



Cover image: Don Reasoner

In Mission for Christ and the World

BIENNIAL REPORT

2002 • 2003





Goals of the General Board of Global Ministries

MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

We will witness by word and deed among those who have not heard or heeded the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will initiate, facilitate, and support the creation and development of communities of faith that seek, welcome, and gather people into the body of Christ and challenge them to Christian discipleship. Where direct proclamation is not permitted, a caring presence becomes the means of Christian witness.

STRENGTHEN, DEVELOP, AND RENEW CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

We will work with mission partners toward mutual development of spiritual life, worship, witness, and service.

ALLEVIATE HUMAN SUFFERING

We will help to initiate, strengthen, and support the spiritual, physical, emotional, and social needs of people.

SEEK JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND PEACE

We will participate with people oppressed by unjust economic, political, and social systems in programs that seek to build just, free, and peaceful societies.

In Appreciation of Missionaries



Questions about the number and support of missionaries have held center stage in the life of the General Board of Global Ministries over the last two years. These questions were raised in large part by revenue shortfalls that required a temporary moratorium on new missionary appointments at the end of 2002. This painful decision was made by directors only after staff and other programs had been reduced as much as we dared.

The ensuing dialogue on how the church will recruit, assign, and fund missionaries has been both agonizing and productive. It has clearly shown the need for greater churchwide awareness of the value and the costs of missionaries today. It has underscored the deep commitment of the Board and of The United Methodist Church to missionaries engaged in a broad range of Christian ministries for Christ and the world.

As a clear statement of the Board's esteem for the missionary vocation, this biennial report is dedicated to all Methodist and United Methodist missionaries past and present. Missionaries respond to Christ's mandate in Acts 1 that followers be witnesses in Judea, Samaria, and the

uttermost parts. They come from every nation and ethnic group and go to places most Christians never see. In Christ's name, they make contact with people who need the Word and other forms of assistance.

The directors and staff of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church join me in expressing profound appreciation to the missionaries of our denomination and its predecessor organizations. May God grant them the strength to be agents of grace and bearers of love and justice; may God grant the rest of us the fortitude to support their work by prayers and gifts of thanksgiving.

BISHOP JOEL N. MARTINEZ
(San Antonio, Texas)
PRESIDENT

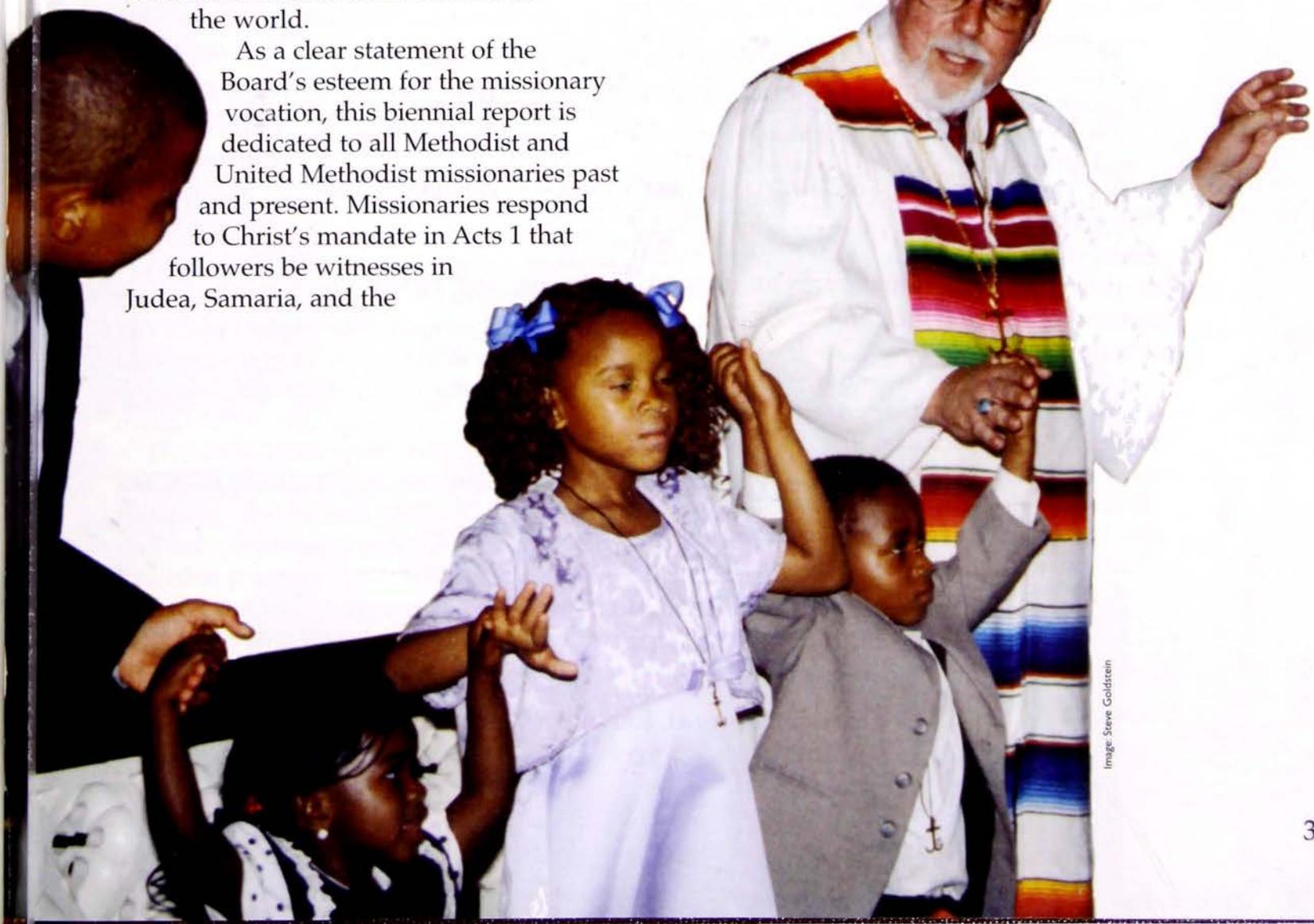


Image: Steve Goldstein

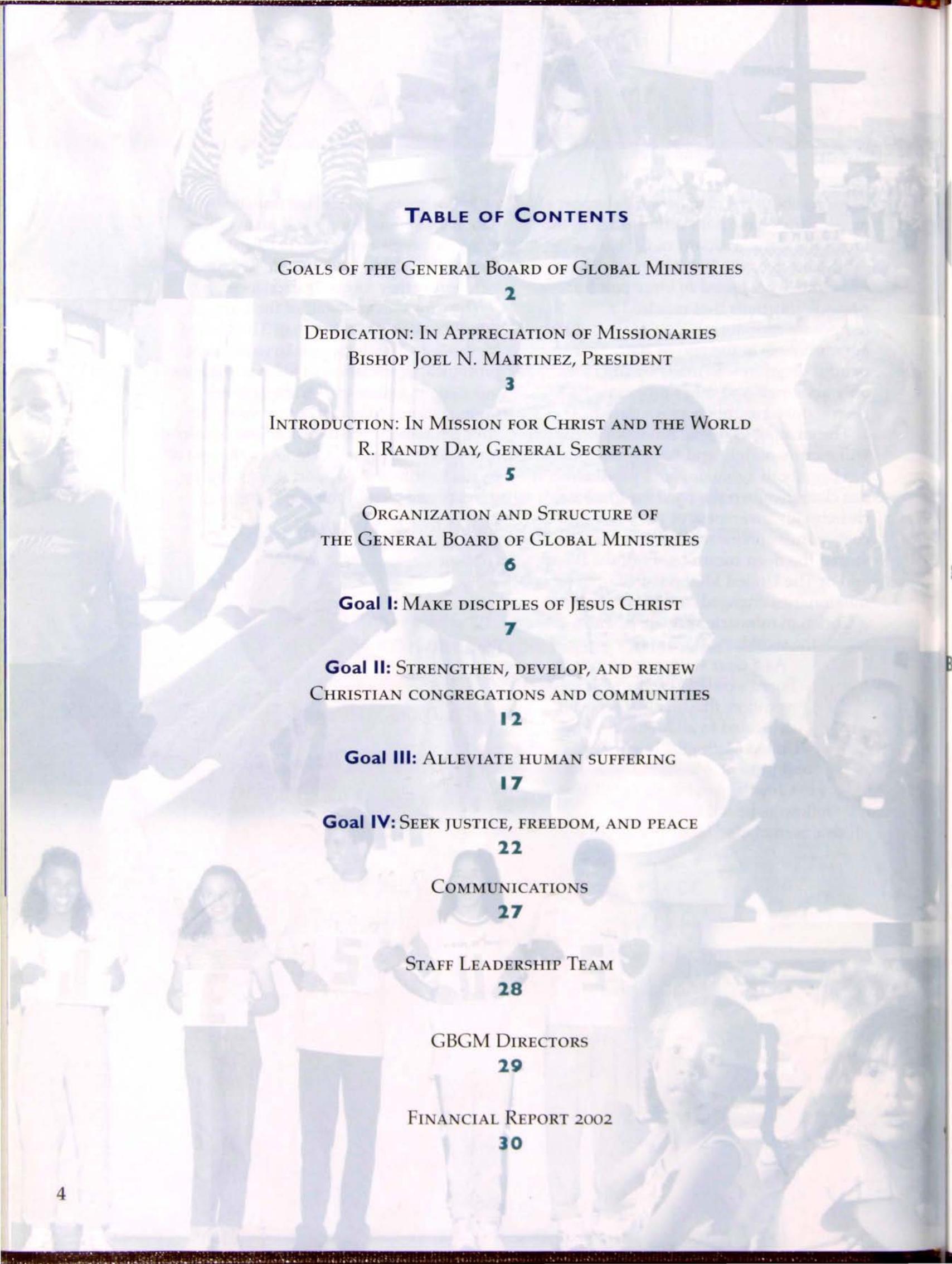


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In Mission for Christ and the World

Our four mission goals provide the organizational structure of the 2002-2003 biennial report of the General Board of Global Ministries. These goals, printed in full on page 2, summarize the responsibilities assigned to the Board by The United Methodist Church through the General Conference. In brief, they are:

1. MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST.
2. STRENGTHEN, DEVELOP, AND RENEW CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONS AND COMMUNITIES.
3. ALLEVIATE HUMAN SUFFERING.
4. SEEK JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND PEACE.

There are especially strong affinities between one and two (evangelism and church growth) and between three and four (Christian service); yet all four overlap and interweave. Mission evangelism and mission health care are not separate when done in Christ's name. Likewise, the several program and administrative units of the Board (see page 6) collectively share these goals, a reality demonstrated in this report through actual mission stories.

Proclamations aimed at making disciples can come in the removal of landmines; alleviation of human suffering can be triggered by a sermon that opens minds to the wonders of God's creation and advancements in medicine.

This 2002-2003 report primarily tells stories of the results of United Methodist mission in the lives of individuals, families, and communities. A great deal of currently available print and Internet material describes mission programs, details the activities of the Board units, and provides statistical data. Here, through illustrative

stories, we give an accounting of the effects of our Christian mission today.

The goals and the stories that appear under each goal show The United Methodist Church and the General Board of Global Ministries "In Mission for Christ and the World," the theme we have selected for this report.

Theologian Emil Brunner famously said that "mission is to the church what burning is to fire"—the essence and the activity. Mission's energy, the power of combustion, comes from God. The church is enlivened, equipped, and sent by God to do God's mission. The Gospel—the Good News of God's love and gifts of redemption and reconciliation—empowers us to witness and serve in the 74 countries where the Board currently is at work. Our mission, our response to God, is *for* Christ, who reveals God's purpose, and *for* the sake of the world that God creates and for which God cares. Making disciples, building up the church, alleviating suffering, and promoting justice, freedom, and peace are mission goals because they represent the will of God through Christ for the whole world.

I hope you will read the stories and other information in this report with a keen awareness that the entire Church—all the people called United Methodist—is called and sent to be in mission for Christ and the world.

R. RANDY DAY
GENERAL SECRETARY

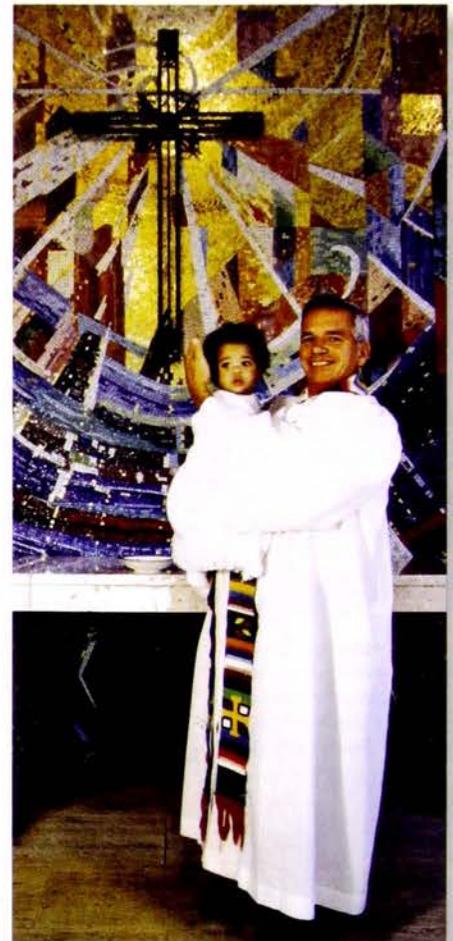


Image: Lane Cotton Winn

Our four mission goals provide the organizational structure of the 2002-2003 Biennial Report of the General Board of Global Ministries

Organization and Structure of the General Board of Global Ministries

The General Board of Global Ministries comprises seven programming units, the Women's Division, and General Administration. The following six units are designated as "program areas":

- **COMMUNITY AND INSTITUTIONAL MINISTRIES** facilitates and resources outreach to meet human needs, with special emphases on women, children, families, and older adults; it relates to 100 national mission institutions, including many community centers, in the United States.
- **EVANGELIZATION AND CHURCH GROWTH** facilitates the proclamation of and witness to the saving grace of Jesus Christ through word, deed, and sacrament in every sphere of human existence. It helps to establish new churches and strengthens existing congregations.
- **MISSION CONTEXTS AND RELATIONSHIPS** analyzes the contexts in which the church is called to mission and builds covenant relationships and mission partnerships to implement the goals of mission. It takes into account cultural, religious, historical, economic, and political factors; develops ecumenical relations; and explores dialogue with people of other faiths.
- **MISSION EDUCATION** develops and delivers an educational philosophy that is rooted in a biblical and theological understanding of Christian global mission. It undergirds the total program of the Board.
- **MISSION PERSONNEL** recruits, selects, trains, assigns, supervises, and supports personnel for short- and

long-term service. It also identifies opportunities for service.

- **MISSION VOLUNTEERS** enables the participation of individuals and teams in global mission voluntary programs that build strong, affirming relationships.

HEALTH AND RELIEF, the seventh program unit, comprises the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Health and Welfare Ministries. This unit requires a distinct structure because of the nature of its work. Health and Welfare Ministries assists United Methodists to become involved globally in ministries that address the critical health needs of children, youth, older adults, people with physically and mentally challenging conditions, and racial/ethnic communities of color. UMCOR engages in intensive humanitarian service.

WOMEN'S DIVISION actively engages in fulfilling the mission of Christ and the church and interprets the purpose of United Methodist Women. The division advocates for the oppressed and dispossessed, with special attention to women, children, and youth; works to build a supportive community among women; and helps foster growth in the Christian faith, mission education, and Christian social involvement. It is the national policy-making body of United Methodist Women.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION includes Financial Services, Planning and Research, Mission Evangelism, and Coordinated Services (Communications and Financial Development), and governs various mission support functions.



Goal I MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

"[Y]ou will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ACTS 1:8B

Jesus Loves You

"Miss Vicki, will Jesus hurt me if I don't eat all my food?" eight-year-old Jontae asked as he looked up from his plate on the kitchen table of the Open Arms Community in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

I am speechless as I try to understand the question and formulate a reply. What is behind it? I know that Jontae's family—a mother and six children—have moved four times since I have known them. The children are in a constant state of transition, dislocation, and uncertainty. Church people of all denominations have come and gone in their lives. When Jontae was five years old, he saw his father murdered in a drug deal. The father of a younger brother is awaiting trial for murder. Most men in Jontae's young life have brought drugs, alcohol, and beatings into the home. And somewhere in all this,

the child has gotten the idea that even Jesus brings condemnation and punishment and anger.

"No, baby," I say as I stroke his neck. "Jesus won't ever, ever hurt you, not even a little bit. Jesus loves you so much. He wants you to be happy and healthy. And what he wants most of all is for you to love him back."

VICKI SIGMON

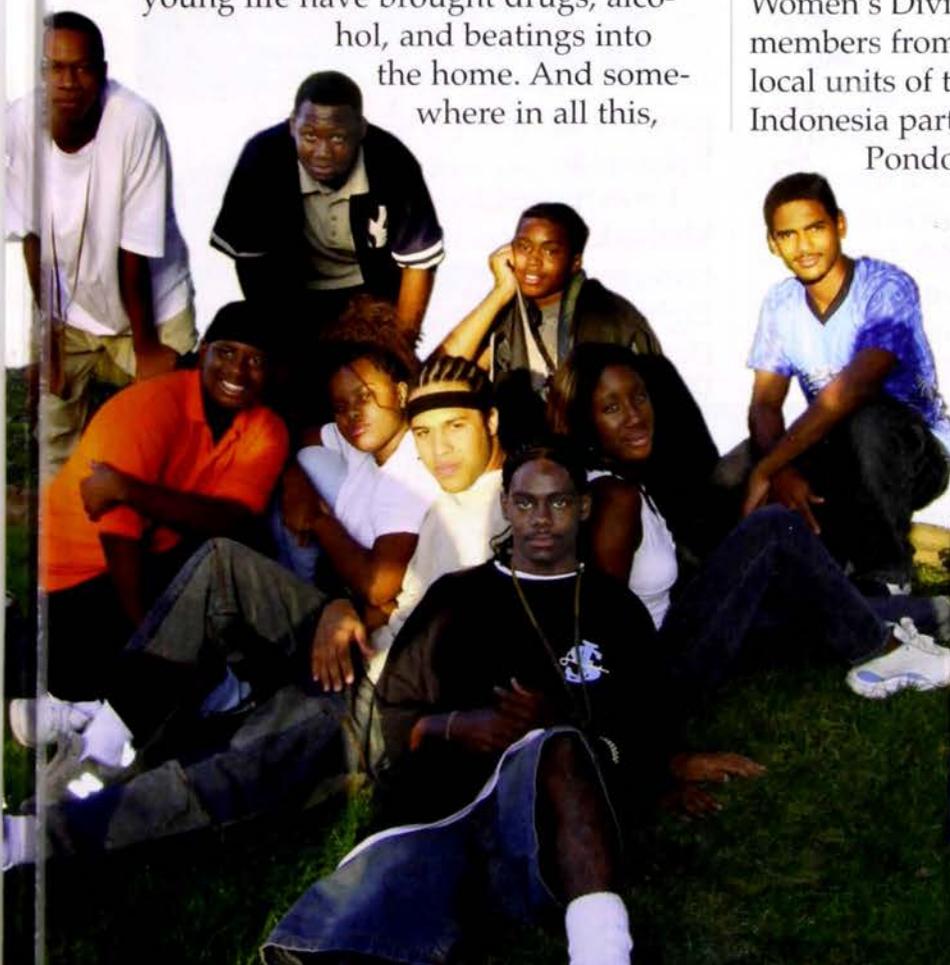
CHURCH AND COMMUNITY WORKER
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

Bible Women Bring Good News

My name is Rev. Dr. Indriani Bone of the Methodist Church in Indonesia. I am assigned to an English-speaking congregation located in the rural town of Lampung. During the first week of December 2003, I had the privilege of coordinating the first Bible Women's pilot training program in Indonesia. (Bible Women is a program of the Women's Division.) For five days, 45 members from various district and local units of the Methodist Women of Indonesia participated in the training at Pondok Remaja PGI Cipayung,



(Above) Volunteer with child during Sunday School lessons, crafts, meals in Open Arms house church. Image: Vicky Sigmon



(Far left) Open Arms Community members of teen group.

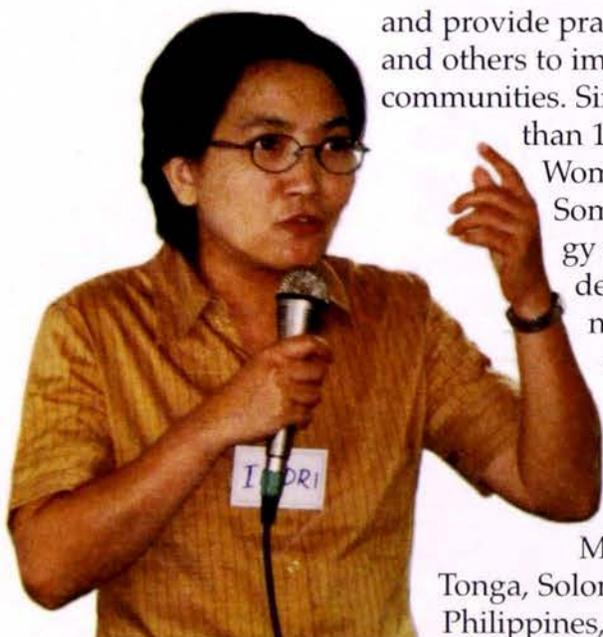
(Middle and right) Volunteers with children during Sunday School lessons, crafts, meals in Open Arms house church. Images: Vicky Sigmon



Bogor. Our Bible studies focused on women being healed, challenged, and transformed by Jesus' ministry. Literacy tools on health, HIV-AIDS, economic development, and human rights opened our eyes to how we could make a difference in improving our families, churches, women's organizations, and communities. We were inspired knowing that soon we would have action plans that will be implemented in our different towns beginning March 2004.

The following week, I was part of another training team. Sixty-five women became Bible Women once they completed the training. What excites me most is learning that I am now part of a movement of Bible Women or Gospel Women (*Perumpuan Evangils*) who share the Good News of the Bible and provide practical skills to women and others to improve their lives and communities. Since January 2001, more

than 1,100 Asian Bible Women have been trained. Some are laywomen, clergy spouses, clergy, and deaconesses. Some are nurses, teachers, students, housewives, or church workers. Most of us live in remote, rural towns in Cambodia, East Malaysia, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands, the Philippines, Southern India, and



New Mission Initiatives

Intense mission activities in the 1990s resulted in new or renewed United Methodist/Methodist churches around the world. In 2002, the Board designated 11 of these as "new mission initiatives."

Collectively, these initiatives have organized 303 new congregations or Christian fellowships. In mid-2003, they were served by 239 ordained or lay pastors and more than 50 missionaries. The countries of the new initiatives are:

Cambodia	Cameroon
Honduras	Laos
Latvia	Lithuania
Mongolia	Nepal
Russia	Senegal
Vietnam	

Mission Personnel

Missionaries and other mission personnel as of October 2002, were:

Commissioned missionaries (all categories)	711
Non-commissioned personnel	92
Persons in Mission	247

(PIMs are selected by partner churches and partly funded by the Board)

now Central and North Sumatra, Indonesia.

I was moved to learn that my Iban Methodist sisters have been able to bring more than 200 people to Christ. Eighty-five were baptized on Christmas Day 2003. From 2001 to 2003, the Bible Women of Sarawak, Malaysia, have provided Bible studies and health and nutrition programs to more than 3,000

(Top) Reverend Indriani Bone, Trainer.
Image: Karen Prudente

(Left bottom) Deaconess and Bible woman Kasthuri Devaraj leading Bible study in Nappalayam village. (India)
Image: Karen Prudente

(Right bottom) Philippine Health worker Olive Cervantes teaching alternative medicine. (Cambodia)
Image: Karen Prudente

people. With God's grace, despite the interfaith challenges within Indonesia, I plan to bring the Good News and the Bible Women's program to those who need spiritual nourishment and better skills for living.

INDRIANI BONE
BIBLE WOMAN

Witness in Central and Southeastern Europe

The church is growing fastest among the poor. It is not the result of humanitarian aid but through the fruits of witnessing that faith changes lives.

Sergei is a young man working now as a lay missionary in Ushgorod, Ukraine. He was born in a village close to the nuclear power station in Chernobyl. After the nuclear catastrophe in Chernobyl, the family had to move out of the zone because they were suffering from nuclear contamination. Sergei's father died and his mother was handicapped. He had to move with his mother to Kiev. But he could not cope with the new situation in the big city. He became a member of a gang of drug dealers and ended up in prison. Young people from the Wesleyan congregation

in Kiev visited him regularly. He was surprised that they cared and he listened to their witness. He really wanted to change, so he committed his life to Christ.

After Sergei was released from prison, he received the opportunity to study for two years at the Bible school in Kiev. Now married with one child, he is working among young people in Ushgorod. Most of them are unemployed and in the same dangerous situation he had been in. Because he knows how to speak to them, his witness is strong and clear: to become a Christian is a life-changing experience. The young people in the streets of Ushgorod and Perechin are listening to him.

BISHOP HEINRICH BOLLETER
CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN EUROPE AREA

Saying a Good Prayer

The Ishe Anesu Project, a school for poor children, emerged from the vision of missionary Maria Humbane. It is located at the Hilltop United Methodist Church in Sukubva, Mutare, in Zimbabwe, but Ishe Anesu is a truly global ministry of The United Methodist Church. The Holston Conference is a major partner, and support also comes from Indiana, Michigan, Colorado, and Baltimore-

(Left) Pastor Veissel from Varna with his family. He is one of the Roma (Gypsy) pastors in Bulgaria.

Image: Peter Siegfried

(Right) Prisoners in the Ekaterinburg (Russia) prison with Rev. Elena Stepanova (front row, second from right) and Rev. Elena Tischenko (front row, second from left) where the UMC congregation has developed an important ministry.

Image: Peter Siegfried



Covenant Relationships

Covenant Relationships are links between congregations and particular missionaries. Congregations and mission personnel promise to enter into an ongoing and dynamic relationship with one another. They go beyond but include financial support.

Members of the local church and the supported missionary agree to communicate regularly, uphold each other in prayer, and meet face-to-face during itineration assignments.

For more information, contact:

Office of Covenant Relationships
General Board of Global Ministries
475 Riverside Drive, Room 320
New York, NY 10115
phone: 212-870-3797
e-mail: covenant@gbgm-umc.org

Washington, and gifts from Sunday School children in the United States.

In 2003, the school reached its maximum capacity of 60 students, having started in 1998 with 15 pupils aged 7 to 12. Many are orphans living with a relative and most are in total poverty. Ishe Anesu prepares the children to graduate from primary school and, in many cases, to go on to junior or senior high schools. Hilltop Church initially provided a limited amount of

space for the school. A fine permanent building was constructed by the Holston Conference.

Sukubva is an area of intense poverty with a high incidence of HIV/AIDS and other health challenges. The school offers basic schooling and Christian education. Maria reports, "Quite often, these children surprise the congregation in church by the way they are able to say a good prayer."

Djamila Learns to Read the Bible

Djamila reads a Bible text for the first time in the worship service of the congregation in the Kabyle Mountains of Algeria. She does it slowly, her voice is shaky. Some of the women have tears in their eyes. Djamila was once illiterate. The short time she was able to go to school did not prepare her to read. Educating girls is rarely a priority in a traditional Muslim cul-

Mission Volunteers

In 2002, more than 53,800 United Methodists volunteered for mission service around the world, mostly in medical teams and construction projects. They donated 392,123 hours of work, valued at more than \$42 million, and contributed \$12 million in supplies. Many construction projects worked on new church buildings or the repair of existing churches.

ture. Now, as a young woman, she has participated in a reading program offered by the United Methodist congregation in Ouadhia.

The teaching material is the Bible, newly translated in the Kabyle



Image: Mission Contexts and Relationships

The Algeria Bible translation team: Hocine, Kader, Ema, and Nadia.

language. When one of the students, many of whom are women, feels sure enough, she is invited to read in the Sunday service.

The translation of the entire Bible into Kabyle is part of the mission and ministry of the church in Ouadhia to the Kabyle people. The Kabyle, numbering about three million in Algeria, are descendants of the original Berbers of North Africa. Hocine is a member of the translation team. He finds great joy as he delves deep into Scripture, finding the right words for the translation. The New Testament has been published, and the Old Testament translation was completed last year. "The wealth of the contents of the Bible needs careful work," Hocine says. "We want this translation to be of excellent quality."

PETER SIEGFRIED
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR EUROPE
AND NORTH AFRICA

Collaboration in Honduras

The Rev. Roberto Pena in 2003 became the first mission superintendent of the United Methodist Church of Honduras, but this landmark was only one step in a long process of mission collaboration. The Honduras "new initiative" of the Board began in the mid-1990s with a dream of the Rev. Armando Rodriguez and his wife, Alida. Mr. Rodriguez had already spent 42 years in ministry, 22 of them in Cuba, where he had served as a bishop. The couple dreamed of

extending Methodist ministry among the people who speak Spanish Garifuna, a language of the people with mixed African-Indian heritage. English-speaking Methodism with a British accent already existed along the eastern coast.

An expansion plan was thoroughly considered in collaboration with Board mission partners, including the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas (MCCA) and Christian Community for Development. Later, the Council of Evangelical Methodist Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean (CIEMAL) and the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico entered the picture. Today, there are 11 new congregations and four missions in Tegucigalpa, Danli, Talanga, Tocoa, and Subirana. Seven missionaries are assigned to the Honduras Mission throughout the country, forming new congregations and training Hondurans for leadership positions in this emerging church. Honduran collaborators have assumed leadership for five of these congregations.

The missionaries who have served in Honduras have come from Cuba, Puerto Rico, Brazil, and through the Board, including personnel of Hispanic/Latino background. Several mission workers are native Hondurans.

(Left) Worship, held in a dirt-floor school, in the El Calvario area of Subirane, Honduras. This is the only indigenous UM community in the country.

(Middle) Worshipers at the congregation in Escupa, Honduras.

(Right) Children outside their church under construction in Danli, Honduras.

Images: GBGM





STRENGTHEN, DEVELOP, AND RENEW CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

[Y]our faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

2 THESSALONIANS 1:3B

The Reappearing Church Bell of Bulgaria

Thirty-seven years after it disappeared, the bell of the United Methodist



Varna Bell

Church of Varna, Bulgaria, reappeared to hang in the tower of a new church building dedicated in 2002. It is a story of faith and hope.

Varna is a city on the Black Sea, and the church there has grown rapidly since the end of the Communist era. The Methodist presence in Varna dates to 1885; four years later, a stone sanctuary with a bell tower was built in the downtown area. In 1965, the city

seized the building to house a puppet theater linked to the Communist Party. The bell, given by Methodists in Baltimore, suddenly disappeared. The Varna congregation was reduced to a small group meeting as a house church. After the Communist government fell in 1991, the congregation revived, grew, and needed new space. Despite obstacles, it built a new United Methodist center almost face-to-face with the old church downtown. During construction, the community was curious about the tower growing out of the top of the building.

Then the bell reappeared. In 1965, three church members had removed it during the lunch hour of the crew turning the church into a puppet theater. They buried it in a garden outside of town. Now the bell is clean and bright and rings often in the new tower as a testimony of the continuation and resilience of God's mission.



The Food of Life

Developing education materials that strengthen and renew congregations is a big challenge in many parts of the world. Translations from, say, English into Khmer, the language of Cambodia, must be sensitive to local word meanings and understandings. They must also be faithful to basic texts, including Bible passages.

For example, sheep are relatively unknown in Cambodia. How would the Cambodian mission-education team translate the Christmas story in Luke (with the shepherds watching their flocks) for Khmer-speaking children? Determined to be as contextual as possible, the team first suggested having herdsmen in rice fields keeping watch over water buffalos. An agreement was finally reached to leave "sheep" as sheep in order to be honest to the scriptural text. Commentary

indicated that the passage meant that the Good News of Jesus' birth was given first to lowly people.

In another case, a more contextual reading of John 6:35 prevailed. Instead of having Jesus say, "I am the bread of life," the educational material reads, "I am the food of life." Bread in Cambodia is a luxury, associated with privilege and the French colonial past. If Jesus' birth was proclaimed to lowly people, it would be inconsistent for him to say he provided sustenance only for the rich.

Education as Mission

"Christian education is a key area in the life of the church," says Rev. Oseias Barbosa, national secretary for Christian education of the Methodist Church of Brazil, a Board partner. "[People] need to be educated about the church in order to do mission."

Founded during the 19th century



(Opposite page and this page)
Children in Phnom Penh,
Cambodia, and Cambodian
children with missionary
Clara Biswas.

Images: Steve Goldstein



Image: Mito Grosio

Rev. Paulo Silva and Keila Guimaraes visit the Methodist Mission Tapepora, in the Central Part of Brazil.

Protestant missionary movement, Methodism in Brazil focused on the middle class. Today the emphasis is more on poor people, and much of the old middle class has itself become impoverished. The gap between rich and poor in Brazil is wide. "There are many poor people in the Methodist Church," Mr. Barbosa notes. His church ministers especially among people suffering from violence and

exclusion in both urban and rural areas, and among indigenous people throughout the vast country.

Christian education, Mr. Barbosa says, "must come from the heart." Its mission must offer an alternative to a market-centered theology that stresses prosperity. The Brazilian church leader sees Wesleyan theology's emphasis on serving others and fostering community as a viable option in Brazil today.

"We don't want to focus just on ourselves," Mr. Barbosa states. "We understand that God's will for our church is an 'open door' to all. My responsibilities include educating people, adults as well as children, training lay leaders, offering discipleship, and helping conferences and districts set up Sunday Schools. If we instill a strong faith in our children today, they will live it out in authentic ways in the future."



Image: GBGM

Regional missionaries Shimba Ndala Mulunda, standing, and Emma Cantor, serving respectively in Africa and the Philippines.



(Above) A group session at the Hoover Treatment Center, a ministry with persons with chemical dependency, in Little Rock, Arkansas. A loan from the United Methodist Development Fund (UMDF) will permit the center to build a new residential and treatment center for men. The center is a joint effort of the Theresa Hoover United Methodist Church and its related Black Community Developers, Inc.

Image: Black Community Developers



(Middle) Bishop Ruediger Minor of Moscow, president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, in white robe; the Rev. R. Randy Day, general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries; the Rev. Benjamin Boni, behind Bishop Minor; and ecumenical guests process into the outdoor service during which the Eglise Protestante Méthodiste de Côte d'Ivoire became part of The United Methodist Church.

(Right) The choir at the Côte d'Ivoire service.

Images: Middle and right photos—Don Reasoner



Leadership Development for Women

One key to developing women as leaders is skills training. Because women are often left behind in societies where limited resources are used to educate boys, women need training. Shimba Ndala Mulunda, a regional missionary from the Democratic Republic of Congo, who majored in computer science and minored in business administration, is sharing her skills with African women.

"Having an opportunity to acquire computer skills in Africa is still a luxury," Ms. Mulunda said. "When I completed my studies, my husband and I thought of opening a computer training center to assist United Methodist women.... This center in Nairobi,

Kenya, is for low-income families and refugees. Both of these groups are rapidly becoming a majority in East African societies."

Ms. Mulunda also offers workshops on social issues such as peace, justice, conflict resolution, breast-cancer awareness, and HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

A. VICTORIA HUNTER

Response, April 2003

Toward a More Global Church

The crowd was large and the television coverage live on October 4, 2003, in Abidjan when the French-speaking Eglise Protestante Méthodiste of Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) became part of The United Methodist Church as a mission linked to the Board. The new

Eglise Méthodiste Unie Côte d'Ivoire has almost a million members. The Rev. Benjamin Boni, president of the former church, explained that the Methodists of the West African nation wish to make their witness as part of a global communion, engaging in mission around the world with other brothers and sisters. Bishop Ruediger Minor of Moscow, president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, and the Rev. R. Randy Day, general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, received the

Methodists of Ivory Coast into the United Methodist family.

The formal ceremony took place in a stadium filled with 20,000 people. President Laurent Gbagbo of the Republic of Ivory Coast was present. Most Christians in the country are Roman Catholic. A considerable part of the population is Muslim.

Methodism was planted by British missionaries, and the former Eglise Protestante Méthodiste was autonomous for many decades. It is a strong, self-supporting church, but it

needs more pastors and evangelists. Assistance in leadership development is among the few requests it has made of The United Methodist Church. In due course, following the provisions of *The Book of Discipline*, the Côte d'Ivoire mission may become a provisional and then a regular annual conference.



More than 350 practitioners of Cooperative Ministry gathered in St. Louis in November 2003 for a quadrennial conference and training event. Cooperative ministry makes it possible for congregations to accomplish together what ministries might not be able to do alone. (Above) Members of one workshop at the conference assisted at a local food center.

Images: Joan C. McKeown



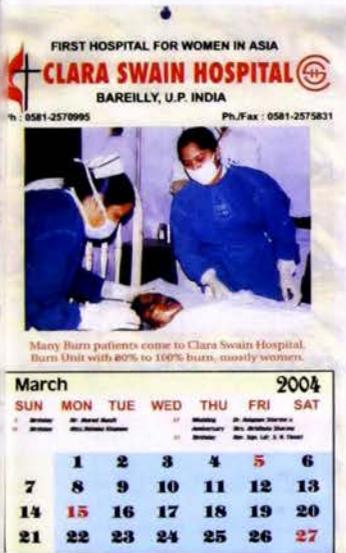

Goal III
ALLEVIATE HUMAN SUFFERING

I know that the Lord maintains the cause of the needy, and executes justice for the poor. PSALM 140:12

[C]are for orphans and widows in their distress... JAMES 1:27B

A Bright Future for a Venerable Hospital

My husband (Bishop James K. Mathews), our two daughters, and I visited India in the autumn of 2003. It was Jim's 60th trip there. We made a special trip to Clara Swain Hospital in Bareilly. That city is the birthplace of Indian Methodism. It is also the site of the first hospital for women in the whole continent of Asia. The founder, Dr. Clara Swain, a physician, went to India on the same ship as Isabella



FIRST HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN IN ASIA
CLARA SWAIN HOSPITAL
 BAREILLY, U.P. INDIA
 Ph: 0581-2570995 Fax: 0581-2575831

Many Burn patients come to Clara Swain Hospital. Burn Unit with 80% to 100% burn, mostly women.

March 2004						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27

Thoburn, who founded the first college for women in Asia.

My mother was close to the Clara Swain leaders through the years, and it was at the hospital that my father (E. Stanley Jones) died, so it means much to our whole family.

During recent years, it has passed through deep waters. Through the heroic efforts of the Women's Division and

the arduous work of retired missionary Lillian Wallace and others, the hospital has been saved and greatly improved. We found it fully operational, and the promise for the future is brighter than it has been for some time.

EUNICE JONES MATHEWS
 MISSIONARY

Obeying God's Call

Jerad Morey was one of three Global Justice Volunteers who worked in South Africa in the summer of 2003 through the Board and the Uniting Christian Student Association. The native of Richfield, Minnesota, reflected on James 1:27 in an interview with *Response*, the magazine of United Methodist Women. "From the time I read these words, they have been inscribed on my soul. During our time in South Africa, we will, literally, be able to look after orphans in their distress. Many of the youth with whom we will work...will have lost one or both parents to AIDS.



Left to right: Global Justice Volunteers Jerad Morey, Shea Freese, Jerimey Wicke.
 Image: Lane Cotton Winn
 (Below) Arab women.
 Image: Paul Jeffrey/ACT



The United Methodist Church are providing us with a wonderful opportunity to directly obey God's call as written by James."

Global Justice Volunteers gives young adults, aged 18 to 25, an opportunity to live and learn in situations where people are working for change in their community. It has a natural affinity with Uniting Christian Students Association, whose motto is: "All that counts is faith activated and energized and expressed and working through love."

All God's Children in Mission

To do God's work was the clear mission of mentally challenged adults and their team partners who assisted at UMCOR's Sager Brown materials depot in Baldwin, Louisiana, in 2002 and 2003. The North Alabama Conference Volunteers in Mission program and United Methodist Residential Alternatives (UMRA), a conference-related ministry with mentally handicapped adults, organized the autumn trips. The team is called "All God's Children in Mission." In the first year, over two work days, the team packed some 3,000 health kits; in 2003,



over three days, it packed 5,862 kits, according to Paulette West, Conference VIM coordinator. Fifteen mentally challenged participants went each year, each one accompanied by a partner who could also provide care as needed. This North Alabama initiative is the first VIM team of mentally challenged adults to join in the work of UMCOR at Sager Brown.

The first year, when the team stopped for lunch in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, a stranger in the restaurant insisted on paying for the meals of all 30 people. He did it in large part, he told Barbara Euler, an UMRA officer and team leader, because he and his family were impressed by how happy and caring the entire group seemed. The team named the stranger its "angel in blue jeans," and the next year the organizers arranged to buy his lunch at the same restaurant.

UMRA develops and manages residential facilities for an average of 30 adults. The VIM team members are recruited from UMRA homes and from among those who attend Conference-sponsored camps for persons with mental handicaps.

Serving Victims of War

When the missionaries were evacuated from Liberia [during a civil war] in June 2002, I was reassigned to work with refugees who fled into Guinea. The camp is at N'Zerekore, outside of Conakry. The health needs are enormous, and there is no health facility within the camp. With the West Africa

North Alabama Conference group of mentally challenged adults at Sager Brown.
Image: Paulette West.



(Left) Women cooking at Kola camp in Guinea.

(Middle) Refugees at a Guinea border post.

(Right) Children at the Kounankan refugee camp in Guinea.

Images: Hans Potak, LW/ACT International

rainy season, malaria, diarrhea, and respiratory infections are prevalent. Children die because they do not have clothing, food, or good sleeping conditions. During that period, I supervised The United Methodist Church's prosthesis workshop as well as the community-based HIV/AIDS Awareness, Prevention, and Control Program in Sierra Leone. I also studied French and tribal languages. Please pray for the people of Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone.

BEATRICE GBANGA
MISSIONARY AND NURSE

(Fourteen United Methodist missionaries were evacuated from Liberia in June 2003 because of civil war. Reassigned to other ministries in West Africa, they returned to their Liberian assignments near the end of the year.)

Christ Is Already There

Sarah Timberlake of Thibodeaux, Louisiana, admits that the greatest reward from her work with Volunteers in Mission is seeing the impact volunteer mission service has on youth.

Perhaps one of the most poignant moments for Sarah came when her last mission team [in Mexico] was having an evening meal. She noticed that her grandson, also a volunteer, kept leaving the room to go outside. Sarah finally asked him what was going on.

"I think the people outside are asking for food. I think they are hungry," he said.

Sarah said, "When I told him that we really couldn't give away all our food, he looked at me and said, 'But isn't that why we're here?' I was so humbled, and I realized that we can learn so much from the kids, too."

When asked what serving as a VIM volunteer means to her, Sarah replied, "We should never get caught up in the task at hand, but we should remain immersed in the purpose of our task. We're not bringing Christ to those we're helping—He has already been there before us. Our hope is to let them see Christ in us."

BETTY BACKSTROM
LOUISIANA CONFERENCE



Liberian missionaries.
Image: GBGM Web Team

Image: Louisiana Conference UMYM



Volunteer group from Thibodeaux, Louisiana. Sarah Timberlake is third from left, front row. (See story on previous page.)

Lithuanian Medical Team in Russia

In September 2002, United Methodists in Lithuania decided they should witness to the love of God by organizing a medical mission team to Russia. They used the Volunteers in Mission model. "[Volunteers] have been coming to us so long, and now it is time for us to help others," said Inara Serafinaviciene, a Lithuanian doctor.

A medical team of five—Dr. Serafinaviciene and Drs. Vanda Burneikiene and Danute Gaveniene, along with two nurses, Jelena Povilaviciene and Birute Bauziene—was accompanied by two missionaries, Chan Turman and Violetta Talandis. In Kaliningrad, the team offered free medical clinics at the United Methodist churches in Sovietsk and Zelenogradsk.

Chan Turman later wrote of this experience: "An inspiring moment for me was that of watching these leaders from Lithuania express their faith

to strangers in Russia. On one occasion, we were riding for two hours in a taxi from Sovietsk to Zelenogradsk. The driver asked Dr. Danute Gaveniene, who was sitting up front, where we were from and why we were there. I was so blessed as I heard Dr. Gaveniene proudly say that she was a United Methodist from Lithuania who came with the others to serve the

people of Russia. She did not turn to me, a United Methodist missionary in the back seat, to explain the faith to him. She confidently told the driver about her church, which is part of who she is and how she lives."

CHET CATALDO
MISSIONARY

The Nature of Ministry

Sometimes it takes many angels to carry out ministry.

Joan is 72 years old and has arthritis. She cannot walk very well and is bent over when she does stand up. She used her Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) money, after a storm, to buy a trailer across the creek from where she used to live in rural McDowell County, West



Image: Lane Cotton Winn

(Front, left to right) Birute Bauziene, Vanda Burneikiene, Chan Turman, Inara Serafinaviciene, (Rear, left to right) Jelena Povilaviciene, Danute Gaveniene, Violetta Talandis

Relief Workers

The United Methodist Committee on Relief at the end of 2003 had 550 employees at work around the globe. Relief personnel numbers vary with the frequency and intensity of natural disasters and wars and the needs of refugees.

Virginia. It needed some repairs before she could move in.

A work team came and built a ramp and a back porch, painted it, put new water lines inside, ran a hose up from the creek (which is her source of water), and replaced a window, along with other repairs. Another team checked out the electrical wiring. Still another group replaced the pole that holds the electric meter. And yet another put vinyl on the kitchen floor.

Kelly, a summer intern working with me in our cooperative parish ministry, helped as we went through some of Joan's things and moved the small and breakable items. Joan's son and a neighbor moved the heavy furniture.

One day while I was helping Joan with her move, I mentioned that Rose's house had burned. Joan did not know Rose, but she gave me some of her own food to share with her. When I got ready to leave that day, Joan also gave me \$10 for Rose.

Sometimes it takes many angels to carry out ministry.

JUDY MATHENY
DEACONESS, CHURCH
AND COMMUNITY WORKER



Some West Virginia communities are still repairing damage from floods in 2001.



Goal IV

SEEK JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND PEACE

[A]nd what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? MICAH 6:8

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

MATTHEW 5:9



Sandy Rowland (wearing glasses) with children at Sunny Bridge Kindergarten in Mostar, Bosnia.
Image: Sandy Rowland

A Gift of Hope in Bosnia

It's just like Jesus to send you to a place you never thought you would go and help you to love people you never thought you would know. That

was my experience as a United Methodist Individual Volunteer in Bojelo Polje, Bosnia. After two United Methodist Volunteers in Mission trips there, I knew I had to return.

Since the war, Bosnia has been a jigsaw puzzle, some of whose pieces don't fit. There are still many desperate people with raw emotions and war traumas. The hardest part for me was figuring out how I could really help.

I soon came to realize I couldn't help everyone, only a few. Jesus led me. I started a grief support group for the

war widows—I, too, am a widow. I helped create handicraft enterprises, worked with the children, and taught English. I also became a listening ear for stories of courage, strength, sadness, and death. My new Bosnian friends will be in my heart forever. They taught me to love others who are different from me and handed me the gift of hope!

SANDY ROWLAND
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Individual mission volunteers spend from a few weeks to many months in service around the world.

Landmine Removal in Mozambique

The United Methodist Landmine Removal Ministry in Mozambique is one of the most remarkable and rewarding efforts of the church, returning to productive cultivation hundreds of acres of formerly useless farmland and saving untold lives. It dramatically promotes justice and freedom. After exploring a variety of technologies, UMCOR selected a process that combines mechanical land clearance, bomb detection by dogs, and safe removal of the landmines by humans. The work is slow but effective, carried out in contract with an indigenous company becoming known internationally for its creativity. The process is ingenious: armored tractors with Styrofoam-filled tires use swirling chain brushes to remove growth as tall

Landmine removal techniques.

Images: Two left: Paul Dirdak Man and dog, Ted Warnock



as 50 feet; the dogs sniff out the bombs; sites are marked; and heavily protected personnel either detonate or remove the devices.

A machine can clear some 12.8 acres per month but can operate only in the dry season. This method is much faster, more effective, and safer than the traditional use of metal detectors. It multiplies the land returned to productive use by a factor of ten to one. Seven dogs are currently in use, a type of Shepherd derived from Belgium and bred and trained in Texas. No animal has been killed or injured by bombs, and the dogs receive regular care by a veterinarian.

Road to Freedom

A lot can happen when individuals and churches give of themselves to help others. A donation of an electric wheelchair spurred an ecumenical and civic outreach project in the small upstate New York town of Cortland. The wheelchair was donated by an individual through United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) to a handicap accessibility agency called Access to Independence. This initiated a project called "Road to Freedom" that has led to the building of wheelchair ramps in Cortland and freedom of mobility to ten individuals and their families.

In June 2003, a team of 21 teens and adults from Westlake, Ohio, came to Cortland in response to a posting by United Methodist Volunteers in Mission. Over a period of seven days, they completed five ramps, built sec-



UMVIM team from Westlake, Ohio, rejoices with Jacob Beardsley, young recipient of the new ramp.

tions for three more, painted two houses, and coated the roof of a mobile home. They were housed at a Free Methodist camp; fed by United Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, and Salvation Army churches; and were financially supported by local businesses and civic groups. They learned the meaning of giving and inspired others to see the possibilities of changing their own communities. Mrs. Gertrude Sturdevant, a recipient of one of the ramps, said it best: "They give me hope about the future, and I thank God for sending these angels."

GREG FORRESTER
UMVIM COORDINATOR
NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION

Resolved to Effect Real Change

"He has a deep commitment to serving the poor as an advocate for justice, peace, and freedom," Bishop Solito K. Toquero of Manila says of the Rev. Israel Alvaran.

After several years of devoted ministry in the Philippines, the clergyman is now studying as a Crusade Scholar at Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley,



Rev. Israel Alvaran.
Image: GBGM

California. The Manila Area Central Conference awaits his return in 2007, when he will be assigned to teach Christian social ethics at Union Theological Seminary in Manila. Crusade Scholars receive support through the Board with the objective of educating church leaders around the world.

The Rev. Alvaran always knew he was called by God to ministry. Reflecting on his past, he says, "On my way to school, I would see children rummaging over garbage in search of food, while I was stuffed with a hearty breakfast." As a young man of Malay descent in Manila, he learned that poverty is an all too real condition and he resolved to make "a small contribution to effect genuine social change." He chose the ministry of education. "Even as a youth, I believed that education and empowerment of people are prerequisites of social progress based on justice and equity."

The Crusade Scholars program dates back to 1944 as a response to the devastations of World War II. One of its primary objectives is to promote world peace and understanding. It is supported by the World Communion Offering that the Church makes the first Sunday of every October.

Food for Justice, Peace, and Love

Once a month, 50 people form a human chain to unload a truck filled with baked goods and other food outside the Mounds Park United Methodist Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. They are part of an urban



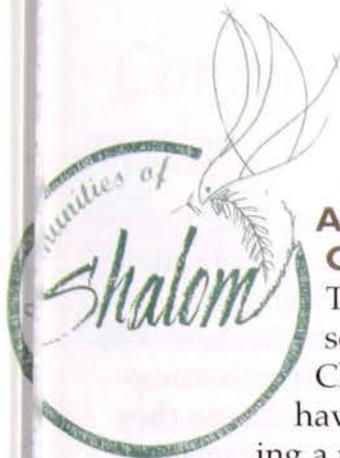
Image: Beth Mueller

food ministry demonstrating mission collaboration, a hallmark of Holy Boldness, the urban ministry plan of The United Methodist Church. The workers come not only from five participating congregations but also from the neighborhood, including those who are food recipients. The side of the truck reads, "Food given in the name of Jesus Christ." More than 300 people benefit from the program.

"We can share the goodness of God, showing love, kindness, and understanding for all the people of the world," says Eugene, one of the volunteers. "Now we have many Hmong people come to help and get food. We can bring all these people to come and join the church!"

The five participating United Methodist congregations are Mounds Park and Hmong Asbury in St. Paul, and Christ, Epworth, and Woodbury in Minneapolis. Their covenant, which goes beyond food, states: "We are United Methodist partners, commissioned by God to act in justice, peace, and love. Through the Spirit of Christ, we strengthen our faith by risking mission together to bring the hope of the Gospel for community transformation with open hearts and hands."

BETH MUELLER
MISSIONARY



A New Day for Chantelle

There was a time not so long ago when Chantelle, 13, would not have dreamed of attending a prestigious regional preparatory school in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where she lives. That she entered as a freshman in 2003 is due in part to the collaborative efforts of the Hill Section Communities of Shalom and Scranton's Employment Opportunities Training Center (EOTC). The two organizations together provide children with opportunities to explore music, drama, arts, and crafts. Communities of Shalom are related to the General Board of Global Ministries.

Chantelle participated in a Shalom-initiated Girl Scout troop in a local apartment complex known as the "last resort" for persons ineligible for public housing. Although the apartments were not within the defined "Shalom Zone," the ministry accepted the challenge, and a challenge it was. Gunfire once erupted outside during a troop meeting. The Shalom team hung in and so did Chantelle, who began to take part in Shalom events at Elm Park United Methodist Church, located in the Hill Section.

It was easy to recommend Chantelle when Scranton Preparatory School asked EOTC to name five possible scholarship students. One of only two who eventually qualified for admission, Chantelle received a full scholarship. The family has now moved out of the notorious apartment complex,

and Chantelle's mother gives Shalom and EOTC high praise for their positive influence on her daughter.

J. P. DUNCAN

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE



Youth participate in the 2003 AMYN in Seoul, Korea.

Image: GBGM

The Voice of Asian Christian Youth

Poverty, militarism, peace-building and sexism are high on the list of issues to be addressed by the new Asian Methodist Youth Network (AMYN). The network was formed in 2003 as an outgrowth of a dozen years of Christian youth organizing by the Board. Organized into four subregions incorporating 14 countries, AMYN promotes leadership that from a Christian perspective can address pressing challenges in the areas of justice, freedom, and peace. "It is God's call for us [as] Christian youth to continue to search for justice and raise our voices to be heard," said a statement from an August 2003 conference held in Seoul, Korea.

One of the top issues is the impact of American military troops in most

Women's Assembly

The 2002 Assembly of United Methodist Women in Philadelphia drew 10,000 participants. "Sing a New Song" was the theme for worship, Bible study, and educational workshops. In a demonstration of hands-on mission, the women brought 21,284 pounds of material resources to be distributed by UMCOR. The contributions included 1,546 school kits; 1,216 sewing kits; 9,669 health kits; 455 layettes; and 120 bedding packs.

Asian lands, especially sex-trafficking and violence against women in base areas. Another priority is to organize an AMYN exchange program to share information on successful models of Methodist youth work in the various subregions. Rachel Gail Abad, former president of the National Youth Fellowship of the Philippines, United Church of Christ, and a Board partner, was elected coordinator of AMYN.

Poverty: The Race Against the Clock

Helping women create a better life is not a new undertaking for United Community Centers. We've been doing it since 1909 when a group of Methodist women from Fort Worth's First Methodist Church began teaching poor immigrant women in the stockyards area of our city how to read and speak English. Our Wesley Center is still located on the north side

and today works with many Hispanic immigrants. Educators in our computer-learning center teach English as a Second Language, prepare clients to obtain their GEDs, and help customers gain in-demand computer skills so they can get jobs that offer decent wages, benefits, and future employability.

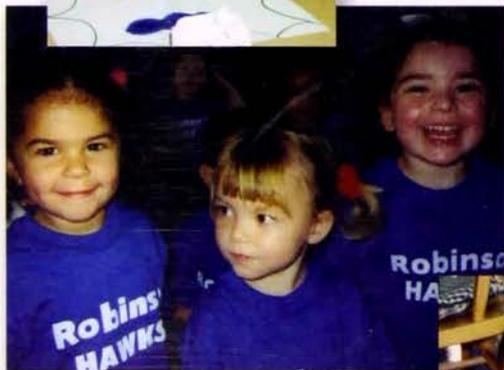
There are millions of American women living in poverty. What does it mean to be poor in our land of plenty? It means being surrounded by wealth, but having no access to it. It means having to choose between paying your rent and buying medicine for your kids; or between paying your electricity bills and buying a tire for your car so you can get to work. Poverty means living in inadequate, crowded, low-income housing often in disrepair and usually in high-crime neighborhoods. We are not talking about women on welfare—the majority work for their wages, either full- or part-time.

Mission institutions across the United States, like United Community Centers, are immersed in a race against the clock to help women become literate by offering adult basic education, English lessons, workplace literacy, job skills training, and life skills training. These women have to be provided with safe, affordable childcare with people they can trust to love and nurture their children.

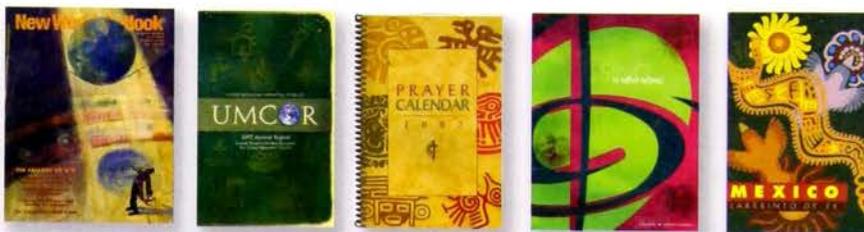
CELIA ESPARZA

PRESIDENT, UNITED COMMUNITY CENTERS
FORT WORTH, TEXAS
(ABBREVIATED FROM HER ADDRESS AT THE 2003 UMW ASSEMBLY)

Tampa UMC Centers.
Images: Carlene Triplett



Communications



Publications, videos, displays, and technology (including the Internet) play important roles in contemporary mission witness and service. These means of communication underscore and expand evangelism and education and provide contacts with annual conferences, congregations, mission partner organizations, and church members.

Mission Studies. Among the oldest and most widely used publications of the Board are the mission and spiritual growth studies prepared annually. The spiritual growth materials come from Women's Division. The study themes for the last two years were:

2002-2003

The Scandalous Message of James
(spiritual growth study)
Mexico: Labyrinth of Faith
Restorative Justice

2003-2004

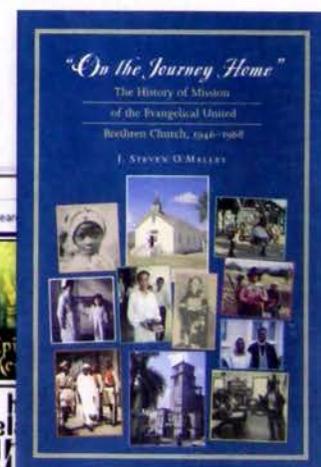
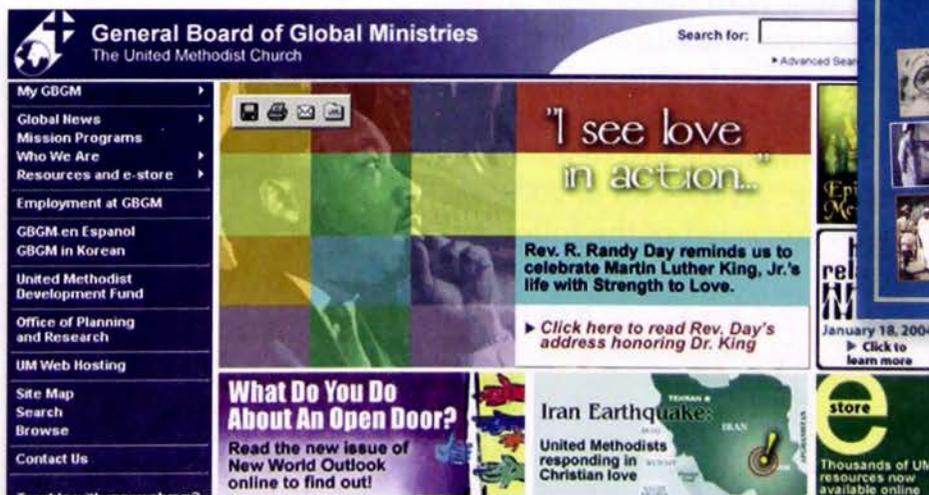
Exodus: The Journey to Freedom
(spiritual growth study)
Mexico: Labyrinth of Faith (repeated)
Creating Interfaith Community

These study resources, geared to adults, youth, and children, are published in English, Spanish, and Korean and are used in thousands of regional, annual conference, district, and local study venues. "Study books" are supplemented by articles in the Board's two magazines, *New World Outlook*, a bi-monthly, and *Response*, the publication of Women's Division, and on the Board's website.

Websites. The Board's website, <http://gbgm-umc.org>, is an increasingly significant component in international communications. The site is constantly upgraded to make it more inclusive and easier to use.

A completely cross-indexed and cross-referenced content-management system allows content providers, who may have little or no technical knowledge, to submit information for posting. A customized mission information service, "MyGBGM," allows subscribers to receive daily feeds of information closely matching their areas of interest. An "e-store," launched in the winter of 2003, makes it possible for people around the world to purchase mission-related resources online. In late 2003, the Cincinnati-based Service Center went online, www.scorders.org, with its complete inventory of mission materials. Several newsletters of Board units are available online, as well as audio clips and a range of mission photographs. The website in mid-2003 was receiving some 12,750 visitors every day, with an average visit lasting 13 minutes.

Space on the Board's Internet server is also available to United Methodist congregations, districts, annual conferences, and units of United Methodist Women. The



service is quite popular and by mid-2003 it included 9,193 websites.

Print Publications. In addition to the two magazines, the Board in a typical year produces more than 4,200 different printed resources, including books, catalogs, newsletters, brochures, maps, posters, displays, and leaflets. The annual *Prayer Calendar* offers daily guidance in prayer for the mission work and workers of the church, along with a collection of mission stories. In 2002 and 2003, the Board continued a special project devoted to the mission history of The United Methodist Church and its predecessor denominations. Works cover the Evangelical United Brethren Church, the Methodist Protestant Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, The Methodist Church (1939-1968), and The United Methodist Church from 1968 through 2000. Both Women's Division and the United Methodist Committee on Relief publish their own annual reports, which are available on request.

Radio Africa International. This two-year experimental effort expanded communication on a regular basis with people in areas with

limited access to information. While specifically aimed at people from the African continent, the radio programs were also heard by listeners around the world—in Asia, Latin America, Europe, and the United States. Africa was chosen as the specific focus of the radio ministry in large part because the AIDS crisis and other medical emergencies made it a place of great need for improved health information. Both English and French language versions in 2002 and 2003 covered health issues, spiritual and religious values, the work of the church in society, economic development, women's issues, environmental themes, and peace and justice concerns.

Translation Services. The Board in the last two years upgraded and expanded its translation services. Equipment for simultaneous translation is available to all church organizations and institutions for a small fee. Live interpreters can be supplied to work with the equipment. The Board will provide these services to the 2004 General Conference.



Staff Leadership Team

The various programming units of the Board, Women's Division, Administrative Services, and the Office of Planning and Research are led by deputy general secretaries; they, along with the general secretary and the general treasurer, form the Board Cabinet, or leadership team.

Associate general secretaries are sometimes added to the team at the discretion of the general secretary. At the end of 2003, the Board Cabinet consisted of the following:

R. Randy Day
GENERAL SECRETARY

Deborah Bass
DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY
Administration

Paul Dirdak
DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY
Health and Relief and Mission Volunteers

Sam Dixon
DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY
Evangelization and Church Growth

Roland Fernandes
ACTING GENERAL TREASURER

Edith Gleaves
DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY
Mission Personnel

Youngsook Kang
DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY
Mission Contexts and Relationships and Mission Education

S T Kimbrough, Jr.
ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARY
Mission Evangelism

Michael Rivas
DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY
Planning and Research

Jerald Scott
ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARY
Community and Institutional Ministries

Joyce Sohl
DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY
Women's Division

General Board of Global Ministries Directors

Central Conference Members

Paixao Baptista
WEST ANGOLA

Francisco B. Bilog
PHILIPPINES

Kongolo Chijika
SOUTH KATANGA

Joseph Humper
SIERRA LEONE

Benjamin Justo
PHILIPPINES

Irene Kabete
ZIMBABWE

Odimba Kalema
CENTRAL CONGO

Thomas Kemper
GERMANY

Liz Mariano
PHILIPPINES

Ruediger Minor
RUSSIA PROVISIONAL

Tove Odland
NORTHERN EUROPE

Leah Olusiji
NIGERIA

Andreas Staempfli
CENTRAL & SOUTHERN EUROPE

Lina D. Villanueva
PHILIPPINES

George D. Wilson, Jr.
LIBERIA

Jurisdictional Members (Identified by Annual Conference)

NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION

Genie Bank
DETROIT

Charles Boayue, Jr.
DETROIT

Julia Deemer
WEST MICHIGAN

Sally Dyck
EAST OHIO

Mary H. Gates
MINNESOTA

Emmy Lou John
NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Jonathan D. Keaton
EAST OHIO

Patricia Luecke
DAKOTAS

William Lux
IOWA

Donald Meeks
ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS

David V.W. Owen
SOUTH INDIANA

John D. Peterson
WEST OHIO

Duane Sarazin
MINNESOTA

Linda A. Schramm
DETROIT

Judith Siaba
NORTHERN ILLINOIS

NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION

Mary A. Baldridge
BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON

John E. Carrington
NEW YORK

Ramon A. Evangelista
GREATER NEW JERSEY

Sandra Ferguson
BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON

Guinevere P. Gregory
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Margaret W. Johnson
WYOMING

Hae Jong Kim
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Nancy H. Leathrum
PENINSULA/DELAWARE

Melinda McKonley
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Florise M. Jackson
Newton
GREATER NEW JERSEY

Judy Nutter
WEST VIRGINIA

Wendy Rhodehamel
NORTH CENTRAL NEW YORK

H. Ulises Torres
NEW ENGLAND

SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION

Guy C. Ames, III
OKLAHOMA

Rita Arni
MISSOURI

Ann G. Ashcraft
ARKANSAS

Myrtle F. Clingenpeel
OKLAHOMA

Elizabeth Fenner
MISSOURI

Dale L. Fooshee
KANSAS EAST

Dolores L. Garcia
RIO GRANDE

William H. Hinson
TEXAS

C. William Kreamer
MISSOURI

Joel Martinez
RIO GRANDE/SOUTHWEST TEXAS

Cheryl Phillips
TEXAS

Billy Ratcliff
NORTH TEXAS

Ella Rathod
NEBRASKA

Daniel Soliz
RIO GRANDE

Hazel Steely
KANSAS EAST

Dianne M. Tombaugh
KANSAS WEST

Diane Clark Vogler
ARKANSAS

David M. Wilson
OKLAHOMA INDIAN MISSIONARY

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION

Charlene R. Black
SOUTH GEORGIA

Brenda B. Brown
NORTH CAROLINA

Joyce S. Clark
TENNESSEE

G. Lindsey Davis
NORTH GEORGIA

Nancy Eubanks
MEMPHIS

Cashar W. Evans, Jr.
NORTH CAROLINA

Mildred Gibson
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Curtis J. Henderson
ALABAMA/WEST FLORIDA

Georgia R. Lister
HOLSTON

Mary M. Melvin
FLORIDA

James B. Mooneyhan
NORTH GEORGIA

Nelida Mora Morales
FLORIDA

Mary A. Poindexter
MISSISSIPPI

Richard Shinhoster
SOUTH GEORGIA

Gary Thomas Ward
NORTH ALABAMA

Frances J. Woodworth
RED BIRD MISSIONARY

Shan Yohan
NORTH GEORGIA

WESTERN JURISDICTION

Jean Davis
YELLOWSTONE

William W. Dew, Jr.
DESERT SOUTHWEST

Phyllis Ferguson
PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Patricia Ann Goss
DESERT SOUTHWEST

Eddie Kelemeni
ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Randolph Miller
CALIFORNIA/NEVADA

Mee Sue Park
CALIFORNIA/PACIFIC

Lavada Redding
ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Rachel Lieder Simeon
ALASKA MISSIONARY

SPECIAL CATEGORIES

Luisa A. Diaz
PUERTO RICO

Sylvia M. Faulk
COMMISSION ON PAN-METHODIST
COOPERATION

Financial Report 2002

Overall giving to the World Service Fund in 2002 by congregations and conferences declined 1.4% from 2001 with a resulting \$400,000 reduction in funding to GBGM in 2002. While churches and conferences struggled with large increases in health care and insurance costs, 14 conferences were able to contribute 100% of their World Service apportionments to the denomination. We thank those conferences for their stewardship in the midst of difficult economic challenges.

GBGM was not immune to significant increases in health care and insurance costs, but careful attention to costs in all other areas resulted in costs being \$3.5 million below budget and \$18.4 million below 2001

levels. Unfortunately, operating revenues in 2002 were lower than 2001 by \$27.1 million. Advance giving was \$15 million lower than 2001, when more than \$17 million was given to the Love in the Midst of Tragedy Advance Special after the September 11th attacks. Significant reductions were also experienced in gifts, dividends and interest, income from trusts, and receipts by UMCOR for NGO projects.

These large swings in revenues and expenses were accompanied by significant reductions in GBGM's net assets, as the US stock market declined again in 2002 for the third consecutive year. The Financial Summary is as follows:

Financial Summary	2000	2001	2002
REVENUES			
			(\$ MILLIONS)
WORLD SERVICE	\$25.0	\$23.7	\$23.3
WOMEN'S DIVISION	21.1	20.8	19.9
SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS	4.0	4.5	4.1
ADVANCE FOR CHRIST	23.0	38.8	23.7
UMCOR / NGO PROJECTS	26.8	35.3	30.7
INTEREST & DIVIDENDS	13.2	10.3	8.3
TRUST INCOME	9.1	8.1	6.7
GIFTS & BEQUESTS	5.7	3.9	3.1
ALL OTHER INCOME	10.4	9.9	8.4
TOTAL REVENUES	\$138.3	\$155.3	\$128.2
EXPENDITURES			
PROGRAM:			
MISSION PERSONNEL	19.9	31.8	23.0
OTHER PROGRAMS & MINISTRIES	138.7	129.0	118.5
ADMIN. & FUNDRAISING	17.5	14.9	15.8
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$176.1	\$175.7	\$157.3
ASSET ACCOUNTS			
USE OF NET ASSETS	(37.8)	(20.4)	(29.1)
APPRECIATION / (DEPRECIATION)	(12.8)	(14.1)	(33.5)
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES	1.2	3.4	3.8
NET ASSETS (END OF YEAR)	\$355.3	\$324.2	\$265.4

GBGM NET ASSETS

(\$ MILLIONS)

	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED	TOTAL
2000	100.9	111.6	142.8	355.3
2001	102.2	114.6	107.4	324.2
2002	103.9	96.9	64.6	265.4

At year end 2002, Unrestricted Net Assets stood at \$64.6 million (down 65% from \$184.0 million at year-end 1998), which are distributed as follows:

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

YEAR END 2002

(\$ MILLIONS)

WOMEN'S DIVISION	\$30.4
UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF	8.6
HEALTH & WELFARE DIVISION	0.3
GBGM, EXCLUDING DIVISIONS ABOVE	25.3
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$64.6

These Unrestricted Net Assets include \$9.5 million that has been set aside for the pensions of our missionaries and deaconesses, \$9.6 million in funds functioning as endowments, and \$42.6 million designated by directors for specific programs.

Income Accounts

WORLD SERVICE receipts were \$23.3 million in 2002 and were received at 91.4% of apportioned levels from our United Methodist churches in 2002. We rejoice at this encouraging response to the support of our denominational ministries around the world!

SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS (again above \$4 million for the year) were as follows:

SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS

(\$ THOUSANDS)

	ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING	HUMAN RELATIONS DAY	WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY	NATIVE AMERICAN AWARENESS
2000	2,982	392	525	94
2001	3,395	446	504	115
2002	3,032	415	483	128

GIFTS AND SUPPORT FROM THE WOMEN'S DIVISION in 2002 totaled \$19.93 million, down about 4% from 2001, but very close to the \$20 million in support that has come consistently to GBGM from the Women's Division over the past nine years. The Women's Division expended \$33.5 million in total support of mission in 2002, including programs administered within the Division and funded through GBGM.

ADVANCE FOR CHRIST giving in 2002 fell 39% to \$23.7 million. In 2001, more than \$17 million was received for Love in the Midst of Tragedy, the Advance Special in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11th. In 2002, no Advance Special projects attracted comparable gifts from our congregants. Nonetheless, Advance Special giving— designated, second-mile offerings—remains a major source of donations from our members. In 2002, \$6.84 million was given through the Advance to support missionary personnel.

REVENUES FOR UMCOR AND THE NGO represent both donated commodities (primarily from US federal agencies) and grants from the US and foreign governments that are used to provide food, shelter, fuel, and program services to needy families in more than 70 countries. Revenues of \$30.7 million are generally consistent with the previous six years.

INTEREST AND DIVIDEND INCOME in 2002 was down to \$8.3 million from a 1999 high of \$13.2 million. This is a result of both the reduced amount of net assets earning returns and lower interest rates. Income from Trusts has been declining since 2000, when distributions began from the Special Benefits Trust at the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Such operations have strengthened in 2003 and will provide increasing revenues to the missionary pension plan (to which it is earmarked) in the coming years. Special Benefit Trust distributions will almost completely disappear in 2004 and will not be a material source of income in the future. Operational gifts and bequests (non-endowment) were \$3.2 million in 2002, from a peak of \$10.1 million in 1999.

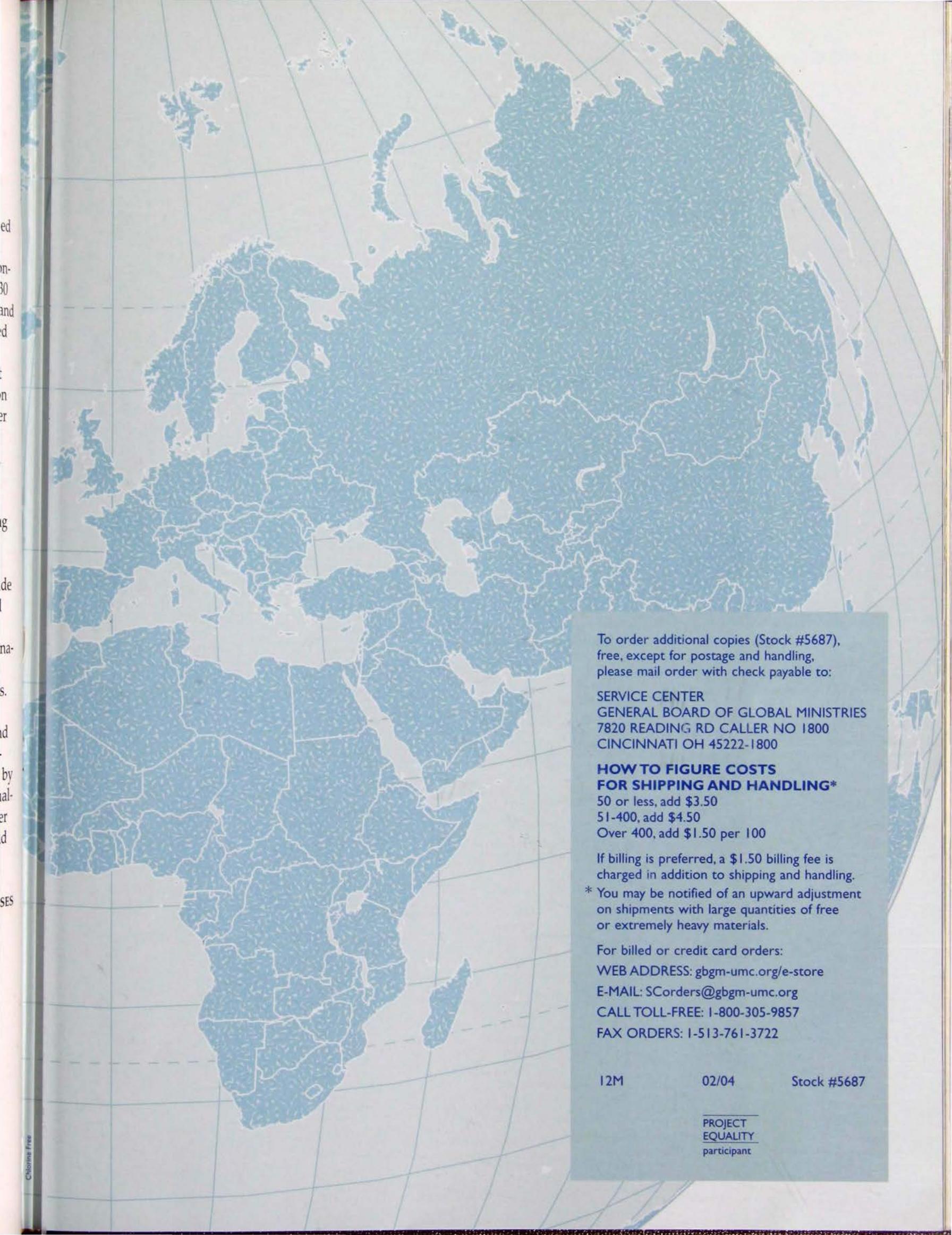
Expenditures

MISSION PERSONNEL expenditures rose significantly in 1998 as the Board pre-funded \$10 million of pension costs for our retired missionaries. In 2001, added mission personnel drove spending for this sector above \$30 million as more than 2,400 commissioned and non-commissioned personnel were engaged in active service. Cost-containment efforts kept expenditures for mission personnel at \$27.5 million in 2002, and favorable pension adjustments reduced those expenses further to \$23.0 million. In other Board program areas, cutbacks in programs and personnel were enacted in response to declining revenues.

OTHER PROGRAM EXPENDITURES (excluding mission personnel) were \$118.5 million in 2002, down 23% from a high of \$152.9 million in 1999. Significant efforts were made to: consolidate functions; reduce travel and overhead expenses; increase cooperative efforts within the agencies and the denomination; and reduce costs via renegotiation of contracts and aggressive cost-control efforts. Grants to non-UM organizations were reduced by over 70% during that period and UM grants were reduced as well. Staff supporting the mission functions was reduced by more than 100 persons. Unfortunately, casualty and liability insurance costs doubled after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and medical insurance costs have incurred double digit increases annually since 2001.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FUNDRAISING EXPENSES of \$15.8 million in 2002 were 10.0% of total expenditures.

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