



**E-Connections
April 2009**

Dear Friends,

Participants from our Immersion Experience Program speak to the impact of this life-changing journey on their lives for years after the experience is over. Travel with IPM has changed the course of many students' lives toward deeper personal involvement in social justice, and adults of all ages return with a stronger personal understanding of the issues facing our brothers and sisters around the globe. Even after eight years of my own travel with IPM, the experience of being with our Project Partners around the world remains perhaps the most impactful and transformative experiences I have every year. IPM's commitment to the Immersion Experience Program is grounded in the simple, yet revolutionary belief that when we enter into partnership with our brothers and sisters around the world, we gain more than we could ever hope to give from our North American abundance.

As you finalize your plans for the rest of this year, I encourage you to consider participating in one of our Immersion Experiences. In this challenging economic climate, perhaps now is a time more than ever to consider alternative travel that benefits the poorest of the poor around the world. The low cost of today's airfare makes Immersion Experiences more affordable than ever. Your money will never be spent more productively, as you will become a better informed ambassador for the world's most marginalized and materially poor.

Consider traveling with IPM in 2009 and 2010, and taking the journey of a lifetime. In this special edition of *E-Connections*, you will read about the many opportunities available through our Immersion Experience Program in the months ahead. We look forward to seeing you on a coming Immersion Experience!

Peace,

Joseph Cistone
Executive Director

*To donate to IPM visit www.ipmconnect.org.
Find Joe on Facebook, or follow him on Twitter
[@josephfcistone](https://twitter.com/josephfcistone).*



2009-2010 Immersion Experiences

To join us on one of these Immersion Experiences, or for more information, contact Laurie Rodney, IPM Director of Education & Outreach at lrodney@ipmconnect.org or +1.216.702.2514.

EL SALVADOR: **"Educate the Educators"** **July 18-25, 2009**

Travel with IPM's Director of Education and Outreach engaging with experts and other educators in El Salvador to learn about the challenges schoolchildren encounter in the "developing" world. In visiting schools, meeting IPM Project Partners, and hearing from local experts in both education and Human Rights, you will experience both personal and professional transformation. This journey will transform how we envision our immigrant students as well as providing a valuable experience to help you shape an Immersion Experience with your own students.



Cost: \$1,050, Airfare: approx. \$500-\$700

IPM Immersion Experience facilitators: Laurie Rodney and Julieta Borja

INDIA: **November 12-22, 2009**

Are you ready to challenge yourself? To visit India is to confront religious pluralism in the midst of extreme poverty, meet with communities recovering from inter religious and ethnic violence, and engage in dialogue with IPM Project Partners such as *Hindus United with Muslims (HUM)*, a women's community cooperative doing extraordinary work to overcome these deep religious, political, and class divides facing India.



Cost: \$2,600, Airfare: approx. \$1,500-2,000.

IPM Immersion Experience facilitators: Joe Cistone and Mahesh Upadhyaya

ITALY: **December 29, 2009-January 4, 2010**

View Italy through the lens of social justice, art, and the scriptures on this unique Immersion Experience. Learn about human trafficking in Italy from women at IPM Project Partner, *Speranza II*, and meet with representatives of some of the world's largest faith-based non-profit organizations. View famous works of art and landmarks with a different understanding as you explore the history of social justice as depicted through some of the world's most famous art.

Cost: \$2,500, Airfare: approx. \$550-800

Facilitator: Joe Cistone



**NEPAL:
March 2010**



Experience the extraordinary country that is Nepal in an entirely new way. In addition to the breathtaking views and sights of this Himalayan country, participants will explore social services in Nepal with IPM Project Partner, *OUEST* and engage with the women, children, and youth with whom this Project works. You will spend the night in a Nepalese village, ride an elephant in Chitwan National Park, and visit some of the oldest Buddhist temples in the world.

Cost: \$2,000, Airfare: approx. \$1,800-2,000.

IPM Immersion Experience facilitators: Joe Cistone and Leah Schulte

***Space is still available to organize a group of your own!
Minimum group size is 8-10 persons. Contact Laurie Rodney for details at lrodney@ipmconnect.org or +1.216.702.2514.***

Additional 2010 Immersion Experience dates will be announced soon!
Watch for Immersion Experiences to these amazing countries in future editions of *E-Connections*:

EL SALVADOR
INDIA
ITALY
KENYA
NEPAL
NICARAGUA
TANZANIA

As IPM enters the North American Spring and Summer, many of our Project Partners around the world are in a particularly vulnerable state given the global recession. To enter into partnership with them and support their remarkable work, contact the office at +1.216.932.4082, or visit our website: www.ipmconnect.org for the "Donate" link.

Become a fan of IPM on Facebook by searching "International Partners in Mission".