

# 2011 International Peacemakers



September 23 - October 17, 2011

In an increasingly conflict-ridden and fragmented world, the God who grants peace and wholeness calls Christians to understand and address the root causes of violence and injustice so that we may share in mending the brokenness that exists in our world. Peacemaking is the human response to God's gift of peace giving. The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program invites leaders from our partner churches around the world to share their experiences as peacemakers in their own lands.

As these International Peacemakers share their healing stories, they help us to understand the peace and justice concerns of others around the world while giving us insights into those in our own communities. Moreover, they broaden our sense of God's inclusive family and so better equip us to build a culture of peace and nonviolence for all God's children.

## **HOW DO YOU REQUEST VISITS?**

International Peacemakers are available to presbyteries, synods, Presbyterian colleges and seminaries for itineration through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. Requests for International Peacemakers should be made through your presbytery's peacemaking or mission committee using the enclosed form and indicating your choices of speakers and dates. Requests will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis and should be made in writing. Please submit your request by June 15. You will receive confirmation by mid-July.

## **WHAT DOES IT COST?**

Hosts of International Peacemakers are asked to pay \$400 to help with travel costs within this country, and to provide room, board and ground transportation within your presbytery. The Peacemaking Program will cover international travel and part of the domestic travel costs and will make travel arrangements, purchase tickets, provide honoraria and health insurance, and inform hosts of travel schedules. As soon as your peacemaker's visit has been confirmed, instructions for the payment of the \$400 will be sent to you.

## **INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKERS / MISSION CONNECTIONS LIVE! PARTNERSHIP**

Thanks to a collaborative effort between the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and World Mission, the International Peacemakers from Mexico and Guatemala will be accompanied by PC(USA) mission workers. Together they will share stories of how churches in these countries live out the Gospel. Our hope is that this will deepen and broaden the faith life of the Presbyterians who hear these stories.

# International Peacemaking Speakers

## Bangladesh

### **Rt. Rev. Samuel Sunil Mankhin**

Bishop Mankhin is the Bishop of Kushtia Diocese and the deputy moderator of the Church of Bangladesh, a united church with more than 80 congregations in a predominately Muslim country where Christians make up less than one-half of one percent of the total population. Coming from the minority Garo tribal group, he is the first non-Bengali bishop of the Church of Bangladesh. He has over 20 years of pastoral experience and has initiated programs to promote peace, justice, and harmony in the country. He is married and has two children.

## Egypt

### **Dr. Emad Ramzy Philobbos**

Emad is Professor Emeritus of Geology at Assiut University in Upper Egypt. He is involved in the Forum of Inter-cultural Dialogue run by the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services, and in establishing a Center for Capacity Building and Social Cohesion to serve the Egyptian, Middle Eastern and North African potential leaders in churches and civic circles. Emad was the General Secretary of the Protestant Community in Egypt and is now a board member for the Presbyterian Seminary in Cairo. He is married and has a daughter, a son, and four grandchildren.

## Guatemala

### **Juana Herlinda Yac Salanic**

Juana is from the western highlands of Guatemala, where she has held many leadership positions in her presbytery women's group - Presbiterial de Maya Quiche. She serves as the Corresponding Secretary for the Presbyterian Women's organization for the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Guatemala. She is involved in community groups focused on improving the standard of living for many, including work with the community health post to provide better health care for those most at risk.

### **Rev. Dr. Karla Ann Koll**

Karla is a PC(USA) mission co-worker who serves as professor of history, mission and religions for the Latin American Biblical University in San Jose, Costa Rica and the Evangelical

Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA) in Guatemala. These institutions work together to train church leaders to minister in ways that lead to the transformation of individuals, churches, and communities. Karla is able to translate for Juana, but an additional translator would be appreciated.

## India

### **Neerja Rajeev Prasad**

Neerja is the secretary of the women's fellowship for Christian service at the synod level and at her local Nagpur diocesan level of the Church of North India. She will speak about peace and justice issues in relation to gender justice, human trafficking, poverty, the Red Corridor in central India, ecology, literacy, and the role of the church in these matters. She is married and has two daughters.

## Iraq

### **Dr. Mazen Asaqa**

Mazen was born in Mosul, Iraq (old Nineveh), where he served in the Presbyterian Church in Mosul as youth leader, assistant lay pastor, and doctor in the church clinic. Following the kidnapping and murder of his father, Mazen fled to Jordan and in 2009 he was granted refugee status and currently resides in Michigan where he is studying to practice medicine in the USA. He is interested in the meaning of being Christian and the effects of persecution on faith and church.

## Israel/Palestine

### **Arda Aghazarian**

Arda is an Armenian Palestinian Christian, born and raised in the Old City of Jerusalem. She studied at Birzeit University in the West Bank after the Second Uprising "Intifada," a phase which brought forth difficult questions and an interest in human rights and conflict resolution. She has taken various courses in media and film, and worked as a producer and presenter for a radio station that aimed to build bridges between Palestinians and Israelis. She is the Media and Advocacy Coordinator at the YWCA of Palestine.

## Jordan

### **Father Nabil Haddad**

Father Nabil is a Greek Melkite Catholic Priest and Executive Director of the Jordanian Interfaith Coexistence Research Center. He has dedicated his life to seeking coexistence and tolerance between followers of the world's religions. Father Nabil uses his experience as a member of Jordan's Christian minority population in tandem with The Amman Message and The Common Word Initiative, documents calling for tolerance and cooperation between Muslims and Christians, as the foundation for his call for building mutual understanding between faith communities.

## Madagascar

### **Rev. Hubert Rakotoarivony**

A minister ordained in the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM), Hubert leads his denomination's Commission on the Life of the Country and at the same time works as resource person at the Christian Council in Madagascar on the forgiveness, peace, justice, and reconciliation process program.

## Mexico

### **Brenda Trinidad Espitia**

Brenda is a graduate of the Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, Texas and studied international commerce in Mexico before going to Spain for a master's degree in e-commerce. She owns a Christian bookstore in Toluca, where her ministry is to provide Bibles and resources to the community. She looks forward to speaking about the roots of violence in society, specifically in domestic violence; challenges for the Christian community; and the economic and political issues which contribute to violence in Mexico.

### **David Thomas**

Dave was appointed a PC(USA) mission co-worker in 2001, and since 2005 has served as regional liaison to Mexico, a role in which he works alongside the elected leaders of our partner denomination, the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico. His assignment is to encourage and develop partnerships between churches and presbyteries of the US and Mexico. He

provides support to other PC(USA) mission personnel serving in Mexico and to PC(USA) congregations participating in mission with Mexican partners.

## Russia

### **Marina Shishova**

Formerly an engineer, Marina Shishova received her theological education during the Perestroika. She works as a vice-president of the Inter-church Partnership in St. Petersburg. The partnership promotes Christian education and peacemaking and engages in research, publishing and social projects. Marina is an Orthodox Christian; her interests include such issues as church and society (challenges, church responses, justice, human rights issues, etc.), inter-cultural and inter-church relations, and gender studies.

## Sudan

### **Rev. Peter Tibi**

Peter is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Africa Inland Church-Sudan. He was the former General Secretary of both the New Sudan Council of Churches and the Sudan Council of Churches. He is Executive Director of RECONCILE, through which he is deeply involved in making peace among different groups and tribes inside South Sudan. Peter is married and has 3 sons and 2 daughters.

## Syria

### **Majd Lahham**

A member of the Greek Orthodox Church in Damascus, Majd serves as assistant director of the program for Iraqi refugees with International Orthodox Christian Charities, providing education, vocational training, community service projects, relief items, and psychosocial support. He looks forward to speaking about Christian presence in the Middle East, the Damascus encounter program, and his work in outreach and relief to Iraqi refugees in Syria.



This program is made possible by your generous gifts to the Peacemaking Offering.

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and the  
International Peacemakers Program are ministries of  
the General Assembly Mission Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).  
[www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/)



General Assembly  
Mission Council

# 2011 International Peacemakers Request Form

For presbyteries, synods, Presbyterian colleges and theological institutions

Requests will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis and must be received in writing.

## Primary contact information

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone Other phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

## Secondary contact person

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone Other phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

## Presbytery or institution requesting peacemaker

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of presbytery or institution

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact person if different from above:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone Other Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

## Speaker

\_\_\_\_\_  
1st choice speaker

\_\_\_\_\_  
2nd choice speaker

\_\_\_\_\_  
3rd choice speaker

## Dates

International Peacemakers are available from September 23 to October 17. Suggested: choose 4 to 7 days. Keep in mind that the first and last days of your requested dates are for travel only.

\_\_\_\_\_  
1st choice dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
2nd choice dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
3rd choice dates

## Airport

Because of cost and other factors, IPs will be flown into and out of the same airport. Please plan your visitor's itinerary accordingly.

\_\_\_\_\_  
1st choice airport

\_\_\_\_\_  
2nd choice airport

## Please return by June 15 to:

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