

mission crossroads

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**MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN GOD'S
WORLD WITH PRESBYTERIAN
WORLD MISSION**



**CRITICAL GLOBAL ISSUES FOR OUR TIME / WORLD ROUNDUP / YOUR ROLE IN GOD'S
CALL TO MISSION / MANY LIVES, ONE MISSION / PARTNERS IN MISSION / + MORE**





Hunter Farrell

Critical global issues for our time

Did you know that...

- Women and children bear a disproportionate share of the burden of poverty today and the number of poor women and children is increasing, despite rising income levels in many countries. Who will work to address the root causes of this plague that weakens the hope of so many?
- Two-thirds of the world's people have never heard the good news of God's love in Christ in a way that makes sense to them in their language and culture. Who will share with them this transforming love?
- The texture of warfare has changed significantly in our lifetime: while 90 percent of war casualties in World War II were among enlisted forces, more than 90 percent of today's war casualties

are among civilians. Who will bring healing to the traumatized and work for reconciliation in a world where violence is glorified?

Imagine a secret society—2 million members strong—embedded in 10,000 communities across the most powerful nation in the world. Together, they speak a hundred languages, are one of the best educated groups in the country, can leverage powerful social capital from corporate boardrooms to the halls of Congress to professional associations across the country, and share a common perspective that is deeply rooted in their faith. They are teachers, doctors, factory workers, business executives, public officials, lawyers and social workers. They have deep, long-term relationships with trusted partners in churches around the world.

Imagine if this secret society—in an age of increasing individualism and societal fracturing—felt God's call to organize itself to make a significant, measurable impact on three critical global issues: addressing the root causes of poverty as it impacts women and children; witnessing to God's love in Christ together with other members of Christ's body; and working for reconciliation amid cultures of violence, including our own. The results would be astounding.

In this country and around the world, families would be freed from poverty's grip, people would come to know the good news of God's intention for a realm of peace and justice, and communities would be protected from the scourge of violent conflict. But, surprisingly, the impact would be just as transformative for the members of the secret society themselves: the members would find deeper meaning for their lives—they would find opportunities to live out their faith; young and old alike would come together in a heartfelt desire to make a difference in the world; even the divisions within their society would be seen through the lens of the unity that God's mission brings.

Through consultation with more than 1,500 of the Presbyterian Church's global partners, mission workers and congregational mission leaders, World Mission has heard a deep desire for all three groups to work together to form movements for justice, evangelism and reconciliation in the name of Jesus Christ. Over the next nine months we'll be planning the specific strategies and measurable objectives needed to address these monumental goals with Presbyterians across the denomination—and around the world. Please join us in prayer and in practice.

Grace and peace,
Hunter Farrell
Director, Presbyterian World Mission

Mission Crossroads
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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

Youth from Westminster
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West Chester, Pennsylvania
and Peña de Horeb at
Parque de Obrero, Valle de
Angeles, Honduras, during
a short-term mission trip
there in 2011.



General Assembly
Mission Council

How Mission Crossroads website brings the world together

By Gary Payton

Summer is past and so is the majority of our congregational and personal international mission travel. It's my prayer that relationships were deepened and partnerships as brothers and sisters in Christ were strengthened.

So, how can we stay connected? What tools are available across our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to help us share and learn from each other?

Let me introduce the Mission Crossroads website, a networked community for sharing mission stories, best practices and concerns in search of more faithful and effective mission engagement.

Most of us have heard of Facebook, a social networking site that has connected millions of people around the world. Well, Mission Crossroads uses social networking software to build a space for sharing about mission.

What's on it? Pathways to connect with others engaged in God's mission in countries around the world. A resource library filled with articles on improving our mission outreach. "God's Mission Matters," a monthly podcast from Presbyterian World Mission of faith stories about global mission. News from a host of mission networks: Guatemala, Malawi, India, Russia and dozens

more. Downloadable "Webinars" or Web-based seminars of mission topics. Blogs with the reflections of PC(USA) mission co-workers. And, much more!

Does this all sound too "techie?" My response is like that of the angel Gabriel, "Do not be afraid!" First, find the site: www.missioncrossroads.org. Second, sign up (red box, top right). Third, take your time and explore slowly all the possibilities for you or your congregation. Fourth, visit the Mission Crossroads website often to discover what is new and useful.

The Internet has created new ways for us to learn, to stay connected, and to be engaged in the world. Why not use that technology to improve the ways we Presbyterians "do mission in partnership?"



Gary Payton's ministry is a bridge between partner churches and other mission workers in four countries in Europe.

Gary Payton is a Mission co-worker and Regional Liaison for Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Poland.

A joyful Russia Mission Network conference

Gary Payton reports a "joyful" Russia Mission Network Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, in September. Meeting with the theme "Sharing Faith, Expanding Horizons," participants from the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of the Russian Federation and the Russian Orthodox Church joined mission network members, most from Presbyterian churches that have a "twinning" partnership with a church or parish in Russia or Belarus. "Voices and views of the Russian participants added greatly to the tips shared from several PC(USA) congregations."

The joy of the new came in multiple ways. **Alex Krutov**, author of *Infinitely More* and co-founder of The Harbor, shared his ministry experiences facing the challenges of the Russian orphanage system. **Marina Shishova**, a 2011 International Peacemaker and the first Russian Orthodox participant in the annual conferences, addressed "The Challenges of Modern Times (in Russia) and the Christian Response."

Highlights of the conference also included **Rev. Bob Bronkema**, recently concluding five years as pastor of the Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy, providing an overview of the chaplaincy's critical ministries of compassion, and a lively panel on "Technology in Partnership." Read more: www.pcusa.org/russiamissionnetwork11

World Roundup

By Catherine Cottingham



SOUTH SUDAN

Nancy McGaughey in South Sudan helps hold refresher training sessions for traditional birth attendants. “It is one of my favorite trainings,” she says. “The women are so eager to learn.” She tells about Martha, a birth attendant, giving a moving tribute at the closing of a training period, saying that she and her family had been changed by her training. The traditional birth attendants can now identify some of the women who are high risk and can refer them to clinics for help. As a result, fewer women die in childbirth—in a country with the highest maternal mortality rate in the world. Read more: www.pcusa.org/mcgaughey-july11



Debbie Blane, who had been serving as a lecturer in theology at Nile Theological College in Khartoum, in the north of Sudan, after a period of furlough and itineration in the United States this summer, has returned to a new location, in South Sudan. Nile Theological College was founded in 1991 by two Presbyterian churches, the Sudan Evangelical Presbyterian Church, which has its roots in Egypt, and the Presbyterian Church of the Sudan. It has provided training for evangelists and pastors serving both churches, in the whole of Sudan, and plans to continue as one college with two campuses, continuing in the North despite many challenges posed by holding its Arabic track in Khartoum. The English track has relocated from Khartoum to Malakal in South Sudan, where Debbie teaches.

TAIWAN

Choon and Yen Hee Lim work among aboriginal university students in Hualien, Taiwan. Most of the students come from Christian backgrounds, but as they have left their villages and gone to college, they have tended to leave the church. After more than a decade of service, the Lims have established ministries on campuses in and around Hualien. Once several student groups had been formed, Choon brought them together in the Hualien Aboriginal Campus Ministry. Among the many programs housed in the ministry’s mission center is a Gospel Coffee House that many non-Christian students come to for the free coffee, cakes and good conversation. Students from Hualien have been involved this year in street evangelism and such projects as a 12-hour worship service, which included moving student testimonies. Read more: www.pcusa.org/choon-june11



CONGO

Dr. John Fletcher, who works with the Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai and the Presbyterian Community of Congo, says grants from Presbyterian Women are making a big difference in the country. Presbyterian Women awarded the Presbyterian Community of Congo a 2011 Thank Offering grant that will fund a program designed to improve the employment prospects of Congolese high school girls by teaching them high-demand skills, in computers and English. The Education Department of the Presbyterian Community of Congo oversees more than 500 public elementary and secondary schools in the Kasai provinces. The 2011 Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study tells about Pastor Jacky of Bulape, one of the Presbyterian Community of Congo’s six ordained women pastors. Jacky conceived and oversees



a project for teaching basic literacy along with income-generating skills to illiterate women and teenage mothers. Presbyterian Women also awarded a Thank Offering grant to this project. Read more: www.pcusa.org/fletcher-june11



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

170 churchwomen from congregations around the Dominican Republic came together for their annual Women's Camp in August. This year's educational focus incorporated the theme "Peacemaking: Creating Cultures and Families of Peace." Jo Ella Holman, regional liaison for the Caribbean, explains: "So far in 2011, the news media report, 105 women have been killed by their domestic partners or ex-partners. The Dominican's Evangelical church's women are responding to God's call to peace and peacemaking in a society that is increasingly violent. This year's four-day Women's Camp focused on the problem of domestic violence and how the church is being called to respond—particularly through its women reaching out to women." The Dominican Evangelical church, the PC(USA)'s partner church in that country, is the oldest Protestant denomination in the Dominican Republic (and will celebrate its 90th birthday in 2012). The church's Women's Association has been an active force within the church and country since 1947.

KOREA

Simon Park traveled to Pyongyang in early July to visit Pyongyang University of Science and Technology. This was his first visit to the country, where both of his parents were born before the country was divided in 1945. The university is the first private school in North Korea to be underwritten largely by Christian groups in the United States and South Korea, educating top students in science, technology and management. Park wrote: "I was impressed with the vision, dedication and the quality of the students, faculty and administration. There is no question that the university operates within the tight domain allowed by the government authorities, but genuine care and education happens. Currently there are 500 graduate and undergraduate students learning English and technical subjects. Qualified teachers in electrical engineering, computer science, management and English are urgently needed. All instructors and staff serve as volunteers without financial compensation. I pray that these interactions with the future leaders of the country continue to grow." Read more: www.pcusa.org/park-july11



Dr. Michael Tut Pur (center), medical director of PC(USA)-supported Akobo Hospital, and Presbyterian mission co-worker Nancy McGaughey, RN, welcome a load of long-awaited medical supplies flown into southern Sudan.



Your role in God's call to mission

By Patrick Cole

While the world has changed dramatically over the past 175 years, the ministries of World Mission remain more necessary than ever. This age desperately needs the good news World Mission shares in word and deed. Its ministries are committed and focused. World Mission addresses the root causes of poverty, shares the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ, and works for reconciliation in troubled places around the globe.

Presbyterian World Mission does its work alongside global partners, a way of doing mission that is both faithful and effective. As Doug Orbaker, a mission co-worker in Nicaragua working with the council of Evangelical churches of Nicaragua (CEPAD), has said, "There are people in the community who say that while other groups come, visit and give more, more things, no one has given us the training and accompaniment in our own process of development that CEPAD has." CEPAD is among scores of global churches and institutions that are our partners in mission.

World Mission works alongside global partners, a way of doing mission that is both faithful and effective. It also helps PC(USA) congregations and presbyteries as they engage in mission partnerships and build relationships with Christian brothers and sisters around the world. Thousands of Presbyterians have come streaming out of the pews into short-term international service. Many of them benefit from participating in one of the nearly 40 mission networks and taking advantage of the resources and training it offers. World Mission also creates opportunities, both online and face to face, where grassroots Presbyterians can share best mission practices.

Not all of our partners' needs, however, can be



Doug Orbaker works with a council of churches in Nicaragua called CEPAD.

met through short-term mission service. Our partners continue to request mission workers who can make a long-term commitment and gain proficiency in the local language and culture. Our partners have urgent needs for theology professors, primary and secondary school educators, evangelists, physicians, community health workers, community development specialists and other highly

skilled professionals to work for years rather than days or weeks. In fact, every year World Mission receives many more requests for mission personnel than it can fill. World Mission celebrates 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' critical needs go unmet simply because World Mission lacks funding. World Mission interviews too many called and qualified Presbyterians who are kept from service due to financial restraints.

This challenge can be overcome. The more Presbyterians give, the more mission co-workers World Mission can send and support. World Mission is committed to being a good steward of the relationships it has built, the legacy it has inherited, and the gifts it receives. Presbyterians can give with confidence, knowing that their gifts are wise



Mission co-worker Christi Boyd serves as the companionship facilitator for the Joining Hands partner, RELUFA, in Cameroon.

investments in a ministry with a record of excellence and a commitment to a holistic understanding of the gospel.

It costs an average of \$83,000 per year to send and support one mission co-worker and \$138,000 for a mission couple. World Mission uses these dollars prudently to cover a variety of sending and support costs, including salary, housing, transportation, health care and continuing education. These funds also pay for pastoral care, security monitoring, recruitment, orientation and training, and language school. In addition, gifts given to support mission workers enable World Mission to build and nurture relationships with international partner churches and organizations that request mission personnel. They also help mission workers tell their stories across the PC(USA). Mission personnel interpret their work through letters (distributed online and through the mail), print publications, video productions,

and websites and by speaking in presbyteries and congregations.

Presbyterian World Mission invites you to give generously to the sending and support of Presbyterian mission co-workers. You can help ensure that this vital ministry remains strong and vibrant long into the future. Come alongside World Mission in its quest to seek Christ's justice, bear witness to Christ's good news, and work for Christ's reconciliation.

Individuals wishing to support Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission personnel financially should mail their checks to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Individual Remittance Processing, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700 or give online at www.pcusa.org/give. For further information, call (800) 728-7228, x5611. Congregations should send their contributions through their normal receiving site.

Texas elder supports ministry on the border

By Patrick Cole

Individual Presbyterians in increasing numbers are stepping forward to support mission personnel. One individual has chosen to support a mission worker with a gift over and above her contributions to her congregation.

Carolyn Hartnett, an elder at First Presbyterian Church in Texas City, Texas, learned of the ministry of **Chris McReynolds** through a letter from Presbyterian World Mission. Chris and his Mexican partners are determined to give children in the border town of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, a better tomorrow. The children live in a world of poverty and drug-related violence. Yet about 120 of them are pointed toward a brighter future every Saturday when they gather at churches to participate in music, art, games and Christian education programs.

The current situation in Nuevo Laredo, where shootings, abductions and roadblocks are commonplace, stands in contrast to Carolyn's experience growing up on a farm in Michigan near the Canadian border. She remembers her family's friendships with nearby farm families, and she remembers having no concern about safety when crossing the border into Canada. Moved by the work Chris is doing, Carolyn donated bonds worth more than \$100,000 to Presbyterian World Mission.

Editor's note: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission personnel assigned to Mexico and along the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border still need support as they continue in deployment and discernment. World Mission is committed to continue to answer Christ's call to serve alongside Mexican Christians in the wake of the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico's decision to sever ties. World Mission is also discerning new ways to work in Mexico and along the border, and expects to announce suggestions for future ministry in early 2012. Because the issues of poverty among women and children, evangelism and violence have emerged as World Mission's highest priorities, mission co-workers intend to continue serving. World Mission is also committed to assist Presbyterian Border Ministry's six local ministry sites and participating presbyteries in a comprehensive, collaborative evaluation of their shared work.

In the meantime, World Mission does not recommend that congregations plan any trips to Mexico for the time being, and giving accounts for projects with the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico will be closed. World Mission is speaking with donors about ways to redirect their gifts.

Many lives, one mission: dreaming together in global partnership

By Leslie Clay and Carl Agsten

Presbyterians do mission in partnership. This basic strategy has become a mature and effective way of doing mission in Nicaragua for 40 years through the global partnership of the PC(USA) and the Council of Evangelical Churches of Nicaragua (CEPAD).

CEPAD has partnered with Presbyterians since its formation in December 1972, just three days after the historic, devastating earthquake in Managua. Out of the 14 covenant relationships CEPAD currently facilitates, 13 are with PC(USA) churches or presbyteries.

As we write this, we are in the middle of a 12-state tour of the United States, visiting U.S. partners and sharing our mission stories. Many generous people are opening their homes and church doors to us, and the energy of this sharing is infectious. We have spent the past two years in Nicaragua as mission co-workers, learning to receive the wonderful hospitality of our Nicaraguan friends, and now in our own culture we can see that this God-given gift knows no boundaries.

For the first three weeks of our travels we have been accompanied by Anita Taylor, the Nicaraguan director of CEPAD's program for Brigades, Delegations and Partnerships. Anita and Leslie have preached together and presented the story of how their totally different lives have joined to begin a new story of cross-cultural mission. Together they facilitate the CEPAD Partnership program,

supporting the bonds made between churches in the United States and communities in Nicaragua.

The partnership between two congregations in Kentucky and the pastoral committee of San Carlos, Nicaragua, located in a remote spot where the giant waters of Lake Nicaragua flow into the Rio San Juan, has developed over 10 years and has thrived with commitment and communication from both sides of the border. The churches in Kentucky are the Community of Faith Presbyterian Church of Covington and the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Madisonville, separated by 200 miles but joined by a desire to accompany their brothers and sisters in San Carlos with annual visits to Nicaragua, mutual prayer, support of the Nicaraguan community's priorities and sponsorship of Nicaraguan visits to their churches in Kentucky.

Bill Lindsay of Covington is the logistical leader of the trips to Nicaragua, and has visited his partner community more than 10 times. In reflecting on the meaning of mission for him, Lindsay said: "As we engage with global partners, facilitated by mission workers, we are encouraged, even forced, to recognize that there are critical daily and ongoing needs of people that are far larger and more basic than our day-to-day wants at home. In partnership in the Rio San Juan region of Nicaragua, we realize that there are villages that don't have decent water, children who are not able to go to school for lack of acceptable clothing (uniforms), and individuals who go to bed hungry at night. It makes us look at needs and wants differently."

Mark Lee of the Madisonville congregation said that the experience of partnership is transformational in his life and the life of his fellow travelers. "If a person's sense of community is quite limited in scope, it is easy for one's own beliefs and practices to be seen as not only the norm but also the one true way," he said. "However, if one develops relationships in a broader community—relationships that value each person and recognize and celebrate differences as well as shared customs or traits—one can't remain provincial for long. My experiences with global partners have made me more aware that the world doesn't revolve around me or my country and culture. We all can learn so much from each other."

The work of individual partnerships has a broader significance as well. What seems like a personal experience becomes a blessing to the global body of believers as mutual understanding becomes

The children of San Carlos, Nicaragua, receive school uniforms through the support of their partners in Kentucky and the sewing cooperative in San Carlos.



the norm. Lee expressed it this way: “As we work together to achieve common goals, we hopefully start to see each other as children of God, as brothers and sisters. The barriers that too often separate us—ethnic, theological, political, socioeconomic—become part of our life stories that create interest, part of what makes us who we are, and cease being the walls they too often have been.”

“Christ is present in the faces of those we meet when we sing together in churches, dance together with children, break bread and drink coffee in the homes of families, and study the successes and challenges of other partnerships,” said Lindsay.

Partnerships in faith take many forms. As we visit congregations in the United States and share their experiences as well as our own, we realize that the relationship between these communities is made possible because partnerships have been a way of doing mission for many years. It is not always easy. As we partner together we are celebrating our oneness in Christ in a world that is in need of peace, in a world we are each called to serve. We are dreaming together. We are becoming familiar with each other’s rhythm and learning the pace of being together.

We are blessed to be in partnership!

If you would like a mission co-worker to visit your congregation, visit www.pcusa.org/missionconnections.

The Nicaragua Mission Network is one of more than 40 networks that connect Presbyterians who share a common mission interest. Most participants are involved in mission partnerships through congregations, presbyteries or synods. Network members come together to coordinate efforts, share best practices and develop strategies. Contact Maria Arroyo at maria.arroyo@pcusa.org for information.



Rev. Leslie Clay (second from right) and Anita Taylor, Director of CEPAD’s Nehemiah program for delegations and partnerships, join Ed Ramsey and Rev. Don McLaughlin (right) for World Communion Sunday in Madisonville, Kentucky.

Communities of mission practice

Presbyterian World Mission, in collaboration with U.S. Presbyterians and global partners, inspires, equips and connects in order to engage “communities of mission practice” in God’s mission.

Because the way Christians do mission has changed over the years, with a greater emphasis on partnership, World Mission leaders have begun to work intentionally in communities of mission practice.

Communities of mission practice are the spaces where PC(USA) mission participants, global partners and World Mission (including mission personnel):

- commit to interact regularly to learn and grow as a community
- come together to share an identity derived from a common mission passion
- are guided and shaped by the practices of prayer, Bible study, reflection and worship

Partners in mission: youth showing us the way

By Mark Wright and Greg Klimovitz

On our first day of orientation as PC(USA) mission co-workers, we learned the mantra “Presbyterians do mission in partnership.”

“Mission together,” they said. “In partnership,” they taught us. I (Mark) liked that. It rang true with what I had come to believe about the heart of mission. True mission means that as North Americans we don’t come with all the answers. We come when we are invited, not to bring God where God hasn’t been before, but to mutually share with others what we have learned about following Christ.

We arrived in Honduras at a very difficult political time for the country. During months of watching and learning, I saw North American church groups come and go, doing great work and full of good intentions, but I struggled to find the mutuality evident in true partnership. I asked myself: How much of what we do and promote is actually helpful in the long run—or are we subtly promoting

that he led underwent a significant paradigm shift regarding short-term mission trips.

“We had become disenfranchised by the conventional models of weeklong ‘service blitzes,’” he explained. “These swift and vigorous altruistic barrages, when gazed upon at a distance, appear beautiful, brilliant and powerful. Yet, much like the difference between lightning observed and lightning experienced by a golfer on the 18th, ‘service blitzes’ often elicit different reactions by the communities that experience short bursts of altruistic electricity.”

Instead, said Greg, “Our youth were eager to explore something different. We longed for pilgrimage. We were thirsty for partnership. We hoped to serve alongside and enter into community with youth in another cultural context.”

Greg and I met each other through Skype videoconferencing. During the ensuing months what was so amazing and refreshing to me about this Pennsylvania youth group was the fact that they were all willing to put in so much work in preparation for their trip. Not so much in logistical planning, as I usually observed in adult groups, but in learning—about themselves, about Honduras and the church here, and about mission in partnership.

Greg explains the process they went through:

“In the spring of 2010 the Imago Dei Youth Ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church began to discern a call and vision together about the nature of missional partnerships. We developed a Missional Experience Visioning Team and explored the biblical theme of mission—i.e., *missio Dei* (*Editor’s note: a Latin theological term that means “the mission of God” or “the sending of God”*), missional church paradigms and the pros and cons of our previous summer missional experiences. After numerous conversations, we agreed that what we desired was ultimately embodied in the vision and witness of PC(USA) World Mission, specifically the hopes and dreams of mission co-worker Rev. Mark Wright and the Presbytery of Honduras youth. At their invitation, we began to form our team and prepare for a July 2011 sojourn. Their first request: read through and wrestle with Fikkert and Corbett’s book *When Helping Hurts*, as a means to shed paternalistic habits typical of North American teams. (*Editor’s note: see the review of this excellent resource in this issue.*) So we did. Eager to pursue this potential partnership, we adjusted our posture and became listeners and learners versus planners and programmers.

“Our team of 19 let go of our lust for control and surrendered the agenda to our pending partners in



Mission co-worker Rev. Mark Wright (right) and Westminster Presbyterian Church youth director Greg Klimovitz

a crippling paternalism among the people we call our brothers and sisters?

I began to hear the same struggle voiced carefully and quietly from some of the pastors and leaders of the Honduran church. Something wasn’t quite right; something was missing in our dealings with one another. I struggled with just what “partnership” meant and what it looked like in relation to the churches of the Presbytery of Honduras. I wondered what models of real partnership we could find to guide us.

As I struggled with this, God answered with a young director of youth ministry from Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Chester, Pennsylvania, named Greg Klimovitz. He was smart, insightful, energetic, had a heart for mission and was already asking some of the same questions. Greg told me that several years ago the Imago Dei Youth Ministry

Honduras. A pivotal question was then posed by Mark to the Honduran youth, 'What do you want the youth in Pennsylvania to see, hear and experience while in Tegucigalpa?' In essence, we were confident that if we were truly to be partners, we must be willing to follow their lead."

I was amazed at the patience and flexibility of Greg and the Pennsylvania youth, especially their leaders, as our planning progressed in a "Latin" and not "North American" way. They came on faith, and that made all the difference.

"When we safely landed in Tegucigalpa," Greg says, "we were welcomed as brothers and sisters in ministry together. What began as invitation quickly became sacred laughter on fishing boats, roundtable discussions about the hopes and dreams of youth for their churches and communities, interactions with local parachurch ministries, and worship services on the beach."

It felt like something important, maybe even holy, was happening. Following the blog postings by the Imago Dei youth group confirmed just how important and transformative the experience was for them. But the real test of partnership had to come from the Hondurans. We listened intently as the proof began to come, unsolicited, from the



Following worship at Peña de Horeb on Westminster's last night in Honduras ... but just the beginning of a beautiful mission partnership!

lips of the Honduran youth as they said that this was new, important, meaningful, different. It was confirmed one evening after a prayer service when an excited church pastor with years of experience with mission groups pulled a couple of us aside to thank us, explaining that this was a very different kind of partnership and he wanted more of this to continue in the future!

Greg sums it up: "We experienced a different sort of electricity in July 2011, one generated by God's kingdom at work through Presbyterian youth-to-youth partnerships that illuminate people, churches and systems in both Honduras and Pennsylvania. This is precisely why our youth not only embraced the invitations of mission co-workers and the Presbytery of Honduras, but also why our congregation continues to explore how intentional giving can support the faithful witness of PC(USA) World Mission."

Short-term mission trips

A short-term mission trip is an exciting, engaging experience in which faith is put into action by partnering with brothers and sisters from different cultures and life experiences. Participation in a mission trip offers your church group and mission partners from other countries and cultures a chance to share your time and talents with one another and to learn, worship and serve together.

Equipping for Mission Involvement is the PC(USA) World Mission program that provides resources that will help you and your mission partners to see themselves with new eyes as, together, you cross cultural and spiritual borders. When you return home, we can help you to continue the growth you experienced on your trip in a variety of ways.

For more information about how your church can participate in a short-term mission trip, contact Rob Moore at 502-569-5539 or robert.moore@pcusa.org. Get to know a mission worker through www.pcusa.org/missionconnections. You may also visit www.pcusa.org/missiontrips.

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Empowering the global church

Around the world, Christian leaders look at diplomas on their walls and remember the generosity of Presbyterians in the United States who helped make their education possible.

Alumni of the Global Education Scholarship Program occupy key positions of leadership in churches, universities, nonprofit organizations and church-related institutions. The program helps our global partners meet their leadership needs and often provides specialized training that is in great demand.

"I am where I am today because of the education afforded me through the scholarship program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)," says Bright Gabriel Mawudor, deputy general secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches. Christian leaders around the world echo Bright's praise for the program, which attracts promising applicants worldwide. The most recent scholarship recipients include:

James Gatdet, Ethiopia, who studied at the Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology, pursuing an M.A. in the Leadership and Management program. James has served as the director of the Western Gambella Bethel Synod Development Office in the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus and has headed its Department of Mission and Theology. James is described as a committed servant of the church who will, through his studies, be able to help build a stronger capacity for the synod.

Hangpi Manlun, India, who is studying at the United Theological College in Bangalore for a Doctor of Theology degree in communication. His sending church feels that highly trained communicators are needed for the propagation of the gospel.

Victor Zizer, Sierra Leone, who is studying at the Akrofi-Christaller Institute in Ghana for a Ph.D. in theology in preparation for a teaching position at his church's theological school in Sierra Leone. The Presbyterian Church of Ghana is reaching out

in mission to Sierra Leone. Its leaders asked the PC(USA) to lend support to Victor's studies so that he can help the church in Sierra Leone expand its capacity to share the gospel.

John Gondwe, Malawi, who is studying at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. John is pursuing a postgraduate diploma in theology. He serves as the youth director for the Synod of Livingstonia in Malawi. Church leaders in Malawi say these studies will help him provide leadership for the synod's children and youth programs.

Festus Musindi, Rwanda, who is studying English at the University of Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa in preparation for business management studies. Rwanda is changing from a French-speaking to an English-speaking country. As it continues to rebuild following the 1994 genocide, Rwanda needs skilled managers. The Presbyterian Church in Rwanda expects to appoint Festus to a leadership position in one of its institutions upon completion of his studies.

Wudensh Mulugeta, Ethiopia, who is studying at the Mekane Yesus Seminary in Ethiopia. She is seeking a diploma in theology in order to enhance her ability to lead programs for women. She is the coordinator of women's ministries for the Western Gambella Bethel Synod.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Support a future global church leader: This program provides assistance for study in the most appropriate and economical contexts. Scholarship assistance ranges from \$3,000 to \$6,000 per year. Awards are granted on a year-to-year basis. IRS rules require that donors direct the contributions to the general scholarship fund and not to specific individuals. E862000

Pictured above:
A student at the University of Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa

» Contact

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(800) 728-7228, x5353



Teaching English and sharing Christ's love

***Pictured above:**
Mission co-worker
Sharon Bryant with
students in Thailand*

Around the world, people see learning English as their ticket to advanced educational opportunities and career success.

By sending English teachers to Asia, Presbyterian World Mission has an opportunity to help expand opportunities for young people abroad and to grow the witness of the Christian faith. Our partners in Asia often tell World Mission that English teachers are among their top needs. While we have been involved in English instruction for several years, we seek to expand our efforts in Thailand and China and to begin sending teachers to North Korea:

- **Thailand:** Our English teachers work with our historical partner, the Church of Christ in Thailand, in a nation whose population is 1 percent Christian. They coach Thai English teachers and encourage them as they seek to improve their English schools.
- **China:** Presbyterian World Mission works through the Amity Teachers Program. Teachers typically work in rural communities where English is rarely heard. Because China does not allow missionaries per se, the Amity program provides a legitimate way for non-Chinese Christians to witness to their faith in this country. Teachers must be careful not to be overtly evangelistic in the classroom, but outside of the classroom they are able to participate in local congregations and be Christian witnesses to their students and others.
- **North Korea:** In 2010 North Korea opened a new university, Pyongyang University of Science and Technology, and English is the school's language of instruction. The university has a beautiful campus of 17 newly constructed buildings that were funded with contributions from the United States, China, South Korea and North Korea. Mission-sending organizations will supply most of the professors, including a number of English teachers. The North Korean elite initiated the school in anticipation of the day when the present

regime would fall and current students would have to make their way in a world in which English is the predominant language. Though life at the school will be highly regulated and guarded, and Christian witness will be limited, providing volunteer English teachers and teachers of other subjects will give our church an opportunity to resume work we were forced to set aside in 1954. Sending people to serve now will doubtless pay dividends in the future as life in North Korea begins to open up.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Support mission co-workers:

The programs in each of the three countries need a mission co-worker to help orient and equip volunteers, regularly visit the volunteers and the schools, and ensure the smooth functioning of each program.

Amount needed: \$83,000 annually per co-worker or \$250,000 for one term

Total: \$750,000

To support mission co-workers with your financial gift:

- go to www.pcusa.org/give
- call (800) 728-7228, x5611
- send a check to:
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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.)

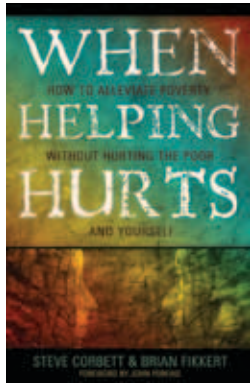
- In the memo of the check, write E132192 – Second Mile Missionary Support.
- To support specific mission co-workers, write their names in the memo line of the check.

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Book Reviews

When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor ... and Yourself, by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2009). Reviewed by Judson Taylor



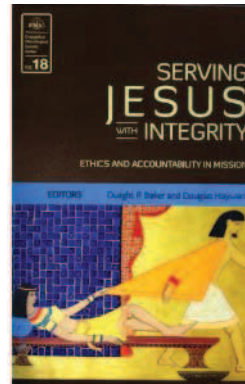
Whether you have wondered if what you and your church are doing in mission actually helps those you seek to reach, Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert's *When Helping Hurts* will challenge your thinking with a holistic perspective of poverty that goes beyond material wealth. Corbett and Fikkert, who work at the Chalmers Center for Economic Development at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain,

Georgia, assert that God created humanity to have four foundational relationships: with God, with self, with others and with the rest of creation. Because of the Fall, those relationships are out of balance, and poverty is the result, the authors say. To Corbett and Fikkert, poverty alleviation “is the ministry of reconciliation: moving people closer to glorifying God” by restoring relationships that do not work and are not just. “The solution to poverty,” they write, “is rooted in the power of Jesus’ death and resurrection to put all things into right relationship again.”

From these foundational concepts, Corbett and Fikkert move to general principles about working with the poor. Since all poverty is not created equal, we need to discern whether we need to provide relief, rehabilitation or development in a given situation, they contend. In a section on short-term mission, the authors offer practical tips on how to avoid doing long-term harm; it is important to ensure that the “doing” portion of the trip avoids paternalism, they say. In addition, *When Helping Hurts* provides cautionary advice on how we do mission “in our own backyard.”

Overall, the emphasis on long-term relationships makes this book a helpful tool for anyone who wants to understand Presbyterian World Mission’s approach to ministry. At 230 pages, the book is too brief to be anything more than an introduction to poverty alleviation, but it directs readers to the authors’ website, which includes additional online resources and information on courses offered by the Chalmers Center. *When Helping Hurts* gives the reader a better biblical understanding of the importance of humility as we do mission and explains how we can make a difference as we follow Jesus’ command to love our neighbor.

Serving Jesus with Integrity: Ethics and Accountability in Mission, edited by Dwight P. Barker and Douglas Hayward (Pasadena, Calif.: William Carey Library, 2010). Reviewed by Catherine Cottingham



The essays in this book focus on topics ranging from ethical issues in mission workers’ personal lives to the importance of clear communication in the recruitment and training of mission personnel to principles involved in such related areas as the use of photos and films.

One of the most helpful chapters is by Jon Freeman, who addresses the importance of respecting the culture and

practices of the people with whom a mission worker serves while not compromising basic personal Christian principles. There is, he observes, inevitable stress in mission work and the potential for internal ethical conflicts. Examples include being less than candid about evangelical intentions in certain areas, dealing with bribery and putting new converts in danger. The clear sense of a call from God is “a potent basis for inner peace in the midst of uncertainty when ethical dilemmas and perceived ethical compromises arise.”

The book presents a significant emphasis on truth-telling in reporting on mission activities—for instance, being honest with potential mission workers about the dangers and risks they and their families may be asked to face and with potential donors, not using misleading numbers or falsely hyping mission stories and “successes.”

Misconceptions about and ethically inaccurate representations of the value of short-term missions are also discussed. Gordon Doss asserts that the primary purpose of these missions must be the benefit to the hosts, not what the experience means to the visitors, which is a secondary purpose. And the costs incurred by the hosts must be taken into consideration.

The final essay discusses the need for a code of ethics, even though mission agencies are founded on institutionally adopted articles of faith and Scripture. Such codes spell out the independence of mission personnel from government entities and political agendas, the importance of showing respect toward other faiths, and the requirement of integrity and the highest standards of ethical behavior in both personal lives and organizational decisions.



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With more than 200 mission workers in over 50 countries, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has been sending mission co-workers around the world continuously since 1837. In 2012 we celebrate this 175th anniversary of international mission by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church.

Partner with World Mission by making this P.L.E.D.G.E.:

- PRAY each day with and for mission workers and our global partners, and for the people they serve
- LEARN about mission workers' ministries
- ENCOURAGE people to become long-term mission workers
- DISCERN where and how you can better serve God by serving others in mission work
- GIVE your time, love, energy, gifts and financial contributions
- ENGAGE in faithful and effective mission with mission workers by advocating for justice, sharing the good news of God's love, and seeking reconciliation in the world

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