

# Christian Reformed World Missions Advocate

Helping Christian Reformed Churches to fulfill the Great Commission

December 2010

## Volunteer Opportunities

Christian Reformed World Missions offers volunteer opportunities for young adults and adults throughout the year.

This summer, young adults can volunteer to be on teams serving the Philippines or Ukraine. In the Philippines, the team will lead HIV and AIDS prevention workshops in churches and schools. In Ukraine, volunteers will lead an English evangelistic camp for about 20 young people. Team members will lead small group Bible studies, organize English conversation lessons and games, and lead worship.

Year around opportunities are available for young adults in Guatemala and the Ukraine. Guatemala internships will be geared towards the volunteer's interest, whether it's in after school programs or reaching out to those affected by prostitution and domestic violence or living on the streets. In Ukraine, volunteers will give workshops on leading worship.

Other opportunities include serving as a guest seminary lecturer in Nigeria, Uganda, or Zambia, shadowing church planters in Mexico, working with children with special needs in Nigeria or Nicaragua, or leading various workshops on Christian education.

For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities, visit [www.crcna.org/servicelink](http://www.crcna.org/servicelink) or [www.crwmm.org/summer](http://www.crwmm.org/summer).

## Project Giving Guide

Over 32 million Fulani live in small villages across West Africa. Most of them are Muslim; less than 1% of Fulani are Christian. World Missions' missionaries work within this context, selling cassettes and books of Scripture readings and a Bible story series, praying for Fulani to be drawn to the message they hear.

This ministry is just one of the many ministry projects listed in World Missions' online Project Giving Guide. To support a specific project or view a full listing of available projects, visit [www.crwmm.org/projects](http://www.crwmm.org/projects). Projects are listed according to country and ministry type. All projects are based on World Missions' involvement in evangelism and church planting, leadership training, theological education, transformation networks, Christian education, and much more.



## Hope Equals Summer Narrative – by Mariano Avila

Somewhere between the Dead Sea, Bethlehem and the Sea of Galilee is a story of reconciliation between Israeli Jews and Palestinians. This summer, ten young leaders from across North America spent five weeks in search of this narrative — walking the Holy Land, hearing people's stories, and working alongside peacemakers through the Christian Reformed World Missions' Hope Equals volunteer program.

On our journey, a Zionist Rabbi told us that a common fear of other religions was the problem and that inter-religious dialog was the solution. A Muslim imam and theologian said his hope for reconciliation was in women, especially mothers, organizing to push the men in their families toward non-violence. A Christian pastor cast a vision of an Israeli Jew and a Palestinian spending a week together building a relationship in the desert, taking turns riding a camel.

While online and TV news reports pointed to a violent conflict and an epic religious clash, on the ground we saw a different story. The majority of both Israeli and Palestinian society is eager for peace and willing to compromise to achieve it. On both sides, large parts of the civilian population are ignorant of the needs and fears of their counterparts. Our exploration of the different narratives between them allowed us a narrative of our own. It is a narrative in which we as North American Christians can support a quickly disappearing Christian population in the Holy Land, one in which we can reach out to Muslim and Jewish peacemakers and justice-seekers and unite to work towards a common goal. It is a narrative in which we, North Americans, can engage our governments and hold them accountable for policies that encourage peace. We found that though we are 7,000 miles away we are a vital part of God's plan in bringing about Shalom or Salaam in the land that Jesus once called home. For more information on Hope Equals, visit [www.hopeequals.org](http://www.hopeequals.org).



## Ministry Highlights

**Guatemala** – Chaplains working within Guatemala’s prisons are taking hold of the gang chaplaincy initiative, mapping out a ministry vision plan for the year ahead.

**Mexico** – “Manuel” had decided to leave his wife and children and move to another town. But after both he and his wife talked with CRWM missionaries John and Shirley Wind, they agreed to meet for marriage counseling on a regular basis. Now, they are slowly recovering from a near break-up.

**Nicaragua** – Begun just a few years ago, the Healthy Church Growth Project course is becoming integral to the growth of Nicaraguan churches. Over 200 leaders and 18 churches have passed through the course. This year, 100 leaders and 8 churches are expected to complete the course.

**Asia** – During Christian Reformed World Missions’ summer program in Asia, a team member gave free English lessons to some hotel staff members in her free time. After the program ended, one of the hotel staff members brought a friend, who was asking about their faith, to CRWM staff living in the area. That night, the friend became a Christian.

**Bangladesh** – Timothy Leadership Training (TLT) materials for strengthening church leaders are being translated and field tested in Bangladesh. A deacon who recently graduated from a TLT session said, “TLT is not just teaching, it is practical application.”

**Ukraine** – This year, the first TLT workshop was held in Ukraine. Now, work is beginning on introducing the materials in Hungary and Romania.

**Nigeria** – About 12 teachers faithfully attended field testing workshops for a new training program on teaching from a Christian perspective. The material, World Missions’ new “Educational Care” program, offers training for teachers working with few resources and minimal training. The material will be ready for use in January.

**Tanzania** – Pastor Sakwa has seen encouraging results in his church since implementing what he learned through TLT: “I took up the task of talking to my congregants, sharing [with] and encouraging them on spiritual growth and voluntary giving . . . I later realized that the number of church members had grown by 33%. Giving in the church grew amazingly as well.”

**West Africa** – A Fulani believer working at a resource and ministry center has been teaching English and computer skills to people coming in to have materials typed out and printed. Two regular visitors have become believers through his witness.

## Praising the Son

At this time of the year, we remember and rejoice in the gift of God’s Son, Jesus. Through Him, we are redeemed; by Him we are called to share the Good News of great joy that is for all people.



### NEXT Conference: Knowing Your Cultural Intelligence Quotient

Around 100 people participated in the NEXT! Conference held at Ivanrest CRC in Grandville, Michigan on October 30. In addition to the inspiring and challenging plenary sessions, participants could choose to attend hour-long workshops and short informational intermission sessions on topics from how to start a mentoring program in your church to why young people are leaving the church.

In one of his two plenary sessions, Dr. David Livermore helped participants discover their CQs – Cultural Intelligence Quotients. CQs measure people’s ability to function effectively in another culture. Livermore stressed that cultural sensitivity is as important for people going on short-term mission trips as it is for those engaged in long-term missions. He also demonstrated how every Christian has a role to play in the expansion of God’s Kingdom throughout the world.

One participant remarked, “If I had known it was going to be like this, I would have encouraged everyone in my church to attend.”

Recorded versions of Dr. Livermore’s two plenary sessions, *Yes You!: How People Like Us Can Change the World* and *Serving With Cultural Intelligence*, are available on our website at [www.crw.org/meet](http://www.crw.org/meet).

**Note:** Beginning January 2011, the CRCNA Prayer Guide will only be available online at [www.crcna.org/prayer](http://www.crcna.org/prayer). Downloadable versions will be posted for those wishing to print a copy.

### Regional Missions Mobilizer Information