



The Outreach Foundation REACHING OUT



Fall 2018

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MUTUAL ENCOURAGEMENT WITH OUR MISSION PARTNERS *Join The Outreach Foundation on a trip in 2019*

If you perused past issues of our *Reaching Out* newsletter, you would notice a consistent theme: we talk a lot about travel and traveling with Outreach. Why? Because we firmly believe that when you travel out into the world to see what God is doing, the first life changed will be *yours*. Meeting different people in different cultures who are working on behalf of the Lord is an incredibly gratifying and uplifting experience. Something else equally as important occurs. The Apostle Paul speaks of it in Romans 1. Mutual encouragement. When you visit with others in mission, you encourage them just by showing up. But ironically, you too are encouraged. It is, indeed, mutual encouragement. Outreach has already scheduled eleven trips next year, so if you are interested in experiencing this mutual encouragement, consider traveling with us in 2019. Each trip offers its own unique perspective and experience with our mission partners. Read on to get a glimpse of just a few of those trips around the world.

Cuba • March 14–22

You are invited to join The Outreach Foundation this March to experience God's work in Cuba. Your host for the trip will be the Evangelical Theological Seminary at Matanzas. Along the way you will be learning from church leaders and exploring partnership possibilities as you meet with congregations of the Presbyterian

Reformed Church in Cuba. You will absorb the history and culture that shape the ministry context for our partners to the south and discern how changes in relations between our nations will affect them.

Tete Province • June 3–13

Experience holistic evangelism in Tete Province this June. Rev. Nedson Zulu, the coordinator for the Holistic Evangelism project, and Seber Banda, the public health nurse who leads the health ministries, will be your guides as your group travels from village to village, meeting local Christian leaders and encouraging them in their work. You will experience components of the Holistic Evangelism Project that are supported by Presbyterians through The Outreach Foundation including planting and building churches, digging community wells, building schools and teacher houses, training in church leadership and income-producing skills, and improving the lives of the people through health education. If you choose to travel to Tete Province, you will learn from the faith of our African brothers and sisters as you meet, pray and worship together and open yourself to God to allow for spiritual growth and transformation.

Iranians in Diaspora • September 13–23

In September, join The Outreach Foundation for a unique vision trip to learn about a special ministry to

Iranians. After the 1979 Iranian revolution, Iranians of all faiths fled the country for destinations around the globe. Since then, more Iranians have become Christians than in the previous 1,400 years combined. Iranians have left their home country by the hundreds of thousands, settling around the world, especially in Germany, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Sweden and Greece. Because we're not able to go to Iran, you will travel to several of the countries listed to meet with Iranian Christians. Led by Outreach's own Iranian Ministry Coordinator, Sasan Tavassoli, you will talk, learn, laugh, pray, worship, and eat with our new friends. You will learn how the Word is reaching Iranians in many locations, even in difficult places. Join Outreach for this exciting opportunity to see how God is working through the diaspora to bring others to Christ.

China • October 15–28

Travel with The Outreach Foundation in October to learn more about God's mission in China. This trip will increase your exposure to the ways in which the church is thriving in China today and the endurance that carried them through the challenging circumstances of past generations. You will visit the cities of Shanghai, Suzhou, and Nanjing. You will see Christian councils and cultural sites and the printing press that produces more Bibles than any other in the world. Special attention will be given to Presbyterian heritage and opportunities for continued partnership and exchange with one of the most vibrant churches today.

In addition to these trips to visit Cuba, Tete Province, Iranians in Diaspora, and China, you could also join The Outreach Foundation to visit Lebanon/Syria, Costa Rica, Pakistan, Egypt, Kenya/East Africa, or Iraq in 2019! For more information on any of these trips and how to get involved, contact The Outreach Foundation at 615-778-8881 or email lisa@theoutreachfoundation.org.

Top: Church Construction in Placetas Cuba
Bottom: Outreach Group in Tete Province



Top: Iranians in Diaspora trip in London
Bottom: Outreach Group in China



About The Outreach Foundation

The Outreach Foundation engages Presbyterians and global partners in proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Because our ministry is Kingdom work, not denominational work, we work with PC (USA), EPC, ECO, Fellowship Community congregations and others. We help congregations build long-term partnerships with the global church that are mutually transformational. Every person, project and partnership we support is directly involved in sharing the Gospel in word and deed.

Our work depends entirely upon the involvement and financial support of mission-minded individuals, congregations and organizations. We receive gifts in our office and disburse them to partners around the world. Established in 1979, The Outreach Foundation is independently governed by a Board of Trustees, all of whom are pastors or officers in their respective congregations.

Our Mission

Connecting Presbyterians to build the church's capacity to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ

Our Convictions

Committed to the historic Christian faith as it is revealed in God's Word and expressed by the ecumenical creeds and in the Reformed confessions, we affirm that

- Jesus Christ is the only Lord and Savior.
- God's grace in Jesus Christ is for all people.
- The church exists for God's glory and God's mission.
- Discipleship and mission are the calling of every follower of Jesus.
- God connects us in mission through relationships of mutual respect and support.
- The Holy Spirit empowers the church to bear witness to the Good News by its life words and deeds.

Our Priorities

Helping the church live out its missional calling

Building the mission capacity of the global church, especially where the church is vulnerable or growing rapidly, as together we

- cultivate deep, long-term relationships
- support the work of missionaries
- help each other equip leaders, plant and build churches, and strengthen ministries of compassion

Transforming lives through mission involvement

Reaching Out

Reaching Out is published three times per year by The Outreach Foundation to inform friends and donors about our involvement in God's mission. Subscriptions are offered free of charge upon request. To request a complimentary subscription, inform us of an address or name change, or for more information about our ministry, please contact us.

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BUILD • CONNECT • TRANSFORM



You've heard us say this before: **You make a difference. In partnering with The Outreach Foundation, your heart and gifts for mission help equip leaders, plant and build churches, assist vulnerable churches in difficult places and strengthen ministries of compassion around the world.**

Your gifts also allow our staff to explore potential new opportunities, encourage existing partners as they engage in work we've funded, and deepen our relationships with donors and global partners. It is through these relationships that we are able to share in God's work in the world. That sharing takes three forms:

- **BUILDING** – In addition to helping partners build churches, schools and other projects, we build the capacity of our congregations and our global partners to share the message of God's love and saving grace.
- **CONNECTING** – We connect believers here to those in different and sometimes distant places knowing that we are better and more effective when we serve together.

• **TRANSFORMING** – Transforming our lives is the work of God's Spirit. We know that as we join with others in God's mission the first life that is changed is our own.

We depend upon the generous financial support of mission-minded individuals like you to make our work possible. We invite you to make a gift to The Outreach Foundation's annual appeal, allowing us to continue engaging Presbyterians and global partners in proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ around the world. You may make a gift using the enclosed envelope, using the QR code below, or going to our website and making an online gift at:

www.theoutreachfoundation.org/annualappeal

You WILL make a difference. Don't miss the video stories at the website location above. You'll see how God is working in the world. Thank you for being our partner. 🌍



Trip Scholarships for Emerging Leaders

Several years ago, a family foundation made a creative commitment. They created a scholarship fund to help new pastors and seminarians participate in Outreach Foundation trips. The "Missional Leadership Formation Fund" introduces emerging leaders to God's work around the world in ways that shape their understanding of what it means to be a pastor with a heart for the world, for God's mission.

Tim Lee, who is studying for his M.A. in Theology and Ministry at Fuller Seminary, utilized

a scholarship to join The Outreach Foundation on a mission vision trip to Brazil. He described the trip as extremely life-giving. "My life is very busy with work, church involvement, and my seminary classes. In the time leading up to this trip to Brazil, I felt exhausted. But God surprised me. In visiting all the churches and [church] plants, meeting several pastors and other Christians, I felt like God was allowing me to rest, receive, and simply be in his presence in a new way."

Tim Lee with Outreach group in Brazil



Tamara John in Mexico



Cistern construction in Mexico





The Blessings of Being Together

Imagine being a follower of Jesus in a country where only 2% of the people are Christian. As a Presbyterian, you would be a tiny minority of a tiny minority. The ministry Open Doors listed Pakistan as the fourth "hardest" country in which to be a Christian.

During a recent trip to visit partners in Pakistan, we experienced the vitality of Christian communities that do not take for granted their shared faith and commitment to one another. One day we traveled for hours to join the leaders of four presbyteries who had gathered for fellowship and to welcome us. We were struck by how excited the leaders were to be together. There were songs and speeches and prayers and discussion of future plans. And lots of good food. Some had traveled nearly 100 miles to be together. The Churmunda Parish of Pasrur Presbytery was our host. Representatives of the presbytery's twelve congregations gathered. Churmunda Parish, like most of the larger churches, has planted and is responsible for small churches in 10 other villages.

Village living for Presbyterians is often a challenge. They are discriminated against when it comes to

employment, often holding the most menial and lowest paying jobs. Many of the poor are trapped in a kind of indentured servitude to the owners of the brick kiln or other places that work may be found.

The poverty makes life hard for the pastors, too, most of whom are not paid. With occasional gifts of an animal or grain from church members the pastors eke by. Earlier this year Outreach sought to encourage some of the rural pastors by sending funds for motorcycles. These are a great help in their ministry and can also be used to generate some income by providing transportation and delivery services. We met some of the recipients, and they were so grateful! More motorcycles, which cost \$750, are needed.

Each day in Pakistan we were humbled by the faith and faithfulness of those we met. Men, women and children who love the Lord and are seeking to share his love in a place where most do not know him. Please pray for the church in Pakistan. 🌍

Rob Weingartner
Executive Director

Another scholarship recipient, Reverend Tamara John of Hope for Life Chapel RV Ministry in Huntington Beach, California, recently joined Outreach on a trip to Calakmul in southern Mexico. While there, the team dug six cisterns with other Presbyterians and a representative from each family who was to receive a cistern. They sweated side-by-side as a team while enjoying fellowship as they worked. Tamara noted, "The mission of The Outreach Foundation is 'Connecting God's people with God's work in the world' and this certainly rang true during the trip!"

Amy Speas, Resident Pastor at Meyers Park Presbyterian Church, also took a trip with Outreach

thanks to a scholarship from the Missional Leadership Formation Fund. She traveled to Ghana and described the trip as being formative in her sense of call. Speas said, "I left Ghana knowing I was passionate about being present in different cultures and learning from and with people in different countries. This trip helped me solidify my current sense of call; connecting people from different cultures to learn and grow together, in faith."

For anyone considering participating in a trip with Outreach, Speas added, "Go! Any books or stories you hear from another country simply cannot have the same impact as traveling in another country. The experiences I had in Ghana and continue to have visiting new cultures only offer more faithful questions and deepen my own Christianity."

For more information on trips or the scholarship opportunities available through the Missional Leadership Formation Fund, contact The Outreach Foundation at 615-771-8881 or email info@theoutreachfoundation.org. 🌍

Amy Speas with Outreach group in Ghana



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Stu and Annie Ross, East Africa Mission Consultants
Rev. Dr. Sasan Tavassoli, Coordinator of Iranian Ministries
Rev. Dr. Nuhad Tomeh, Middle East Mission Consultant
Rev. Nedson Zulu, Project Manager, Tete Province Mozambique

GOOD TO KNOW

We welcome Kelly Rickert as our new Communications Coordinator in the Franklin, TN office. Kelly comes to Outreach with significant writing, production and digital communications experience. We're delighted she is on the Outreach Communications Team.

We say goodbye to Tom Widmer, Outreach Director of Development since 2011. We'll miss his winsome faith and the wonderful ways he has contributed to Outreach's life and work. Tom retires before the end of the year to his home in Montreat, NC.

In turn, we welcome our new Director of Development, Rev. Dr. Mark Mueller to our Outreach team. Mark has broad experience in parish ministry and in education and has served on our Board of Trustees. He has a heart and much passion for mission, having traveled extensively with Outreach through the years.



THE
OUTREACH
FOUNDATION
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, INC.

381 Riverside Drive, Suite 110
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

2018 Christmas Projects List

“...God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”

— 1 John 5:11

As we celebrate the birth of God's greatest gift to us, please consider honoring your friends and family with a gift in their name to one of the projects listed. We will send you a Christmas card acknowledgment that you may send to the person you would like to honor and in the months ahead, they will receive updates about the project. Visit our website at www.theoutreachfoundation.org for more information.

Alternative Christmas Gifts

Bibles for New Christians \$10

The Bible is a powerful tool in leading people to Christ and the foundation for growing in the faith for every Christian. But in many places Bibles are not available or are too expensive to obtain. It is especially important that new Christians have access to God's Word in their own language. Your gift of \$10 can provide a Bible to a new Christian in any of several strategic places including China (Study Bibles), Africa (Audio Bibles), Egypt (through the Bible Society of Egypt), and more. Give the precious gift of a Bible this Christmas.

School Materials for Community Schools in Zambia \$50

There are 32 community schools for orphaned and vulnerable children managed by the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Synod of Zambia. More than 5,800 children are supervised by over 120 volunteer teachers. Many classes use church buildings but lack furniture such as desks and other basic material. Priority needs for this program include teachers' stipends/incentives, teaching materials and text books, classroom furniture, sanitation and scholarship support. This program educates children who are not able to go to regular schools due to financial constraints. Education is the key to fighting poverty, which drives many children to the streets. Your \$50 gift will provide a desk, books, pencils, and more for students at these community schools, promising a future off the streets.

Sewing Machine for Women in Zimbabwe \$100

Home of Hope ministers to people living on the streets of Harare, Zimbabwe. One of the projects that Home of Hope provides is teaching women to sew and furnishing them with starter kits of supplies. Learning a skill, such as sewing, gives these women the ability to support their families and have greater hope for their future. Your gift of \$100 will provide a woman with a sewing machine, supplies, training and hope. 🙏