



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ December 13, 2018

PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers

Dan and Elizabeth Turk

About Dan and Elizabeth Turk's ministry:



"We are excited about working with the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM) in its ministries of healing and hope," write Dan and Elizabeth Turk.

The Turks serve with the PC(USA)'s partner church, FJKM, as it ministers to the population in the areas of health, environment, agriculture and safe drinking water. FJKM believes that Christian witness should include ministry both to the physical and spiritual needs of God's people and care for all of God's creation. Dan and Elizabeth work as advisors to FJKM in the fields of environment and health, respectively.

Dan works with the FJKM's Fruits, Vegetables, and Environmental Education (FVEE) project. With per capita income less than \$250 per year, many Malagasy people have difficulty feeding their families. Due to ongoing deforestation, many of Madagascar's endemic plants and animals are threatened with extinction. FJKM is responding to these needs by helping people grow fruits and vegetables to improve their nutrition and get out of poverty. The FVEE promotes environmental awareness by planting native trees at FJKM churches, seminaries and primary and secondary schools. Dan helps pastoral students learn to grow fruits and vegetables. The new pastors use these skills to help their communities and families achieve improved food security and nutrition. The FVEE has established a fruit center to help promote fruit growing, especially many of the world's best varieties of grafted mangos, on a national scale.

Country context:

Elizabeth's main focus with the FJKM is in the area of community health and HIV/AIDS, especially in training, program design and implementation. The FJKM's health professionals at rural dispensaries work to prevent and treat the major illnesses that threaten health: malaria, measles, diarrhea and pneumonia. Elizabeth also serves on the FJKM National AIDS Committee. FJKM trains pastoral students in AIDS prevention and has a youth peer education program designed to help youth live positively according to biblical principles.

Madagascar remains one of the world's poorest countries. Eighty-five percent of the population lives on less than \$2 per day. Located in the Indian Ocean, 250 miles off the southeastern coast of Africa, Madagascar is the world's fourth-largest island and home to many unique species of mammals, birds and plants. The Malagasy are thought to be the descendants of Africans and Indonesians who settled on the island more than 2,000 years ago. Madagascar suffered a period of crisis following a coup d'état in 2009. The majority of Malagasy citizens are Christian, a large percentage adheres to traditional beliefs and less than 10 percent are Muslim.

About Dan and Elizabeth Turk:

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Dan graduated from Davidson College in North Carolina with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. He earned a Master of Science in Agronomy and Soil science from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a Ph.D. in forestry from North Carolina State University. His doctoral research focused on the growth rates of more than 60 native Malagasy trees. Dan spent two years as a consultant in agroforestry to the Ranomafana National Park project in Madagascar. He is the author of "A Guide to Trees of Ranomafana National Park."

Starting out in Anniston, Alabama, Elizabeth graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. She later earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion and a Master's degree in Public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Elizabeth served as a Presbyterian volunteer in Haiti, Zaire and Madagascar. Before going to Madagascar, she was a health education intern at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta and worked as a pediatric nurse in Orlando, Florida.

Dan and Elizabeth have a son, Robert, and a daughter, Frances.

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma



PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: www.beth-el.org

[December Newsletter](#)

MISIÓN PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworker Community in Immokalee

208 Boston Ave., PO Box 1204, Immokalee, FL 34143

www.misionpeniel.com

Facebook: "Misión Peniel"

Critical needs for December and January include blankets of any size and men's and women's jackets. The mornings are very cold for the farmworkers and many of the trailers and camps they live in do not have sufficient heat. Contact us if you'd like these items to be picked up. Thank you for any donations you are able to make at this time.

Staff Contacts:

- Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor, P: 239-633-2181, E: miguelstrada@hotmail.com
- Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator, P: 386-793-6151, E: ruthdeyoe@gmail.com
- General Email: misionpenielpeaceriver@gmail.com

Contributions to Misión Peniel (checks or online):

- Mail to: Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287
- Checks can be made payable to Peace River Presbytery or to Misión Peniel.
- Please note *Misión Peniel* in the memo section.
- Click on the "Donate" button on the Misión Peniel web site.
- Contributor information is provided to Misión Peniel each month.

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

A place apart to build up the body of Christ in love.

*Thank you for supporting Cedarkirk and holding this ministry in your prayers for the last 45 years.
We look forward to witnessing God's handiwork here in the years to come!*

For additional information, please contact the camp office at (813) 685-4224 or visit www.cedarkirk.org.

PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- The family and loved ones of the Rev. John Cairns, a Member of Presbytery, who passed away last week.
- Jim and Becky Beckwith - health
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry (in Wimauma)
- Misión Peniel Farmworker Ministry (in Immokalee)
- Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center
- Dan and Elizabeth Turk, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Madagascar
- Les and Cindy Morgan, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Bangladesh

PRESBYTERY PRAYER GUIDE: DECEMBER 2018

December 2	<u>Presbyterian Women - Covenant Partner of PRP</u>
December 9	<u>Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Chuck Wiggins Email: cjw049@gmail.com
December 16	<u>Church of the Palms</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen McConnell Email: smcconnell@churchofthepalms.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hmingi Browne Email: hbrowne@churchofthepalms.org
December 23	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glen Bell Email: gbell@FirstPresSarasota.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Kelly Fitzgerald Email: kfitzgerald@FirstPresSarasota.org
December 30	<u>Presbytery Team and Committee Moderators and Members</u>

ARTICLES of INTEREST

(selected by Graham Hart)

[Ferment at the frontier shows a chasm within America's world of faith](#)

The Economist: The chasm between the religiously inspired left and the religious right is deep, and migration from the south is an equally intractable bone of contention.

[Top cardinals embroiled in sexual abuse scandal no longer on papal council](#)

NPR: The Vatican announced Wednesday that two cardinals have been let go from a papal council, the day after one of them was reportedly convicted of sexual abuse by an Australian court.

America: [Cardinal Pell, top advisor to Pope Francis, found guilty of 'historical sexual offenses'](#)

[Volunteer shortage pushes Longview church to end food program](#)

The (Longview, Washington) Daily News: It is a problem nonprofits across the nation are facing: They are finding it hard to replace the corps of aging volunteers who make their work possible.

[As one historically black Episcopal church closes, others face strong headwinds](#)

Religion News Service: As North Carolina wrestles with the aftermath of Jim Crow, some of the churches bound up in the racial history of the region are slowly fading from view.

[Study shows young adults leaving church start down that path at age 13](#)

Catholic News Service: To find Catholics who have left the church, start looking at the faces in the pews, according to a recent report.

[At least 30 faith leaders arrested in border protest](#)

Religion News Service: After a tense standoff with officials at the U.S.-Mexico border on Monday, at least 30 American clergy were taken into custody over the objections of demonstrators.

[Why should anyone care about Thomas Merton today?](#)

National Catholic Reporter: Merton provides us with at least three compelling reasons for continuing to learn about him and read his work as much today as when he was living more than half a century ago.

National Catholic Reporter: [Rohr: Church needs an 'awakening of the soul'](#)

[John Chau's death on North Sentinel Island roils the missionary world](#)

The New Yorker: In secular circles and among evangelicals, Chau's death has stirred controversy.

[Christianity Today's 2019 book awards](#)

Christianity Today: CT's picks for the books most likely to shape evangelical life, thought, and culture.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

[Board of Pensions Retirement Planning Seminar](#)

Tuesday & Wednesday, January 29-30, 2019

Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral

SAVE the DATE:

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Stated Meeting of Presbytery

*(including the honoring of The Reverend Graham Hart,
General Presbyter, on the occasion of his retirement.)*

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota

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**Sunday, March 3, 2019**  
Peace Presbyterian Church - Dedication Service

**ALTAR CLOTH NEEDED**

The Rev. Dr. Marg Towner, a member of PRP, is seeking the donation of a communion table cloth (called an *Altar Cloth*) with the Christian symbol on it, but not Presbyterian.

If you have one that you would be willing to donate,  
please contact Marg at: [margtet@comcast.net](mailto:margtet@comcast.net)

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2018**

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: [www.peaceriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org)

Please email corrections or additions to [lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org)

*All meetings are at the Presbytery Center location in North Port, unless otherwise posted.*

**Monday, December 24-Friday, December 28**

Presbytery Offices Closed

**Tuesday, December 25**

Merry Christmas!

**Monday, December 31**

New Year's Eve

Presbytery Offices Close at Noon

**CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

Please visit our web site, [www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/churches](http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/churches)

Click on the city, then the church, to visit their web site.



