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Homesteader - November 4, 2014



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

As the Ebola crisis continues to escalate, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) programs are working with its partners, the West Africa Initiative (WAI) and Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance, on the immediate medical crisis as well as the secondary impacts on communities in the region. The response has focused on:

- Supplying essential protective gear and supplies to protect medical workers
- Raising awareness on the symptoms of Ebola and preventive methods
- Improving food security and incomes of families by maintaining agricultural production at the community level

"This is not just a public health crisis," said Dr. Margaret Chat, World Health Organization director-general. "This is a social, humanitarian and economic crisis as well as a threat to national security beyond the outbreak zones."

Sento Conteh, a WAI facilitator in the Kenema District of Sierra Leone says, "Ebola is worse than the civil war. In the war you could see and hear the danger, this Ebola is a silent and invisible killer."

YOU ARE INVITED...

The members of First Presbyterian Church of Norfolk invite you to share with them in the joy of welcoming Pastor Brian Johnson as installed pastor of their church. This celebration will be held **Sunday, November 9th at 4:00 PM** in the sanctuary.

Norfolk is excited about the future ministry of their church under the leadership of Pastor Brian. Please join with them as they welcome him and his wife Linda to the church and to the community. Please join them for a sandwich/salad/dessert meal after the installation.

GREAT PLAINS RESOURCE CENTER NEW STUDIES

Are you hoping to bring your life closer to God, but just don't know where to begin? This fall join Tom Berlin, pastor, author and teacher new to the Resource Center, as he gives us new perceptions of God and encourages us to begin making decisions in our lives that will bring us closer to God on our life's journey. All three studies include a Leader's Guide and Participant Workbook.

The first of three new studies is entitled "6 Decisions That Will Change Your Life." Our busy lives are filled with decisions, but are they the important decisions, the ones that help us decide to follow Christ? In this simple, yet inspiring study, pastor and author Tom Berlin helps us discern six key decisions in our walk with Christ that can change everything. The six lessons are

- 1) The Decision To Follow
- 2) The Decision For A New Life
- 3) The Decision To Mature
- 4) The Decision To Respond
- 5) The Decision To Persevere
- 6) The Decision To Surrender



Putting on personal protective equipment (PPE) requires the help of others. In West Africa, it takes around 15 minutes to put on the PPE and the same to remove it. Photo Tommy Trenchard, IRIN

In addition to health care, one of the most urgent needs is food security. Many communities are being quarantined, and reports of food shortages abound.

"It is very difficult for the groups to take their produce to the markets in Monrovia. Village markets are closed, and group members have no income coming in," says Thomas Hackor, WAI Country Coordinator in Liberia.

The WAI program has on-the-ground presence, credibility and organizational structure to reach rural communities with necessary information and assistance. Despite travel restrictions, WAI facilitators have been able to get permission to travel to the villages in need of help.

In the United States, a PC(USA) committee is monitoring the Ebola situation and is prepared to provide guidance to congregations should the situation reach a level that requires a substantial response.

As the crisis continues, our partners and the people they serve will need our ongoing prayers and support.

Please stand in the GAP for families impacted by Ebola.

GIVE...Your financial gifts will provide prevention education, medical supplies, sanitation kits and implements for food security to the people directly and indirectly affected by the outbreak.

Designate gifts to [DR000190-Ebola](#) response. Individuals can give through their local Presbyterian congregation, online, or by mailing a check to:
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburg, PA 15264-3700

"6 things We Should Know About God." -God Is Reaching Out to You - Reach Back! What are God's qualities and what effect do they have on us? In this second study, Tom Berlin introduces us to the living God and urges us to respond. The six sessions are

- 1) God Loves You
- 2) God Understands You
- 3) God Forgives You
- 4) God Wants You To Be Free
- 5) God Wants You To Change
- 6) God Wants To Be With You Forever

"6 Ways We Encounter God." -Meet God And Respond! When we live, when we worship, when we pray, do we really encounter God? And if we encounter God, do we change by that experience? In this third study, Berlin introduces us to six basic characteristics of God linking each to the characteristics we should develop in response. The six characteristics are

- 1) God's Majesty and My Reverence
- 2) God's Fidelity and My Trust
- 3) God's Purity and My Humility
- 4) God's Authority and My Obedience
- 5) God's Righteousness and My Work For Justice
- 6) God's Graciousness and My Love of Others

To reserve one of these studies please email Diane Dunkerson at ddunkerson@greatplainsumc.org or call at 1-800-435-6107. To see a complete listing of our new studies and view the Resource Center catalog go to www.gpresourcecenter.org

GREAT PLAINS RESOURCE CENTER MEMBERSHIP

As churches are beginning to put together their budgets for next year consider adding a membership in the Great Plains Resource Center to your education budget. With a one year membership your church members have access to hundreds of video studies for all small groups in your church; men's and women's study groups, Sunday Morning classes, young adult, teenagers and children. Membership is based on average weekly worship attendance and is as follows.

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|---------|----------|
| 1-35 | \$40.00 |
| 36-70 | \$80.00 |
| 71-105 | \$120.00 |
| 106-140 | \$160.00 |
| 141-175 | \$200.00 |
| 176+ | \$240.00 |

As an added incentive for churches to become

ACT...Follow the PC (U.S.A.) response on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) and share updates with your congregation and others.

Share the downloadable [bulletin insert](#) with your congregation.

PRAY...Remember those affected or threatened by the virus throughout the world as well as the safety of healthcare workers, families and neighbors caring for those affected. Remember the families who have lost loved ones as well as the quarantine communities. Pray for containment and an end to the spread of the Ebola virus.

members of the Resource Center, with a paid 2015 membership churches can check out any study between Oct.1 and December 31, 2014 at no charge (except for the return postage.)

Please consider a membership today and give a gift of learning and growing as disciples of Jesus Christ to your church family.

To learn more about the Resource Center and if you have questions about memberships please email [Diane Dunkerson](mailto:DianeDunkerson@greatplainsumc.org) at ddunkerson@greatplainsumc.org or call her at 1-800-435-6107

Blessing Opportunity *2 Corinthians 9:7-8*



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Keep Thinking...

He who cannot change the very fabric of his thought will never be able to change reality, and will never, therefore, make any progress.

- Anwar Sadat

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