

# Presbyterian World

News about the PC(USA)'s international mission

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## Web-based community connects mission-minded Presbyterians



[Mission Crossroads](#), “a Web-based wisdom community for Presbyterians passionate about mission,” is growing in membership and content. “More than 750 people have joined since we launched the site last April,” says Lis Valle, Presbyterian World Mission’s associate director for Equipping the Church for Mission Involvement. “It’s a place to share ideas about mission, coordinate efforts and form groups around particular interests.” The site also contains links to online resources as well as information about books and other print publications. Mission trip leaders, mission committee chairs, mission network members, mission personnel, World Mission staff, and members and leaders of various Presbyterian-related mission groups are among those who have joined Mission Crossroads. [Read more.](#)

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## More than 700 gather to celebrate mission



Plenary speaker Mary Mikhail, president of the Near East School of Theology. Photo by Danny Bolin

More than 700 mission-minded Presbyterians came together in Cincinnati Oct. 22–24 for [World Mission Celebration '09](#). “Take a look around you,” [World Mission](#) director Hunter Farrell said in the conference’s opening address. “Look at this huge group of Presbyterians who are passionate about God’s mission!” He noted that “to be a faithful Presbyterian back in the 1960s, you wrote a check and prayed.” Now many Presbyterians are directly involved in international mission, and Farrell emphasized that global partners are calling for American Christians to “go deeper” in God’s mission. He explained that they want more depth concerning poverty and injustice and their root causes, proclamation and witness, and partnership relationships. [Read more.](#)

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## New missionary dies unexpectedly



Newly appointed mission worker [David Knauert](#) died Nov. 12 after he collapsed while jogging. He was 38. David and his wife, Leigh, were appointed to mission service in July. They and their four children (ages 4 to 11) were living in Atlanta awaiting visas for their planned move to Brazil. A 2009 Ph.D. graduate of Duke University in Durham, N.C., Knauert had been appointed to teach biblical studies at the Post-Graduate Ecumenical Institute in São Paulo. “We’re deeply thankful to God for David and Leigh’s willingness to follow God’s call into mission and, as part of their mission family, will grieve David’s loss for some time,” said Hunter Farrell, director of Presbyterian World Mission. “But we commit ourselves anew to working for the world of God’s peace, justice and grace that David had dedicated his life to.” [Read more.](#)  
[Learn about a fund that has been established to benefit the Knauert children.](#)

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## New water project under way in Congo



PC(USA) mission workers [Larry Sthreshley](#) and [Jim McGill](#), along with Medi Kodak, a community development leader with the Presbyterian Community of Congo, and others have developed a water program in the [Democratic Republic of Congo](#). The program involves cisterns, wells and spring-capping and also includes supporting a local technical team and organizing and training water committees to establish maintenance programs for the water sources. In Congo about 30 percent of all illness is related to contaminated water. The goal is to have clean water available to at least 80 percent of the people living in health zones served by Congolese Presbyterians. [Read more](#) in a letter from Larry and Inge Sthreshley.

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## Mission Briefs

[World Mission Challenge](#), which sent 46 mission personnel and several international partners across the country in September and October, included visits to 734 congregations in 152 presbyteries, 281 presentations in other venues and an estimated attendance of nearly 45,000 at all events. The Jinishian Memorial Program (JMP) conducted a study tour of Armenia in October that featured visits to JMP development projects. [Read more.](#)

Last summer Peninsula Presbytery in [Mexico](#), ordained four men to the ministry, one of them a student from [Nicaragua](#). Juan Carlos, who is now the first ordained Presbyterian pastor in that country.

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