

Global Episcopal Mission Network

Proclaim, Inspire, Ignite the Joy of God's Mission



Global Episcopal Mission Network News

About GEMN

We want to give you the tools that you need for mission!

The Global Episcopal Mission Network is the largest independent mission network in the Episcopal Church. GEMN consists of dioceses, churches, organizations, and individuals committed to engaging and connecting people through global mission. Join us today!

We've Moved

**We love to hear from you!
Be sure to use our new mailing address:**

GEMN

**P.O. Box 1434
Dublin, OH 43017-6434**

Dear Friend of Global Mission,

The **Global Episcopal Mission Network** is working to provide you, your church and your diocese the mission tools and resources you need to successfully engage in global mission, through:

- **Annual Global Mission Conferences:** Our next GEMN Conference is being planned right now for Ponce, Puerto Rico, May 18-20, 2016. The conference will be co-hosted by Province IX Diocese of Puerto Rico. Our theme will be "Ministry to a World in Continuous Motion"/ "Un Ministerio para un Mundo en Continuo Movimiento". Save the dates!
- **Training & educational opportunities** such as our two-year *Formation Program for Global Mission Agents*, our ten-day *Global Mission Immersion Program* in Bogota, Colombia, and our *Global Mission Train-the-Trainer Program*.
- High-quality **global mission resources** to assist you in leading mission teams, promoting mission in your church or diocese, creating global mission partnerships, and increasing your effectiveness as you engage in mission.

Want to get involved? Visit our new [partnership page](#) for information on global mission partners who are working hard to share the hope of Christ with the world. Below, we also list some of the short- and long-term mission opportunities that we are aware of. You can always contact us for more ideas or for assistance with your mission discernment.

September 2015



**Our Next Global Mission Conference Will Be in
Ponce, Puerto Rico – May 18-20, 2016!**

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Global
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Mission
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www.gemn.org

2016 GEMN Global Mission Conference

May 18-20, 2016 ~ Ponce, Puerto Rico

Visit us at gemn.org

Looking For Global Mission Trip Opportunities?



Are you ready to step out and engage in mission? We are blessed to have many partner organizations who are sent as Christ's "hands and feet" throughout the world. If you feel a call to join them in short- or long-term mission, here are some opportunities that we encourage you to explore:

Shorter-term mission opportunities:

- **Colforpaz** (www.colforpaz.org) Working in Colombia, COLFORPAZ can organize custom trips for an individual or mission team to Bogota, Cartagena and elsewhere, partnering with a local church community in a variety of sustainable development projects.
- **Cristosal** (www.cristosal.org) works in El Salvador and offers a variety of courses through its Global School, as well as pilgrimages and custom trips. Its programs center around human rights, community development and local empowerment.
- **Dominican Development Group** (dominicandevlopmentgroup.org) is working in the Dominican Republic. DDG can help with facilitation, planning and deployment for mission teams of all sizes throughout the year, including construction and medical mission.
- **Elewana** (www.elewana.org) works in Kenya to promote education and local leadership. Elewana offers summer and teaching internships, volunteer opportunities and a residential

training program in service learning, sustainable community development and global partnerships.

- **El Hogar** (www.elhogar.org) operates four schools for abandoned and hopelessly poor students, and welcomes service teams of up to 15 from February through October.
- **Grey Dove** (www.greydoveinc.org). Grey Dove coordinates medical mission teams to Haiti for both medical and non-medical personnel, as well as conducting conferences on best medical mission practices.
- **Haiti Connection** (www.haitiepiscopalconnection.org) provides important conferences for connecting Episcopalians and other who are working in Haiti. Their next conference is expected to take place in the spring of 2016.

Longer-term mission opportunities:

- **Young Adult Service Corps (YASC)** is for 21-30 year-olds who are interesting in serving for a one-year placement. The application deadline for 2016 is expected to be around Jan 1st, 2016. Visit www.episcopalchurch.org/yasc for more information and to apply.
- **Episcopal Mission Personnel** (www.episcopalchurch.org/page/mission-personnel) is for adults of all ages who are interested in exploring a mission placement in all areas of the world, typically for three years. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Contact the Mission Personnel office for more information and for assistance with discernment.



**Watch Our 20th
Anniversary Video**



Doing Your Fall Shopping? Use Our Amazon Link

Did you know that you can support GEMN (at no cost to you and with no change in your Amazon experience) by using our Amazon link? All Amazon transactions that originate on our website generate a small donation which helps to support GEMN's global mission efforts and advocacy.

Want to Try It?

Simply do one of the following:

- Go to gemn.org and click on the "AMAZON" link at the top; **OR**
- Bookmark our Amazon page at gemn.org/gemn_amazon; **OR**
- Click on the Amazon button at the right →

That's it - it works, we promise! We are extremely grateful for your support.



Telling Our Stories: Returning From the Mission Field in Colombia

The Rev. Canon Dr. Ted Gaiser recently returned from three years of service in Colombia as parish priest and Director of Mission Development for the Episcopal Diocese of Colombia. Ted recently handed over the reins as former President of the Board of Directors for GEMN. We interviewed him about his experience as a missionary in Colombia.

What was the best part of your experience as a long-term missionary?

"There are many things about my experience in long-term mission that were rewarding and fulfilling ... a renewed and deepened relationship with Christ; experience of the wider church; experience of daily life in the church through a different cultural perspective; learning new things about myself; and more ..."

What part of the experience were you most prepared for? Least prepared for?

"I'm not sure that you're ever really prepared. I think preparation is often an illusion. We may bring a variety of experiences from previous mission engagements, interactions with different cultures, our employment, or our personal lives. Those experiences all assist us in



making decisions and processing our next experiences. But it doesn't really mean we're prepared."

"That's probably a funny thing to say coming from someone like me. I've been engaged in mission since my teens. I've lived abroad as an exchange student in South America, have led mission trips throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, in East Africa and to the West Bank. I've also traveled a great deal for pleasure. In addition, as an ordained person I served the Diocese of Massachusetts for seven years supporting Global Partnerships."

"Being prepared is more about being prepared to take a leap of faith and trust in God than any of the traditional things we might think of in society that prepare us to do a job. ...there is no school to become a missionary except for the school of life and the spiritual growth that comes from our life in Christ. It's good to have an experience of mission to know what you're getting into. It's also advisable to have a good sense of self-awareness. But being prepared to take the leap of faith is still the essential component."

What was the best advice that you received prior to going?

"I don't particularly remember getting any advice. I don't think people know what to say. Most people don't have any idea what life will be like for you, and many are confused. They might respect what they perceive as your courage, deep spirituality, or more, but still not fully "get" what you're

doing or why. So most advice is actually just words of support along the lines of "Good luck," "Take care of yourself," "God be with you," and "I hope you have a great experience."

Would you recommend this experience to others?

"I'd absolutely recommend the experience. It isn't for everyone, but for those who feel called to this type of ministry, it's definitely worth the experience."

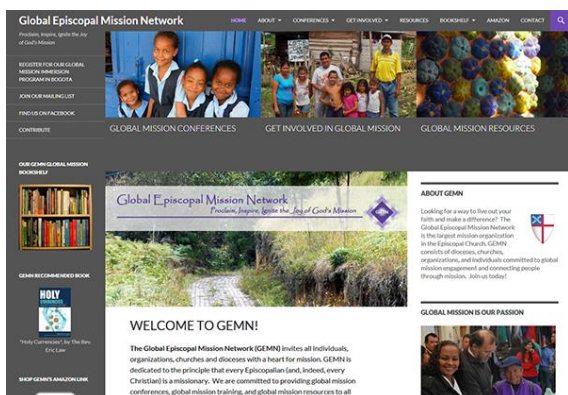
Any advice to others considering a long-term mission experience?

"Pray. Pray some more. Talk with someone who has done it. Pray. Go on a (short-term) mission trip for the experience. And then pray. ...Oh, and also, pray!"

You can read more about Ted's experiences and ministry in Colombia on his blog at: <https://tedabroad.wordpress.com>.



Visit Our Website



Check our **GEMN website** (www.gemn.org) for conference, training and resource information:

- Our **Global Mission Bookshelf** with books and videos recommended by GEMN members.
- Our **Carbon Offset** page to find out how to help the environment through global mission partnership.
- Our **Get Involved** area, including ways for you to **Adopt-a-Missionary**.
- Our new **GEMN Partner Organization Page**.
- Our comprehensive **Global Mission Bibliography**.

We are still in the process of adding resources to our website, so be sure to check back often!

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Quick Links

www.gemn.org



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GEMN is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. We celebrate your support in any amount!

GEMN: Celebrating 20 Years of Global Mission



New! Our GEMN Partner Organization Page

GEMN's Global Mission Partner Organizations are passionate about mission. Do you know of a mission organization that would like to partner with GEMN? Contact us at gemn@gemn.org to explore a partner relationship, or become a partner by sending a representative to our next conference! GEMN Partner Organizations receive free display space at our conferences and a free link on our [Partner Organization Page](#).

We recently featured a quote, attributed to Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, on our Facebook page: **"Mission is finding out what God is doing, and then joining in"**. But how do we find out what God is doing? God seems to prefer to work quietly and tirelessly behind the scenes, winning one heart at a time through each act of kindness, reconciliation, compassion and self-emptying love; these are generally not the subject of headlines. I urge you to prayerfully explore the ministries of any one of GEMN's partner organizations, read the blogs of Episcopal long-term missionaries and Young Adult Service Corps members, attend a GEMN Global Mission Conference, or give consideration to stepping out as a member of a mission team or as a missionary. God will show you what he is doing. More importantly, God will show you what he wants to do through **you**.

Your Sister In Christ,

Karen Hotte
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