

The Heart of Missions:

First Presbyterian Church of Champaign's Missions Magazine

December Missions Events and Meetings

Every M, T, W, and Th until Dec. 23:

English as a Second Language (ESL)

All English levels

1-3pm on second floor of Education Building

Every Monday and Wednesday until Dec. 23:

English as a Second Language (ESL): Survival English

New English Speakers Only

9-11am on second floor of Education Building

Every Tuesday:

Pakistan Study

1:30pm-3pm in the Parlor

*Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry Presentation on
Psychology and Intercultural Encounters*

9am to 11:30am in Centennial Hall

December 8: Mission Team

Noon in Westminster

December 14: Environmental Stewardship

3:30-5pm at Barbara Fuller-Curry's Home

December 17: Cuba Steering Committee

6:00pm in the Parlor

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“Education unlocks and fuels a child’s potential and is a proven path out of poverty.”

UNESCO “Out of School Children” 2015

More than 2 **billion** people in the world live on less than \$2 per day. Education is key to breaking this cycle of poverty, yet more than 124 million children are not in school because their families can’t afford tuition, books, and uniforms. There is a large scale and successful alternative: financing small, well-run private schools and supporting the families who send their children there (The Economist, Aug. 1, 2015).

1st Presbyterian Church partners with Opportunity International to support Education for Children in Poverty in Dominican Republic.

About Opportunity International: Opportunity is the one of the world’s premier micro-finance organizations focused on helping people lift themselves out of poverty. And they are Christian to their core. Partnering with a number of Presbyterian congregations throughout the U.S., they share in responding to Jesus Christ’s call to love and serve the poor. Their vision statement is: “a world in which all people have the opportunity to achieve a life free from poverty, with dignity and purpose.”

“From the bottom of my heart, I believe in Opportunity International. This organization is like the starter dough our neighbor gave Mom to make sourdough bread. When you give people the opportunity to create wealth, you help them for the rest of their life. Opportunity International are the pros at starter dough.”

Rick Warren, Pastor, Saddleback Church

Opportunity is large, faith-based, nimble, and helps people locked in poverty to lift themselves out with innovative, respectful, multifaceted strategies. They employ over 17,000 people world wide and are extremely effective in attacking poverty on several fronts. These Include:

- microfinance loans to poor entrepreneurs,
- banks for the poor,
- wide ranging low cost insurance, and
- education plans.

“Opportunity International is helping to create hundreds of small businesses and cottage industries that the poor of the world can own

An “Insight Trip” to the Dominican Republic is being discussed. This will allow us to witness first hand how our investment is being used to help break the cycle of poverty by providing educational opportunities for poor children in the DR. If you feel God nudging you in this direction, please contact Ann Stout and let her know of your interest (mrsas2003@gmail.com).

and run themselves. I have seen firsthand the good work done by Opportunity International and know that hundreds of thousands of jobs have been created by its efforts.”

Tony Campolo, Professor Emeritus, Eastern University

Opportunity is client driven. They listen to clients as the clients express needs and then they make every effort to meet those needs by empowering them. This is consistent with the concepts Robert Lupton, Atlanta Presbyterian activist, promotes in his book, *Toxic Charity*. He has been a long time supporter of Opportunity and has partnered with them on a community development project in Nicaragua..

About Opportunity International's Edufinance Initiative: They are accomplishing this, in part, through the use of school loans. Consider this:

- Since the inception of the education program in the early 2000s, Opportunity has impacted more than 1 million children's lives in seven developing countries around the world.
- Since 2009, Opportunity has granted approximately 2,000 School Improvement Loans to private school proprietors serving approximately 500,000 poor children.
- Since 2009, Opportunity has granted over 25,000 school fee loans to parents allowing poor children to attend school.
- In the last four years, there have been 154,000 new seats created in schools in poor countries due to loans from Opportunity
- The average increase in enrollment (per school) due to Opportunity school loans is about 27.5%
- The average increase in teachers (per school) due to Opportunity loans is about 36%
- Opportunity is implementing a massive "big data" driven program to lift up the quality of education for the poor in private schools in 8 countries
- Opportunity's multifaceted school improvement program includes school improvement loans, school fee loans to parents, insurance to keep children in school in case of death or disability of a parent, and is in the early stages of providing a limited number of scholarships to deserving poor students.

"Investing in education is one of the most decisive ways to help people work their way out of poverty"

Vicki Escarra, Opportunity International CEO

About the Opportunity/1st Pres partnership: FPCC is privileged to be partnering with Opportunity International's education ministry. Part of our Forward 150 Mission funds are being used to provide school loans in the Dominican Republic. We have a three year financial commitment that allows us to invest our World Missions portion of the Forward 150 Mission funds in providing education for poor children who would otherwise not be able to attend school. Our church has supported Opportunity's microloan ministry in the past and Ann Stout (World Mission chair) has personally visited two of their ministries (in Peru and Malawi). Now Bill Stout will bring his quantitatively oriented school assessment skills to the Opportunity effort by serving on their Edufinance Task Force that leads the Opportunity school loan effort.

**—Submitted by Ann Stout,
Chair of World Mission Committee**

Transportation Ministry Nears Second Anniversary

Two years ago your generosity allowed purchase of our fifteen passenger van. Most of us call it “the bus” since our children first used those words. Our transportation ministry has grown, augmented by private vehicles, now providing transportation to as many as 100 riders for weekend worship. In addition “the bus” takes ESL students on field trips, our young people on mission trips and DREAM House children to after-school enrichment.



Traveling together fosters conversation, thus sharing our lives in Christ. This ministry provides opportunity to get to know some of the wonderful people in our congregation.

John Muirhead leads the Transportation Ministry Team and regular participants include Ken and Kena Chapman, Miriam Chenault, Greg Cozad, Judy Gamble, Katharine Jones, Bob and Claudia Kirby, Mamiley and César Mnyampara, Fiston Niambi, Linda and Gary Peterson, Vern Snoeyink, Kurt Ruthsmandorfer, Mark and Kathy Schoeffmann.



Stewed Carrot Soup, Chicken in White Sauce and Sangría

These are some of the delicious recipes in the Luyanó Kitchen Cookbook. Buy several for hostess gifts, stocking stuffers or gifts for your friends. Recipes are old Spanish and Cuban favorites from the women of our sister church. Profits will support community service projects in the Luyanó neighborhood. Cuba Partners will be available to take your credit card, cash or check in Westminster Hall or you may leave a check in the basket and take your books.



A
blend of
traditional hymns
and original
compositions with
African rhythms
and blues

"Worship Hymn" Concert
Jean René Balekita and Bomoyi
Sunday, December 6
3:00pm in the Sanctuary of
First Presbyterian Church of Champaign

(Downtown Champaign,
at the corner of Church St. and State St.)
302 West Church Street
Champaign, IL 61820



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

Musicians will receive a free-will offering as they seek asylum in the US and await work permits. Ten percent of donations will go to *Build Congo Schools* (buildcongoschools.org), an initiative of the Presbyterian Congo Network and our Missionary Co-Workers in Congo.



ESL Thanksgiving Potluck

As you can see:
it was a feast!

World Mission Committee will not meet in December,
but will return to the normal schedule in January.

The Cuba Steering committee will meet at an unusual time in December:
on December 17th to avoid holidays.

The committee returns to the normal schedule in January.

Mission Committee Annual Reports are due to Kristi Corbin by
December 31st so that she may compile and summarize them
for the church's annual report in January. Submit them to
kristi.corbin@firstchurchchampaign.org

Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois

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Announcing and inviting:

- We are inviting **congregations to prayerfully consider applying** for the Presbytery's *Ministry and Mission Grants*, if you know of God's call to a particular project/program/mission in your congregation.
- The project must be **sponsored by** a congregation in our presbytery.
- We **encourage new** projects but will consider an already operating project (e.g. support for individuals going on a mission trip).
- We require that the **entire application** (please read the directions carefully) **be completed** in order for the committee to have enough information to make an informed decision.
- Please *get in touch with the Presbytery Office* to **have an application** emailed or mailed to you.
- **The grant is seed money**, basically to support the start of or exploration for a project/program/mission. Grant amounts tend to vary from \$500 to \$5000 (with the average around \$1500-\$2000) and that tends to depend on how many project applications have been received and awards granted.
- The deadline for receiving applications is **Saturday, January 30**.
- **Grant monies**, will be *awarded by March 30* (the Wednesday after Easter Sunday), the time period in which the contact person will receive the initial **70% of the award**.
- A *progress report* is due by **September 1** so we know how the grant money is working.
- The final **30%** of the grant awarded to a congregation will be received **by September 30**, ****only if** the progress report has been received.

May God bless the Ministry and Mission Grant program for 2016!

Rev. Laurie Williams, member of the Ministry and Mission Grant Committee

Our Community

The TIMES Center will receive the 2016 Advent Offering. The offering will go toward replacing worn out floor mattresses, a dishwasher, and a new front door. The TIMES Center serves men who are experiencing homelessness. The program is a tiered and intensive program with individual case management services.

Our church's generosity to this worthy program is appreciated by the leadership at the TIMES Center.

Want to give something to help survivors of domestic violence?

Courage Connection

(508 East Church Street) can always use the following:

- ⇒ New towels, pillows, or twin sized sheets and comforters
- ⇒ Over the counter cold and flu medications for adults and children
- ⇒ Food storage containers
- ⇒ Baby wipes

The Canteen Run is currently in need of:

- ⇒ Socks
- ⇒ M/L Men's Underwear
- ⇒ Size 6 Women's Underwear
- ⇒ Winter Coats and Blankets
- ⇒ Grocery Bags

Contact Barb Davies at cucanteenrun@gmail.com for more information

Remember to support missions with your participation in Amazon Smile and the Schnuck's Community Card. Proceeds go to emergency food deliveries in C-U.

If you would like to receive *The Heart of Missions* automatically each month when it is published, just let me know. Please send an email to Kristi Corbin at kristi.corbin@firstchurchchampaign.org and I will get you on the electronic mailing list. An electronic copy will then automatically be delivered to your in-box monthly.

If you prefer a paper copy, we print some of those as well. Copies are available each month in Westminster (on the wall near the Welcome Desk) and in the church office (outside of Marcia's office).

— — Kristi

Find this, and all copies of the Heart of Missions, at firstchurchchampaign.org/heartofmissions