



First MISSIONS

Around the corner. Around the World.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BONITA SPRINGS

fpcbonita.org

9751 Bonita Beach Road | Bonita Springs, FL 34135
239 992 3233 | tbarnes@fpcbonita.org



Welcome to First Missions

There is a gospel song we used to sing when I was growing up called *Look What the Lord Has Done*. As I look over this mission directory and the 50+ missionaries and mission organizations that First Church partners with, those are the words that come to mind. The foundation of mission partnerships and the diversity of those partnerships have grown over many years. First Church has a rich history with missions as its purpose, rather than simply a program of the church.

Each one of the partners represented in this directory has been vetted, prayed over and recommended by the Mission Leadership Team and approved by Session. It is a process that the men and women on the team do not take lightly, as they know the importance of the church's responsibility to be His hands and feet in the world through mission partnerships and support. The Christian life is to be lived out both locally and globally, and as you read through the following pages, you will meet the wonderful people and organizations that are helping First Church do just that. It is my prayer that you, too, will proclaim, "Look what the Lord has done!"

Trusha Barner

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS



Why Missions

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16, NIV)

Send us around the world with the news of your saving power and your eternal plan for all mankind. How everyone throughout the earth will praise the LORD! (Psalm 67:2-3, TLB)

Jesus answered, “The most important is: ‘Listen, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:29-31, NET)

Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘I tell you the truth, just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me.’ (Matthew 25:37-40, NET)

The Mission of First Presbyterian Church is to welcome and nurture our community, help people grow as disciples of Christ and present a positive witness in today’s world.



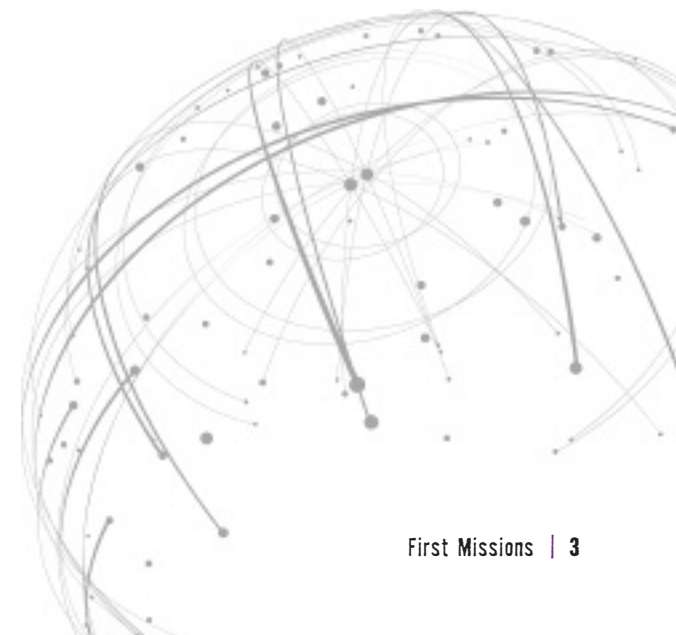
How

Mission Statement

Following God’s vision for our church, we will reach people in our community and throughout the world with God’s offer of love and grace in Jesus Christ. We will build churches, train leaders, support missionaries, send short-term teams, encourage long-term commitment and serve compassionately meeting spiritual, social and physical needs with a focus on poor and marginalized people and communities — the least, the last and the lost. We will work in partnership with churches, missions organizations and missionaries. We will participate through prayers, financial support and personal commitment to study and service.

Mission Leadership Team

The members of the Mission Leadership Team (MLT) develop and carry out the missions policy of First Church. The policy is designed to help achieve a clear sense of direction; to promote efficiency, consistency, understanding and encouragement in the administration of the missions program of First Church; to define the relationship of First Church to both the missionary and the mission project or agency; and to insure optimal stewardship of human and financial resources. The MLT also equips First Church for involvement in all areas of missions ministry: equipping, informing, inspiring and enabling the congregation to become personally involved in the ministries we support through all aspects of praying, giving, sending and going. The MLT acts under the authority of, and on behalf of, the Session of First Church.



Who

Mission	Location of Ministry
BethanyKids	Country Specific Africa
Blincoe, Bob & Jan	Global
Café of Life	Southwest Florida
Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center	Southwest Florida
Christian Leaders for Africa	Country Specific Africa
Christensen, Kyle & Stacia	Country Specific Asia
Compassion International	Global
Crossing Borders	Country Specific Asia
Dominican Republic Partnership	Country Specific Caribbean
Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO)	Global
Fahnestock, Paul and Linda	Global
Forman Christian College	Country Specific Asia
Gahagen, Craig & Heather	Country Specific South America
International Justice Mission	Global
Kebede, Habtom & Heather	Country Specific Africa
Kohl, Manfred & Barbara	Global
Lee County Jail Ministry	Southwest Florida
Light of Hope Ministries	Country Specific Africa
Love INC (In the Name of Christ)	Southwest Florida
Meade, David-Propempo International	Global
Meals on Wheels	Southwest Florida
Manuel, Rik & Ellen	Country Specific Europe
Marianne	Country Specific Africa
Michele	Global
Misión Peniel	Southwest Florida
Montei, Brian & Rachael	Global
New Horizons of Southwest Florida	Southwest Florida
One Challenge	Global
PEER Servants/Potter's House	Country Specific Central America
Pregnancy Resource Center	Southwest Florida
Project Mercy	Country Specific Africa
Rachel	Country Specific Asia
Ratio Christi	Global
Reformed University Fellowship	Southwest Florida

Mission	Location of Ministry
Ride Nature	Global
Robinson, Bruce & Deborah	Country Specific Caribbean
Samaritan's Purse	Global
Sarmiento, Juan/The Outreach Foundation	Global
Schutter, Barry & Amy	Country Specific Europe
She Is Safe	Global
St. Matthew's House	Southwest Florida
The Salvation Army of Bonita Springs	Southwest Florida
Third Millennium Ministries	Global
Todorov, Dimitrie & Maria	Country Specific Europe
Wings of Shelter	Southwest Florida
Witnessing Ministries of Christ	Country Specific Asia
Wycliffe Associates	Global
Young Life of Lee County	Southwest Florida



First Church supports over 50 mission partners in all parts of the world.



Africa

1.2 billion people

11.7 million square miles

54 countries



MISSIONS Africa

First Church supports two missionary families in Africa whose names and locations are withheld for security purposes.

One family lives in East Africa. Working with an international organization that focuses on agriculture, they have been living in a Muslim village where they are developing friendships, inviting neighbors to study God's Word and praying for those around them.

The other family works in an Arab country in North Africa among some of the least reached peoples of the world. Through their work with a local language institute, they are able to live in the community and work with a church planting team in hopes to grow and help support the small church in that area.

KENYA

BethanyKids | since 2012 | bethanykids.org

BethanyKids' mission is to bring healing and hope to children with disabilities in Africa. Surgeons treat children with burns, cleft lips, cleft palates, hydrocephalus, spina bifida and other congenital and acquired disabilities. In addition to providing surgical care at Kijabe Hospital, BethanyKids operates many mobile medical clinics across Kenya. They share Christ wherever they go, and many people come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Christian Leaders for Africa (CLA) | since 2006 | clafrica.com

CLA raises scholarships for students attending the Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (NEGST) that is part of the Africa International University. NEGST is the leading graduate school of theology in all of Africa and has students from over 35 African countries attending. Over 95% of graduates stay in Africa to pastor, teach, interpret, write, counsel and proclaim the Gospel in their native tongues to unreached people.

CAMEROON

Marianne | since 2010 | wycliffe.org

Marianne is with the Linguistics Services Team (LST) through Wycliffe Bible Translators working in Cameroon, Africa. The LST is a group of linguists who help meet the support needs for language development and Bible translation in Cameroon and surrounding francophone countries.

ETHIOPIA

Kebede, Habtom & Heather | since 2018 | theantiochpartners.org

Through The Antioch Partners, Habtom and Heather are serving in youth ministry at a camp outside of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. As the sports and health coordinators of the camp, Habtom focuses on running sports programs and Heather teaches health to the many camp participants. All training is Christ- and Bible-centered and as relationships are built, the love of Christ is shared.

Light of Hope Ministry | since 2009 | frontierfellowship.com

Partnering with Frontier Fellowship, Light of Hope Ministry Ethiopia is reaching out to over 10 million Arsi Oromo people. The ministry approach is holistic, focusing on literacy, health, church planting, Bible translation and evangelism among this Muslim people group. Teams of teacher-evangelists are trained and sent to villages that want a school in their community.

Project Mercy | since 2006 | projectmercy.org

Project Mercy is a holistic Christian ministry focused on the spiritual, educational, health and economic needs of the people of the rural farming community of Ytebon, Ethiopia. The Project Mercy campus includes a church, a school (kindergarten through 12th grade) for over 1,500 students, a hospital staffed by a team of physicians and an economic development program which includes a community garden and dairy cattle breeding program.

MISSIONS Asia



Asia

4.5 billion people
17.2 million square miles
48 countries



First Church supports a missionary couple in Central Asia whose name and location are withheld for security purposes.

The political regime of the country where this couple live and work is strongly opposed to any kind of Christian witness or ministry. They own and manage an agricultural training and consulting firm which employs local residents and gives them a legal platform to remain in the country. They utilize opportunities in their day-to-day work, interactions in the community and networking with expatriates to develop relationships and share their Christian faith.

ASIA

Anonymous | since 2012

First Church supports a multicultural non-profit organization working in partnership and collaboration with communities, sports networks and faith-based organizations. Their vision is to develop healthy and sustainable faith communities in Eurasia by using Scripture and sports, and to train and equip the next generation of leaders in community transformation and discipleship.

Christensen, Kyle & Stacia | since 2019 | ywamcm.com

Kyle and Stacia live in Thailand with their family and are on the leadership team of Youth With A Mission (YWAM). YWAM is a global, multicultural expression of Christian believers who have come together in order to pioneer a base in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The base is strategically located within Southeast Asia and is a product of two decades of planning with the determined goal of becoming an active catalyst in seeing the fulfillment of the Great Commission. The base is a training center for church planting, equipping missionaries, local outreach and discipleship.

Crossing Borders Ministry | since 2019 | crossingbordersnk.org

Crossing Borders was established in 2003 by several Christians of Korean and Chinese descent who felt a burden for the North Korean refugees in China. North Korean women are often trafficked and sold to Chinese men who are impoverished farmers or day laborers and have no means to support the family in the long run. The children are often orphaned when their North Korean mothers are forced to escape out of China without them or are arrested and sent back to North Korea. Crossing Borders has established three central locations in Northeast China where these children can have their essential needs met and be shown the love of God.

Forman Christian College | since 2019 | friendsofforman.org

Dr. Charles W. Forman, a Presbyterian missionary from the United States, founded Forman Christian College (FCC) in 1864 in Lahore, Pakistan. FCC is a liberal arts institution where students of all backgrounds—men and women, Christian and Muslim—interact and learn together. Forman is successfully demonstrating a model of interfaith harmony to a nation and culture historically deeply divided along lines of religion, class and gender. The coeducational university is built around the U.S. four-year liberal arts model, and includes bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree options. All classes are taught in English. The college motto is: "By Love Serve One Another."

JORDAN

Rachel | since 2018 | livedead.org

(Last name withheld for security reasons)

Jordan is a majority Muslim population (over 97%) with .01% Evangelical Christians. The need for churches and believers is great. Rachel, along with a team of others, will be studying Arabic and the culture in order to support smaller teams that are church-planting among the unreached. With a personal background in nursing, Rachel will utilize her skills to provide basic health care as well.

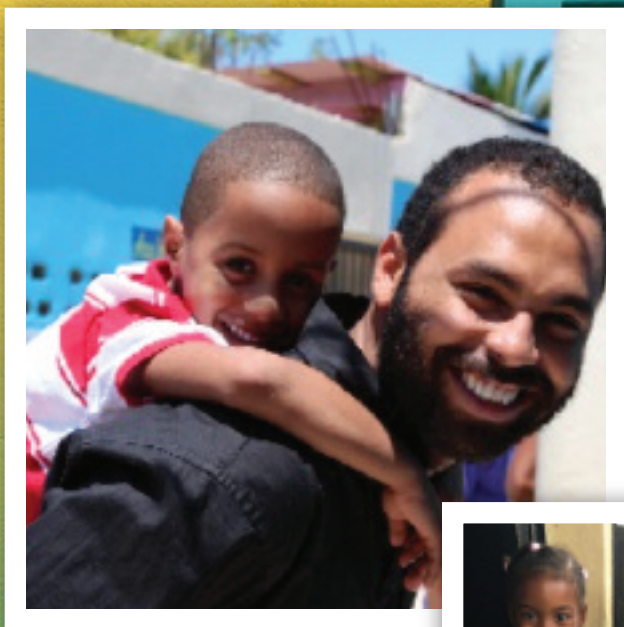
INDIA

Witnessing Ministries of Christ | since 2006

witnessingministries.com

Born a dahlit (untouchable caste in India), Rev. Philip Prasad and his wife Elizabeth began a ministry to "untouchables" in his home state of Uttar Pradesh, India in 1984. In association with the Exodus Christian Presbyterian Church in India, the ministry has three goals—to develop faith, to educate and to find work that will not isolate or dehumanize people. The ministry includes many primary and secondary schools for dahlit children who may study all the way through college.

MISSIONS Caribbean



Caribbean

44 million people
1 million square miles
26 countries



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Dominican Republic Project | since 2014 | compassion.org & ijm.org

First Church has developed a mission partnership with Compassion International and International Justice Mission (IJM) in the Dominican Republic. This includes:

- Focusing First Church Compassion child sponsorships on children in the Dominican Republic.
- Investing in our Compassion Child Survival Program, DR 915, and the local church which partners with Compassion to provide care for mothers and babies from prenatal to one year old. At one year of age, the child moves into a Compassion Project as a sponsored child.
- Supporting IJM in providing safe housing, counseling and job skills for children rescued from sex trafficking in the DR.
- Developing relationships with Compassion and IJM staff through short-term visits to project sites in the DR and providing short-term trips for First Church sponsors to visit their sponsored children in the DR.

HAITI

Robinson, Bruce & Deb | since 2005 | crossworld.org

Through a mission organization called CrossWorld, Bruce and Deb are purposed with bringing the Gospel to the people of Northwest Haiti. Because it is one of the poorest parts of one of the poorest countries in the world, there are both physical needs as well as spiritual needs. Working with local churches and church leaders, Bruce and Deb help to provide water for drinking, washing and irrigation of crops during drought periods; develop agricultural land; construct churches and schools; facilitate education and medical work; and coordinate disaster relief and recovery, all in the name of Jesus.

Europe

741 million people
3.9 million square miles
50 countries



MISSIONS Europe

FRANCE

Manuel, Rik & Ellen | since 2009 | avantministries.org

Less than 2% of the population of France claim to know Jesus as their Savior. Rik and Ellen serve at the year-round Camp of the Peaks which works to be a haven for God to save the lost and strengthen the found. Unserved campers come to learn English and enjoy nature, and the staff at the camp build relationships and share the Gospel. Daily Bible studies, discussion groups and worship times are part of the daily routine in addition to hiking, art classes, rock climbing and sharing meals together. Continued contact and mentoring occur even after the campers depart.

UNITED KINGDOM

Schutter, Barry & Amy | since 2011 | serge.org

Barry Schutter is the leader of the SERGE Team in Southall, London, UK, and is also a pastor of New Life Masih Ghar Church, of the International Presbyterian Church denomination in Europe. Southall is a poor, urban, immigrant community of Pakistani and Somali Muslims and Indian Hindus and Sikhs. The ministry goal is to plant churches in London and to use London as a launching pad for penetrating some of the least reached parts of the world with the Gospel.

BULGARIA

Todorov, Dimitrie & Maria | since 2009 | ecmi.org

Dimitrie Todorov is the National Director of New Hope Bulgaria which is a part of European Christian Mission. Dimitrie has outlined a ministry plan for New Hope Bulgaria that includes training and equipping a new generation of leaders for the church in Bulgaria and reaching Bulgarian children and youth through music, drama and creative arts. Bulgaria lies on the crossroads between East and West and is bordered by Turkey. One million Muslims of Turkish descent live in Bulgaria. New Hope Bulgaria is focused on empowering, equipping and encouraging Bulgarian missionaries to share the Gospel with these Muslims.

Approximately 40% of the Missions Budget goes to missionaries and 60% to mission organizations. We are partnering with missionaries and mission organizations in six continents and in more than 150 countries.

40%
60%



First Church Dominican Republic Partnership Growth of our Compassion Center DR 915- Niños para Jesús Child Development Center in Boca Chica



2015



2016



2017



2017



2018



CHILDREN|MIGRANT WORKERS|SINGLE FAMILIES|MISSIONARIES|STUDENTS|HOMELESS|MUSLIMS|UNBORN|HUNGRY|POOR|UNREACHED|INMATES|REFUGEES|YOUTH|AGRICULTURE|COUNSELING|PREGNANCY SUPPORT|APOLOGETICS|DISASTER RELIEF|SHELTERS|AVIATION|EDUCATION|SHOEBOXES|BIBLE TRANSLATION|LEGAL REPRESENTATION|SPORTS|CAMPS|MEAL PROVISION|TUTORING|CAMPUS MINISTRIES|MEDICAL SUPPORT|YOUTH LEADER TRAINING|CHILD SPONSORSHIPS|MENTORING|CHURCH PLANTING|MISSIONARY TRAINING|CLEAN WATER|PASTORAL TRAINING



MISSIONS

Central/South America

Central/South America

420 million people

6.9 million square miles

12 countries

GUATEMALA

PEER Servants | since 2018 | peerservants.org & pottershouse.org.gt

PEER Servants is a community of primarily volunteers who want to see more people experiencing the kingdom of heaven on earth. They partner with indigenous, autonomous microfinance institutions (MFIs) in Africa, Eurasia, and the Americas. These MFIs empower the materially poor by helping them start or grow small businesses, educating children, engaging young people in kingdom ministry, and much more. Through PEER Servants, First Church is investing in Potter's House in Guatemala. For over 25 years, Potter's House has been extending the kingdom of heaven to the people who inhabit or make a living from Guatemala City's municipal dump. Through a microfinance program called *Vida Nueva* (New Life), micro-entrepreneurs can grow their business and provide for their families.

PERU

Gahagen, Craig & Heather | since 2011 | mtw.org

Craig and Heather Gahagen have been serving in Peru since 1989 with the South America Mission Aviation program, SAMAIR. Craig is the Aviation Manager while Heather stays busy as the Finance Manager. Their ministry touches a wide variety of people as SAMAIR's planes fly across the vast jungles of Peru transporting missionaries that work in some of the most remote parts of the globe. Tribal and Mestizo people are being reached with the Gospel through Bible translation, evangelism, discipleship, training and church-planting. There are approximately 55 different tribes spread out in the Peruvian jungle (an area about the size of California), where roads are basically non-existent.



MISSIONS Global



FRONTIERS

Blincoe, Bob & Jan | since 2016 | frontiersusa.org

Bob and Jan worked overseas in the Middle East as missionaries for Frontiers. Today, Bob is the President of US Frontiers and he and Jan live in Arizona. Frontiers is the largest mission to Islam in the world. The mission statement of Frontiers is: "With love and respect, inviting all Muslim peoples to follow Jesus." Frontiers continues to see worldwide growth and change, including international expansion and sending bases in 25 different countries that are recruiting, training and sending church-planting teams, sharing Jesus in over 40 Muslim countries, and facilitating the start of hundreds of communities of Muslim-born believers.

Michele | since 2006 | frontiersusa.org

(Last name withheld for security reasons)

Frontiers was established to send long-term, church-planting missionary teams from the global Church to Muslims in their homelands. After 25+ years the vision has become more focused: sending new teams to the unengaged Muslim peoples of the world. The section of the organization that Michele manages is responsible for sending teams into the Arabian Gulf (Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Oman). The teams are professionals who have leads on jobs in the region and a high expectation of moving there so they can live and work with the Arabs in their neighborhoods, beginning Bible studies with them and having spiritual conversations. Michele manages the administrative process for the teams, provides coaching and encouragement via email and Skype, and, when possible, visits the location to provide on-site encouragement and mentoring.

COMPASSION

Compassion International | since 2006 | compassion.com

Compassion International (CI) is a Christian child development ministry whose mission is to release children in the name of Jesus from their spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty and enable them to become responsible and fulfilled Christian adults. CI works in 28 of the poorest countries through local churches. Child sponsors pay monthly to support a child in a CI project, write letters of support and pray for their child. First Church is partnering with a Compassion center in the Dominican Republic. *See the Dominican Republic Project for more details on page 13.*

ECHO

Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization | since 1997
echonet.org

The primary functions of ECHO's Christian staff at the Global Farm in North Ft. Myers are providing agricultural information to overseas workers, distributing seeds and plants, and offering hands-on training opportunities. ECHO's mission is to network with community leaders in developing countries to seek hunger solutions for families growing food under difficult conditions. Their vision is to bring glory to God and a blessing to mankind by using science and technology to help the poor. Through this work ECHO believes they obtain credibility and can then explain how Christ's love motivates them to share His love and grace.

ONE CHALLENGE

Tim & Annette | since 2008 | onechallenge.org

Missionaries with OC International, Annette and Tim have been mentoring and providing resources and training for youth leaders in the Spanish speaking world since 1996. The website they began, *paralideres.org* (meaning 'for leaders' in Spanish) hosts tens of thousands of pages of free materials—articles, Bible studies, games and training courses—and is visited by thousands daily. Over the last several years, their geographic focus has widened from Latin America to include Asia and Africa. Through on-site, face-to-face training, as well as through publishing youth ministry materials, Tim and Annette are supporting the Church so that individuals with a passion for helping young people can serve more effectively.

IJM

International Justice Mission | since 2012 | ijm.org

IJM is a Christian agency that secures rescue for victims of slavery, sexual exploitation and other forms of violent oppression. IJM is helping to protect 21 million people globally from violence. IJM lawyers, investigators and social workers partner with local authorities to secure immediate victim rescue and aftercare, to prosecute perpetrators and to ensure that public justice systems effectively protect the poor from violence. IJM works through field offices throughout Africa, Latin America, and both South and Southeast Asia. First Church has a partnership with IJM in the Dominican Republic. See the Dominican Republic Project for more details on page 13.

WYCLIFFE ASSOCIATES

Fahnestock, Paul & Linda | since 2016 | wycliffeassociates.org

Wycliffe Associates (WA) exists to equip the global Church in every people group with accelerating the work of Bible translation. By empowering national Bible translators to provide God's Word in their native language, partnering with the local church to guide and guard translation work and by engaging people from all around the world, WA is striving to achieve the goal of having a Bible in every language by 2025. Paul and Linda are directly involved by providing technology, training, resources, logistics, networking, expertise, volunteers, discipleship, church planting and support.

In addition, Paul and Linda are working with a project to complete a Bible translation project for the deaf in Brazil, in their sign language called *Libras*. There are 10 million deaf people in Brazil and less than 1% of them are Christians. Currently, of the more than 400 sign languages in the world, there are only two sign languages with a New Testament: American Sign Language and Marathira, a language of India.

Spanish/Portuguese Project | since 2018 | wycliffeassociates.org

A continued focus for Wycliffe Associates is the completion of a Spanish and Portuguese Unlocked Literal Study Bible. These open source, copyright-free Bibles will be used as source texts for minority languages around the world where English, Spanish and Portuguese are widely spoken and as Gateway Languages in the Americas and Southern Africa regions.

OVERSEAS COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL

Kohl, Manfred & Barbara | since 2008 | overseas.org

Manfred and Barbara travel the globe ministering to the leaders of theological seminaries and theological facilities at universities in the non-western world. Manfred serves with Overseas Council as Ambassador and has been invited to teach and speak in China, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. Barbara provides workshops on sexuality, gender, family and relationships and together they are training leaders who are teaching the next generation of pastors, missionaries and teachers.

PROPEMPO INTERNATIONAL

Meade, David | since 2006 | propempo.com

A former missionary to the Philippines, David is the Founder and Director of Propempo International. David's primary ministry is teaching, training and consulting for local church leaders for the purpose of designing and implementing effective and strategic missions ministry, primarily in strategic unreached fields overseas. This relationship leads to teaching and mentoring missionary candidates and field missionaries, pastoral ministry to field missionaries in strategic, creative-access fields (places that are usually very difficult for missionaries to enter or sustain a presence), counseling and advising new field development and interface with mission sending agencies.

ITEC

Montei, Brian & Rachael | since 2012 | itecusa.org

After six years of serving in Papua New Guinea, the Montei family moved back to their home state of Pennsylvania and Brian started serving with ITEC. Brian serves as a full-time mechanic, welder, fabricator and builder of power pacs that are supplied to missionaries, faith-based hospitals, orphanages and other mission organizations. ITEC provides the stability of power to areas where it has been non-existent or unreliable, allowing ministries and missionaries to provide the best godly care possible. Brian travels around the world with ITEC to provide maintenance for existing power provisions as well as helping to install new power pacs.

RATIO CHRISTI

since 2016 | ratiochristi.org & ratiochristi.org/fgcu

Ratio Christi (Latin for 'the Reason of Christ') is a global movement that equips university students and faculty to give historical, philosophical and scientific reasons for following Jesus Christ. Bringing together faith and reason to establish the intellectual voice of Christ in the university, Ratio Christi is planting student- and faculty-led apologetics clubs at universities around the world including right in our area at FGCU.

RIDE NATURE

since 2016 | ridenature.org

Ride Nature is a youth missions organization that was founded in 2009 and is based locally in Southwest Florida. The mission of the organization is to use action sports (primarily skateboarding and surfing) as a tool to reach youth through outreach, evangelism and discipleship, both locally and internationally. The primary goal of Ride Nature is to equip and establish global leadership with these same resources so that leaders anywhere can utilize these sports as effective tools for outreach in their local communities. They are currently accomplishing this by partnering with leaders and churches worldwide, leading short-term mission trips to support these individuals, hosting events, bringing materials, and leading consistent outreach both in Southwest Florida and all around the world.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Operation Christmas Child | since 2009 | samaritanspurse.org

For over 40 years Samaritan's Purse (SP) has followed Christ's command by going to the aid of the world's poor, sick and suffering. SP effectively reaches hurting people in countries around the world with food, medicine and other assistance in the name of Jesus Christ, which earns them a hearing for the Gospel—the Good News of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

The world's largest Christmas project of its kind, Operation Christmas Child uses gift-filled shoeboxes to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 150 countries and territories. Gospel publications are sent with the boxes and, whenever possible, local churches make follow-up visits providing opportunity for a child to hear about God's love for them through Jesus Christ.

THE OUTREACH FOUNDATION

Sarmiento, Juan | since 2018 | theoutreachfoundation.org

Juan is the Associate Director of Mission at The Outreach Foundation. He resources congregations in their missional renewal and builds networks for participation in God's mission. Juan has been a pastor in English-, Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking congregations and very active as a trainer and speaker in the areas of church-planting, leadership development and cross-cultural outreach. The mission of The Outreach Foundation is to connect Presbyterians in order to build the church's capacity to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

SHE IS SAFE

since 2011 | sheissafe.org

She Is Safe (SIS) works together with indigenous Christian organizations, local churches and women in Africa, China, Indonesia, India, Nepal, the Middle East and throughout Asia to achieve their goals of rescuing women and girls from prostitution, begging, slavery and trafficking. SIS intervenes through practical grassroots programs of rescue, health and hygiene, education, vocational training, micro-loans and spiritual development. In the U.S., through its Advocacy Program, SIS compiles and publishes research and organizes to equip people to act on the hard-hitting issues these women and girls face: child marriage, malnutrition, illiteracy, poverty and exploitation. SIS's advocacy program trains and deploys volunteers across the nation as passionate advocates and intercessors for best practice interventions.

THIRD MILLENNIUM MINISTRIES

since 2007 | thirdmill.org

Third Millennium Ministries is a Christian organization dedicated to solving the need of pastoral training by providing Christian education to millions of untrained church leaders and pastors around the world—right where they are, for free. Third Millennium creates and globally distributes a multilingual, multimedia, digital seminary curriculum in English, Arabic, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Farsi, Korean, Mongolian, Portuguese and Hindi as well as others. They are producing material at every level of technology, including paper, audio and video, and are reaching people through cell phones, tablets, computers and satellite TV.

Florida

21 million people

65 thousand square miles



MISSIONS
**Southwest
Florida**

BONITA SPRINGS

Café of Life | since 1999 | cafeoflife.org

Café of Life is the only organization in Bonita Springs that serves a free hot lunch Monday through Friday to individuals and families from all walks of life. Their purpose is to assist in meeting the basic needs of the less fortunate people of Bonita Springs and providing nutritional and supplemental assistance while preserving the dignity of the client. In addition, Café of Life may provide supplemental groceries, clothing, blankets, diapers, toiletries, other miscellaneous personal goods, and at times furniture and appliances to clients. Volunteers read Bible stories with the children, pray with clients and lead devotions.

Meals on Wheels | since 2006 | mealsonwheelsofbonitasprings.org

Meals on Wheels provides warm, nourishing, well-balanced meals to people who are homebound or recovering from an illness or surgery and are unable to provide meals for themselves. The cost of a meal is adjusted to the client's financial ability. Deliveries are made Monday through Friday with additional food for weekends upon request. An important benefit to home delivery is that the volunteer can monitor the client's well-being. In many cases, the Meals on Wheels volunteer is the only person that the homebound individual sees throughout the day. Through the partnership of First Church Missions, clients also receive prayer and devotionals throughout the year.

Love INC | since 2010 | loveincswfl.org

Love In the Name of Christ of South Lee and North Collier

The church doorstep is a frequent destination for people in need, but most churches alone cannot fully meet all the needs of every homeless family, single mom or elderly shut-in who asks them for help. The mission of Love INC is to mobilize the churches in Bonita Springs, Estero, North Naples and San Carlos Park to help our neighbors in need. It is a network of churches that links church ministries and volunteers to people in need. Love INC enables churches in a community to pool their resources and services so that those in need are not turned away. The Love INC Clearinghouse is where trained church volunteers screen requests for help from callers and then connect those in need with the appropriate church ministry or community service organization. Love INC works cooperatively with churches, non-profit agencies and city and county services to provide help for the disadvantaged and to share God's love.

New Horizons of SW Florida Super Kids Club

since 2009 | newhorizonsofswfl.org

New Horizons of Southwest Florida is a faith based non-profit with the mission to empower at-risk youth to reach their full potential through tutoring, mentoring and faith. Throughout the year, New Horizons partners with volunteers, churches, corporations and civic organizations to offer a *new horizon* filled with academic success, social development and a growing Christian faith to hundreds of socio-economically disadvantaged students (primarily Hispanic) in grades kindergarten through 12. New Horizons offers seven life-changing programs to at-risk youth and their families in Naples, Bonita Springs and Estero, where they live and go to school. Staff and volunteers mentor students throughout the year.

The Salvation Army | since 2009 | salvationarmyleecounty.org

Bonita Springs Mission Station

The Salvation Army's ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. It addresses the needs of the working poor and individuals experiencing homelessness and hunger. The Salvation Army fosters clients' self-reliance through employment and permanent housing, and provides transitional housing, vocational training and employment classes.



NAPLES

Pregnancy Resource Center of SW Florida | since 2006
supportprc.org

Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) exists to prevent abortions and present eternal truth to women facing an unexpected pregnancy. They believe that abortion is not really about a choice—it's about God, because that child is made in His image. PRC seeks to intervene in the lives of women facing an unplanned pregnancy, by having clinics in Naples and Estero accessible to them at a time when they need to know their options. Their free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds provide a truthful assessment of the pregnancy and baby. Parenting support, adoption information and educational programs are designed to protect the unborn and provide alternatives to women considering abortion. PRC believes in the ministry of intercession and commits to pray daily for the men and women God brings through their doors. Finally, as men and women begin establishing new relationships through PRC, they seek to integrate them into a life-affirming community. God loves community and PRC believes the local church provides the love and support where family and faith can grow.

St. Matthew's House | since 2009 | stmatthewshouse.org

St. Matthew's House was founded on the principles of Matthew 25:35-46. The primary goal is to serve the least of these in all they do. They strive to reach the needy in Southwest Florida by meeting their basic needs—feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, bringing healing to the sick, hope to the hopeless and ministering to those in prison. They provide these services to show the love of God by being the hands and feet of Jesus in all they do. The objective is to bring restoration to those they serve, leading them into a productive and meaningful life within society and the church family.

ESTERO

Wings of Shelter | since 2012 | wingsofshelterintl.org

Wings of Shelter is a Christian organization dedicated to preventing human slavery and rescuing, restoring, and educating female victims of human slavery and child trafficking. Their mission is not only to provide long-term rehabilitation Safe Houses for victimized children, but also to raise awareness of this devastating crime among the public, law enforcement personnel, and judicial, medical and education professionals. Within the secure environment of the Safe House, rescued females (ages 8-18) receive counseling, medical care and schooling; most significantly, they experience the unconditional and transformative love of Christ.

Reformed University Fellowship | since 2016 | ruf.org/fgcu
Lucas Tanner, Florida Gulf Coast University

First Church supports Lucas Tanner, the Campus Minister for Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at Florida Gulf Coast University. RUF wants to create a fellowship of university students where every person, regardless of background, personal history, or conviction, can examine the truth claims of reformed Christianity in a non-threatening atmosphere. More than just a ministry on the university campus, RUF seeks to be a ministry for the university. They strive to serve in this unique stage of a student's life—in the world they live in—exploring together how the Lordship of Christ affects every area of life.

FT. MYERS

Lee County Jail Ministry | since 2011 | envassist@aol.com
Dave Lyons, Coordinator

The First Church jail ministry team participates in the Lee County correction facilities chaplain's program in Ft. Myers, by distributing Christian books and literature in the inmate housing facilities. The program also provides opportunities to share the Gospel through Bible study and to pray with the inmates. Working with the support of Deacons and the BookCenter, Christian books and Bibles also continue to be provided to the Chaplain's library.

Young Life of Lee County | since 2007 | lee.younglife.org

Young Life is a non-denominational, Christian organization committed to impacting the lives of adolescents. By building friendships, trained leaders help kids come to love Jesus Christ and to grow in their faith. Clubs are active at Ft. Myers high schools, Cape Coral and Estero and meet weekly during the school year. Summer camps and smaller Bible study and discipleship groups are offered to middle and high school students.

LITHIA

Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center | since 1982 | cedarkirk.org

Cedarkirk is a year-round Christian camp and conference center owned by the Presbyteries of Tampa Bay and Peace River. It is located on the Alafia River within 170 acres of woodlands, wetlands and uplands. Cedarkirk annually ministers to over 15,000 people through meaningful programs, unique retreat opportunities and a continued commitment to being a place set apart. The camp is used for retreats, meetings, conferences, leadership training, camping, outdoor experiences and more. At Cedarkirk people find a variety of ways to recharge and grow in God's love through relaxation, prayer, community, challenge and study.

IMMOKALEE

Misión Peniel | since 2006 | misionpeniel.com

Since 2006, Misión Peniel has sought to address the isolation and injustice among the migrant farm workers in Immokalee, providing support to them through physical, material and spiritual care. As a mission they seek to share *Peniel*, the face of God, so that all may experience God's transforming love, compassion and grace. As a mission of the Peace River Presbytery, they believe that every church and congregation of the presbytery has its unique potential for partnership in mission. This helps Misión Peniel assist the migrant workers in their constant struggle to maintain an existence in Immokalee, while they work to support their families, who live primarily in Mexico or Guatemala.

