



The Outreach Foundation REACHING OUT

Spring/Summer 2016

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Connecting God's People with God's Work in the World **2015 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS**

God richly blessed The Outreach Foundation in 2015 as we connected God's people with God's mission in the world. Here are highlights of how God is at work through some of our partnerships. For exciting details about our more than 90 missionaries and projects, please visit our website!

Middle East

Thanks be to God that through generous support and fervent prayers, The Outreach Foundation recently marked a milestone, having sent \$1 million for Syrian relief. In total, more than \$1.8 million has been sent to church partners in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan to care for our brothers and sisters in the Middle East. Funds were used for food, water, medicine and healthcare, heating fuel, clothing, rebuilding churches, and starting schools. In northern Iraq, bread bakeries were built in Yazidi resettlement camps. In Lebanon, schools for Syrian children are being started. God's people are helping provide hope for Christians, Muslims and Yazidis who have had to flee their homes.

Sudan/South Sudan

In 2015 The Outreach Foundation continued its commitment to rebuild hope in South Sudan as that country entered a second year of civil war. Through the generous support of churches and individuals for our project, "Rebuilding Hope in South Sudan," we supported the refugees from South Sudan's civil war by:

- providing Bibles and hymnbooks for the churches in the refugee camps in Ethiopia
- distributing mosquito nets and blankets during the rainy season
- supporting a trauma healing workshop for leaders in the camps as they minister to the 10s of 1000s of those traumatized by the war
- providing materials and supplies for preschool classes in the camps which are led by former teachers also in the camps

Haiti

Our partner in Haiti, Haiti Outreach Ministries, is led by Pastor Leon and Jacky Dorleans. Through their wise leadership, congregations are growing, churches have been rebuilt, and vocational and leadership training are ongoing. A new HOM high school was dedicated in fall 2015, a wonderful addition as students may now continue their education in a Christian environment rather than traveling to other schools after 6th grade. But most importantly, the love of Jesus Christ is being shown and shared in this special partnership.

South Sudan church leaders from refugee camps taking hymnals back to their members.



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 directly 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.

Vision

Creating dynamic relationships that deepen mission passion and build mission capacity

Convictions

Jesus Christ is the only Lord and Savior.
The church exists for God’s glory and God’s mission.
The Spirit calls and empowers every follower of Jesus to live for him in the world.
The church bears witness to the good news in word and deed.
Biblical partnerships are built on mutual respect and sharing.

Priorities

Building the capacity of global church partners
Sending and supporting missionaries
Caring for vulnerable children
Expanding support for mission
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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Cuba

Our Presbyterian partner in Cuba, Matanzas Evangelical Theological Seminary, is the only ecumenical theology institution on the island. From four students in 1980 to 444 today, it has grown exponentially. Young church leaders are being trained there to serve both existing congregations as well as new church developments throughout Cuba. As attention focuses on the changes anticipated in Cuba now that relationships are improving between our two countries, the seminary continues to train young men and women to serve the church.

Tete Province, Mozambique

Much progress is being made on construction of the Leadership Training Center in Tete Province. In fact, the LTC is already in use! Training seminars are being held using the completed church for classroom space, while meals are being cooked and eaten in the completed kitchen/dining area. When finished, the dormitory will provide much needed sleeping arrangements. Alternative electrical sources are being investigated since the promised electrical lines have not been provided by the government. This project was possible through a matching grant.

Read more about these and our other partner ministries at www.theoutreachfoundation.org. And, thank you for being our partner in helping share the Gospel in word and deed. 🌍



Graduation at Matanzas Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cuba



Bread bakery in Yazidi resettlement camp

Roofing is underway on the Leadership Training Center in Tete!



A Story of God's Healing and Reconciliation in Rwanda

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147:3

Officials in Rwanda recently shared “official” numbers: 1,074,017 Tutsi and moderate Hutu were brutally killed in the one hundred days of genocide in 1994, leaving behind hundreds of thousands of orphans, widows, widowers, and people with disabilities. It's nearly unthinkable how such an atrocity could happen in modern times. And, it's hard to imagine how Rwandans could ever heal from the ordeal.



Members of the Light Group



Pastor Jerome visited First Presbyterian Church Nashville and is pictured here with Rev. Todd Jones and Patricia Heim.

In 1994, more than one million Rwandans were killed in 100 days. The work of reconciliation and healing continues.

But a group of Rwandan Presbyterians are working to bring healing and reconciliation to those involved. Through an initiative called the Light Group, God is helping heal situations that you would normally think are unhealable. Here is one of those stories:

“...And now we are friends, and we have given our children in marriage to one another.” These words concluded the story of a Tutsi genocide survivor in Remera, Rwanda, a woman who saw her husband and four children killed and her home burned. Months after the atrocity, she gave birth. She described thirteen years of loneliness, grief and poverty as a single mother.

Then, in 2007, the government released a large number of prisoners, nearly all men who had been perpetrators of the genocide. Most of them returned to their communities. This woman told of the utter panic she had felt when she saw the man who had killed her family walking back into town, a free man. She nearly fainted, but managed to run to her house where she hid for a few weeks.

She went on to tell of how the man came time and time again to her home to see her and ask for her forgiveness, even through the locked door. She would not see him or talk to him; she could not bring herself to do so. But each time he came, he would do some work for her — tilling her small farm plot, repairing a door, patching her roof.

After a long time of this, she went to talk to her Presbyterian pastor, Jerome Bizimana. After discussions with Rev. Bizimana, she eventually met with the man and joined the Light Group that Pastor Jerome had formed in the church. Through a few years of pastoral counseling, conversation, storytelling, sharing of feelings and listening, she recently said that God helped her to forgive the man that had killed her loved ones — “little bit by little bit and slowly by slowly.”

This story, and others like it, are possible because of the Light Group started by Pastor Jerome. The group has forty members, including twelve survivors (rape victims, widows, orphans and wounded) and twenty-eight former detainees who have confessed to committing these atrocities against them or others. Pastor Jerome, who received special training in reconciliation in Zambia, formed the group in 2010 to encourage deep levels of personal, spiritual and communal healing. Members continue to meet regularly to share life and pray, help each other with work, care for each other in need, and even invest together in cooperative efforts. Now the Light Group goes out into the community — to businesses, schools and universities, memorial events, and other churches to share their stories and their vision of reconciliation.

Rwanda is indeed rising from the ashes. With God, all things are possible, including healing and reconciliation in Rwanda.

Read more about reconciliation efforts, including more stories, by going to our website, www.theoutreachfoundation.org, for the rest of the story. And, if you would like to support the Peace and Healing Ministry arm of the Presbyterian Church in Rwanda led by Pastor Jerome Bizimana, send your donation in the enclosed envelope marked “Rwanda reconciliation.” 🙏



2015 IN REVIEW Blessed to Be a Blessing

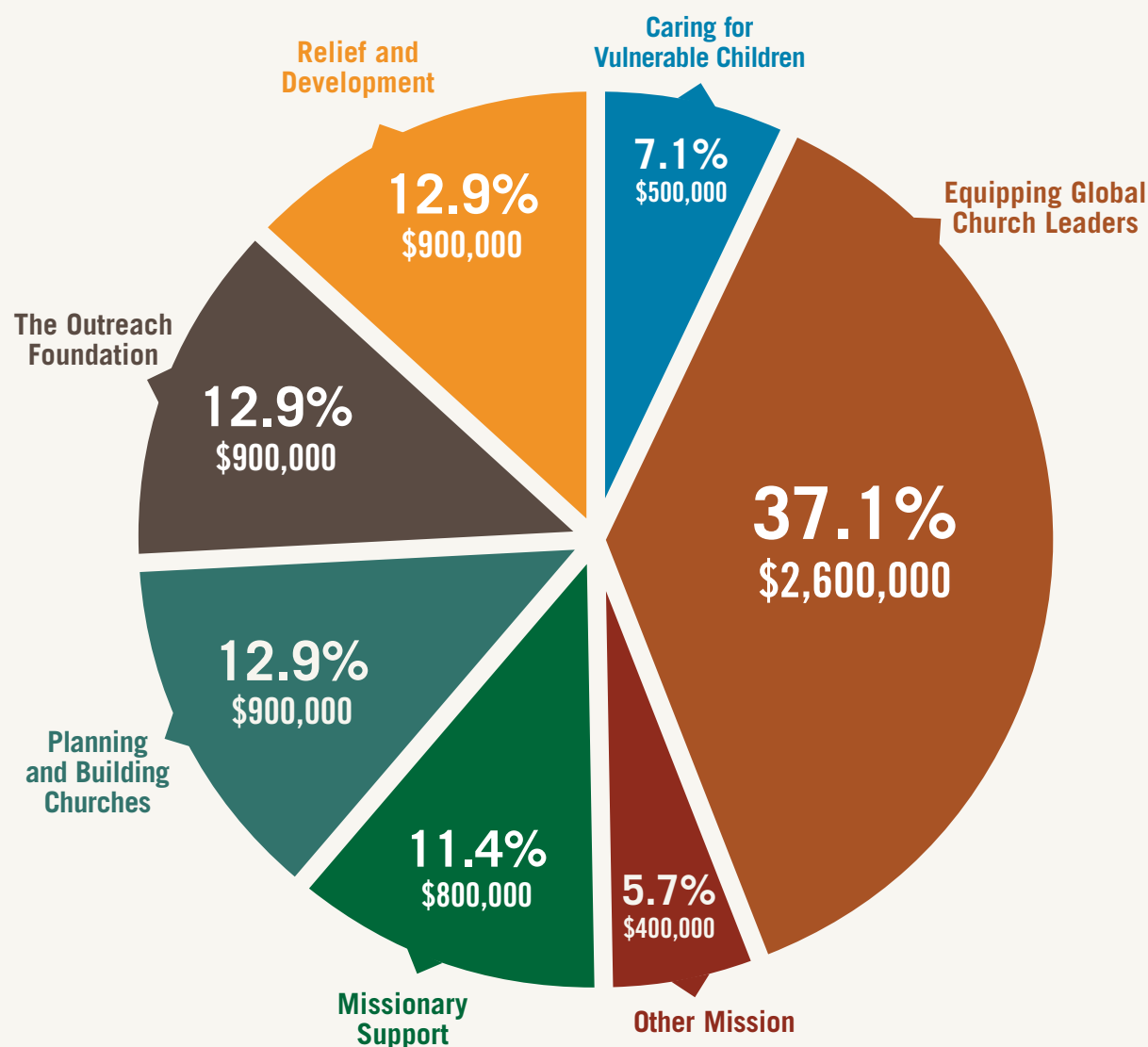


Chart 1

2015 Contributions \$7,000,000

For The Outreach Foundation, “blessed to be a blessing” has a very special, dual meaning. First, you, our donors, have been blessed by God and in turn, you have provided some of your resources for his work through The Outreach Foundation. You were blessed and you have passed on that blessing.

Secondly, you blessed us with gift increases over the previous year, for which we are most thankful. In turn, through our global partners, your gifts have been passed on and many thousands of others have been blessed. In God’s economy, blessings have a way of multiplying in ways we could never imagine.

Because your partnership with us is extremely important, we offer you this summary of 2015 financial activity. This is only a brief snapshot. Audited financial statements are available on our website (www.theoutreachfoundation.org) or from our office upon request. The Outreach Foundation’s fiscal year runs concurrent with the calendar year.

About our donor partners

The Outreach Foundation received financial contributions from 1,362 donors in 2015, representing individuals/couples, churches and organizations. Supporters represent 47 states, the District of Columbia, and various foreign countries. Total contributions were \$7 million. A breakdown of the gifts shows the following:

- 953 individuals gave \$3.4 million
- 364 churches gave \$3.1 million
- 45 organizations, including foundations and companies, gave \$500,000

We think of our ministry as Kingdom work, not denominational work. Therefore, we work with many different denominations. However, our primary partners are congregations from the extended Presbyterian family. We joyfully partner with ECO, EPC, Fellowship Community and PC(USA) congregations.



Please use this QR code to donate now to The Outreach Foundation. We appreciate your generous support!

Contributions grow by 6% to \$7 million

As mentioned above, individuals, churches and organizations contributed \$7 million in gifts during 2015, reflecting an increase of 6% over 2014. Chart 1 shows how these gifts were designated and applied.

The Outreach Foundation does not receive financial support from any denominational entity. We rely entirely upon the financial support of mission-minded individuals, congregations and organizations, receiving gifts in our office and disbursing them directly to mission partners around the world.

Mission disbursements grow by over 14% to \$8 million

During 2015, The Outreach Foundation disbursed almost \$8 million in support of missionaries and projects around the world. This represents more than a 14% increase over 2014. See pages 8-9 for detail on the programs that were supported.

Our total expenditures for 2015 were over \$8.6 million when disbursements for administration and fundraising are included (Chart 2). As is typically the case, total disbursements exceeded funds received during the year. The Outreach Foundation disburses more dollars for programs than were actually received because some contributions for projects and missionaries have planned disbursements over multiple years.

Endowment funds

The Outreach Foundation currently manages six endowed funds: The Outreach General Endowment Fund; Flowers Chair of Biblical Studies (San Pablo Theological Seminary, Merida, Mexico); McCall Endowment Fund for Mission in China; Rose Chair of New Testament Theology (Justo Mwale University, Lusaka, Zambia); Warlick Chair of Evangelism (Justo

Mwale University); and the Larsen Endowment Fund for Children's Education in Africa.

We welcome your partnership

Established in 1979, The Outreach Foundation exists to help you develop relationships and participate with global partners in God's mission. We focus on programs and projects that build our global partners' capacity for evangelism and mission. Your generous gifts help make this possible.

One way to appreciate what God is doing in the world is to join us on a discovery trip. Each year, we sponsor 8-10 trips to meet with our mission partners in various global locations to learn about their work. It is a wonderful way to see what the Lord is doing in the farthest corners of the earth. Check out our trips schedule on page 10 or online at www.theoutreachfoundation.org/trips.

For more information about supporting missionaries and projects or developing mission partnerships through The Outreach Foundation, please contact us

at (615)778-8881 or info@theoutreachfoundation.org.

Notes to the Charts

Gifts reported in "The Outreach Foundation" include contributions designated for our operations, as well as funds received without restriction. Contributions designated to be used "where needed most" are considered to be unrestricted and are also reported in this category.

Dollars reported in "Missionary Support" include compensation and benefits for missionary personnel, expenses related to their ministry, and, sometimes, specific projects directly related to their work.

"Other Mission" includes a variety of projects for which The Outreach Foundation receives and disburses funds. Dollars reported here represent translation and distribution of Bibles, funds designated for mission trips including scholarships, evangelistic outreach, and other projects that complement our program priorities.

More detailed descriptions of our program priorities, as well as specific ministries, are available online at www.theoutreachfoundation.org. 🌍

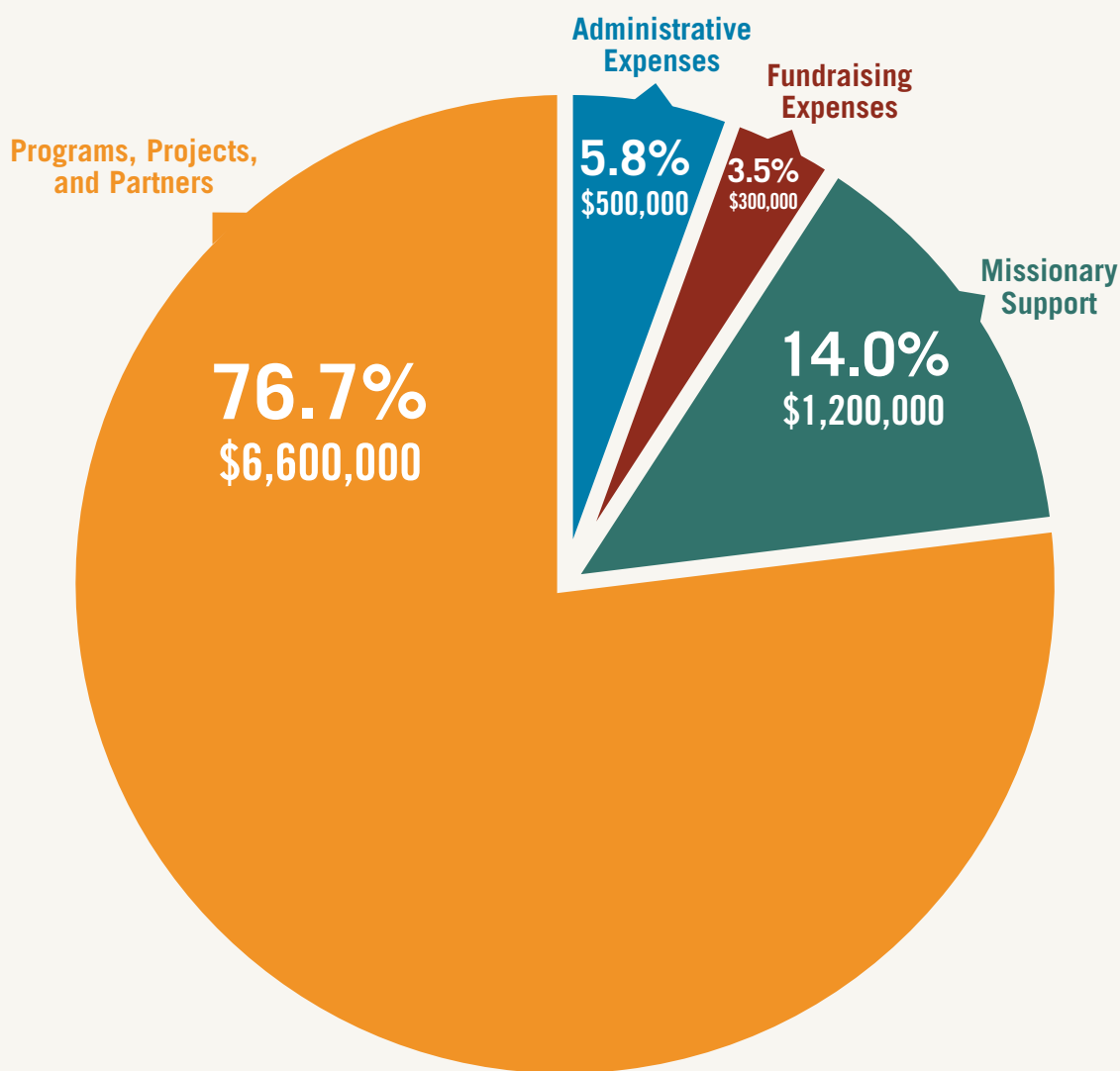


Chart 2

2015 Disbursements \$8,600,000

Our Global Partners Covering Five Continents and Thirty-five Countries





Iraq



Russia



Lithuania



Belarus



Lebanon Syria



Israel/
Palestine



Iran



Pakistan



Nepal



India



China



North
Korea



South
Korea



Japan



Taiwan

China



Malaysia

Egypt



Sudan



Ethiopia

South Sudan



Uganda



Kenya



DR Congo



Rwanda



Zambia



Zimbabwe



Mozambique



Madagascar

Mozambique





Haiti



Lebanon



Brazil

Overview of Work Funded in 2015

We give thanks to God that the projects and partners listed here were an active part of The Outreach Foundation's work around the world in 2015. Thank you for your gifts in support of this Kingdom work.

OUTREACH FOUNDATION MISSION STAFF

Rev. Dr. Peter Lim
Rev. Dr. José Carlos Pezini
Stu and Linda Ross
Rev. Dr. Sasan Tavassoli
Nuhad Tomeh
Rev. Nedson Zulu and Sebber Banda

MISSIONARIES AROUND THE WORLD

Beisswenger, Philip and Bacilia » *Guatemala*
Boone, Thomas and Joy » *Lithuania*
Boyd, Jeff and Christi » *Cameroon*
Carriker, Tim and Marta » *Brazil*
Collins, Nancy » *Regional Liaison for East Central Africa*
Cortes-Fuentes, David and Josey Saez-Acevedo » *Cuba*
Dimmock, Frank and Nancy » *Poverty Alleviation Catalyst*
Ellington, Dustin and Sherri » *Zambia*
Fletcher, John and Gwenda » *DR Congo*
Gartrell, Gordon and Dorothy » *Brazil*
Kinsler, Art and Sue » *South Korea*
Lim, Choon and Yen Hee » *Regional Liaison for East Asia*
Luke, Todd and Maria » *Mexico*
McCall, John » *Taiwan*
Moore, Bill and Ann » *Japan*
Rice, Bob and Kristi » *DR Congo*
Sivalee, Michael and Irene » *Central Brazil*
Smith, Alan and Ellen » *Regional Liaison Eastern Europe*
Tilton, Doug » *Regional Liaison for Southern Africa*
Turk, Dan and Elizabeth » *Madagascar*
Van Brocklin, Gary and Marlene » *Sri Lanka*
Wehmeyer, Don and Martha » *Mexico*
Weller, Michael and Rachel » *Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan*

**The Outreach Foundation works with additional missionaries not included in the list above due to their service in sensitive areas of the world.

PROJECTS

INTERNATIONAL

- Bibles for New Christians
- Connecting Mission Leaders Conference
- Developing South-South Mission Partnerships
- Ministry of The Outreach Foundation
- Mission Trip Scholarships for Seminary Students and New Pastors
- Missional Leadership Formation Fund
- Missionary Fund
- Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship
- The Antioch Partners
- Vulnerable Children's Fund

AFRICA

- The Booth Leadership Initiative (BLI) – Training and Church Construction
- Women's Ministries Support

DR Congo

- Booth Institutes, Kinshasa (BLI)
- Congo Primary Education
- CPC Low Cost Church Construction (BLI)
- CPK Low Cost Church Construction (BLI)
- IPCK Building Fund, Kinshasa
- Mutoto Training Facility (BLI)
- Presbyterian University of Congo, Ndesha
 - Polyvalent Training Program (BLI)
 - Student Scholarships

Ethiopia

- Bible Translation Project
- EECMY Low Cost Church Building Program (BLI)
- EECMY Rural Literacy Program (BLI)
- EECMY Training/Tentmaker Program (BLI)
- University Church Construction in Jimma
- University Student Ministry

Ghana

- Akrofi-Christaller Institute for Mission, Theology and Culture
- Interfaith Research and Resource Center
- Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Northern Outreach initiatives (BLI)

Kenya

- Clean Drinking Water in Kenya
- Girls' Rescue Centers
- Karai Orphanage and Primary School
- Kenya Girls' Education

- Nyeri Street Children's Ministry
 - Muindi-Meredith Scholarship Fund
 - Post-secondary Scholarships
 - Sugarbaker Medical Clinic
 - Tumaini and Huruma Children's Homes
 - Tumaini E-Learning Program
 - Vocational Training Programs/Center
- PCEA Church Construction Projects
- PCEA Embulbul School Construction
- PCEA Evangelist/Tentmaking Training (BLI)
- PCEA School Construction Projects
- Presbyterian University of East Africa

Madagascar

- FJKM Aids Projects
- FJKM Evangelism and Outreach Ministries
- Ivato Theological Seminary
- Malagasy Children's Home
- Topaza Orphanage

Mozambique

- Evangelist/Tentmaking Program (BLI)
- Igreja Presbyterian Church, Holistic Evangelism in Tete Province

Rwanda

- Busanza Vocational School Construction
- City Evangelization – Kanombe Community
- EPR Church Construction
- Hannah Ministries
- Presbyterian Ministry for Reconciliation and Healing
- Scholarships for Presbyterians at PIASS
- Street Children's Ministry in Kigali, CPAJ
- Sunday School Curriculum for Children's Education

Sudan and South Sudan

- Giffen Institute of Theology
- Rebuilding Hope in South Sudan
- Reconcile Peace Institute
- Scholarships at Nile Theological College and Gerief Bible School
- Scholarships for Theology for Sudanese Women
- Vocational Training Program (BLI)

Uganda

- Caring for Vulnerable Children in Kamwenge
- Juna Amagara Children's Home

Zambia

- CCAP Church Chawama Congregation



Cuba



Rwanda



Pakistan

- CCAP Church Projects
- CCAP Synod and Church Construction
- Crisis Nurseries in Lusaka
- Inyambo Training Center (BLI)
- Justo Mwale University
 - Evangelist/Tentmaking Program (BLI)
- Mwandu UCZ Project
- Namumu Orphanage Center
- Siavonga Congregation
- Theological Education by Extension in Zambia (TEEZ)

Zimbabwe

- Evangelist/Tentmaking Program (BLI)
- Home of Hope
- Lovemore Home
- Higher Education for Boys at Lovemore Home
- Low Cost Church Construction (BLI)

ASIA

China

- Chinese Bibles
- Continuing Education for Chinese Church Leaders
- Development of a Sunday School Curriculum for Churches
- Jiangyin Church Communion
- Mini Libraries for Lay Leaders
- Resources for Lay Leaders
- Theological Education in Jiangsu, Heilongjiang and Shaanxi

India

- Church Planting Movement in Kolhapur
- Resource Material for Evangelists and Church Planters

Malaysia

- St. Andrews Church, Kuala Lumpur

Nepal

- Nepal Earthquake Relief

North Korea

- Compassion Ministries, Green Tree Foundation

Pakistan

- Adopt a School in Pakistan
- All Mothers Educated Now
- Forman Christian College
- Gujranwala Theological Seminary
- Nirali Kitaben Literacy Program
- Pakistan Bible Correspondence School in Faisalabad
- Pakistan Christian Recording Ministries
- Pakistan English Medium School
- Pakistan Prayer Ministries with George and Gail McBane

- Support for Maqsood Kamil PhD Studies
- United Bible Training Center

EUROPE

Belarus and Russia

- Congregation Projects and Ministries:
 - First Baptist Church, Noyabrsk
 - First Baptist Church, Smolensk
 - Good News Church, Moscow
 - Kirov Church
 - Kostroma Baptist Church
 - Saltikovka Church, Moscow
 - Tula Church Building and Camps
- Davydovo Outreach to Children
- Narnia Center, Children's Ministry and Publishing
- Orphanage Ministries in Belarus and Russia
- Russia Mission Network Conference
- Russian Bibles for Children

Germany

- Castle Church – Community and Church Organ fund

MIDDLE EAST

- Refugees/IDP Crisis

Egypt

- Bibles for Egypt
- Evangelical Church in Egypt, Global Mission
- Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo
- Garbage City Ministry in Cairo, Center of Love
- Mission and Evangelism in Rural Egypt
- Mission Initiative at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo
- New Church Development
- Rebuilding Burned Churches in Egypt
- Saray Evangelical Church
- Training for Peace-building

Iraq

- Basrah Radio Ministry
- Duhok Relief
- Evangelical Church at Baghdad
- Evangelical Church at Basrah
- Evangelical Church of Kirkuk
- Iraq Appeal Projects
- Iraq Leadership Development
- New Church Development in Irbil

Iran

- Grants for Iranian Christian Church
- Multimedia Theological Training Ltd

Israel and Palestine

- Bethlehem Bible College
- Musalaha – A Ministry of Reconciliation
- Palestinian Bible Society

Lebanon

- Near East School of Theology
- Philemon Ministries
- Sunday School Ministry Expansion at Rabiya Presbyterian Church
- Synod of Syria/Lebanon Ministries

Syria

- Damascus Church
- Syria Relief Projects

THE AMERICAS

Cuba

- Central Presbyterian Church, Matanzas
- Church Construction in Cuba
- Evangelical Theological Seminary at Matanzas
- Guanabacoa Campaign for Hope (HIV/AIDS ministry)
- Matanzas Presbytery

Haiti

- Haiti Outreach Ministries
 - Build a Home in Haiti
 - High School Construction
 - Repatriate Church and Primary School

Mexico

- Chiapas Missionary Community
- Evangelism and Community Development with Todd Luke
- San Pablo Presbyterian Theological Seminary
- Sureste Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Brazil

- IPIB Mission Partnerships
 - Gaúcho Project – South Brazil
 - New Church Development – Central Brazil (with Michael and Irene Sivalee)
 - Sertão Project – Northeastern Brazil

United States of America

- Booth Scholars Program
- CabWayLinGo Presbyterian Chapel, West Virginia
- Missional Leadership Formation Fund
- Smaller Church Initiative 🙌

**The Outreach Foundation works with additional projects not included in the list above due to their location in sensitive areas of the world.

Giving Thanks to God for Linda Ross

Linda Ross, a dear friend and member of The Outreach Foundation's mission staff, suffered a severe stroke while working in Kenya and died on March 17, one day shy of her 73rd birthday.

Please join us in praying for Linda's husband, Stu; her daughter, Kimberly and son, Peter; her son-in-law, Sam; her grandchildren Cody, Tyler, Jacob and Sophie; her sister, Judy and brother-in-law, Daryl.

Stu and Linda Ross became representatives of The Outreach Foundation in East Africa in 2001, and the fruit of their partnership is visible in cities and towns, villages and rural settings across East Africa. As an elder in the church, Linda demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the health of the Body of Christ, calling followers of Jesus to focus on his mission and work, helping them to discern their gifts and encouraging them to use them for God's glory.

As a teacher and missionary, she helped American and Irish Christians enter into the African context humbly and openly. She helped African Christians focus on their assets and their capacity, not just their deficits and needs. And in beautiful, resolute ways, Linda helped African children, especially girls, to know their value and dignity in the eyes of God. She touched and changed thousands of lives.

As a wife and partner, Linda shared in a remarkable partnership with Stu, each of them sharing gifts that strengthened each other and those around them.

The Apostle Paul encourages us to "lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God." (Colossians 1:10) Thanks be to God for Linda Ross, for the life she led and the fruit she bore. In pleasing the Lord she blessed this world; she blessed us all.



Linda's life was celebrated with memorial services in Kenya and San Antonio. One of the many tributes spoken of her was this by her husband, Stu: "Linda Ross loved God's people. In all she did, she sought to build up Christ's church and to advance his kingdom."

Memorial gifts may be made and designated for the library at the Grace Girls' High School, c/o The Outreach Foundation, 381 Riverside Drive, Suite 110, Franklin, TN 37064 or online by clicking the "Donate Now" button on the right and designating your gift. 🙏

The Great Commission

Jeff and Megan Ritchie have had hearts for mission since the early 70's when Jeff participated in summer missions in Newark, NJ, and Megan served as a short-term missionary in Korea. After marriage, they were Presbyterian missionaries in Korea for nine years and then returned to Louisville where Jeff worked in the Worldwide Ministries Division, and Megan began pastoral ministry. Since 1998, Jeff has served The Outreach Foundation as the Associate Director for Mission.

Because mission is woven into the fabric of their lives, Jeff and Megan have included The Outreach Foundation in their estate. When asked why they included his employer in their estate planning, Jeff responded, "I believe in Outreach's ministry. Being an employee or not doesn't matter. We want to make sure the work of Outreach continues in the future."

"Outreach has trusted relationships, trusted financial transparency, and trusted accountability," Jeff continued. "Out of our desire to glorify God, we made this decision to support a mission we believe will continue to serve Christ around the world long after we are gone."

Join with Jeff and Megan by becoming a member of The Outreach Foundation's Great Commission Society. Society members have made arrangements in their estate to include The Outreach Foundation.



Jeff and Megan Ritchie with their two grandsons, Matthew (3) and Alex (7)

Several simple sentences in your estate documents or beneficiary designation are all that's needed.

For more information about The Great Commission Society and planned giving opportunities, contact Tom Widmer at The Outreach Foundation by phone (804) 441-3679 or by email (tom@theoutreachfoundation.org). Like Jeff and Megan, you can help ensure that the work of Outreach continues in the future. 🙏

Born in 1945 or before?

Congress made the IRA Charitable Rollover permanent, allowing you to donate to charity up to \$100,000 per year tax free from a traditional IRA account. Contact Outreach or your financial advisor for more information.

“Come and See”

In John 1, Jesus calls his first two disciples by saying “Come and see.” He has not stopped calling people since that time. He calls us to be his witnesses “in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.” In turn, Outreach invites you to “come and see.” Come and see what God is doing in places you might not even know exist.

And be aware that your own heart will likely be changed. In fact, we asked travelers who have joined us why they think God had them “come and see.” Here are some of their responses:

“To reawaken me to what it means to live a life of faith.”

“To be filled with hope for the people of Cuba, the United States and also the church. To see and experience real hope.”

“To re-energize and encourage me to come home to be a better pastor with a heart for all of God’s people, not just my immediate congregation.”

“To help our congregation dream about what it means to be a church for the world, not just for ourselves.”

“To kindle a true interest in mission work... It is hard to have a true passion for this without developing relationships. This trip accomplished that.”

“He spoke to me very intimately over this trip, and united my heart with what He is doing in Haiti. The day after I returned, my husband and I felt a clear calling to begin the adoption process from Haiti.”

“So I could see what He is doing there and so I could see the blindspots of sin in my own life ... as only can be seen when one ventures into the majority world” 🌍



We invite you to “come and see” what God is doing in the world. Here are a few of our upcoming trips:

**Brazil Church Planting Conference
August 24 – September 2**

**A Vision-Casting Trip for Emerging Presbyterian Leaders: South Korea
October 5–14**

**What in the World is God Doing in Egypt? Come and See!
October 10–21**

**Discover the Church in China
October 16–29**

Iraq • October 18–29

Guatemala • November

Pakistan • November 7–17

**Cuba Mission Vision Trip for Small Church Leaders
February 3–11, 2017**

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Good to Know



Would you prefer an electronic copy?

Did you know that the newsletter is available electronically as an alternative to mail delivery? If you would prefer to receive the electronic version, go to our website, click on “Subscribe” on the home page, and give us your email address. Or, just send us an email: info@theoutreachfoundation.org.

Do You Like our New Look?

This is our third edition of a new format for *Reaching Out*. We’ve increased the size of the newsletter, making for better readability and more photos. Let us know what you think by going to our website, clicking on “Take Our Newsletter Survey” on the lower right of the home page, and give us your opinion.

We Can Help

We want to help you and your congregation discern how your gifts and passion intersect with the exciting things that God is doing in the world. Come travel with us. Invite us to come and speak at your church or meet with your mission committee. Let us know how we can serve you and your congregation.

4 Stars!

The Outreach Foundation earned a coveted 4 Star rating from Charity Navigator, the leading independent charity rating organization in the country. Outreach received 98.74 of 100 possible points. For more, go to www.charitynavigator.org and enter “The Outreach Foundation.”

To the Church in Syria:

We remember...your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope... — I Thessalonians 1:2-3

Dear friends,

The verse above is as true today as when it was written two thousand years ago. The Church in Syria is indeed faithful to the people and courageous in their efforts.

I have recently returned from Damascus where we met with some of the pastors and congregations of the Presbyterian Church in Syria. I was extremely humbled as they expressed gratitude for the financial and prayer support you have provided during the past four years. Your gifts have provided food and water, medicine and health care, housing and heating oil, schooling and so much more. But the situation in Aleppo and other places is now even more critical. Immediate support is needed.

We invite you to join The Outreach Foundation in support of the work and witness of the Presbyterian Church in Syria through its 18 congregations and eight pastors and the Presbyterian Church in Lebanon. Please send your gift to The Outreach Foundation, make an online gift at www.theoutreachfoundation.org, or scan the QR code with your smart device to make an instant gift.

And may God's grace and peace be with you and the people of Syria.



Rob

Rob Weingartner
Executive Director

P.S. Additional resources on the Church in Syria can be found at www.theoutreachfoundation.org, such as videos, updates and a bulletin insert.



THE
OUTREACH
FOUNDATION
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, INC.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**While
we sleep,
Syrians
flee from
rockets and
mortars.**

War rages in Syria. But the Church is faithfully bringing spiritual, emotional and physical relief to the people. They desperately need our help.

Aleppo. The most ravaged and dangerous city in Syria today. But the Church stands courageous. Despite rockets destroying their building, the Aleppo Presbyterian Church gives blood for the injured. It pumps water from its well for the neighborhood. It keeps its two schools open. It provides spiritual sanctuary. It gathers for worship to the sound of bombs. It is faithful.

Mhardeh. A Christian town of 25,000 north of Damascus, where 13 artillery posts, staffed by volunteers, ring the city to keep it safe from terrorists. At the Presbyterian Church, Rev. Ma'an Bitar oversees a kindergarten with 70 children. Its members take in other Christians and Muslims who have fled their homes. It is the light of Christ in a dark place.

Lebanon. Over one million Syrian refugees have crossed the mountains to seek shelter there. The Synod of Syria and Lebanon has supported the refugee camps and opened four schools for the Syrian children. Most are Muslim and have missed much of their primary education due to war. It is love in Jesus' name.