



# REACHING OUT

The Outreach Foundation Newsletter • Fall 2019

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# 40 YEARS

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## The Outreach Foundation's 40th Anniversary Celebration

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**What a blessing it was** to gather in Nashville on September 22 to celebrate The Outreach Foundation's 40th Anniversary. Present and former trustees and staff members, Great Commission Society members, donors, and friends gathered to give thanks to God for his faithfulness during the four decades Outreach has served the church and God's mission in the world.

Our guest of honor for the evening was Rev. Farouk Hammo, pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Baghdad, Iraq. It was inspiring to hear stories of faith from his ministry and the compassionate service of his congregation. And it was humbling to hear his words of thanks for how Outreach has come alongside the churches in Iraq.

Our relationships with partners define not only what we do but who we are. We were encouraged to hear words of appreciation from many other partners, a few of which are excerpted here:

**Warm greetings from Matanzas.** “May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord” (2 Peter 1:2).

On behalf of the Seminario Evangélico de Teología in Matanzas, we add our voice to the “great cloud of witnesses” in the world who express our most sincere appreciation to The Outreach Foundation on the occasion of celebrating its 40th Anniversary. Indeed, we are proud of being part of this history!

We pray for you to continue to be a blessing to others, in various parts of the oikoumene [*inhabited world*], as you keep on “Engaging God’s people in God’s work in the world!”

Best regards and blessings,

**Pastor Carlos Emilio Ham (D.Min/Ph.D.)**

*Principal of the Evangelical Seminary of Theology, Matanzas, Cuba*

Carlos Emilio Ham, George Sabra and Rob Weingartner





## **To The Outreach Foundation:**

I offer my heartfelt congratulations to you all for this 40-year anniversary celebration. The Outreach Foundation has walked with Sherri and me ever since we were first seeking to discern a call, which first led us to Egypt for five years and then to Zambia, where we have served since 2010.

Jeff Ritchie and Rob Weingartner have walked with us and been such sources of encouragement. Outreach staff have prayed for us. Friends and congregations have come alongside us in appreciating Outreach, entrusting their resources for student scholarships at Justo Mwale and other projects as well.

God has touched these students' lives through Outreach, and thus God touches the world through Outreach. I'm so thankful to call The Outreach Foundation a friend and partner. May God guide and bless you in the years ahead!

**Dustin Ellington**

*PC(USA) Coworker, Justo Mwale University, Lusaka, Zambia*



Dustin and Sherri Ellington

**I am most grateful to you** for the opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to you all, as you mark the 40th Anniversary of The Outreach Foundation, today!

I hope you will permit me to single out three extraordinary and special people for mention: (1) your distinguished Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Rob Weingartner, (2) The Outreach Foundation's globe trotter and 'energizer', Associate Director for Partnership Development, Marilyn Borst, and (3) your influential Director of Development, my dear brother, Rev. Dr. Mark Mueller. You have worked tirelessly in Lebanon, Syria, and the Middle East region to extend hope, faith, and aid.

I renew the expression of my friendship and goodwill, as we look forward to the next 40 years in partnership with you! I send you my warmest thanks and best wishes. May God bless you and bring you much happiness and peace.

In His Service,  
**George Mourad, pastor**  
*National Evangelical Church in Rabiya*



Sunday School Ministry at Rabiya



## **Dear Brothers and Sisters of The Outreach Foundation,**

Happy 40th Anniversary! Usually, anniversaries are related to age. For adults, birthdays remind them that they are getting older. However, it is different for this 40th anniversary of your blessed organization. As you are crossing your 40th, Outreach Foundation is more healthy, more fit, more independent, and more achieving. Why? Because it is not an individual. You are a community of faith and mission.

As you celebrate the 40th anniversary, we will celebrate with you our 10th Outreach/NESSL anniversary. Through the years of war in Syria, Outreach revived our hope in a better future with God, despite the suffering and pain. Not only buildings were rehabilitated and raised, but also souls and hearts. All that because of Christ and for the sake of Christ.

As you light your 40 candles, remember that ten of them already enlightened our community for a better future with the Almighty. Happy Anniversary.

**Joseph Kassab, General Secretary**

*National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon*

Rev. Joseph Kassab  
on our visit to Nabek  
Church. Last fall,  
Joseph baptized young  
Christian, seen here.

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**To all the friends in The Outreach Foundation, greetings, and much love.**

I praise God for hands that reached out to many people around the world who are in need and provided help and healing.

For the many years of being acquainted, and befriended with this great Foundation through Marilyn, Julie, Mark, Nancy, and many other great names, I praise God for having honored me with such friendships.

Thus, personally, and on behalf of the Near East School of Theology, the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, and all the individual congregations in our countries, and the refugee children, I allow myself to express deep gratitude to all who work for, and support the ministry of The Outreach Foundation that has been God's agent to bring help, healing, and hope to so many!

For many more years in God's Service,  
In Christ,  
**Mary Mikhael**

Mary Mikhael of NESSL,  
Assis (Rev.) Tony, Rev. Jack Baca





## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Southeast Mexico would like to express our most deep and sincere gratitude to The Outreach Foundation for the financial support that it gave to us for the construction of our facilities and for the ongoing contributions towards student scholarships, and faculty development.

We congratulate The Outreach Foundation for its 40 years of existence and service to churches and institutions in Latin America and other parts of the world.

May God continue to use you in this noble work.

Blessings,

**Rev. José Juan Hernández García**

*The Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Southeast Mexico*

To read the letters in their entirety, visit [www.theoutreachfoundation.org](http://www.theoutreachfoundation.org). •

### Students at The Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Southeast Mexico



# WHERE NEEDED MOST

**As the end of 2019 approaches,** The Outreach Foundation will launch its end of the year giving campaign to meet emergency mission needs. These funds are placed in a financial account called “Where Needed Most.” They are accessed only by our Executive Director, Rob Weingartner.

Here is an example of how the funds can be used. Imagine for a moment one of our global partners receiving funds through generous donors of The Outreach Foundation for a new church roof in Rwanda. At the construction site in Rwanda on August 23, 2019, the new roof was being installed. Some of the community had gathered to watch this construction. Suddenly, a pillar of the existing church collapsed sending the roof and construction workers to the ground. The next day a call was placed to The Outreach Foundation and our Executive Director, Rob Weingartner released emergency funds to strengthen the foundation of the church and install the new roof. Had the emergency fund not existed, the church community would have had to wait until a funding proposal could be brought before the Partnership Committee of The Outreach Foundation at its semi-annual meeting. A community of believers would have been without their gathering place. Thanks be to God this did not happen.

“Where Needed Most” is vital to the effective operation of The Outreach Foundation to meet unexpected trouble on the mission field. Since many churches, individuals, and organizations understand this need, giving to this fund has been well-received over the years.

One particular mission committee member of a church in Indiana wrote, “We are grateful for the mission work of The Outreach Foundation. Our giving to this fund releases some of the burden of making all the endless choices of where to spend our mission dollars. When we give to “Where Needed Most” we entrust the wise use of our mission dollar in areas where funds are desperately needed.”

Please consider a gift to “Where Needed Most.”

**Mark Mueller**

*Director of Development* •







# Generations of Generosity

— FOR THE AGES —

*“Honor the Lord with your substance and  
with the first fruits of all your produce.”*

*— Proverbs 3:9*

Jones family on a  
mission trip to Kenya





**The Outreach Foundation is blessed** with many generous partners and supporters around the world and here in the United States. Two such individuals from the U.S. are Powell and Caren Jones, who have been faithful supporters of Outreach for 20 years. They have shared their love of mission and their generosity with their children, now ages 20-31, as well. Each has a deep faith, learning their own roles in global missions and generosity that spans generations back to great grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Powell. Powell's Aunt, Bobbie Flowers, was an Elder at First Presbyterian Church in Thomasville, GA. Bobbie was one of the earliest trustees to The Outreach Foundation, a wonderful choice since FPC-T has a 45-year history of involvement with global mission.

Powell describes his earliest memories of joyful generosity, "Caren and I had been encouraged and inspired by so many great examples of faithful and generous people. We can all be instruments of God's work in our communities and around the globe. My parents were great examples of tithers. The tithe came before anything else. In fact, we were taught to work hard so we could give more." Being raised in a family and community where hard work and good stewardship were the norms, Caren and Powell were soon inspired by the concept, if you are able, of a double tithe. "We really value generosity education – we feel a responsibility in our church of developing the next generation of generous givers."

Former Outreach Executive Director Bill Bryant recruited Powell to serve as a trustee in 1999 during a weekend mission conference after Powell had joined Outreach on a mission trip. Later, in 2006, the whole Jones family took a mission trip to Africa where they met Stu and Linda Ross. "My whole family was immeasurably blessed to build a church side-by-side with Kenyans."

Powell and Caren share a deep faith and a vision for the global church. Together with his brother Harry, they saw the opportunity for long term impact by investing with gifts from a Powell family scholarship fund in young pastors and seminary graduates to participate in global mission trips as a tool to shape their lifelong ministry. For the last 15 years, Powell and his brother Harry have tried to expand this program as a means to deepen young pastors' faith and their commitment to God's mission, which helps to grow the global church.

When invited to join the Great Commission Society, Powell and Caren were swift to join, saying, "We do this with joy!" "God has blessed our family in so many ways. Our 33 years of marriage are one of those blessings and we pray through our giving and make decisions together. We balance each other with giving decisions as we consider needs and opportunities."

Thank you, Powell and Caren! You are wonderful examples of faithfulness and generosity.

**Ralph Wheeler**

*Major and Planned Gifts Officer* •





# 2019 CHRISTMAS PROJECTS LIST

*"...God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." – 1 John 5:11*

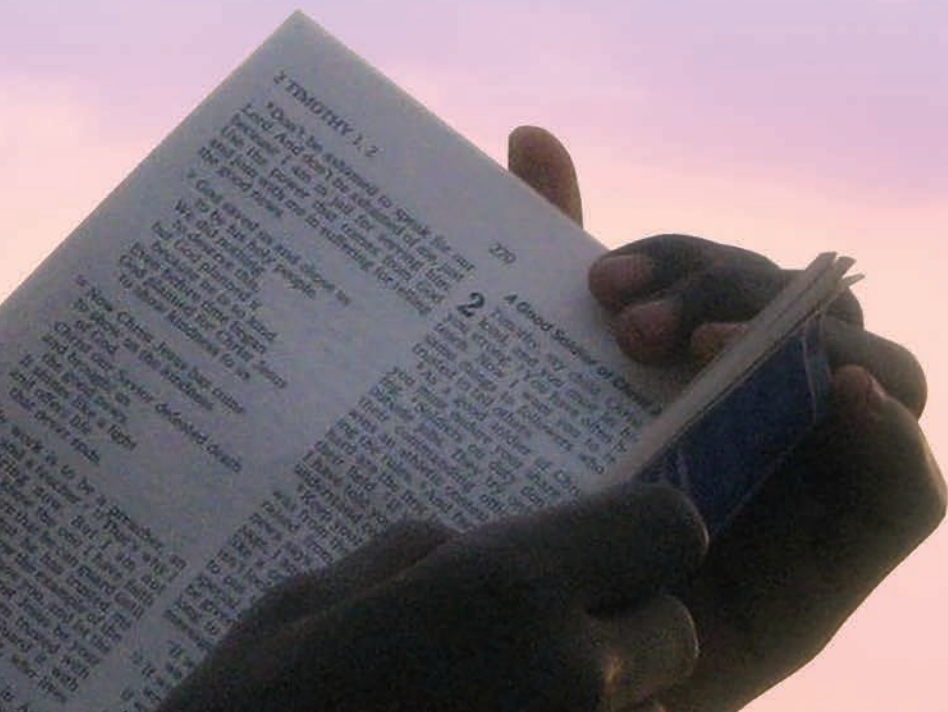
As we celebrate the birth of God's greatest gift to us, please consider honoring your friends and family with a gift in their name to one of the projects listed below. We will send you a Christmas card acknowledgment that you may send to the person you would like to honor and, in the months ahead, they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

Visit our website at [www.theoutreachfoundation.org](http://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.



# Native Trees and Fruit Trees in Madagascar ..... \$50

Lemurs, tenrecs, harahara trees, and numerous other animals and plants found only on Madagascar are under extreme threat from deforestation. Poverty is an underlying cause that is driving deforestation and preventing Madagascar's children from reaching their educational goals and contributing to the betterment of their country. The Fruits, Vegetables, and Environmental Education (FVEE) program of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM) is working with The Outreach Foundation through the ministry of Dan and Elizabeth Turk to grow native Malagasy trees, fruit trees, and fast-growing trees to help protect native plants and animals and to help people get out of poverty.

This Christmas, you can help plant native trees and fruit trees at schools and churches in Madagascar; produce grafted mangos and other fruit trees to help low-income farmers get their families out of poverty; produce and plant fast-growing trees to provide needed fuelwood and construction wood. Your \$50 gift will provide 5 trees, from production through planting at a church or school.

**A flamboyant tree, one of Madagascar's tree ambassadors to other parts of the tropics**







Children with trees for planting





# Village Health Kits in Tete Province, Mozambique .....\$120

There is a great need for Village Health Assistants (VHA) kits in Tete Province, Mozambique. Sebber Banda, public health nurse and project manager for Holistic Evangelism in Tete Province, trains VHA who live in remote, rural villages far from hospitals, clinics, or doctors. The VHA are trained in first aid and are able to treat minor injuries in villages where doctors or medical treatment is not available. They are supplied a kit with some medical supplies after their training is complete. Your gift of \$120 will provide a Village Health Assistant with a kit to care for their neighbors in these rural areas. •

Village Health Assistants  
Training Graduates



Village Health Assistant Medical Kit





# TRAVEL WITH OUTREACH IN 2020

**We invite you to travel** with The Outreach Foundation to spend time with our global partners – to encourage and be encouraged!  
Come with us to see how God is at work.

*Some of the trips are tentative and some dates are not final.*

*\*\*\* Please visit our website for updated information. \*\*\**

Seeing Our Faith through  
African Eyes: A Journey to  
**GHANA**  
February 20 - March 1

**EGYPT**  
March 5 - 16

**GUATEMALA**  
March 14 - 22

**CUBA**  
March 27 - April 3

**HOLY LAND**  
April 24 - May 5

**ZAMBIA**  
May

**LEBANON/SYRIA**  
May 18 - 28

**COLOMBIA**  
May 22 - 29

**HAITI**  
May 30 - June 6

Tete Province,  
**MOZAMBIQUE**  
June 8 - 18

Faithful Women on the Road:  
**LEBANON**  
July 24 - August 2

**RWANDA**  
August

**KENYA**  
September

**IRAQ**  
October

**BRAZIL**  
October

**EGYPT**  
November

**For more information about travel with The Outreach Foundation,  
please contact [info@theoutreachfoundation.org](mailto:info@theoutreachfoundation.org)**



OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, INC.

381 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, SUITE 110  
FRANKLIN, TN 37064

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*Enjoy our new look!*



THEOUTREACHFOUNDATION.ORG

*“It is always a holy  
experience to meet  
brothers and sisters  
in Christ from other  
parts of the world. I’m  
humbled and inspired  
by their faith.”*

OUTREACH TRAVELER  
FROM 2018 IRAQ TRIP

Learn about travel  
opportunities inside!