

About this newsletter

The PCN E-Newsletter is for members of the [Presbyterian Communicators' Network](#) (PCN). Each issue contains news and information for members, as well as information that PCN members are encouraged to use in newsletters, on Web sites or otherwise share within their organizations as appropriate. Please do not reply to this email. If you have story ideas for the newsletter, [email Susan Lindsey](mailto:susan.lindsey@pcn.org) or call (888) 728-7228 x5060.



February 2010: ["Hope is alive!"](#) | [Caution urged when addressing needs of Haitian "orphans"](#) | [Download a new study guide](#) | ["One Great Hour of Sharing" Lenten devotionals](#) | [Teach the Bible](#) | [The Racial Ethnic Torch](#) | [Register for the Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference](#) | ["Listen Up!" Learn & listen during disasters](#) | [We Believe curriculum](#) | [Roommates for RCCongress](#)

"Hope is alive!"

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance responds to Haiti with help from across the church



Photo by Graham Huff - www.leagueofhope.org

"Hope is alive" amid the tragedy and overwhelming destruction in Haiti, reports Carlos Cardenas, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) staff and PC(USA) mission co-worker on the ground in Port-au-Prince.

Already more than \$400,000 (including \$100,000 from the [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) special offering) has been distributed for food and water distribution sites, tents for homeless survivors, an electrical generator and supplies at Holy Cross Hospital, and staff who are working with ecumenical and local partners in the initial response and assessment. Paul Jeffrey, who works with the ACT Alliance (one of PDA's partners), created a great video about relief work on the ground in Haiti. Watch it on [YouTube](#). So many people want to help. However, our ecumenical and international partners in Haiti are urging restraint in sending teams in at this time, since they may strain the few resources available. A time will come when teams will be welcomed and valuable in the long-term recovery. If you are interested in volunteering, please register [online](#).

The best ways to help right now are to:

Give: Presbyterian response to the earthquake in Haiti has been amazing and is much appreciated. To date, more than \$2 million has been received to support the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. You can continue to donate money [online](#); by phone at (800) 872-3283; and by mail: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Act: Assemble “[Gift of the Heart](#)” hygiene and baby kits. More than 35,000 hygiene and baby kits have already been sent and the stockpile is depleted. More kits are needed.

Pray: Continue to pray for the people of Haiti and those assisting them.

Thank you for your compassion and generosity; your actions are making a difference for the people of Haiti. For regular updates on PDA’s work in Haiti, see the [PDA Web site](#) or [subscribe](#) to the PDA Rapid Information Network, Presbyterian News Service and the PC(USA) press releases.

While the world’s focus is on Haiti, PDA continues its work helping Katrina survivors rebuild their lives. [Read a blog entry](#) entitled, “A Tour of Katrina’s Legacy” featuring PDA Gulf Coast hurricane manager Frank Vardeman.

Compassion, Peace and Justice: Caution urged when addressing needs of Haitian “orphans”



Photo by Graham Huff
www.leagueofhope.org

Before it was a national news story, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was cautioning about the extreme care needed in addressing needs of those children considered orphans. Frequently, well-meaning people and organizations rush to get children out of harm’s way and into new homes following a disaster. However, some of the children considered orphans in Haiti may still have families from whom they have temporarily been separated. A separate issue is that of more nefarious people who may prey on unaccompanied children following a disaster. Read the Jan. 28 Presbyterian Disaster Assistance [situation report](#) to learn more about a responsible and effective response to the needs of these children.

Evangelism & Church Growth: Download a new study guide



In partnership with [Educational Ministries](#), [Evangelism & Church Growth](#) has produced a brand new resource for educators, entitled, “[Grow Christ’s Church Deep and Wide: A Call to Action Study Guide](#).” Unveiled at the [Association of Presbyterian Church Educators](#) (APCE) annual gathering in Nashville, this six-week study guide uses four dynamic stories of Presbyterian congregations called to grow “[Deep and Wide](#)” in new ways in evangelism, discipleship, servanthood and diversity. A related DVD illustrates the four stories.

Download these new resources or order them through [Presbyterian Distribution Service](#). The PDS numbers are: Study Guide #13102-010-1, DVD #13102-010-2.

Mission Interpretation: Order “One Great Hour of Sharing” Lenten devotionals



A new One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten devotional, “Do you love me? Feed my sheep,” is now available. This free tabletop tent folds in different ways to display a series of seven devotions. The devotions are for Ash Wednesday and each successive week of Lent through Holy Week and Easter. Each focuses on a different scripture and includes a reflection, a prayer, and thoughts on ways to translate faith into action. [Order online](#), call Presbyterian Distribution Services, 800-524-2612 and order #12138-10-120, or [download an order form](#).

Office of Vocation: Teach the Bible - apply by Feb. 15



Rev. Eric Law meets with students of Menaul School, recipient of a Teaching the Bible grant.

The [Teaching of the Bible Grant](#) - offered through the PC(USA)'s [Financial Aid for Studies Office](#), a ministry of the [Office of Vocation](#) - provides funding for new programs, or new aspects to existing programs, for teaching the Bible.

The Teaching of the Bible Grant is restricted to Presbyterian-related secondary schools, colleges and universities. For a complete list of criteria and to download an application form - due Feb. 15, 2010 - visit the [Teaching of the Bible Grant page](#) or call Laura Bryan at (888) 728-7228, x5735. [Read a related story](#) about how the [Menaul School](#) is using its grant.

Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women: Subscribe to the Racial Ethnic Torch



The Racial Ethnic Torch, published by [Racial Ethnic Ministries](#), offers news, events and issues of concern to racial ethnic Presbyterians, and is now available as an [e-newsletter](#). The Torch serves as a tool to connect you to new resources and upcoming events, to equip you with information that will bolster your faith life and ministry, and to inspire you as we share stories of racial ethnic Presbyterians in the church, such as the [Barbershop Raps Ministry](#) highlighted in this issue. [Sign up](#) for the bi-monthly e-newsletter.

Stewardship: Register for the Kaleidoscope Conference



Registration is now open for the [Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference](#) March 15-17 in Indianapolis. Choose from more than 28 workshops, and be motivated and renewed by inspiring worship and keynote presentations. Learn from the experiences and success of others gathered for this exciting event. Middle governing body executives and associates are encouraged to stay for a March 17 consultation with the Rev. Dr. Bill Enright of the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving. He will discuss the latest research in giving patterns among faith communities and new paradigms for cultivating generosity; participation in this session is at no additional cost. For more information, [contact Jon Brown](#).

Theology Worship & Education: Order your "We Believe" materials



The new ["We Believe" curriculum](#) is a hit, according to a [report](#) emerging from the [Association of Presbyterian Church Educators](#) annual event recently held in Nashville, Tenn. Before developing the new materials, [Congregational Ministries Publishing](#) asked educators what was needed in the curriculum and "We Believe" reflects the results of that survey. The materials are deeply Presbyterian, based on scripture and the PC(USA) *Book of Confessions*, and focus on reformed tradition. Sales are up 15 percent from 2008, reflecting the educators' enthusiasm. See complete details and ordering information [online](#).

World Mission: "Listen Up!" Learn & listen during disasters



How do we listen to our brothers and sisters when disaster strikes? The Listen up! Webinar, Feb. 11, will take you deeper into matters of listening to and learning from global mission partners in relation to the earthquake in Haiti. Ellen Sherby, Presbyterian World Mission office for Education and Resources for Mission, will moderate a panel conversation with Randy Ackley, coordinator for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Pix Mahler, PC(USA) Haiti Partnership facilitator, and Ruth Farrell, Presbyterian Hunger Program coordinator, to look at how we can listen up in times crisis and beyond. [Register now](#).

Announcement: Need a 'roomie' for RCCongress?



Some PCN members attending the Religion Communication Congress (RRCongress) in Chicago April 7-10 have expressed an interest in sharing their hotel rooms with other PCN members. The RRCongress is being held at the Chicago Marriott Downtown; the room rate is \$189 + 15.4 percent tax per night. PCN men who are interested in sharing a room, please [contact Alan Harder](#) by March 1. PCN women interested in sharing a room, [please contact Kim Coulter](#) by March 1. Also, please note: RRCongress's early deadline has been extended to March 1. [See the RRCongress Web site](#) for complete details.



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