Missions In Action

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Welcome to the fourth edition of Missions in Action. This booklet serves to...

- Educate you about the Mission Team at Union Church
- Provide information to church members who give so generously of their time, money and talent for these missions.
- Describe the agencies and groups that our church supports
- Provide contact information for missions and missionaries
- Promote YOUR involvement in exciting mission opportunities

Supported Missions
Introduction

As we publish this fourth edition of Missions in Action, we pray that:

- All we do in the Missions Committee and at Union Church honors God.
- We will obediently go where God directs Union Church missions to go.
- That we put the Lord’s role for us before our own—always.

The organizations represented here are the result of much prayer, conversation, research and due diligence. Each one, we believe, sees their unique calling from God as all important and essential. We agree. These organizations fulfill important roles in serving God’s plan for Christian mission work.

Thank you for your support of the missions program at Union Church.

the Union Church Mission Committee

Mission Vision

To be faithful to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by being faithful to His command in Acts 1:8: “…and you will be my witness in Jerusalem, and in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Mission Team Goals

- To identify and support missionaries and Christian organizations (locally, nationally and internationally) whose major emphasis is evangelism.
- Encourage and provide yearly opportunities for each Union member to serve the Lord (as a Christian witness) through local, national or international mission experiences.
- To inspire, enable and focus church mission activities.
- To be faithful custodians of the congregations mission resources.

What Now?

Open your eyes and look at the fields!
They are ripe for harvest.
John 4:35

GO and pray for God to move you and others to reach out!

Jesus’ Great Commission:
“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”
Matthew 28:19-20
The Campus is our Mission Field

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA is a vibrant campus ministry that establishes and advances witnessing communities of students and faculty. We minister to students and faculty through small group Bible studies, large gatherings on campus, leadership training, thoughtful discipleship and life-changing conferences and events.

Why the Campus?

Today’s university shapes tomorrow’s leaders. In the university, women and men are encouraged to pursue truth, often without regard for God, and to pursue personal goals, often without concern for a higher purpose. InterVarsity longs to see education lead to a lifetime of Christian worship and service. We believe that when students and faculty are transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, their campus is transformed, and ultimately society as a whole comes to more closely reflect the priorities of the kingdom of God. That is why we invest ourselves in the lives of students and faculty, wherever they are on their spiritual journey.

Our Heritage

InterVarsity traces its roots to a movement of British university students in the 1870s. The first InterVarsity chapter in the United States began in 1938 at the University of Michigan. Since InterVarsity was incorporated in 1941, thousands of students have become thoughtful representatives of God’s kingdom and have moved into leadership roles in churches, organizations, corporations and agencies around the world.
**Eagle’s Nest Ministries (Love Packages)**

Love Packages is a ministry aimed at putting Christian literature and Bibles into the hands of people around the world. Christians all across the USA - people just like you - send us Bibles, Sunday School materials, books, etc. We send them to ministries in many poor countries to distribute freely to people hungry for the Word of God. These are materials that would have sat collecting dust on shelves or been thrown away. Now it’s being used to reach souls for Christ, encourage and build up the Church, and the raising up and training of leaders to shine the light in dark places.

Our vision is simple. We want to see all of our excess, the materials that are being wasted, placed on the mission fields of the world.

**Love Packages**
220 Union Street
Butler, Illinois 62015
217-532-6701
www.lovepackages.org

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**Pittsburgh Project**

Founded in 1985, the Pittsburgh Project is an urban based Christian development organization. It’s purpose is to develop servant leaders and uphold the dignity of vulnerable homeowners. The development of servant leaders is attained through a progressive series of youth development programs. North side children and young people grow academically, relationally, and spiritually. They are prepared to transform their community.

The homeowner services are provided to those who are economically in need, in poor health due to age or illness, people with a disability, or those at risk of eviction. Home repairs, links to social services, and local churches, enable homeowners to live in safe, healthy, and accessible homes.

Other ministries provided are after school programs, and a project called One vision, one life. This project aims to prevent gang violence by intervening in these situations before they become shootings or homicides.

**Wycliffe Bible Translators, USA**

is part of an international association of Wycliffe organizations comprising of over 5000 active members from 46 countries. Within the USA our role is to provide the links for churches here to help build the church around the world and give people access to the words of life.

Already Wycliffe workers have helped to complete 611 translations, making God’s Word available to more than 76 million people. This has always been done hand in hand with local communities. But now more than ever we are able to pass on our skills through partnership with churches and agencies worldwide.

**What is ECFA?**

ECFA is an accreditation agency dedicated to helping Christian ministries earn the public’s trust through adherence to Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship™, which focus on board governance, financial transparency, integrity in fundraising, and proper use of charity resources.

Founded in 1979, ECFA provides accreditation to leading Christian nonprofit organizations that faithfully demonstrate compliance with established standards for financial accountability, fundraising and board governance. Members include Christian ministries, denominations, churches, educational institutions and other tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations. Collectively, these organizations represent nearly $20 billion in annual revenue.

**Wycliffe Northeast**
422 Beaver Valley Pike
Willow Street, PA 17584
800-366-5493
www.wycliffe.org
World Vision

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

World Vision’s child sponsorship program creates real, lasting change for children and their communities. Our compassionate, Christian staff show God’s love to all people as they help build healthy communities for children in the world’s most impoverished places. World Vision partners with sponsored children’s communities over the long term to address critical needs and help communities become self-sustaining.

Mozambique — Dave & Leah Preston

Wycliffe Bible Translators is motivated by the pressing need for everyone in the world to have access to the Word of God in the language that speaks to their hearts. Reaffirming its historic values and trust in God to accomplish the impossible, Wycliffe embraces the vision that by the year 2025, a Bible translation project will be in progress for every people group where needed.

David and Leah Preston will celebrate 24 years with Wycliffe this August. During those years they have served in Darwin, Australia; Nairobi, Kenya; and for the past 12 years in Mozambique.

Their work in Mozambique reflects their commitment to Wycliffe’s Vision 2025. As they run the training center and help build capacity for bible translation programs and training Mozambican Christians, Union Church would like to stand with them and offer our support with prayer, finances, and mission teams.

P.R.I.S.M.

PRISM is a comprehensive program for International Students/Visiting Scholars. PRISM wants to serve international students and to make their cultural experience here a rich part of their educational experience. We sincerely hope some of our programs will help students to build relationships that will help them through the challenges of living cross-culturally. Our programs are designed to give them a friendly way to interact with American culture.

We have experienced God’s goodness and believe He desires us to show kindness to others and to include intercultural relationships in our educational experience.

Prison Fellowship

Founded in 1976 by Chuck Colson, Prison Fellowship partners with local churches across the country to minister to a group that society often scorches and neglects: prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their families. The focus of our ministry includes fellowshipping with Jesus (including teaching others to live and look at life from a biblical perspective), visiting prisoners, and welcoming the children of prisoners.

Current Projects:
- Angel Tree
- In-Prison Seminars
- Campus Ministry

The Angel Tree program reaches out to children of prisoners through its Christmas, Camping, and Mentoring programs, all designed to present Christ’s love, strengthen bonds between children and their parents in prison, and help the kids reach their highest potential in Christ.
Since 1987 The Open Door Community Center has been a centerpiece of Crafton Heights, a small community located in the West End of Pittsburgh. Though our programs, staff, and look have changed over the years, our purpose remains constant: to provide a safe place where people can come and have fun surrounded by the family of God. We are linked closely with The First United Presbyterian Church of Crafton Heights and are dedicated to demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ to those we encounter.

The Open Mission:
The Open Door ministry exists to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ to neighborhood young people through intentional relationships with caring adults in an environment of safety and fun.

Poverty tries to destroy hope...Hosanna Industries strives to restore hope. Every day, another family is helped and given the hope it needs to restore lives, restore dignity, and restore vitality in its community. Hosanna Industries, Inc. is the premiere faith-rooted, 501 (c)3 non-profit organization in southwestern Pennsylvania delivering housing services for low and very low income homeowners in the form of new construction and repair/rehabilitation services. Since 1990, the mission has completed over 2500 projects in the local Pittsburgh Region.

http://www.hosannaindustries.org
724-770-0262

“Then the Righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”

~ Matthew 25: 37-40

Northside Common Ministries
P.O. Box 99861
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
412-323-1163
http://www.ncmin.org

Northside Common Ministries is a non-sectarian, non-profit, community-based organization established in 1982 by a collaboration of 30 local churches to meet the increasing needs of the homeless population.

NCM’s mission answers the call of Jesus “to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and receive the stranger,” and the prophet’s call to “do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.”

Zona Extrema
Zona Extrema is a youth center in San Cristobal, Guatemala. Run by John & Donna Reynolds, the youth center provides a positive, fun, Christ–centered place for discipling young people. The youth center offers the local community a place of refuge, where young people can feel safe and valued.

Alta Verapaz is one of the least economically developed states in Guatemala. Over 65% of the population is illiterate. Please pray for this region and this mission team.

John & Donna Reynolds
Cross Commission
P.O. Box 1
Hillsboro, IL 62049
Ph: 011-502-4551-6777
jreynolds@crosscommission.org
www.crosscommission.org
Youtube: youtube.com/user/crosscommission
Union Church

Pastor Setan Lee is a native Cambodian missionary who survived 4 years of the Killing Fields in a youth concentration camp. Union has supported him for the last 15 years. The Killing Fields refers to a time in Cambodia when the communists (called the Khmer Rouge) gained control of Cambodia and nearly killed 50% of the population (over 3 million people).

Pastor Setan survived and fled to the United States with his wife and became the first Christian missionary to return to Cambodia in 1992. His ministry there includes outreaches to children (feeding program for homeless children, a day care center, an orphanage), stopping the sex trade (a rescue center), huge rice distribution for the poor, medical evangelism, education and planting churches.

Transform Asia
P.O. Box 440283
Aurora, CO 80044-0283
Phone: 303.693.6122
www.transformasia.us

Christian Camping International—part of the Latin America Mission Project, is an evangelical Christian organization that collaborates with local and grass root organizations throughout Latin America.

Latin America Mission is a unique tool in God’s ministry plan for the world. This international community of men and women works to encourage, assist and participate with the Latin Church in building His Church in the Latin world and beyond. All LAM missionaries promote evangelism. All LAM missionaries work under local grassroots ministries. Beyond these two foundations, LAM is known principally for creative innovation in international ministry.

Lisa Anderson-Umana
Adpo. U-8973, Tegucigalps, Honduras
http://www.lam.org/missionaries/lisa-anderson-umana

Missions In Action

Since 1794, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary has nurtured men and women in their faith in God, while preparing them for pastoral ministry and lay leadership in all phases of the Church’s outreach. Located in the heartland of Presbyterianism, we are affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA). Our community is ecumenically minded, however, with over twenty denominations represented in our student body.

Dedicated to excellence in theological education, the faculty strives to prepare graduates who will demonstrate both personal piety and the keenest possible intellectual understanding of the Gospel and its implications for individual and social living. Serious attention is given to the study of biblical languages and exposition and to the teaching of theological, historical, ethical and practical disciplines for the successful and meaningful practice of ministry.

The Seminary is rooted in the Reformed history of faithfulness to Scripture and commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In keeping with our tradition, we continue our mission to be a caring and ecumenical community, to nurture personal faith and corporate worship, to promote global consciousness and service and to encourage students and faculty to relate their studies to the numerous styles of ministry emerging today.

World Mission Initiative

Recognizing that the changes sweeping the world and impacting the church necessitate innovative structures to continue the mission of Jesus Christ; pastors, missionaries, and church leaders met with denominational officials, seminary faculty and administrators at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary early in 1996 to discuss, pray, and strategize about ways to support the work of local congregations in world mission. From these initial meetings, the World Mission Initiative was born. WMI has become a fellowship of Presbyterians dedicated to:

- developing mission vision,
- nurturing missionary vocations,
- cultivating missional congregations

www.worldmissioninitiative.org/
**JAARS** is a nonprofit organization that provides technical support services—such as aviation, information technology, and media—to advance Bible translation and literacy programs worldwide. Our work impacts teams with SIL International, the Wycliffe Global Alliance, and many related organizations.

When our organization began in 1948, we offered two services: aviation and radio. We were appropriately named “Jungle Aviation and Radio Service” and often went by our acronym, “J.A.A.R.S.”

However, for more than 60 years we have consistently expanded our support services to meet the changing needs of translation teams. In 1986, to reflect the diversity of our services, the acronym was dropped and we became known simply as "JAARS."

**Our Mission:**
As part of the Wycliffe Bible Translators family of organizations, we work to see the Bible translated for every people group that still needs God’s Word in its own language. We come alongside Wycliffe, SIL International and related organizations worldwide, offering a wide variety of support services that speed the task of Bible translation.

For more than 60 years, our services have reduced the costs and difficulties that translators must endure on the field. The support we provide—such as software development or transportation—gives translators more time and resources to focus on language work.

As a result, God’s Word can be translated more quickly for hundreds of language groups around the world.

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**Christ for the City International**

Christ For the City International has its roots in Latin America Mission (LAM), and has been shaped by the Biblical mandate to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. CFCI has been an innovative leader in modern mission circles and has become a respected urban ministry and mission agency.

In a world hungry for spiritual answers that work, Christian identity, who we are and what we do, is our single most important distinctive. The spiritual dimension of this ministry is what separates it from other international organizations. The good news that people and communities can be rightly related to God—and to each other—and impact their cities with the Gospel, is the most excellent news that the Christian has. CFCI strategies and methodologies revolve around and reflect this belief.

**MISSION**
Helping people transform cities by transforming lives is our God-given mission.

**VISION**
Our vision is that there would be no place without a witness, no church without a vision, and no person without hope.

At Union we support Christ for the City International through the work of Jake & Becky Hjemvick and their mission work in El Salvador. El Salvador boasts the most densely populated country in Central America. Please visit Jake & Becky’s website below for a deeper understanding of the work they are doing there.

Contact Jake & Becky Hjemvick
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      hjemvick@verizon.net (Becky)