should provide aid, the church alone is called to share the good news of Jesus Christ, Farrell said. When working with unchurched people, it's important to be open, honest, respectful and humble when inviting them to see what God is doing.

Working with local partners to train leaders is also important. "God is calling us to begin a movement of God's people," he said, urging attendees to begin to "weave together a new texture of relationship."

*The Rev. Sarah Henken, World Mission's regional liaison for the Andean region, asked attendees to imagine what the world would look like if we really dedicated ourselves to reconciliation.*



## Speaking up for themselves

### Children of La Oroya, Peru, advocate for environment, rights

Two of the scheduled speakers for World Mission Matters' Friday (July 1) plenary at Big Tent were missing: Sherly Echevarria and Pamela Cinta Arzapalo Terrel, who work to bring awareness about environmental pollution in the Peruvian mountain town of La Oroya, were denied visas because they're single, poor women.



In their place was Esther Hinostroza, Echevarria's mother and a mentor to CAMBIALO, a children's group in La Oroya. Founded in 2010, CAMBIALO is a group of about 20 children who use radio, film, art and communication like Skype to fight for the environmental protection and decontamination of La Oroya.

The central Peruvian town is known as one of the 10 most contaminated cities in the world. It's home to the Doe Run Peru smelter, which emitted two million pounds of toxic emissions a day until it shut down in 2009. The soil and water remain contaminated, and more than 97 percent of the town's children have levels of lead in their blood that exceed the World Health Organization's limits.

CAMBIALO members are learning about the environment and their rights and are using Skype to communicate with students in the United States and Germany. They want to build friendships and make sure that the voices of those most affected by pollution are heard, Hinostroza said.

The fight to clean up La Oroya is ongoing, said the Rev. Jed Koball, a mission co-worker in Peru. It's important to carry on in a spirit of power, love and self-discipline while making sure the voices of children are heard, he said.

---

## Music is love

### Thai recording artist uses artistic gifts to share good news of Jesus Christ

Attendees at the World Mission Matters evangelism dinner and presentation at Big Tent were treated to a musical performance wrapped up in a story of one man's faith journey.

The Rev. Den Vichakyothin, a teacher at the Klongtoey Church of the Church of Christ in Thailand, is also an accomplished guitarist who has recorded several albums.

Five years ago, he began giving guitar lessons to students at the Bangkok Institute of Theology, which he once attended. Encouraged by the Rev. Leith Fujii, a mission co-worker and instructor at the school, Vichakyothin began also sharing about the love of Jesus Christ with his guitar students. He told them that their music was one way to serve God and encouraged them to let the Holy Spirit flow through their guitars.

Since he turned his music over to God, Vichakyothin has seen greater career success,

recording with Thailand's top record company. And he now gives free guitar lessons at the institute, introducing many people to Christianity.

Leith Fujii and his wife, Carol, were appointed as mission co-workers in 1998. Working in partnership with the Church of Christ in Thailand, the Fujiis see evangelism as a way of being rather than a "doing" activity, they said. This means living as witnesses among neighbors in a way that is open to relationships.

---

## In it for the long haul

### Reconciliation requires vision, commitment, Ireland peacemakers say

Reconciliation in cultures of violence requires vision and preparing for the long haul, said Presbyterians working for peace in Northern Ireland at a Big Tent plenary here July 2.

Northern Ireland's violent culture is fueled by fear, anger and resentment about past wrongs, said Doug Baker, a mission co-worker in Northern Ireland and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s regional liaison for Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Although it's small in relation to other violence in the world, the conflict between loyalists and republicans doesn't feel small to those living with it, Baker said. It's difficult for people to imagine a new reality because the move out of conflict is very slow.

The Rev. Elizabeth Hughes, pastor of Whitehouse Presbyterian Church in Belfast, spoke of reconciliation in the aftermath of church arsons, common in the area.

In 2002, Whitehouse was firebombed and reduced to a shell. The church is located in a "no mans' land" area of northern Belfast, where the neighborhood is a mix of Protestant and Catholic residents. After the church was attacked, the congregation witnessed a coming-together of the neighborhood.

"Early that morning, as the building was still smoldering, the whole community began to gather round," Hughes said, adding that they kept repeating, "the church is not the building. The church is the people."

Working for reconciliation means staying in for the long haul, Baker said. He paraphrased the late Archbishop Oscar Romero, saying that while we might not be around to see the tree fully grown, we still must plant and water seeds.

# Inspired to Give

## Moving stories from mission personnel stir Presbyterians' generous spirit

By Terri Bate

Some people walk more than 100 miles to receive the care offered at Good Shepherd Hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. While the hospital is by no means sophisticated by Western standards, it offers treatments not available anywhere else in the region.

Dr. John Fletcher, a Presbyterian mission worker, teaches and performs surgery there alongside Congolese colleagues. On a daily basis, he sees very sick children brought to the hospital by desperate mothers. Some are in critical condition, almost to the point of death, and others are in stable condition but have a congenital or other problem that can only be resolved through complex surgery.

"Often despite our best efforts in the provision of medical care we can only pray and grieve along with the family at the loss of their loved one," John

the work of our mission personnel and decide to support them with their prayers and financial gifts.

Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, N.C., is among many congregations that partner with Presbyterian World Mission in support of mission workers. Myers Park helps fund the Fletchers; Debbie Chase, a seminary professor in Malawi; and Jo Ella Holman, the regional liaison for the Caribbean. In 2010, the congregation contributed more than \$70,000 to mission personnel support.

"While financial commitment is important, we view outreach as a way to deepen our faith and be in relationship with friends around the world," says Elizabeth Little, global outreach director at Myers



## More and more Presbyterians see that by working together our church can present a powerful witness for the cause of Christ.

says. "Other times, through the grace of God and by God's healing power, we are able to save these patients."

John's wife, Gwenda, is an educator who works with Congolese partners to expand the capacity of church schools. Congolese teachers are paid about \$6 per month and often teach in classrooms that lack textbooks and teaching materials. Many work from notes that they kept from their school days and carefully write the lessons on blackboards. Parents struggle to pay the \$1 per month student fees.

The Presbyterian Community of Congo (CPC) has developed a strategic plan with goals aimed at improved buildings and equipment, textbooks for students at all grade levels, more teacher training, and increased enrollment and retention of female students. "It is my privilege to work with the Education Department of the CPC, helping to facilitate their efforts and increase their capacities as they strive to achieve the goals they have established," Gwenda says.

I am inspired by the stories the Fletchers and other Presbyterian mission workers share. I am also inspired when congregations and donors learn about

Park. "Our members see discipleship as more than a commitment of dollars – it is a passion for walking alongside others. The transformation that can occur is a true gift from God."

The good news is that not just large congregations like Myers Park make a difference in the world through mission personnel support. Congregations of all sizes have developed relationships with mission workers and pledged to support them through prayer, financial gifts and correspondence. In a collective show of solidarity for mission, 10 congregations (half of them with fewer than 100 members) from the Southwest Cluster of the Greater Atlanta Presbytery have pooled their resources for mission personnel funding.

These congregations have committed about \$6,000 per year to support Amanda Craft, who works in women's leadership development with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Guatemala. Amanda has been invited to meet with representatives of these congregations when she visits the United States next year.

"Mission is always close to the heart of the cluster congregations; but budget restraints have impacted





*Dr. John Fletcher, a Presbyterian mission worker, teaches and performs surgery there alongside Congolese colleagues.*

all of us and many of the ministries we long to support,” observes Jerry Ledbetter, a pastor in the Southwest Cluster. “Every session and congregation enthusiastically said ‘yes!’ to world mission, giving even our smallest churches renewed pride in their investment in Christ’s Great Commission.”

I am grateful for the growing support for mission personnel from congregations across our church. I also appreciate individuals who support mission workers with gifts over and above their contributions to their congregations. Individual Presbyterians in increasing numbers are stepping forward to support mission personnel.

Every gift to mission personnel, no matter the size, helps our church share the gospel in word and deed. More and more Presbyterians see that by working together our church can present a powerful witness for the cause of Christ. Dave and Jane Boxell, faithful supporters from Western Springs, Ill., tell us this is huge motivation for them. “Giving to World Mission allows us to express our concern and love to all God’s people, and we are able to participate in projects that one person, or even one congregation, could not accomplish on its own,” Dave says. “World Mission allows big things to take place from our individual and small contributions.

Retired Pennsylvania pastor Ed Brubaker’s commitment to World Mission has spanned his entire life. He accompanied his parents to mission conferences in the 1920s, and after retiring he and his wife, Dorie, served as PC(USA) mission volunteers in Trinidad from 1986 until 1988. Today the Brubakers contribute regularly to World Mission.

“How selfish it is if we think we can be Christ’s disciples and merely enjoy what he has done and is doing in us,” Ed says. “Share the Bread of Life! Don’t

just consume it!”

Thank you, Presbyterians, for gifts and prayers that enable the Bread to be shared. You are helping to feed a hungry world.

---

*Terri Bate directs the General Assembly Mission Council’s Funds Development ministry.*

## Presbyterian World Mission receives \$480,000 gift

For the fourth year in a row, an anonymous donor from the western United States has contributed a major gift to Presbyterian World Mission to help fund the sending and support of mission co-workers.

This year the donor gave \$480,000 that will partially support four mission couples and six individual mission workers. The gift also will be used to fund programs that help children of mission personnel face the challenges and opportunities of growing up as “third culture kids.”

“We are grateful for this donor’s tremendous commitment to supporting mission personnel and the donor’s concern for the well-being of the children who accompany their parents into mission service,” says Terri Bate, director of the Funds Development Ministry for the General Assembly Mission Council. “This gift is a testimony to the generosity of this donor and the effective work of Presbyterian mission personnel.”

# New Mission Co-workers beginning January 2011



**Sharon Curry**

Republic of South Sudan/  
Presbyterian Church of Sudan  
Regional Health and Development Consultant  
Home Church: St. Philip Presbyterian Church,  
Hurst, Texas



**Chenoa Stock**

Bolivia/Joining Hands for Life  
Facilitator for Joining Hands  
Home Church: East Liberty Presbyterian Church,  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
*Reassigned from service in Sri Lanka*



**Rev. Dr. John McCall**

Taiwan/Presbyterian Church of Taiwan  
Leadership Development Facilitator  
Home Presbytery: Salem  
*Previously served in Taiwan 1996–2009*



**Rev. Dr. Kenneth White and  
Carline St. Victor White**

Haiti/Various organizations in Haiti  
Facilitators for Presbyterian Response  
Home Presbytery (Kenneth): Tropical Florida  
Home Church (Carline): Three Angels Seventh-day  
Adventist Church, St. Joseph, Missouri



**Rev. Shelvis and  
Rev. Nancy Smith-Mather**

Republic of South Sudan/Resource  
Centre for Civil Leadership (RECONCILE)  
Peace Educators  
Home Presbytery: Greater Atlanta



**Rachel Weller**

Ethiopia/ Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus  
Clinics and Community Health Evangelism Facilitator  
Home Church: First Presbyterian Church,  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



## Christians Reach Broad Consensus on Appropriate Mission Conduct

“Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World: Recommendations for Conduct,” a five-page document on the conduct of mission “according to gospel principles,” was released during a public presentation on June 28 at the Ecumenical Center in Geneva.

The recommendations regarding respectful behavior on the part of missionaries, evangelists and other witnesses when sharing the Christian faith were issued following a five-year series of consultations among the World Council of Churches (WCC), the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue (PCID) of the Roman Catholic Church, and the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA). The document begins, “Mission belongs to the very being of the church.” The recommendations that follow suggest practical ways of engaging in mission while showing sincere respect for neighbors of other faiths. Read more [www.pcusa.org/news-consensus](http://www.pcusa.org/news-consensus)

## Religious Clashes in Egypt

Christian and Muslim clashes in Egypt in May left 12 people dead, 238 injured, and two Coptic churches in Cairo burned, according to state media. Amgad Beblawi, World Mission’s area coordinator for the Middle East, Europe and Central Asia, commented: “Though the January 25 revolution was organized and executed as a nonviolent movement, we should not expect such a change in the political system in Egypt (or elsewhere in the Middle East) to happen without incidents [such as these]. The road to a more democratic society will surely have ups and downs. I am particularly grateful that the role of Egyptian Christians has been mostly positive, participating side by side with Egyptian Muslims in peaceful pursuit of their rights.

“The witness of our mission partners in Egypt has been particularly uplifting and forward-looking. The leadership of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Egypt is actively participating in national civil dialogue and action to help guide the future of their country toward a democratic civil society



with freedom and justice for all. The Bible Society of Egypt has launched a campaign to help ‘Re-build Egypt.’ And the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS) is addressing the needs of many who have been most affected by the economic impact of the political unrest.”



## HIV/AIDS Training in South Africa

Jane Guyer, PC(USA) HIV and AIDS consultant for South Africa, is involved in a “Footprints” project of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in South Africa (EPCSA). Presbytery by presbytery they are doing HIV and AIDS training for representatives of all congregations. The representatives then return to their congregations and share what they have learned. Together with their congregations, they will also consider what their congregations can do to make a difference in their communities. Two of the seven presbyteries have been trained so far. Janet writes: “It has been a wonder how the training of just these two presbyteries has impacted the whole church. For example, the EPCSA has decided that all its congregations should do something to commemorate World AIDS Day [in December] as well as having a Candlelight Memorial Service in May.”

After visiting the Soweto church in South Africa, a Medical Benevolence Foundation development director reported: “People didn’t think they needed the Footprints program, but they’ve seen what an incredible difference it is making in this church, now known as the church that will take anyone. Other churches are clamoring to get the training in their presbyteries.”

*Egyptian Christians has been participating side by side with Egyptian Muslims in peaceful pursuit of their rights.*

## 500 Women Pray, Sing and Dance in Congo

The Presbyterian Church of Congo (CPC) celebrated International Women's Day with a day of prayer for women a few days before the international holiday in March. Bob Rice, PC(USA) mission worker, wrote in his blog:

"In each parish, women spend all night worshipping and praying in the church. In the morning, all the parishes meet together at one church in the presbytery. In the Presbytery of Kananga, it was an ecumenical gathering, including all of the Protestant denominations. At around 9 a.m. I heard women singing, with their voices gradually getting louder as they got closer. From our balcony I could see a group of perhaps 40 women singing and dancing down our road on their way to the meeting. They were coming from another parish, and in good Congolese fashion they added some dancing to the journey. . . . Groups of women kept arriving. At the height of the meeting there were more than 500 women there! Choirs from several different parishes sang, and there was a lot of 'audience participation' with shakers, cheering and singing along. Women shared how they had seen God at work in their lives in the past year. . . . Each woman had left her work or her family to come and worship. It reminded me again of the strength these women have to face the challenges of life with perseverance and hope."

## Mexico Church Severs Ties with PC(USA)

On August 19 the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico (INPM) made a decision to sever the historic 139-year relationship between INPM and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The decision was in response to PC(USA) actions

on Amendment 10-A regarding ordination standards. Hunter Farrell, director of Presbyterian World Mission, voiced his sadness in response to the decision: "We have a deep respect for the voice of international partners, because partnership is at the core of our understanding of Christ's mission around the world, so we have listened very carefully to the Mexican church leaders. We are grieved by their decision, but want to emphasize that we are grateful for their witness and our history together."

World Mission has 11 mission co-workers deployed in Mexico and the U.S.-Mexico border region. In addition, 18 presbyteries and 3 synods have partnership efforts in Mexico. The Presbyterian Border Ministry has been a joint effort of the PC(USA) and the INPM, involving 9 U.S. presbyteries serving in coordinated ministry across six sites. Many congregations have also been involved in partnerships and exchanges with INPM congregations.

A Webinar entitled "The Changing Landscape of God's Mission in Mexico: U.S. Presbyterians Respond" was held on Sept. 1 in which many related questions were discussed. A similar Webinar in Spanish was held on Sept. 16. Both Webinars may be downloaded.

The leadership of the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico, Presbyterian World Mission, and Presbyterian Border Ministry, meeting on September 8, reached an agreement that allows the INPM to keep faith with its decision and allows PC(USA) presbyteries and congregations to continue to respond to God's call to mission along the United States/Mexican border. Because the issues of poverty among women and children, evangelism and violence have emerged as World Mission's highest priorities, WM is committed to assisting the PBM sites and participating presbyteries (both Mexican and U.S.)



Mitri Raheb, a Palestinian Christian pastor and theologian who served in World Mission for six months, received the Lux Mundo Award.

## International Partner Honored

Mitri Raheb, a Palestinian Christian pastor and theologian who served in World Mission for six months as a visiting mission partner in 2003 and has attended several General Assemblies, received the Lux Mundo Award this spring. The awards, from Concordia College in Mequon Wis., honors individuals who have performed admirable community or humanitarian service. The pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem, he was one of the authors of the Kairos Palestine Document of Middle East Christian leaders.

Dr. Raheb lives in Bethlehem with his wife and two daughters. He is the author of eight books, including *Bethlehem Besieged*, which received the Spirituality & Health Award as one of the 50 best spiritual books published in 2004, *I am a Palestinian Christian*, and *Bethlehem 2000: Past and Present*. His article "Christianity in the Middle East: A Pluralistic Phenomenon" appeared in the September/October 2010 issue of *Horizons* magazine.



## Haiti Response Team Implements Plan

The Haiti Response Team (HRT) is made up of members of several program areas working within the PC(USA), including Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, International Health and Development, and World Mission. Together they will address the long-term needs and challenges in Haiti.

Before the catastrophic January 2010 earthquake, Haiti was already plagued as chronically food deficient, importing more than 60 percent of the food needed to feed its people. The earthquake intensified the poverty and hunger. The environment is so deteriorated that drastic measures must be taken to sustain the country's population. The Presbyterian Hunger Program has set up an account to help fund long-term recovery activities in Haiti, including small sustainable agricultural initiatives and small business development. To donate online: [www.pcusa.org/give/H000014](http://www.pcusa.org/give/H000014)

Our Haitian partners have prioritized their ministry and outreach efforts in the fields of education and health. St. Vincent's School for the Handicapped is the only one of its kind in Haiti, and before the earthquake it provided care and education for about 350 disabled children. Now the school can only safely manage 200 students. The HRT is assessing what is needed to rebuild this school to provide for the 350 disabled children who relied on it before the earthquake—and for an additional 150 children.

In addition to rebuilding Hôpital Sainte Croix (Holy Cross Hospital), the PC(USA) is providing support for the training of nurses in the area by focusing on rebuilding FSIL, the nursing school in Léogâne that is the only one in Haiti that trains RNs.

The HRT is also working to prepare two mission co-workers for receiving and coordinating missionary groups in Haiti—to begin accepting mission groups in March 2012.



*Lessage Sylvana, a member of a Presbyterian-supported food co-op in northern Haiti, proudly displays a recently harvested cassava-like root vegetable.*

in a thorough collaborative evaluation of its shared work and strategic planning for the future.

David Thomas, regional liaison for Mexico, has permission to remain in Mexico until his planned retirement in December. Susie Frerichs, mission worker in the rural, Náhuatl-speaking Presbytery of the Huastecas, Mexico, and recently married to a Mexican, Abraham Hernandez, will remain in Mexico and continue to work directly with the Presbytery of the Huastecas.

## Vision into Practice in Africa

Felicien Ndayizeye, a former Muslim and pastor of a growing church in Bujumbura, Burundi, graduated this spring from the Nairobi International School of Theology /International Leadership University (NIST/ILU) with a master of arts in leadership studies. At the graduation ceremony he spoke about putting vision into practice—something he himself modeled. When he and his wife began a new church, they determined to not receive any salary from the church. Instead, they invested in

two cars, hired two drivers, and have been running the cars as taxis, providing the support for their growing family as well as fees for his master's program in Kenya. Meanwhile they proceeded with the construction of a 1,500-seat sanctuary in Bujumbura and the establishment of an English Language Center.

During Felicien's two years in Nairobi at NIST, he and his wife continued to lead the church in Burundi and plant new churches in surrounding areas and countries. Felicien would travel home every few months to assist his wife and their ministry team and to have time with his family. At the same time he began meeting young men and boys in a nearby slum settlement in Nairobi and shared the gospel with them.

Felicien's future plans include building a secondary school and a vocational school in Bujumbura to enable especially those severely affected by the war to gain training and skills to assist in building the country. He is indeed one who models dreaming big and implementing the dreams with faith and energy in spite of setbacks and challenges.

Marta Bennett, Presbyterian mission worker, is chair of the Department of Leadership Studies at NIST/ILU.



## General Assembly Mission Council

100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202-1396

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Louisville, KY  
Permit No 1215

# Book Review

## A Proposed Truce for the "Evangelism Wars"

Frances S. Adeney, *Graceful Evangelism: Christian Witness in a Complex World* (Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic, 2010)

Reviewed by Michael Parker

For Dr. Frances Adeney, professor of evangelism and global mission at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Christians are divided by differing views of evangelism, embarrassed by the bad practices and theologies of charlatans, fearful that evangelism may be obsolete due to religious pluralism and relativism, and paralyzed by postcolonial critiques of mission that place missionaries on the wrong side of the struggle between the oppressors and the oppressed in third world countries.

The solution, Adeney writes, is to enlarge our understanding of evangelism. She resists compartmentalizing evangelism as the work of a single committee of the church, nor does she understand it in such a way that the proclamation of the gospel is merely assumed – but in practice often lost – amid a blizzard of social action.

Her understanding of the mission of the church is holistic and balanced: word and deed, proclamation and practice, local and international, gift giving and gift receiving.

Adeney gives five Bible-based models of evangelism, reviews evangelism as it has been practiced in several key historical periods, and introduces seven theologies of evangelism prevalent in the modern church. Adeney develops her own theology of evangelism based on witnessing to the kingdom of God and giving expression to the abundant life that Jesus came to offer everyone (John 10:10).

In her final chapters Adeney scans the changing landscape of the modern world and reviews the many evangelistic approaches available to congregations. Her message is that there is a cornucopia of evangelistic models before us from which we might learn and emulate. Moreover, in a time of transition, multiple tensions and uneasy paradoxes, we need to avoid judging one another. Rather, we should focus on discovering at least one among the many opportunities before us in which we might strive to be faithful to our own vision of evangelism. Adeney above all wants the church to find ways to share the good news that are contextual, meaningful and sensitive to others.

