



The Current

News of Illinois Great Rivers Conference of The United Methodist Church

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United Methodists give \$12 million for Haiti earthquake relief IGRC congregations provide \$409,545 to the connectional response



A UMINS photo courtesy of Betty Backstrom

A young girl from First United Methodist Church in Slidell, Louisiana adds to donations for Haiti.

By Barbara Dunlap-Berg*

"So we rebuilt the wall, and all the wall was joined together . . . for the people had a mind to work." – Nehemiah 4:6

United Methodists have set their hearts and minds to work since an earthquake devastated much of Haiti a month ago.

Through individual gifts and special offerings, benefit concerts and other innovative fundraisers, United Methodists have donated \$12 million to the United

Methodist Committee on Relief, according to Melissa Hinnen, the agency's director of communications.

The time and talent of church members are meeting more than financial needs.

The relief agency's Sager Brown Depot distribution center in Baldwin, La., has collected 350,000 health kits. Near Lexington, Ky., members of First United Methodist Church, Paris, gathered and packed about 1,200 health kits. Similar kit-packing efforts are multiplying across the United Methodist connection.

Even before the earthquake rocked Haiti, many Haitian mothers lacked swaddling clothes in which to wrap their newborns. In the days since the disaster, babies have been born amid rubble, in field hospitals and in rudimentary shelters, and surviving parents are even less likely to have clean clothes and diapers to welcome them.

Churches, schools and community groups are purchasing items and assembling layette kits. Each kit contains diapers, washcloths, one-piece body suits or shirts, gowns, diaper pins and receiving blankets.

The efforts, large and small, are making a difference.

"We need ongoing support and prayers for the partnership in Haiti to stay strong," said the Rev. Paul Doherty, chair of the Michigan Area Haiti task force and an UMCOR liaison. "The journey to bring relief to Haiti is going to be long and hard. It calls for generosity and sacrifice. Thank you for your financial help, your prayers and your volunteer service. A brighter day will come for Haiti. Thank you, Jesus!"

Cheerful givers

Churches report congregants are embracing emergency appeals.

First United Methodist Church of Flushing N.Y. gave \$60,000. Parishioners contributed about \$45,000 through a special offering, and church funds made up the difference.

IGRC congregations are holding bake sales, special offerings and Zumbathons to raise critical dollars to respond to relief efforts in Haiti. See pages 10-11.

IGRC congregations were generous in their Second Mile Giving for 2009, providing more than \$1.4 million in financial support for various missions. See page 17-19.

"Whenever there is a disaster, we appeal to our members to give—and they give!" said the Rev. Joong Urn Kim, senior pastor.

In a neighboring conference, Korean Community Church, Englewood, N.J., sent more than \$42,500 to UMCOR.

Nickerson (Kan.) United Methodist Church asked each member of the congregation to give at least \$1 toward Haiti relief. Lauding the effort, the Kansas West Conference Disaster Response Committee issued the challenge to all Kansas West congregations.

In the Western Jurisdiction, bishops and other leaders encouraged United Methodists to learn about Haiti's history, culture and economy, give \$100,000, sponsor 25 mission trips to Haiti over the next five years and build 23,000 health kits.

Benefit concerts

Music is helping to ease the suffering in Haiti.

A benefit concert at Brentwood (Tenn.) United Methodist Church, featuring Point of Grace and Mark Schultz, garnered more than \$50,000 to aid earthquake survivors. More than 3,300 people attended the event, while others from 10 countries around the world watched via webcast.

"The success in the dollar amount raised is only exceeded by the volunteer spirit in which it was given. From that perspective it was an awe-inspiring evening," stated Stuart Dill, Point of Grace's manager and co-event organizer.

Covenant United Methodist Church, See Haiti on page 20 ...

Dakotas and Minnesota to become new Episcopal Area in 2012

CHICAGO – The United Methodist Church (UMC) North Central Jurisdiction (NCJ) College of Bishops announced its decision Jan. 26 on how it will reduce the number of Episcopal Areas from 10 to nine in 2012.

Effective September 1, 2012, the Dakotas Annual Conference and Minnesota Annual Conference will be served by only one bishop, but maintain their current boundaries and structures. No other boundaries of annual conferences or episcopal areas will be affected by this decision.

The reorganization comes as a result of action at the 2008 General Conference of the UMC. Four of the five jurisdictions in the United States are each required to phase out one episcopal area by 2012.

"We regret that financial considerations have forced us to make this decision," said Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton, president of the NCJ College of Bishops. "Regardless, we know that nothing will prevent us from our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

In exploring this issue, The NCJ College of Bishops consulted with the NCJ Committee of the Episcopacy and considered input from lay and clergy leaders at the most recent Jurisdictional Conference in 2008.

"We will be forming a joint transition team in the next couple of weeks to begin our planning," said Bishop Sally Dyck of the Minnesota Area.

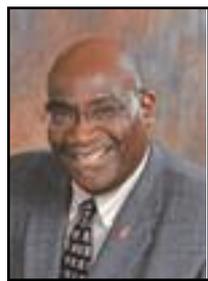
Bishop Deborah Kiesey of the Dakotas



Area said that she hoped that all United Methodists in the jurisdiction will support each other during this transition. The Bishops will request an immediate grant of \$40,000 from the NCJ Mission Council to cover initial transition costs, as well as ongoing support for the conferences forming the new episcopal area.

News from the Episcopal Office

Bible study invites us to breathe together



Bishop Palmer

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ:

I greet you in the strong name of Jesus Christ. I pray that these Lenten days are proving to be a blessing to you through worship, prayer, study, contemplation and service. I join you in focusing renewed attention on the life, and passion of our savior Christ as we prepare for the feast of Easter.

Speaking of Easter allow me to look ahead for a moment. To conspire is to breathe together. I want to invite you to conspire with me and your sister and brother United Methodists across the Illinois Great Rivers Conference by engaging a six-week study of the biblical book the Acts of the Apostles during the *50 Great Days* (Easter to Pentecost).

Some months ago I asked our Director of Connectional Ministries, Rev. Kent Lolling to dream with me about the possibility of a conference wide Bishops' Bible Study. After some musing over a period of weeks we settled on The Acts of the Apostles. At my behest Brother Kent proceeded to assemble a team of persons to develop the study with an emphasis on the great themes of the book, Wesley, the mission of the church and the *Four Areas of Focus*. I believe they have done a remarkable job. The study will provide any group and person that engages it an opportunity to grow in knowledge and devotion.

The study will be available in a downloadable form on the conference website by March 1. I hope that you will join me in this study so that we can draw closer to God, to one another and to our mission of *making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*. During this year's Annual Conference we will take time to acknowledge those congregations that have done the study. If you are not able to participate in the study during the 50 Great Days do not fret. Schedule it when you can because the message is timeless. Whenever and however let's start breathing together a prayer that asks the Holy Spirit to breathe on us anew.

Your servant in Jesus Christ,
† Gregory V. Palmer

Ivorian bishop calls for prayer amid shakeup

By United Methodist News Service

The leader of The United Methodist Church in Côte d'Ivoire called for prayers for his country following the dissolution of the national government.

Bishop Benjamin Boni, speaking during a Feb. 14 worship service, asked church members in the African nation to pray for at least a half-hour as their country moves through a new time of trial.

President Laurent Gbagbo announced Feb. 12 that he was suspending the government as well as the independent electoral commission, which had been planning the country's first presidential election since 2000.

Much hope has been riding on the election, widely viewed as an important step toward unifying the country, where a truce has prevailed between a rebel alliance in the north and the government in the south since 2007.

Bishop Boni spoke to more than 5,000 people at the end of a worship service at the United Methodist church in the village of Akradio, west of Abidjan, the commercial capital.

"We all know that the church is going through difficult moments, but we have full confidence that with the Lord, we will cross these waters," Boni said, speaking in French. "But we must pray a lot.

"It is only through prayer that we can

overcome these trials," he said. "Thus, it is important that none among us sleeps from 11 p.m. until the following morning without devoting at least 30 minutes for Côte d'Ivoire in intercession.

"May God bless Côte d'Ivoire and the world in the name of Jesus," he concluded.

The church has not been affected by the suspension of the government, a spokesperson said Feb. 14. The United Methodist Church has some 700,000 members in Côte d'Ivoire.

Gbagbo charged the independent election commission was trying to add to the names of 429,000 people who are not supposed to be on the election list. He called for the chairperson of the commission, Robert Beugré Mambé, to resign.

Mambé has denied the accusation and refused to resign. A United Methodist, he belongs to the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire, one of the parties opposing Gbagbo's Ivorian Popular Front.

Voting eligibility is a central issue. News organizations reported that nearly a quarter of Côte d'Ivoire's 20 million adults have been disqualified from voting. Whether someone is a native Ivorian is a factor in a nation where many people are immigrants from other African countries. The government has been trying through the court system to remove from the voter lists the names of people whom it says are not qualified to vote.

Appointments

In consultation with the Cabinet of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, Bishop Gregory V. Palmer appoints the following pastors:

Vincent Rohn to Arcola, Iroquois River District, effective July 1.

Brian Caughlan to Auburn, Sangamon River District, effective July 1.

Victor K. Long to Mt. Vernon: First, Kaskaskia River District, effective July 1.

Sandy Bunnell to Colona, Spoon River, effective July 1.

Molly Spence Hawk discontinued as a local pastor Dix and Union Chapel, Kaskaskia River District, effective Mar. 1.

Raymond Hudson to voluntary leave of absence beginning Dec. 1, 2009.

Marjolein Anderson to leave of absence effective Jan. 1.

Marc E. Brown to Canton: Wesley, Associate, Illinois River District, effective Feb. 1.

Kelly Cox to Cario Tigert Memorial and Mounds (no longer Presbyterian Yoked which was part of previous appointment), Cache River, effective Jan. 1.

Kelly Cox to Decatur: Christ, Sangamon River District, effective Feb. 1.

Gerald G. King to Springfield: Laurel, Sangamon River District, effective July 1.

Mark A. Nowakowski to Farina and Louisville, Kaskaskia River District, effective Feb. 1.

Gerald L. Savage to Wanda, Mississippi River District, effective Jan. 1.

Gary Billiot discontinued as a local pastor, Stiritz, Cache River District, effective Jan. 31.

Charge realignments

Justin Snider to Marshall: Armstrong, Emmanuel and Zion, Embarras River, effective Jan. 1.

Miriam Snider to Marshall: Armstrong, Emmanuel and Zion, Embarras River, effective Jan. 1.

Supply not appointed

Michael A. Hall supply-not-appointed to Dix, Union Chapel and Garrison Temple, Kaskaskia River District, beginning Mar. 1. He was previously at Garrison Temple and Marlow, but Marlow Church has closed.

Roger Kilzer supply-not-appointed to Marshall: Dunlap and Asbury, Embarras River, beginning Jan. 1.

James E. Brookhart discontinued as a supply-not-appointed pastor at Adam's Corner, Kaskaskia River District, ending January 1, 2010. James will continue at Allendale until July 1, 2010.

Marvin (Bud) Bennett to Chester: First, Mississippi River District, effective Mar. 7.

John F. Smith discontinued supply-not-appointed, Decatur: Christ, ending Jan. 31.

Deaths

Rev. Linda Johnson, a former local pastor, died Feb. 10. She served at the Cropsy-Strawn UMC's from 1997 to 2004 and also served part of that time at Evenglow Lodge. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to her husband, Pastor Ron Johnson at 3219 Edgewood, Evansville, IN 47712

Positions

Director of Children's Ministry – Quest UMC, located in Champaign-Urbana, is a 5 year old church of approximately 150 adults primarily in their 20s-30s. To better serve their rapidly growing children's ministry, Quest seeks to hire a half time salaried Director of Children's Ministry. For more information (including a job description) visit www.questumc.org and select the "job openings at quest" quick link, or call the church office at 217-328-1445.

Praise Team Director – The Macomb Wesley UMC is currently accepting applications for Praise Team Director. This position would provide musical and organizational leadership to the Praise Team/Band by assistance in the planning of Contemporary Worship services, as well as selecting and coordinating music for all contemporary worship services. For this paid position, we seek an individual who is an experienced, literate musician; with a broad knowledge of contemporary Christian music literature and format; strong vocal skills; rhythm guitar and/or keyboard skills desirable, but not required; and is a good team builder/communicator, possessing good people skills. Inquiries, resumes, and applications may be sent to office@macombwesleyumc.com, 1212 West Calhoun Street, Macomb, IL. 61455; Phone: 309-833-2153.

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Announcements & Events

Two churches to host Beth Moore simulcast *So Long, Insecurity*



Beth Moore

Two IGRC congregations will be receiving the simulcast of Christian author and speaker Beth Moore on Saturday, April 24.

Canton Wesley UMC and Sugar Creek UMC in Chatham will be hosting the simulcast, entitled *So Long, Insecurity*. The simulcast will begin promptly at 9 a.m.

At Canton, advanced purchase pricing is \$20 per ticket, \$25 at the door. Seating is limited. All purchased tickets are non-refundable. Box lunches are available for advance ticket holders for \$5 each. No childcare is available.

Tickets may be purchased in person at the church office during regular hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tickets may also be ordered by mail at: Wesley UMC, c/o Beth Moore Tickets, 120 N. Ave. A, Canton, IL 61520.

At Sugar Creek, doors will open at 8 a.m. Tickets are \$30 each (includes lunch and snacks) until April 12, \$40 after April 12. Tickets are non-refundable and no childcare is available.

Tickets may be purchased in person at the church office from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or by mail at: Sugar Creek UMC, c/o Beth Moore Tickets, 1022 New City Road, Chatham, IL 62629.

Bloomington hosts ministry and leadership retreat March 6

Bloomington Wesley UMC's Leadership Development Team is hosting a one-day ministry and leadership discovery retreat for adults on Saturday, March 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The retreat, *Gifted to Serve*, has been adapted from the popular and well-respected Lifekeys program developed by Jane Kise, David Stark and Sandra Krebs Hirsh.

There is no fee to participate in the retreat but a free-will offering will be taken to cover the cost of lunch. To register, visit the Bloomington Wesley website, www.wesley-umc.com, or contact Jody Robbins at 309-827-8046 or by email at jrobbins@wesley-umc.com

The *Gifted to Serve* Retreat is rooted in the belief that life and service are not one-size fits all experiences. Our diversity as unique individuals is a cause for celebration because when each of us collaborates from a position of strength, we are able to more fully realize the rich design of God's grand tapestry. The retreat leaders will help you find meaning and purpose in

your personal ministry by discovering and affirming: what you do best through an examination of your life experiences and spiritual gifts; your personality type and values along with the places and environments that give you the most energy; and your passions, the purposes God has placed in your heart.

Once you have registered to participate in the retreat, you will receive an assessment scorecard with links to the three online assessment instruments you will need to complete prior to the retreat - Myers Briggs Type Indicator, Strong Interest Inventory, and spiritual gifts survey.

Facilitators certified in each of the assessment instruments will be present at the retreat to help you understand what your scores mean and how you can apply your gifts and passions to ministry. Although beyond the narrow focus of this retreat, you may find these newly acquired personal insights useful in clarifying career or employment goals whether you're just starting out or looking to make a mid-life vocational change.

Digital resource packet on Haiti available

The General Board of Global Ministries has put together a digital packet of materials for use by conferences, churches and groups to help interpret and promote mission and ministry in Haiti. Feel free to use any or all of these resources on the web, or in a variety of other forms to make them accessible to congregations and individuals.

Please visit the following link to view and download the contents individually or all together: <http://multimedia.gbgm-umc.org/pindownload/login.do?pin=TPV48>

This digital packet includes:

- UMCOR Haiti multimedia presentation, incorporating new images and music - to be used in worship, on the web, small groups and a variety of other settings

(available in MV4 and WMV formats)

- Three UMCOR Haiti ads to be printed. Various uses: bulletin inserts, fliers, posters, conference newspapers, church newsletters, etc.

- MP3 of Beje Mouin, Se You Rosua Damou - Audio recordings of hymns from Haiti, which can be used in worship settings, celebrating the gifts from the Church in Haiti.

- Six Music Scores for the following songs: Beje Mouin, Jeze de Nazaret, My Family, Agneau de Dieu, Feuille-O (Kyrie), Lord Have Mercy - to be used in worship settings for prayers for/with Haiti.

- Three articles from Global Praise for worship ideas including ways to use the contents of the Haiti Resource Packet.



Kyle Jones

Kyle Jones in concert at Normal First

Up and coming Christian artist Kyle Jones will be in concert at Normal First UMC on Saturday, March 13.

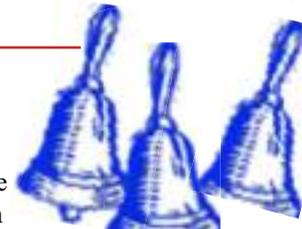
The concert is slated for a 7 p.m. start.

With music geared more toward youth, young adults and those who enjoy contemporary worship, Jones, from Atlanta, Ga., will be performing with his band following a couple of in-house events at

Normal First.

Tickets are \$5 each and will be available at the door. To hear some of Jones' music, visit his website at: www.kylejonesmusic.com.

Handbell Festival still has room for a few more



There is still room for a few more registrations for the March 13 Fellowship Handbell Festival at Northfield Inn in Springfield.

Completed registrations are needed as soon as possible so that music can be ordered.

The festival's format has changed so that bells and equipment won't need to be moved from one room to another at Northfield.

To download an event brochure, visit: www.igrc.org/Downloads/Ministries/Music---Worship-Arts.aspx.

Bradley University hosts clergy workshop on the American economy

PEORIA – The Center for Economic Education at Bradley University will present its annual Economic Education Workshop for Clergy on Thursday, March 11, from 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at WeaverRidge Golf Club, 5100 North Weaverridge Blvd. in Peoria.

The purpose of the economic workshop is to provide clergy of all faiths and denominations for all geographic areas of Illinois with a better understanding of our economic system. The strengths and weaknesses of our American system are represented by professional academic economists and representatives from agriculture, labor and business.

This year's workshop will include an update on the American economy, cap-and-trade legislation and the health care reform debate.

for the event is \$30 if postmarked by March 5, \$40 for registrations after March 5. The fee includes the costs of conference sessions, refreshments and lunch. Registration forms and additional information is available at: www.cdop.org/pages/EEventDetailAttachment.aspx?ID=55

For information about the conference, call Dr. Kevin O'Brien at 309-677-2299 or Karen Olehy at 309-677-2278.

Cunningham Mission Day March 27

Confirmation classes and youth groups are invited to experience mission in action right here in Illinois at "Mission Day With Cunningham Children's Home" in Urbana on Saturday, March 27.

This day of learning, connecting, and self-exploration is designed to help young people explore the meaning of mission and their confirmation commitment.

At Mission Day youth will:

- Tour Cunningham and learn the Cunningham Story.
- Spend time with our Chaplain and US-2 Missionary; see United Methodist mis-

sion in action.

- Experience activities and programs that Cunningham youth experience.
- Worship with and get to know other conference United Methodist youth.
- Celebrate Cunningham's mission and ministry and learn how to get involved.

Reservations are required--spaces are still available, but go quickly. For more information and a reservation form, contact Stephanie Lynge at slynge@cunninghamhome.org or by calling 217-337-9074.

Springfield Grace UMC to hold 113th anniversary celebration

Springfield Grace UMC will celebrate its 113th anniversary with a dinner and celebration at Springfield First UMC on Friday, March 5, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Bishop Gregory V. Palmer will be the keynote speaker. A silent auction and dinner will be a part of the festivities. Tickets are \$35 per adult; children 12 and under, half price. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Springfield Grace UMC at 217-523-3335.

Local Church News

Ministry and mission to 'people of the dump'

By Stan Irvin
Carrier Mills UMC

"We are blessed!" they shouted back. "Who is blessed?" the Managua Christian minister asked the children again. "We are blessed" shouted back the more than 100 children to the minister standing before them.

Then, a third time the minister called out to the children, "Who is blessed?" Again, with smiles on their faces, joy in their voices, and plates in their hands, the children excitedly chanted back, "WE are blessed!" Then the minister asked them to pray, and in their Spanish language he blessed the children gathered, and blessed the meal they were about to receive for the

day. Upon finishing his prayer, the 100-plus children from toddlers to teens, reverently gathered into a long line to go past the minister and the missionaries who were dishing out into their plates the one fully nutritious meal they would receive that day.

What was most striking about what the other members of our mission team and I were witnessing, was that this missional outreach of feeding the bodies of these children and teens was occurring in the middle of the town dump of the city of Managua, Nicaragua. According to the best estimates, more than 5,000 Nicaraguans live and "work" inside the dump on a daily basis. Their tiny wood and tin ramshackle shacks are bunched

together in the midst of the dump, with no running water, no bathrooms, and no heat. The dump itself is huge, extending as far as the horizon, with smoke rising throughout, as in a "Mad Max" movie, or a movie focusing upon the survivors in a post-nuclear world war. Vultures walked within a short distance of us, three feet tall. Dogs scurried about, their bones protruding through their skin.

The "people of the dump" made their living by scavenging through the trash that was emptied in the dump by the city trash trucks. When the trucks left the burning trash heaps, the "people of the dump" went through the trash, seeking any items they could take back into the city to sell, to raise money to feed their families. The fathers and mothers raised their children, in the middle of trash, vultures, flies, smoke, stink, and filth.

Yet, in the midst of having nothing but burning trash, these children to their God shouted out in joy, "We are blessed!"

Such a site welcomed our first adult short-term mission team in January 2005, as 10 members of Bloomington Wesley UMC, including myself, joined 25 United Methodists from North Carolina and Pennsylvania, in Wesley's first venture ever in the history of Wesley, into adult mission trips. Our first trip was a medical mission trip, in which the five medical providers on the team provided medical services to more than 1,200 Nicaraguans through clinics held over the course of six days. Our team of 35 collected \$7,500 in donations for medicines and drugs, and through programs offered by the pharmaceutical companies, we obtained over \$75,000 in drugs to distribute for free to the 1,200 Nicaraguans.

Since January 2005, mission teams based out of Wesley have returned to Nicaragua each year. This year marked the church's sixth year of sending adult missionaries to Nicaragua. In 2008, Wesley began sending two teams serving nine days each: a medical team and a construction team.

The 2010 Wesley construction mission team went to work at an infant orphanage located in Los Cedros, Nicaragua. This orphanage, and its sister orphanage high



Children at the orphanage in Los Cedros, Nicaragua.

in the mountains of Jinotega, Nicaragua, is the home to more than 40 infants, children and teens of Nicaragua. These babies through teens have been the victims of either their parents dying, their parents abandoning them, or many were the victims of sexual and/or physical abuse from their parents and were placed in the orphanage by the Nicaraguan government.

The two orphanages designated as the "Children of Destiny" ministries (www.codn.org), under the overall direction of missionary Sandy Carter, her onsite assistants Lianne Corbin and Joy Pulsifer, and their team of missionaries, is the base site of United Methodist and other denominational mission teams from throughout the United States and the world.

Our 2010 construction work was to begin the building of a "security fence" around the inner 20 acres of the Los Cedros infant orphanage.

Poverty is rampant in Nicaragua. It is the second poorest country in the western hemisphere, behind only Haiti. Over the past four decades it has suffered a thirty year civil war, an earthquake of the magnitude of Haiti's recent earthquake, and two major hurricanes that devastated the countryside. Add to these disasters the

See People on page 6 ...



Work crew members erect a security fence around the inner 20 acres of a Nicaraguan orphanage.

One Great Hour of Sharing pays UMCOR overhead

When the first tremors of the earthquake in Haiti rocked that island nation, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) staff were already in country, strategizing how United Methodists could help improve the lives of the people there.

Their work is a direct result of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, which supports the operating expenses of those who bring healing and help in our name. It makes it possible, when we respond to an emergency like Haiti, to know that 100 percent of our gift goes directly to where

the suffering is happening.

Every year, but this year more than ever, give your people the opportunity to join with the faithful across the church to support the One Great Hour of Sharing.

Call toll-free 1-888-346-3862 today to order envelopes and other resources so your congregation can participate in this churchwide offering. They will be sent at no cost to the church!

Find more resources by visiting <http://umcsgiving.org/specialsundays>.

Festival of Quilts April 16-17

Cunningham Children's Home, in cooperation with the IGRC United Methodist Women will hold its annual Festival of Quilts April 16-17.

Various quilts, along with an auction, gift shop and bake sale will be held on Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Cunningham's Spiritual Life Center. Proceeds from the event will provide funds for the ministry. For more informa-

tion, visit: www.cunninghamhome.org/quilts

Since 1895, United Methodist Women from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference have maintained a covenant and promise to keep Cunningham Children's Home as their special mission and ministry. The tradition of creating hand-made quilts for Cunningham kids is just one part of this history and commitment.

Pastoral Counselors are available



David Wence, Decatur, Linda Horrell, St. Louis area, and Steve Busick, Champaign, have all been providing therapy for clergy, spouses, and family members this past year.

The first three visits are free with additional sessions provided by insurance.

Presently the Board of Pastoral Care and Counseling is evaluating and revising the service but therapy continues to be available.

Contact:

David Wence at 217-872-1700 or dwence@decatrpsych.com
Linda Horrell at 636-527-7615 or lhorrell@hotmail.com
or Steve Busick at 217-363-1700 or sbusick@igrc.org

Local Church News

Johnston City UMC celebrates historic agreement with Catholics, Lutherans

Congregation celebrates common ground

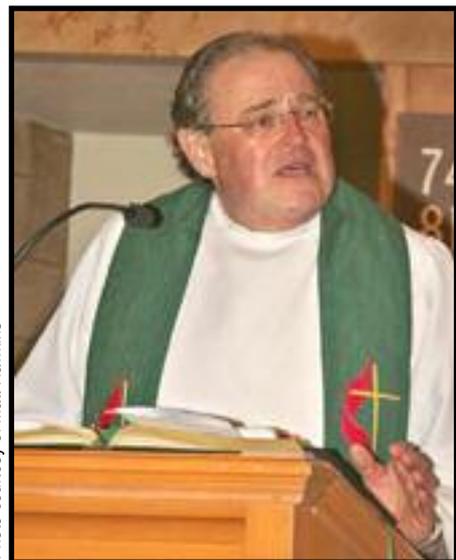


Photo courtesy of Matt Hawkins

Rev. Terry Clark, representing the Illinois Conference of Churches, addresses the celebration.

By Matt Hawkins
Marion Daily Republican

JOHNSTON CITY — Two southern Illinois congregations joined to celebrate an historic agreement between Catholics,

Lutherans and United Methodists in late January.

A 1999 joint declaration between Roman Catholics and Lutherans — signed by United Methodist leaders last year — recognized common ground in a divide over the doctrine of salvation.

Johnston City First UMC and St. Paul Catholic Church congregations gathered Jan. 20 to celebrate the occasion.

“As a Methodist, this was a very large thing because I grew up in a time as a boy where we were encouraged to not have anything to do with Roman Catholics,” Johnston City First UMC pastor Ted Hartley said. “It’s an important step in churches having more unity.”

Fr. Robert Flannery, priest of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Carbondale and a member of the Illinois Council of Churches leadership team, said today’s understanding would’ve cleared up a key issue in the Reformation.

“If we had some common understanding in the 16th Century, that wouldn’t have been an issue,” he said. “What we’re doing
See Agreement on page 6 ...

Quest UMC experiencing growth

Just like five-year-old child, Quest UMC is on the move and growing rapidly after five years of ministry as a United Methodist congregation.

The congregation is focused upon a bright future. What began as a group of mainly 20-something singles and couples, has blossomed into a congregation of young families with children. The growth Quest has experienced, both due to children being born as well as new families joining the church, is both exciting and an answered prayer.

In the past four weeks alone, 54 different children have been in attendance from 39 different families. The children alone account for 20 percent of the total congregation. The church is currently seeking to employ a part-time Children’s Ministry leader to help provide vision for the children’s programming, organize family events and train children’s volunteers (see classified ad on page 3). More information can be found on the church website, www.questumc.org.



Photo courtesy of Quest UMC

Rev. Andy Adams baptizes a child while her parents watch. Quest has had nearly 20 baptisms in the past six months.



Photo courtesy of Peoria First UMC

Coordinator of Community Ministries Mike Illuzzi with U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock and Irving Principal Michael Barber.

Peoria First-Irving School partnership called ‘extraordinary’

Congressman takes to the House floor to highlight 17-year association between church, school

By Jennifer Towery
Peoria Journal-Star

PEORIA — When Mike Illuzzi was principal of Irving Primary School, he was unfailingly impressed with the devotion First United Methodist Church showed to his students.

“There was always a great feeling for me walking through the building and seeing, just about every day, people walking with kids, eating with kids, talking to kids,” he said.

The church and its ministry so impressed him that when he retired from District 150, he went to work there, organizing the community ministries that included Adopt-A-School.

In a program designed to get the community into the schools, bolstering students with help and attention, First United Methodist Church remains unparalleled, said Cindy Morris, Adopt-A-Schools coordinator.

“The list goes on and one with them. They do birthday treats for every student, second through fifth grade. This is a very, very big deal for the students. They’ve truly adopted the school, and they want the school and the students’ success.”

She’d like everyone to know how good the church members are to Irving students, and now they will.

U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock, R-Peoria, used time he was given on the floor of Congress to officially applaud the partnership.

Schock briefly detailed all the things church members provide for the low-income Irving students: Reading program, fine arts program, summer soccer program, even a choir that has 52 Irving students.

“The First United Methodist Church-Irving Primary School partnership is a model relationship which works together to provide a betfuture for the children of Peoria District 150,” Schock told Congress. “I congratulate First United Methodist Church of Peoria for 17 years of quality ministry to the students and families of Irving Primary School.”

That choir performed at a special assembly at Irving last week attended by Schock at which he presented the school and church framed copies of his proclamation. The choir wears robes and stoles sewn by church members.

Interim Superintendent Norm Durflinger called Schock’s proclamation “unbelievable recognition,” particularly in light of the criticism the district has endured.

Thanks to Schock’s interest, “Everybody in the United States will know what a great job you’re doing and all these volunteers are doing,” Durflinger said.

The summer soccer program is a huge undertaking that serves about 260 students, Illuzzi said. Church members provide and wash the uniforms.

The church also has built two Habitat for Humanity homes for Irving families, and will build a third this summer.

And Irving isn’t the only school First United Methodist Church helps.

Adopt-A-School includes 33 District 150 schools and about 133 adopting organizations.

“But there’s no partner like First United Methodist Church,” Morris said.

(Reprinted with permission from the Feb. 2 issue of the Peoria Journal-Star newspaper)

Local Church and Conference News

People

Continued from page 4

more than 60 percent unemployment rate, and the factor that more than 50 percent of the Nicaraguan population suffices on \$1 per day, and one begins to sense the over-riding poverty of the Nicaraguan people.

When poverty strikes a Third World country, two demons raise their heads: hunger and security.

Hunger is the number one issue facing the people of Nicaragua as a result of their poverty. Close on the heels of hunger is security, particularly for orphanages. Orphanages throughout Nicaragua have suffered children and babies being stolen from their midst. While neither of the orphanages in Jinotega or Los Cedros have had such happen to them yet, two men with machetes were caught in the middle of the night in the midst of the orphanage's property last year while we were at the Los Cedros orphanage doing work. Thus, the prayer of the missionary team in Los Cedros is to have an eight foot high barb wired security fence erected by adult missionary teams, to provide protection to the babies, infants and children housed, fed and cared for by the Christian missionaries.

Our 2010 construction mission team which began work erecting the beginning of the security fence consisted of 12 United Methodists and one Roman Catholic — 12 men and one woman — from four churches throughout Illinois. A mission team from South Carolina had begun work the prior week to our arrival, digging in the rock hard Nicaraguan sandy soil 170 holes for the posts. Our team set posts in all 170 holes, added cross beams, and began erecting fencing on much of what we set.

We came far from fencing in 20 acres, but we made a solid start. The hope and prayer of the missionaries and our team is that other teams from throughout the world will follow to complete the project.

I am currently serving at the Carrier

Mills First UMC, where I began my ministerial appointment July 1. Yet, despite my no longer being a minister at Bloomington Wesley UMC, the church's senior pastor, Rev. Vaughn Hoffman, graciously allowed me to join this year's Wesley team. My hope as a member of the 2010 team is to "pass the spark" to the good people of Carrier Mills, to begin adult and teen mission teams from our church in Carrier Mills.

Our church here in Carrier Mills has never sent out adult nor teen mission teams. Hopefully in 2011 members of our church here in deep southern Illinois will join the teams from Wesley, to learn first-hand how to encourage, organize, support, and send out adult mission teams. Then, the prayer is that in 2012 our church, and other churches throughout southern Illinois will join together in sending out or own teams to share "the good news of the coming of the kingdom of God" with God's children throughout the world, including the joyful people of Nicaragua! You, or members of your churches are welcome to join us.

By doing such, sending out adult and teen mission teams, we Christians here in the United States have much to learn from the Christians of Nicaragua and the Christians throughout the poorest countries of the world. The members of our churches who serve on such teams learn the message and bring it back to our churches. I've now been to Nicaragua six times, and each time what I, and we, have to learn has been ingrained within me deeper and deeper. What we have to learn is that despite being raised in the middle of a city dump, with vultures, burning trash fires and stink all around us, that the Christian children in the midst of nothing still have joy to cry out to God in response to their minister's question, "Who is blessed?" ... **"We are blessed!"**

Thanks be to God for allowing us to learn this joy in the midst of nothing from our Christian sisters and brothers throughout the world!



Photo by Paul Black

Rev. Moses Patrick Conteh, who serves as Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries for the Sierra Leone Annual Conference, is pictured here with IGRC Director of Connectional Ministries Rev. Dr. Kent Lolling, right, and Rev. John Hartleroad, Assistant to Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, left, at the Feb. 12 Connectional Table meeting.

The Feb. 12 meeting capped a month-long visit to the Illinois Great Rivers Conference that is part of a "Conference to Conference connection between the two conferences."

"During his stay with us he has seen a campus ministry, visited a conference camp, seen first-hand a few of our conference outreach ministries, sat in with our Cabinet and a variety of other conference meetings in addition to his trip to San Antonio for the Association of Directors of Connectional Ministries meeting,"

Lolling said. "He has attended a couple district leadership training events as well as attended a Martin Luther King Day celebration. He has seen some of our largest churches as well as a few smaller rural churches. He seemed impressed by how much our conference does and made some valuable contacts with the heads of various ministries in which he hopes to stay in contact with when he returns to Sierra Leone."

Moses' attendance at the ADCM meeting enriched the gathering as he shared with the group about the ministries of the Sierra Leone Annual Conference, and offered a special insight into the Global Health presentation as he told of his own struggles with the disease of malaria. You can see his comments by visiting: www.youtube.com/watch?v=4T3HgQjw99w

Difference

Continued from page 19

"fixing" things: an overdue water bill for one man, a needed prescription for a woman's sick child, a new I.D. card for a homeless man. I began to think of Samuel's situation as just another one to be fixed by human hands. Or, better yet, by Walgreens.

In Mark's gospel we are told of a leper who came to Jesus begging, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Jesus, moved with pity, stretched out his hand to touch him and said, "I do choose. Be made clean!" (Mark 1:40-41)

Stories of Jesus' "choosing" underlie the gamut of our faith. Over and over again Jesus chooses -- to heal, to cleanse, to listen, to pray, to proclaim. Jesus chooses to be in relationship in nearly every form that takes.

As leaders, the simple-yet-complex act of choosing is at the heart of what we do too. We choose to make ourselves available. We choose to listen. We choose to trust that the source of any solution lies not merely in our hands but in God's, and the ways the Lord works in and through indi-

"Over and over again Jesus chooses – to heal, to cleanse, to listen, to pray, to proclaim. Jesus chooses to be in relationship in nearly every form that takes."

viduals and community for healing.

The modern pharmacy represents the best solution to many of our everyday crises. I am truly grateful one is located on nearly every corner in downtown Miami. But the availability of scientific "remedies" to everything from illness to anger often leads us further away from the One who chooses us. And we find even us leaders asking, "Really?"

It was refreshing to see the hope in Samuel's eyes. "I've never tried church." I am sure he had already been to Walgreens. As a Christian leader I am called to choose to sit with Samuel and pray for his healing while guiding him to scripture and practices of the Christian faith that I believe will bring wholeness to his being.

That is what I will choose.

(Cynthia Weems is senior pastor of First UMC in Miami, Florida. Reprinted from the Call and Response blog of Duke Divinity School)



Agreement

Continued from page 5

realizes we do have so much in common."

Lutheran and Catholic leaders signed the "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification" Oct. 31, 1999. The document stated a person's salvation came through faith alone, not through a person's good behavior. This was a step toward healing a centuries'-old doctrinal divide between Catholics and Protestants.

United Methodist leaders signed onto the statement last year in Chicago.

"This is an exciting time," Sr. Catherine Wellinghoff of St. Paul's said. "We cer-

tainly all believe in the same Lord Jesus Christ. If we can't work together, that would be sad."

Rev. Terry Clark, co-chair of the ICC leadership team, told congregants to step out from their comfort zones

"Inclusion means growing as Christ's community," he said. "As a community, we've been called to reach within our community, drawing closer to each other as we reach beyond our community to go into the world."

(Reprinted with permission from the Marion Daily Republican newspaper)

Forming Spiritual Leaders

Lay Witness Mission training returns

By Ava Williams
Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries

The second of two Lay Witness Mission Team Member Training events sponsored by the IGRC Lay Speaking Ministries Committee is scheduled for Friday evening and Saturday, April 23-24, at Bloomington Wesley UMC in the Vermilion River District.

For those of you who might not yet be familiar with Lay Witness Mission, let me share with you a little background information. In the early 1960's, tens of thousands of laypeople were caught up in the new spiritual excitement of Lay Witness Missions. Lives were changed. Marriages were saved. Families were strengthened. People were called into ministry. Churches were revitalized. Ever since then, the Lay Witness Mission has been a proven tool for evangelism, faith sharing, developing small group ministries, deepening prayer life, and church renewal.

The initial thought behind the idea of offering this training event stems from the Lay Speakers of our Conference. Each year at our Annual Charge/Church Conferences we receive any number of Lay Speaker Annual Report Forms on which the Lay Speakers state that they feel underutilized. Many at least allude to the idea that they would like to be called upon more to speak. Being a Lay Witness Mission Team member could offer these and other persons a new avenue of speaking ministry and witness that many are not already aware of. At the very least this training could help those who participate in it to be better able to share their witness and testimony with others. In time training of persons and completion of Missions could also lead to the strengthening of congregations in our Conference through this and similar opportunities to witness and share through at least five other team led local church renewal events that are already available.

See Lay Witness on page 8 ...

Self-care covenant workshop April 16-17

A clergy self-care covenant workshop, sponsored by the General Board of Pensions and Pastoral Care and Counseling Center, will be held April 16-17 at the Conference Center in Springfield.

There is no cost to the participant. However, for those requiring overnight lodging, participants will be on their own to secure motel rooms. Pastoral Care and Counseling will be providing scholarship monies for lodging through the district superintendents' offices. Online registra-

tion is available at: <http://self-care-covenant.eventbrite.com>

Judy Johnson from Kansas University School of Medicine and Rev. Tom Mattick, a clergy member of the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church will be the workshop leaders. The workshop format was developed and tested in the Kansas East and Kansas West conferences.

Participation is open to all clergy and spouses, and staff (both lay and clergy).



Lay ministry training began in November 2009 at Galesburg Immanuel UMC. Nine members participated and the sessions were taught by Rev. Paul Dinges and Rev. Jim Crozier. A second training was held on Jan. 22-23, at Galesburg First UMC, led by Rev. Sally Hamon and Rev. Kathy Crozier. A different module was taught in Springfield on the same January date. The Galesburg participants were Linda Altermatt, Mark Anderson, Donna Boardman, John Douglas, Stephen Wilson, Jon Warren, Russ Theobald, Roberta Robbins, and Peggy Kulczewski. In 2004, General Conference passed legislation for the Certified Lay Minister, which is designed to enhance the quality of ministry with small-membership churches, expand team ministry in churches, and recognize and encourage the gifts and evidence of God's grace in lay ministers.

Photo courtesy of Peggy Kulczewski

Scholarship opportunities for students

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference will award four \$1,200 scholarships for the 2010-2011 school year. The Scholarships augment the mission of our Conference which is to grow disciples for Jesus Christ.

Scholarships will be awarded in \$600 increments, to be paid in July (fall semester) and December (spring semester) of each year. Scholarships shall be paid directly to the student.

Scholarships are awarded to United Methodist students from various backgrounds, working toward higher education degrees. Scholarship recipients must be an active member (full or associate) of the United Methodist church for at least one year prior to applying for the scholarship. They must also be a United States citizen. Finally, they must be enrolled in an academic program at an accredited college or university.

Scholarships are awards to students who have demonstrated leadership potential and are active in the campus ministry where their scholarship will be awarded.

In general, scholarships will be awarded to students involved in either a Wesley Foundation in our Conference,

campus ministry at Illinois Wesleyan University, McKendree University or MacMurray College, or involved in a campus ministry identified by the Board and affiliated with a local, United Methodist Congregation. Applicants must have approval to apply from a campus minister recognized by the Board, Wesley Foundation director or local United Methodist pastor.

Scholarship packets are available by visiting: www.igrc.org/Downloads/Ministries/Higher-Ed/IGRC-Leadership-Award.aspx

In addition, From the United Methodist Student Day Special Offering, scholarships will be awarded to students attending a United Methodist-related school, college, university or theological school recognized by the University Senate. One or more \$500 merit awards will be awarded; the number of awards is directly related to the amount allocated to the IGRC from the Student Day Special Offering.

Merit Scholarship application packets are available by visiting: www.igrc.org/Downloads/Ministries/Higher-Ed/IGRC-Merit-Awards.aspx

Deadlines for both applications are 4:30 p.m. March 31.

Scholarship established in Melzer's memory



Justin Melzer

The Jeff Campbell Family has established the J.A.M. Scholarship — A Celebration of the Life and Music of Justin Andrew Melzer.

The mission of this scholarship is to honor the memory of Justin Melzer, son of Rev. Ron Melzer and Rev. Debbie Melzer, and his ministry through music and to encourage participation in church music ministries. It is our prayer and intention that this scholarship will cultivate and stimulate a future generation of church musicians.

\$500 will be awarded annually to a

qualified recipient. Applicants for this scholarship must be a member of a United Methodist Church in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. These persons may either be graduating high school seniors, college undergraduates, or students attending a tech or trade school. A requirement for award selection is that the applicant is an active participant in a music ministry within their church.

Deadline to apply is April 1. Award will be announced in May. To obtain an application for this scholarship, you can go to the church's website at www.trentonfumc.com and click on the link to the scholarship. You may also call the church office at 618-224-7416.

Applicants sought for Barber Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for the Barber Scholarship administered by a committee at the Onarga UMC.

Applications may be received by contacting the Barber Scholarship Committee at the Onarga UMC either by fax, U.S. Mail or E-mail at: methodistof@att.net. Requests should include complete mailing addresses as applications are sent by U.S. Mail. Applications are due by May 31 with the announcement of recipients being made in July.

Scholarships are awarded to persons pursuing Christian service through full-

time work in the church. Full-time work includes those pursuing ordained ministry, Christian education, youth ministry or other specialized ministries within the church. The Barber Education Trust Fund is designed to give preference to those persons from the Iroquois West School District, or who were raised within the boundaries of the Iroquois River District of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. Applicant may or may not be United Methodist although preference is given to those who are United Methodist. A minimum of \$500 is granted to any recipient.

Developing New Congregations and Revitalizing Existing Ones

Congregational development starts traveling satellite office hours

Do you ever wish that you had someone you could talk with face-to-face regarding your particular ministry issues? Would you like to ask in-depth questions about training opportunities and resources offered by the Office of Congregational Development and how they might help your congregation?

Mike Crawford, Coordinator of Congregational Development, has scheduled his travelling office to be in the Quad Cities and Bloomington area in March.

Meetings will be by appointment only,

and he is scheduling 50-minute segments until all time slots are filled. Time slots are already being reserved and may fill quickly, so please do not hesitate to contact Crawford at mcrawford@igrc.org for your appointment.

Dates/times and locations for scheduling:

Tuesday, March 16, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Panera Bread, 4044 38th Ave., Moline

Monday, March 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jamani Java, 3703 Ireland Grove Rd., Bloomington

Early registration deadline approaching for “Grow Your Church” workshop

Register now for the one-day, Grow Your Church Where You Are Workshop, to be held on April 17, and save on the registration fees. To receive the early-bird discount, registration and full payment must be received by March 15.

This workshop will help participants evaluate major systems of their church. There will be dozens of practical ideas presented to increase the church’s capacity to reach new people in their community. The principles taught are designed to fit any size congregation and any age church.

The workshop will be held at Savoy UMC and is sponsored by the Office of

Congregational Development.

The cost for the workshop is \$60 for up to three people from a church and \$20 for each additional person (i.e. one person, \$60 total; three people, \$60 total; four people, \$80 total). The early registration fee is \$45 for up to three people and \$15 for each additional person.

The registration fee includes payment for lunch. All participants must pre-register no later than April 7.

Contact the Office of Congregational Development at congdev@igrc.org or visit the Conference website to download the registration form.

Lay Witness

Continued from page 7

Lay Witness Mission Training is now a GBOD approved Advanced Course therefore you will not need to contact your District Director for prior approval nor will you need to obtain a Continuing Education Form to bring with you to this event.

While clergy will not actually be trained to be Lay Witness Mission team members, we don’t want to limit the attendance at these events to just laity. We would like to also invite clergy to attend the training in order to get a taste of what a Lay Witness Mission weekend would be like for their church(es). A District Superintendent and others have testified that this training experience was one of the high points of their spiritual lives.

Coming once again to lead our training is the Rev. Dr. Frank Billman, Director of Church Relations for Aldersgate Renewal Ministries, Goodlettsville, TN, who now administers the Lay Witness Mission Program. Aldersgate Renewal Ministries (United Methodist Renewal Services Fellowship, Inc.) is an affiliate of the General Board of Discipleship through the Upper Room. In case you would like to visit their web site the address is www.aldersgaterenewal.org

Also planning to be in attendance at the event is Mr. Jack Stodgell of Peru, Indiana

who serves as a Lay Witness Mission Team Coordinator in our area. Mr. Stodgell will be present to share insight from the Coordinator’s perspective as well as to meet and get acquainted with potential new team members.

While this training will be specifically designed as Lay Speaker Advanced Course training, we feel this format can also be beneficial to all who would attend. We have recently learned that this model of training has been approved by the General Board of Discipleship as an Advanced Lay Speaking Ministries Course and is now available to other Annual Conferences as well.

While it is true that clergy may not be Lay Witness Mission team members, they may receive training and participate on the leadership teams of other team led local church renewal events similar to Lay Witness Mission that are sponsored by Aldersgate Renewal Ministries. Brochures with more information for each of these events can be found at www.aldersgaterenewal.org/events/index.html

More information on registering for the spring training event is available by going either to the Lay Speaking Ministries page of the Conference web site at www.igrc.org/Ministries/Lay-Speaking.aspx or by contacting me directly at adwilliams2@juno.com or 618-966-3870.

Developing ministry with our Hispanic neighbors workshop slated Sept. 24-25

The IGRC Hispanic Ministries Team will host a workshop to help non-Hispanic congregations learn how to develop relationships and begin ministry with Hispanic/Latino neighbors in the community Sept. 24-25.

The workshop will be held at Decatur Grace UMC. A schedule and other details will be announced soon.

Rev. Irving Cott, Director of Congregational Development in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, will be the keynote speaker. Also, Rev. Forrest

Clark from the Wisconsin Conference will share the story of the Hispanic ministry started by River of Life UMC in Beloit, Wis.

If there is a growing Hispanic population in your area and your congregation is wondering how to engage in effective ministry with your neighbors, plan to attend this important workshop. Watch for more details as they become available on the Hispanic Ministry Team’s page of the IGRC website.

Methodists unite to Change the World Impact Your Community on April 24-25

NASHVILLE – United Methodists everywhere are encouraged to begin planning now to join in Change the World, a church-wide event on April 24-25 that prompts members to join with others in the community to make a difference locally and globally.

During that weekend, United Methodist churches are encouraged to create and participate in a service or fundraising event that helps effect positive and long-lasting change, whether it’s revitalizing a food-pantry program, creating a new ministry to help the homeless, or increasing awareness of global health issues like malaria. Churches can utilize existing ministries or initiate a new outreach event.

“Change the World challenges the people of The United Methodist Church to see the world holistically by giving and serving beyond the four walls of sanctuaries and Sunday school classrooms,” said the Rev. Larry Hollon, chief executive of United Methodist Communications. “Our hope is that not only will church members participate, they will invite neighbors in the community to work side-by-side with them to make a sustainable difference in diverse ways.”

On April 25, World Malaria Day, The United Methodist Church will formally launch a \$75 million campaign called Imagine No Malaria to eradicate deaths caused by malaria. Churches are being asked to host events such as camp-outs to experience sleeping under bed nets like families in Africa who rely on mosquito netting for protection against malaria. These events will help raise awareness and funds that support Imagine No Malaria.

The April Change the World event was created as part of the Rethink Church campaign in partnership with the United Methodist Publishing House and Imagine No Malaria. The concept for Change the World originated with the Rev. Mike Slaughter, lead pastor at Ginghamburg Church in Tipp City, Ohio, named one of the top 50 churches in the U.S. by Church

Report. Last October, Slaughter hosted the Change the World conference and authored a book by the same name that aligns with the vision of Rethink Church.

“The way we love is by serving people especially the poor and marginalized,” said Rev. Slaughter. “The church in the world needs the reputation of being a community that helps people . . . a community of people that gives hope and that functions as salt and light in its neighborhood.”

The Rethink Church campaign is seeking to utilize outreach events that embrace the concept of outward bound church to make a positive difference in the world beyond the church doors. Rethink Church advertising will complement the April events, giving churches an opportunity to take advantage of the buzz generated by the ads. For more information about Change the World or to learn how you can create an event for your church, go to www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld.

About Rethink Church

Rethink Church is the latest evolution of The United Methodist Church’s “Open hearts” welcoming and advertising campaign. It highlights opportunities available through the church to engage with the world— from literacy programs to feeding the poor. Targeting an 18- to 34-year-old audience, advertisements in traditional and new media direct viewers to www.10thousanddoors.org where visitors may learn more about the church and how to get involved.

About Imagine No Malaria

Imagine No Malaria is an extraordinary ministry of the people of The United Methodist Church to eliminate death and suffering from malaria in Africa by 2015. With a goal of raising \$75 million to improve health infrastructure and empower a sustainable victory over the disease, Imagine No Malaria is our opportunity to rethink how we reach beyond our church, opening doors to those who need it most. For more information, please visit us online at www.ImagineNoMalaria.org.

Forming Discipleship Systems

Acts Bible Study to be released for Easter to Pentecost use

By Paul Black

A six-week Bible Study on the Book of Acts, which brings together scripture, the teachings of John Wesley and the Four Areas of Focus, will be released online March 1 for IGRC congregations to use in the 50 days leading up to Pentecost.

The *Acts of the Apostles: Hearts Afire and the Four Areas of Focus* is a collaborative effort that has involved a team of writers and resource people across the United Methodist connection.

“Following last year’s Annual Conference, Bishop Palmer came to me with an idea about doing a conference-wide Bible Study on the book of Acts,” explained Rev. Dr. Kent Lolling, IGRC Director of Connectional Ministries. “We dreamed together about what it would be like to have a large group of United Methodists in our conference studying the same book of the Bible and the impact it could have on the spiritual life of our conference. Elements of the study would incorporate Wesley, Scripture study and reflection, a challenge to the church as well as look at the book of Acts with the lenses of the denomination’s Four Areas of Focus. So in September (2009), a group of authors were gathered and work on the study began.”

The Bible Study consists of two components: daily participant readings and weekly group lessons. The delivery via download is an attempt to provide delivery in an easy to use format. The study could be used by existing Sunday school classes, small groups, or Bible study groups, or by new groups formed specifically for this short-term study. While the study was designed for use by adults, it could be adapted for use with youth.

Each daily reading includes a passage of scripture or an excerpt from one of John Wesley’s writings, along with one or more questions for reflection, a prayer or prayer

suggestion, and a space for recording notes. The full text of each reading is included in the daily reading material. Scripture passages are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. References are also provided, so participants may also choose to read the scripture passages in their favorite translation.

“From the beginning there was great enthusiasm among the authors and it seemed the Holy Spirit was really moving among us,” Lolling said. “Ideas seemed to build off one another’s suggestions, rather than compete, and when one of us hit a stumbling block another of us was right there to pick it up and continue on. It was a true collaboration and a joy to work with each of them.”

Authors of the Bible Study include: Sara Brown, pastor of Carrollton and Christ UMC in the LaMoine River District; Beth Fender, IGRC New Streams Coordinator; Teresa Gilbert, discipleship coordinator for Murphysboro UMC, Cache River District; Atsuko Lolling, member of Springfield Laurel UMC, Sangamon River District; Kent Lolling, IGRC Director of Connectional Ministries and Bill Pyatt, pastor of Mt. Zion UMC, Sangamon River District. The writing team was also assisted and encouraged on the journey by Steve Manskar, Director of Accountable Discipleship at the General Board of Discipleship.

“Every one of us brought something unique to the table that made the final product better than any one of us could do alone,” Lolling said. “It was amazing how each of our giftedness fit so well into the different chapters. God was truly working in and through the creative process.”

A Facebook group, **IGRC Acts Bible Study**, has been created as a place to not only share additional downloadable resources but to provide a place of discussion and interaction as IGRC congregations study the material together.



Wesley’s diet, exercise tips promote health and wellness

By Susan Hogan*

CHICAGO (UMNS) – Three years ago, Cecille Corsilles-Sy organized a health fair at her church. Volunteers showed up bearing plates of cookies and brownies.

“They didn’t see the contradiction,” laughed Corsilles-Sy, a member of Beacon United Methodist Church in Seattle.

The next year, Corsilles-Sy sent out a list of acceptable foods to bring. Fatty, artery-clogging treats were out. High fiber, diabetic-friendly foods were in.

Without knowing it, Corsilles-Sy was following in the footsteps of Methodism

founder John Wesley. He said good health requires a strict diet and regular exercise.

“Nothing conduces more to health than abstinence and food with due labor,” Wesley wrote in his 1747 book, *Primitive Physick: or An Easy and Natural Method of Curing Most Disease*.

Corsilles-Sy said she wasn’t aware of Wesley’s views on health, but likes what she’s learning.

“Our congregation is mostly Filipino,” she said. “When people come to this country, their diets change. They become obese. The health issues are enormous.”

Primitive Physick was a best-seller in

Deeper Still event April 16-17

How do I prepare my heart for worship each week? What does real hospitality look like? What does it require of us? How can we offer genuine hospitality in our own church?

Drinking Deeper and Sharing the Cup will be held Friday and Saturday, April 16-17, at Mt. Vernon West Salem Trinity UMC. Participants will have the option of receiving overnight hospitality in the home of a Mt. Vernon-area family or arranging their own lodging in a local hotel. Child care will be available for a limited number of young children.

For more information or to register online, visit <http://drinkingdeeper.eventbrite.com>.

Worship and Hospitality will be the

focus of Drinking Deeper and Sharing the Cup, the second event in the Deeper Still series sponsored by the IGRC New Streams Team. Throughout this two-day event, participants will have opportunities to receive and extend hospitality in the context of worship. Through times of teaching, action, and reflection, as well as inspiring preaching from Bishop Gregory Palmer, participants will be renewed, equipped, and challenged to deepen their relationship with God and neighbor. Bishop Palmer, Kaskaskia River District Superintendent Cynthia Jones, and members of the New Streams Team will lead teaching sessions during the event, providing participants with practical tips and tools to take back and use in their local church.

How are we doing?

By Rick Van Giesen

In January, the IGRC Group Health Insurance Plan rolled out a walking program to its eligible members, primarily full-time pastors and their spouses who are in the health plan. Group numbers are compiled through the system and the following statistics were generated about the IGRC group in the first 30 days:

- Out of 711 eligible participants, 320 have joined the program, which translates to 45 percent participation. This exceeds both the HealthMiles book of business and the experience other annual conferences! Congratulations!

- Now to the 391 who have not yet signed up: Please go to www.virginhealthmiles.com/igrc to enroll.

Just a few interesting tidbits from the health snapshots which have been completed by our participants:

- 78 percent report health factors which show a predisposition to cardiovascular disease.

- 55 percent report more than 5 health risks present.

- 95 percent report not eating enough

fruit, vegetables and fiber.

- 57 percent report burning less than 1000 calories per week in physical activity.

But – about 50 percent report a willingness to change!

- 95 percent reported good job satisfaction, while 45 percent reported high stress levels in their jobs.

- 90 percent said that they were satisfied with their lives.

- One person had a Body Mass Index (BMI) that was considered underweight.

- 55 persons had “normal” body weight.

- 226 reported in as overweight or obese.

One person has already made it to level 2 and earned **Rewards** – even in the infancy of this program!

The participants – as a group – have already earned 418,790 Healthmiles!

The HealthMiles website has been visited 3,144 times.

So – evidently the need is there and the interest in health improvement is there, so thanks so much for your participation and keep on stepping!

impair their health,” Wesley said.

Other Wesley diet and exercise tips include:

- Drink lots of water; it’s the healthiest of all drinks.

- Avoid coffee and tea; they elevate anxiety.

- Exercise, preferably walking, is necessary for good health.

- Cold baths promote circulation.

- Exercise on an empty stomach.

- Go to bed at 9 p.m. and rise at 4 a.m. or 5 a.m.

*Hogan is a freelance writer based in Chicago.

Haiti disaster response

Haiti preparing for mission teams in the near future to assist in relief efforts



By **Bunny Wolfe**
Coordinator of
Missions and
Outreach

Bunny Wolfe

Jurisdictional Volunteers in Mission coordinators will meet with The Methodist Church of Haiti the week of Feb. 22 to plan for United Methodist volunteer work.

Following this initial assessment of the VIM planning team, the General Board of Global Ministries will have a coordinator both in the United States and in Haiti to schedule teams and assign specific work projects. Although there have been many inquiries of people wanting to help, there remains a severe lack of fuel, food and water in Haiti. Up to the present time, it has been inadvisable to send volunteers.

All United Methodists wishing to volunteer in Haiti are asked to first participate in a national volunteer registry by going to <http://secure.gbgm-umc.org/HaitiVolunteer>. An updated list of registered volunteers per conference is being shared with conference Volunteer in Missions Committee Chairs and conference mission staff. After appropriate training has been conducted for volunteer mission team leaders and individuals with experience in Haiti are identified, United Methodist volunteer teams will start working in Haiti. Assistance will be needed for a long time once volunteers can safely enter into the country. If you feel called to help in Haiti, please register your intent in the national registry and plan to attend a special planned VIM Training in IGRC.

In preparation for IGRC mission teams to work in Haiti, a Volunteers in Mission Training is scheduled for Saturday, April 10 from 10 a.m. until 4p.m. at the United Methodist Center in Springfield. Registration deadline will be Wednesday, March 31st. The cost of the training will be \$20 per person to cover the cost of the

training materials and lunch. Register by contacting Christy Blickensderfer at cblickensderfer@igrc.org before March 31, so adequate training materials may be prepared.

This training is for all mission team leaders in IGRC as well as those wishing to lead teams into Haiti. Topics covered will be general information for all mission team leaders plus a discussion regarding specific needs for teams traveling to Haiti. All individuals wishing to lead IGRC mission teams to Haiti must be a part of this training.

From the April 10 IGRC VIM Training, a volunteer team will raise its own financial support to travel to Haiti for "on the ground" training experience. If at all possible, we will have the first IGRC volunteer team in Haiti before late May and updated information will be presented at the 2010 IGRC Annual Conference VIM dinner. This first IGRC team and other initial teams will assist with debris removal and will need to be totally self-sufficient in regards to housing, transportation, food and water. Other volunteer teams may begin traveling to Haiti this summer.

All IGRC mission team leaders taking groups into Haiti must have some experience working in Haiti because of the extreme conditions teams will encounter in the aftermath of the earthquake.

For additional information on IGRC plans to work in Haiti or regarding the April 10 VIM Training, you may contact Bunny Wolfe, IGRC Missions and Outreach Coordinator at bwolfe@igrc.org or the IGRC Volunteers in Mission Committee Chairperson, Rev. Ed Hoke, at edpathoke@yahoo.com.

Donations for UMCOR's work in Haiti may be directed to UMCOR Advance #418325 and IGRC #3765 designated for Haiti Emergency. As of Feb. 15, IGRC donations for Haiti totaled \$409,545 and the total continues to grow each week.

Thank you for your generous donations!

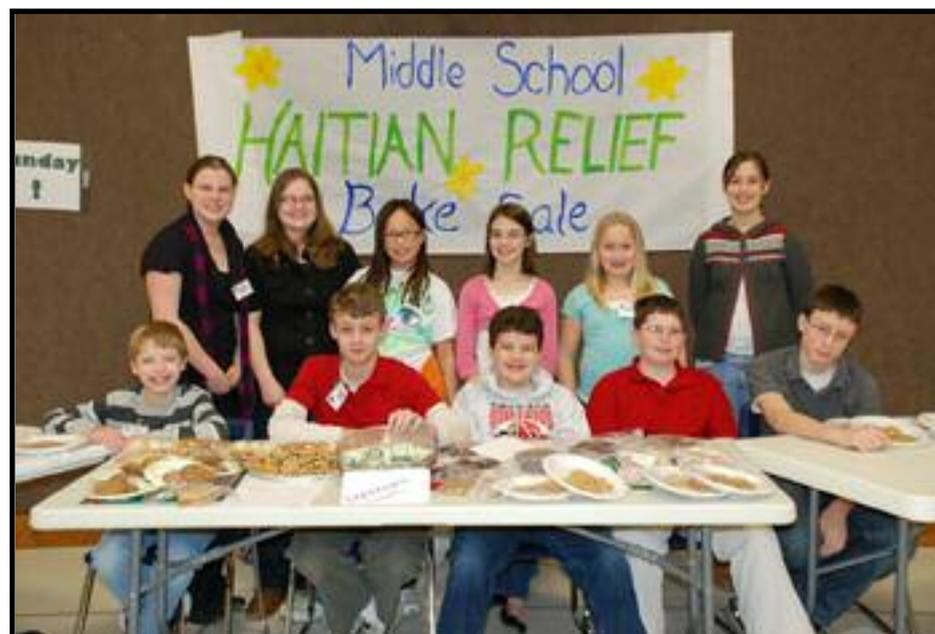


Photo courtesy of Dolores Mobley

The junior high Sunday School class at Sugar Creek UMC in Chatham held a bake sale Jan. 24 that raised \$738 FOR Haitian earthquake relief. Pictured in the photo with a sampling of the baked goodies are back row, from left, Michaela Jones, Hope Kurfman, Madeleine McDonald, Kate Perko, Kristen Patterson and Lauren Pickrell. Seated in front are: Ethan Reinwald, Adam Chase, Zach Perko, Connor Mobley and Jeremy Lewis.

Haiti response from IGRC congregations

■ Children of the Melvin UMC are taking a Tin Cup Offering the fourth Sunday of each month this year to help the children of Haiti. In the past years, they have supported a minister in Liberia and last year they collected \$1,200 with their blue cup offering for malaria nets.

■ In response to the devastation, Rev. Steve Anderson challenged the Two Rivers UMC congregation with what we called "Haiti 2010." In essence, the challenge was to commit to giving \$20.00 each week for 10 weeks (thus, 2010). When the challenge was announced during the gathering time before Sunday worship, one of the choir members jumped to his feet and said if 10 persons would each give \$100.00 of their overall pledge on that Sunday, he would match their giving with a one-time gift of \$1000. Anderson told him to have his checkbook ready!

When the offering was counted the next morning, 27 persons had made \$100.00 gifts for Haiti. In the following weeks, more persons have responded to the Haiti 2010 challenge. So far, the people of Two Rivers have pledged \$11,000 toward UMCOR's relief efforts for the people of Haiti and, as of Feb. 8, \$10,465 has been collected. "I believe this response stands as a testimony to both the compassion and the generosity of United Methodist Christians," Anderson said.

■ Folks at Shelbyville Fourth St. and Wesley Chapel UMC's decided that they

didn't need the Jan. 31 offering as much as the folk in Haiti did, so they designated that the offering at both churches would go entirely to UMCOR. Combined, they received almost \$2,400. Wesley Chapel's average attendance is 45 and Fourth Street is 65.

■ At Sugar Creek UMC in Chatham, junior high youth joined together to assist in relief efforts. On Sunday, Jan. 17 Steve Chase, the junior high teacher was leading the youth in a discussion of the earthquake in Haiti and the terrible consequences of the 7.0 tremor. As Steve tells it, "We were talking about the tragedy in Haiti when one of the youth said 'we need to do something to help'. Inside of 30 seconds from that exhortation the youth decided to hold a bake sale and to hold it on the very next Sunday.

So the youth talked it over with their parents, sent out e-mails, spread the word person to person, got up and announced the bake sale at all three services Jan. 24 and sold baked goods.

That initial 30 seconds of brainstorming led to the youth raising more than \$700 that was given to the Midwest Distribution Center for Haiti relief.

■ Members of the Armstrong UMC near Marshall organized a Hoppin' for Haiti Zumbathon. A variety of activities, door prizes were part of the event. In all, more than \$1,500 was raised for UMCOR.



Photo by Bunny Wolfe

Students at the Mason/Clark Middle School in East St. Louis present a check for \$2,320 to the Illinois Great Rivers Conference for earthquake relief in Haiti.

Online donations are still being received at:
www.umcorhaiti.org

Haiti disaster response

Haitian adoptions require moral discernment

By Tom Gillem*

The images from Haiti—infants alone in an orphanage, the vacant stares of abandoned children standing amid the rubble—are heartbreaking.

The first response in the hearts of many people is to want to rescue the most vulnerable survivors of the Jan. 12 earthquake, the children whose guardians are dead or missing and face an uncertain future in a country that was already one of the poorest in the world.

But the temptation to wrap one of those children up in your arms, and bring them to a more secure life in your native land, needs to be tempered by a number of practical and moral concerns, say United Methodist leaders.

“Adoption can be an appropriate response, if done carefully, but moving to that sort of permanent change of status while the situation is still so fluid can raise issues,” said Harriett Jane Olson, top executive of the Women’s Division of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

Proceeding with legal adoptions in Haiti when needed documentation was lost in the earthquake is “difficult at best,” said Deborah Robinson, executive director of

Miriam’s Promise, a Nashville-based adoption agency affiliated with The United Methodist Church.

The best way to help children who survived the earthquake is to provide funds and gifts for their immediate care, she said.

“What folks who want to help these kids need to do is really just help provide for their basic needs right now in Haiti,” Robinson said. “That’s not what people are going to want to hear. You want to feel like you’re doing something very tangible.”

Be careful

People who do feel called to adopt Haitian children should work through reputable organizations, said Linda Bales Todd, director of the Louise and Hugh Moore Population Project of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society.

“Be careful and make sure that you’re going through the proper channels, and with a reputable organization, and do not go out on your own just trying to rescue children without really being fully prepared and educated about the proper channels,” Todd said.

Ten U.S. citizens were jailed in Haiti on charges of child kidnapping and criminal association after they tried to take 33 Haitian children to the Dominican Republic without documentation following the earth-



Boys pass the time outdoors at the Methodist Children’s Home orphanage in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Child welfare experts say adoption may not be the immediate solution for Haitian children who survived the earthquake.

quake. The Americans, most of them members of an Idaho-based Baptist church group, said they were trying to rescue children and orphans who were abandoned after the disaster.

Julie Taylor, executive secretary for children, youth and family advocacy for the Women’s Division, said the threat of child exploitation exists during this time of turmoil in Haiti. “It can be hard to determine the appropriateness of adoptions,” she said.

First, listen to the people who are hurting, Robinson advised.

“In any disaster, if we’re truly going to be the hands of Christ, then we have to hear from the hurt person what they need from us,” she said. “We need them to tell us what they need and how to help, not to go in and with our ‘American wisdom’ to say this is what we want for you. This is what we think you need.”

■ Be sure

Robinson said she understands the urge some people have to get Haitian children away from the death and destruction surrounding them.

“I truly do because I felt the same way,” she said. “You look at these faces and you think, ‘I just want to go get them, and I want to bring them home where the world’s not caving in.’ You want them to be safe.”

But just having that feeling does not mean an individual is ready to adopt a child, she said.

Leito Innocent sits tethered to his crib at Grace Children’s Hospital. View in Photo Gallery

Adoption is a lifelong process, she cautioned.

“What I would say to folks who truly are looking now or later to adopt a Haitian orphan, or from any country, is that you really need to spend some time in prayer and in thought and to make sure that building your family through adoption is the best fit,” she said. “The kids who are going to come have been traumatized. They’ve lost their world, and it’s going to take a lot of



Winsley Polo, 2, lies in her crib outdoors beneath a tarp at Grace Children’s Hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Her parents are missing following the earthquake. Adoption experts urge caution in responding to the needs of Haitian children

patience and a lot of very specialized care to help them heal.”

The best outreach to help the Haitian children now is to provide care for them in Haiti, Robinson said.

“These kids have been through a tremendous horror and trauma. Their existing world has certainly changed drastically, maybe even their world of people who care for them,” she said. “And then to swoop them up and send them to a country where no one looks like them, where taste and smells and food are all different, at the same time they are already in a current trauma just re-traumatizes them.

“So we’re lessening their chance for success if we do that to them,” Robinson said. “Even the ones who are ready for adoption or who could be certified, they still need some time to get their bearings after what’s happened to them.”

*Gillem is a freelance writer in Brentwood, Tenn.



Members of the Armstrong UMC sponsored a Zumbathon which raised \$1,500 for Haiti earthquake relief. Pictured in the top photo are, from left to right, Julie Allen, Kelley Ray, Cindi Wright and Sharon Carpenter. Pictured in the bottom photo are, from left to right, Amy Jones, Julie Keller, Rev. Miriam Snider, Dana Garcia, Tami Rees, Kandy Rudisell, Julie Allen and Becky Osborn.

Mission and Outreach — Locally and Globally

Early Response Training March 13

Waterloo Real Life UMC will host an Early Response Training on Saturday, March 13.

UMCOR Trainers Ron and Sharon Monroe will conduct the training, which will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost is \$30, which includes the lunch and all materials. Registration deadline is Monday, March 8. To register, please contact Christy Blickensderfer at cblickensderfer@igrc.org and/or send a check made out to Illinois Great Rivers Conference, Attn: Christy, P.O. Box 19207, Springfield, IL 62794.

Older adult ministry workshops March 15-19

The IGRC Older Adult Committee is planning events in four different locations throughout the conference in March. The program will be the same in each location, with a different morning speaker in each of the four locations.

Monday, March 15 at Marion Aldersgate UMC, 1201 N Fair St., Marion. Morning speaker, Rev. Larry Gilbert of the Murphysboro UMC.

Tuesday, March 16 at Lebanon UMC, 603 W. St. Louis St., Lebanon. Morning speaker, Rev. Beverly Wilkes Null of the Shiloh UMC.

Thursday, March 18 at the Galesburg First UMC, 120 N. Kellogg St. Galesburg. Morning speaker, Rev. Terry Clark, Retired.

Friday, Mrch 19 at Champaign First UMC, 210 W. Church St., Champaign. Morning speaker, Rev. Paul Unger, Retired.

The events are called Going On To Perfection? Our Spiritual Journey Continues. Each day will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 which also includes lunch and morning coffee. After lunch, Rev. Anna Kpann, Older Adult Coordinator for the Liberia Annual Conference, will speak of her spiritual journey and her ministry in Liberia.

Fellheimer Trust provides \$20,000 for Liberian school project

By Bunny Wolfe
Coordinator of Missions and Outreach

The Fellheimer Trust Committee of Macomb Wesley UMC has approved a \$20,000 grant toward the building of the John Kofi Asmah United Methodist School in West Point, Liberia.

The grant, combined with an initial grant of \$25,000 from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, provides more than half of the estimated \$66,000 cost for the construction.

IGRC is helping the John Kofi Asmah UMC and the Liberia Annual Conference become a beacon of hope in an overpopulated, poverty stricken community where many children yearn for an education. Additional donations toward the construction of this school may be directed to IGRC Fund #6990 - John Kofi Asmah UMC School.

The October 2010 IGRC Liberia work team will complete the construction of another school, the I. J. Williams School in Unification Town, and will also work at the John Kofi Asmah School site. For more information about this opportunity,



Photo courtesy of Bunny Wolfe

Workers lay stone block for one of the walls of the school.

please contact Bunny Wolfe at bwolfe@igrc.org. Registration and deposit for the October 2010 Liberia trip is due July 1, with final payment on Aug. 6.

Rev. Jerry Kulah, District Superintendent of Monrovia District, visited the site of the school construction with the January 2010 IGRC team and shared about the excitement in the West Point community and government officials to see the United Methodist Church stepping forward to provide this much

needed school. Rev. Kulah described West Point as a swampy, slum area on the outskirts of Monrovia with only three elementary level schools. One of those schools is the current John Kofi Asmah UMC School where classes are held in a very crowded space within the sanctuary throughout the week. The new school, under construction by IGRC, will be the ONLY secondary school in an area with 75,000 plus population.

Mission discovery trip openings

Costa Rica Mission Trip – April 6 to 15 – Rev. Scott Baird, pastor of Herscher UMC, will be leading a trip to ElZota Biological Station, located at the edge of the largest primary rain forest in Costa Rica. It is a yearly experience to visit Elzota, Costa Rica, where a team takes on a project to help the local community with a well needed project. Space is limited to 15 people and there are four positions still open. The cost of the trip is \$1,650, which covers all but personal spending and exit tax of \$30 and due to the late date, the total amount would be due immediately. If you are interested in going with us or have any questions please call Pastor Scott Baird or Linda Michel (secretary) at 815-426-6169.

Russia – June 15 to 30 – Peter Priest leads this unique, relational team and is working directly with UM Pastor Igor Pechersky in Rostov-na-Donu and with

Rev. Bruce Hargrave who is on the board of the Russian UMC Seminary in Moscow. (A brief description can be found at www.umcmemorial.com/ then click on Ministries tab). Contact Priest at priest@rose-hulman.edu.

Poland (campsite outside Zaborze Village, Kielce, Poland) – June 24 to July 7 -- This United Methodist VIM Trip from Illinois Great Rivers Conference will be learning best practices of team leadership while experiencing and sharing the awesomeness of God's love with children in Poland! Persons interested in leading youth and young adult teams to international locations in the future as well as persons interested in learning about the Methodist Church in Poland are encouraged to consider this trip. Visit the trip website, http://sites.google.com/site/will_yousendme/home or contact Ron Fontenot

at ronbo3@prodigy.net or by calling 618-628-8262.

Nicaragua – June 26 to July 4 -- The UMVIM team will work with Fundacion El Samaritano (FES) missionaries in the Managua, Nicaragua barrio of Nejapa. FES participates in educational and medical ministries. The team will perform upkeep work at FES facilities, and perform people to people ministry with women cancer and maternity patients, pediatric patients, Christian school children and residents of the Nejapa community. There will be an introduction to the Nicaragua Methodist Evangelical Church. Time for worship, shopping and sightseeing will be included. Cost is \$300 + round trip air transportation costs. For information and application form, please contact team leader Jack Reif, jack.reif@zoomtown.com, or phone 513-831-5550.

Teachers needed for July 2010 Liberia teacher training

By Bunny Wolfe
Coordinator of Missions and Outreach

For the second year, the IGRC will be conducting training for teachers in the United Methodist schools of Liberia during the July 2010 mission trip.

There are about 120 United Methodist schools throughout Liberia. Teacher training is currently scheduled to take place in Monrovia July 10-29, and includes two full weeks of teacher training plus three extra days to visit the Ganta Mission Station and see mission projects of IGRC in the Monrovia area.

Most teachers in both private and government schools of Liberia have limited training. It became apparent during the 2009 teacher training sessions that additional training in these designated areas is much needed. Many students throughout Liberia learn to read by site recognition of complete words rather than having the ability to use phonics to sound out new words. This method is good for some students, but limits reading ability for many students and teachers alike. We were asked at the end of the 2009 teacher training to conduct specific training in phonics and English for lower elementary grade

teachers in summer 2010.

The Department of Education for the Liberia United Methodist Conference is working closely with the Minister of Education in Liberia to increase the training opportunities for all teachers. United Methodist teachers will be attending government sponsored trainings and certification of the United Methodist teacher training is also being pursued for the near future. Working cooperatively in the training of teachers will increase the skills of teachers and a better education for students will happen. Currently most education happens throughout the country with

out adequate textbooks and students often learn by copying materials from blackboards in the elementary and secondary level. In spite of limited resources, many students in the United Methodist Schools system continue to score very high on the government standardized tests throughout Liberia.

Perhaps God is calling you to use your experience to train teachers in Liberia. Contact Bunny Wolfe at bwolfe@igrc.org for additional information. Registration deadline for the upcoming 2010 Liberia Teacher Training Team is April 15. A minimum of two additional teachers is needed.

Embracing Communications & Technology

It ain't Uncle Walter's world



By **Larry Hollon**
General Secretary,
United Methodist
Communications

If there were even an iota of doubt that the world has changed because of digital technologies, it should be erased now and forever by the Haiti earthquake. As I listened recently to an official source tell me "off the record" information, I was reading that same information on Facebook, and I received a link from a colleague about an online newspaper article containing the information. My "source" wanted to keep this "under the radar," but he couldn't keep it off the Internet.

Today information moves at the speed of the Internet. "Under the radar" is a quaint colloquialism. This new reality comes as disruptive and threatening to established communications patterns and traditional command and control organizations because it introduces a new set of values and new ways of perceiving.

It means the gatekeepers have lost control of the gate through which information flows. They can't move fast enough because there are just too many cell phones and laptops in the hands of too many individuals with data packages and wireless access. There are too many gates to control. Those institutions that try will break down under the strain or become irrelevant. We will simply go elsewhere

Revamping of IGRC website in beginning stages

In October 2007, the current IGRC website was launched. Over the past 29 months, traffic to the website has increased 400-fold. The website has been a place for getting news, information, ministry resources and online event registration.

As with any creative venture, there are assumptions made as to where growth areas will occur. Some of these are based upon new technologies while others are based upon the end-user's particular wants and needs.

A short survey has been developed and

for information.

In this superheated environment, if you do not contribute to the conversation, you cannot expect to influence it, and you are irrelevant to it – even if you are an official source. The conversation will continue without you, making up the story as it moves along.

Of course, this is uncomfortable. It is certainly frustrating. And it results in a crazy mix of fact and fantasy. Yet it happens and it won't stop. Yearn as we may for yesteryear and news anchor Walter Cronkite telling us "that's the way it is," those days are gone and they're not coming back.

As I have worked with staff of United Methodist Communications during this week of earthquake coverage, I have felt like the steel ball in an old pinball machine, buffeted in every area by new information, decisions or challenges. I move through one passageway and I get slammed backward and have to adjust because a new force has been exerted. Not just the news operation, but marketing, fundraising, technology infrastructure, web utilization, graphic design, and public information are all affected by these changes.

Add to this, input from Twitter, Google and Facebook – real-time conversation, reaction and utilization – and you have a rock 'em, sock 'em communications environment that is always on and always moving. And that, as Uncle Walter used to say, is the way it is.

your input is being sought in evaluating the current IGRC website and the things we should keep in mind as we develop a new design.

The survey, which was sent out to all subscribers of IGRC e-newsletter publications Feb. 22, is open to all by visiting the IGRC website, www.igrc.org and clicking on the Website Survey link.

The information gathered by this survey will be used to design the new IGRC website.



Online webinars weekly

Tuesdays @ 10am Central is a free 30-minute Webinar hosted by United Methodist Communications to share up-to-date and relevant information, resources and tools that will enhance your church's communications ministry.

While the live broadcast of the Webinars is free, first-time attendees must register at UCom's online registration center at: www.123signup.com/register?id=jcnhj. After you register the first time, you will automatically receive an invitation and access to subsequent live Webinar broadcasts. At any time, you can request to discontinue receiving invitations.

Upcoming Webinars:

- March 2, Discover how to prepare and share audio clips on the Internet. This is the first of five webinars dedicated to "Mastering the Multimedia Maze."
- March 9, Learn how to prepare and share video clips on the Internet. This is the second of five webinars dedicated to

"Mastering the Multimedia Maze."

- March 16, Explore the basics of podcasting. This is the third of five webinars dedicated to "Mastering the Multimedia Maze."

- March 23, Use UMTV video stories on the Web and in worship. This is the fourth of five webinars dedicated to "Mastering the Multimedia Maze."

- March 30, Take a look at photo sharing online. This is the fifth of five webinars dedicated to "Mastering the Multimedia Maze."

To register, visit the online registration center once to sign up for the live Webinar broadcast. You will receive an email confirmation with access information to join the live Webinar broadcast. Use the same access information each week to join us each Tuesday @ 10am Central.

The Webinar "room" is limited to the first 100 people who log in each week.

Racing the FCC mic deadline

What churches must do by June 12—and why.

(Editor's note: As first reported in The Current last year, FCC regulations have been enacted that affect wireless microphones systems with assigned frequencies between 698 and 806 MHz. The following information serves as reminder that any problems must be addressed by June 12, 2010)

By **Tyler Charles**

Churches, businesses, and other organizations that use wireless microphones operating in the 700 MHz band (698-806 MHz) must stop doing so by June 12, according to a decision last month by the Federal Communications Commission.

Many churches own wireless mics in the 700 MHz band and continue to operate them, even though the FCC's digital television transition last year signaled a ban to that activity eventually would come. The FCC estimates that 25 percent of wireless mics operate in the spectrum, meaning thousands of churches likely are affected.

Ever since the FCC auctioned off the rights to the 700 MHz band in 2008, it was only a matter of time before the new owners (Verizon and AT&T, among others) would receive sole access to the sections of the spectrum for which they paid billions of dollars.

The FCC says it is ready to help organizations affected by the changes.

"We're doing everything we can to notify as many of these organizations as possible," says Matthew Nodine, chief of staff for the FCC's Wireless Communications Bureau.

For users who are unsure whether their devices need to be replaced, the FCC com-

plied a list of affected devices: www.fcc.gov/cgb/wirelessmicrophones/manufacturers.html. Users with further questions can call 1-888-CALL-FCC. The FCC recommends contacting the manufacturers with any technical questions, Nodine says.

Churches who don't comply face fines. Those that do comply likely face the cost of buying new equipment, although some may find low-cost—or no-cost—solutions in the short term if they can live without a wireless setup.

The key, microphone manufacturers say, is that churches shouldn't wait to act, since June 12 is a firm deadline, and problems likely will emerge even sooner.

"The reality is that users will begin to suffer dropouts and interference from the new data traffic anyway, so at some point in the next few months [their wireless devices] won't work well anyway," says Chris Lyons, manager of technical and educational communications for Shure Inc., a microphone and audio systems provider.

In addition to reviewing the FCC's list to see if certain models can be re-tuned, churches should consult with the equipment manufacturer about the possibility.

Some manufacturers are still offering return rebates to affected users. Both Sennheiser and Shure have extended their rebate programs through June 30, and both companies accept systems made by other manufacturers.

(Tyler Charles is a freelance writer living in Delaware, Ohio. Reprinted with permission from YourChurch magazine, Christianity Today, Inc. Copyright © 2010 by the author and Christianity Today, Inc./Your Church magazine.)

Connectional News

Judicial Council to look at new church structures on its spring docket

Two items coming from decisions in North Central Jurisdiction conferences



Bishop Michael Coyner presides over the 2008 Indiana South Annual (regional) Conference.

By Linda Bloom*

U.S. population shifts, membership declines and economic changes have led to the reorganization of regional United Methodist bodies in recent years.

The challenge for the church's annual conferences is how to retain the denomination's connectional relationships and meet mission priorities on a limited budget. The restructuring can also raise questions about whether the changes adhere to church law.

Judicial Council, the denomination's top court, will consider a few of those questions during its April 21-24 spring meeting in Madison, N.J.

Among the nine docket items on the council's agenda are decisions by Dakotas

Area Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey about whether a standing committee on archives and history is required under that conference's new structure and by Indiana Bishop Michael Coyner on the 2010 budget for the new, unified conference in that state.

Two years ago, the Dakotas Conference set up a reorganizational task force, naming it "Romans 12" after the Bible verse that refers to being transformed "by the renewing of the mind."

"One of the things they came back with was a completely different structure," Kiesey explained. "The whole purpose of the Romans 12 document is to focus on ... equipping the local church."

The new structure was approved in June.

At a special annual conference session in November, some of the pieces were determined, the bishop said.

During the special session, participants spent significant time debating how the changes affect the conference's committee on archives and history. The Rev. Duane Coates of Brookings First United Methodist Church asked Kiesey for a decision of law on the constitutionality of the new structure in relation to that committee.

Kiesey explained that the function of archives and history is covered under the new structure, but not through a standing committee. Two different paragraphs in the United Methodist Book of Discipline are in conflict over what is required, but the bishop said the conference had followed the most recent change in the Discipline.

"We're comfortable with whichever way they rule," she said about a potential Judicial Council decision.

Indiana budget decisions

In Indiana, a new structure has affected the budget for program areas. During the 2009 Indiana Annual Conference in June, a request for a decision of law from the bishop was made about whether proper procedures had been followed in bringing the 2010 budget to the body.

The Indiana Conference is a uniting of the former Indiana North and Indiana South conferences. Although the new body became official in October 2008, two separate budgets and accounts were retained until Dec. 31, 2009. The current year represents the first under a single budget.

A motion was made requesting that the conference's Council on Finance and Administration restore funding for 2010 in

four program areas — young adults, mission, social advocacy and new programs — to 75 percent of the funding those areas received in 2009. Calling it a resolution, not a motion, Coyner ruled it out of order and delegates declined to suspend the rules to consider the resolution.

Dan Gangler, the Indiana Conference communicator, noted that around \$3 million had been cut from the combined budgets of the previous conferences, creating a budget of \$15.1 million for the first fiscal year of the new annual conference.

Another issue of debate and discussion related to the budget, Gangler said, was the decision to change health care benefits for retired ministers from an insurance plan through the United Methodist Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to a health care subsidy through Medicare. Continuing with the insurance plan would have cost the conference nearly \$2 million, he explained. The conference also made deep cuts in support for campus ministry.

In a docket item deferred from the fall meeting, the Judicial Council also will consider a decision of law from Michigan Area Bishop Jonathan Keaton regarding the adoption of a master group program for insuring all churches in the West Michigan Annual Conference.

In other business, the Judicial Council is being asked for a "declaratory decision" by United Methodists in the Philippines related to a church and civil court case there and whether the Philippines Central Conference College of Bishops has the authority to handle a complaint against one of its members.

*Bloom is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in New York.

Online dating leads to match made in heaven for pastor

By Susan Passi-Klaus*

LAUREL, Miss. — Almost seven years ago, Charity VanWinkle and Brian Gordon were basking in the romantic glow of their computer screens while being serenaded by the familiar and frequent ping that signified "you've got mail." The two bravely tossed their inhibitions and reluctances to the wind and decided to give Internet matchmaking a go by logging on to E-Harmony, one of the Internet's most successful matchmaking services.

She had tried meeting men the old-fashioned way—at church and work and through friends—but nothing clicked. His story was the same, except it was complicated by his career choice. He was concerned women would be scared off when they found out he was a United Methodist pastor.

To make a long story short....E-Harmony scored. Married October 12, 2003, Charity and Brian Gordon did

indeed find that a match made in heaven could be found in cyberspace.

They've lived happily ever after as the Rev. and Mrs. Brian Gordon ever since in Laurel, Miss. where Brian serves two churches, West Laurel and Sandersville United Methodist, both located in Jones County. Charity, a former newspaper religion editor, is currently a stay-at-home mom.

And yes, there are now two children in the family picture. Libby, 4, and Nathan, 2, have transformed the happy couple into an even happier family.

But it's come with a small price. Gone are the couples-only movie nights and weekend getaways to play putt-putt golf or cheer on their favorite sports team. Now Lego building competitions, potty training and bedtime stories interrupt date nights. But among other things, the Gordons say they wouldn't have it any other way.

■ **What do you know now that you didn't know then about marriage?**

Charity: Marriage is not the be all and end all of life. I used to think that marriage would make everything hunky dory, but the truth is that everything—including yourself—still takes a lot of work. I've learned that growing as an individual in my own interests and talents ultimately makes for a stronger me and a stronger marriage.

Brian: I know now that love is not something I feel. Sometimes we don't feel very loving, nor are we particularly lovable, but we make a decision that no matter how our feelings change, our love doesn't.

■ **What's been the hardest lesson to learn?**

Charity: Forging compromise between imperfect people, especially with children in the mix, can't also be 50/50 fair all the time. A good marriage isn't about making me happy as much as it is an exercise in learning to serve another imperfect person day-after-day.

Brian: It has been hard to learn the give and take of marriage. In the ebbs and flows



Charity and Brian Gordon met online and now have a family.

of life, we need to give when we may want to take and vice versa. Marriage means asking not what is best for me, but what is best for us.

■ **What qualities does your spouse bring to the table as a life partner?**

Charity: He's very even tempered and is always quick to ask forgiveness.

Brian: Charity is very diligent, hard-working; and when she puts her mind to something, she's going to accomplish it. She displays a great spirit around other

See Online Dating on page 16 ...

Connectional News



In a scene from "Blood Done Sign My Name," a group of friends and relatives of a murdered African-American veteran protest are joined by thousands of others as they protest racial injustice during a three day, 50-mile march from Oxford to Raleigh, N.C.

Film recalls 1970 murder over race

By Linda Bloom*

Filmmaker Jeb Stuart and historian Tim Tyson are both preacher's kids, now in their 50s, who grew up in North Carolina at a time when attempts at racial integration still sparked tensions that could lead to violence and murder.

So when Stuart read "Blood Done Sign My Name," Tyson's evocative memoir focusing on the murder of an African-American Vietnam veteran in the writer's hometown, the director felt an instant connection.

The connection extended from a young person's perspective on the struggle for social justice and racial equality in the South down to the moral issues faced by their fathers, white pastors forced to take unpopular stands in their communities.

The result is the movie "Blood Done Sign My Name," which opens on Feb. 19 in selected theaters nationwide. The film, whose title is taken from an old gospel song, had its official premiere on Feb. 10, opening the Pan-African Film and Arts Festival in Los Angeles.

At the centerpiece of both Tyson's book and Stuart's movie is the 1970 murder of Henry "Dickie" Marrow, an African-American Vietnam veteran, in the small town of Oxford, N.C. The refusal of an all-white jury to convict the men who eyewitnesses had identified as his killers generated anger but also led to the empowerment of Oxford's black community. Tyson's father, the Rev. Vernon Tyson, was pastor of the United Methodist congregation.

Although better known as a screenwriter for blockbuster action films such as "Die Hard" and "The Fugitive," Stuart in his new movie has produced what both men believe transcends the typical Hollywood treatment of a civil rights story.

Instead of a narrative that pits the good white folks against the evil white folks,

with black characters "being used as props," this movie shows a movement against injustice emerging out of the African-American community, Tyson pointed out. That diverse community reacts in different ways but has the same goal: "to push down the rotten old social structure of Jim Crow," he said.

■ Arriving in Oxford

As the film opens, Vernon Tyson (Ricky Schroder) has moved with his family to Oxford, N.C., where he has been assigned to lead the United Methodist church there.

The movie locations were shot in Shelby, N.C., and images of the church there evoke a sense of déjà vu for anyone with Methodist roots. On the first day of filmmaking, Tyson said he and his father sat in the first pew, off camera, and watched about 200 actors performing in 1970-vintage clothing. "I just kept forgetting we weren't actually in church," he recalled. "It felt like every church we'd ever served."

As the plot unfolds, the pastor gets his first real taste of the town's racial divide when an uproar occurs after he invites an eminent African-American minister to preach to the congregation on a Sunday. The elder Tyson cites the denomination's *Book of Discipline* when he refuses to rescind the invitation.

Stuart asked his father, the Rev. James G. Stuart — now retired and living in Gastonia, N.C. — about the difficulty of pushing a congregation toward integration at the risk of losing a job. "He lowered whatever he was reading at the time and looked at me and said, 'It was the most stressful part of my career.'"

The story moves beyond the Tyson family and the church's all-white congregation to the other residents of Oxford, most notably Ben Chavis (Nate Parker), a young teacher — and future civil rights leader — who has returned to his hometown.

See Film on page 16 ...

Racial tensions inform Tyson's memoir

By Linda Bloom*

Timothy Tyson never forgot what happened in Oxford, N.C., the summer he turned 11.

The memories of the murder there that inflamed racial tensions persisted even after the family left town when his father, the Rev. Vernon Tyson, was asked to move to another United Methodist church in Wilmington.

The younger Tyson returned to Oxford for occasional visits, paying attention to how the community coped with racial tension and connecting it with his experiences with school integration as a middle- and high-school student.

"We had a lot of violence in the hallways," recalled Tyson, a historian who is now 50 years old. "We had dozens of buildings burned in Wilmington. We had the National Guard in the streets.

"Going through the experience of school integration, which was both good and bad, made me want to know how this craziness got started."

One day in 1982, when he was a freshman at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Tyson discovered he could look up back issues of the Raleigh, N.C., News-Observer at Jenkins Library.

He was so intent on reading the news coverage of the May 11, 1970, killing of Henry "Dickie" Marrow, an African-American Vietnam War veteran, and its aftermath, that he sat in the library for 12 hours straight. When the building closed at midnight, he hid in a restroom until everyone had left, then continued reading the old news accounts for the rest of the night.

Later, Tyson went to Oxford and conducted his first oral history, interviewing Robert Teel, one of those accused and acquitted in Marrow's murder, for a paper he was writing for college.

He transferred to Emory University and finished his undergraduate degree there. But his obsession continued when he returned to North Carolina to attend graduate school at Duke University. For his master's thesis in history, which he finished in 1990, Tyson wrote "a more detached, historical account" of the murder and its impact on Oxford.

Beginnings of the book

For 12 years, he left the story alone — until one morning, at the age of 42, when he found himself writing the first chapter of what would become his book. "I knew that I was finally ready," he said.

As he was writing, Tyson talked nearly every day with his father. One day, a package arrived at his doorstep, containing his mother's diary and his father's journal, which helped him with the chronology of the story.

"Blood Done Sign My Name," published in 2004, won the Southern Book



Historian Timothy Tyson teaches a class at Duke University.

Award and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Tyson received the Louisville Grawmeyer Award in Religion from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 2006.

After teaching for years at the University of Wisconsin, Tyson is back at Duke University, serving as a senior research scholar at the Center for Documentary Studies and a visiting professor of American Christianity and Southern Culture at Duke Divinity School. He also teaches in Duke's history department and at the University of North Carolina.

Vernon Tyson, now 80 and serving as interim pastor at Elevation United Methodist Church in Benson, N.C., about 30 minutes from his home, accompanied his son to the Feb. 10 premiere of the movie version of "Blood Done Sign My Name" at the Pan-African Film and Arts Festival in Los Angeles.

His mother, Martha Tyson, was unable to make the trip. She had commitments to her United Methodist Women unit at Edenton Street United Methodist Church in Raleigh.

Timothy Tyson worships at Amity United Methodist Church in Chapel Hill and at the Duke University chapel, "but I'm often found where my daddy happens to be preaching," he added.

He conducts his own type of "ministry of reconciliation" by visiting dozens of churches and high schools each year with Mary Williams, a gospel singer, to lead conversations about race relations. He also has participated in discussions after performances of a stage version of his book by Mike Wiley, a playwright and actor.

"Even though many things have changed, we're still very segregated," he said. "We still haven't resolved the tension between the gospel and the social realities of our own lives."

*Bloom is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in New York.

Connectional News

Central Conference Pension Initiative visits define \$25 million challenge goal

NASHVILLE — For the Rev. Charles Horace, a retired Liberian pastor, life without a pension was a daily struggle. He recalls weeks in which he would “just live on water” for two or three days.

But through the Liberia pension fund, Horace now receives a quarterly pension benefit made possible by gifts to the Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI). “If I were not a United Methodist pastor, who would have thought about me?” said Horace to an audience of the Grand Bassa District of The United Methodist Church. “Let nothing take you from this caring and loving church.”

To provide for the needs of Horace and other retired clergy outside the U.S., the CCPI initially sought to raise a minimum \$20 million endowment—\$19.2 million has already been pledged or donated. CCPI leadership recently established a challenge goal of \$25 million, reflecting the needs discovered through on-site visits to each of the growing 19 Episcopal areas served by this initiative.

“We received almost \$6 million in contributions in 2009,” said Dan O’Neill, managing director for Central Conference Pensions at the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. “If we could raise the same amount this year, we will have the funds that will enable us to support current pension initiative activity.”

Emergency grants were authorized in 2004 for retired clergy and surviving spouses in all central conferences. When a country’s pension plan launches, emergency grant payments cease.

Liberia’s CCPI-funded pension program has been in place since 2007, Mozambique’s began in 2009 and a third pilot project was launched this year in Angola.

United Methodist members and friends who would like to support the CCPI may make a donation or pledge through their church or online at www.ccp-i-umc.org. For further information, contact Colette Nies at cnies@gbophb.org.

■ Do you think there’s a “secret” to a happy marriage?

Charity: We go through seasons when it’s hard sometimes, but we try to take a long-term view of life and not get too wadded up if a certain season seems to be unglamorous at the time.

Brian: Keep your sense of humor. It’s so important to be able to laugh together.

*Susan Passi-Klaus is a Public Relations Specialist/Writer at United Methodist Communications.

“The events of our lives mark us and form us. Tim’s telling of his family story invites us into our stories where we meet God still at work within and among us,” the bishop said.

Tyson was impressed by Stuart’s understanding of race in America.

“When the screenplay came in the mail, I read it standing in my driveway,” he said. “I didn’t even get back from the mailbox. It was so powerful and dead on.”

He believes the film will have a similar effect on others. “I hope that church folks will find this film challenging and inspiring and engaging and that it will open up a fruitful conversation, not only about race and a history that we’re still wrestling with, but about the challenges that confront us as Christians today,” Tyson said.

Stuart also wants to get across a message to young people about the history of race in the United States.

“There’s always going to be injustice,” he said. “The idea that, in every generation, you have to stand up to injustice is an important lesson.”

*Bloom is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in New York.

Online dating

Continued from page 14

people, and she’s a great pastor’s wife.

■ When do you love your spouse the most?

Charity: When he vacuums!

Brian: When I see her with our children, I’m touched. I also love her most when I’ve have to do just a little of what she has to do every day.

Film

Continued from page 15

After Marrow, his cousin, is attacked and killed, an all-white jury acquits the white storeowner and his sons who are charged with the crime. Oxford’s African-American community is outraged. Reactions range from rioting and the vandalizing of public monuments to the organization of a 50-mile freedom march and economic boycott.

“Jeb did a brilliant job cutting to the heart of the matter,” Tyson said about Stuart’s adaptation of his book. “The movie is not a memoir but more of an ensemble story about these families...in a community that is being torn apart by this murder.”

■ Faith-based audiences

Stuart hopes the movie’s story will resonate with faith-based audiences.

For United Methodist Bishop Hope Morgan Ward of Mississippi, “Blood Done Sign My Name” is both a Methodist story and a family story. She grew up on a farm in eastern North Carolina and her sister, Perri Morgan, is married to Tyson.



Protesters ask for the release of Dr. Montes and 42 other medical caregivers who were arrested while attending a Community Medicine Development Foundation (COMMED) training seminar.

Board of Global Ministries protest arrests in the Philippines

By Elliott Wright*

NEW YORK (UMNS) -- The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries has joined other religious organizations asking the Philippines government for the humane treatment and quick release of a group of health workers, including a church-related doctor, arrested Feb. 6.

The military claims the group was training to make bombs. Family members of the detained health workers said they were attending a medical seminar.

“This incident appears to be a continuation of a military and government campaign against persons who seek to provide services to and represent the interests of the poor,” said Bishop Joel N. Martinez, interim top executive of the international mission agency. He appealed for prayers for those seized and their families.

Dr. Alexis Montes, one of two physicians in the group, has ties to Global Ministries, having served from 2007 to 2009 as a “person in mission” through the agency’s mission partnership with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. He worked at Visayas Community Medical Center in Cebu Province. The program provides small grants to mission partner churches for specific ministries.

The 43 persons were arrested in the town of Morong, Rizal Province, at the home of Dr. Melecia Velmonte, who is chairperson of the Community Medicine Development Foundation. The house was stormed by the army and national police on the grounds of a search for a specific person, who was not present. The 43 were arrested on suspicion of being supporters of the New People’s Army, a Communist rebel group.

The two doctors, a nurse, a midwife and 39 other persons were held without bail at Camp Capinpin, a military headquarters in Tanay. Some reporters indicated that the

detainees were tortured in an effort to win confessions of complicity with the New People’s Army.

According to news reports, the Armed Forces of the Philippines did not present the 43 to the court as directed by 2 p.m. on Feb. 12. On Feb. 11, the Supreme Court of the Philippines granted their relatives’ petition for a writ of habeas corpus.

The United Church of Christ in the Philippines, the National Council of Churches of the Philippines, and the World Council of Churches are among the religious organizations calling for the release and just treatment of the health workers. The United Methodist Church has sought justice and called for an end to the killings, abductions and torture of hundreds of people since President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took office in 2001.

Many of the victims have been human rights workers, clergy and journalists. In 2006, a United Methodist pastor was dragged from his home, beaten and shot. His family has accused the Philippine military of the killing.

Because of historic mission patterns, the Board of Global Ministries works with both The United Methodist Church in the Philippines and the UCCP, a denomination that included the Evangelical United Brethren Church, a constituting part of The United Methodist Church in 1968.

Montes is a leading layman of the UCCP and a well-known figure in the community health movement in the Philippines. He worked with the UCCP’s national health ministries from 1987 through 2004. He has a strong commitment to medical services for the poor in rural areas.

*Wright is an author and consultant to the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

Report on 2009 Second Mile Giving

Fund ID	Fund Description	Total	Fund ID	Fund Description	Total
0020	DISABILITY AWARENESS SUNDAY	\$1,383.42	6260	IGRAC CHILDREN & POVERTY	\$817.00
0021	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DAY	\$2,992.34	6270	KUMLER UMC OUTREACH MINISTRIES	\$14,717.21
0022	ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING	\$85,573.73	6290	DOVE, INC., DECATUR”	\$2,310.00
0023	WORLD COMMUNION	\$25,798.40	6310	CARBON CLIFF SUMMER MEAL SITE MINISTRY	\$2,474.40
0024	GOLDEN CROSS	\$76,760.99	6320	MOTORSPORT MINISTRY	\$958.55
0025	UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY	\$19,400.45	6330	M&M MINISTRY - EDWARDSVILLE	\$233.76
0026	HUMAN RELATIONS DAY	\$18,646.99	6340	HARVEST MINISTRY TEAM	\$6,717.70
0027	PEACE WITH JUSTICE	\$18,025.49	6360	WATERLOO REAL LIFE.....	\$20.00
0028	NATIVE AMERICAN SUNDAY	\$21,462.58	6370	CENTRAL ILLINOIS FOOD BANK	\$880.00
0029	RURAL LIFE SUNDAY	\$1,399.12	6380	VIM SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$1,033.00
0039	UM CHILDREN HOME.....	\$24,525.34	6400	EAGLES NEST LOVE PACKAGES - BUTLER.....	\$150.00
0040	ALTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	\$475.00	6410	GOOD SAMARITAN HOME-CARBONDALE	\$1,531.00
0041	METHODIST MEDICAL CENTER FDN	\$907.34	6420	HELPS MINISTRY	\$351.00
0042	THE BABY FOLD	\$14,177.87	6430	SALT CREEK PARISH RESOURCE CENTER	\$3,344.63
0043	CHADDOCK.....	\$12,979.12	6440	WOMEN IN MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIP.....	\$60.00
0044	EVENGLOW LODGE	\$1,820.00	6450	QUANADA FOOD PANTRY	\$620.00
0045	SUNSET HOME OF THE UMC	\$1,823.68	6460	CHILDREN SUPPER HOUR-SP.ASBURY	\$7,127.82
0046	WESLEY VILLAGE, MACOMB”.....	\$1,220.00	6470	NATIVE AMERICAN FELLOWSHIP DAYSRING	\$2,445.25
0047	UM VILLAGE, LAWRENCE	\$5,491.57	6480	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	\$22,374.38
0048	WESLEY FOUNDATION, ISU	\$2,660.00	6490	MOMENCE WESLEYANA REY DE REYES.....	\$150.00
0049	WESLEY FOUNDATION, WIU.....	\$533.50	6510	COMMITTEE ON SHALOM ZONE	\$10.00
0050	WESLEY FOUNDATION, EIU.....	\$2,885.25	6535	JAMANI UM MINISTRIES	\$7,184.75
0051	WESLEY FOUNDATION, U OF I	\$2,005.00	6555	LIVING CONNECTION - Bloomington.....	\$100.00
0052	ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY	\$70.00	6565	SEVEN CITIES HERTIAGE CENTER	\$711.70
0053	MACMURRAY COLLEGE	\$20.00	6610	PROJECT SCHOOLROOM HAITI	\$2,171.00
0054	GARRETT-EVAN. SEMINARY	\$1,728.00	6620	MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER	\$50,599.76
0055	WILEY COLLEGE	\$6,087.42	6640	ORDINAND’S TRIP.....	\$4,954.79
0056	WESLEY FOUNDATION CARBONDALE	\$3,972.35	6650	JESUSCRISOES MI ROCA, KANKAKEE”	\$123.66
0057	WESLEY FOUNDATION EDWARDSVILLE	\$10.00	6700	ALAIN ROCOURT ENDOWMENT	\$12,268.09
0058	SPEC. FUND FOR CHR. HI. ED.	\$340.00	6750	JESUS DE NAZARET	\$1,287.00
0059	MCKENDREE COLLEGE	\$125.00	6800	CONFERENCE DISASTER FUND.....	\$2,704.00
0073	AFRICA UNIVERSITY	\$18,839.27	6810	BEULAH YOUTH PROG & IMPROVEMENT.....	\$953.25
0074	YOUTH SERVICE FUND.....	\$630.00	6820	LITTLE GRASSY PROG & IMPROVEMENT	\$646.46
0075	ITINERATION.....	\$90.00	6830	EPWORTH YOUTH PROG & IMPROVEMENT	\$6,808.40
0076	ILLCAAP	\$2,425.00	6840	EAST BAY PROG & IMPROVEMENT	\$7,983.65
0077	ILL. CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES	\$20.00	6850	LIVING SPRINGS PROG & IMPROV	\$4,210.16
0078	CHILDRENS FUND-CHRISTIAN MSN.	\$964.86	6860	JENSEN WOODS PROG & IMPROV	\$3,200.43
0079	PREACHERS AID SOCIETY	\$212.00	6870	MOM & ME CAMP.....	\$25.00
0081	RETIRED MINISTER’S DAY	\$1,049.00	6910	SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS.....	\$1,547.75
0083	UNICEF.....	\$5,424.54	1070	13028Z MCCARTY JANET SALARY SUPPORT	\$35,957.74
0098	HOME SWEET HOME MISSION	\$902.00	1080	11810Z HELEN SHEPERD SALARY SUPPORT	\$3,395.00
0818	818-002 BISHOPS APPEAL PHILLIPINES	\$2,863.00	1085	13996Z - Mozart Adevu SS	\$105.00
6020	EAGLE HOUSE MINISTRIES	\$7,808.58	1090	13980Z ELMA JOCSON SALARY SUPPORT	\$1,285.58
6030	CUNNINGHAM CHILDRENS HOME.....	\$18,052.74	1100	15141Z BECKY HARRELL SALARY SUPPORT	\$1,250.00
6041	ANNA BIXBY WOMEN’S CENTER	\$20.00	1105	13080Z JOEL NCAHORURI SALARY SUP	\$250.00
6042	SWAN.....	\$85.00	1106	14209Z ANNE-MARIE SIMBAGOYE SS	\$409.87
6043	VIOLENCE PREVENTION CENTER IN SW IL	\$490.00	1107	15171Z EDUARDO CAMPANA SS.....	\$5.00
6050	PEORIA BETHEL - FEEDING PROGRAM.....	\$2,292.35	1120	14020Z AKASA UMEMBUDI J SALARY SUPP	\$2,857.75
6060	TRINITY OUTREACH CENTER	\$18,383.16	1160	08595A WINGS OF CARING	\$2,021.00
6080	MINI O’BEIRNE CRISIS NURSERY	\$1,449.00	1189	14750A CHILDREN W/SPECIAL NEEDS BRAZIL	\$145.00
6085	FAIR HOPE CHILDREN’S MINISTRY	\$60.00	1190	07512A HOME FOR HAPPY CHILDREN RETREAT	\$50.00
6090	FAMILY MISSION FUND	\$2,819.29	1191	12729A HOMELESS/ABANDONED CHILD AFRICA	\$50.00
6100	ANGELS ON ASSIGNMENT - MT VERNON	\$285.00	1240	08597A WINGS OF MORNING	\$1,426.33
6105	PEORIA MADISON AVE CHILDREN’S MINISTRY	\$849.54	1253	13550A LAY MISSIONER KAUNAS-LITH.	\$1,000.00
6110	PEORIA MADISON AVE NEIGHBORHD	\$2,140.00	1260	12122L GLOBAL MISSION PARTNERS	\$20.00
6120	HUNGER MINISTRY-CHURCHES UNITED	\$1,364.55	1300	11151A AMITY FOUNDATION CHINA	\$600.00
6130	SANDOVAL SHALOM ZONE SUMMER LUNCH	\$516.50	1305	09801A AMITY FOUND. TEACHER SPPT-CHINA	\$345.00
6135	HOMEWORK HELP SANDOVAL SHALOM ZONE	\$75.00	1311	13105Z MISSION INTERNS	\$33.60
6140	FRIENDS OF JESUS FOOD PANTRY	\$89.42	1330	12192Z MARKAY DAVID SALARY SUPPORT	\$4,630.00
6150	LESSIE BATES DAVIS NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE	\$40,210.42	1331	12193Z MARKAY KRISTIAN SALARY SUPPO	\$3,445.00
6160	EMPTY TOMB	\$2,835.00	1670	08798Z SAVUTO BILL SUPPORT	\$250.00
6170	GOOD SAMARITAN INN.....	\$8,820.45	1671	08799Z JERRI SAVUTO SUPPORT	\$250.00
6180	DECATUR WEBSTER-CANTRELL HALL	\$343.00	1680	13421A TANSEN UM MISSION HOSPITAL	\$1,635.57
6190	DECATUR GRACE AFTER SCHOOL.....	\$10,412.70	1695	13456A MINISTRY TO CHILDREN/FAMILIES	\$5.00
6200	COBDEN JESUS ES EL SENOR	\$7,347.28	1710	3020560 TIDE (India)	\$2.00
6210	COMMON PLACE, PEORIA.....	\$5,116.43	1715	3020515 TECH TRAINING STREET KIDS (India)	\$102.00
6220	DEAF/HEARING IMPAIRED	\$6,298.72	1720	212383 WOMEN EQ./DEV. COM. OUTREACH PRG (India).....	\$102.00
6230	DEAF FAITH COMMUNITY	\$825.00	1850	14286Z MIGUEL ARENAS HERRERA	\$3,577.25
6240	SPGFLD GRACE-URBAN MINISTRY	\$200.00	1985	00408A POLAND	\$2,900.00
6255	NUEVA VIDA	\$4,870.35	2026	3021028 AFRICA UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS	\$1,387.00

Report on 2009 Second Mile Giving

Fund ID	Fund Description	Total	Fund ID	Fund Description	Total
2027	14547O SCHOOL HLTH ED ON STD.....	\$50.00	2180	14791T ANDEAN YOUTH PROJ	\$3,720.00
2030	13352A MOTHER/CHILD HEALTH PRJ	\$150.00	2204	14472A FEEDING STREET CHILDREN LIBERIA	\$350.00
2032	15053O REACHING OUT MINSITRY	\$350.00	2206	09229A-KISSY EYE HOSPITAL	\$300.00
2035	24022O FREE HEPATITISB VAC - Manila	\$80.00	2209	00382A - LIBERIA GENERAL	\$5,342.73
2040	14398A KAMINA ORPHANAGE - Congo	\$242.00	2210	05217Z MAY ROY SALARY SUPPORT	\$3,544.50
2045	14680A CHILDREN/POVERTY/VIOLENCE-GLOBAL	\$20.00	2211	14536A KISSY GENERAL HOSPITAL	\$1,787.00
2055	15125B SINOE DIST SCHOLARSHIP	\$375.00	2212	05218Z JANET MAY SALARY SUPPORT	\$562.50
2056	15124A SINOE DIST PASTOR SUPPORT	\$1,150.00	2213	15125B - LIBERIA SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT	\$9,286.53
2057	15126N SINOE DIST RECONSTRUCTION	\$972.97	2216	14494A LIBERIA UM VIM	\$25.00
2058	15125B KRU COAST DIST SCHOLARSHIP	\$725.00	2217	15124A-CLERGY SALARY SUPPORT (LIBERIA)	\$19,486.23
2059	15124A KRU COAST DIST PASTOR SUPPORT	\$1,110.00	2226	10672Z WIECK CONNIE SALARY SUPPORT	\$48,468.64
2060	15126N KRU COAST DIST RECONSTRUCTION.....	\$970.00	2230	00382L PARTNERS IN MISSION	\$360.00
2061	15125B GOMPA DIST SCHOLARSHIP	\$2,976.25	2232	14035B SPMC SCHOLARSHIP	\$315.00
2062	15124A GOMPA DIST PASTOR SUPPORT	\$1,856.05	2238	14495B-SCHOLARSHIPS WAR-VICTIM CHILDREN	\$350.00
2063	15126N GOMPA DIST RECONSTRUCTION.....	\$2,489.47	2286	09679A - GUATEMALA CHILDRENS PROGRAM	\$63.00
2064	15125B VOINJAMA DIST SCHOLARSHIP	\$3,672.32	2300	08233T AFRICA CHURCH GRW	\$420.00
2065	15124A VOINJAMA DIST PASTOR SUPPORT	\$690.00	2304	14628A HOT LUNCH -KIDAPAWAN CITY	\$605.00
2066	15126N VOINJAMA DIST RECONSTRUCTION	\$2,380.00	2309	418812 HAITI SOLAR OVENS.....	\$1,775.00
2067	15125B GRAND BASSA DIST SCHOLARSHIP.....	\$1,974.67	2310	3020507 HAITI CHILDREN PROJECT	\$1,500.00
2068	15124A GRAND BASSA DIST PASTOR SUPPORT	\$1,491.67	2311	101000 HOPE FOR THE CHILDREN OF AFRICA.....	\$2,281.19
2069	15126N GRAND BASSA DIST RECONSTRUCTION	\$1,121.66	2314	982015 NOTHING BUT NETS	\$69,847.56
2070	15125B ST JOHN RIVER DIST SCHOLARSHIP.....	\$1,575.00	2315	12929S HONDURAS NEW CHURCH DEVELOP	\$493.75
2071	15124A ST JOHN RIVER DIST PASTOR SUPPORT	\$2,169.87	2316	14488A SWORDS TURNED INTO PLOWSHARES	\$450.00
2072	15126N ST JOHN RIVER DIST RECONSTRUCTION	\$500.00	2327	12548A CAMPHOR UM MISSION-LIBERIA	\$5,871.70
2073	15125B KAKATA/FARMINGTON SCHOLARSHIP	\$8,091.94	2331	12939Z DANIEL GABLER SALARY SUPPORT.....	\$150.00
2074	15124A KAKATA/FARMINGTON PASTOR SPPT	\$6,189.67	2332	12940Z RACHEL GABLER SALARY SUPPORT	\$150.00
2075	15126N KAKATA/FARMINGTON RECONST.....	\$6,315.33	2333	180001 SHADE	\$100.00
2076	15125B KOKOYA DIST SCHOLARSHIP	\$2,729.03	2335	14377A CHILD RESCUE CENTER-SIERRA LEONE	\$50.00
2077	15124A KOKOYA DIST PASTOR SUPPORT	\$1,873.00	2344	14293N LIGHTHOUSE OF HOPE - Chile	\$60.00
2078	15126N KOKOYA DIST RECONSTRUCTION	\$500.00	2346	12320A BOLIVIA-SANTA CRUZ CHILDREN	\$100.00
2079	15125B MORWEH CIRCUIT SCHOLARSHIP.....	\$387.50	2347	12308A BOLIVIA-RIO COLORADO SCHOOL	\$500.00
2080	15124A MORWEH CIRCUIT PASTOR SUPPORT.....	\$1,556.51	2360	11713T BABY FOLD OLD MUTARE	\$3,414.84
2082	15125B RIVERCESS DIST SCHOLARSHIP.....	\$387.50	2361	11942Z LUHAHI LAHI SALARY SUPPORT	\$2,650.00
2083	15124A RIVERCESS DIST PASTOR SUPPORT.....	\$2,588.50	2362	11943Z YEMA LUHAHI PROJECT	\$2,910.00
2084	15126N RIVERCESS DIST RECONSTRUCTION.....	\$1,250.00	2376	10721Z MARY ZIGBOU SALARY SUPPORT.....	\$355.61
2085	15125B MONROVIA DIST SCHOLARSHIP	\$2,130.00	2377	10911Z HERBERT ZIGBOU SAL SUPPORT	\$34.50
2086	15124A MONROVIA DIST PASTOR SUPPORT	\$3,130.00	2400	09572Z KIES LAWRENCE SUPPORT.....	\$7,460.35
2088	15125B ST PAUL RIVER DIST SCHOLARSHIP.....	\$633.01	2401	10739Z JANE KIES SUPPORT	\$335.00
2089	15124A ST PAUL RIVER DIST PASTOR SPPT	\$1,080.00	2405	06919A AGRICULTURE PROGRAM NIGERIA	\$285.57
2090	15126N ST PAUL RIVER DIST RECONST.	\$4,316.24	2411	3020521 REGIONAL FAMILY CENTER MIKULOV	\$50.00
2092	15124A MONROVIA DIST. PASTOR SUPPORT	\$1,160.00	2413	3020646 FEEDING HOMEBOUND ELDERLY/CAREGIVING TRAINING - Liberia.....	\$1,500.00
2093	15126N MONROVIA DIST. RECONSTRUCTION	\$911.57	2414	140161 AIDS ORPHANS MAUA HOSPITAL - Kenya	\$100.00
2094	15125B TAPPITA DIST SCHOLARSHIP.....	\$2,307.00	2415	3020644 WOMEN FARMING - Kenya	\$1,817.50
2095	15124A TAPPITA DIST PASTOR SUPPORT	\$80.00	2416	3020789 WOMEN'S EMPOWER./LEADER. TRNG - Cambodia ..	\$15.00
2096	15126N TAPPITA DIST RECONSTRUCTION	\$1,058.66	2417	3020792 PAR-ARUGA PROG FOR STREET CHILDREN	\$5.00
2097	15125B GBARNGA DIST SCHOLARSHIP	\$40.00	2418	3020630 RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT - Sri Kanka.....	\$100.00
2098	15124A GBARNGA DIST PASTOR SUPPORT	\$2,470.96	2419	3020670 CONSTRUCT. OF NEW SCHOOL BLDGS - Liberia	\$10.00
2099	15126N GBARNGA DIST RECONSTRUCTION	\$10.00	2420	13035Z PRISCILLA JIAIAH SUPPORT	\$6,009.16
2100	15125B WEALAH DIST SCHOLARSHIP.....	\$788.10	2430	12128C CAMPHOR MISSION CLINIC.....	\$199.92
2101	15124A WEALAH DIST PASTOR SUPPORT	\$5,160.29	2437	14910A WI'AM COMM EMPOWERMENT & CONFLICT RES...\$	\$109.0
2102	15126N WEALAH DIST RECONSTRUCTION.....	\$1,097.66	2438	10009A GANTA HOSPITAL.....	\$2,685.00
2103	15125B CAPE PALMAS DIST SCHOLARSHIP	\$2,970.50	2491	14279A RUSSIA ORPHANAGES	\$25.00
2104	15124A CAPE PALMAS DIST PASTOR SUPPORT.....	\$3,032.82	2560	08406B JOHN WESLEY METHODIST SEMINARY.....	\$72.0
2105	15126N CAPE PALMAS DIST RECONST.	\$1,574.50	2570	09941N JW BIBLE SEMINARY BLDG	\$190.00
2106	15125B GARAWAY DIST SCHOLARSHIP	\$2,169.72	2580	00779Z MISSIONARIES OUTSIDE US	\$1,597.00
2107	15124A GARAWAY DIST PASTOR SUPPORT	\$1,253.03	2681	11820A BISHOP J CRAIG HOME, PROGRAM	\$5,596.25
2108	15126N GARAWAY DIST RECONSTRUCTION	\$1,047.21	2685	11638N QUESSUA MISSION BOARDING SCHOOL.....	\$15.00
2109	15125B NANA KRU DIST SCHOLARSHIP	\$2,240.25	2761	13329A PREVENTION HIGH RISK STREET KIDS - Peru.....	\$285.57
2110	15124A NANA KRU DIST PASTOR SUPPORT	\$4,220.60	2860	10247B SCHOLARSHIP ASST.LA BIBLICAL UNIVERSITY ...	\$200.00
2111	15126N NANA KRU DIST RECONSTRUCTION	\$2,448.20	2975	14291Z RACHEL MUEMBO SALARY SUPPORT	\$7,322.50
2112	15125B GRAND GEDEH DIST SCHOLARSHIP	\$640.00	2976	15077A EUGENE MUEMBO SALARY SPPT.....	\$10,582.50
2113	15124A GRAND GEDEH DIST PASTOR SPPT	\$2,041.00	2977	13959Z-ESTHER KARIMI GITOBU SAL SUPPORT	\$1,250.00
2114	15126N GRAND GEDEH DIST RECONST.....	\$660.00	2978	15080N GEORGE W HARLEY GANTA HOSPITAL	\$3,733.26
2115	15126N LIBERIA RECONSTRUCTION	\$4,178.57	3000	901680 MIDWEST EMERGENCIES	\$200.00
2117	15125B JORQUELLEH DIST SCHOLARSHIP.....	\$509.99	3002	602225 AFGHANISTAN EMERGENCY.....	\$95.00
2118	15124A JORQUELLEH DIST. PASTOR SUPPORT.....	\$560.00	3003	198400 CONGO (DRC) EMERGENCY	\$166.00
2119	15126N JORQUELLEH DIST RECONST.	\$500.00	3004	199456 ZIMBABWE EMERGENCY	\$415.00
2122	15124A JORQUELLEH DIST PASTOR SUPPORT	\$330.00	3005	623225-4 IRAQ EMERGENCY	\$162.0
2123	15126N JORQUELLEH DIST. RECONSTRUCTIO	\$250.00	3007	601740 MIDDLE EAST EMERGENCY.....	\$325.00
2175	14832M HOME PLACE CHILD. STS MEXICO CITY	\$100.00			

Report on 2009 Second Mile Giving

Fund ID	Fund Description	Total	Fund ID	Fund Description	Total
3009	982168 HOSPITAL REVITALIZATION	\$1,165.00	4220	931027 ALASKA PARISH PART	\$1,111.00
3010	982188 SUSTAINABLE AG/DEVELP-GLOBAL	\$1,380.00	4230	773919 THOMAS & CHRIST DENMAN SS - RED BIRD	\$250.00
3020	982345 GLOBAL HIV/AIDS PROG DEVELOPMENT	\$8,105.60	4240	760235 GULF SIDE ASSEMBLY-WAVELAND MS	\$20.00
3031	120553 MALARIA/MALNUTRITION/HIV-AIDS, ETC	\$300.00	4290	982809 RURAL/FARM CRISIS USA.....	\$95.00
3040	982380 C.W.S. CROP	\$1,337.00	4300	982658 NOMADS	\$700.00
3045	333615 ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING	\$167.00	4315	773972 REED & BARBARA BROCK (RB).....	\$3,548.56
3055	3019695 HURRICANE 2008	\$3,118.00	4340	581535 NAVAJO MINISTRY	\$325.00
3056	3019696 WORLD FOOD CRISIS	\$1,000.00	4360	982966 WISNER-OTT SALLY SUPPORT	\$2,428.00
3060	982530 HEIFER PROJ-GENERAL	\$1,655.34	4370	910092 BLACKFEET PARISH.....	\$307.77
3075	901440 MATERIAL RESOURCES	\$130.00	4380	771458 MOUNTAIN MISSION KTY.	\$50.00
3080	982532 HEIFER LIVING GIFT	\$35,528.06	4390	773777 SMALLWOOD MARK/REBECCA SUPPORT (RB) ..	\$17,457.45
3090	982418 HEIFER - FILL THE ARK	\$13,118.38	4460	931435 ALASKA CHILDRENS SERVICES	\$125.00
3100	982400 CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION	\$30.00	4500	982147 CHURCH & COMMUNITY SALARY SUPP	\$75.00
3130	982029 HUNGER & DEVELOPMENT	\$100.00	4520	982385 HOMELESSNESS - USA	\$1,364.00
3153	982523 HURRICANES 2005-KATRINA	\$322.00	4540	982874 US-2 PROGRAM	\$432.45
3160	982450 UMCOR EMERG RELIEF	\$13,527.99	4550	512215 CAMP ALDERSGATE, LITTLE ROCK.....	\$257.00
3166	901515 SAGER BROWN UMCOR DEPOT	\$884.24	4570	982876 MINISTRIES W/WOMEN IN CRISIS USA	\$70.00
3170	217400 INDONESIA EMERGENCY	\$71.56	4571	982039 APPALACHIAN HUNGER/POVERTY-MD	\$45.00
3180	240235 PHILIPPINES EMERGENCY	\$886.00	4615	171282 FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN	\$100.00
3221	184385 SUDAN EMERG RELIEF	\$2,334.70	4650	123615 TREE OF LIFE MINISTRY	\$2,551.50
3290	982325 BREAD FOR THE WORLD	\$1,371.50	4680	801600 ST ANDREW POTATO PRJT	\$8,019.56
3300	982920 WORLD HUNGER	\$20,814.73	4990	982586 NATIONAL DIV-UNDESIGN.....	\$50.00
3320	982493 FOODS RESOURCE BANK GLOBAL	\$120.00			
3340	701001 LAND,RIGHTS&ECON. OPPORTUNITIES	\$20.00			
3490	101250 AFRICA FAMINE RELIEF	\$1,210.00			
3495	101225 CHILDREN' S MINISTRIES.....	\$50.00			
3500	201225 CHILDRENS MINISTRIES ASIA/PACIFIC	\$50.00			
3520	418847 INTEGRATED COMMUNITY HEALTH TUBERCULOSIS	\$300.00			
3530	418790 HAITI HOT SCHOOL LUNCH	\$8,803.35			
3531	418791 HAITI DRINKING WATER	\$71.22			
3545	701225 CHILDRENS MINISTRIES LATIN AM.....	\$815.81			
3550	982819 CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION GLOBAL	\$1,162.00			
3620	156500 MOZAMBIQUE EMERG.....	\$200.00			
3750	3020684 LEPROSY MISSIONS	\$300.00			
3751	982009 AFRICA MALARIA CONTROL.....	\$727.00			
3760	418520 GRACE HOSPITAL HAITI	\$2,925.00			
3765	418325 HAITI EMERGENCY	\$300.00			
3770	901670 EMERGENCY RESPONSE USA	\$17,710.61			
3775	3021002 HURRICANES 2009.....	\$50.00			
3780	982575 LAND MINE REMOVAL	\$110.00			
3781	982580 PROSTHESIS PRG LANDMINE	\$20.00			
3815	525000 EL PORVENIR, CLEAN WATER/SANITATION	\$500.00			
3820	982810 CWS BLANKETS	\$14,574.59			
3850	982630 MEDICINE BOX	\$445.00			
3860	982540 GLOBAL REFUGEE RESPONSE.....	\$430.00			
3990	999895 UNDESIGNATED-UMCOR.....	\$25,090.05			
4000	773726 RED BIRD MISSION INC	\$14,386.01			
4003	542635 HETCOR SANCHEZ SALARY SUPPORT	\$1,585.00			
4010	773993 WIERTZEMA RUTH SUPPORT - RED BIRD	\$2,415.00			
4020	741447 RURAL MISSION JOHN ISLAND.....	\$284.25			
4025	770130 BENNETT CENTER OF LONDON KY	\$12.00			
4030	773728 RED BIRD MISSION SCHOOL.....	\$13,796.47			
4035	3020437 JOY SOUTHFIELD COMM. HEALTH CNTR	\$406.47			
4040	773978 RED BIRD MISS CONFERENCE CHURCHES/ OUTREACH CENTER	\$504.00			
4045	773174 PHYLLIS CROUSE SUPPORT - RED BIRD	\$1,250.00			
4060	773365 HENDERSON SETTLEMENT	\$9,881.30			
4070	773782 DENNIS/JUNE SPARENBURG SS	\$1,372.00			
4080	581479 MCCURDY SCH. STUDENT FIN./GENERAL SPPT ..	\$3,111.18			
4081	581485 MCCURDY SCHOOL/NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP	\$1,325.00			
4090	773971 STUBBLEFIELD LARRY/MARGARET SPT	\$2,252.07			
4095	773004 MIKE TUPPER SALARY SUPPORT - Red Bird.....	\$450.00			
4100	773724 RED BIRD CLINIC	\$3,540.33			
4102	982597 NATIONAL MISSIONARY SUPPORT	\$1,282.50			
4130	583581 NATIVE AMERICAN CHILDREN OK City	\$55.00			
4140	583634 OKLA INDIAN CONF	\$3,067.77			
4150	773963 SPRINGER STEVE & DIANE SS - RED BIRD.....	\$945.00			
4200	123456 A CHILD	\$250.00			
4210	931515 CAMPBELL JAMES SUPPORT	\$438.38			

Total **\$1,419,055.74**

The above amounts represent individual church remittances to various ministries sent to the conference office during 2009. The total does not include direct contributions to those ministries.

Christian Conversation

Thank you for giving!

Editor, *The Current*:

The opportunity to say “thank you” to the people of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference is an honor.

Your faithful ministry of giving 100 percent to the apportioned funds in 2009 impacts lives and helps continue the global ministries of The United Methodist Church.

To God be the glory. Thank you and God bless you.

A.Moses Rathan Kumar

General Secretary

General Council on Finance and Administration

The United Methodist Church

The difference between Walgreens and the church



Cynthia Weems

By Cynthia Weems

Samuel showed up on a Wednesday evening about the time we were beginning our fellowship meal, insisting he and I sit at a table by ourselves. He told me that he was possessed by a demon that had plagued him for much of his life. Some of his family members experienced the same thing. He made a fist around his ear lobe, indicating the kind of excruciating pain it caused. But then a smile appeared on his face. “Last week, when I attended your prayer service, the pain stopped. I felt a relief from it that I have never felt before.”

I was speechless (an oddity for me). “Really?” I asked, “Last week? At our prayer service?” I looked around to see if anyone was overhearing this conversation.

My clergy ego told me to take pride. My modern mind told me to beware.

I proceeded in a very mainline Protestant kind of way by asking questions. “Have you seen a doctor?” He had, but to no avail. “Are you taking any medications?” No. “Are you experiencing stress?” Not particularly. “Have your family members ever felt relief from their pain?” He shook his head.

“Pastor, I have never tried church before. In all this time, I have never tried church. Will you pray for me again? My pain has returned but I remember what it felt like to have it lifted.”

There seemed to be an amazing clash of wills at work as Samuel and I sat together. His hope was met with my suspicion. Did he need Jesus or did he need a pharmacy? I wondered where all my skepticism came from. Was I tired? I had already spent significant time that week

See Difference on page 6....

Conference News



Photos by Paul Black

100% payment of apportionments

The following churches have paid 100 percent of both the Clergy Support and Administration apportionment and the Benevolence and World Service apportionments for 2009. Receipt of their payments were received after the cutoff date. This list, combined with the listing which appeared in the February issue of *The Current*, reflects payments for 2009 as Feb. 11, 2010.

- Johnston City UMC, Cache River District
- Windsor UMC, Embarras River District
- Manito UMC, Illinois River District
- Rossville UMC, Iroquois River District
- Fairview UMC, Kaskaskia River District
- Mt. Carmel Evangelical UMC, Kaskaskia River District
- Bethel UMC, Kaskaskia River District
- Beardstown UMC, LaMoine River District
- Loraine UMC, LaMoine River District
- Rushville First UMC, LaMoine River District
- Bethalto UMC, Mississippi River District
- Glen Carbon New Bethel UMC, Mississippi River District
- Galesburg First UMC, Spoon River District
- Galva Grace UMC, Spoon River District



Dr. Zan Holmes shows his candle blowing prowess after attendees at Covenant Keepers 2010 sang Happy Birthday to him during the Feb. 1-2 gathering. Holmes spent his birthday with the nearly 300 clergy that attended this year's event, giving three presentations on preaching and then preaching the closing worship service. Cynthia Wilson provided leadership in the worship and even persuaded Bishop Gregory V. Palmer to join her in a duet at Monday night's concert.

Haiti

Continued from page 1

Plainfield, N.J., will host a "Harmonies of Liberty" Haiti benefit organ concert featuring Mark Miller Feb. 28. A freewill offering will aid Haiti relief efforts.

Miki Campbell, a junior at Neuqua Valley High School, Naperville, Ill., has traveled to Haiti on a mission trip with Wheatland Salem United Methodist

Church. The Friday after the earthquake struck, the Campbell family opened their home for "Miki's Soup Kitchen." Friends and family were invited to stop in and help plan relief efforts while enjoying a bowl of soup.

**Dunlap-Berg is internal content editor for United Methodist Communications, Nashville, Tenn.*

Be There. Be Hope. In Haiti.

Give now to support relief efforts in Haiti. www.umcorhaiti.org



Residents in Port-au-Prince, Haiti search for survivors among the debris on January 13, 2010, one day after a 7.0 earthquake rocked the country. Haiti's president said he feared thousands were dead after the presidential palace, schools, hospitals, and hillside shanties collapsed, leaving the Caribbean nation appealing for international help. REUTERS/Eduardo Werra/Courtesy of www.Amnet.org

Give through The Advance to Haiti relief at www.umcorhaiti.org

John Wesley Fellowship of Illinois Presents 31st Annual United Methodist Gathering on the Holy Spirit

(formerly Conference of the Holy Spirit)

"Trusting in the Holy Spirit"

April 8-10, 2010

Grace United Methodist Church
901 North Main St.
Decatur, IL 62521

Cinde Lucas (Overflow Ministries)
John Barrett (On the Rock Ministries)
Danny Cox
Merlin Schendel

Special Guest:
Bishop Gregory Palmer

Youth Gathering

Jr. & Sr. High Students April 9-10
at Decatur First UMC

Rev. Rob Waldo & Dr. Josh Mandrell



For more information, schedules and registration forms:

www.jwfil.org