



MINUTE FOR MISSION

Partners for Just Trade, is a non-profit organization that blossomed from the Presbyterian Hunger Program's Joining Hands work in Peru. Partners for Just Trade, or PJT, was formed to help the artisans of the Joining Hands project in Peru, Bridge of Hope, market their products here in the States and educate the public about Fair Trade. Fair Trade not only pays the farmer or artisan a fair price for their product but is also a holistic approach to trade and encourages gender equality, provides healthy and safe work conditions, and builds long-term relationships with the producers. In a nutshell, Fair Trade provides stability in the lives of the impoverished peoples around the world who have faced years of famine and wars among other challenges.

I'd like you to take a moment to think about the last clothing item that you purchased. Do you know where it was made or what the conditions were like for the person who stitched it together? Was his or her pay enough to put food on the table? What about the last toy you bought for a new baby or a grandchild. Can you be certain that the ingredients aren't toxic?

When you purchase a PJT product, you know exactly where it's coming from and that your purchase is making a positive impact on the producer's life. Through each sale, we are building sustainable global partnerships and reinvesting profits into our programmatic work that support the artisans and farmers who make the products we sell. Thanks to the dedication of compassionate volunteers from the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery in St. Louis, who originally lugged the Peruvian goods back in their suitcases, PJT sales reached over \$130,000 last year and the organization is now a screened member of the Fair Trade Federation and the Green America Business Network. PJT has facilitated the growth for Bridge of Hope to include over 15 artisan groups and 200 artisans and is now reaching out to struggling farmers in Cameroon to help increase their income to through a dried fruit project.

I ask that you support this [*Presbyterian*] initiative and show solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world who are trying to make ends meet by running sustainable small businesses. You can support PJT by purchasing products at the upcoming Partnership Sale or by making a tax-deductible donation. Please read the [bulletin insert](#) for more information on how to support us. Thank you for inviting me to speak this morning.