

## STUDENTS EXPLORE CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION TRIPS



Pittsburgh Theological Seminary students, alums, administrators, and community members will

explore mission opportunities abroad during the Seminary's spring break.

Three of this year's trip leaders are Pittsburgh Seminary alums and former World Mission Initiative trip participants. **"Students are transformed by these trips and want to help bring a similar transformation to others,"** said the Rev. Don Dawson, director of WMI.

Five students will travel with Dawson to Senegal where they will gain an understanding of the challenges for Christians in predominantly Muslim West Africa. Traveling to the Mexico border are 11 others—from Pittsburgh Seminary and First United Presbyterian Church, Dubois—under the leadership of the Rev. John Welch '02, vice president for student service and dean of students, and the Rev. Sarah Ott '10, pastor at the church. Through this trip, U.S. teams receive the opportunity to build cross-cultural relationships, increased understanding of cultural differences, and teaching about how to act biblically and theologically when borders divide. Under the guidance of the BJ Woodworth '07, seven people will travel to North Africa to witness and share in what God is doing among the indigenous and Arab peoples of North Africa in several major cities. A group of five will be visiting Southeast Asia with the Rev. Jennifer Haddox '06, associate director of World Mission Initiative, to encourage and equip ethnic leaders for evangelism and church planting. Heading to Chiapas, Mexico, is a group of six with the Rev. Keith Kaufold '07/'12, pastor and director of the Eighth Avenue Place in Homestead. They will spend time traveling through Chiapas enjoying worship and fellowship with churches among the Ch'ol, Tzeltal, and Tzotzil people groups and hearing their testimonies.

These trips are coordinated through the Seminary's World Mission Initiative. WMI is a fellowship of Presbyterians dedicated to developing mission vision, nurturing missionary vocations, and cultivating missional congregations. WMI exists to help Christians understand how God is at work in the world and how they can share in that work.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is a graduate professional institution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). Founded in 1794, the Seminary is located in Pittsburgh, Pa. and more than 300 students are enrolled yearly in the degree programs. The Seminary prepares leaders who proclaim with great joy God's message of good news in both word and deed. PTS is rooted in the Reformed history of faithfulness to Scripture and commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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