



# MISSION News

**FEBRUARY 2010**



## **Becca Young, PCUSA Mission Co-Worker in Indonesia**

To see more of Becca's letters go to

[www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/youngr.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/youngr.htm)

Two articles have recently featured Becca Young's work at the Seminary in Jakarta and with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance earthquake relief work in Indonesia. She appeared on the front page of the recent Mission Highlights Magazine (Summer/Fall 2009) and in Mission Mosaics (Fall/Winter 2010). If you would like to download the articles go to [www.pcusa.org/worldwide/highlights.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/highlights.htm) for the Mission Highlight's article or go to [www.pcusa.org/pda/tools/mosaic-intro.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/tools/mosaic-intro.htm) for the

Mission Mosaic's article on her work with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. If you want to order them through Presbyterian Distribution Services call 1-800-524-2612 and ask for PDS #13102-09-004 for the Mission Highlight's article or PDS # 25412-09-003 for the Mission Mosaic's article. Becca will be visiting the Presbytery of Western North Carolina for the October 22 Presbytery Meeting at Lake Junaluska.



## **Jessi Stitt, Ebenezer School, Nkhoma Malawi**

Jessi Stitt, from Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, is volunteering as a teacher at the Ebenezer School in Nkhoma, Malawi this year. Her blogspot is [www.travelcontinued.blogspot.com](http://www.travelcontinued.blogspot.com). If you would like to support Jessi, you can send a check to the Presbytery office and designate it for Jessi's support.



## **Where's Barbara Nagy?**

Barbara, Melia (not pictured), Anna, and Happiness are back from Malawi and will be living in Morganton, NC for Barbara's "Interpretation year." All Mission Coworkers spend time in the U.S. interpreting their work for PCUSA churches and sharing their stories. Listed below are some of the places Barbara will be visiting this year. If you would like Barbara to speak at your church, please contact Barbara at:

banagy@globemw.net

Home phone: 828-438-6287

123 Pearson Drive; Morganton, NC 28655

**Where could she speak?:** Presbyterian Women circles, Men's Bible study, a prayer group, Youth Groups, Wednesday night dinners, Sunday School, meet with your Session, preach in worship, meet with your staff over lunch, spend time with your mission committee, meet with your college students.... There are many ways!  
(Please be prepared to reimburse her mileage.)

February 3, FPC Asheville

February 7 Brittain's Cove

February 9 Presbyterian Women Black Mountain Church

February 14 Wytheville, VA?

February 21 Lowell

February 28 Sherrill's Ford

March 7 Cherryville

March 14 Green's Street

March 21 Westminster

April 2-9 Arlington/Annapolis

April 10 School of the Laity (1 hour)

April 17 Frozen Chosen Thawed Out?

April 18 Southminster ?

April 24 PW gathering at Black Mountain Home for Children

April 25 Shelby

April 27 Presbytery Meeting (Montreat)

May 3 Tryon Presbyterian Women luncheon

May 6 Brevard Davidson River PW gathering and Lunch

May 10 FPC Gastonia PW?

May 16 Youth Sunday FPC Morganton

## Amy Wilson-Stayton

### PCUSA Young Adult Volunteer in Northern Ireland

Amy is the daughter of Rev. Claude Wilson-Stayton (pastor of FPC Lincolnton) and Rev. Dr. Margaret Wilson-Stayton (pastor of Lowell Presbyterian Church). She is serving as a young adult volunteer in Northern Ireland until the summer of 2010. Her blogspot is <http://ballybeen.wordpress.com/>. To learn more about the Young Adult Volunteer program, go to [www.pcusa.org/yav](http://www.pcusa.org/yav).



The Gospel in Conflict,  
December 7, 2009

The following video clip is from *The Gospel in Conflict*, a resource which was produced by Laura Coulter on behalf of the Peacemaking Panel within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. This resource was created as part of a movement within the Presbyterian Church of Ireland to facilitate the process of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. I hope you watch it! It explains things better than I can.

Below, I have defined some terms used in the video that might be confusing to those of you back in the States. If you have any questions about anything, post on here and I'll do my best to answer your questions.

**“The North”**: used to refer to Northern Ireland, which is still a part of the United Kingdom

**“The South”**: used to refer to the Republic of Ireland, established as a separate country from the United Kingdom in 1937

**Sectarianism**: (according to Wikipedia) is bigotry, discrimination, or hatred arising from attaching importance to perceived differences between subdivisions within a group, such as between different denominations of a religion or the factions of a political movement. \*In the case of Northern Ireland, the conflict exists between those who want a united Ireland and those who think Northern Ireland should remain a part of the United Kingdom.

Copy and paste this link to watch the video clip:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGHEWyl2xZc>



## Discerning a call to mission service

As disciples of Jesus Christ, each of us in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is sent into the world to join God's mission. If you are discerning a call to long-term mission service please go to [www.pcusa.org/msr](http://www.pcusa.org/msr) and see the positions currently available through the PCUSA. You will find information on positions and how to apply.



## **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance “Family Week 2010”**

Strengthen family bonds and spiritual lives through a family mission experience.

**Who:** Family members 14 years and older

**What:** Help repair and rebuild New Orleans homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina; worship with other family volunteer teams, bonding as a community and reflecting on the faithfulness of Christ in the mission you share; share hope and build relationships with families still recovering.

**When:** June 20-25, 2010

**Where:** Presbyterian Volunteer village –Olive Tree, New Orleans, LA

**Cost:** \$20 per person, per day (includes lodging, food, and work facilitation)

**How:** Register Now – Call 866-732-6121 (toll free) and go to <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/usa/gulfcoast/familyweek> for more information.

## **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – Youth Week**

Calling Youth to the Gulf Coast

**Who:** Senior High Youth and Adults (5:1 ratio)

**What:** Hurricane recovery work opportunities

**Where:** Presbyterian Volunteer Village – Houma, LA

**When:** June 27-July 2 and July 4-9, 2010

**Cost:** \$30 per person, per day (includes food, lodging, and group activities such as a swamp tour & Cajun dancing). After May 1 registration increases to \$40.

**How:** Team leaders contact the PDA Call Center at 866-732-6121 (toll free) and go to <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/usa/gulfcoast/youthweeks.htm> for more information.



## Situation Report Haiti Earthquake January 13, 2010 PDA account number DR000064

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has issued an emergency appeal for Haiti, where millions of people have been affected by a major earthquake that struck the country on Tuesday, January 12. The exact number of casualties is unknown at this time, nor is the full extent of the damage; however, reports indicate that tens of thousands — possibly hundreds of thousands — of people are feared dead and countless others have been left

homeless.

**PDA Response:** PDA is rushing an initial \$100,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing and designated funds to help provide immediate emergency relief to the affected people. Funds are being sent through our ecumenical and local partners working in Haiti. PC(USA) mission co-worker Carlos Cardenas is joining an ecumenical team through the Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance going to Haiti to help with the response and needs assessments. Presbyterian World Mission is gathering information on the safety and status of our mission personnel and ecumenical partners in the area.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO: GIVE.** The generous sharing of your financial blessings through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering and special designated giving provide resources needed to assist with immediate and long-term recovery needs. Church members can send checks to their churches and designate it for Haiti relief. [Churches can send a check made out to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and designate on the check that it is for "Haiti PDA relief DR000064."](#)

**ACT.** Stay informed and share information on the need with others by going to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance website at [www.pcusa.org/pda](http://www.pcusa.org/pda). Consider making Gift of the Heart hygiene kits. A shipment of hygiene kits is being prepared by Church World Service to send to Haiti. When widespread disasters occur, there is usually a need to replenish the supply to ensure a sufficient quantity for future disaster situations. For information on Hygiene kits go to [www.pcusa.org/pda/help/goh.htm#health](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/help/goh.htm#health).

**PRAY.** Please continue in prayer for all who have who lost friends and families, those who lost homes, and those seeking a sense of security after being affected by this tragic earthquake.

"Brothers and Sisters in Christ, as the eyes of the world turn to Haiti, let us join our hearts in prayer:

God of compassion  
Please watch over the people of Haiti,  
And weave out of these terrible happenings  
wonders of goodness and grace.  
Surround those who have been affected by tragedy  
With a sense of your present love,

And hold them in faith.  
Though they are lost in grief,  
May they find you and be comforted;  
Guide us as a church  
To find ways of providing assistance  
that heals wounds and provides hope  
Help us to remember that when one of your children suffer  
We all suffer  
Through Jesus Christ who was dead, but lives  
and rules this world with you. Amen.”  
(Adapted from *Book of Common Worship*)

-Bruce Reyes-Chow, Gradye Parsons and Linda Valentine

If you would like to learn more about the work of Mark Hare PCUSA Mission Co-worker in Haiti and his relief efforts you can follow his blogspot at <http://markandjenny--pcusa.blogspot.com/>

## **Situation Report Malawi Earthquake December 17, 2009 PDA account number DR000158**

A series of earthquakes hit the Karonga district in northern Malawi between December 6 and December 12, 2009. One of the earthquakes registered 5.8 on Richter scale and completely razed many houses. More than 16,500 people have been affected and reports indicate one death and 16 people seriously injured. Many public institutions have been closed because of cracks and instability in buildings. During the same time period, the districts of Chikwawa and Thyolo in southern Malawi were hit by a cyclone and rainstorm that has damaged houses, crops and livestock. The earthquake has damaged houses and schools, and displaced the inhabitants of 23 villages. Currently, 12,300 people are living in tents with poor sanitary facilities and no fresh water. The cyclone in the south has demolished more than 945 households. For those people that had already cultivated their fields and planted sorghum, about of 371.7 ha of land under crops (maize, sorghum) has been washed away. Damage to the infrastructure of Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) church buildings and schools has also been reported.

**PDA Response:** Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) partners and local members of Action by Churches Together (ACT) members have carried out a joint assessment with the Department of Disaster and Preparedness of Malawi and other non-governmental organizations. The disaster response is coordinated by the District Assembly of the Government. PDA's partner, Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD) in Malawi, is assisting affected families with:

- Food aid
- Temporary shelter
- Sanitary materials (plastic sheeting)
- Utensils
- Clothing, blankets

Detailed assessment is currently being conducted in both the earthquake-hit north and the Cyclone hit south of Malawi. Rapid Response funds will be provided to assist in the response. The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), Synod of Livingstonia is also providing

assistance to the affected families and PDA will be providing One Great Hour of Sharing funds to assist in their outreach and recovery efforts.

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO:

**GIVE.** The generous sharing of your financial blessings through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering and special designated giving provides the resources needed to assist with immediate and long-term recovery needs. Church members can send checks to their churches and designate it for Malawi relief. [Churches can send a check made out to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and designate on the check that it is for "Malawi PDA relief DR000158."](#)

**ACT.** Stay informed and share information on the need with others by going to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance website at [www.pcusa.org/pda](http://www.pcusa.org/pda) and clicking on International Response.

**PRAY.** Please continue in prayer for families and displaced people who have been affected by the earthquake and cyclone



## Next Flood Recovery Mission Team March 21, 2010

In November 2009, a group from various churches in the Presbytery headed toward Kopperston, WV to help with Flood Relief efforts. They worked through the West Virginia Advocacy & Workcamps (WVMAW), a program of the Presbytery of West Virginia and

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Through funds from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, they were able to purchase a metal trim break for WVMAW to help with the recovery work.

**They will be returning to that region on March 21 for a week of work.** If you are interested in learning more, contact Carol McCroskey at 828-675-4927





## ***Make social and environmental justice part of your congregation's worship***

The great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord — the King of Israel!" (John 12:12-13)



### **The Eco-Palm Project**

Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, accented by the jubilant waving of palm branches, is re-enacted each Palm Sunday in Presbyterian and other Christian congregations worldwide as Holy Week observances begin. Unfortunately for the communities where these palms are harvested, palm fronds do not always represent the same jubilation they do for us.

Production of eco-palms begins in forested areas of Mexico and Guatemala where workers, known as *xaterros* (sha-tare-rows), walk miles into the forest to harvest palm branches. Photo courtesy of Lutheran World Relief.



In 2007 the PC(USA) teamed up with [Lutheran World Relief](#), [Catholic Relief Services](#) and the [University of Minnesota](#) to offer congregations the option of purchasing responsibly harvested Eco-Palm branches for Palm Sunday. The palms come from communities in Mexico and Guatemala where workers are paid fairly and engage in sustainable harvesting in order to protect the local ecosystem. For more information on Eco-palms and how to order them through the PCUSA, go to [www.pcusa.org/palms](http://www.pcusa.org/palms). The 2010 deadline for ordering palms is March 2.

# Lenten Resources:

Are you looking for a Sunday School or Wednesday night online curriculum for Lent that will address Hunger or Justice issues?

## 1) Food Crisis Hunger fasts

[www.pcusa.org/foodcrisis/archive/index.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/foodcrisis/archive/index.htm)

Between October 2008-September 2009, the staff of the Presbyterian Hunger program participated in a monthly fast lasting from Friday evening until Sunday morning. Each month they focused on a different country and shared a wealth of informational resources on that country and the issue of hunger. In November of 2009 they focused on Haiti. If you are looking for a Lenten series or a Summer series, you can go to the archive website listed above, select several countries, and educate your congregation on hunger in that country. If you would like to add a fast component, remember that fasting does not have to be from food. You can fast from Television, or shopping, or speaking, or listening to music, etc. In refraining from that activity, the purpose of a "fast" is that every time you miss that activity, you turn your heart to prayer for the country you are focusing on. The resources in the archives include worship materials, statistics, and stories.


## 2) Globalization We Can Grasp

[www.pcusa.org/trade/accra.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/trade/accra.htm)

The Covenanting for Justice Online Curriculum  
from the Accra Confession

*Developed by the North American Working Group for Covenanting for Justice of the [World Alliance of Reformed Churches](#) (WARC)*

Covenanting for Justice means working with communities as part of our Christian witness in solidarity with neighbors near and far to bring about a sustainable and just global community. We invite you to join in this transnational movement and to covenant for justice!

Below are five workshop modules that make real the challenges of globalization and the witness of the prophetic church. The modules in the curriculum contain video examples of social and environmental tragedy, and some triumphs of solidarity. You can use these as a five-week curriculum (or six weeks if you add an additional session to read and discuss the [Accra Confession](#) ) , or choose from the five modules according to the interests and time commitment of the group.

- [Download the entire PDF with introduction, facilitator's guide and curriculum](#) 
- [Download the facilitator's guide](#) 
- [Study Pamphlet on the Accra Confession](#) 
- [Confesión de Accra en español](#) 

### The Five Modules:

#### 1. Introduction to Globalization and the Churches' Response

Globalization and the Churches' Response provides background and theology about globalization. The relationship between globalization and empire is explored. Through the "Letter from Accra," video and worship, this module explores how we as Christians can respond to aspects of globalization that are unsustainable and unjust.

- [View the video “Coffee, Corn and the Cost of Globalization” Globalization Workshop Module](#) 

## 2. Global Climate Change: Renewing the Sacred Balance

Global Climate Change calls us to act for climate justice. We, individuals and communities, institutions and governments, must dramatically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Our faith teaches us to work for equitable, just and sustainable solutions. Changes in regulations and changes in lifestyle are essential to preserve Creation’s balance. Here are practical ways we can create greener practices in church and society.

- [View the video “Greening Sacred Spaces”](#)
- [Climate Change Workshop Module](#) 

## 3. Farmworkers, Low-wage Jobs, and Living into a New Economy

Farmworkers, Low-wage Jobs, and Living into a New Economy reveals the working and living conditions endured by farmworkers in Canada and the United States. It tells the story of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, an organization of tomato pickers living in Immokalee, Florida, and the successes they and their allies have achieved in struggles with Taco Bell, McDonalds, and Burger King.

- [View the video “The Battle Fields” \(28 minutes\)](#)
- [Farmworkers Workshop Module](#) 

## 4. Environmental Justice and Human Rights

Environmental Justice and Human Rights are both at grave risk in the Peruvian lead mining town of La Oroya. A privately held U.S. firm continues to profit from operations that have contaminated people and the land. This tragedy demonstrates how the pursuit of profit can lead to ecological degradation/damage. We see how people and organizations can join forces through coalitions to support the struggles of local communities.

- [View the video “La Oroya: Hot Metal Air”](#)
- [Environmental Justice Workshop Module](#) 

## 5. Faithful Purchasing and the Global Sweatshop Economy

Faithful Purchasing and the Global Sweatshop Economy exposes the harsh reality of the global production line. While workers in many countries around the world, including the United States and Canada, work under brutal conditions, consumers and people of faith have joined their struggle to end sweatshops.

- [View the video “Sweatfree Communities: Make Your Community Sweatfree” \(9:45 minutes\)](#)
- [Sweatshop Workshop Module](#) 

The flash videos can be viewed online but may be small for a group to view well. The "Coffee, Corn and the Cost of Globalization" video for module 1 is [available for purchase here on the Mennonite Central Committee site](#). [Contact the Presbyterian Hunger Program](#) to request CDs of the videos for modules 2-5.

Word documents of the curriculum are also available should you wish to modify the curriculum. [Contact PHP to request these](#).



The One Great Hour of Sharing offering supports the work of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self Development of People Program. This offering is normally taken on Easter Sunday (April 4) or on a Sunday near to Easter. To learn more about the offering go to [www.pcusa.org/oghs](http://www.pcusa.org/oghs) or for promotional materials such as bulletin inserts, flyers, or videos go to [www.pcusa.org/oghs/promote.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/oghs/promote.htm).



## Upcoming Conferences



### **April 15-17, 2010 “Crossing Borders—Encountering God” An experiential conference on border issues confronting the church and the world held in Phoenix, Arizona.**

#### **Speakers:**

- Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, Moderator, 218th General Assembly, (PCUSA)
- Rev. Minerva Carcaño, Bishop, Desert Southwest Conference, United Methodist Church
- Rev. Mark Adams, Mission Co-Worker, Frontera de Cristo
- Ms. Julia Thorne, Attorney and Manager for Immigration Services (PCUSA)
- Dr. Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi, Columbia Theological Seminary
- Rev. Saul Feria, National Presbyterian Church in Mexico (INPM)

Cost: \$275 for Room and Board (plus your own transportation)

\$140 for Commuters

**For registration form and more information,**

see [www.synodsw.org](http://www.synodsw.org)

For a flyer go to [www.synodsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/straight-up-border-flier.pdf](http://www.synodsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/straight-up-border-flier.pdf).



### **July 1-4, 2010 Collegiate Ministry Summit '10**

**Hosted by PACHEM:** Presbyterian Association for Collegiate and Higher Education Ministries. Go to [www.pachem.org](http://www.pachem.org) for registration information.

**SUMMIT '10** will be held July 1 - July 4, 2010, at Macalester College, St. Paul, MN. The conference will end with the General Assembly Sunday morning Worship Service.

**SUMMIT '10** will

**Gather** those who work with and for collegiate ministries on behalf of the PC(USA),  
**Provide** them with an opportunity for nurture, reflection, encouragement and support, and  
**Develop** ways to **Think** about the PC(USA)'s strategy and involvement in collegiate ministry.

**All** those engaged in collegiate ministries - whether student leaders, staff, congregation or organization board members - will find resources and shared experiences to invigorate their ministries.

**Speaker:** Dr. Steve Haynor, President of Columbia Theological Seminary will be the Keynote Speaker.

**Costs:** Registration Fee is \$310