



PRESBYTERIAN  
FRONTIER FELLOWSHIP

# The Frontier and You

News and Information on Frontier Mission

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## Opportunities for Everyone

Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship has a frontier mission opportunity for everyone. Throughout this newsletter, we have listed projects you can participate in through prayer, financial support and, in some instances, visit.

### Ethiopia

#### Teach English Skills in Ethiopia

In July of 2010 Light of Hope (LOH) ministries is planning to hold their third English skills training for LOH teachers. The training is designed to build English skills, in order to improve their ability to teach English in the classrooms and to help meet the growing teacher certification requirements in Ethiopia.

Carol Bounds of Boise, ID, a 2009 trip participant, wrote the following:

*“ . . .we taught six mornings a week, and Dr. Urgessa and his staff led afternoon spiritual formation classes.*

*For those who are unfamiliar with the work of Dr. Urgessa and LOH, they are building schools in Arssi Oromo villages and staffing these schools with Arssi Oromo teachers that Dr. Urgessa has hand selected and trained. There are now 22 elementary schools in six Arssi regions, with 120 teachers teaching and serving nearly 5,000 students and their families. The number is growing rapidly every year. Though this is first through fifth grade, second grade students may be in their teens, vividly demonstrating that before the LOH schools, the opportunity to go to school was absent for most. Through becoming literate, these children have the opportunity to help develop their villages and families in ways that can help move them beyond the vagaries of subsistence farming and its inherent risk of hunger if the rains don't fall.*

*God is doing wonderful things through this ministry, more widespread than Dr. Urgessa could have imagined back in 2000 when he felt called to return to his homeland and help educate and bring Christ to young Arssi Oromos. This service to the Arssi people and the effort to work diligently promoting peace and reconciliation between Christians and Muslims has not gone unnoticed by the Ethiopian government and the community and as a result Dr. Urgessa is finding new opportunities opening around him, many of them unexpected.”*



LOH teachers — Summer 2009 — Photo by Loretta Davis.

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If you are interested in being part of the training in Ethiopia in July 2010, contact the PFF national office at 800.720.4733 or [info@PFF.net](mailto:info@PFF.net).



To support frontier mission work through PFF, donate online at [www.PFF.net](http://www.PFF.net) or write your check to PFF, indicate specific work or staff person, and mail to PFF, 7132 Portland Avenue Suite 136, Richfield, MN 55423.

All donations to PFF are fully tax-deductible.

## Encourage Christians in Egypt

Egypt continues to be the epicenter of the new Arab mission force within the Middle East. Presbyterians are the largest Protestant group in Egypt, and Egypt has more Christians than any other Arab country. It is inspiring to be in the same room with an Egyptian Presbyterian. They are a mighty, powerful group of Christians dedicated to taking the gospel to the whole world. As a result, there are now Presbyterian Egyptian missionaries throughout the Middle East, Europe and the United States. If there is one near you, grab hold of him or her, form a partnership, and you will be blessed.

There are many reasons the Presbyterians of Egypt have become such a formidable mission force in recent years, but one factor which must be noted is the new mission curriculum at the Cairo Theological Seminary. Eight years ago, Dan McNerney was privileged to be a member of an advisory group which counseled the Cairo Theological Seminary in how to best develop a curriculum for missions and evangelism. He recommended that they use the **“Perspectives on the World Christian Movement”** as one of their chief texts. They took that idea and ran with it. Professor Swailem Hennein in particular fell in love with Perspectives, so much that he embarked on a long journey to translate all of Perspectives into Arabic. He and his team of translators are now inches away from completing the task.

Students and mission leaders in Egypt, and now also in Jordan, have already benefited greatly from reading Perspectives and applying it to their lives. Perspectives empowers Christians to see the larger purposes of God in reaching all the “nations” or ethnic groups for Christ.

Consider making a donation toward the final translation efforts of Perspectives, the publishing and distribution of the text, and the many training seminars which will take place in Egypt in 2010 and 2011. Please contact the PFF National Office at 800.720.4733. If you are interested in joining the spring trip and discovering what Christ is doing in Egypt, contact Dan McNerney at [DanM@PFF.net](mailto:DanM@PFF.net).



2008 dinner meeting with the PFF trip participants and Egyptian friends.

## Bring the Gospel to Darfur

Most everyone has heard of the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, but not everyone has heard how God is working there. Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship works with our Sudanese partners who go into Darfur monthly. Amidst all the hunger and suffering, there are people hungry to hear about God’s sacrificial love through Jesus Christ! Some have already heard about Him through dreams and visions. For example, one of Pastors was approached by strangers who know him by name. They spoke of a dream in which Jesus told them to seek out the pastor and to ask him how to become righteous.



Displaced people in a camp in Darfur.

Our partners in Sudan are doing their best to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters in Darfur. In addition to bringing in food and Bibles, they meet with small groups of new believers to help them understand the Bible and what it means to be a follower of Jesus. They have also opened an orphanage in one of the cities and a school in a rural village. People in Darfur have many needs, but learning about the love of God brings hope.

You may partner with our friends in Sudan through prayer and financial support. Funds are needed for teacher salaries and for training evangelists. We can provide you with prayer requests and project updates. Contact the PFF National Office at 800.720.4733 or [info@PFF.net](mailto:info@PFF.net) for more information about work in Darfur.

# The Frontier and You

Russia

## Reach Many Peoples in Siberia

Ten years ago – November 1999 – Harold Kurtz arrived in Russia with PCUSA staff to begin exploring God’s work among the native people groups in Siberia. Together with Donald Marsden they traveled to Salekhard, where PFF and PCUSA sponsored a consultation, “The Gospel for All Nations.” At that three day gathering many nationalities were present, including believers from among the Nenet, Khant, Komi-Zyryan, Russian, Ukrainian, Moldovan, and Americans. This was the beginning of PFF’s work in Siberia.



Harold Kurtz (back left) and Donald Marsden (back right) with Nenet family.

Since then we have built relationships with Jesus followers of the Mari, Tuvan, Altai, Yakut and Buryat peoples. These native people groups of Siberia traditionally practice shamanism, worshipping the spirits of nature and the spirits of their ancestors. PFF works to encourage the growth of indigenous churches in Siberia. We travel to visit and encourage those who work to preach the gospel among these native groups. The distances between settled areas are huge. Roads are poor or non-existent, so travel is difficult except by snowmobile or reindeer sled in the winter, by boat in the summer, or by helicopter in between seasons. The native people groups of Siberia are small due to Russian and Soviet policies to subdue and Russify them. The traditional, indigenous way of life is being subverted by the growth of towns and cities. Alcoholism and unemployment are serious problems. Many people are trapped in bondage to occult powers. In the midst of this cultural upheaval, Jesus sets people free and the gospel is seen to be “the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.” (Psalm 65). For more information on projects in Siberia, contact the National Office at 800.720.4733 or send an email to [info@PFF.net](mailto:info@PFF.net).

India

## Encourage Continued Church Growth in Bihar

Reports from Bihar Outreach Network (BORN) are encouraging. Following are several highlights.

The **Women’s Bible School** reports that 23 women graduated after finishing 6 months of training at the School of Evangelism. The graduates have committed themselves to serve the Lord by reaching the unreached people of Bihar and bringing transformation to the other women in the villages. Women in North India, especially in Bihar, live a hopeless life because of social and religious oppression. The new believers long to know more about Christ. They have a great thirst for studying the Bible and learning Christian practices such as singing, praying and witnessing. They also have a great desire to share their new-found joy with other women in the village. They make powerful witnesses for Christ by bringing hundreds of women to Him and planting new churches.



BORN Evangelists preparing to share with others.

Plans for the **BORN Training Center** are progressing. A team of architects, engineers and interior designers from Engineering Ministries International (EMI) have completed the soil testing, surveying, and master plan for The Training Center. Construction will be in three phases and begin as soon as funding is available.

The **Bless Koshi Movement** is the result of the August 2008 flooding of the Koshi River dam that displaced 3.2 million people. God has opened a door for these people and thousands have come to Christ. Five grassroots church planters (GRCPs) graduated from the School of Evangelism and moved to the Koshi River area. Over the last 10 months 3,000 have been baptized and 500 are ready to receive baptism. Current plans are to train 6 men and 4 women for the Koshi work.

Your continued prayer and financial support is needed for each of these projects. For more information, contact the PFF National Office at 800.720.4733. To receive a DVD of BORN projects, send an email requesting one to [info@PFF.net](mailto:info@PFF.net).



## Partner to Share the Good News of Jesus in Central Asia

When Christians gather in Uzbekistan, they often observe an unusual ritual. Everyone takes out their cell phone and disassembles it, removing the battery and SIM card. This may seem like an extreme equivalent to the “please silence your cell phone” mantra we hear in our churches on Sunday mornings, but it has an altogether different purpose. Today’s mobile phones are equipped with GPS technology which enables them to function like navigation devices and even allow parents to keep track of their teenager’s whereabouts. In an authoritarian country



like Uzbekistan, the government can use that same technology to track Christians and eavesdrop on their conversations. To varying degrees, all of the Central Asian countries restrict religious freedoms, and some, like Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, systematically persecute local Christians.

Despite the challenges and difficulties faced by Christians in Uzbekistan and the other “stan” countries in Central Asia, the church is growing. Hundreds, even thousands, of former atheists and Muslims are coming to know Jesus as the Messiah and are choosing to follow him.

These believers often face rejection by their families and communities, whose views of Christianity are shaped by the Western TV shows and movies that depict sexual immorality, drinking and drug use. Since Westerners are Christians, the thinking goes, Christianity must approve of such behavior. But through their transformed lives and commitment to follow Jesus no matter the cost, these Central Asian believers are powerful witnesses to the reality of God’s love and the abundant life that God offers through Jesus the Messiah.

PFF and Presbyterian World Mission are actively partnering with Central Asian Christians to help them live out their faith and to share the Good News. In October, the Presbyterian Central Asia Network held its inaugural meeting, attended by some 20 representatives of PFF, World Mission, Presbyterian congregations, and Central Asian Christians who desire to work more closely together in what God is doing in that region. Through the sharing of information and resources, they hope to work together in partnership. This will help them be more effective and fruitful in sharing God’s love in Jesus in ways that are culturally meaningful and relevant to Central Asians.

For more information on how you or your church can be a part of the work in Central Asia, contact the PFF national office at 800.720.4733 or send an email to [info@PFF.net](mailto:info@PFF.net).

## Meet Telile Fikru



Telile (Te-lee-lay) Fikru is a gifted singer and song writer in the Christian Oromo community in Ethiopia. She is also the coordinator for nearly 100 Light of Hope teachers serving over 20 schools. Telile has now come to the US to help interpret the ministry of Light of Hope to churches here. Writing traditional praise music with traditional melodies has been one way she makes faith in

Jesus attractive and appropriate for her people. She is partially supported by Light of Hope but also needs some church partners to help support her for two years of service in the US. You can reach her at [Telile@pff.net](mailto:Telile@pff.net) or call the PFF national office at 800.720.4733. The Light of Hope choir has CD’s and DVD’s of their music and ministry. Contact Telile for more information.



## Travel with PFF

Trips to visit projects are being planned in 2010. Below is a current list of trips. See [www.PFF.net](http://www.PFF.net) for more information or call the National Office at 800.720.4733.

India (BORN) — January 5-15, 2010

Ethiopia — January 24-February 3, 2010

Asia (Muslim People Group) — February 20-28, 2010

Egypt — April 12-24, 2010

Turkey — May 24-June 3, 2010

Ethiopia (Teach English skills) — July 1-30, 2010

## Reach Out to US Muslims

How can Christians in the US reach out to Muslim neighbors? BJ, who lives in a southern city in the US, believes that the climate between many Muslims and Christians in the US today is so bad that Christians must engage Muslims at a deep relational level in order to bring change. BJ is an ambassador of peace sent from God's Kingdom to the Muslims. He keeps the focus on Jesus as the common path for Muslim/Christian reconciliation, and he has found little resistance to this from Muslims—even radicals!

BJ's primary ministry to Christians is two-fold: to call them to repent of not loving their Muslim neighbors; and to equip them to engage the Muslim community in a positive, loving and peaceful manner, desiring to see the Muslims follow Jesus. He has found that many Muslims respond in a positive way to this incarnational approach.

BJ focuses on building partnerships of peace between churches and mosques and between pastors and imams. This opens the doors for discussions that help Muslims and Christians find commonality in the person and teachings of Jesus. Once partnerships are formed he helps Muslims and Christians form small groups that are co-led by people from both communities. These Groups last for a year, and each person gets to share their faith, life and spiritual journey multiple times during that year. This is a wonderful way for Muslims to experience the love of Jesus in a safe atmosphere. As the partnership matures study groups can be formed, or communities can work together on humanitarian projects.

God has given BJ a divine love for all Muslims, and he hopes that one day more Christians in the U.S. will love them with the unconditional love of Christ. BJ is working with several Presbyterian congregations, and PFF is pleased to help raise support for his ministry expenses. For more information, contact the PFF National Office at 800.720.4733 or send an email to [info@PFF.net](mailto:info@PFF.net).



Recent gathering of Muslim and Christians.

## Enroll in a Perspectives Class

Are you seeking to broaden your awareness of the *Global Church*?

Are you interested in digging deeper into the *Missional Calling* of the Church?

Are you looking for a good mission-related option for *Continuing Education* next year?

If you answered, “**Yes!**” to any of these questions, you should consider taking part in the **Perspectives** class! People across the country and around the world have experienced the Perspectives course and have had their eyes opened to God's purpose for their lives. In 15 lessons, you'll engage with a range of dynamic speakers. Weekly readings and study will help you dig even deeper. There are over 200 classes scheduled across the country. Find out where and register today at [www.perspectives.org](http://www.perspectives.org).

In addition, the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is hosting a **Leader's Intensive Perspectives** class, August 15-21, 2010. Join with pastors and church leaders as we spend one week deeply considering God's mission for the church. Classes are taught by a variety of dynamic speakers including pastors, missionaries, and professors. Lectures are complemented by discussions, activities, and opportunities to discern implications for local congregations. This one week offers the full Perspectives class with challenging content, inspiring teaching, time for fellowship, and cross-cultural excursions in Pittsburgh. See [www.worldmissioninitiative.org/perspectives](http://www.worldmissioninitiative.org/perspectives) for more information or contact Rev. Jen Haddox, Associate Director of World Mission Initiative, [jhaddox@pts.edu](mailto:jhaddox@pts.edu) or 412.924.1440.





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**For Every People - An Indigenous Church  
For Every Church - A Mission Vision**

*All donations to PFF are fully tax deductible*

## PFF on the Road

Visit with PFF staff at the events below.

### General Assembly of the PCUSA Minneapolis, MN — July 3-10, 2010

PFF will have a booth in the exhibitor area. Registration begins in March 2010.



### New Wilmington Mission Conference New Wilmington, PA — July 24-31, 2010

For over 100 years this conference has been joining people of all ages together each summer. Check out [www.nwmcmission.org](http://www.nwmcmission.org) for more information. Bill Young will be one of the speakers for adults.

## On-Line Giving Available



Give on-line today with PFF's **secure** giving link. Go to **[www.pff.net](http://www.pff.net)** and click the donate on-line. Ninety seconds later your donation is complete. We accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express as well as e-checks. Your donation can be designated to the PFF office, one of the PFF staff, or any frontier mission project. All donations are fully tax-deductible. You will notice the mouse graphic on the web site and throughout this newsletter indicating a direct link to the on-line giving page.



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