

Three (very informal) Questions and Answers about PC(USA) World Mission

1. Why do mission?

A fire burns because that's what it is. If it doesn't burn, then it's not a fire. It's just a pile of sticks. The church does mission because that's what the church is. If it doesn't do mission, then it's not a church. It's just a pile of bricks. It might as well be a country club, where the members pay dues and get entertainment and privileges in return.

2. Why do international mission?

We do international mission, reaching across the boundaries that our culture draws on the map, because that's what Jesus did. He ate with sinners and tax collectors, healed Gentiles, and talked with women. Jesus modeled our mission of reaching across all human divisions. Jesus did not say, "Go ye therefore and make disciples only to the edge of your comfort zone, baptizing and teaching only those who look like you and talk like you and think like you, and behold, I am with you only to the edge of my comfort zone." Jesus did not give us this "So-So Commission," but a Great Commission, with great challenges and great promises.

3. Why do international mission through the Presbyterian Church?

- a. If the PC(USA) is to have a mission presence overseas, then we have to support it. The Baptists are not going to help.
- b. We're good at it. We have over 170 years of experience, and partner churches in over 60 countries. You can't go anywhere in the two-thirds world without running into someone who says, "You're Presbyterian? I'm so glad to meet you! My mother's life was saved in a Presbyterian hospital!" or "My father learned to read in a Presbyterian school!" or "My grandparents heard the Gospel from a Presbyterian missionary!" We are faithful in maintaining and expanding those historic relationships and in supporting our mission co-workers well.
- c. **Presbyterians do mission in partnership.** That means that mission is not something that 'we' do to 'them,' but an adventure of collaboration with our partner churches. Remember the tsunami that hit Indonesia a few years ago? Aid given through PC(USA) went through the small, protestant minority, and served as a witness of God's love in the largest Muslim nation on earth. When you support international mission through PC(USA) World Mission, you not only help the local people in need but you help empower the partner church as well.

Thank you!

Bruce Whearty, September, 2010