

The Heart of Missions: First Presbyterian Church of Champaign's Missions Magazine

September Missions Events and Meetings

Sundays: *English as a Second Language Bible Study*
10:30am in Room 204

Mondays-Thursdays: *English as a Second Language Classes*
9-11am on Second Floor of Education Building

Wednesdays: *SAFE House Applied Psychology Class*
1:30pm-2:45pm in Westminster Hall

September 10: *Adopt A Highway*
8am in Alley near CE building

September 12: *Compassion Peace and Justice*
4pm in Westminster Hall

September 13: *Mission Team*
Noon in Westminster Hall

September 19: *World Mission*
5:30pm in Westminster Hall

September 19: *Environmental Stewardship Committee*
3:30pm in the Parlor

September 22: *Cuba Steering Committee*
5:30pm in the Parlor

September 27: *Community Mission Deacons*
6:30pm in Westminster Hall

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Marion Medical Mission Report Submitted by: Harry Bremer

In September, I will be one of 38 people who will volunteer with Marion Medical Mission (MMM). MMM works with the local people to provide shallow wells with clean water in Malawi, Zambia, and Tanzania. I will arrive in Malawi on September 18 and leave October 9. MMM's aim is to complete 2,550 shallow wells over 6 weeks time.

Americans work in pairs. We drive the trucks, help load/unload the trucks, carry hand pump parts to the wells, and record information about each well. We also participate in a dedication ceremony at each well. Afterwards, the villages give us gifts, including live chickens, peanuts, plantain, eggplant, bananas, etc. Last year my partner and I drove over a thousand miles and helped complete over 100 wells.

Each well will supply clean water for up to 125-150 people in each village. The villages are most thankful for clean water, knowing that there will be a significant decrease of water borne diseases.



This is not toxic charity. Each village pays a fee for the supplies, and an annual fee to maintain the well. The villages know whom to contact for any repairs, as all hand pumps can be replaced when broken. All well parts are now made in Malawi.

There has been a drought in Malawi for the last two years. Besides providing clean water for villages, MMM has assisted in providing maize for needed families/villages.

Keep MMM in your prayers for safe travel and another successful year.

For further information, MMM's website is: www.mmmwater.org.

Thank you!



A celebration for the newly installed well

Movie Time!

Friday, September 16, 2016

6:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church, 302 W. Church St., Champaign

Facing demolition of their facility, zoning challenges, and a lack of volunteers, a scrappy ministry startup is changing how the community interacts with the homeless.



THE PHOENIX



HOPE IS RISING



© 2016 film by Phil Gioja and Isaac Musgrave – all rights reserved

This award-winning documentary shines the spotlight on several critical issues related to homelessness that face our community today:

- **Mental illness**
- **Substance abuse**
- **Criminal justice**
- **Emergency services**
- **Local government**
- **Shelters**

Please plan to bring your co-workers, family, and friends for this learning experience about all of these issues.

C-U at Home staff will host a powerful time of discussion following the film, offering you the opportunity to learn more.

DREAM HOUSE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

4-H After School Program Volunteer (3-4 positions)

Lead small group academic and experiential activities with 2-3 boys. Activities planned by the Academic Director and trained, mature staff will lead and manage the schedule.

Time commitment: 3:45pm-5:00pm Tuesday or Thursday

Location: Booker T. Washington School

Classroom Volunteers (15-20 positions)

Serve as a DREAM ambassador in a school by being a volunteer/mentor in a DREAM student's classroom. This opportunity is arranged between you and the teacher and may be general help in the classroom or one on one with a DREAM student.

Time commitment: 30 minutes to 1 hour per week

Location: Unit #4 Schools

Coaches (4-5 positions)

Children will have the opportunity to participate in sports program on Saturdays. Proposed sports are basketball, soccer, and baseball. DREAM will partner with YMCA and First String, Inc. No advanced skills required, just heart and energy.

These are short-term/seasonal opportunities.

Time commitment: 1-2 hours per week

Location: YMCA or Douglas Park area

Van Driver/Assistant (2-3 positions)

Drive the church van to pick up DREAM students after school and transport them to Booker T. Washington Elementary School. A van assistant is also needed to ride with a driver and help with seat belts and monitoring the children. The route is simple, and it is fun to hear about the boys' school day. Paperwork is required to get approved.

Time commitment: Once a month from 2:00pm-3:45pm

Location: Pick up at Unit #4 Schools



For more
information,
contact:

Tracy D. Dace at
tracy@dreamhouse.org
or 217-560-2194

Green Team Summit



Sunday, September 25
12pm - 4pm

Join us to learn how to mobilize your House of Worship to take better care of the Earth with a Green Team!

Send your Green Team members, clergy, and lay leaders to get a designated Green Team Coach. We'll give both new and existing Green Teams of all faiths from all across Illinois the tools, resources, and inspiration needed to spark meaningful change in the community.

Location:

The Field Museum
1400 S Lake Shore Dr
Chicago, IL 60605

• Free Event!

• Discounted Parking

• Youth Activities
(ages 13+)

• Lunch Provided

• Free access to
museum & guided
tours before &
after summit

Register: www.tinyurl.com/GreenTeam2016

Schedule:

- 12:00 - 1:00 pm: Registration, Green Team Networking, Lunch, Exhibitors
- 1:30 - 2:00 pm: Keynote: Mark Charles on faith, Earth care & Doctrine of Discovery
- 2:00 - 3:30 pm: Workshops & Break-out Sessions
- 3:30 - 4:00 pm: Awards & Recognition, Interfaith Closing

The **Field**
Museum

Questions? Contact Veronica Kyle
312-733-4640 Ext. 114
veronica@faithinplace.org


faith **in** place
The Illinois Affiliate of Interfaith Power & Light

Think Spring: A Mission Trip to the DR

Submitted by Ann and Bill Stout

In late March or early April, there will be a short but important “insight” trip to the Dominican Republic. Why the DR? Because FPCC currently is partnering with Opportunity International (OI) in an important ministry in the DR. As a reminder, FPCC is contributing to Opportunity International’s “EduFinance” initiative to provide quality education for very poor students and encourage quality private school entrepreneurship. This is carried out via a \$20,000/yr contribution from the Forward 150 Mission fund.

Quality Education Being Provided by Opportunity International (OI) for Poor Students in the Dominican Republic. This contribution helps provide loans to private school “proprietors” (school principal and school owner combined) and to impoverished students, especially girls, who otherwise would not be in school.

Edufinance in the DR and the impact of our yearly \$20K contributions.

A summary of the OI Edufinance in the DR

Since 2013, 208 school improvement loans (SIL) of \$793K (about \$4K/loan) and 907 school fee loans (SFL) of \$482K (around \$500/loan) have been given. It has been deduced that each SIL impacts an average of 250 children and each SFL an average of 3 children. The loan payoff rate is very high, around 99% when last reported. School improvement loans are trending higher with newer loans averaging around \$8K, an indicator that schools are growing larger and their financial stability becoming stronger.



Maria increased student numbers by 52% in the DRC with a loan from OI

Interpreting the Impact of the FPCC Contribution : Based on #1 above, one could safely infer that **our annual \$20K produces about 3-4 Improvement loans which then impacts around 1000 children or produces around 20 school fee loans which then impacts about 60 children.** Thus our 20K has a sizable and positive impact, especially when one considers that EduFinance produces quality education.

To add some flesh to these bare numerical bones, classroom congestion is the No. 1 problem in the DR. Indeed a priority of SIL money in the DR is the building of new classrooms, computer labs (which are very rare), libraries, bathrooms, and books and other teaching materials are purchased.

The PCUSA Foundation and OI. OI is the world's largest Christian microfinance organization, currently reaching 12 million people around the world. Both PCUSA and OI are committed to addressing the "root causes of poverty," both place a special emphasis on women and children and on quality education for the poor. Thus, 10 years ago the PCUSA Foundation designated OI as a "Validated Mission." Following the Biblical imperative, OI's goal is to transform the lives of the poor through various means of empowerment, including education, goals supported by PCUSA. There are indeed numerous Presbyterian churches besides us contributing to OI, with several churches making sizable contributions and/or planning mission trips to see OI in action. For example, these include 4th Presbyterian Church (Chicago), Christ Presbyterian Church (Minnesota), 1st Presbyterian Church of Evanston, along with over 100 others.

OI Edufinance in Broad Strokes. The magnitude of the lack of education for poor children is staggering. According to one estimate, **over 67 million children worldwide are not in school**, with 70% being girls! As is absolutely obvious, one of the most powerful deterrents to poverty is education. Numerous studies support this (see the websites below). **Indeed, education is the single most powerful determinant of future economic success.**

OI EduFinance is in 12 countries worldwide, working to empower private schools and their very poor students. Unlike the US, where private schools serve mostly those of high socioeconomic status, private schools in Third World countries often serve the very poor. Also unlike the US, in many Third World countries the public schools do a very poor job of educating students.

Therefore, OI Edufinance serves only private schools (usually small ones) and has two major components. The private schools they serve are usually owned and administered by the same person (often a woman), who sometimes also teaches at the school. OI provides **school improvement loans** that create more classrooms, provide computers, provide bathrooms, etc. **Student fee loans** are also provided and are just as vital: they put many children in school who otherwise would not be. Other EduFinance products include insurance to keep kids in school when family emergencies strike, savings accounts for future school fees and expenses, and college/vocational loans. ***OI is on target to impact 2 million children by the end of 2016, a truly large number!***

Community Social Impact of the EduFinance Initiative. In addition to educating more poor children, many community benefits occur: new teacher positions, school growth, jobs created (such as janitors, construction workers, food produce sold for student meals, etc.), training of school administrators, owners, and more.

Planning our Insight trip. The goal is late March or very early in April. The trip has been approved by OI and they will provide a date soon. We will arrive in Santo Domingo on a Wednesday night. We will be tourists on Thursday, seeing Santo Domingo and having dinner at a local restaurant. On an intense and rewarding Friday, with the help of an OI-provided guide, we will visit three or more schools with a chance to ask lots of questions. This allows us to see the impact of OI funding truly up close and personal. We will return on Saturday.

The hope is that 5-10 of us will go on this short but highly informative and hopefully transformational trip. We will be looking for some scholarship money when the cost is a determining issue for some of us. More information will be provided soon. **Please pray about and consider going on this trip.**



Interested? Contact Ann Stout at mrsas2003@gmail.com

Useful Websites or Google lookup:

Opportunity International: just search for the name

<http://opportunity.org/what-we-do/key-focus-areas/education-finance>

General outline of EduFinance: the challenges and the solutions

<http://opportunity.org/news/blog/2014/12/the-8-rules-of-edufinance-product-design>

Description of the EduFinance model for developing quality education

<http://opportunity.org/news/press-releases/presbyterian-foundation-names-opportunity-international-as-validated-mission-to-help-the-worlds-poor>

The OI and PCUSA connection

<http://www.globalpartnership.org/education>

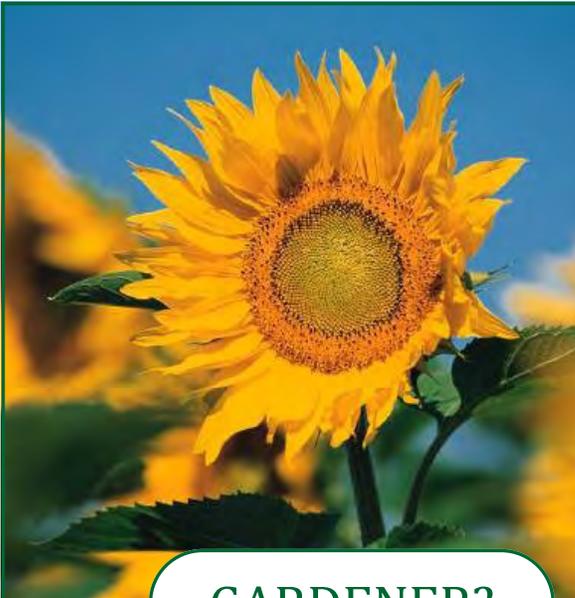
A nice simple summary of how education alleviates poverty

<http://www.compassion.com/poverty/education.htm>

Compassion International on education and poverty



Present and past residents of Jesus is the Way Prison Ministries attended their annual banquet on August 26, 2016. Jesus is the Way is a Community Mission Deacon-supported agency. Steve Gritten is the assigned deacon and works hard to deepen our connection and outreach through this ministry.



GARDENER?

You could help Jesus is the Way on September 17 or October 15 with the garden they maintain.

This year, Presbyterian Women will wrestle with the question, “Who is Jesus?” as their Bible study. This well-written guide will be available during the coffee-hour in Westminster on Sundays in September. The magazine (\$10) will also be available during the meeting of each circle. The P.W. directory for 2016-2017 will also be available at the same time (for no charge).

Missions News from PC(USA)



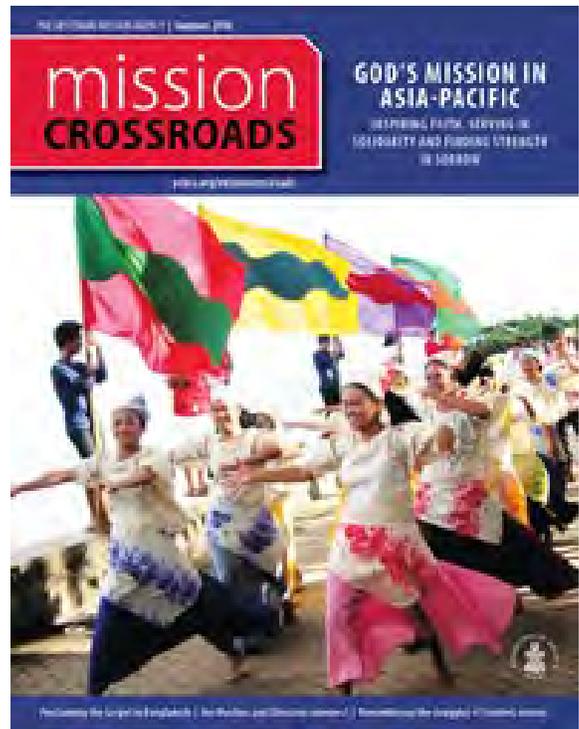
DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Would you like to help?

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is helping with disasters in areas such as Syria, Flint, West Virginia, and the Gulf. To learn more, to help you pray, or to give financially to recovery efforts, go to <https://pda.pcusa.org/>

A Little Help Goes a Long Way

Get involved with PCUSA World Mission without leaving your home. World Mission is seeking volunteers to help periodically with various tasks, like creating and updating spreadsheets, making telephone calls, and helping with mailings for mission co-worker letters. If you've wanted to devote time to World Mission, but weren't sure how, please consider this opportunity. Contact Rachel Yates at [888-728-7228 x5353](tel:888-728-7228) or rachel.yates@pcusa.org to learn more.



Mission Crossroads is online

The summer issue of Mission Crossroads is devoted to God's mission in Asia-Pacific. On pages 16-17 learn how you can help repurpose shipping containers to build calamity-resistant classrooms, schools and churches in Asia.

Go to this address to access https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/MXR_Summer16.pdf

New Hopes & Realities in Cuban-American Relations

Submitted by: Pat Metcalf

“In fulfillment of the assignment of the 221st General Assembly (2014), in cooperation with the Cuban Partners Network, and after consultation with representatives of the Iglesia Presbiteriana Reformada en Cuba, the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy brings the following affirmations and recommendations to the 222nd General Assembly for full consideration.”
Approve the following affirmations and receive the study and discussion questions:

First, affirm Cuban and US Mission Achievements and Goals for the future, including increased partnership. Second, affirm that the Cuban Revolution did not break all ties across the Florida straits and honor those who maintained connections; a joint labor of love that has sought to embody God’s peace across daunting ideological lines. Third, call for a better and fairer relationship than our nations have had both before and after the 1959 revolution. In hopes of hastening the reconciliation of our peoples and our churches, this report was called for by the 221st GA (six months before President Obama’s announcement of mutual diplomatic recognition and efforts to end some remnants of the Cold War). While there is much to celebrate, ensuring a sustainable future will require much practical and painstaking work of reconciliation and ending remaining strategies intended for regime change.

The PC (USA) GA has sought to understand and respond to events since its 1969 Statement *“Illusion and realities in Inter-American Relations”*. While opposing all limitations on Human Rights in Cuba, the GA has repeatedly called for an end to the economic embargo and other sanctions that have divided families and limited economic development without bringing about political change. The GA through its mission agencies has supported the development of the Cuba Partners Network. The Network has fostered more than 80 partnerships, benefitting the church as a whole and this study in particular.

The Assembly states its appreciation for the ACSWP’s ability to meet with Cuban and U.S. government representatives. This report affirms Cuba’s gains in some economic and social areas such as education and medical care, without ignoring its limitations on civil and other rights. The study paper that supports these recommendations provides data and summary analysis on these topics: economic change and human values, social and racial concerns, Cuban American and Cuban Communities, the religious environment, the natural environment, political dynamics, military and security factors (with the U.S. and other nations in the region.)

Recommendations (with very brief rationale):

In support of mutual mission engagement with the Iglesia Presbiteriana Reformada en Cuba (IPRC). This engagement will be based on the principles of “people –to-people” exchange for spiritual growth and learning. It will build on existing theological statements and study of partnerships and on past experiences of mutuality in mission: shared community projects; mutual visits to Cuba and the U.S.; increasing connection between the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas and U.S. seminaries; as well as pulpit and other exchanges.



Other recommendations in the report provide opportunities for mutual engagement in issues of importance to both societies: environmental/energy concerns; racial conflict and disparities; aging populations; hunger and food security; economic disparities all of which create the greatest burden on the most vulnerable in each society.

In support of the IPRC’s legal recognition and political autonomy. At present, only the Roman Catholic Church is officially recognized by the Cuban government as a religious entity in Cuba; the Protestant Churches are recognized in the “Law of Associations”. We support a legal status that goes beyond simple “association”, one that allows non-Roman churches like the IPRC to have the same recognition under Cuban law. This may also lead to more access to the Cuban government beyond the Office of Religious Affairs, especially with regard to social ministries and environmental/energy projects.

Regarding joint work to address Cuba’s Environmental concerns. Dr. Reinerio Arce and Seminary Dean Francisco Marrero stress the need for a change in mentality in regard to mutual environmental stewardship – “We can’t avoid being political because we are part of society ...We need to educate for environmental responsibility ...We need to do theological reading of the situation and we need to do it together.” Environmental concerns have been a key focus for the IPRC and the Cuban Council of Churches social outreach for many years. They are directly involved at the local level, and are hoping for more voice in shaping regional and national policies.

Specific concerns: Degradation due to industry/climate change; provision of purified drinking water; flooding concerns and support of environmentally responsible community agriculture.

To end the Embargo and subsequent Impedimentary Acts (Cuba Democracy Act – 1992, Helms-Burton 1996) There is substantial evidence that the embargo has had more impact on the Cuban people than on their government, hence this 55-year-old policy is an impediment to reconciliation. To call for an end to the embargo is effectively to call for a new trade agreement, preferably one that allows Cuba's full integration into a stronger Caribbean basin economy. This means revoking the Cuba Democracy Act, and also the Helms-Burton Act which states that the embargo cannot be lifted absent "free and fair elections" in Cuba and a "democratic government" minus the Castro brothers. This report encourages churches and communities in the U.S. and Cuba to emphasize "fair trade", and in any new arrangement to consider the impact on U.S. and Cuban workers, the environment, migration, food sovereignty and Cuba's most vulnerable citizens. Fundamentally, the embargo's U.S. laws contravene international law, unless justified in terms of acts of war.

The PC(USA) has been on record through GA action on ending the Embargo since 1969; Helms Burton since 1997. This statement calls for fairness in adjudicating property claims and notes several non-zero-sum approaches to that issue.

On Immigration Policy: End the Cuban Adjustment Act, the Cuban Medical Professional Parole Program, and other

preferential Programs. The Cuban Adjustment Act is one of the most "preferential" immigration policies in U.S. history, and one of the most disruptive to normalizing relations. During both consultations numerous people including government officials, confirmed the significant role this asylum category plays in encouraging Cuban immigration to the U.S. Of specific concern is the "wet-foot/dry-foot-" policy which was added as an update to the Cuban Adjustment Act to deter the large number of dangerous raft migrations. The Act allows Cubans expedited residency (ultimately citizenship) if they reach U.S. soil, but returns them to Cuba or a 3rd country if they are caught at sea.

The Cuban Medical Parole Program is particularly targeted at a strength of the Cuban medical and educational system by subsidizing relocation and citizenship for Cuban medical professionals (ranging from doctors, nurses and paramedics to sports trainers) and their spouses.



On the return of Guantanamo Naval Base and prison. Although the U.S. has hundreds of military bases in more than 70 countries, the Guantanamo Naval Base is somewhat unusual. It dates back to the U.S. seizure of Spanish territories after the sinking of the Maine in Havana Harbor and the U.S. intervention in Cuba's fight for independence (called by the U.S. "the Spanish-American War"). Guantanamo originally served as a coal fueling station. In 1934 a perpetual lease for the base was contracted requiring both parties to agree to its termination. This follows the pattern of the 1902 Platt Amendment which authorized U.S. unilateral intervention into Cuba by the U.S. military. The U.S. sends a small rent check each year for Guantanamo that has been cashed only once since the Revolution of 1959.

The U.S. presence has long been judged an unwanted foreign intrusion on Cuba's sovereignty. The GA has been on record on the dismantling of Guantanamo since 1969.

The current prison at Guantanamo was begun in 2002 under President George W. Bush. The administration argued that U.S. Constitutional protections did not apply to prisoners, since they were outside territorial U.S. and that the Geneva Conventions did not apply to prisoner treatment since the prisoners were "unlawful enemy combatants." The GA has previously called for closing the prison and returning the naval base to Cuba. The prison weakens claims that the US practices better human rights.

The GA passed a Resolution on Torture and Abuse of Prisoners naming Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib specifically in 2006.

Recommendation for a New Interdenominational Partnership Agreement between the PC (USA) and the IPRC in 2016 With the results of this study and recommendations a background, along with the 1986 mutual mission agreement and the subsequent 2000 reaffirmation (Sharing God's Vision) of that partnership between the PC (USA) and the IPRC, we envision the 2016 Cuba Partners Network Meeting in Cuba as a venue for a broader participation toward this common reaffirmation. With appropriate funding and resources committed to this meeting, with leadership from the IPRC Synod and World Mission, Cuba Partners Network would engage in "Hermanamiento" (sisterhood) toward an updated, nuanced mutual agreement.

NOTE: This informational handout is heavily excerpted from the original. Please go to www.PC-BIZ.org for Item 12-07 or directly, <https://pc-biz.org/#/search/3000076> Committee: Peacemaking and International Issues, (New Hopes and Realities in Cuban American Relations) for full text.

Cuba Partners Forum



CUBA

Learn more about
Cuba and our
relationship

Review
recommendations
from US
Church/Cuba
Church
Consultation

Discern how you
can be further
involved

October 22,
2016

8am-1pm

Centennial
Hall