

The Outreach Foundation REACHING OUT



Winter 2014

Several of our own Mission Staff share stories of their work around the world:

*Live in harmony with one another
— Romans 12:16*

A group of Muslim youths stormed into the PCEA Kisauni Church in Mombasa, Kenya on August 18, 2012 bent on revenge. A Muslim cleric had been killed the previous day, and the group of youths alleged that he had been killed by the police. Consequently, they retaliated by burning and looting businesses and churches in the area. The damage to the Kisauni Church was extensive. All 300 chairs were burnt, the music equipment stolen, the pulpit destroyed, and the inside of the church completely blackened by smoke. The manse was also broken into by the crowd as they looked for the parish minister to kill him.

Reconstruction and reconciliation began the following Sunday as Muslim leaders and a local member of Parliament (also a Muslim) came to the service and apologized on behalf of the Muslim youths. The Parliament member and his group made a large monetary donation while other leaders contributed items like paint. Members of the congregation held a fund drive to help with repairs. The Outreach Foundation gave the church a new roof. The ladies group raised funds to tile the badly damaged floor. The church is now more beautiful than before. We thank Almighty God, the members of the church and all our donors for walking with us during that trying moment. May God bless you all.

Stu and Linda Ross, East Africa Coordinators

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear
and timidity, but of power, love, and
self-discipline. — 2 Timothy 1:7*

A cup of coffee shared together on a January afternoon in an outdoor café is not that remarkable....unless you happen to be doing it in Damascus and to the not-so-distant sound of artillery rounds. Julie Burgess, from Omaha partner church West Hills, and the Rev. Marshall Ziemann, Outreach trustee, along with a dozen fellow Presbyterians from The Outreach Foundation and PC(USA), Sweden and Switzerland, had ventured to Syria at the invitation of the Presbyterian Church there. Our journey had begun a week earlier in Lebanon where we had been in a consultation for four days with the leadership of the National Evangelical Church of Syria and Lebanon (our Presbyterian partners in the region), receiving updates of their work in assisting church families and pastors in war-torn Syria. The Outreach Foundation has come alongside that ministry for the past two years. Seven of the ten pastors serving in Syria were with us, and their stories were powerful: serving in towns which are temporarily secured by the army but surrounded by hostile insurgencies; visiting members who have had to flee their city and are now hunkered down in obscure mountain villages; encouraging families to stay in Syria whose homes had been demolished by falling mortars. Food and power shortages, sky-rocketing inflation, kidnappings, disrupted schools, and destroyed livelihoods filled in the blanks. We had arrived in Damascus with a sobering sense of the context....

That Saturday evening – and for a large chunk of Sunday – we worshiped and fellowshiped with the Presbyterian congregation in Damascus. It was at their invitation that we had come. The Rev. Boutros Zaour, the pastor there for 17 years, was integral in helping to coordinate all the complexities of such a visit into such a place at such a time. His congregation of 350 has nearly doubled in size, having received Presbyterian families displaced from other parts of the country. Our friends and families here credit us with a great deal of bravery for making this journey. I tell them that the Church there made us brave, carrying on, as they do, the call of the Church to be salt and light: loving and reconciling, encouraging one another in difficult times, and bearing one another's burdens. We needed to be brave for three days. They need to live bravely, day in and day out. But then again, God did not give any of us a spirit of fear and timidity, right?

Marilyn Borst, Associate Director for Partnership Development

(Please see page 3 for an update on our work in Syria)

✓ PCEA Kisauni Church destruction



✓ Rev. Boutros Zaour



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 of Presbyterian 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 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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*Do not cast me off in
the time of old age;
forsake me not when
my strength is spent.*
— Psalm 71:9

More than 140 million Chinese, 11% of the population, are more than 60 years old. The number is expected to nearly double by 2020. Anticipating the challenges brought by this aging population, the Church in China is positioning herself to help these members and extend the Kingdom at the same time.

One local Christian council (our equivalent of presbyteries) is helping its senior citizens, and its good works have blessed the community. In an area that had been known as 'not so friendly' toward Christians, it established a senior citizens' home almost fifteen years ago. The facility has been well-managed and praised by the community. The council then proposed to the government expanding the facility to offer a hospice program and to mobilize Christian physicians from its congregations to ensure that a physician would always be available. The local government requested that these physicians be made available to the community as well. The council agreed and requested permission to build a chapel within the senior citizens' home to help address the spiritual needs of the patients. The local government approved the plan. The chapel is now completed and has 1,000 seats to accommodate more than just the nursing home residents. The doors are open to the local community.

The government then encouraged the Christian council to submit a plan for a rehab hospital. After much prayer and consideration, the council submitted the plan which was approved. An Outreach church partner was connected with the local Christian council to assist with the purchase of equipment for the facility. Joyfully, the first Christian hospital established by the Church in China since 1949 is now serving patients. One of the priorities of The Outreach Foundation is to build the capacity of the global church for its witness. This new partnership in China is making an impact in the health of Chinese people and in the way in which the church is viewed by the wider society. Thanks be to God!

Peter Lim, China Mission Specialist



Did you Know?

The Christian majority world doesn't look like it used to. In 1910, the Global North (North America, Europe, Japan, Australia, New Zealand) comprised 82% of all Christians, while the Global South had 18%. One hundred years later, the Global North had just 39% of all Christians, while the Global South had grown to 61% – a significant reversal.

In terms of characteristics, Christianity is now primarily a non-white, non-Western, non-wealthy religion.

Africa will be the most Christian continent on earth by 2025.

Christian missionaries are being sent to North America in record numbers. The Redeemed Christian Church in Nigeria has planted five hundred churches across North America.

About 90% of Christians live in countries where Christians are in the majority; only about 10% of Christians worldwide live as minorities.

Sources: The Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life and Paul Borthwick in his book, *Western Christians in Global Mission*

Travel

with The Outreach Foundation in 2014

Cuba: May 3 – 10

Come meet the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba! Led by Marilyn Borst, we will stay mainly in Matanzas, where the Evangelical Theological Seminary will host us, but we will also spend several nights in Havana. Along the way we will be learning from church leaders and visiting congregations of the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba. This trip is intended to encourage pastors and mission leaders to explore the possibility of developing a new mission partnership for their congregation in Cuba.

Mozambique: May 12 – 22

For more than a decade, The Outreach Foundation has helped to facilitate a creative holistic evangelism project in Tete Province that demonstrates God's love through churches, schools, clinics, water projects, leader training, and much more. Nearly seventy congregations have been established. Trip leaders will be project director Rev. Nedson Zulu, public health nurse Sebber Banda, and Outreach trustee Berry Long.

Holy Land: August 29 – September 10

On this trip we will be hosted by our partner, Bethlehem Bible College, which seeks to train and prepare Christian servant-leaders for the churches and society within an Arab context. We'll serve the college in one of its ministries, meet with other Palestinian Christian ministries, and visit important places from Christ's life and ministry. Marilyn Borst and Rob Weingartner will lead this trip.

Kenya: October 17 – 30

This work trip for women will come alongside the Presbyterian Church in East Africa to work with PCEA women to finish and landscape a new church building near Nairobi. We will also conduct an eyeglass clinic to fit people with glasses. After a full work week, we'll join with the congregation in their exuberant dedication of this new place of worship before heading out for a brief, breathtaking wildlife safari.

Africa: Emerging Leaders/Pastors – October 20 – November 1

Outreach trustee Rev. Enock DeAssis and Executive Director Rob Weingartner will lead a group of younger pastors to experience the faith and faithfulness of African Christians who have much to teach us about pastoral vocation and missional calling. Seeing how the gospel has taken root in the African context will help participants to see their own ministry in creative, new ways.

China: October 20 – November 2

This discovery trip will focus on the rich history of Presbyterian involvement in Kingdom work there. In this country where the church today is growing in unparalleled ways, we will meet with partners to discern how God's Spirit has worked in the past and is working today through a dynamic and vital church. Peter Lim, China Mission Specialist, will lead this trip.



Outreach traveler Amy Erickson and new friends in Egypt

Egypt: November 7 – 17

Come celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Evangelical Theological Seminary of Cairo, which is training the next generation of leaders for the 400+ Presbyterian churches in Egypt and beyond. Egypt is a land with a long, grand and diverse history; this history includes the amazing stories of God's church. We will also visit new church developments in the 'suburbs' and 'satellite cities' around Cairo, meet current and future church leaders, and be inspired by the church's bold and progressive mission vision even as our presence there will encourage local Christians.

Lebanon and Syria: November 16 – 25

The National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, the extension of our Presbyterian family in the region, is based in Beirut which will be our base, as well. This visit of solidarity provides opportunity for congregations and individuals who have supported the Syria Relief Appeal through The Outreach Foundation to experience the situation firsthand and to learn from Synod leaders.

For more information please contact Lisa Dill at (615) 778-8881 or lisa@theoutreachfoundation.org or visit our website and go to "Trips" www.theoutreachfoundation.org

Syria Update

Two years ago, in February 2012, Outreach made its first appeal for Syria Relief.

Violence was beginning to escalate, and Syrian Presbyterians were enduring a difficult and cold winter with short supplies of food and fuel. Little did we know that circumstances would worsen over time. However, since that first appeal, Outreach partners, both congregations and individuals, have felt the pain of their fellow Presbyterians in Syria. You have opened up your hearts and wallets. As of this month, Outreach has sent more than a *quarter million dollars* to support our fellow Presbyterians in Syria!

We thank you for your generosity and ask that you please not forget our brothers and sisters in that war torn area. Maintain your high levels of prayer and, as able, continue to support the relief efforts financially. On behalf of the Syrian Presbyterians, we thank you.



THE OUTREACH FOUNDATION

OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, INC.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Your Heart.
Our Hands.
God's Work.



2013 Annual Fund Achieves Goal!

Thanks to generous donor partners, the 2013 Outreach Foundation Annual Fund Campaign achieved and slightly exceeded its goal of \$125,000.

The Annual Fund supports the overall ministry of The Outreach Foundation and allows it to add strength to its work of building up the church for God's mission. Nearly 200 donors made gifts to the Annual Fund, including individuals and families, congregations and foundations.

Executive Director Rob Weingartner commented on the support, stating,

"It is only through donors' gifts to our Annual Fund and to other projects and missionaries that we are able to further our mission of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. Truly, it wouldn't be possible without them."

Thank you for being our partner.

Booth Leadership Initiative Update

More about the mission support of Dr. Alex Booth: We continue to celebrate the wonderful difference that Dr. Booth's mission support has made in Africa, and we are thankful that he has, in fact, helped to build and roof more than 2000 church buildings. Dr. and Mrs. Booth's mission impact in Africa continues through the Booth Leadership Initiative. For more details please see our previous newsletter at www.theoutreachfoundation.org/newsletters/.

Save the Date

Connecting Mission Leaders Conference

A conference for mission pastors, directors,
and congregational mission leaders
A great opportunity to bring the
Presbyterian family together

October 9–11, 2014
First Presbyterian Church
San Antonio, TX

Keynote speaker: Paul Borthwick whose book, *Western Christians in Global Mission*, just received an Award of Merit from the 2014 Christianity Today Book Awards

Sponsored by The Outreach Foundation,
Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship, and The
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