New World Outlook

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HOW TO

Issue On

MISSION

Global Ministries
The United Methodist Church

NEW WORLD OUTLOOK

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Photo/Art Credits: page 45

Cover: Lah Reldás. The "How-to" issue on mission is illustrated with a powerful sunburst above icons depicting some of the many directions of mission, which include health/medical, youth/young adults, giving, rebuilding, hunger/poverty, church, and emergencies.

How-To

The kids have gone back to school, young adults are off to college, and church families have returned from vacations. Some conferences in the connection have new bishops; some churches have spent the summer getting to know new pastors—it is a good time to take stock of a congregation and its purpose.

I learned something this summer about raising money for mission. I'll share this secret with you: Ask! That's the really easy—and really tough—thing about raising money for mission.

My church had been planning a Volunteer-In-Mission trip to Cuba for four years. We had all that lead time because if you call the Southeastern Jurisdiction VIM office today and ask for a slot to send a team to Cuba, you may get a date in 2012. They send only one to two teams a month and cover the whole US connection.

We decided to combine a fair-trade emphasis with an effort to fund the mission trip, so we started ordering coffee through the UMCOR Coffee Program for fellowship time after church and opened it up so that families in the church could order cases when we sent in our church order. We let the congregation know we were adding $5 a case to every order so we could support the Cuba trip. We added tea, chocolate, and almond orders too. We raised about $5,000 that way. But that wasn't enough.

Our church had a few investments that were coming due. Usually we just roll those over for another year, but this year, our pastor said, "Why don't we reinvest those funds in our own mission trip?" That was another $4,000. Our Mission/Church and Society committee decided to invest in our team as well, for another $4,000. Still not enough.

We needed a water filter in Cuba and a first aid kit to stay healthy. Our work team did a mission minute during a worship service. A couple of nurses in the congregation compiled and donated a health kit. Another couple donated the exact amount needed to buy the water filter. The congregation gave $2,000 more, just because we asked, and our pastor decided to see if our conference might have a fund to match some of our mission fund raising, which the bishop did, because we asked.

We raised about $20,000 for this team, and I'm really not very good at asking for money. But God manages to multiply our efforts, and a lot of people helped. "Seek, and ye shall find. Knock, and the door will open. Ask, and it shall be given and the love comes a-tumbling down," I learned as a child, and both the song and its lesson have stayed with me.

This "how-to" issue could also be called the "no-excuses" issue. No church has a really good reason for not doing mission work. Asking for support may be a humbling experience, but humility is good. If the prospect of asking other people for help with mission outreach is painful, look at it this way. Imagine facing God in prayer and explaining, "There might have been better ways to spread your love, but we were afraid to ask."

Christie R. House

A number of articles in *New World Outlook* reference The Advance and Advance numbers. To give to The Advance, United Methodists: Make out the check to your local church and write the Advance name and code number on the check. Give your gift to your church treasurer so that your local church and annual conference can receive Advance credit. Outside UM channels: Make the check payable to "Advance GCFA" with the project name and code number on the check. Send the check to Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, GPO, New York, NY 10087-9068. To contribute with a credit card, call 1-888-252-6174. All Advance projects are also eligible for Supplementary Gifts through United Methodist Women's giving channels. Supplementary Gifts are given through the UMW treasurer.

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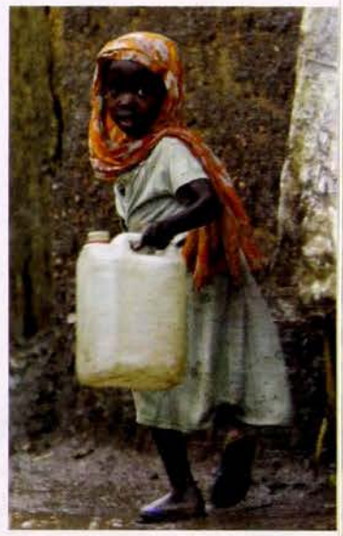

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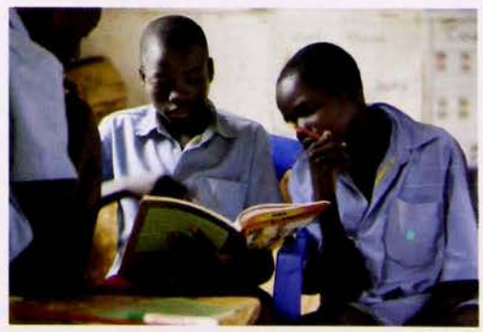
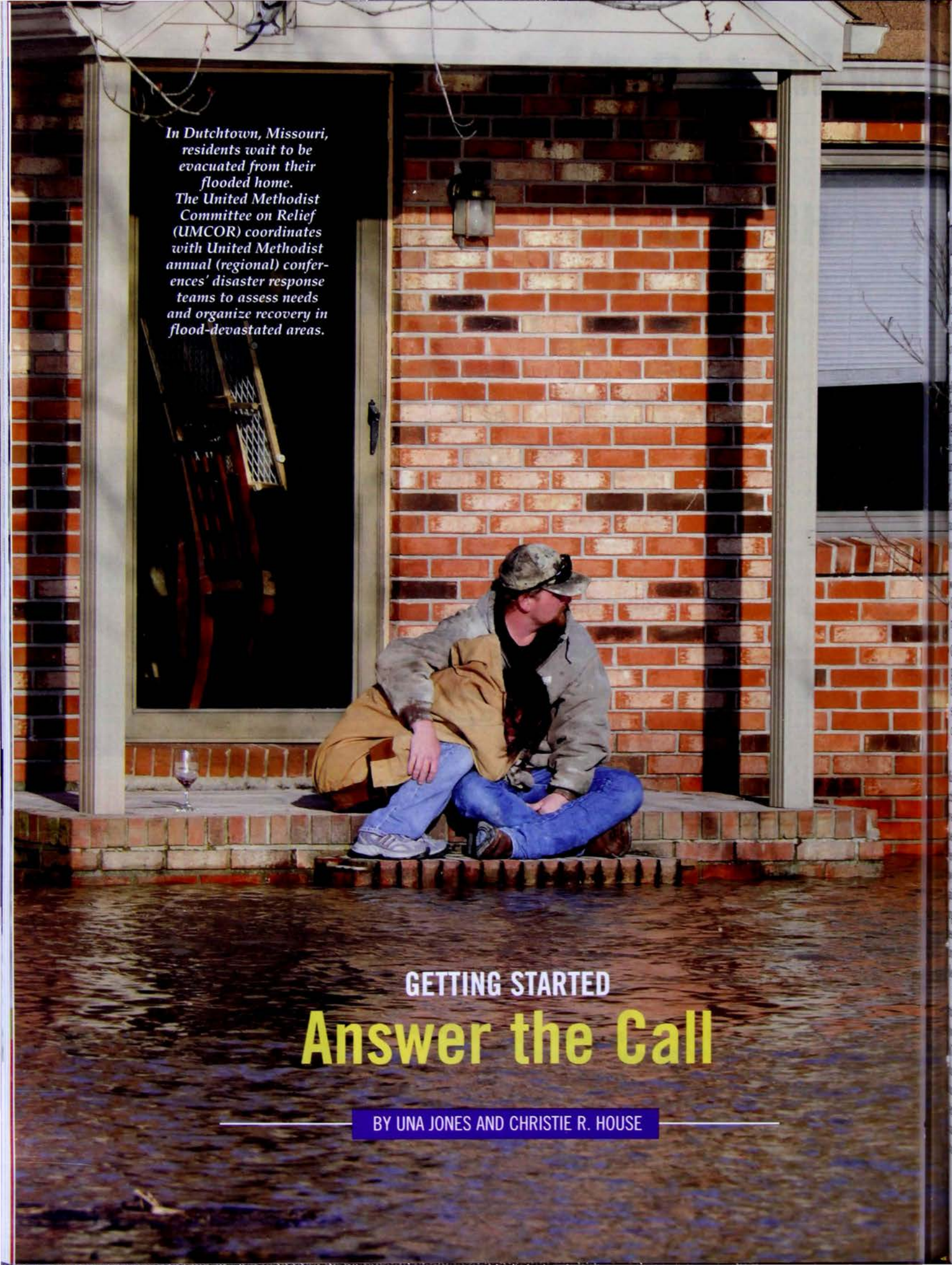




In Dutchtown, Missouri, residents wait to be evacuated from their flooded home. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) coordinates with United Methodist annual (regional) conferences' disaster response teams to assess needs and organize recovery in flood-devastated areas.

GETTING STARTED

Answer the Call

BY UNA JONES AND CHRISTIE R. HOUSE

Welcome to the How-To edition of *New World Outlook!*

The General Board of Global Ministries is keenly aware that *New World Outlook* subscribers have a deep and abiding interest in God's mission and in their church's calling to participate in God's mission. God calls every congregation to reach out in ministries of evangelism, witness, relief, and nurture. Christian disciples are not gathered together by Christ to keep a good thing within their own circle. How can a sluggish church break out of its circle to reach beyond its self-imposed boundaries? It can start by answering the following two questions.

Suzanne Humphreys of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, helps a Bible-camp student in Lemoa, Guatemala, with a project.

Two Questions

- Can you serve on your church's mission committee?
- Can you spot the talent and potential in other church members and encourage them to serve on the church's mission committee?

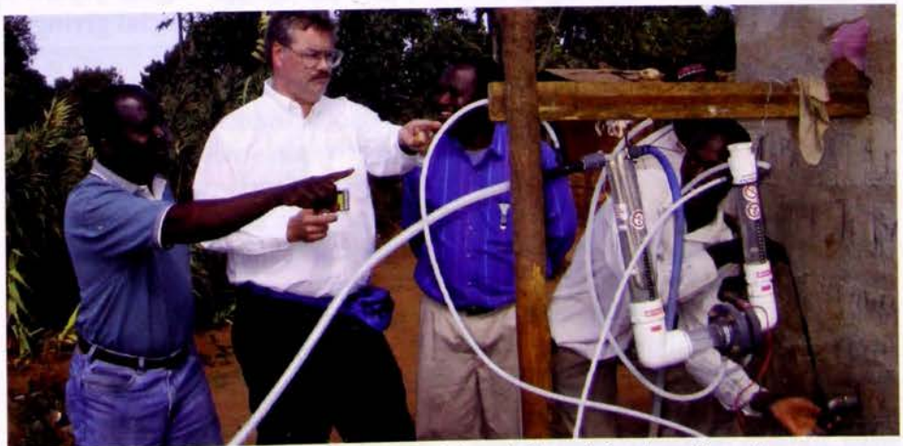
People are called by Christ. Mission often takes the form of projects, programs, and fund-raising events, but the love of Christ is in the people who carry out the work. People—called by Christ to an awareness of others in need, who gain a deep conviction that God is urging them to provide for that need—take the first step out of the circle into mission. God calls people. Is God calling you?

Do a little investigative work into the people of the church. Is your church close to a major hospital? Are there a good number of church members who are doctors, nurses, or other kinds of medical personnel? Volunteer medical teams may be a possibility for such a church. Is the church located in a college town? Are students, professors, and college administrators members of the congregation? Maybe the church should consider sending out volunteer work teams during spring and summer semester breaks. Is the church in an area where people are having trouble keeping jobs, paying mortgages or rent, or stretching food budgets to the end of the month? Direct services or social-service referral ministries may be the way to go.

A church starts work where it is planted and then branches out. Work starts with people who are answering a call to ministry, whether they recognize that calling or not. First order of business—answer your own call, and help others to listen to God's call in their lives.

Opportunity Knocks

A church can be sluggish about mission work because its members



United Methodist Duvon McGuire (second from left) explains how his water purification invention operates, as villagers in Ndola, Zambia, install the system that chlorinates water to destroy viruses and bacteria.

Families displaced by years of internal conflict have returned to Akamuriei in northern Uganda. With assistance from Lutheran World Federation and ACT International, a well was installed to provide safe drinking water to the villagers.

feel they are too busy to take on one more thing—unless that one more thing is made easy. The mission committee's job isn't to do all the mission work of the church. The mission committee's job is to create opportunities for the whole church to be in mission.

This issue of *New World Outlook* may help with that first step on a mission journey that will continue to grow and change throughout the life of the church. No church needs to do everything suggested, but every congregation can find some practical, helpful, and useful mission ideas here. All of these ideas have been tested and used in a wide variety of churches—of all sizes, locations, and levels of involvement. The mission committee needs to decide to take that first step.

A congregation is free to choose its administrative structure. It may have a chairperson overseeing a global ministries work committee or a coordinator of mission or of outreach ministries. In most churches, the latter is a volunteer position, but some larger churches may have a mission coordinator on staff as a paid position. United Methodist Women (UMW), whose purpose includes a strong emphasis on mission, is a separate membership organization in the church, but it should always be considered as an ally for mission activities. In many cases, women belong to the UMW and serve on their church's mission committee.

Discipleship for a coordinator or chairperson of mission will take on new dimensions of global involvement as necessary to respond to God's call to serve in mission through the body of Christ—the church. Mission committee members can gain great satisfaction in knowing that lives are being changed because of their efforts.

Start With Three Steps

1. Develop a continuous, year-round program of mission education so that the congregation will be better informed, more knowledgeable, and more motivated to be supportive of the mission outreach of the church.

2. Identify community, national, and world needs and engage the congregation in mission opportunities that seek to address these needs.

3. Seek to expand the congregation's mission and benevolence budget and ensure that your congregation is provided every opportunity to participate in God's mission through financial giving.

Elected and Connected

The global ministries, mission, or outreach ministries coordinator (as well as other coordinators and chairpersons and other program leaders in local churches) is nominated by the committee on lay leadership and elected by the charge or church conference each year. A church may limit the number of consecutive years a person may serve in one office if it so desires.

The mission coordinator should be a member of the church council and the church's annual charge conference because the coordinator is accountable to these bodies. Mission committees work with the guidance of the church's council chair and pastor. Mission programs should be presented and discussed within the church council, as the council's approval and support can help the congregation to implement the programs.

People to Help in the Connection

In addition to printed and audiovisual resources (see pp. 35–38), there are several people in every conference and jurisdiction who are ready to assist a local church with organizing and carrying out a plan of mission education. Most districts have a district secretary of global ministries and annual conferences a conference secretary of global ministries. Some conferences or districts may have other names for these offices, but check with the district superintendent's office for district information. For conference mission connections, contact the annual conference office directly.

These officers have been trained to help mission coordinators engage their congregations in mission in any way possible. They may also organize district and annual conference training meetings so that local church mission coordinators can be better prepared for their responsibilities. To learn who they are and how to contact them, ask the pastor, district superintendent, or annual conference program staff.

Una Jones is an assistant general secretary for The Advance, General Board of Global Ministries, and a former executive in the Mission Education program area. Christie R. House is the editor of New World Outlook.

In Cedar Rapids, Iowa, which suffered the highest concentration of Midwest flooding in early 2008, a sign declares the tenacity of flood survivors. UMCOR issued an emergency grant to the Iowa Annual (regional) Conference and contributed 5,000 flood buckets.

Journey Into God's Mission

BY JOHN EDWARD NUESSLE

Where to Begin?

Churches of every size can and should have interest, involvement, and partnership in God's mission. All it takes to begin is one enthusiastic person in the position of mission chairperson. A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step forward, and that is where you might, as a *New World Outlook* reader, be right now. Start with your own mission awareness and interest, and then move your congregation to step out into God's world.

Mission Comes from God's Grace

The first step in the mission journey is to understand why the church is involved in mission. Mission programs are not an option in the church; they are the foundation for spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. Mission is a natural aspect of a Christian lifestyle and needs to be incorporated into the ongoing life of each congregation.

Grace upon grace is what we have received from the fullness of God's incarnation in Jesus Christ (John 1:16). Grace stacked up on top of more grace. Life itself is a

grace-filled experience for Christians as we seek to understand what God is doing in the world. This experience is gloriously celebrated in Charles Wesley's most Methodist of hymns:

> *"O for a thousand tongues to sing*
> *my great Redeemer's praise;*
> *The glories of my God and King,*
> *the triumphs of his grace!"*
>
> (The United Methodist Hymnal, *1989, p. 57)*

The Grace of God is richly expressed in the Gospel of John, as:

> *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."*
>
> *(John 3:16-17)*

By grace God loves the whole world and offers the world the divine presence through the incarnation of Christ, not to condemn but to save. This, then, is the foundation for mission theology: to point the peoples of the world toward the gracious free gift of love and acceptance in Jesus Christ, and for us, as the body of Christ, to live the reality of God's loving presence in the world.

Christ the Word was God (John 1:1) and came to live among us, full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Christ is the incarnation of this loving presence that is the basis of mission, because "God so loved the world." God loves the world so much that God has chosen to dwell among us so that we all might perceive the glory of this grace-filled gift. Mission becomes our task as Christians, because God in Christ is the divine dwelling here among us, and we have received "grace upon grace." Christ is the missionary presence of God in the world.

Youth from Coker UMC at Mission Academy in McAllen, Texas, run vacation Bible school at Proyecto Desarrollo Humano.

The Need for a Theology of Mission

The life of the church of Jesus Christ is not meant to be a mere human organization, but a divinely empowered instrument of God's Grace. As St. Francis is said to have sung: "Lord make me an instrument of thy Peace...," which is followed by his well-known graceful prayer of self-giving love. To limit our arena of concern and knowledge to only those persons we live among or meet along our journey is to miss the power and life-giving purpose of Christian faith. We are called as Christians to love the whole world, for which Christ died and was raised to new life.

Grace is found in the body and blood of Christ, given in love for the whole world, all at once. To comprehend the fullness of John 3:16-17, it is necessary to grasp the truth that important people may be those we do not know and will likely never meet, all for whom Christ died and was raised to new life, just as he did for us and those we know and live among. This is grace upon grace, freely available to all. This is the foundation of and motivation for Christian mission.

The global ministries of the church are the processes and methods of attempting to be with God in mission among all peoples, in all places, and at all times. To limit our field of ministry to a particular congregation or any geographic or thematic entity is to miss the limitless power of the divine presence that is incarnate in the world. Literally, Christians are called to see the world through eyes of faith, observing

A tornado that hit Picher, Oklahoma, left residents sorting through rubble that was once their homes. UMCOR is working with United Methodist annual conferences in several states affected by deadly storms to fulfill emergency needs and to formulate long-term recovery plans.

all that God offers, in every time and place, to live the truth of John 3:16-17—living for the whole world. John Wesley referred to the whole world as his parish or area of concern and involvement.

For the church to fully become God's instrument of grace in the world, whether locally, regionally, nationally, or internationally, we need to understand and state clearly our theology of mission, that is, what we believe about the world and God's mission in the world as it relates to the purpose of the church.

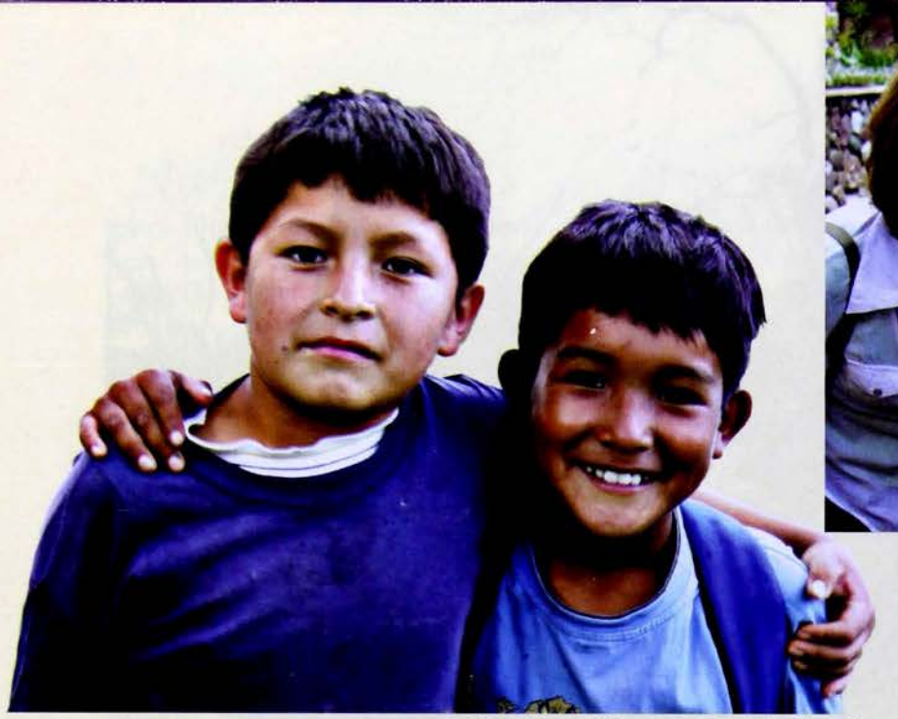
By our activities in mission we become the signposts of the coming reign of God. The church in mission is always pointing toward what God has done and continues to do in the world, as it leads people to participate in this grace-filled life. To engage in the *missio Dei*, God's mission, is to connect the church as a faithful witness to the reign of God, which is constantly breaking into the world.

Sources of Our Mission Theology

Our United Methodist understanding of mission derives from our historical and contemporary sources of theology, with an emphasis on our Wesleyan tradition.

Mission theology arises from ¶104, section four, in *The Book of Discipline, 2004*, "The Nature of Our Theological Task." As the Theological Task states, "Wesley believed that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason" (*The Book of Discipline, 2004*, p. 77). Scripture, tradition, experience, and reason are the sources of theology in the Wesleyan understanding, which is our framework for doing mission.

The Four Goals of Mission, formulated by the directors of the General Board of Global Ministries, work in concert with Scripture, tradition, experience, and reason to express the mission responsibilities of the church as set forth in *The Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church. Each goal is implemented through specific program strategies and carried out in cooperation with annual conferences and other mission partners across the global connection. These together are a summary statement of directions for United Methodists moving together into the 21st century in God's mission.



Clockwise from upper left: *Two Bolivian boys at Thiu Rancho project in Cochabamba; United Methodist missionary Ardell Graner (left) with mother and child in Thiu Rancho project, Cochabamba, Bolivia; UMCOR worker in New Orleans with Katrina survivor; tsunami survivors at a temporary shelter in Aceh, Indonesia.*

The Four Goals of Mission

1. Make Disciples of Jesus Christ: We will witness by word and deed among those who haven't 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 persons 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.

2. Strengthen, Develop, and Renew Christian Congregations and Communities: We will work mutually with mission partners in common growth and development of spiritual life, worship, witness, and service.

3. Alleviate Human Suffering: We will help to initiate, strengthen, and support ministries to the spiritual, physical, emotional, and social needs of people.

4. 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.

By using the "lens" of the United Methodist theological task (Scripture, tradition, experience, and reason) to view these four mission goals, a United Methodist theology of mission emerges as a foundation that will shape ou common calling in God's mission

---

Dr. John Edward Nuessle is an assis tant general secretary for Globe Ministries with responsibilities in th areas of mission education, new mis sion initiatives, and the Academy Mission Renewal programs.

Children in Uganda orphaned by AIDS and internal wars receive health care, food, education, love, and the knowledge of Christ through United Methodist-sponsored schools.

CONNECT FIVE

Activities for Every Church

BY UNA JONES

Five suggestions for every local congregation, regardless of size, facilities, location, or resources

1. Form a Covenant Relationship with a Missionary

Since 1974, the Covenant Relationship Program has enabled United Methodist congregations to surround mission personnel with love and prayer and to grow in their understanding of the context in which missionaries serve. Covenant churches are encouraged to learn about a missionary's place of service—the people, culture, traditions, and religious life of the region.

This mutual relationship calls for the church to participate in the work of a missionary through financial and prayerful support and for that missionary to share with the church firsthand experiences of working in God's mission. Covenant giving supports all United Methodist missionaries in the name of one individual United Methodist missionary, thus enabling congregations to build a faithful relationship with the entire missionary community.

A participant in an after-school program supported by contributions to The Advance's SHADE and Fresh Water Project, a children's ministry in Brazil.

Steps Toward Entering Into a Covenant Relationship

- Seek a challenging annual financial goal for a Covenant Relationship commitment. Use $2,500 or more per year (or $5 per member per year) as a guideline.
- Give first consideration to United Methodist missionaries related to your church's annual conference; this facilitates better coordination of the missionary's busy visitation schedule when he or she is in the United States for itineration. Consult your Conference or District Secretary of Global Ministries or the Office of Covenant Relationships of the General Board Global Ministries and the missionary biographies on Global Ministries' website. This will help identify which missionaries are related to your annual conference. Request a Covenant Relationship Acceptance Agreement form to formalize your church's decision.
- When your church receives the recommendations and makes a decision, send the agreement form to Global Ministries and to your conference secretary of Global Ministries. Global Ministries will then confirm the commitment and notify the selected missionary. The Covenant Relationship takes effect on the date the church indicates and continues according to the church's directions, though all covenant churches are encouraged to make three-year commitments. Adjustments to the contribution amount, time frame, or selected missionary may be made at any time and should be reported to the Office of Covenant Relationships so that accurate records can be kept.
- Funds are sent by the local church treasurer through the conference treasurer, clearly designated for the missionary, with his or her Advance code number. Gifts may be sent monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually, as the church chooses.
- Churches participating in the Covenant Relationship Program will be notified when the missionary is available to visit churches. Churches contributing at least $2,500 annually (or $5 per member) will receive priority for such visits.

2. Establish "Moments for Mission"

For a "Moment for Mission," a member of the congregation gives a short (four-to five-minute) presentation about some aspect of God's mission. Moments for Mission can be offered during Sunday worship or church-school sessions, at council meetings, or at any congregational gathering. A Moment for Mission can be read or spoken from notes. It might be a dialogue or question-and-answer presentation with two or more people participating.

Moments for Mission may address where money has been sent, missionary updates, current issues and concerns, mission events, or pressing financial needs. Information may be found in mission leaflets or magazines, missionary letters, the *Prayer Calendar*, or other resources prepared

Faces of newly commissioned deaconesses and home missioners in 2006 reflect joy at their commitment to the mission of The United Methodist Church.

by Global Ministries. A presentation to the full congregation, even once a month, will do much to educate members about mission.

Moments for Mission can also be highlighted in monthly church newsletters or on church websites. Specific mission news can be sent to district and conference leaders for inclusion in district and conference newsletters or websites.

3. Create Mission Displays, Bulletin Boards, and Bulletin Inserts

Maps, posters, pictures, and leaflets can be used to make attractive, eye-catching mission displays. These are visual reminders that the congregation reaches out in mission throughout the world. Even if visitors and some members do not read the bulletin board thoroughly, they know at a glance that your congregation is a mission church. Plan to change the display periodically, perhaps monthly.

Display pictures of Global Ministries' missionaries, particularly if the church has a Covenant Relationship with a missionary. Include pictures of the missionary's projects and programs and the latest newsletter, photos, or website report from the missionary.

Ideas for bulletin inserts are close at hand just by using the Mission Calendar 2009 on pp. 23-26. Be proactive and order resources in a timely manner to support the mission story, mission giving, or mission emphasis to be featured. *New World Outlook* carries bulletin inserts in every issue (see pp. 43-44). Discover this easy, reproducible insert that can be copied, folded, and ready to go. Another source for the bulletin inserts is "Hallelujah Moments," available online (http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/me/resources/hallelujahs/). Each story is complemented with bulletin inserts.

Courtney Randall is commissioned as a missionary at the General Board of Global Ministries' fall 2007 board of directors meeting.

The UMCOR hotline can be a source of bulletin inserts; see http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/newsroom/hotline/. Weekly updates are provided by UMCOR, highlighting news on global disasters and UMCOR's response to them.

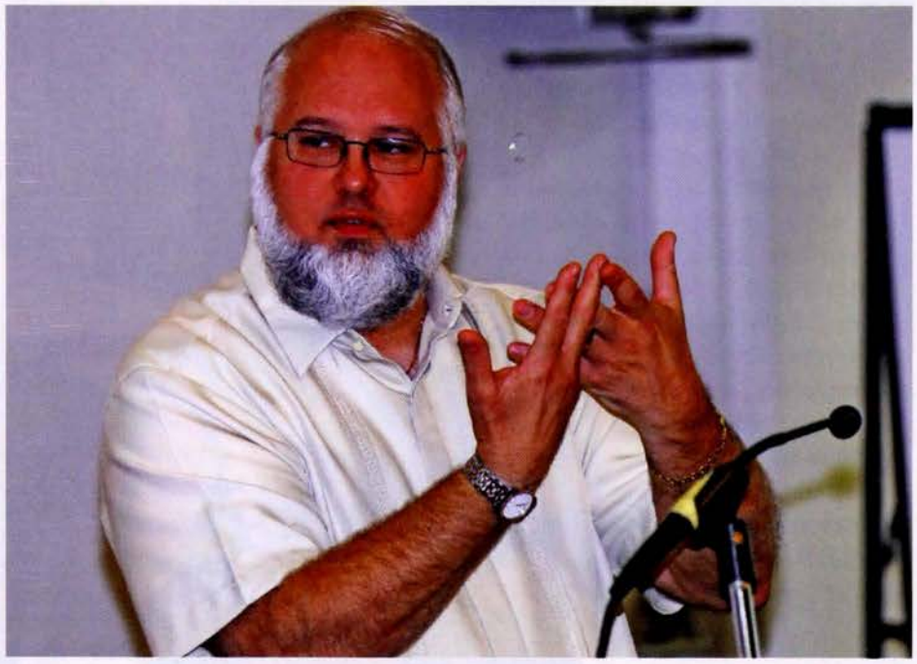
4. Plan a Mission Celebration Event (MCE)

An MCE serves to stimulate both spiritual and financial involvement in the global outreach of The United Methodist Church. This is accomplished by means of the following:

- *Information:* Tell the mission story.
- *Challenge:* Stimulate interest in global outreach (locally, regionally, nationally, internationally).
- *Ownership:* Develop a sense of ownership of United Methodist mission programs, personnel, and projects.
- *Support:* Challenge local churches and individuals to support global outreach through the church by giving to World Service, conference benevolence offerings, Advance projects, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, youth and children's missions, and Special Sunday offerings.
- *Evaluation and Follow-up:* Sustain interest and connection to mission projects and develop an ongoing mission education program.
- *Prayer Support:* Encourage prayer support for Global Ministries' mission personnel and programs.

5. Organize Mission Trips

Nothing does a better job of connecting people to mission ministries than personal experience.



Above: *Becky Dodson Louter, Executive Secretary, Deaconess and Home Missioner Program, the General Board of Global Ministries.* ***Top:*** *John Edward Nuessle, Assistant General Secretary, Evangelization and Church Growth, Mission Contexts and Relationships, and Mission Education.*

Organize educational mission trips to provide plenty of opportunities for church members to see firsthand examples of God's mission in action. These trips usually provide an enriching experience for both the visitor and the project or ministry.

- Annual Mission Travel Study (MTS) seminars are available from the Mission Education unit of Global Ministries. See the website for further details: http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/me/resources/travel seminars/. MTS seminars create study and advocacy opportunities. Seminar locations often mesh with topics studied in the annual Schools of Christian Mission.
- Mission volunteer trips provide another opportunity for mission involvement with "hands-on" activities. Some suggestions for volunteer projects could include building, restoring damaged buildings, teaching, or providing medical support.
- Work trips can provide support for disaster areas affected by weather or war. Sager Brown, the UMCOR depot in Baldwin, Louisiana, provides opportunities to assemble kits; see website: http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/.
- Mission Seminars are held on site at Global Ministries' offices in New York City. Participants receive a wealth of information about the many ways The United Methodist Church is involved in global mission. See the website for details: http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/me/resources/seminars/.

Una Jones is an assistant general secretary for The Advance and a former executive in the Mission Education program area.

Children in the rural village of Brisas del Mar (Ocean Breezes), Colombia, watch water being pumped into a previously neglected well. In 2008, a United Methodist Volunteers-In-Mission team repaired the well and installed a pump that brings clean water to the community.

Seven Go To's and Gotta Do's for United Methodist Volunteers

BY BETH BUCHANAN

Do you think you want to be a volunteer. No it's not a yearning to be on a reality show, just a relentless thought in the back of your mind. You've seen the fliers, heard the stories, and recognized a need in the community and want to give back. But now what? Taking a cue from biblical numerology, here are seven quick tips for how to become a volunteer on the following pages.

1. Go Local

Volunteer movements begin at home, so the first people to contact are close at hand. First, check with your local church—some churches have a pastor or layperson who devotes much time to mission. Explore opportunities in urban and rural settings. Even youth groups and children can collect canned goods for a local food pantry. Who said only adults could be volunteers? Open your eyes to the needs of others.

2. Make the Connection

As you look for opportunities beyond your church and community, meet with your United Methodist Volunteer-In-Mission (UMVIM) annual conference or jurisdictional coordinator. UMVIM is a product of the church's volunteer movement. Each annual conference and jurisdiction has an UMVIM coordinator. Don't know the name of your jurisdiction or annual conference? Not a problem. Go to www.umvim.info or ask your conference office.

UMVIM conference coordinators are responsible for training and coordinating conference UMVIM teams. The jurisdictional coordinator is primarily responsible for training and networking with conference coordinators. Both groups plan and lead sessions for team-leader training. Every UMVIM team must have at least one leader who has gone through UMVIM team-leader training before a team can get started on a project at a work site.

Volunteer coordinators are the best source of information for networking with teams and individuals and finding site locations. UMVIM coordinators also give information on supplemental insurance. Essential for any team member for safety and liability, insurance is available through the Global Ministries Mission Volunteers office and some conferences and jurisdictions.

If you already have a team planned, let your UMVIM conference coordinator know. For safety and accountability reasons, the conference staff needs to know about volunteer teams and their work projects. Coordination will also prevent team and work project duplication.

3. Follow Your Passion

With so many opportunities, how do you know where to fit in? Maybe your calling is listening to people's life stories or building a house with no power tools.

A sign of encouragement rests against a tree beside Katrina-demolished homes along the Gulf Coast near Pascagoula, Mississippi.

Volunteers' work runs the gamut from health care to education to construction. There is something for everyone.

If you are a doctor or nurse, or work in the health-care profession, use your medical skills outside the workplace to help others. UMVIM has a need for medical teams of all types: dentists in Haiti, obstetricians/gynecologists and nurses in Liberia, optometrists in Honduras. Even non-health-care personnel can assist on medical trips by doing educational or administrative tasks.

Perhaps you have served on a medical volunteer team and want to go further. Focus on comprehensive community-based primary health care. Work within a community to develop a sustainable health-care system for basic needs. Already the South Central and North Central Jurisdictions have begun conversations with Dr. Cherian Thomas of Global Ministries' Health and Welfare area to look at how short-term volunteers can participate in long-term community-based primary health care.

Pitch in and lend a hand to a neighbor after a natural disaster. Disaster response is a three-phase process that includes Early Response Teams (ERTs) and Disaster Response teams.

Become a member of an ERT and be one of the first to respond after a flood in the Midwest or a hurricane in the South. Upon invitation, ERTs are sent out to work with UMCOR and the UMVIM coordinator. All ERT members must receive specialized training, available through conference and jurisdiction offices.

Continue working with relief efforts and join a Disaster Response team. Working with UMCOR, Disaster Response teams initiate the second and third phases of disaster response: clean-up and removal of debris; repair and rebuilding of the community. This work includes passing out flood buckets, filling cement bags, tearing down walls, and rebuilding.

Ginger Cooper, Global Ministries young-adult individual volunteer, sits with children in Cameroon, Africa.

4. Know Your "Style"

Get your feet wet as a volunteer by working alongside others. Sign up for a team through your church or conference; then invite friends and family to go with you. Take the opportunity to develop new or deeper friendships.

Maybe you have done the team thing and are ready to go out on your own. Check out the Global Ministries' Individual Volunteers program. For anyone who is at least 18 or older, the Individual Volunteers program allows one person, or a married couple, to serve at a site for two months to two years. All Individual Volunteers must go through specific training. Training is held five times a year, once in each jurisdiction. To access the project list, contact information, and more details on the program, venture to the website www.individualvolunteers.info.

5. Do Your Research

Be an informed volunteer and conduct research before going on a volunteer work trip. The web is chock full of information. The Mission Volunteers website is a great place to start. Go to http://www.missionvolunteers.org. Here, you can find helpful links, such as guidelines for UMVIM teams, an insurance application, and contact information for Mission Volunteers staff and UMVIM conference and jurisdictional coordinators.

Network with past volunteers. Ask about their experiences. Better yet, read about their stories on a blog. Blogs are great tools for information and staying connected. Before you leave, set up a free blog at blogspot.com or wordpress.com, where you can keep an online journal of your experiences.

A blog is not just for the young or young at heart. It is an easy way to remember and organize trip details before they get hazy. It also provides vital information for others who might be planning to go on a similar trip. Jeanie Blankenbaker, former Assistant

General Secretary of Mission Volunteers, set up a blog before she left for Korea as an Individual Volunteer. As she updates it, her family and friends are able to share in her experiences.

Health-care volunteers can network with each other through a blog at www.umvim4health.blogspot.com. This blog features health supplies, educational resources, photos and videos of recent trips, lists online at http://www.missionvolunteers.org.

7. Can't Get Enough?

In addition to UMVIM, other volunteer programs are offered and available through Global Ministries' Mission Volunteers office.

Explore the link between faith and social justice by working with local grassroots organizations. Global Justice Volunteers is an eight-week cross-cultural program for young adults ages 18 to 30. For dates and more information about future classes, check out http://www.gjv.info.

If you are a bit older, but feel like you're in the "the prime of your life," the Primetimers program offers older adults opportunities for educational forums, cross-cultural exposure, faith-filled reflection, and greater insight into the work of The United Methodist Church. For dates and details about future excursions, go to http://www.primetimers.info.

Give more than just your time. Encourage your home community to support a particular cause, project, missionary, or UMCOR relief effort through The Advance. The Advance is an accountable, designated-giving arm of The United Methodist Church which ensures that 100 percent of each gift reaches its intended mission or ministry (see pp. 38–39). Go to http://www.advancinghope.org or ask your local church office for more information.

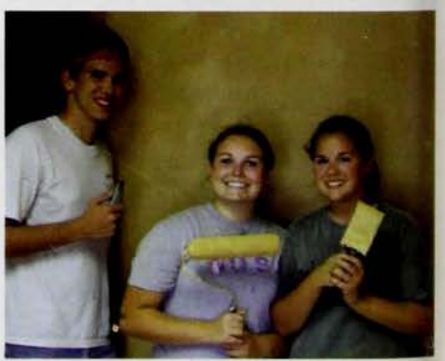
Final thoughts: Be in prayer about all of these ideas and use all available resources and people.

Above left: *Teenagers on a mission trip from St. Luke's UMC in Orlando, Florida, help build a new church building in Duverge, Dominican Republic.* ***Above right:*** *In 2004, a United Methodist Volunteers-In-Mission team in the Andes Mountains near Carorita, Venezuela, helps construct a building that will serve as a church, dormitory, and medical facility.* ***Below:*** *(left to right): Ricky Fink, Laura Laine, and Sonja Westberg from Coker UMC in San Antonio, Texas, on a Mission Academy trip to Iglesia Metodista Unida Vida in McAllen, Texas.*

needs of individuals or teams, and other news. There are opportunities for visitors to make contact and interact on common topics of interest.

6. Take the Plunge

Okay, you've been there and done that. So now what? Challenge yourself and consider leading a team. Team leaders are vital to teams because they are responsible for preparing, building, orienting, and training the rest of the team members. Before leading a group, consult your conference or jurisdictional coordinator; then receive special training. Find a community or cause for which you are passionate. Don't know where to go? Check the international and domestic project



Consult with a pastor, coordinator, or experienced team leader when choosing a volunteer path. There is a niche just for you in the vast network of Global Ministries volunteers.

Beth Buchanan is the program coordinator for Mission Volunteers at the General Board of Global Ministries.

Left to right: *Shawn Bakker, a Global Ministries associate general secretary and Director of The Advance; Eula Gomes da Silva, Secretary of the National Coordination, the Methodist Church of Brazil; Denise Honeycutt, Associate Director for the Virginia Annual Conference and Global Ministries' board member.*

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

What They Do and How They Do It

BY MARY BETH COUDAL

The structure of The United Methodist Church is intentionally decentralized. Its various agencies—fostering connection as the body of Christ—are governed by boards of directors composed of both clergy and lay members. Each agency is responsible for different aspects of the church's work and each formulates and proposes church policy to the General Conference. While each board has a particular area of concern, together they enable the denomination to maintain a common vision, mission, and ministry throughout the church's worldwide connectional system.

Lay and clergy members are elected to serve on the church's boards and agencies by their annual conferences. This past July, the regional jurisdictional conferences in the United States met and elected new bishops. In addition, each jurisdiction also elected people to serve as board members for the

Edward Paup, current General Secretary of Global Ministries, holds Global Ministries director Emily Dawson-Petersen's baby during a worship service at the agency's 2007 fall board meeting.

church's agencies. The first step to getting elected as a director for a general church agency is to serve as an officer or chairperson for local church committees or United Methodist Women. The next step is to serve the annual conference as a lay or clergy delegate or committee member. At the annual conference session just before the jurisdictions meet (always in the year General Conference meets), conferences send nominations for boards and agencies to their jurisdictional conferences. United Methodist conferences outside the United States also nominate and elect people to serve on the church's boards and agencies.

Voting members of jurisdictional conferences are elected the year before General Conference meets. Jurisdictional conference delegates are composed of the delegates to General Conference, along with additional members elected to represent annual conferences.

The General Board of Global Ministries is the largest agency of the United Methodist denomination and also has the greatest number of directors of all the agencies. The staff of Global Ministries is accountable to its board of directors. What is it like to serve the church in this capacity?

Board Meeting Routines and Surprises

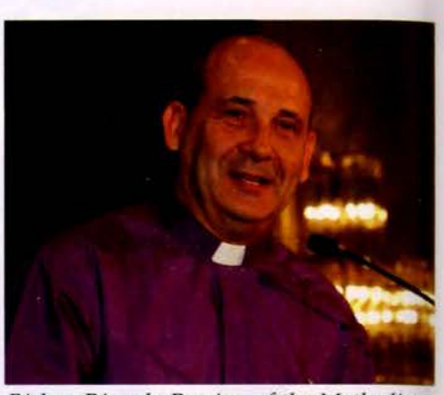
Almost anything can happen during the four-day, twice-a-year board meetings of the General Board of Global Ministries. Bishop Ricardo Pereira from Cuba may thank the assembled board of directors for solidarity with the Cuban church, and Rev. Ebenezer Joseph, the president of the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka, may share his passion for interfaith peace. The president of the board may urge board members to practice hospitality.

In the most recent quadrennium (the four years between each General Conference), a panel of theologians discussed trends in mission—more short-term trips and fewer long-term missionaries.

Global Ministries directors Nelida Mora Morales (left), Florida Annual Conference, and Josephine Deere, Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, at the Global Ministries spring 2007 directors' meeting.

Over bites of lunch in the hotel restaurant, the directors consulted their papers to prep for upcoming committee meetings. In the afternoon, they spoke passionately at the Finance or Personnel committee meetings.

In the evening, the Rev. Michael Slaughter, a dynamic pastor whose church's membership currently exceeds 4,000, gave a presentation about how Ginghamsburg United Methodist Church in Tennessee



Bishop Ricardo Pereira, of the Methodist Church in Cuba, speaks at the Global Ministries' spring board meeting in 2007.

partnered with UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to deliver relief to Sudan.

On another evening, members celebrated the commissioning of new missionaries, deaconesses, and home missioners. At some board meetings, time is set aside to honor outstanding people who have contributed to the worldwide United Methodist Church family. The next day, reports and recommendations may be brought forth to the assembly and voted on. The directors have the responsibility to question the staff about past actions and to develop plans for future ministries.

Some board meetings include field trips that serve to expand directors' world view. Directors have traveled to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Alabama and visited the United Nations and the Church Center for the United Nations in New York City.

Returning home from a meeting, directors then raise funds for Global Ministries' mission programs and missionaries or encourage United Methodists to support mission ministries through church channels, such as The Advance, a direct way of giving to programs and projects. Directors may speak on a Sunday morning during a Moment for Mission to inform a congregation about Global

Ministries' actions on timely international or national issues.

The Global Ministries Board of Directors does all this and more. At the opening, closing, and throughout Global Ministries board meetings, directors worship together in creative ways and pray. Led by a small, ever-changing team of directors, the group asks for God's guidance over its work. Worship services may have special foci, such as young people, Native Americans, or Spanish-language worship. The opening service always includes Communion.

Board directors serve as volunteers, elected by their annual conferences and jurisdictions, but not paid. They work hard—reading grant proposals, considering staff changes, questioning reports, analyzing budgets, crafting recommendations, voting on proposals, envisioning new directions, and following up with the commitments of The United Methodist Church's largest agency.

Global Ministries board director Linda Shramm (foreground), of the Detroit Annual Conference, visits the United Nations headquarters in New York City with other directors in October 2005.

Learning About Issues

"It was an awesome opportunity to learn about the church and how it works—the presentations and being up on world matters—it's priceless," said Kathleen Conrad from Lafayette, Louisiana, who served as a Global Ministries director from 2004 to 2008. "I thank God for the opportunity to be able to open my eyes to a whole lot of things!"

Occasionally, directors represent Global Ministries on boards, committees, or at historic events. Conrad reported that a highlight of her tenure was being present in June 2007 at the signing of a partnership agreement between UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) and Muslim AID in London. Since then, Conrad has been asked to discuss the importance of interfaith efforts to relieve and rebuild communities hit by disasters. Like Conrad, board members make themselves available to discuss the mission and efforts of Global Ministries.

The Rev. John Culp, a director from Columbia, South Carolina, said his highlight was El Paso, Texas, where: "We were able to understand border communities and immigration issues with the Hispanic population. And making friends from all over the globe was great. I have a friend from the Congo, another from Liberia. We develop international friendships at the board meetings."

"It gets you out of the fishbowl," Culp said with a laugh.

Culp used his position on the Board of Directors to ask the American Friends Service Committee to mount an exhibit that displayed the boots of South Carolinians who were killed in Iraq. Culp had seen the exhibit at this year's General Conference. This year, the South Carolina Annual Conference hosted "Eyes Wide Open: An Exhibition on the Human Cost of the Iraq War."

"I'm a global Christian. My awareness and sensitivity is to the needs of the world and the Christian response," Culp said.

Board meetings usually take place in Stamford, Connecticut, a location close to the main offices of Global Ministries in New York City. The location allows the staff from the New York City office to resource the meeting.

Kathleen Conrad, a Global Ministries director from the Louisiana Annual Conference, listens to a speaker at the spring 2007 Board of Directors meeting.

The Rev. Dale Fooshee (center), Global Ministries board member and member of the United Methodist Rural Fellowship Executive Committee, stands with (from left to right): the Rev. Mario A. Perez, Director, Methodist Center for Theological Studies in Cuba; Sayimi Pementel Prieto, Director, Christian education program, Methodist Church in Cuba; Bishop Ricardo Periera Díaz of the Methodist Church in Cuba; Yosvonys Periera Proenza, Methodist Church in Cuba youth leader.

How Are Directors Elected?

Committees nominate United Methodists to serve as directors. The result is a Board of Directors made up of a diverse group of laypeople, clergy, and bishops, who represent people from local and global churches. They serve as directors for four years.

The path to becoming a director on the General Board of Global Ministries is mapped out in *The Book of Discipline* (¶ 1311). *The Book of Discipline* is the book of basic doctrines for United Methodists. Simply put, there are three ways people become directors.

One way is through the five jurisdictional committees. Committees nominate about 40 potential directors from a pool provided by all the annual conferences. Fifteen directors come from the regional conferences that are outside the United States.

Thirty directors come to Global Ministries' board from the Women's Division Board of Directors. These volunteer laywomen are elected to the Women's Division at the United Methodist Women's jurisdictional meetings every four years. (The Women's Division board meetings occur a few days before and in the same location as the Global Ministries' board meetings. This enables the organization to save on travel to and from the meetings.) *The Book of Discipline* states that at least 50 percent of the directors of Global Ministries must be women.

A third way to serve on the Global Ministries board is to first become a bishop. That's probably the most difficult route. The Council of Bishops nominates eight bishops to serve on the Global Ministries board, five of whom come from the United States and three of whom come from regional conferences outside the United States. (The president-designate of the Council of Bishops 2010–2012, Bishop Larry Goodpaster from the Alabama-West Florida Conference, served as a director from 2004 to 2008.)

The Collective Wisdom

How can the Global Ministries Board of Directors reflect the great diversity of the United Methodist family? Consistently, conference nomination committees consider the requests, interests, biographies, and overall diversity of their pool of nominated individuals.

"While [the directors] may come out of annual conferences, they are not elected to represent their annual conferences," notes the Rev. Dr. John Nuessle. "They represent the whole church—not like electing Congress people. They are accountable to the General Conference." Nuessle serves as an assistant general secretary at Global Ministries.

"I doubt if any of us gets it right individually, but maybe as a group we get it right," said Dale Fooshee from Topeka, Kansas, who served as a director from 2000 to 2008.

To follow the features and news from past and current board meetings, visit the website at http://new.gbgm-umc.org/news/themes/boardmeetings/.

Mary Beth Coudal is the staff writer for the General Board of Global Ministries.

Learn More About Global Ministries

Church members and groups can visit Global Ministries at 475 Riverside Drive in New York City by attending a Mission Seminar, led by Global Ministries' Mission Education office. Programs can be tailored for visiting groups and specific issues can be addressed. Any size group is welcome—confirmation classes, United Methodist Women's groups, new pastors, district or conference mission committees. Groups need to cover travel and accommodation expenses, but there are no charges for the seminar itself. For more details go to http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/me/ or call the Mission Education office at 212-870-3792.

Mission
Calendar
2009

January

Human Relations Day (January 18)

- **Human Relations Sunday*** is the first of six churchwide Special Sundays in the year that all United Methodist churches are urged to observe. Celebrated in connection with the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., ministry funded by this offering seeks to create better relationships among all people. Invite a community worker to speak during the worship hour. Community Developer, Voluntary Services, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation programs are supported by this offering.
- Renew or create a **Covenant Relationship** with a Global Ministries missionary. Contact the Conference Committee on Mission Personnel, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, or Global Ministries Mission Personnel: **http://new.gbgm-umc.org/work/missionaries/**.
- Remind the church-school superintendent to order the **Children's Fund for Christian Mission** materials from the General Board of Discipleship: **http://www.gbod.org/ministries/children/**.

February

Black History Month

- Take a look at the **mission studies for 2008–2009**—*Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival*, and the Sudan—and at the Spiritual Growth Study, *Food and Faith* (**http://new.gbgm-umc.org/missionstudies/**). Work in partnership with the United Methodist Women to sponsor at least one of these studies for the congregation.
- Plan a **volunteer mission trip** for the congregation. Consult your conference or jurisdiction mission coordinators, or search this website for volunteer opportunities: **http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mv/volunteer-opportunities**. Locate jurisdictional United Methodist Volunteer-In-Mission (UMVIM) coordinators at: **http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mv/mission-teams-umvim/jurisdl-umvimcoords/**.

March

One Great Hour of Sharing (March 22)

- Gifts to **One Great Hour of Sharing*** (OGHS) underwrite the administrative costs of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Because UMCOR's administrative costs are covered in this way, 100 percent of every other gift can be sent to support UMCOR projects. Distribute OGHS materials with the bulletin on March 22 and invite a speaker to talk about UMCOR ministries. Visit **http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/give/oghs/** for more information.
- Send Easter cards to a few missionaries. Use the ***Prayer Calendar*** to find names and addresses of additional missionaries and staff. Available from the Mission Resource Center ($11): **http://www.missionresourcecenter.org**

April

Holy Week (April 5-) Native American Su 6)

- Incorporate **Global Praise** Easter, or a tions. Global Praise websit umc.org/re The songs affirm the glob stian faith.
- The **Native American Sur** res outreac ages and provides schola ethodist Nat

May

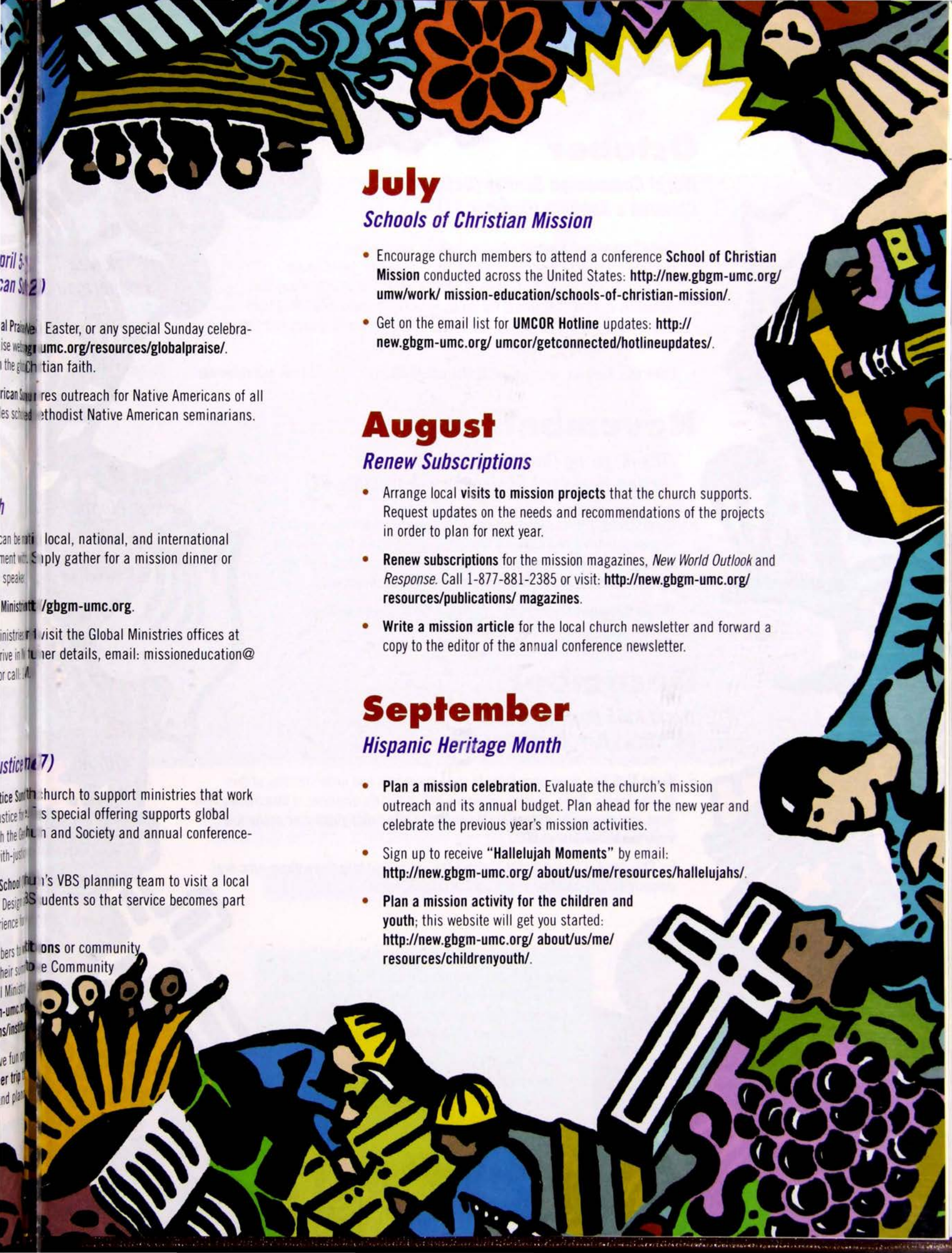
Mission Month

- **Mission Month** can be ma local, natio mission involvement with mply gather invite a mission speaker.
- Visit the **Global Ministrie** //gbgm-umc
- Plan a Global Ministries visit the Glo 475 Riverside Drive in Ne ther details, gbgm-umc.org or call: 1-

June

Peace With Justice 7)

- **Peace With Justice Sund** church to su for peace and justice for s special of outreach through the Gen h and Socie related peace-with-justic
- **Vacation Bible School (V** h's VBS plan mission project. Design a tudents so t of the VBS experience for
- Encourage members to **vi** ions or comm centers during their sum e Communi and Institutional Ministri **http://new.gbgm-umc.or us/cim/programs/institut**
- Bon Voyage! Have fun on **mission volunteer trip** th was organized and plann in February.



July

Schools of Christian Mission

- Encourage church members to attend a conference **School of Christian Mission** conducted across the United States: **http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/work/ mission-education/schools-of-christian-mission/**.
- Get on the email list for **UMCOR Hotline** updates: **http://new.gbgm-umc.org/ umcor/getconnected/hotlineupdates/**.

August

Renew Subscriptions

- Arrange local **visits to mission projects** that the church supports. Request updates on the needs and recommendations of the projects in order to plan for next year.
- **Renew subscriptions** for the mission magazines, *New World Outlook* and *Response*. Call 1-877-881-2385 or visit: **http://new.gbgm-umc.org/resources/publications/ magazines**.
- **Write a mission article** for the local church newsletter and forward a copy to the editor of the annual conference newsletter.

September

Hispanic Heritage Month

- **Plan a mission celebration.** Evaluate the church's mission outreach and its annual budget. Plan ahead for the new year and celebrate the previous year's mission activities.
- Sign up to receive **"Hallelujah Moments"** by email: **http://new.gbgm-umc.org/ about/us/me/resources/hallelujahs/**.
- **Plan a mission activity for the children and youth**; this website will get you started: **http://new.gbgm-umc.org/ about/us/me/resources/childrenyouth/**.

October

World Communion Sunday (October 4)
Children's Sabbath (October 11)

- **World Communion Sunday*** offering supports scholarships for students preparing for Christian leadership in our world. Invite people of many nationalities to participate in worship, dress the altar in a way that represents different cultures of the world, serve Communion with bread from different parts of the world, and incorporate more than one language into the Sunday worship litany.
- **Children's Sabbath**, search **www.childrensdefense.org** for information and resources.

November

Thanksgiving (November 26)
United Methodist Student Day (November 29)

- **Thanksgiving:** Create opportunities for the church to participate in God's mission. Launch a new **Advance** mission-giving program that helps the congregation understand why and how the Advance operates. Visit the Advance website: **http://new.gbgm-umc.org/ about/advance/**.
- **United Methodist Student Day*** offering helps US United Methodist students with scholarships and loans

December

World AIDS Day (December 1)
Christmas Day (December 25)

- **World AIDS Day** observance helps to raise awareness and understanding of this deadly disease. News, worship resources, and materials available at **http://new.gbgm-umc.org/ resources/annual/worldaidsday/** or **http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/work/health/hivaids/wad07/**.
- For **Christmas**, give a gift that changes the world. Visit **http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/give/gift-catalog/** or call UMCOR: 800-554-8583.

One resource to complement your mission calendar is The Official United Methodist 2009 Program Calendar. *It is available from United Methodist Communications at:* ***http://www.umcom.org/***.

Order Special Sunday offering materials from United Methodist Communications online at* ***http://www.umcom.org/store**, or call 1-888-346-3862.*

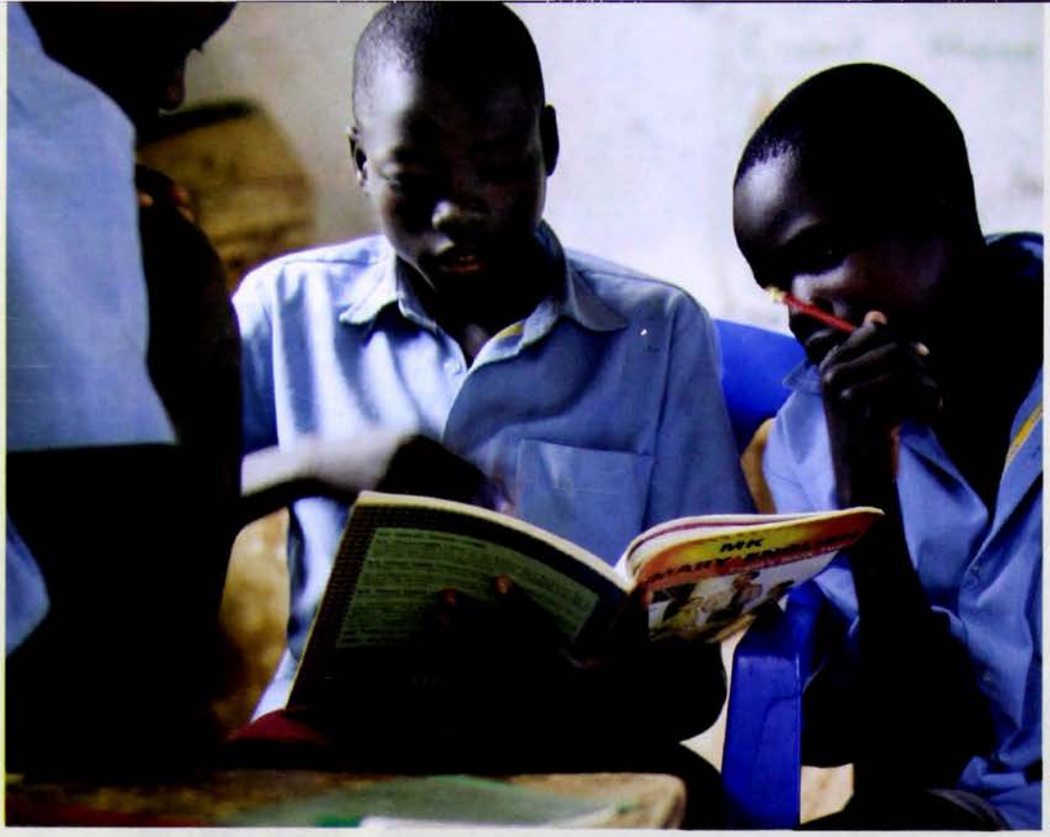
Kuressaare United Methodist Church in Estonia, in Europe, is located in Saaremaa, where most of the population lives below the poverty line. The United Methodist Church is developing ways to help pastors and church lay workers in this and other European and African annual conferences retire with adequate pensions.

Mission Dollars and Sense!

BY JOHN EDWARD NUESSLE AND UNA JONES

How to handle the money God has entrusted to us is perhaps the most difficult issue for contemporary Christians in the United States. Yet using our financial resources in faithful stewardship to engage in mission can be the most freeing and liberating experience of Christian discipleship. As Jesus sent his disciples off in mission, he instructed them not to take any extra resources for the journey. God would provide.

"...[F]or laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave." (Matthew 10:10b-11). In other words, through mission giving, workers in the vineyard of the Lord are cared for by God. God does this by encouraging the faithful response of disciples. Making the financial resources that God has given available for those actively engaged in programs of God's mission is, in itself, also mission. Each of these activities comes under the *missio Dei* (mission of God).



United Methodist mission dollars help provide education to more than 200 children attending the East Africa Annual Conference School in Uganda, East Africa.

How congregations use dollars and cents exemplifies how God is working in mission through the church. There are significant financial resources in the United States that God is calling us to use in mission, both around the world and within needful segments of the United States.

Mission giving is mission.

The Biblical Guide to Mission Giving

The Apostle Paul has offered guiding principles by which to organize a faithful life of mission stewardship. He wrote to the church in Philippi concerning its generous financial support of his mission and ministry (Philippians 4:10-20). In so doing, he provides rich commentary on how to faithfully support God's mission with financial giving, through four principles for giving:

1. Mission support should be organized from a local community, not just individuals (v. 10). Paul directs his comments to the whole church in Philippi. Christianity is defined by its communal nature, and mission support should therefore be an expression of the whole community of believers.
2. Mission support should be faithfully consistent, not just an occasional outburst of emotional awareness (vv. 15-16). Paul commends the Philippians' church: "For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my needs more than once." Just as God cares for our needs daily, regularly, so also must our mission giving be regular.
3. Mission support should be channeled through responsible agents, not sent directly (v. 18). Paul received the gifts from an acknowledged agent, noting accountability in the process. Administrative accountability through a responsible agency ensures that everyone, givers and recipients, has a clear understanding of the use of funds. This does not mean that givers always decide how the funds will be used, but a fully disclosed allocation unites giver and receiver in a common mission.
4. Perhaps most importantly, mission support is a voluntary response to the gospel call, a spiritual investment in God's mission (v. 17), "Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that accumulates to your account."

Mission giving is not so much about where or to whom funds are given as about a faithful response

to God's call in one's life—to be engaged in God's mission. It is our spiritual investment that connects all who share in the gospel work of proclaiming the reality of God's ultimate reign: "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

Stewardship in God's Mission

Encouraging personal commitment to and support of God's mission is crucial for the local church's mission committee. Work in this area must seek to expand congregational giving and prayerful support for all who work in God's mission, at home and around the world.

- Because every congregation is financially involved in mission through a variety of giving channels available to United Methodists, it is important for United Methodists to be well acquainted with these channels. Planned, systematic financial participation by the congregation in various mission programs will expand support for God's mission.
- Learn what individual church members are doing already and help them celebrate involvement in God's mission. Then move forward to providing even greater financial support.
- Many items in a church's benevolence (charitable giving) budget, such as conference apportionments, are distinctly missional in nature, and the mission committee suggests the amounts to be given for these.
- Other items in the benevolence budget are suggested by work areas or committees related to them. Once the entire benevolence budget is determined, it is submitted by the mission committee to the committee on finance, which presents it to the church council for approval.
- The mission committee must study and plan with care to recommend a budget that challenges the giving potential of the congregation and includes opportunities for giving to all mission areas available.

Steps in Budget Development

When the mission committee begins to plan for the benevolence budget, it must take into account the needs of the world to receive and of the congregation to be involved in giving. It is good to ask: What does God expect of us? What opportunities exist for a community of Christians to further God's mission? When questions like these have been discussed, objectives can then be considered.

The church's potential is the next matter for the mission committee to consider. Ask questions such as the following:

- In terms of financial ability, what could the congregation do in benevolence sharing if it really got serious about this matter?
- How much has the congregation participated in each mission area this year? What is the total participation now?
- What is the church's per capita giving?
- What has been the trend in benevolence participation by the congregation over the past 10 years? Has it kept pace with inflation?

Two boys ride their bicycles at Thiu Rancho in Cochabamba, Bolivia, where The Advance of The United Methodist Church funds an agricultural mission.

- What could the level of giving and receiving be, eight to ten years from now?

How Much Money for Mission?

The church council should consider what percentage of the total budget should cover mission giving. The common range in most congregations is 20 to 25 percent.

Ardell and Gordon Graner, Global Ministries missionaries assigned to work with the Bolivia Evangelical Methodist Church, are co-directors of the Thiu Rancho Project. The project was established as a retreat center and discipleship program for rural youth and as an agricultural center for indigenous farmers.

However, many churches are working on the principle of "as much for others as for ourselves," or a 50/50 designation.

Once the church council agrees upon a goal, benevolences should include:

- World Service and conference support;
- Advance Specials;
- Special Sundays offerings, such as One Great Hour of Sharing, Human Relations Day, and World Communion Sunday;
- Youth Service Fund, the United Methodist Children's Fund for Christian Mission, and World Service Special Gifts;
- Funds contributed through United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men that support work outside the local church; and all other local benevolence causes.

Once the mission committee has proposed a long-range objective for the church's benevolence program, the next step is to decide how far the congregation can go in the first year and how to gradually increase the amount and proportion of the benevolence budget each year so the congregation can reach the goal.

A long view, a definite goal, and a plan for reaching the committee's goal over time will help the congregation grow spiritually as its participation in God's mission grows.

Other Thoughts on Mission Giving

There are many independent groups and nondenominational faiths and sects—and other causes, both effective and ineffective—that appeal for funds from United Methodist congregations and individuals.

The United Methodist Church has many relationships and commitments, and congregations act as partners with the whole church throughout the world. Churches in many parts of the world are depending on The United Methodist Church for support.

The United Methodist Church has a dependable system for assuring the safe delivery and distribution of goods and money because of its worldwide network of churches. Contributions are not distributed by outside agencies but through Christian congregations and church organizations.

A congregation's mission committee can help church members become aware of all that the church does, explaining that the best way to help others is through the church's own connections.

Mission Education Budget

The mission chair should also present the local church council with budget recommendations for a mission education program. The budget should include items such as costs for mission interpreters and national visitors, film rentals, Schools of Christian Mission promotion, leadership training, literature and supplies, and postage. The size of the congregation and the extent of the mission program will determine the amount to be budgeted for mission education. These funds are integral to mission work. They allow the committee to share the good news of God's mission with the congregation.

The Rev. John Edward Nuessle is an assistant general secretary for Global Ministries with responsibilities for mission education, new mission initiatives, and the Academy for Mission Renewal programs. Una Jones is an assistant general secretary for The Advance.

Three of the more than 20 residents of Ana Gonzaga Children's Home. The home, 30 miles east of Rio de Janiero, offers children with weak family ties an alternative to involvement in street crime and prostitution.

The Portuguese Methodist folk band Trevo Alegre performs at the 2007 European Methodist Festival in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. Through activities at the festival, participants explored issues of climate change, immigration, family, mission, other faiths, and spiritual growth.

The Mission Connection

A *New World Outlook* Feature

Every church should have a group of lay people who work with the pastor to help the congregation engage in mission outreach. A balanced approach to mission considers outreach that answers needs in the local community, engages in mission opportunities provided by the annual conference and regional ecumenical bodies, and finds ways to connect the congregation to national and international ministries as well.

Congregations have the freedom in the United Methodist connection to come up with whatever local church structures work best for them, whether that be to have a mission committee; to have more than one; to combine mission and advocacy ministries as a Mission/Church and Society committee; to form specific groups around ministry issues, such as working with the homeless, resettling refugee families, or sending out volunteer work teams; or to have a global ministries committee, with a global ministries committee chair. Most churches have a United Methodist Women's unit that should also be involved in the global ministries of the church. A mission committee or global ministries committee is also necessary to involve the whole congregation in mission ministry.

The chairperson of global ministries and the global ministries committee of each congregation are vital connections between a needy world and a

local church. Congregation members who are made aware of the needs and hardships of their neighbors, near or far, respond with prayer and concern. A global ministries committee can help members of a church become better stewards of their time, talents, and earthly treasures.

How to Make Connections for Mission
Global Ministries exists to facilitate God's mission on behalf of The United Methodist Church. The work of this agency is supported, in part, by a portion of the apportionment dollars paid by every local church through its annual conference. Every church should be able to benefit in some way from its ministries.

The following general guide is a short list of contacts designed to help congregations find what they need from Global Ministries.

Community and Institutional Ministries

http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/cim/
Outreach to Meet Human Needs

The Community and Institutional Ministries unit of Global Ministries facilitates, resources, and supports outreach to meet human needs, with special emphasis on ministries with women, children, youth, families, and older adults. It offers direct services, specialized ministries, and community organizing and development, including economic development and justice advocacy.

Community Developers Program: 212-870-3821
National Mission Institutions: 212-870-3843
Communities of Shalom: 212-870-3843
Ministries with Women, Children, and Families: 212-870-3833
Town and Country Ministries: 212-870-3684
Office of Urban Ministries: 877-870-3832
Substance Abuse and Related Violence (SPSARV): 866-944-3330 or 704-919-9954
United Methodist Voluntary Services program: 212-870-3821
Cooperative Ministries: 877-870-3832 or 212-870-3684

Evangelization and Church Growth

http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/ecg/
Proclamation and Witness to the Saving Grace of Jesus Christ

The Evangelization and Church Growth program area works with its various mission partners—including annual and central conferences, autonomous and autonomous-affiliated Methodist churches, other church agencies, and other units of the board—to train leaders, establish relationships, and make available resources for church growth and renewal throughout the world.

Methodist Bible school students in Southeast Asia.

In Mission Together—Congregational partnerships between US churches and developing churches in mission initiatives of other countries: 212-870-3860
Mission Initiatives—Mongolia, Nepal, Honduras, Latvia, Lithuania, Cambodia, Russia, Cameroon, Laos, Senegal, Thailand, Vietnam, Central Asia: 212-870-3955
New Church Development: 212-870-3863
Research Office: 212-870-3840, research@gbgm-umc.org
United Methodist Development Fund (UMDF): 212-870-3856 or 800-UMC-UMDF (800-862-8633); for loans, loans@gbgm-umc.org; for investments, wmoy@gbgm-umc.org

Financial Development

http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/administration/fd/
Funding God's Mission

Financial Development works in concert with each mission channel, focusing around three components—mission advocacy, church partnerships, and donor cultivation—collaboratively throughout Global Ministries and other boards and agencies across The United Methodist Church.

Current and Deferred Giving: 440-816-1270
Stewardship in Mission: 212-870-3916
Planned Giving: 440-816-1270

Health and Welfare Ministries

http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/hw/
Global Health, Global Response

Health and Welfare Ministries assists United Methodists to become involved globally in ministries that address the critical health needs of children, youth, older adults, persons with physically and mentally challenging conditions, and racial/ethnic communities of color. This area of ministry helps UMC organizations, institutions, and programs to be involved in direct service to persons in need through both residential and nonresidential ministries. The unit also works on a community-wide basis to assist in the establishment of Comprehensive Community-based Primary Health Care programs.

HIV/AIDS Program, Community-based Malaria Control, Community-based Primary Health Care, Hospital Revitalization Program, Medical and Health Supplies, 212-870-3870
Congregational Health Ministries, Disability Concerns, Scholarships and Grants: 212-870-3683

Mission Contexts and Relationships

http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mcr/
Connecting the Church in Mission

The Mission Contexts and Relationships program area analyzes the context in which the church is called to mission and builds Covenant Relationships and mission partnerships to implement the goals of mission. In its evaluative work, it takes account of such factors as culture, religion, history, politics, economics, environment, and demographics. It develops Christian ecumenical relations and explores dialogue with people of other faiths.

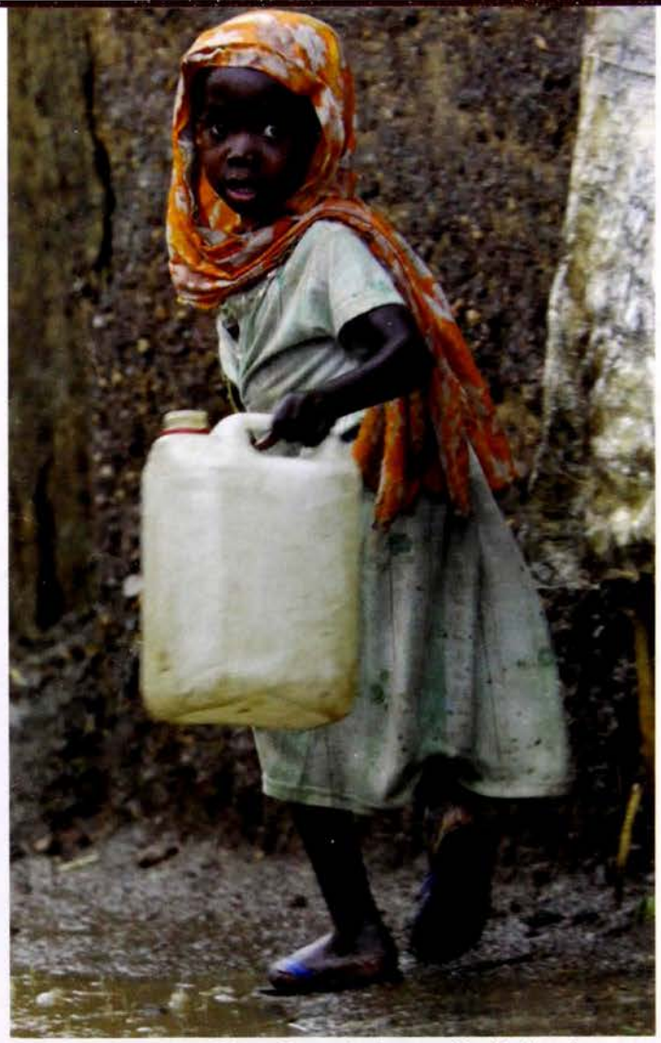
Africa: 212-870-3701 or 212-870-3703
Latin America/Caribbean: 212-870-3828
Europe: 212-870-3889
Asia: 212-870-3694
Human Rights: 212-870-3735
Youth and Young Adults: 212-870-3707

Mission Education

http://gbgm-umc.org/about/us/me/
Equipping God's People for Mission

The Mission Education program area has two primary goals: first, to develop a mission education philosophy for Global Ministries that is rooted in a biblical and theological understanding of Christian global mission; and second, to undergird the total program of Global Ministries through mission education.

Conference Secretaries of Global Ministries: 212-870-3792
Mission Seminars and Mission Travel Seminars: 212-870-3615



A girl in the Hassa Hissa Camp for internally displaced persons, outside Zalingei, West Darfur, Sudan, carries a water jug.

United Methodist missionary and photographer Paul Jeffrey sits surrounded by children in a camp for internally displaced persons in western Darfur.

Mission Personnel

http://gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mp/
Missionaries in All the World

The Mission Personnel program area recruits, selects, trains, assigns, supervises, and supports mission personnel for short-term and long-term service. It also identifies opportunities for service. Visit the Mission Personnel website and click on Descriptions for an overview of all the missionary categories available through Global Ministries.

Church and Community Workers: 828-294-2107
Deaconesses and Home Missioners: 212-870-3850
Young Adult Missionaries: 212-870-3660
Missionary Service: 212-870-3662

Mission Volunteers

http://gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mv/
Volunteers From Everywhere to Everywhere

The Mission Volunteers program area enables people around the world to participate in global mission volunteer programs and projects, giving everyone in the church the opportunity to serve and share the love of God in ways that make a Christian difference.

Mission Volunteers is not a replacement for the grassroots United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) program. Our responsibility is to provide support and resources for all global mission volunteer programs, including UMVIM and many others.

Individual Volunteers, Volunteer Workteams: 212-870-3825
Global Justice Volunteers: 212-870-3825
Primetimers: 877-882-4724, primetimers@gbgm-umc.org
UMVIM website: www.umvim.org

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/
Guiding Values for Humanitarian Relief Work

UMCOR is the humanitarian relief and development agency of The United Methodist Church. Compelled by Christ, UMCOR responds to natural or human-made disasters—those interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own.

Disaster Relief: 202-548-4002
Immigration and Refugee Ministries: 212-870-3807
UMCOR-NGO (nongovernmental organization): 212-870-3552
UMCOR Depot at Sager-Brown: 800-334-4221
Justice for Our Neighbors: 240-450-1186

Women's Division–United Methodist Women

http://gbgm-umc.org/umw/
Women in Mission

The Women's Division advocates for the oppressed and dispossessed, with special attention to the needs of women and children. United Methodist Women work to build a supportive community among women. They engage in activities that foster growth in the Christian faith, mission education, and Christian social involvement.

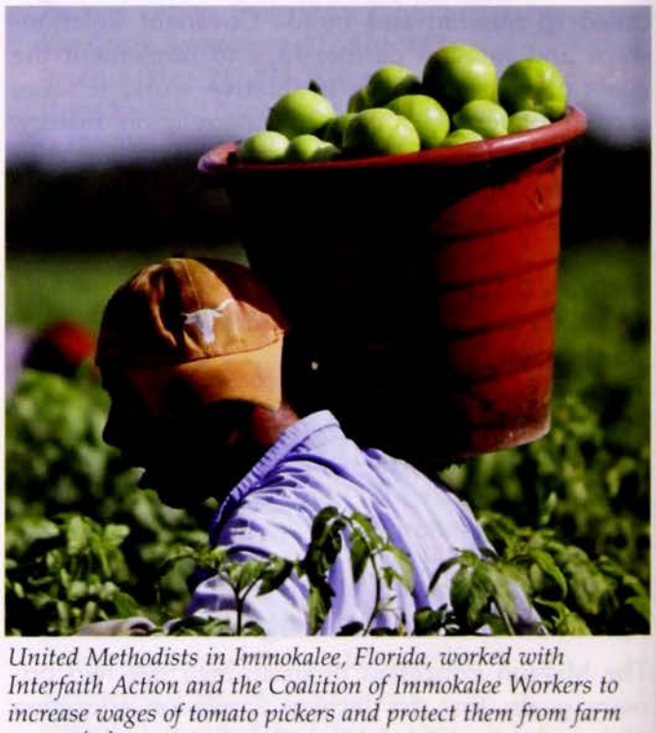
Women's Division: 212-870-3752
Schools of Christian Mission, Mission Studies: 212-870-3745
Mission Resource Center, Dallas, Texas: 214-630-6495 x185, cs@missionresourcecenter.org

The Advance

http://www.advancinghope.org
Advancing Hope in Christ's Name

One hundred percent of all Advance gifts reach the designated mission or ministry. Donors may browse Advance projects online at http://new.gbgm-umc.org/advance/projects/ to identify programs or ministries they would like to support.

The Advance Office: 212-870-3790
Covenant Relationships: 212-870-3718, http://gbgm-umc.org/advance/missionaries/covenant



United Methodists in Immokalee, Florida, worked with Interfaith Action and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to increase wages of tomato pickers and protect them from farm owners' abuse.

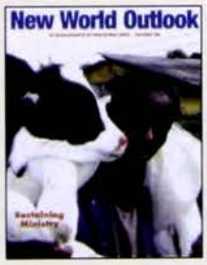
During the Mission Academy in June 2008, local residents of Pharr Housing Authority participate in a vacation Bible school activity in McAllen, Texas. The Bible school leaders are youth from Coker UMC in San Antonio, Texas.

Resources for Mission

Basic resources to help with mission information and motivation plus practical tips for mission involvement.

PERIODICALS

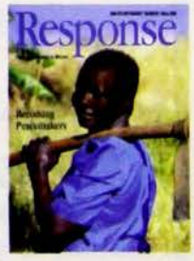
New World Outlook
The mission magazine of The United Methodist Church
General Board of Global Ministries



Six issues a year
Email: newworldoutlook@gbgm-umc.org
Website: http://new.gbgm-umc.org/nwo

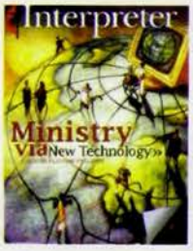
Response
The program journal of
United Methodist Women
Women's Division
General Board of Global Ministries

Eleven issues a year
Email: response@gbgm-umc.org
Website: http://new.gbgm-umc.org/response



For subscriptions to both magazines:
Toll free: 877-881-2385
Fax: 845-267-3478

Mail: Magazines with a Mission
P.O. Box 395
Congers, NY 10920-0395

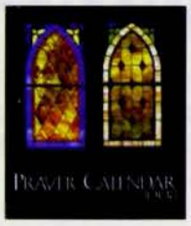


Interpreter
United Methodist program journal for local congregation leaders. Each issue includes feature articles on mission subjects, as well as suggestions for program planning.

Six issues a year
Seven subscriptions are available free to each church; additional copies are available at a nominal cost. See your pastor or order from:
United Methodist Communications
P.O. Box 320
Nashville, TN 37202-0320
Toll Free: 888-346-3862
Email: subscriptions@umcom.org

El Interpreté is available as a Spanish-language resource and *United Methodists in Service* as a Korean-language resource.

CALENDARS

Prayer Calendar


Daily devotional calendar that contains information about mission projects, birthday reminders, and addresses for all missionary personnel, Scripture readings, beautiful photos, and lots of room for notes. Available from Cokesbury and from the Mission Resource Center.

UMCOR Annual Calendar
"Hands of Hope"

UMCOR produces its annual calendar to share a message of hope with those who helped bring about extraordinary changes to lives everywhere—those United Methodists and others who generously support UMCOR's ministries in 81 countries.

The Official United Methodist Program Calendar
Order from United Methodist Communications
P.O. Box 440366
Nashville, TN 37244-0366
Toll Free: 888-346-3862
Fax: 615-742-5499
Website: www.umcom.org/store

MUSIC

Latest releases from Global Praise:

For Everyone Born: Global Songs for an Emerging Church
Songbook and CD

Singing the Sacred: Musical Gifts from Native American Communities
Songbook and CD

Hear audio clips from both CDs on the Global Praise website: http://www.globalpraise.org

To Order Global Praise Music, call
Cokesbury Music Service:
Toll Free: 877-877-8674
Email: cms@cokesbury.com
Website: www.cokesbury.com

Call Cokesbury toll free: 800-672-1789,
or contact your local Cokesbury store.

MAP

The United Methodist Mission Map

A poster-sized map that shows United Methodist work spreading across most of the world. Available from Cokesbury.

UMCOR

UMCOR Relief Supplies and Kits

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) asks United Methodists to buy supplies and assemble kits to be sent when needed to people in the midst of crisis. Supplies found in the kits help sustain everyday life by providing basic necessities to people who lack ready access to essential supplies.

UMCOR works throughout the world. By donating kit supplies or financial gifts to purchase the supplies, congregations can make a direct contribution to and tangible difference in people's lives.

Basic kits are as follows:

- Bedding Kit
- Flood bucket
- Health Kit
- Layette
- School Kit
- Sewing Kit

Each kit's web page on UMCOR's website contains a list of specific items needed, the estimated value per kit, the cost for processing and shipping the kit, shipping instructions, and contact information. Check out http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/get connected/supplies/ for specifics for each kit.

Gathering and assembling supply-kit materials as a group can be a wonderful hands-on activity, bringing together young and old, neighbors, friends, and coworkers. UMCOR asks for and deeply appreciates your support.

Groups can volunteer at Sager Brown UMCOR Depot where the kits are gathered, checked, and packed to go. To see what is involved in a volunteer work trip to Sager Brown in Baldwin, Louisiana, churches can download a PDF called "Know Before You Go" (http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/work/Sagerbrown).

DVDs and more from UMCOR

http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/resources/
UMCOR offers many DVDs free of charge.
To order, contact UMCOR at:
Toll Free: 800-554-8583
Email: umcor@gbgm-umc.org

Mission Studies—Online Resources

http://gbgm-umc.org/missionstudies/
This site includes the current listing of Schools of Christian Mission throughout the US.

Mission Education

Hallelujah Moments

Hallelujah Moments are celebrations of United Methodist Mission. Read these inspirational stories on the web, download bulletin inserts, or receive them each month by email. Send your request to: join-missionstories@list.gbgm-umc.org or sign up on the web: http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/me/resources/hallelujahs/.

Connecting in God's Community

A handbook for conference secretaries of Global Ministries and local mission leaders. Available as a PDF download: http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/me/resources/conferences/.

Global Ministries Resources

For mail orders:
Cokesbury Customer Service
P.O. Box 801
201 Eighth Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37202-0801
Website: http://www.cokesbury.com, select Global Ministries side bar
Toll Free: 800-672-1789
Fax: 800-445-8189
Email: customerservice@umpublishing.org

United Methodist Women's Resources

Mission Resource Center
1221 Profit Drive
Dallas, TX, 75247
Toll Free: 800-305-9857
Email: cs@missionresourcecenter.org
Website: www.missionresourcecenter.org

The cross on the altar of The United Methodist Church's General Board of Global Ministries' mission personnel conference in August 2007.

The Advance

BY DAVID MALLOY

Your committee on global ministries has a particular interest in The Advance and will want to work hard to promote it. The Advance is a channel of mission giving begun by our church in 1948. Since that time, over one billion dollars has been given by United Methodists to support God's mission in the United States and around the world through "second-mile" giving.

These dollars enable us to "advance" the cause of Christ through new church buildings and new pastors, support of missionaries at home and abroad, agricultural work, scholarships for students of every age, medical assistance to women and children across the globe, and literally hundreds of other programs like these.

The Advance
Advancing hope in Christ's name

How Does The Advance Work?

- Advance projects are supported with voluntary and designated gifts of individuals, families, groups, or entire congregations. They vary in size from a few dollars to several thousand dollars.
- Approved projects may be found in nearly 100 countries around the world where The United Methodist Church is at work, as well as in one's own annual conference.
- Advance projects originate when priorities are set by those most directly affected. Area episcopal leaders and local planning groups determine the priority of projects and then request approval. This local goal-setting is the key in the approval process.
- The Advance Committee of the General Board of Global Ministries, working with other agency staff, then reviews and gives final approval. When these approved projects are made known, individuals or local churches have the privilege of deciding which approved project they will support.
- A very appealing feature of The Advance is that the total amount given goes to the cause designated. No administrative costs are deducted. One hundred percent of each gift is available for use by the chosen project because of your support of the World Service Fund.
- Conference Advance projects are approved and administered by the conference board of global ministries, the conference council on ministries, and the annual conference.

Missionary Support

Financial support for United Methodist missionaries includes more than just salary support. It covers the total resources needed to support a missionary financially. This support includes budgeted amounts for health insurance, pension, housing, travel, training expenses, and other expenses specific to a place of assignment.

Funding for missionary support comes from four basic sources: the World Service Fund; UMW undesignated giving; The Advance; and funds from trusts, investments, and other income sources designated for missionary support.

Planning Your Advance Program of Mission Giving

First, be sure the congregation will be able to pay its World Service commitment before considering The Advance as a means of giving to mission. World Service is "first-mile" giving. The Advance program is "second-mile" giving.

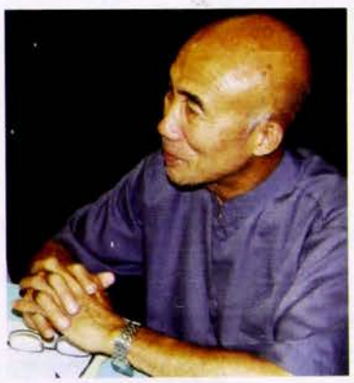
Next, contact your district or conference secretary of global ministries for suggestions about projects for which your conference or district has a commitment or special interest. There also might be places of particular need that are related to and promoted by your district or annual conference. If you have questions on specific projects or programs, write to The Advance, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 350, New York, NY 10115, or check out the information on The Advance website: www.advancinghope.org.

Finally, recommend ways to obtain support for The Advance projects or missionaries that are selected: through the church budget, special offerings at events or specific mission Sundays, or fundraising by church classes or groups.

When these gifts have been gathered, the church treasurer should send them to the annual conference treasurer, with a clear designation for their intended use, giving the project numbers and titles from The Advance catalog or website.

You can donate in any of the following ways: online, through your United Methodist church, by mail, or by phone.

David Malloy is annual conference liaison for The Advance.



***Left:** In parts of Cité Soleil, Port-au-Prince, Republic of Haiti, the hungry population buys cookies made of dirt. UMCOR partners with Stop Hunger Now to fund emergency shipments of packaged meals to Haiti.* ***Right:** Joseph Chan, missionary to Cambodia.*

Giving Online:

www.advancinghope.org

Through Your United Methodist Church:

Make your check payable to your local church. Write the name of the ministry and The Advance code number on the check. Drop your gift in any United Methodist church offering plate or give your gift to your church treasurer, so that your church and annual conference can credit your gift.

By Mail:

Make your check payable to ADVANCE GCFA. Write the name of the ministry and The Advance code number on the check. Send your check to:
Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, GPO, New York, NY 10087-9068

By Phone:

Credit card gifts can be accepted by phone. Please call: 888-252-6174.

***Back row** (left to right): Crickett Nicovich, Amy Spaur, Angie Miller;*
***Front row:** Alexandria Jones, Stephanie Kellner, Jill Conway, T. Ryan Clayburn.*

Mission Interns

CLASS OF 2005–2008

The following Credo was group-written by the most recent class of Mission Interns, young adult missionaries of the General Board of Global Ministries. Consider using the Community Credo as a liturgy read in Sunday worship or as an opening devotion for a mission committee or a UMW meeting.

Community Credo

We believe...

love is the impetus that propels us through life,
in going where the spirit leads us,
in seeking and seeing the divine,
in compassionately loving and communicating kindness,
God is guiding our lives
in the power of God's spirit and our spirit in communion together,
in limitless hearts;

our interconnectedness will strengthen, with each new discovery of value, that we will find the rhythm of our souls
and we will become boundless, harmonious, peaceful...beings;

in humble service to each other and God,
all are welcomed at our table,
that we should do everything in our power to bring out happiness in others,
that love and honesty will grant us freedom,
in rooting our commitment to God through humility and community,
in continually improving, changing, modifying;

in being open to continuous growth
we will become guardians of the sacred space,
we should pause to recognize the spirit,
in radically loving our neighbors,
in being deeply grounded in God,
in being happy,
in the importance and dignity of every individual,
in speaking truth to power,
in breaking down walls,
in active engagement in the world,
we cannot earn value, but must find it within ourselves,
in the power of one human—mind, body, and soul in kindred connection with another and
in the sacredness in that communion.

Thus we believe.

missionmemo

Southeast Asia Mission Opens
The United Methodist Church is a primary Christian presence in Southeast Asia, as that region opens to Christian mission. In Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand, worship services are now held openly. The General Board of Global Ministries designated Southeast Asia as a mission of the church under provisions of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2004* (¶¶ 590–591.1). In that mission, areas of focus are poverty (particularly in Laos and Vietnam); government recognition of The United Methodist Church as a denomination; funding; and education.

Russia United Methodist Seminary Expands
The United Methodist Seminary in Moscow is opening an extension campus to offer theological education to Central Asian residents. The Central Asian Mission includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, where there are United Methodist congregations. Global Ministries has granted initial funding of $20,000 toward developing leadership and churches.

Sudan 2009 Mission Travel Study
The 2009 mission travel study will introduce United Methodist team participants to UMCOR's and The United Methodist Church's peace-building efforts in Sudan. The trip should raise awareness of the realities and misconceptions of Sudan's land, people, resources, and conflicts. To register teams, contact Mission Education, General Board of Global Ministries, 475 Riverside Dr., Rm. 1312, New York, NY 10115, email: mission education@ gbgm-umc.org, phone: 212-870-3792, fax: 212-870-3686.

Israel/Palesine Study
Responding to criticism of the Israel-Palestine mission study, General Board of Global Ministries' Interim General Secretary Bishop Felton E. May and Women's Division Deputy General Secretary Harriett Jane Olson issued a joint statement that the 2007–2008 Israel-Palestine mission study is consistent with The United Methodist Church's position for a just and lasting peace.

UMCOR Responds
US Midwest Flood Relief
As of July 1, 2008, UMCOR's Sager Brown Depot's supply of flood buckets was nearly depleted. More than 5,000 flood buckets have been shipped to flood areas in the Midwest. Bleach, disinfectant, dish soap, laundry detergent, air fresheners, gloves, garbage bags, and scrub brushes are some of the items included in flood buckets. Visit UMCOR's Relief Supply web page for details on flood bucket contents and shipping instructions, or donate to **UMCOR Material Resources Advance #901440.** To contribute to other UMCOR flood-relief efforts, give to **UMCOR Advance #901670, Domestic Disaster Response, Midwest Floods.**

Philippines
UMCOR is assisting the more than 2.4 million survivors of Typhoon Fengshen, which devastated the central Philippines on June 21 and 22. The United Methodist relief organization is working with the Philippine Central Conference to support recovery efforts. Among the damaged or destroyed buildings were 16 United Methodist churches. Donate to **Philippines Emergency, UMCOR Advance #240235.**

100-Ton Fair Trade Challenge
UMCOR challenges United Methodists to help farmers earn fair prices for their crops by participating in the 100-Ton Fair Trade Challenge campaign. Participation can increase the amount of fairly traded products sold to United Methodists from 136,000 pounds to 100 tons. The campaign promotes the sales of fair-trade coffee, tea, and chocolate through the UMCOR Coffee Project in partnership with Equal Exchange. By earning fair prices for their crops, farmers in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the United States will be able to invest in farm improvements, support their families, acquire better health care, and pay for their children's education. The campaign, now in progress, will end on May 9, 2009.

Woman Elected Bishop in Africa
The Africa Central Conference, meeting at Africa University, has elected The Rev. Joaquina Filipe Nhanala as a bishop of The United Methodist Church. She is the first woman so elected on the African continent. She will serve in Mozambique.

DEATHS James E. McQuiston, retired missionary with nearly 12 years of service in Sierra Leone, died May 2, 2008...**Dorothy M. Williams,** retired

(continued on p. 45)

South African children who are uprooted are part of the population served by SHADE.

Isaías Ramos Corona and Ivonne Mendoza Gomez

You may use the next two pages as bulletin inserts about mission. Remove this page; cut off these instructions, and duplicate the page freely, printing front and back; fold in the middle, along the black line; and slip the copies into your Sunday bulletins.

Mission Interns Share Radical Love

Mary Beth Coudal is the staff writer at the General Board of Global Ministries.

Seven mission interns recently completed three years of work in areas of poverty and economic injustice.

Crickett Nicovich, from the Mississippi Annual Conference, completed her international internship with Sojourner: Help, Advocacy, Development, Education (SHADE), and her US internship serving the disenfranchised in South Africa with Results' Washington, DC, office. Results, operating in Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and the United States, is an international grassroots advocacy organization committed to lobbying elected officials to adopt policies to fight hunger and poverty.

Crickett says that during her service as a mission intern, her experiences—working with women and children—taught her how global systems create and perpetuate poverty. In the United States she advocated for the reformation of those systems. Her goal is to continue her ministry with women and children affected by global systems.

Amy Spaur, from Iowa, shared what she learned during her experiences serving in Colombia as a media-skills trainer at Centro Popular Para America Latina de Comunicación (CEPALC), and as a volunteer and outreach coordinator for Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) in Dallas, Texas. "I expected to have the opportunity to put my faith into action by being part of the solution to the problems and injustices in the world," she said. "I found that being part of the solution went beyond implementing programs or showcasing the number of people served; it came by way of radical love for God and neighbor. This program was a perfect fit for me to put my faith into action."

South African children who are uprooted are part of the population served by SHADE.

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The United Methodist Church

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connecting the church in mission

In Costa Rica, Mexican Couple Eager to Serve

Jodi Cataldo, formerly a General Board of Global Ministries missionary assigned to Lithuania, is currently the executive secretary for Emerging Churches in the Mission Education unit of Global Ministries.

When Ivonne Mendoza Gomez was 17, her mother passed away. Despite this loss, she felt God's incomparable love and was reassured that God's plans for her were greater than she could imagine. Ivonne has since served people in her own country, Mexico, as well as in Costa Rica. Her goal is to share God's love with those who need hope and dignity in their lives.

Isaías Ramos Corona, Ivonne's husband, received a call to serve God when he was 12 years old but had to struggle to complete his primary education. After his father died, he left the church, but at 17, Isaías decided to return. At 20, he entered seminary and developed a desire to serve poverty-stricken and marginalized people. Since then, he has served as a pastor and a bishop of The Methodist Church in Mexico.

Currently, Isaías and Ivonne work with the Latin American Biblical University in Costa Rica. The university, a theological education institution, has programs in 19 centers in 14 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

"God has given us a special privilege to work with an institution characterized by its sensitivity in responding to the training needs of the churches and the people of Latin America. We are two Mexicans eager to join in service...and to grow in our own training and skills."

Isaías Ramos Corona and Ivonne Mendoza Gomez

Sign of Hope in Iowa's Floods

Marta W. Aldrich is a news editor for United Methodist News Service.

Marcia Young looked left, then right, at piles of household debris as her minivan crept down Main Street in this small farming community of New Hartford, Iowa. Young, a disaster relief coordinator for The United Methodist Church in Iowa, said, "You can smell flood,"—meaning dirty water—even though the most recent floodwaters had drained away. There were piles of musty-smelling sheetrock, insulation, furniture, refrigerators, and sludge.

Sandra Kennedy-Owes, UMCOR's executive secretary for US disaster response, sat next to Young, getting a firsthand look at her agency's next domestic project: helping the United Methodist Iowa Annual Conference assist storm-weary residents.

United Methodist Bishop Gregory Palmer of the Iowa Conference said that UMCOR staff members have been available at every turn.

Two emergency grants totaling $10,000 were provided by UMCOR for mobilization of residents, and 1,500 flood buckets were distributed.

In addition to the destruction of homes, there is an estimated $3 billion in crop damage.

UMCOR, says Kennedy-Owes, is the first and foremost resource for local response and long-term recovery. "We partner with the local conference, and the conference takes the lead." Resources provided by UMCOR include money, spiritual and emotional consultation, training, essential supplies, and coordination with United Methodist Volunteers In Mission.

Bishop Palmer called UMCOR's presence a "sign of hope" in the Midwest, because according to Marcia Young, "After FEMA goes, after the insurance company goes, after the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and other voluntary organizations are gone, The United Methodist Church will be here to turn off the lights."

Bishop Gregory Palma and Sandra Kennedy-Owes (back right) talk with flood survivor Phyllis Meyer, 81, in Charles City, Iowa

From Panama: What Difference Does a Volunteer Make?

The Rev. Rhett Thompson is a United Methodist missionary serving in the Republic of Panama. He pastors two congregations of the Evangelical Methodist Church in Panama City.

A grandmother in Panama responded, when asked what the children thought about vacation Bible school, "These kids can't sleep at night just thinking about what's going to happen the next day." The only topic of conversation in the small community was the big fiesta planned for the last day of school.

With the help of a Volunteers-In-Mission team, the first vacation Bible school was organized and held in the area. On the first day, 20 children and one mother participated. The next day attendance doubled, and by the end of the week, there were 90 children and 20 parents participating.

Another Volunteers-In-Mission health-care team working at the community center in Cieneguita, near the Ngobe-Bugle Indian Reservation in western Panama, treated hundreds of people for health problems. The team also trained the center's first group of community-health promoters. The promoters will encourage better health within their communities by implementing improved public sanitation and personal hygiene practices, offering first aid, and helping their patients access outside medical care.

Yet another Volunteers-In-Mission team worked at Camp Cielito, which will operate according to "green" principles.

A lecturer once said that instead of asking children what they want to be when they grow up, they should be asked what difference *they want to make* in their schools, communities, and families. Maybe the question should be, "What difference do *we* want to make?"

Community health promoters and teaching team

(*Mission Memo* continued from p. 42)

missionary with 16 years of service in Argentina, died May 14, 2008...**Edith Knox,** retired missionary with 6 years of service in Cuba and Argentina, died May 20, 2008...**John H. Skillman,** retired missionary with 20 years of service in Japan, died May 20, 2008...**Georgina Miller,** retired missionary with 12 years of service in the Philippines, died May 21, 2008... **Josephine Beckwith,** retired deaconess with over 30 years of service in Fort Worth, Texas, died May 26, 2008...**Lois Frances Schmidt,** retired missionary with nearly 35 years of service in Nigeria, died May 27, 2008...**James Holmes,** retired missionary with nearly 4 years of service in North Africa, died June 8, 2008... **Loren R. Humphrey,** retired missionary with 9½ years of service in China, died June 20, 2008...**Lik Kiu Ding,** retired missionary with 3 years of service in Sarawak, died June 24, 2008.

Bishop Homer Ellis Finger, Jr., a former president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops from 1980 to 1981, died May 25, 2008, from heart failure. Finger was 91. He had also served as president of Health and Welfare Ministries of the General Board of Global Ministries.

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Faithful WITNESSES

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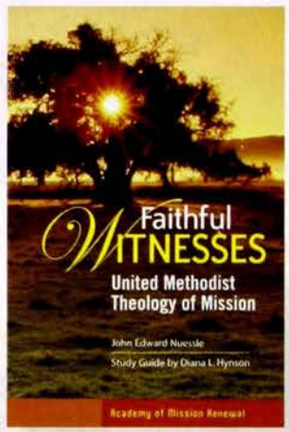
http://academyofmissionrenewal.org



Challenging the Church to a deeper understanding of God's Mission

Faithful Witnesses, the first resource book of The Academy of Mission Renewal, a mission education program of the General Board of Global Ministries, offers a United Methodist perspective on Christian mission. The text connects Our Theological Task, as expressed in *The Book of Discipline*, with the current program goals of the denomination's mission agency.

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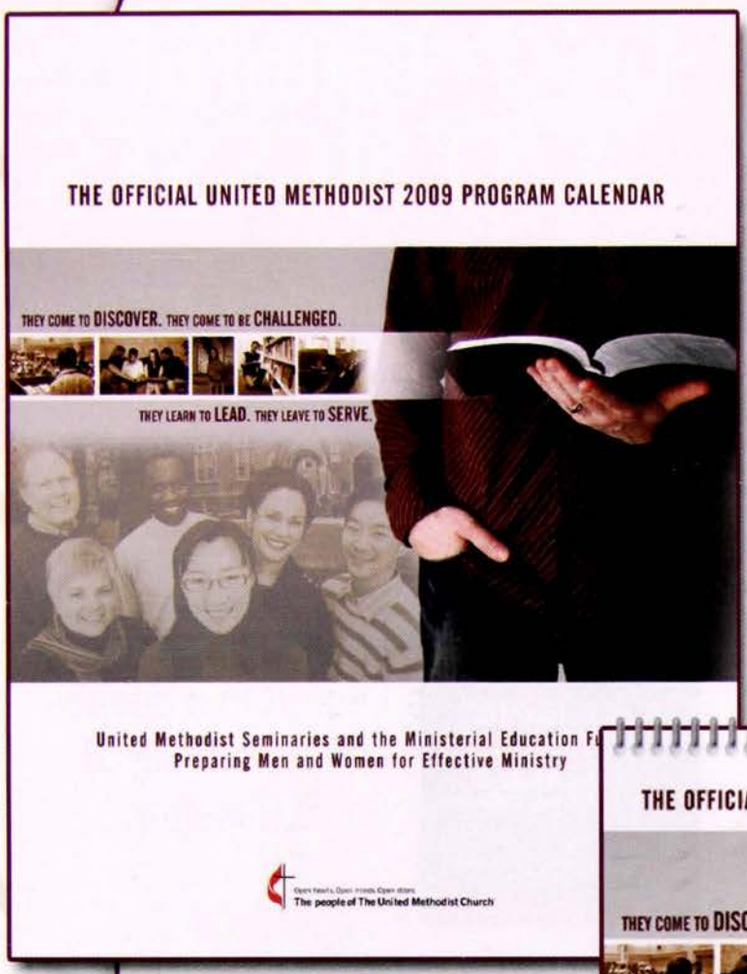

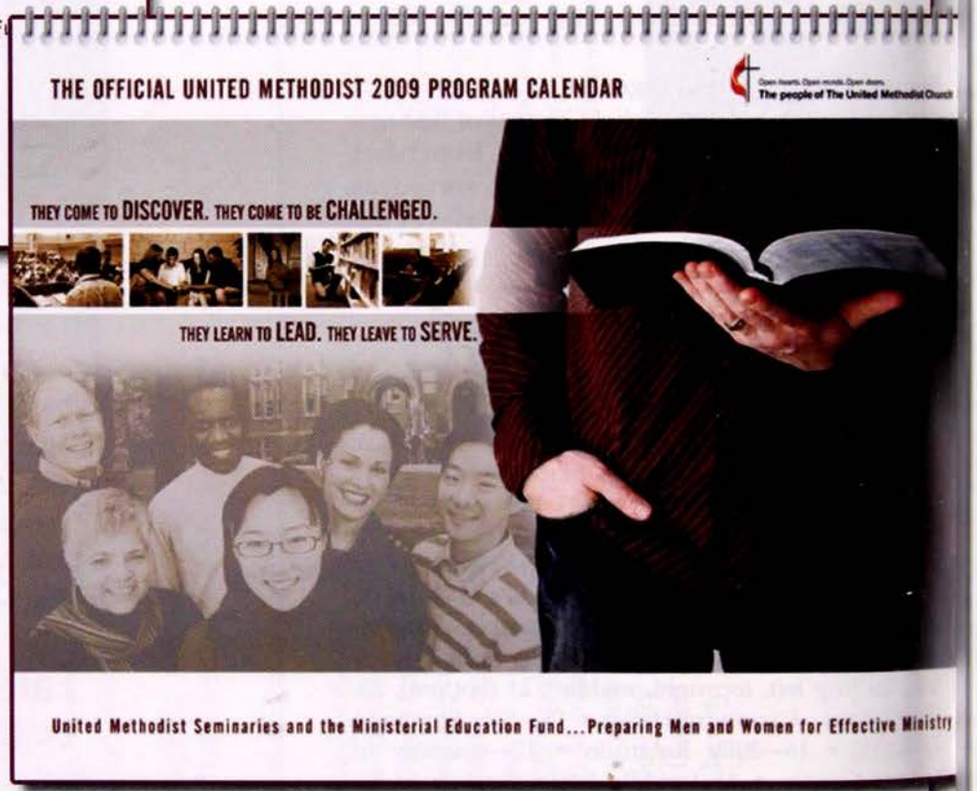

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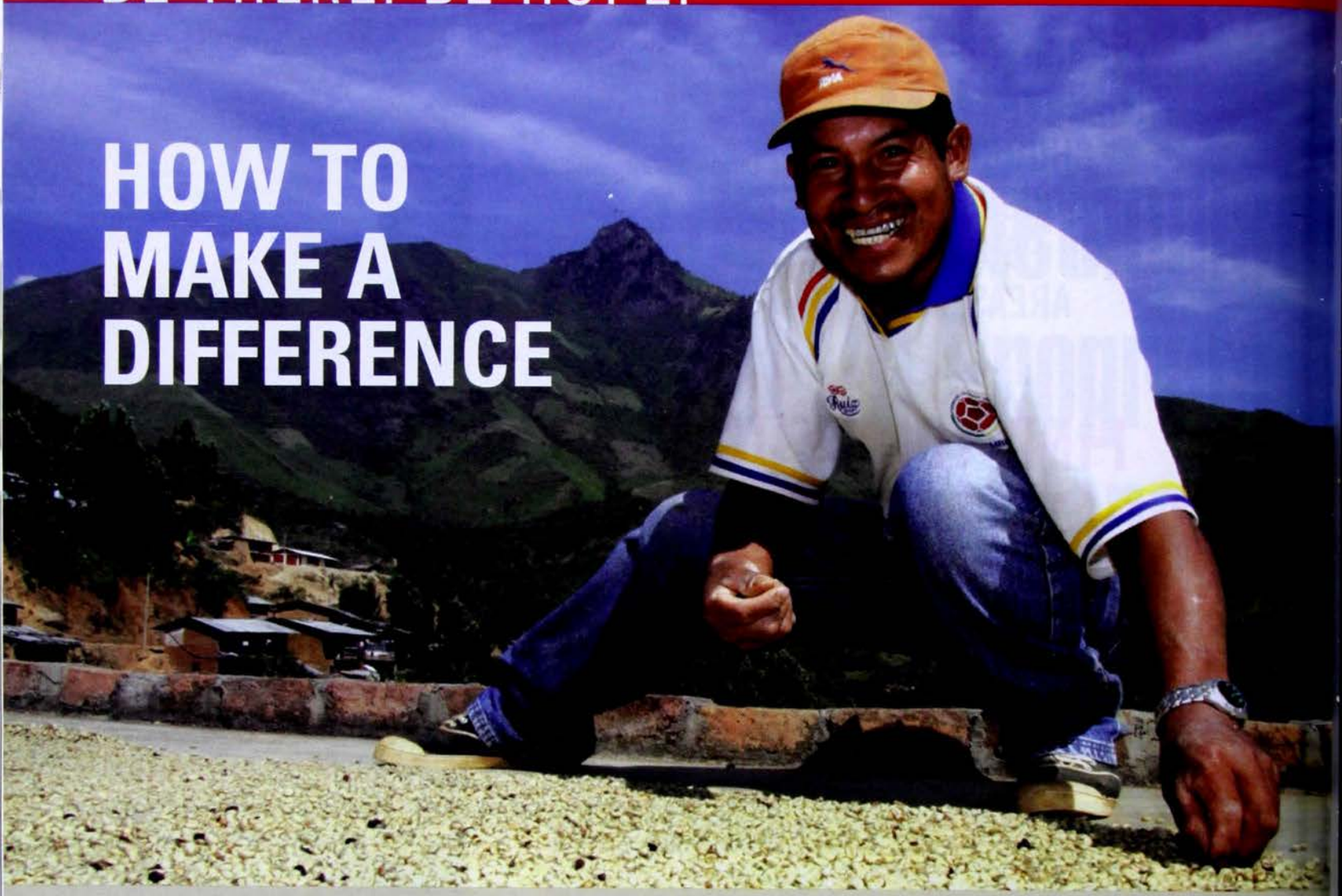

Photography courtesy of Equal Exchange

You can make a difference in the lives of others when you purchase everyday products. When you enjoy fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate, and other goods you are part of a partnership that helps farmers stay on their land, care for the environment, support their families, and plan for their future.

100-Ton Challenge

UMCOR has issued the 100-Ton Fair Trade Challenge to United Methodists everywhere to encourage more people to make a difference through their purchases. Our goal is for United Methodists to purchase 100 tons of fairly traded goods in one year.

Join UMCOR's 100-Ton Challenge to help small-scale farmers earn fair prices for their crops and improve their lives. You can purchase fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate and other goods through UMCOR's partner, Equal Exchange.

Learn more about purchasing fairly-traded goods at:
equalexchange.coop/umcor

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