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## What is a “Mission Co-worker”?

What does overseas mission work look like in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? The job titles themselves tell us that it's very different from 100 years ago! People who used to be called “missionaries” are now “mission co-workers,” reflecting the new reality that Christian communities in other countries are not tiny, fledgling groups of believers, but are mature fellowships with their own, well-trained leaders. PC(USA) mission co-workers work in close cooperation with our overseas partners at their invitation, and the fruits of their labor help nourish the faith and ministry of Christians in both the host countries and in the United States.

## What is a “YAV”?

Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) are young adults ages 19-30 who dedicate a year to serving God as volunteers in mission through PC(USA). YAVs are exposed to some of the hardest problems in the world – poverty, violence, and reconciliation – and share the Good News of Jesus Christ while living and working with other volunteers. There are fifteen sites within the United States and seven international sites, including Columbia, Northern Ireland, Peru, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, and Zambia.

Learn more about Young Adult Volunteers and their work at [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/)

## Meet Mission Co-Workers

### Kurt Esslinger and Hyeyoung Lee

Rev. Kurt Esslinger and Hyeyoung Lee are a mission co-worker couple sent by the PC(USA) to work with the Presbyterian Church of Korea. They are based in Daejeon, South Korea, where, among other duties, they are site coordinators for four Young Adult Volunteers from the United States.

Kurt and Hyeyoung will be in upstate New York the first weekend in April to visit churches and tell about their ministry, working with a variety of children's centers which serve under-privileged neighborhoods and children age 6-15 as well as the Saenaru Community Center and soup kitchen.

Overseas mission is different these days, but even in the 21<sup>st</sup> century there are wonderful opportunities to support and participate in furthering the Kingdom of God through the mission programs of the Presbyterian Church.

Kurt and Hyeyoung's visit is sponsored by the Korean Partnership Mission and Ministry Team of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse with support from the Central New York Presbytery Partnership Group of the Synod of the Northeast.



**Hyeyoung Lee** is a native of Korea (Busan). After serving as a missionary intern in the Philippines during college, she attended McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, where she and Kurt met. Obtaining graduate degrees in Divinity and Social Work, Lee later taught social welfare policies and worked with immigrant women, mostly from Korea, as they sought social services.

**Kurt Esslinger** comes to the work of a YAV site coordinator from his own experience as a YAV near Manchester, England in 2002-2003, serving with an afterschool program in low-income neighborhoods. Kurt and Hyeyoung are the parents of a one-year-old son, Sahn.

## Come hear about 21st century mission work in Korea!

On **Friday, April 4**, Kurt and Hyeyoung will be at

**United Presbyterian Church  
42 Chenango St  
Binghamton, NY 13901**

for an evening presentation.

They will tell about their experiences working with our mission partners in Korea, and they will highlight opportunities for young Americans to serve as Young Adult Volunteers in this country and abroad.

The evening begins with dinner at 5:30pm, followed by program at 6:30 pm.

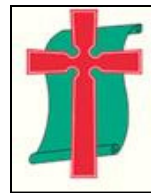
To reserve your place for dinner:  
**call (607) 722-4219 by  
March 30.**

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## An International Partnership

In 2000 the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse, PC(USA) and Pyongyang Presbytery of The Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK) entered into an International Partnership relationship.

Since then over 100 members of the two presbyteries have participated in youth and adult cross-cultural exchanges and the presbyteries have collaborated on a variety of mission projects in China, Malawi, North Korea, and the United States.



Presbyterian Church in Korea  
(PCK)

For more information on the work of the Partnership contact Linda Russell, Convener, Cayuga-Syracuse Korean Partnership Mission & Ministry Team at [lsruss@aol.com](mailto:lsruss@aol.com).

## 21st Century Mission in the PC(USA)

