



## Mission Fields in our Midst

We are all too familiar with the stories. The demise of the tire industry in Akron and of the steel industry in Youngstown had

devastating consequences to those who live in the bounds of Eastminster Presbytery. While progress at revitalization is being made in both urban centers, the signs of poverty, unemployment, and addiction are still most evident.



Urban ministries receive strong support from Eastminster Presbytery. Ministries centered in First Presbyterian Church, Akron, provide food, economic relief, childcare, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, and spiritual nurture to those caught in the grips of poverty. Ministries started by First Presbyterian Church in Barberton provide food, economic assistance, early childhood development, and medical care for the poor. The southside of Youngstown presents a formidable

landscape of urban blight, poverty, crime, and drug addiction. Southside Ministries and the Needle's Eye are beacons of light bringing purpose and hope to the poorest residents of the city. Distributions of food and clothing, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, tutoring, children and youth ministries, and a summer camp at JBM are all ways in which lives are touched and transformed by the good news of Jesus Christ.

What do all of these urban ministries have in common? They are supported by your mission dollars to Eastminster Presbytery.

Your mission dollars to Eastminster Presbytery make a BIG difference.



## Getting Personal with Missions

Historically, they have been a persecuted minority. They have only known full religious freedom in the past twenty years. Who are they? They are our Protestant sisters and brothers in Spain. They are our international mission partners within the Spanish Evangelical Church. They are a tiny presbytery along the Mediterranean coast called Levante Presbytery comprised of four congregations located in Cartagena, Torrevieja, Alicante, and Valencia.

To date we have sent three teams from Eastminster Presbytery to Levante Presbytery and have welcomed one team from Spain. Eastminster Presbytery anticipates hosting a mission encounter to Spain in June, 2009, and look forward to the next visit of our mission partners to Eastminster Presbytery in September, 2009.

We have learned much from our mission partners and they have learned much from us. We have marveled at the vital ministries carried out by the four congregations of Levante Presbytery despite their small size and limited resources. Their faith is great and their hospitality is heart warming. Their zeal for missions and their outreach to new immigrant groups in Spain is inspiring. Our teams to Levante Presbytery have been able to share skills and knowledge of Christian ministry and worship that have enhanced their ministries.

Your mission dollars make our partnership with the Spanish Evangelical Church a reality and witnesses to the oneness of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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