

How to Continue Your Connection with Presbyterian World Mission

March 3, 2009

We are very grateful for your time in mission service with the PC(USA). We know that you may now be going through a difficult or even traumatic transition after finishing your time of service. We hope you'll eventually decide to keep a close connection with World Mission. We think that will be good for you, and we *know* it will be good for Presbyterian World Mission. You are in a unique position to testify to the quality of our endeavor to discern God's work in the U.S. and around the world and participate in it. You have credibility. You have the church's ear. You speak with the voice of hard-won experience, and your perspective is valued. We hope that you will advocate for quality, transforming mission in partnership—in your local church, your presbytery, and the denomination as a whole.

There are many ways that you can help ensure the continuance of this collective endeavor, which the Presbyterian Church began 175 years ago. Here's how.

Help us ensure that your donors continue to support PC(USA) mission.

You have a network of supporters who have accompanied you during your mission service. Your voice on behalf of other mission workers is the most effective one out there. You have been there. You know what it means to have prayer and financial support. Your supporters will listen more closely to you than they will to anyone else. Please let them know that you have left or are leaving mission service. Tell them what you are doing now, thank them for their support, and urge them to continue supporting mission personnel.

If you'd like to ask your supporters to continue to support the YAV site with which you served, contact us for the correct ECO number to send the funds to, or visit <http://www.pcusa.org/yav/support.htm>. Otherwise, urge them to choose another mission worker to support. Encourage them to remain a part of the World Mission family. More information on giving to PC(USA) World Mission can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/mission/>. A catalogue of mission co-workers can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/2009-mission-giving-catalog.pdf>.

Please be available to speak about your mission service

Only you can tell your story. From our experience, we find that mission workers need and want to tell their story. It helps a lot to know that the church also wants and needs to *hear* your story. When you tell your story in a church, it completes a circle that began with your call to mission service: After discernment, you were placed with a mission partner. You then served with that partner for a year, or perhaps two or more. You witnessed how God works in the world through the Body of Christ. Sharing with the PC(USA) your experience of how God works enriches the faith life of our church. It inspires the church to continue sending mission workers.

The Mission Connections Office maintains a Web page of mission workers who are on interpretation assignment or who have recently ended their term of service. It's at www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/speakers/speakers.htm. Churches looking for a mission speaker often search these pages. They may find out about your ministry and contact you directly. They're

responsible for paying all relating costs—including transportation and hospitality. Since you're not under appointment, it's normal that you'll also receive an honorarium. You are free, of course, to decline invitations, but every invitation that you accept is an opportunity to extend the understanding and the passion for PC(USA) mission. Carol Somplatsky-Jarman, who is responsible for the speakers bureau, will be able to help you on this. Contact her at carol.somplatsky-jarman@pcusa.org or (888) 728-7228, x5826.

The Mission Connections office will leave your home page and all your newsletters on the Web, but once you are no longer under appointment, the only link to your Web site will be in the archives. There is a link to the archives on the right side of all 9,000 Web pages on the Mission Connections. It's a "navigational link" on the right side of every page. It says "Archives."

Please keep your ties with your country network

There are now 33 country networks that connect interested congregations with mission work in specific countries. These networks can benefit from your perspective—about development and partnership, about mission issues in that country, practical matters, and much more. For more information, contact Lacey Gilliam at lacey.gilliam@pcusa.org or (888) 728-7228 x5817 in the Mission Partners and Programs Office. The list of country networks is at www.pcusa.org/worldwide/get-involved/networks.htm.

Help recruit the next generation of mission workers—or consider a second call to mission

PC(USA) is always searching for called and committed Christians to serve in national and international mission, and you are in an excellent position to encourage others as they consider a call to mission service. You are in an excellent position to help someone discern their call to service because no one knows what it's like, what support to expect, what difficulties can arise better than you. In addition, you might consider a second call to mission work in the future.

Position descriptions are at www.pcusa.org/onedoor (where one can also complete an online profile and apply for mission service opportunities).

Contact the Mission Service Recruitment office at msr@pcusa.org or (888) 728-7228 x2530 for more information or to request recruitment materials and giveaways for mission fairs, speaking engagements, discernment events, etc. Additional Mission Service Recruitment information can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/msr/index.htm>.

Please help recruit Young Adult Volunteers

Do you know a young adult between the ages of 19-30? The Young Adult Volunteer program provides a yearlong opportunity for mission service and learning. Groups of YAV are placed in mission sites in the United States and abroad to join with mission partners already at work in their communities.

During this year of relationship building, service and mission learning, YAVs commit to simple living, creating intentional community, spiritual growth, leadership development, and vocational discernment. For more information or recruitment materials contact Shannon Langley at shannon.langley@pcusa.org or (888) 728-7228 x5024 or Essie Buxton at essie.buxton@pcusa.org or (888) 728-7228 x5300. The YAV Web site is at www.pcusa.org/yav.

Participate in Presbyterian World Mission events

Presbyterian World Mission needs your skills, knowledge, and experience. Please consider participating in the 2009 Presbyterian World Mission events:

- **World Mission Advocates Gathering**, May 7 to 9, 2009, in Louisville. The Gathering will bring together mission leaders appointed by their presbyteries under the theme “Building Unity in God’s Mission.” The Gathering is a first step towards a renewed and cooperatively-shaped relationship between presbyteries, synods and Presbyterian World Mission staff. Participants will learn about tools and resources for itinerating mission speakers and for igniting the passion for mission in their presbyteries. Contact Lis Valle to find out how you can support this event at lis.valle@pcusa.org, (888) 7228 x5729.
- **World Mission Challenge**, September 25 to October 18, 2009. This is the successor event to Mission Challenge '07 in which we sent 48 mission workers to speak for a week in 144 presbyteries. They gave 1,400 presentations at 700 churches and 200 other venues, such as presbyteries and schools. We hope to repeat this success this fall. While we mainly promote WMC by calling presbyteries, one by one, and asking them to commit to itinerate a mission worker for a week, you can help by inquiring tactfully in your presbytery if they’ve committed to participate yet. For more information contact Ellen Dozier at ellen.dozier@pcusa.org, (888) 728-7228 x5916. Our Web site has many details at: www.pcusa.org/missionchallenge/.
- **World Mission Celebration '09**, with the theme, “Branches of the Same Vine,” will take place October 22-24 in Cincinnati. You can participate as a speaker, workshop leader or preacher. The event will unite hundreds of Presbyterians from across the church that are passionate about mission—from those who need to know how to get involved to those “seasoned” in mission work. The Celebration will explore how God is at work in the world through international Presbyterian mission and will educate, connect, and send forth attendees. Contact Lis Valle at lis.valle@pcusa.org, (888) 728-7228 x5729. Watch for our Web site in the near future.

Support PC(USA)'s World Mission by keeping informed about what we're doing.

To stay current about ongoing developments in Presbyterian World Mission, keep an eye on our Web site at www.pcusa.org/worldmission/.

Two news vehicles will help you in this pursuit:

1. ***World Mission Highlights*** is a 16-page magazine published twice yearly. It includes news and feature stories about mission personnel and partners around the world as well as issue-related articles. Subscribe and see back issues at www.pcusa.org/worldwide/highlights.
2. ***PCUSA Worldwide*** is a monthly email newsletter about the international mission of the PC(USA). It draws on a variety of sources to give timely information about the PC(USA)'s international work. Subscribe online at www.pcusa.org/subscriptions.

For more information on *Highlights* or the newsletter contact Pat Cole at patrick.cole@pcusa.org or (888) 728-7228 x5172.

There are three key strategic documents that are especially important in guiding our work here at Presbyterian Mission. They are:

1. "An Invitation to Expanding Partnership in God's Mission," a paper that grew out of a churchwide consultation on international mission in January 2008. The 64 attendees at the Dallas gathering included representatives of congregations, presbyteries, synods, World Mission staff, mission personnel, partners, synods, seminaries and PC(USA)-related groups involved in international mission. The document, which was adopted by the 218th General Assembly (2008), contains "mission values" and consequent "mission practices" that should characterize all Presbyterian mission work. Available online at www.pcusa.org/calltomission.
2. "Presbyterians Do Mission in Partnership" names and describes five principles of partnership. It also poses several questions that Presbyterians can use as a guide for more faithful participation in God's work in the world. It was adopted by the 215th General Assembly in 2003. Available online at <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/get-involved/resources.htm>.
3. "Gathering For God's Future" is the PC(USA)'s vision statement for international mission. It was also approved by the 215th General Assembly. It identifies four key challenges and opportunities in World Mission: witnessing and evangelizing worldwide, equipping the church for transforming mission, engaging in ministries of reconciliation, justice, healing and grace, and living the good news of Jesus Christ in community with people who are poor. Available at <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/get-involved/resources.htm>.

For more information on mission resources, Contact Lis Valle at lis.valle@pcusa.org, (888) 728-7228 x5729, <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/get-involved/resources.htm>.