



2009 Christmas Offering

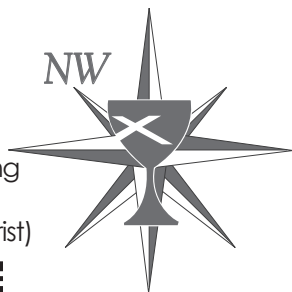
A young woman, returned from Belfast, arrives early at Lodz Reformed Church in Poland on World Communion Sunday. She had previously found an oasis of hope and relationship in the Presbyterian Church in Belfast where she was working. She joins the Lodz choir that morning. That same Sunday a young Pilipino-American woman beginning studies at the medical university attends and joins the choir. People in the pews were greeted by brand new and never-seen faces and voices singing a new song "Santo, Santo, Santo" in three languages with the stalwarts of the choir - a global church where all are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Global missions: "Meeting God's people and creation at the point of deepest need: physically, spiritually, emotionally and or economically." The Northwest Regional Christian Church in 2009 made the commitment to be a Global Mission Region and to encourage every one of our congregations to become a Global Missions Church. Therefore we share a partnership with Liz and Doug Searles, UCC pastors working in a Global Mission assignment Evangelical Reformed Church in Lodz, Poland, a joint appointment with the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Our additional regional partnership include Alison Stendahl, member of University UCC Church in Seattle, and long-term mission educator serving as academic dean and math teacher at Uskudar American Academy in Istanbul, Turkey. Another partner, Tom Morse who grew up in Lake Washington Christian Church, teaches English to Tibetan students at the Sichuan Radio and TV University in China. Partner Carlos Madrazo, member of Bethany UCC Church in Seattle is with the Protestant Church of

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Please give generously. The Christmas Offering supports the ministries of the
NW Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



East Timor working as an advisor on institutional capacity building, curriculum and relief development.

German theologian Emil Brunner affirmed, “The church exists by mission as a fire exists by burning.” What apt definition of the missional work of our congregations and of our region! Global mission is “primary and not peripheral, central and not optional.” It is the process of sharing God’s mission in the world. It proclaims and communicates the Biblical mandate for mission and helps persons to understand the political, economic and social context of the world in which our churches are called to serve.

It is out of our local churches that mission becomes alive in the world ... that means it is one place where the first spark of the fire is spread. It is also true that our Global Mission partners and those in the church they serve abroad create a spark for our churches and region so the fire continues to burn through these amazing connections.

In the last fifty years “missionary work” has taken a significantly different turn. Then we often thought of mission in terms of “us” going to help “them”. We imagined we had the answers, and they needed our help. Now global mission involves us in partnerships with people and churches in different places. We learn from each other. Christians from around the world have as much—or more—to share with us as we have to give them. They can teach us so much about lay ministry, working for justice, evangelism, caring for creation, teaching children, discipleship and commitment to Christ, and joyful faith.

Churches that ignore the call to active mission dwindle and die. In contrast, churches that make mission their focus thrive - whether they are large or small. The spirit in congregations that look outward rather than inward generates the light of Christ and creates new life.

For more information on Global Ministries go to
<http://globalministries.org/>

Rev. Marvin Eckfeldt
First Christian Church, Kent

O COME ALL YOU FAITHFUL
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