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PMI Ministry Update
J. Nelson Jennings, President

PMI Missionaries and Their Indigenous Churches:
Benefits and Current Status

PMI “Missionaries” are “sent” back into the contexts from which they came to Covenant Seminary for ministry preparation. At the same time, ideally PMI Missionaries serve as part of indigenous churches and ministries in their home countries. Some situations vary from the ideal because of at least a couple of factors: (1) the history, growth stage, or commitments (theological and otherwise) of the particular indigenous church with which a PMI Missionary is affiliated; (2) in some cases a PMI Missionary is ordained in a church outside the context where they are living and serving. In all cases, however, the prototype is for PMI Missionaries to serve in affiliation with indigenous churches and ministries.

The dual purpose of this update is briefly to discuss the benefits of PMI Missionaries' affiliation with their indigenous churches and to give a progress report on how we are doing in this area.

Benefits

Serving as part of an indigenous church provides *accountability* for PMI Missionaries. PMI's triangular partnership framework – between missionaries, supporters, and the PMI Board – enables a certain measure of accountability, particularly regarding finances. However, neither supporters nor board members are on site with PMI Missionaries on a regular basis. We all need fellow Christians and structures right around us to keep us on track, and PMI Missionaries are no exception to that need.

Another obvious benefit is the increased *long-term viability* of PMI Missionaries' ministries. Individual missionaries could conduct all sorts of independent evangelism, church-planting, leadership training, and holistic ministry – but what then would happen after the missionary is gone? In addition, presbyterian principles mandate that we live and minister as much as possible as cooperation with Christ's organized church. Christ is building his worldwide church, and PMI Missionaries are committed to preparing Christ's bride in the countries where they live and serve.

One distinctive benefit from a PMI perspective is that of cultivating *international partnerships*. The PMI vision statement concludes with the goal of “connecting churches internationally.” More than simply serving as their own independent ministries, PMI Missionaries are bridges between their indigenous churches and other churches and ministries, including supporting churches, theological institutions like Covenant Seminary, and mission agencies like Mission to the World. This connecting niche within the worldwide Christian movement is one that PMI particularly wants to cultivate further.

Current Status

So how are things actually going? How are various PMI Missionaries doing in terms of their indigenous church affiliations and partnerships?

Please read each missionary's web page to help fill out the overview I will give here. And as the opening paragraph above indicates (and as we on the PMI board are continually reminded as we govern and administer PMI's ongoing operations), each missionary's situation has unique, particular features that resist being squeezed into a mold cast for a worldwide ideal. That “situational particularity” is a good thing, we believe. At the same time, we can use the ideal of indigenous church affiliation to ensure that we don't miss the benefits described above.

Currently, PMI Missionaries are (or, for logistical or timing reasons, are in the process of becoming) affiliated with their indigenous churches and ministries as listed below (in the respective countries' alphabetical order):

	Denomination	Local Church – Ministry
Pires:	Presbyterian Church of Brazil	Colloquium
Farely:	International Presbyterian Church (IPC)	Forum Cultural Protestant
Futo*:	Reformed Church of Hungary	Hungarian Bible Society
K Tombing:	Presbyterian Church in India Reformed (PCIR)	Rayburn College
L Tombing:	PCIR	Covenant Children's Home
Arnold:	PCIR	Bangalore Presbyterian Church
Rinn:	IPC	Church-plant; Alpha & Omega
Esaki:	Presbyterian Church of Japan	Amazing Grace Church
Muutuki*:	Africa Evangelical Presbyterian Church	New City Fellowship Nairobi; Daystar University
Van As:	Reformed Church of the Netherlands	RCN at Oostzaan
Reynolds:	Grace Presbyterian Church of New Zealand	Covenant Presbyterian Church; Grace Theological College
Quimbo:	Christian Reformed Church of the Philippines	House of Hope Ministry Center; Hillside Learning Center; Portal; Living Hope Christian Fellowship
Tanchanpongs*:	Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand	Bangkok Bible College & Seminary
Bukovietski:	Presbyterian Church of Ukraine	Colloquium

*husband ordained in the Presbyterian Church in America

As you survey this list, pray that the benefits of accountability, long-term viability, and international partnerships would indeed take place. If you want to pursue connecting your own church or ministry with one listed here, please contact the PMI Board or the affiliated PMI Missionary. As a part of the wider PMI network of triangular partnerships, through prayer and creative initiative you can help the indigenous affiliations of PMI Missionaries be as fruitful as possible. Those with whom you partner can help you as well be as fruitful as you can be, by God's grace.

Thank you for your interest and involvement in the worldwide ministry of Presbyterian Mission International.

Yours in Christ,

J. Nelson Jennings
President