

METHODIST HISTORY

October 2007

Volume XLVI
Number 1



METHODIST SEVERANCE MEDICAL COLLEGE IN SEOUL, KOREA



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METHODIST HISTORY (ISSN 0026-1238) is published quarterly for \$20.00 per year to addresses in the U.S. by the General Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church, 36 Madison Avenue, Madison, NJ 07940. Printed in the U.S.A. Back issues are available.

Second-class postage paid at Madison, NJ. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to METHODIST HISTORY, P.O. Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940 or email mmerk@cah.org.

METHODIST HISTORY

Robert J. Williams, Editor
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Methodist History is included in
Religious Index One: Periodicals,
Religious and Theological Abstracts,
Historical Abstracts and America: History and Life
ATLA Religion Database

Manuscripts submitted for publication and all other correspondence should be addressed to
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EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue contains three articles about the Methodist heritage in addressing health care for individuals. They highlight three ways that Methodists have sought healing of body as well as of soul. John Wesley wanted to provide medical assistance to the poor; Methodist medical missionaries went to Korea in the late nineteenth century; and many Methodist hospitals were founded in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The current conversation in The United Methodist Church about global health is a legitimate child of the Methodist past, and the purpose of this issue is to offer the historical foundations and illustrations to undergird the current conversation and programmatic efforts.

The General Secretaries of the agencies of The United Methodist Church that are funded through the World Service Fund were encouraged to develop areas of collaboration. Four areas of focus or collaboration were developed which were shared with the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table and will be presented to the 2008 General Conference. One of the four foci is a coordinated effort to address global health issues. It is believed that the church could marshal resources to stamp out malaria and HIV/AIDS. The "Nothing but Nets" program has caught the imagination of the church in helping to prevent the spread of malaria in Africa.

Larry Hollon, General Secretary of United Methodist Communications, indicated to the Connectional Table that the "proposed initiative on Global Health is a multi-layered, multi-faceted effort to engage the people of The United Methodist Church to address the diseases of poverty and significantly reduce the incidence of malaria and HIV/AIDS while also addressing the destructive effects of poverty. The proposed initiative on Global Health is integral to the four mission proposals being advanced by the Table of General Secretaries. Each contributes to the call of Jesus to make disciples, proclaim the good news of God's love for all, heal the sick and seek justice."

From the days of John Wesley to this initiative focusing on global health, the people of the Wesleyan movement were called upon "to do no harm" and "do all the good you can." May these essays inspire the people of today to be faithful inheritors of the legacy bequeathed to them.

ROBERT J. WILLIAMS