



## **Missions: Part 3**

# MISSIONS

Rev. Douglas J. Kortyna

# MISSIONS

Week Three: International Mission



## Missions: Part 3

### INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

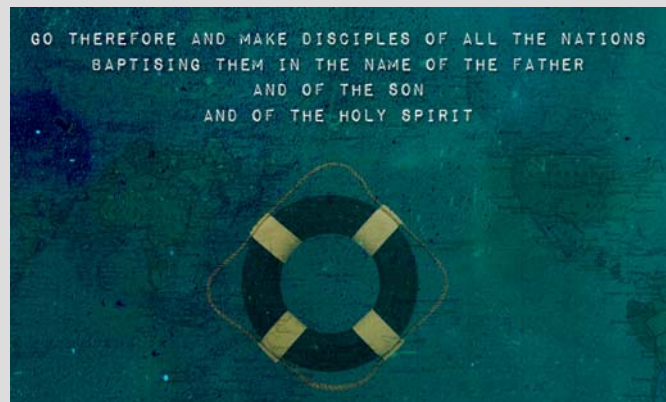
- Again, I think we first have to ask ourselves as a congregation, what are our gifts (graces from God) and how can we serve our brothers and sisters overseas?



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### INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

- I also think the church in America has two primary gifts that it can give to Christians in developing countries: theological education and monetary support.



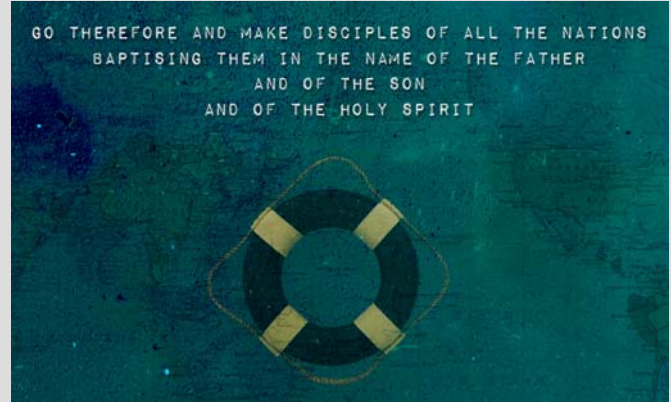
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## Missions: Part 3

### INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

- How can RPC work towards building relationships of reciprocity with churches throughout the world?



### OPENING REMARKS

- I believe that mission work should be seen primarily through the lens of mutual gift giving. If we do not view mission work through this lens, we will primarily see our relationship with international missions through the lens of efficiency and altruism. *Continued...*





## Missions: Part 3



### OPENING REMARKS

- There are many things the American church does extremely well—theological education, for example. However, there are things we don't do well because of isolated individualism.

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### OPENING REMARKS

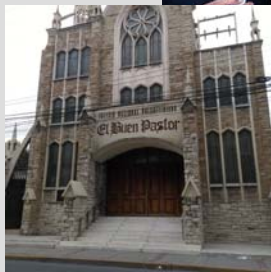
- Mission trips open up our eyes to view the world differently. You might not know what American civil religion is until you travel abroad.



# REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

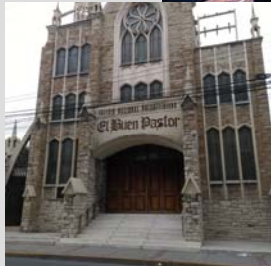
## Missions: Part 3



### TARGET AUDIENCE: EPC FRATERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

- The EPC has several fraternal relationships with churches in Latin America. I believe it makes sense to work with those who have been approved by our denomination.

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### TARGET AUDIENCE: EPC FRATERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Three examples are Presbyterians in Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, and Peru. All of these denominations have broken away from their relationships with the PCUSA.

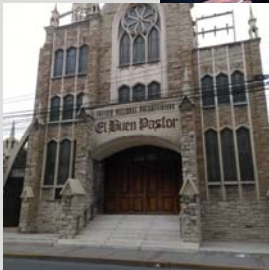
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# REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*An Evangelical Presbyterian Church*

## Missions: Part 3

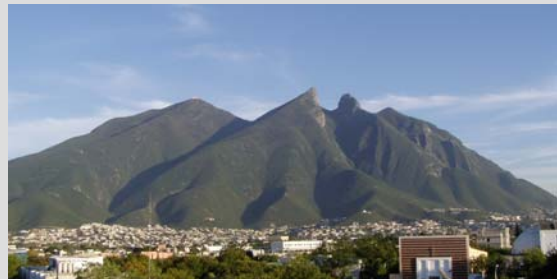


### TARGET AUDIENCE: EPC FRATERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

- How could we serve these churches? And, how could they serve us?

### RPC MISSION TRIP TO MEXICO

- This month, the Moelks and the Kortynas will be going to Monterrey, Mexico, in order to establish a partnership with a Presbyterian church in Mexico.



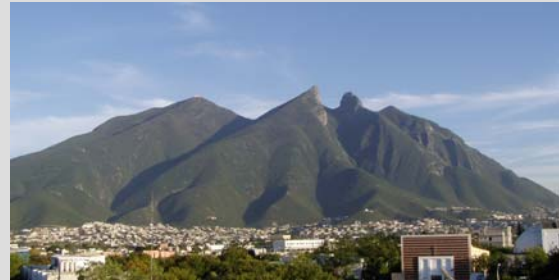
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## Missions: Part 3

### RPC MISSION TRIP TO MEXICO

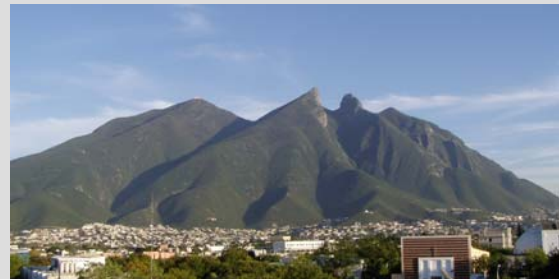
- I thought to myself, “How could RPC serve our brothers and sister in Mexico?” Theological education for pastors and lay leaders came to mind.



*Continued...*

### RPC MISSION TRIP TO MEXICO

- Pastor David has asked how Buen Pastor could serve RPC in the future.







## Missions: Part 3



### BUILDING INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS PRESENCE

- Perhaps we could host a mission team from Mexico to help paint our new building that we will eventually rent!

*Continued...*



### BUILDING INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS PRESENCE

- Buen Pastor has many mission churches that she supports and upholds. There will be opportunities to serve in the future.

*Continued...*





# REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*An Evangelical Presbyterian Church*

## Missions: Part 3



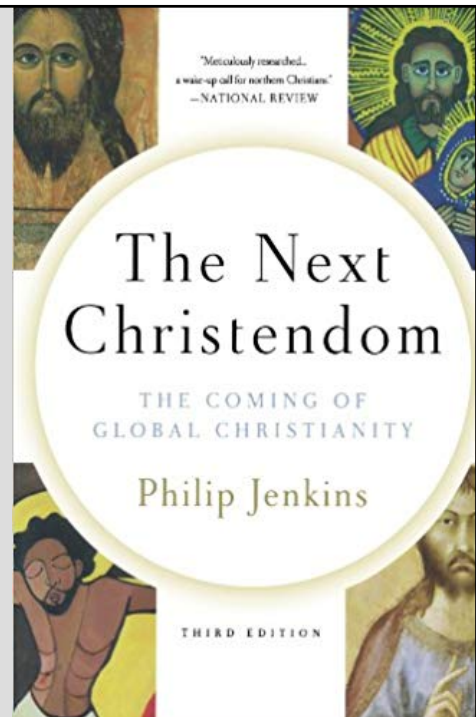
### BUILDING INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS PRESENCE

- I would challenge us to sacrifice our vacations in the future and replace those vacations with a mission trip.

### GLOBAL CHURCH SERVING RPC/AMERICAN CHURCH

- Church attendance is much higher in the global south than in the United States. Global south Christians believe that American Christians are very “libertine” with their church attendance. We need to learn from them! Furthermore, they have many first generation Christians. They are younger than us!

*Continued...*



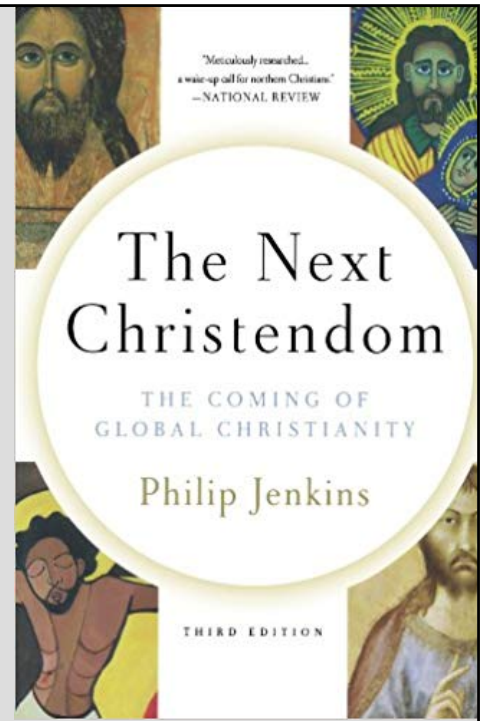


## Missions: Part 3

### GLOBAL CHURCH SERVING RPC/AMERICAN CHURCH

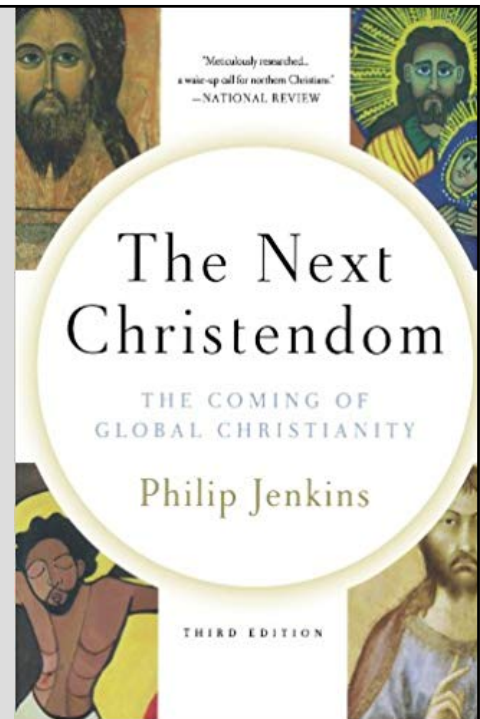
- Perhaps the best way to conceive of Christianity is as a global movement. So much of our lens is through the lens of America.

*Continued...*



### GLOBAL CHURCH SERVING RPC/AMERICAN CHURCH

- Christianity has always been a global force. For example, it spread to Africa and Asia before Europe. Christianity is *not* synonymous with Western culture.





## Missions: Part 3

### MONETARY GIFTS TO THE GLOBAL CHURCH

- You can support seminary students in the global south.



San Pablo in Merida

*Continued...*

### MONETARY GIFTS TO THE GLOBAL CHURCH

- Supporting missions in the global south often goes further than in the Western world. For example, the mission in Sierra Leone.



San Pablo in Merida

*Continued...*



## Missions: Part 3

### MONETARY GIFTS TO THE GLOBAL CHURCH

- Most important is that we are demonstrating that we value heavenly rewards more than earthly rewards. I believe that vacations are somewhat overvalued!



San Pablo in Merida



Ombiri Family



### EXAMPLE: MT. LEBANON EPC

- A Mt. Lebanon EPC Ruling Elder, James Olmbiri, had a dream to establish a mission in Kenya, from where he originally lived.

*Continued...*



## Missions: Part 3



Ombiri Family



### EXAMPLE: MT. LEBANON EPC

- He persuaded the Session to start with a mission trip.

*Continued...*



Ombiri Family



### EXAMPLE: MT. LEBANON EPC

- The mission was built around reciprocity. Instead of MLEPC going to Africa every year, the churches rotated. One team from the United States one year and one team from Kenya to the United States the following year.



## Missions: Part 3

### MISSIONS CHALLENGE

- I would like to issue a pastoral challenge to sacrifice a vacation in the future to go on a mission trip. My long term plan is, hopefully, to offer mission trips, yearly.



*Continued...*

### MISSIONS CHALLENGE

- Due to age or health, if you cannot go on a mission trip, consider supporting missions/missionaries with monetary gifts and prayers, as much as possible!



*Continued...*



## Missions: Part 3

### MISSIONS CHALLENGE

- I think RPC should try to work within the fraternal relationships that our denomination has established. I know the General Assembly sets up these relationships with the intention that partnerships will be formed!



KANT

### CONCLUSIONS

- I hope Kant has been exorcised from our false understandings of gifts in the Bible!

*Continued...*

## Missions: Part 3



KANT

### CONCLUSIONS

- I think viewing all of missions through gift giving and reciprocity helps us think about missions in new and exciting ways.

*Continued...*



KANT

### CONCLUSIONS

- Ideally, all missions should reflect the Great Commission given by the Lord Jesus.