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Presbyterian World

News about the PC(USA)'s international mission

Large class of mission personnel commissioned

Twenty mission co-workers soon to serve in places from Nicaragua to Taiwan were introduced to the [Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women](#) on July 13 during a service of commissioning. The 20 co-workers, who stood on stage with 10 children who will accompany their parents overseas, participated in the commissioning while in Louisville for orientation. Also introduced were two Young Adult Volunteers who will attend orientation next month. The Young Adult Volunteers are among 59 YAVs who will soon begin a year of ministry. The commissioning, which also recognized 13 mission co-workers and long-term volunteers who began service earlier in 2009, included one of the larger classes of mission workers in recent memory. The General Assembly Mission Council is committed to increasing the number of mission co-workers. [Read more.](#)



Mission worker discusses Peru's pollution with New York children via Skype

Mission worker Jed Koball in [Peru](#) spoke recently via Skype to the fourth- and fifth-grade class at P.S. 58 in Brooklyn, New York. They had invited him to join them via a video conference call to discuss the most actively contaminated place on the face of the planet -- La Oroya, Peru. Some 97 percent of the children of La Oroya (the same age as the New York children, and younger) have lead poisoning. A couple of days after the Skype interview an [article](#) about La Oroya and the New York owned company producing the toxins was published in the *New York Times*. E-mails began flowing with requests for more video calls, hopefully with kid-to-kid interactions. They want to be at the heart of the issue, the heart of the solution. A movement was budding online. [Read more.](#)

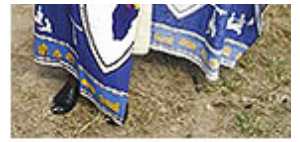


Get wrapped

A wrap created to promote understanding and support of the various aspects of the work of PC(USA) partners in Africa was unveiled at the Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering this month. Wraps are often worn as skirts, but have other uses. This wrap, the second in a series, is being produced by a group of women in the [Democratic Republic of Congo](#) who are running feeding programs and caring for children in their communities. They identified the needs of children in sub-Saharan Africa and what it takes to make up a healthy community for children. Each picture on the current wrap represents a facet of such work. PC(USA) mission personnel and the International Health and Development staff are working with the African



women on the project. Donors who contribute \$50 or more to support vulnerable children will receive a wrap. [Read more.](#)



H1N1 flu death toll mounts in Argentina

While the H1N1 flu has faded from public consciousness in the United States, deaths are mounting in [Argentina](#) and other places. Katie Griffin, a mission worker who teaches church history in Argentina, is requesting prayer for the people of Argentina. On July 14, the *Buenos Aires Herald* reported that the death toll in Argentina had increased by 50 percent in three days, bringing the total number of deaths to 137. The poor areas are hit hardest and the health of pregnant women is of great concern. Katie's husband, Daniel Fratea, serves as pastor of a congregation that is providing nutritious food to pregnant women and encouraging them to seek health care. A PC(USA) team formed in 2006 has provided mission personnel educational resources related to pandemic flu and continues to monitor the situation. Another team is coordinating the church's response to the flu in the United States. [Read more about the situation in Argentina.](#)



Mission briefs

Lardner and Mollie Moore, retired PC(USA) mission workers, represented the denomination at a celebration of 150 years of Protestant mission in Japan. [Read Mollie's account of the anniversary.](#)

The Women Ministers Association of the Presbyterian Church of Korea has nearly 1,000 members. Sook Hee Bae, PC(USA) missionary, is the facilitator of the WMA. [Read more.](#)

Pray for **Harold Kurtz** who is receiving treatment for a brain tumor. [His family is posting updates online.](#) He served for many years as executive director of [Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship](#) and continues with the organization as a senior associate. Prior to his service with PFF he and his wife, Polly, were mission workers in [Ethiopia](#).

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