CREATE A WORLD OF PEACE

2015 Leader’s Guide | September 6 - October 4

THREE WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE

Through your congregation
Text PEACE to 20222 to give $10
presbyterianmission.org/give/peace-global
As we embark on our second year of interpreting the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we reflect upon how this Offering supports some of the fundamental values of our faith. For generations, and to the ends of the earth, Presbyterians have borne witness to Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

Our witness has been profound in our own communities and in places we ourselves have never been, around the corner and around the world.

The 221st General Assembly (2014) approved transforming the Peacemaking Offering to the Peace & Global Witness Offering to build on the rich tradition of our church’s commitment to peacemaking as well as to engage with our global partners in new initiatives of reconciliation.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering, still received on World Communion Sunday, will strengthen collaboration with churches, mid councils, and mission partners all over the world. Together we will support efforts to inspire, equip, and connect Presbyterians engaging in ministries of reconciliation and peace that respond to cultures of violence, including our own. Through this new vision of the Offering, we deepen our commitment to the transforming work of the Spirit.

Twenty-five percent of collected funds stay with local congregations. As always, congregations and mid councils determine how best to use those gifts to engage in peace work and global witness. Your church may choose to support local peacemaking initiatives or community-based ministries. Your congregation may wish to offer assistance to immigrants, support a Presbyterian mission co-worker, or provide financial support to the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations. You may send participants on mission trips, on overseas work projects, or to attend global conferences. This year, we again come together as we have been sent—from east and west, and from north and south—to proclaim and engage in ministries that witness to the peace of Christ in all the earth.

Thank you for your support of this vital offering. Please encourage your congregants to give generously.

Quick Facts

- **Peace & Global Witness** was created in 2014, building on the Presbyterian commitment to peacemaking established in 1980.

- **World Communion Sunday** (October 4) is the most common Sunday for receiving the Offering, but many congregations promote the Offering throughout A Season of Peace.

- 25 percent of the Offering stays with local congregations; see page 12 for ideas on how to use retained funds.

- 50 percent of collected funds should be remitted to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to support ministries of peace and reconciliation.

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**Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith** — Ephesians 6:23
What’s in your Leader’s Guide?

You’ve received your shipment of materials. These are intended to help your church members understand the work supported by their gifts and invite them to give generously. This guide will walk you through sharing those materials and some effective ways to promote and celebrate the Peace & Global Witness Offering. But this guide is just a start. We encourage you to add your own ideas, creativity, and enthusiasm to help increase awareness and giving in your congregation.

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Have a question or need help?

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**Peacemaking Program**

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presbyterianmission.org/peacemaking

**Standing Orders**

Presbyterian Distribution Services

pds@pcusa.org

(800) 524-2612
How do your gifts help create a world of peace?

The 220th General Assembly (2012) set an ambitious goal for the Special Offerings—$20 million by 2020—with the ultimate aim of making a more significant impact in the world. The goal for the 2015 Peace & Global Witness Offering is to raise $2 million.

Through the collective power of Presbyterians joined together in mission, we can get there. When your congregation supports the Peace & Global Witness Offering, they are joining thousands of others in the witness to reconciliation and peace within cultures of violence and conflict.

Promoting the Peace & Global Witness Offering

Before the Offering: June – August

- June – July

  - Ask the session to approve the receipt of the Peace & Global Witness Offering on October 4 or another Sunday during A Season of Peace. Resources for A Season of Peace can be found at: presbyterianmission.org/seasonofpeace.
  - Set dates with your session. Congregations commonly receive the Offering on World Communion Sunday (October 4).
  - Commit to an ambitious giving goal—higher than the amount received last year—and discuss ideas for how to use your congregation’s portion (25 percent).
  - Unpack and review the shipment of resource materials you received. Check out the outline of available resources on pages 8 and 9 for more tools to help with developing your interpretation plan.
  - Contact Presbyterian Distribution Service (800-524-2612 or pds@pcusa.org) to order additional materials.
  - Ask members to present Minutes for Mission from the pulpit. Note that the bulletin inserts feature unique messages that are not tied to specific Minutes for Mission (feel free to pair as you like).
  - Consider sending a promotional email or letter to each person in your congregation. Be sure to include the link to the Peace & Global Witness Offering website (presbyterianmission.org/peace-global), so your members can learn more about the work supported by their gifts.

- August

  - Create an article for your newsletter about the congregation’s past and current ministries of peace and reconciliation.
  - Utilize resources (available from presbyterianmission.org/seasonofpeace) to fully engage your congregation in A Season of Peace, which begins September 6.
Be creative

This guide offers helpful tips, but it can’t replace what you know about your congregation. What matters most to them? What kinds of activities around the Offering will get them motivated and excited? Here are few thoughts to get you started:

- **Create** a plan for involving young people in promoting the Offering by having them choose a gift from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog related to peacemaking and reconciliation. Have them present it to the congregation along with how they think their gift will make a difference for others. For help, visit [www.pcusa.org/pgwchildren](http://www.pcusa.org/pgwchildren).

- **Think** about how you can integrate all of the worship resources into your service, emphasizing the ways our witness in the world magnifies our personal discipleship.

- **Ask** for suggestions from youth and young adults about how to use the 25 percent kept by your congregation.

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**THREE WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE**

Through your congregation

Text PEACE to 20222 to give $10

[presbyterianmission.org/give/peace-global](http://presbyterianmission.org/give/peace-global)
During the Offering (September – October)

September (Any time during the month)
- Play the Offering video in a worship service and/or other church gatherings. Download it from presbyterianmission.org/peace-global.
- Display the Offering poster in a high-traffic area of your church.

September 6
- Put Peace & Global Witness Offering envelopes in the pews.
- Place one of the Offering inserts in your bulletin. There are two bulletin inserts to choose from. Feel free to use each insert for multiple weeks if you are promoting the Offering all month.
- Write and present a Minute for Mission about how your congregation will use its 25 percent share of the Offering. Afterward, please share those stories with us!

September 13
- Place an Offering insert in your bulletin.
- Present a Minute for Mission from this guide or reproduce one in the bulletin.
- Remind the congregation how its 25 percent share of the Offering will be used.

September 20
- Place an Offering insert in your bulletin, or insert the brochure mailer in the bulletin if you have not already sent it to members of your congregation.
- Present another Minute for Mission from this guide or reproduce it in the bulletin.
- Share that the following Monday, September 21, is the International Day of Peace.
- Remind the congregation how its 25 percent share of the Offering will impact your community.

September 27
- Place an Offering insert in your bulletin.
- Present another Minute for Mission from this guide or reproduce one in the bulletin.
- Remind the congregation how its 25 percent share of the Offering will be used for local peacemaking efforts.

October (Any time during the month)
- Place Offering envelopes in worship bulletins or pew racks for your congregation’s use on World Communion Sunday and in the weeks to follow.
- Remind the congregation how it can make a difference in the community through its 25 percent share of the Offering and encourage members to continue to contribute throughout the month.

October 4
- Use the worship resource for World Communion Sunday.
- If the youth did sponsor a gift, have them present the gift during worship and share how it relates to peacemaking and to the congregation.
**After the Offering**

Thank your congregation for their generous gifts and share the total raised. Celebrate meeting or exceeding your original goal.

Keep 25 percent of the Offering for your congregation’s use to engage in peace and global witness work.

Send the remaining balance through your normal receiving agency. At the direction of the 220th General Assembly (2012), congregations are encouraged to remit Peace & Global Witness gifts directly to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, with “Peace & Global Witness Offering” on the memo line. Your contribution can be mailed to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643700
Pittsburgh PA 15264-3700

Share your stories and feedback with us! We’d love to hear about the unique ways you promoted the Peace & Global Witness Offering, as well as any suggestions for us to improve your experience.

**Throughout the Year**

Periodically update your congregation with news of the local efforts that were made possible through its Peace & Global Witness Offering gifts.

Stay up to date on all things Special Offerings by subscribing to the Special Offerings blog, “liking” the Special Offerings Facebook page, or following Special Offerings on Twitter.

Update your congregation throughout the year on how gifts are being used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency.
Resources and materials for interpretation

Hopefully you’ll find this guide answers most of your questions. Your standing order contains the foundational materials you’ll need to promote the Offering.

On our website, you’ll find more materials and other great ways to learn about the Peace & Global Witness Offering and the ministries it supports, and stay in touch with the Special Offerings.

Downloadable Peace & Global Witness promotional resources:

- Bulletin inserts – *Create a World of Peace and Work Together to Grow Peace*
- Poster – Display in a high-traffic area in your church
- Sample pastor’s letter – Use as a reference when writing a letter to your members
- Facebook cover photo – Use on your church’s Facebook page throughout *A Season of Peace*
- Blog post/newsletter content – A brief article to post on your church blog or reproduce in your newsletter
- Minutes for Mission – Four stories about the transformative power of the kinds of peacemaking and reconciliation efforts the Offering supports

More resources about peacemaking and witness:

- **Called to Live as God’s People: A Study Guide on Reparations**
  Acknowledging that the sin of racism has left a deep scar in the life of the church and our society, the 213th General Assembly (2001) appointed a task force to study issues of reparations for African Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Asian Americans, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and others who have experienced unjust treatment. This study guide acquaints readers with the contents of the Report of the Task Force to Study Reparations. Each lesson is grounded in prayer and biblical study, reflecting the understanding that the process of reparations for the church is a spiritual one. Download *Called to Live as God’s People* at pcusa.org/reparations.

- **Facing Racism: In Search of the Beloved Community**
  This five-session study helps youth confront racism and work to build the “beloved community.” PDS: 70270-98-002.

- **Faithful Living in a Time of Violence and Terrorism**
  Download the six-session study that explores the Resolution on Violence, Religion, and Terrorism approved by the 216th General Assembly (2004) at pcusa.org/timeofviolence.

- **Human Trafficking Toolkit**
  In the fields, in the mines, in raw materials processing, in hotels, in the supply chain, down your street, in the US, and around the world, slavery is flourishing in a new form. Our church is working to stop it. You can help. Download the *Human Trafficking Toolkit* at pcusa.org/traffickingtoolkit.
Living the Gospel of Peace: Tools for Building More Inclusive Community
This resource teaches respectful communication guidelines, mutual invitation, community Bible study, and power analysis, while exploring how these tools can build community in the face of racism and other systems that divide us. PDS: 70270-04-014.

Resources for Antiracism Work
This resource provides a list of policy statements, study guides, videos, and links to other organizations and resources that help Presbyterians engage in antiracism work in congregations, mid councils, and across the church. Download Resources for Antiracism Work at pcusa.org/antiracismresources.

Resurrection Living: Journeying with the Nonviolent Christ
This journal is designed to help individuals or groups explore the theology, ethics, and ways to practice nonviolence. It invites users to engage in prayerful reflection on Scripture, with documents of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and the writings of theologians and practitioners of nonviolence through the ages. The 52 entries may be used individually or in community on a daily or weekly basis. However the journal is used, at its heart is an invitation to ponder, “What does it mean for me to follow the nonviolent Christ today in the place where I live and around God’s World?” PDS: 24358-10-007.

Risking Peace in a Violent World
As part of the peace discernment process begun in 2010, the 221st General Assembly (2014) approved five peacemaking affirmations presented by the Peace Discernment Steering Team for presbytery review. These affirmations are available for study, reflection, and discussion. Learn more at pcusa.org/peaceinviolentworld.

Seeking to be Faithful: Guidelines for Presbyterians during Times of Disagreement
The guidelines are designed to help Presbyterians address conflicts. This shorter version of the guidelines captures their essence and is sized to fit into a wallet or pocket. PDS: 70270-06-033 (English); PDS: 24358-07-011 (Spanish).

Steps along the Way: Living as Peacemakers in a Violent World
This study explores issues of violence and ways peacemakers might live nonviolently in response. PDS: 70270-03-011.

Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence
PC(USA) continues its efforts to prevent gun violence. At the forefront of this effort is the documentary Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence, which has been screened in communities across the United States. Join our efforts to inspire, equip, and connect Presbyterians to engage in this difficult national conversation and to respond faithfully to this ongoing tragedy. Visit the Trigger website triggerdoc.com to order a screening kit, study guide, and other resources to help address gun violence.

Ten Things You Can Do to Stop Sexual Violence
As followers of Christ, we honor and celebrate the image of God in all people. As Presbyterians, we are called to open spaces in our hearts, families, communities, and churches to promote healing and reconciliation for those most at risk and marginalized. As children of God, we recognize that remaining silent about sexual violence is no longer an option. Learn more at pcusa.org/stopsexualviolence.
A Season of Peace

*A Season of Peace* is a four-week pilgrimage designed to deepen the pursuit of peace for congregations, small groups, families, and individuals. Through daily peace reflections, family activities such as peace cards, Bible studies, an intergenerational peace fair, and other online resources, you are invited to define and deepen your calling as a peacemaker. This season is a time of encouragement, challenge, inspiration, and education.

While these resources are designed to culminate in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, they are appropriate for any time. Resources are also provided for several topics that coincide with the suggested dates of *A Season of Peace*.

- **September 6** Peace in the family/nonviolence in our households
- **September 13** Peace in the community/neighborhood
- **September 20** Human rights
- **September 27** We are stronger together—thinking about our systems and structures
- **October 4** World Communion Sunday/Peace & Global Witness Offering

You can find all of these resources on the *Season of Peace* webpages at presbyterianmission.org/seasonofpeace. We hope that you are inspired, enlightened, and encouraged in your own pilgrimage as a peacemaker “at all times and in all ways.”

### Included in the 2015 Season of Peace

#### Path of Peace Daily Reflections

Subscribe to daily reflections that will be delivered directly to your inbox September 6 – October 4, or download the entire set of reflections as a single file. The weekly themes and daily scriptures are drawn from *The Biblical Witness to Peacemaking*, a 365-day walk through the Bible focusing on peace and justice passages.

#### Peace Fair

The Peace Fair is a hands-on, multisensory, intergenerational event that offers peace and justice learning activities. It may be held as a kickoff to *A Season of Peace*, as a focus for World Communion Sunday, or at another time during the year. Congregations might consider joining with neighboring congregations for this event as a way to build community and embody the work of peacemaking. Participants will receive a peace passport that guides them through art, media, music, food, and other activities to explore peace as a community. Learning and activity stations are designed for multiple types of learning, and include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World Café Bible study</th>
<th>Drama center</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anti-bullying pledge: We Are One</td>
<td>Computer/social media station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canned-food tower build</td>
<td>Cooperative games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer center</td>
<td>Guest speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craft table</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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Peace Cards

Peacemaking begins with individuals and families then quickly moves to our communities and the world. Peace cards provide an opportunity to engage in practical and real conversations about peacemaking. Designed for a multigenerational time of sharing, peace cards encourage the members of any group gathering to share their perspectives, life experiences, and hopes with regard to peace in their homes, community, and the world.

The cards can be placed in a central location such as a kitchen table. Time can be set aside each day to draw a card and reflect upon and share experiences and ideas. Peace cards can be used anywhere and with anyone—at meals or family gatherings, during fellowship at church, as icebreakers for study groups, or for in-depth conversations on long bus rides with youth. Use one card per day during A Season of Peace and let the conversations lead to new perspectives and practices for making peace.

Adult Bible Study: The Things that Make for Peace

This is a five-week adult study for small or large groups to be used during A Season of Peace or any other time of the year. It focuses on the inner and outer paths to peace as foundational to faithful discipleship. Each session has a “dig deeper” section for study throughout the week.

**Session 1:** Recognizing Peace

The introduction is a study of Luke 19:37–44 and Ephesians 1:18. It explores the differences between peace as the world often defines it and as Jesus teaches and models it.

**Session 2:** Finding Peace “so that you may live deep within your heart”

How do we find peace in our hearts? How do we deepen our personal spiritual practices as peacemakers? Using Philippians 4:4–7 and Romans 5:15, this session explores how we might ground ourselves in the practice of peace.

**Session 3:** Practicing Peace “so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace”

What does it mean to “turn the other cheek?” What is the difference between being a doormat and choosing nonviolence? In this study, we explore Matthew 5:38–44 as a foundation for active nonviolence.

**Session 4:** Extending Peace “so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them”

How does the Bible teach us to live with neighbors who are different? This session focuses on hospitality as peacemaking in light of Hebrews 13:1–3 and Romans 12:13–21.

**Session 5:** Living Peace “so that you can do what others claim cannot be done”

Peace within, peace with God, and peace with others all require forgiveness and a life that seeks to restore relationships. This study focuses on 2 Chronicles 6:13–40, Matthew 5:23–24, and Romans 12:18.
Making a difference
Ideas from congregations and mid councils

Here are some of the ways congregations and mid councils use their 25 percent of the Peace & Global Witness Offering on behalf of those struggling through oppression and injustice. How will these ideas inspire your congregation?

Support of global issues
- Donate to programs working toward the elimination of human trafficking.
- Send participants on mission trips, on overseas work projects, or to attend global conferences.
- Support a mission co-worker.

Peace education and training for children
- Organize local camps promoting peace to teach children how to effectively cope during times of conflict.
- Host a peacemaking essay contest in local high schools.
- Volunteer at a summer youth program.

Help for families in need
- Donate to programs helping teen mothers and single-parent families.
- Deliver weekend meals to low-income families.
- Implement a backpack program, sending food home with schoolchildren over the weekends.

Assistance for teens and young adults
- Support an anger management program for young people.
- Work with young women who are in correctional facilities.
- Create a conflict resolution program for local high schools.

Community care and engagement
- Start a community-wide dialogue to end racism through discussion.
- Work with a support center for males transitioning out of prison or homelessness.
- Donate to local women’s shelters or violence prevention centers.
- Help fund educational assistance for veterans.
- Donate to a program providing beds for children who do not have one.
Domestic Violence
Sanctuaries for victims of domestic violence

They look like any other homes on any other streets in America, but these two homes are special—they’re where hope and safe refuge live. Two renovated houses next door to Presbyterian churches in Western New York offer victims of domestic violence a place to turn for refuge and hope.

They are the Orchard Park (Southtowns) and Amherst (Northtowns), satellites of the Family Justice Center, serving the city of Buffalo and Erie County and surrounding counties. These beautiful suburban satellites exist to help the one in four women and families who will experience domestic violence at some point in their lives. Women like Aasiya Hassan, a young wife and mother murdered by her abusive husband in 2010.

“Domestic violence affects every segment of society,” says Rev. Dr. Dick Young, pastor of Orchard Park Presbyterian Church. “It knows no boundaries—urban/suburban, rich/poor, black/white, religious/non-religious—it doesn’t matter. Domestic violence is all around us, and unfortunately the church, like society, has for too long turned a blind eye. It was only after the horrific murder of Aasiya Hassan that some of us in the religious community got together and committed to make a lasting change.”

What began as a church mission project quickly grew into a broad-based community labor of love. Countless volunteers, businesses, churches, and community groups worked tirelessly to help the center become reality.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering inspires faith and equips and connects Presbyterians to respond to cultures of violence, including our own. It provides resources for creating communities of peace in response to tragedy and bears witness to the love of God for those who suffer violence because of their race or gender.

The Orchard Park/Southtowns satellite, adjacent to Orchard Park Presbyterian Church, opened in February 2011 and has provided free, confidential, and personalized services for more than 400 clients. Services include safety planning, spiritual care, counseling, legal assistance and advocacy, as well as referrals to emergency shelters and community services.

The Amherst/Northtowns satellite, next door to North Presbyterian Church in Williamsville, has served about 100 clients since it opened in February 2014. It’s referred to as the “house with the purple door.” Every room in the home was adopted by an individual, church, or community group and renovated from ceiling to floor.

Aasiya Hassan, the kind and gentle woman the Southtowns center was established to honor, could have been your sister, your mother, your friend, your neighbor. She could be sitting beside you today in church. She could be you or me.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is used to expand global witness while maintaining Presbyterians’ longstanding commitment of working toward peacemaking and reconciliation, especially in cultures of violence. Congregations and presbyteries keep 25 percent of receipts for peace and witness ministries of their choice and send 50 percent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Please give generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering to help build ministries of reconciliation in a broken world.
Gun Violence
Offering hope amidst senseless gun violence

August 3, 2013, was a typical Friday in the Shoushtaris’ (Shoosh-tari) Los Angeles home. Marsha and Mano, parents to Ea (e-ah), Bijan (bee-szan), and Samantha, went to work. Ea and Bijan attended school and Samantha went about her day. All looked forward to the bright, sunny weekend ahead.

After school, Bijan visited his girlfriend; when he left, he and two buddies decided to do what thousands of other teenagers across the country do on Friday nights—cruise around town, play music, and meet up with friends.

The phone call that woke up Marsha and Mano later that evening is also, unfortunately, all too common across Southern California—and the entire nation. While riding on Crenshaw Boulevard, Bijan was shot three times—a victim of mistaken identity. Two days later he succumbed to his injuries; his killer remains at large.

“Losing my son was like a shot to my own heart,’ says Marsha Shoushtari. “I still cannot believe Bijan is gone, but I remind myself that he was, like my other children, on loan to me.”

Marsha, an active member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church for more than 40 years and an ordained deacon and elder, takes comfort in 2 Corinthians 5:

“For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.”

Bijan, an aspiring firefighter and lead acolyte on Communion Sundays at Westminster, had a relationship with God, which gives his family some sense of contentment. “I know who he is and where he is,” says Marsha. “He woke up whole, happy, and pain-free in the arms of Jesus.”

The Peace & Global Witness Offering inspires the faith needed for forgiveness and reconciliation and equips and connects Presbyterians to respond to cultures of violence, including our own.

Tapping into her faith and love from her family, friends, and congregation and presbytery members, Marsha started a community-wide campaign called “Stop the Violence—Save Lives.” Modeled after PC(USA)’s “Stop the Violence” petition campaign, “Stop the Violence—Save Lives” offers solace to gun victims’ families. In turn, the Presbytery of the Pacific offers the antiviolence movement, a platform from which to reach out to the community. “Stop the Violence—Save Lives” and the presbytery jointly held a successful blood drive in memory of Bijan and another young man named Joseph, who was also shot and killed.

“I get random phone calls from families who are gun violence victims who know my story and want to share theirs,” says Marsha. “I’m able to tell them that my strength comes from my faith in Jesus Christ.”

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is used to expand global witness while maintaining Presbyterians’ longstanding commitment of working toward peacemaking and reconciliation, especially in cultures of violence. Congregations and presbyteries keep 25 percent of receipts for peace and witness ministries of their choice and send 50 percent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Please give generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering to help transform cultures of violence into communities of peace.
Human Trafficking
Addressing violations of human rights

“My only mistake was having a dream,” says a Filipino teacher who desperately wanted a better life for her children, a life she thought would begin with a teaching job in America promised by a recruiter in the Philippines.

A 20-year veteran teacher in the Philippines, Ella (not her real name), visited the local office of a recruiter she found through an Internet search. This recruiter promised Ella the moon and promised it quickly. Then, over the next several months, he convinced her to pay a series of fees—processing fee, service fee, housing fee, and an embassy interviewing fee.

Ella didn’t have the money for all these fees, so she took out high-interest loans to cover them. She also took a 40-day leave of absence from her school to be with her children, thinking she was leaving soon to teach in America.

As it turns out, this recruiter had made the same promise to hundreds of other teachers, each of whom he cheated out of $10,000 to $15,000 for nonexistent jobs in the US.

This is a side of human trafficking we don’t hear much about, yet the lure of a better job is a common tactic used worldwide, says mission co-worker Rebecca Lawson. Becca helps PC(USA) partners in the Philippines develop and nurture relationships with nongovernmental and social service organizations. At the grassroots level, Becca assists the church in its advocacy efforts for the human rights of all Filipinos.

Working with others, the church engages in issues such as poverty, stewardship of creation, forced migration, the rights of indigenous peoples, gender justice, and unjust land development.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering inspires the faith needed for forgiveness and reconciliation and equips and connects Presbyterians to respond to cultures of violence, including our own.

“God has called us to announce the good news for the poor and release to the captives,” Becca says. “At the same time, the poor, marginalized, and oppressed summon us to live and act in solidarity with them.”

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is used to expand global witness while maintaining Presbyterians’ longstanding commitment to working toward peacemaking and reconciliation, especially in cultures of violence. Congregations and presbyteries keep 25 percent of receipts for peace and witness ministries of their choice and send 50 percent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Please give generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering to help address violations of human rights.
MINUTE FOR MISSION

Structural Racism
Forgiveness and reconciliation forge hope for South Africa

Born into the privileged class of South Africa, Rothea (Thea) Kornelius grew up in the capital city, Pretoria. Despite apartheid, which demanded segregation of races, her parents taught her not to judge people on color alone.

“He needed those more than I did,” said Thea’s father one day, explaining why he gave his shoes to another man on his way home from work. Sometimes black men would ring their doorbell, hungry and desperate for food. Thea’s mother would make sandwiches and take them to the door.

Two days after turning 18, Thea voted in the national referendum to end apartheid and point South Africa toward a democratic society. “The first time I put my name on a ballot, I could vote for a better South Africa. I believed I could do something right, even though things had been so wrong up to that point,” says Thea.

Thea moved to the United States, where an inclination to social justice led her to enroll at Dubuque Theological Seminary. While a student there, Thea participated in the Peacemaking Program’s Travel Study Seminar to South Africa. She found that 20+ years after the end of apartheid, little has changed in the shantytowns that surround the cities’ affluent sections. The sense of separation that apartheid demanded remains strong.

“Blacks live in shacks or wooden boxes, there is no running water or toilets and many don’t have access to electricity. The children don’t even know to wash their hands before eating. Seeing the hurt of the past as well as the present, one would tend to believe that animosity and hate would be at the forefront, but instead forgiveness and hope prevail,” says Thea.

This peaceful witness inspired Thea to share this experience in her relationships and ministry. She returned with a commitment to build bridges that cross lines of race and culture in her community and in the churches she will lead.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is used to expand global witness while maintaining Presbyterians’ longstanding commitment of working toward peacemaking and reconciliation, especially in cultures of violence. Congregations and presbyteries keep 25 percent of receipts for peace and witness ministries of their choice and send 50 percent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Please give generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering to transform cultures of violence into communities of peace.
2015 Peace & Global Witness Offering Order Form
(materials are FREE unless otherwise noted.)

Four ways to get additional copies of Peace & Global Witness resources:

1. Call Presbyterian Distribution Service at (800) 524-2612
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7. 24358-15-003 |      | [2015 Advent Devotions: Proclaiming the Good News of God’s Peace] | $0.40 |            |
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for your energy and support in promoting this vital offering which shares the peace of Christ with the world.

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