

# Partner with Presbyterian World Mission in Niger

Niger is often called the gateway between North Africa and Sub Saharan Africa. It is one of the continent's most economically impoverished countries and is at the bottom of the UN's human development index. Fewer than 50 percent of children are enrolled in school, and its annual per capita gross domestic product is only about \$800. Farming is limited by frequent droughts, and the country's vast desert regions are increasing because arable land is subjected to droughts, excessive cultivation, overgrazing, and deforestation. While 95 percent of Nigeriens are Muslim, the government is secular, and there is openness to the gospel. Most non-Muslims in Niger are Christian or adherents of traditional religions. The Evangelical Church in the Republic of Niger (EERN) is the largest Protestant church in the country and is a member of the World Communion of Reformed Churches. In recent decades, the EERN and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) began working as partners in mission.



## Working together with our partners in Niger

Presbyterian World Mission works with our partners in Niger to respond to the needs of our partner churches, strengthen their witness to God's presence, and make a transformational impact on the lives of the people. Our ministries with our partners are diverse as we work together to address all three of our critical global initiatives. They include:

- **Addressing the root causes of poverty.** We seek to empower people through education and through a variety of programs designed to strengthen the lives of women and children.
- **Sharing the good news of God's love through Jesus Christ.** We are strengthening the outreach of our partner churches by helping them to train rural pastors. These fast growing churches are experiencing a severe clergy shortage. We are also helping our partners to extend their ministry and witness to new regions and to show God's love.
- **Engaging in ministries of reconciliation.** We support our partners in their efforts to address gender-based violence, and we stand with partners as they seek effective ways to minister in a difficult environment



**Rev. Michael Ludwig and Rachel Ludwig**

Michael and Rachel are working alongside the Evangelical Church of the Republic of Niger (EERN), helping to strengthen the denomination’s evangelism work including theological education, Christian education and a holistic witness through literacy training and evangelism program. “It’s captured our hearts as a place of great need, where people with skills in language and teaching can make a huge impact in the lives of ordinary Nigeriens through literacy training and exposure to the gospel,” they write. “We believe this program will help the church grow in reaching out to its non-Christian neighbors, helping them physically through teaching and spiritually as they read the good news of Jesus.” Home presbytery: Scioto Valley; *E200513, D507575*



**Claire Zuhosky**

As a development specialist at a youth center, Claire works with the Evangelical Church in the Republic of Niger (EERN) to develop a program in life-skills training and vocational education. Her responsibilities include working with a community to determine the needs of its youth. The goal is to establish a program that the church can operate and sustain with its own resources. “May the Holy Spirit working within me provide the courage to take leaps of faith that will help bring about God’s kingdom here on earth” says Claire. Home presbytery: Bethany PC; *E200517, D507578*



**Rev. Joshua Heikkila**

Josh is the PC(USA) regional liaison for West Africa, where he facilitates partner relationships, implements regional strategies, and supports the work of other mission personnel. “When we strive to live together as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, our faith is deepened and strengthened, despite our cultural differences, and we become better disciples of Jesus Christ,” Josh says. He works with partner churches in Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo. Home presbytery: Twin Cities; *E200353, D507520*

**To support mission personnel with your financial gift:**

- go to [presbyterianmission.org/supportwm](http://presbyterianmission.org/supportwm)
- call 800-728-7228, x5611
- send a check to  
PC(USA)  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700  
*(Congregations can send through regular receiving channels, usually presbyteries)*

- To support the general sending and support needs of mission personnel (World Mission will use your gift where it can have the greatest impact): on the check’s memo line simple write E132192
- To support specific mission co-workers, simply write their name on the memo line of the check.

Presbyterian World Mission brings God’s global family together to heal the Wounds of poverty and violence and proclaim God’s saving love in Jesus Christ.

*[presbyterianmission.org/worldmission](http://presbyterianmission.org/worldmission)*

*Connect with a mission worker at [presbyterianmission.org/missionconnections](http://presbyterianmission.org/missionconnections)*

