

# The Outreach Foundation REACHING OUT

Winter 2015

*“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” — Matthew 19:14*

**G**enerally, when you think of a VBS fundraiser, bake sales and lemonade stands raising several hundred dollars likely come to mind. That's not the case with the Christian Arabic Church in Richmond, Virginia, a new church development with the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO).

The 128 member church, made up of immigrants and refugees from the Middle East, decided to conduct a fundraiser during their August VBS program. After prayer and hearing about The Outreach Foundation's Iraq Relief Appeal at the ECO Synod meeting in Dallas, they decided to help displaced Christian brothers and sisters in Iraq due to ISIS' takeover of Mosul. You see, many of the families of the 74 VBS students had also endured religious persecution in their countries. After coming to the U.S., they were free to worship Jesus without fear of violence and even death. One family was from Iraq, and their relatives were caught up in the violence in Mosul. It was an easy decision to focus efforts on helping the displaced Christians in Iraq.

Besides the usual crafts, games, drama, songs and storytelling (and of course snacks), raising money for Iraq relief was on their minds. For four days, they did everything

√ Pastor Yacoub shaves a head to raise money for Iraq



∧ Pastor Yacoub, Merola and her sister, Medona

possible to raise money, including competitions among themselves, parents matching what the children raised, head shaving and pies in the face if certain goals were reached, even emptying their own piggybanks. Eight year old Merola was an inspiration to the group. She had been saving for several years in her “bank,” which was a repurposed mixed nuts can. She brought her bank and, sacrificially, handed it over to church pastor Fakhri Yacoub, “giving it all” as she said.

On Friday, everyone was in suspense as Pastor Yacoub counted up the checks, wadded bills and assorted coins. To everyone's amazement, more than \$4,000 had been raised! But, it's difficult to stop a moving train – the children weren't finished even though VBS was. By Sunday at their evening worship, the total came to \$5,000. The entire congregation was joyful in sending this gift to The Outreach Foundation, destined to the vulnerable church in Iraq.

Please visit our website at [www.theoutreachfoundation.org](http://www.theoutreachfoundation.org) to learn more about the Iraq Appeal.



∧ Christian Arabic Church logo



## 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.

## The Outreach Foundation

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www.theoutreachfoundation.org



<< Jacob Hamalian (red jacket), representing North Avenue Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, quickly made friends with the young adults in the Homs church.

## Showing Up in Dark Places

**In November, I, along with Rev. Dr. Nuha Tomeh, The Outreach Foundation's Consultant for the Middle East, brought a group of seven into western Syria.**

We visited Homs, Amr Hosn, Yazdia, Fairouzeh and Lattakia – all with a faithful presence of a Presbyterian Church. We worshipped and cried together, we heard their stories of loss and were awed by their resolve to continue in their work and witness. As we climbed into bed in Homs, we could hear the mortars and rapid fire in a part of the city not yet freed of the violence. By day, we walked through the apocalyptic destruction in the older parts of that city where churches are in ruin (and many mosques, too) and were embraced by the Orthodox and Catholic communities for whom our presence was as encouraging as it was for our Presbyterians there.

Most amazingly, the greatest determination to remain is found not in the older ones who have no place else to go, but in the beautiful, vibrant young adults whose presence can only embody the Hope which still preserves and protects His Bride, against whom the gates of hell will not prevail. What an honor to stand with them for a tiny slice of their epic struggle and be The Outreach Foundation.

*By Marilyn Borst, Associate Director for Partnership Development*

The Outreach Foundation will continue to receive your generous gifts in support of both the Syria and Iraq Appeals. Checks should be noted "Syria Relief" or "Iraq Relief" and mailed to The Outreach Foundation, 381 Riverside Drive Suite 110, Franklin, TN 37064. You may also give online at [www.theoutreachfoundation.org](http://www.theoutreachfoundation.org) by selecting Syria or Iraq Appeal under the Designation button.

## Did You Know?

The well-known British theologian and missiologist, Rev. Dr. John Stott, once stated in explaining mission, "Mission is like a pair of scissors. One blade is evangelism, the other is justice and mercy."

It was reported that as many as 86% of all Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists do not personally know a Christian.

Migration is increasing ethnic and religious diversity around the world. In these times, at least 720 million people have now settled permanently outside of their culture's main country. In many cases, this makes the "unreached" more reachable.

Currently, there are three Presbyterian congregations in Iraq that are actively worshipping and ministering to Christians and Muslims around them.

[www.theoutreachfoundation.org](http://www.theoutreachfoundation.org)



# The Harvest is Plentiful

*An excerpt from a recent news update sent by Dustin Ellington, professor at Justo Mwale Theological University in Zambia. Dustin and his wife, Sherri, are mission co-workers in Lusaka, where Dustin helps train pastors for the Zambian church.*

**N**umerous people in Africa yearn to be trained for a life of ministry; it is not difficult to find good candidates for this training. Justo Mwale trains pastors from denominations throughout Southern Africa. However, these churches are not able to send a student unless a partner church body or individual chooses to offer a scholarship. Justo Mwale could train far more pastors than we currently do, and there is need for far more pastors in this part of the world. It is not unusual, for instance, for our students from Malawi to serve as many as 7,500 persons – as a solo pastor. There is no risk at all that a student will be trained and no position will be available for him or her. “The harvest is plentiful” here in Southern Africa.

One such person is Dora Longwe, who is preparing for ministry with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian and has just finished her third year of training. She once shared that on the day she was accepted to be a student at Justo Mwale, she was absolutely delighted. On the very same day, her twin sister, Doreen, was offered a very good job with Zambia’s Ministry of Education. The family immediately threw a celebration right on the spot. At one point while they were celebrating another sibling, a younger sister, said to her, “I know why we are celebrating for Doreen, because she will have a salary. But you’re preparing for ministry and may get no salary at all. So why are we celebrating?” When Dora heard the question, she answered her sister with a song, a song repeating these words: “I’d rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God...” Dora shared with her sister that the joy of being in God’s presence while giving her life to the ministry of the gospel was all the pay that she required. Dora said she went on singing that song to herself throughout the day, as a way of expressing the joy she knew. For me, Dora’s response embodies our students’ wholehearted love for ministry and commitment to it.

When you support a scholarship fund such as this, you help train someone like Dora for a church that is very hungry to grow in Christ and spread the gospel. And when a new scholarship is funded, it is a real encouragement to our African Presbyterian partners.

*Grace and peace,  
Dustin and Sherri Ellington  
PC(USA) mission co-workers*

<< Dora Longwe



*And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.” — Mark 16:15*

## Travel with The Outreach Foundation

*and see God at work in the world*

*Traveling to Egypt and Lebanon with The Outreach Foundation not only opened my eyes to the issues Christians are facing in those contexts, it introduced me to brothers and sisters who are daily putting their own safety and comfort aside for the sake of the gospel. The relationships I developed on this trip will continue, and I am excited to see how God uses them for the good future of his kingdom.*

— Matt Seadore, Director of Missions and Outreach  
North Avenue Presbyterian Church, Atlanta

Zambia • May 1–11

Mozambique, Tete Province • June 8–18

China: Seminarians Study Tour • June 22–July 4

Lebanon: Faithful Women on the Road • July 24–August 2

Brazil Church Planting Conference • August 23–September 1

China: Presbyterian Heritage Tour • October 18–31

Rwanda: Emerging Leaders • October 19–31

India: Kolhapur Mission Conference • November 3–17

Egypt • November 11–21

Holy Land • April 2016

Visit our website at [www.theoutreachfoundation.org](http://www.theoutreachfoundation.org) for more information about upcoming trips or contact Lisa Dill at (615) 778-8881 or [lisa@theoutreachfoundation.org](mailto:lisa@theoutreachfoundation.org).



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## A Bountiful Announcement!

**T**ete Province is an arid, rural province in northwestern Mozambique where the church is growing and people love Jesus. The Tete Province Holistic Evangelism Project has been at the center of this growth for nearly 20 years. The work there includes new church construction, evangelism, new schools and teacher housing, clean water wells, leadership training, vocational training, health clinics, and community health programs. The 75+ churches are led by two part-time pastors, creating a great need for lay leader training.

We are excited to announce that we recently received a generous pledge of nearly \$150,000 to be used as a match to strengthen the ministry in Tete Province. A leadership training center will be built, and salary support for ministry leadership will be provided. The matching gift program matches dollar for dollar all gifts for the leadership training center and salary support up to \$147,500. That means every dollar received is doubled!

We invite you to partner with us through a donation to the Tete Matching Gift project. Use the enclosed envelope or go to our website, [www.theoutreachfoundation.org](http://www.theoutreachfoundation.org), and click on GIVE. Zikomo kwambiri! ("Thank you very much" in Chichewa)



^ Mutarara Bible distribution