



# WHAT'S UP WORLD?!

*A monthly publication of Presbyterian World Mission to share news, concerns, updates and hope with friends in Louisville and around the world*

January 2019

## Message from Jose Luis ...



In January we celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. A few years ago, I shared about the future of ecumenism at a gathering of the National Council of Churches of Christ in USA,

held in New Orleans. In that meeting I said, "It's time to think "missional ecumenism." When churches and local congregations collaborate in mission projects of service at the local level, they are advancing unity in the body of Christ. Mission is the common ground that nurtures and provides the themes for ecumenical dialog. Mission engagement and commitment is the most profound level of the ecumenical dialog."



## News, Actions and Activities

### Africa Area Office

- **Ruth Brown** is settling in well to her new assignment working on the area of community health in Northern Ghana with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana. The Ghana Mission Network has been thrilled to have another mission co-worker in Ghana and is very supportive of Ruth.

- **The Church of Central Africa Synod of Zambia** is nearing completion of the mother care shelter at Egichikeni Rural Health Center. Before long they will have expectant moms being cared for in this building. The community and the health department are grateful for the generosity of **Central Presbyterian Church in Lafayette, Indiana** who made this happen!

- A delegation from the World Council of Reformed Churches is visiting the Presbyterian Church of Equatorial Guinea. **Valdir Franca**, area coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, and **Jeff Boyd**, regional liaison for Central Africa, are part of this delegation.

## The Young Adult Volunteer Program



**March 1** is the final day to apply to serve as a Young Adult Volunteer internationally in 2019–20. There are six international

YAV sites: **South Korea, Zambia, Colombia, Scotland, Peru and the Philippines.**

Encourage young adults (ages 19–30) to learn more and apply at [youngadultvolunteers.org](http://youngadultvolunteers.org). National site placements are open until June 1.



## January

- 7 — Ji Yeon Yoo
- 10 — Louisa Gallup
- 12 — Sara Armstrong
- 18 — Susan Budd
- 19 — Martha Sommers
- 26 — Sara Makari
- 27 — Ellen Sherby
- 27 — Scott Parker
- 31 — Eliza Minasyan



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## **Please Pray . . .**

Our partners in **Africa** and **Latin America** ask us to prayer for the following situations:

\* **Madagascar** held the second round of its presidential elections in December, a run-off between former President (and former Vice President of the FJKM) Marc Ravalomanana and former head of the “transitional authority” installed by the military in 2009, Andry Rajoelina. The High Constitutional Court validated the Independent Electoral Commission’s finding that Rajoelina had won by 56% to 44%. Rajoelina was inaugurated on Jan. 19.

\* A 150% increase in the fuel price in **Zimbabwe** (to about \$12.53 per gallon) touched off massive demonstrations in major urban areas of the country, leading to harsh response from the security forces. Roughly a dozen people were killed and hundreds injured in the ensuing protests. The main labor federation called for a nationwide stay-at-home. The fuel price hike comes on top of severe shortages of basic commodities and high inflation, which has raised concerns about a return to the hyperinflation of a decade ago. Please pray for the people of Zimbabwe who are struggling to make ends meet and for pastors who are ministering to communities in pain.

\* Disturbances and manifestations in **Venezuela** are increasing. Deaths are reported as result of this unrest.

\* Continue praying for the political situation in **Nicaragua** and the economic situation in **Cuba**.

## SAVE THE DATE:

Asia/Pacific Partner Consultation  
Thailand • Jan. 27–30

Colombia Mission Network  
Colombia • Jan. 31–Feb 4

Latin America & Caribbean  
Partner Consultation  
Cartagena, Colombia • Feb. 25–28

Palestine Solidarity Trip  
World Mission and  
Office of the General Assembly  
March 2–11

### U.S. Partner Consultations

- Atlanta, Georgia  
The Calvin Center  
March 21–23
- Stony Point, New York  
Stony Point Center  
April 4–6
- Zephyr Cove, Nevada  
Zephyr Point Presbyterian  
Conference Center • May 10–12