

Press Release

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YOUTH ARTS GROUP INVITED TO PERU

Representatives of the Youth Arts Group of Rural & Migrant Ministry have been invited to present at the JOINING HANDS (Uniendo Manos) Youth Conference in Lima, Peru in January 2011. The Conference will welcome some 100 young leaders (ages 16-29) representing youth organizations in Peru, Bolivia and the United States.



Joining Hands is a program of the Presbyterian Hunger Program that fights the root causes of hunger by sparking the formation of networks in developing countries. These networks lead the struggle against hunger at a local level while working with PC(USA) presbyteries and congregations to address global hunger issues. The Peruvian JH network, which is called “Uniendo Manos Contra Pobreza” (Joining Hands Against Poverty) is comprised of secular NGOs, such as human-rights groups, church-related NGOs, and churches.

The theme of this conference is Water as a basic human right. The youth that come together from around Peru and Bolivia are all working on initiatives to address the need for clean water. For example, some youth are fighting against big mining companies who contaminate water in their communities. Others are addressing global warming, as the water resources where they live are melting or drying up. The youth use different mediums for their campaign work including running their own radio stations, organizing educational fairs, holding demonstrations, painting murals, etc.

The Youth Arts Group (YAG) has been invited to share their experiences in working for human rights by using the arts to bring about change. YAG has previously presented in conferences in Washington D.C.; Toronto, Canada; Philadelphia and Mexico. This will be their first presentation in South America.