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# Instant Connection

California-Nevada Annual Conference



**Churches: Drop off Kits, Supplies for Haiti This Weekend**

**Volunteers may still sign up to go on Salt Lake City trip next week**

Next week's planned trip to the UMCOR West Office and Depot in Salt Lake City has been revised to focus on delivery and assembly of health kits and layette kits for Haiti.

The United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Office of the California-Nevada Annual Conference scheduled the January 25-29 trip last month, to allow potential team leaders to "check out the place." However, since UMCOR West reports it is "critically low" on disaster relief supplies due to the volume of health and layette kits it has shipped to Haiti, the Cal-Nevada team actually will spend its time in Salt Lake City assembling kits for Haiti.



In addition, the team will take as many health and layette kits and raw materials for kits as have been collected already by churches.

**Please watch the Conference website tomorrow (Fri. Jan. 22) for the announcement of the one-time drop-off location:** the place to drop off kits and raw materials that are *ready to go* for this trip only. Kits and supplies will need to be dropped off this weekend.

Phil Bandy, who heads the Cal-Nevada UMVIM Office, is seeking a permanent collection point; [contact him](#) if you or your church has space that can be designated for that purpose.

**If you would like to go on the Jan. 25-29 trip to UMCOR West, please contact [Phil Bandy](#) or [Eddie Frutchey](#) immediately.**

## **Top Mission Executive Dies as Result of Earthquake Injuries** **The Rev. Clinton Rabb was head of UMCOR Mission Volunteers program**

January 17, 2010 - The General Board of Global Ministries has announced that the Rev. Clinton Rabb, 60, head of GBGM's office of Mission Volunteers, died today in a Florida hospital of injuries he sustained in the collapse of Hotel Montana in Port au Prince, Haiti, during the January 12 earthquake.

He was the second United Methodist Committee on Relief staff member to lose his life as a result of the earthquake. The Rev. Sam Dixon, the executive in charge of UMCOR, died before rescue workers could free him. Dixon, Rabb, and the Rev. James Gulley, an UMCOR consultant, were trapped in the rubble for 55 hours. Gulley has survived.

"We have lost an excellent colleague and someone who was passionate about helping the poor and helping people participate in transforming the world," said Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr., resident bishop of the California-Nevada Annual Conference.

A member of the Southwest Texas Annual (regional) Conference of the denomination, Rabb had served as head of the Mission Volunteers unit of Global Ministries since 2006. The staff of that area works closely with regional and jurisdictional mission volunteer networks, represented by United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM). Thousands of UMVIM teams work throughout the world, many in health services. The office Rabb led also sponsors Individual Volunteer programs and mission opportunities for retired persons.

Phil Bandy, Interim Director of Cal-Nevada's UMVIM Office, said, "He was an inspired teacher. I benefitted from the time I spent with him and what he shared of himself. What he taught me in those times has changed the way I think about my job and will empower me in ways I can't even imagine now."

Bandy said that he and other Western Jurisdiction UMVIM coordinators meeting with Rabb three months ago, asked why Haiti had not been targeted as a priority. Rabb responded, Bandy said, that Haiti "is particularly problematic, in part because poverty there is so pervasive," and told them that UMCOR was looking into how to partner in new ways, to rethink how to provide sustained health care.

"He said we needed to figure out ways to sustain the delivery of health care beyond mercy service," Bandy said.

Rabb was engaged in that mission when the earthquake hit. He, Dixon, and Gulley were in Haiti for meetings and contacts aimed at improving health services in the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. Global Ministries has longstanding relations with the Methodist Church in Haiti and dozens of volunteer mission groups from United Methodist congregations in the United States send teams to work in the country every year.

"Our grief is overwhelming, in part because just hours ago we were grateful for his rescue," said Bishop Bruce R. Ough of West Ohio, president of the General Board of Global Ministries, on being informed of Rabb's death. He called Rabb "a tireless, dedicated advocate for volunteers in mission around the globe."

"Clint Rabb was a tough and fearless advocate for the least and most vulnerable of God's children," said Bishop Joel N. Martinez, the interim general secretary (CEO) of Global Ministries.

"He traveled the world encouraging volunteer ministry in his service on behalf of Christ and the church. He gave his life for others and we celebrate his faithful witness."

### **Long Career in Mission**

Rabb grew up in northeast Texas, the son of Joe and Peggy Rabb. The Rabb family has been Methodist for generations.

"We lived as a family in the shadow of the Almighty," he said in a 2001 article for *New World Outlook*, the mission magazine of Global Ministries. "We didn't do this in a conspicuous manner or make a big deal of it. I was taken to church on Sundays, there were prayers at meals, we tried to be good, and we were supposed to make life in our community a little better."

Rabb had been with Global Ministries since 1996. Prior to serving in the Mission Volunteers unit, he was an executive for special initiatives in the Evangelization and Church Growth unit, working particularly with new mission initiatives in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. Rabb crafted the "In Mission Together Church-to-Church Partnership Program," which links congregations, annual conferences, volunteer efforts, and mission personnel. He also worked in the U.S. with ministries involving African-American, Mexican-American, and Vietnamese-American communities.

During a span of almost 20 years as a pastor and chaplain in Texas, Rabb was engaged in a range of VIM teams, both domestically and internationally. His work with new mission initiatives put him in frequent contact with the Mission Volunteers program.

"The man was a visionary about how to create situations of ministry in ways that transcended the problem spots of the world," Bandy said. "He also was a teacher for us, giving us real practical skills in how to bring together stakeholders in mission in an insightful and loving way, so that it is a true win-win for everyone. I like to think that I'm a part of his legacy."

Bandy got the news of Rabb's death minutes before speaking to the congregation at Dixon UMC this morning. He used the time allotted him to share about Rabb's and Dixon's lives and ministries, to tell why they were in Haiti. At the end of the service, five people handed him commitments to get involved in mission.

"The story of this week has already begun to blossom," Bandy said.

[Thanks to Elliott Wright for his story, [Rev. Clinton Rabb, Mission Executive, Dies As Result of Earthquake Injuries.](#)]

### **Survivor: UMCOR Trio Kept Faith in Haiti Ruins**

#### **A UMNS Report**

**By Kathy L. Gilbert\***

Jan. 18, 2010 - There were times, trapped beneath tons of concrete in the collapsed Hotel Montana, when the Rev. James Gulley thought help would never come.

But Gulley, the Rev. Sam Dixon, and the Rev. Clinton Rabb always knew they were in the hands of God.

When help did come, 55 hours after a massive earthquake hit Haiti and reduced the hotel to a pile of crumbling concrete, Gulley was pulled to safety, but his friends both died of their injuries.

"I have no answer about why I was given the gift of life and Sam and Clint were not," Gulley said in an interview with United Methodist News Service. "I can't answer that any better than Job could answer why some people suffer more than others. All I can do is continue to try to use that gift in God's service in whatever way it is intended. I'm grateful to be alive, and I accept that gift."

The three men, working with the United Methodist Committee on Relief, were in Port-au-Prince to meet with members of the Methodist Church of Haiti to talk about ways to improve and develop the country. They had scheduled a meeting with members of IMA World Health, including United Methodist Sarla Chand, at the Hotel Montana.

"A driver from the Methodist Guest House dropped us off and when we walked in they were sitting in the lobby checking their email."

The group gathered and were heading to the hotel's restaurant when there was a rumble, Gulley said. "We had just passed the reception desk. I looked up and the hotel was shaking; in the third second, it fell on us."

The six humanitarian workers and two other men trapped inside elevators were suddenly confined to a small area.

"The first thing I heard was Sam saying his legs were broken. Then Clint said his legs were also broken. We called out to each other and the others said they were OK."

The group struggled to remain calm even though Dixon and Rabb were "suffering terribly," Gulley said. They were afraid they might run out of oxygen but soon felt some cool air coming around the edges.

"We tried to joke, to think of funny stories, but we didn't have too many. We talked about how ironic it was that we had come to Haiti to offer aid and now we were the recipients of relief aid."

After night fell on the first day, they knew no one was coming until morning. But when another day and night came with no help they began to feel despair, Gulley said.

At one point he started singing "Peace Like a River" and the others joined in. When help came from French firemen, Gulley and the others started singing the doxology, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

"It was good for those of us who were not so badly hurt," Gulley said. "But I think it was harder for those who were pinned because they had such high expectations after some of us were pulled out." Gulley said it took the firemen four hours to get him out.

"Sam was still alive, he was the last one whose fate we knew about," Gulley said. Early reports were that Dixon had been evacuated and was alive.

Dixon had removed his wallet from his back pocket in an effort to get more comfortable, Gulley said. "I picked up his wallet and put it in my pocket. I didn't realize I was taking away his only identity."

Gulley and Dixon had worked together for many years.

"My first trip abroad in 1999 was to Haiti with Sam," Gulley said. Fighting through tears, he said, "We began in Haiti and that's where we parted."

\*Gilbert is a news writer for United Methodist News Service in Nashville, Tennessee.

## **Haiti Quake Survivor Chand Recalls Hotel Rescue**

### **A UMNS Report**

**By Linda Bloom\***

The glimpse of light is glorious.

Sarla Chand spent hours in the dark, trying to poke her way out of the lobby of the Hotel Montana in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to find help for herself and colleagues, all trapped when the hotel collapsed during the January 12 earthquake.

Finally, through an opening, she sees a tree and a beam of light from a helicopter. Outside, the sound of voices brings hope.

Chand, 65, a United Methodist who works for IMA World Health, made it safely home to Teaneck, New Jersey. But as she reflects on her dramatic rescue, there also is a sense of distress - both for the people of Haiti and for two of the five colleagues trapped with her, who died from their injuries.

The Rev. Sam Dixon, top executive of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, and the Rev. Clinton Rabb, in charge of the Mission Volunteers program for the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, did not survive their ordeal. Dixon's death in Port-au-Prince was announced January 16, and Rabb died on January 17 at a Florida hospital.

"I was absolutely shocked when I heard after coming here that Sam didn't make it in Port-au-Prince," Chand says. The news about Rabb was another blow. "My heart is broken. I've known them for so many years. It's a big loss."

Chand and her other trapped colleagues - the Rev. Jim Gulley, an UMCOR consultant, and Rick Santos and Ann Varghese, both with IMA World Health - returned home on January 15.

This was not Chand's first visit to Haiti or the Hotel Montana. Her agency has been implementing a successful USAID-funded program designed to eliminate two tropical diseases. In Haiti, she explains, "we do an annual mass drug administration to the community and the school system."

### **Meeting at the hotel**

The IMA staff had a meeting scheduled January 12 at the Hotel Montana with representatives from their partners in the program, the Haiti Ministry and Health and the University of Notre Dame.

"We had met Sam and Jim at the Methodist office the evening before," she recalls. "One of the things we were discussing was how IMA can help revitalize the clinics in Haiti."

The group also needed to discuss an agricultural project in the Democratic Republic of Congo, so they agreed to meet for dinner at the hotel after the IMA meeting.

Dixon and Rabb arrived at the hotel around 4:50 p.m. "Clint was with them, which I had not expected," Chand says. "I was very pleased to see Clint. We introduced ourselves and then we said, 'Let's go to the restaurant.'"

Chand estimates she was about two or three steps behind the rest of the group because she had paused to send an email message. Then she heard a noise and was hit on the head.

"My laptop bag flew off in one direction, my (hand) bag flew off ... I'm just being propelled forward. I don't even have time to think of the word 'earthquake.'"

### **Darkness and silence**

What follows, for a moment, is darkness and dead silence. Chand realizes she is sitting down. Then she hears her colleagues move.

"We are calling out to each other," she remembers. "Those five are in one area, confined. I am separated from them, but I can hear them."

Someone in the group turns on a cell phone so Chand can see the light through the cracks. She sticks her hand through a crack and they say they can see it. "We know we are not that far apart, but we can't see each other."

They wait for help. Gulley, Santos, and Varghese are able to move a bit in the confined space. Chand hears them talking, trying to make Dixon and Rabb - who are pinned under concrete - comfortable.

The next day, they hear the sound of a sledgehammer.

"We get all excited that help has come," Chand says. When she hears footsteps and a voice, she shouts out that six Americans are trapped and need help. The voice responds, possibly in Creole, but she can't understand, so she repeats the message. "And the person says 'OK' and I hear retreating footsteps and nothing happens."

As the hours mount, the group is losing hope. "At some point ... it just dawns on me [that] if I don't move from here and try to find a way out, we are stuck," she says.

### **Looking for light**

Sometime on January 14, the second day after the earthquake, Chand gropes on the ground and finds a long stick. She asks the others to turn on a cell phone light so she can get her bearing.

Gulley tries to get out of the space where he and the others are trapped and she moves to help him. But he gets stuck and she's disoriented again.

"I have no clue now where I am," she recalls. She begins searching for a window, for daylight. "I slide, I crouch, I crawl, to keep moving. I keep talking to them. They're guiding me and I'm moving in different directions."

Chand finds some windows again, but with her stick, she detects a big gap between her position and the windows. So she backs off, goes in a different direction, and calls out that she has found the hotel atrium.

Some windows are blocked by concrete. Other openings are too small for her to crawl through. Gulley tries again to crawl out of his space, but is unable to do so. Finally, she gives up, because daylight is fading. She pokes around the floor to find a space to sit for the night and sees a bigger opening.

"I crawl there," she recalls. "I tell them I see the top of a tree and under a tree, lights." Then the voices come. "I can hear the voices very clearly. People are talking. We all together shout and we sit back and nothing happens."

Chand cries out again, but is afraid they are stuck for the night.

"Suddenly, I see light and I hear one voice. "I cry out, 'Please help,' and I hear some response." She could decipher the words. "Then I shout, 'We are Americans trapped here, we need help.'"

### **'Where are you?'**

This time, there is a question, in English. "Where are you?" Chand responds by thrusting her leg through the opening. "I can see it, I know where you are now," her rescuer responds.

He is a 26-year-old Frenchman who speaks just enough English. She gives him the names of everyone in their group and tells him they are aware that two other people are trapped in an elevator nearby.

The French rescuer returns with his team. "They tell me it will take two hours minimum," Chand says. "They started layer by layer, making that opening larger."

The process takes almost three hours. With the light, she realizes she is back in the lobby where she had been standing when the earthquake occurred. Their rescuers remove Chand first, then bring out Santos and Gulley. French doctors have given morphine to Dixon and Rabb. Varghese, who is providing translation, is the last of the four to leave.

At that moment, it looks like a happy ending.

Chand, Gulley, Santos, and Varghese are checked out at the hotel site by the French doctors and then taken to the U.S. Embassy, where they rest for a few hours after another medical assessment.

Chand's head wounds are not serious, but the blood has soaked her clothes. They have seats on a flight to Florida and she wants something clean to wear. A Haitian-American woman at the embassy takes a blouse from her suitcase and gives it to her.

They have not seen Dixon or Rabb, but Chand assumes that they have been stabilized and flown directly from the hotel site to a hospital.

Only later does she learn, one by one, that two of the colleagues whose voices had comforted her and guided her in the darkness are no longer alive.

But Chand is thankful to be back.

"I'm so grateful to be out of there and alive," she says.

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

### **Services Set for Sam Dixon, Clint Rabb**

Arrangements have been made for services for both Sam Dixon and Clint Rabb, according to Heather Wilson, United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Western Jurisdiction Coordinator.

Dixon, the head of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), and Rabb, who headed the Office of Mission Volunteers of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) of The United Methodist Church, died as a result of injuries suffered in the January 12 earthquake in Haiti.

Details of the services are as follows:

#### **The Rev. Dr. Samuel W. Dixon, Jr.**

A service of memorial will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, January 22, Edenton Street United Methodist Church, 228 West Edenton Street, Raleigh, NC 27603-1714.

Please send any cards or messages of condolence to Cindy Dixon and family, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 1400, New York, NY 10115. Memorial gifts should be directed to the Haiti Relief Fund of UMCOR. Checks should be made to UMCOR with "Advance #418325, Dixon Memorial" in the memo line.

#### **The Rev. Clinton Rabb**

A funeral service will be held at 12 noon, Saturday, January 23, at the University United Methodist Church, 2409 Guadalupe Street, Austin, TX 78705.

Please send any cards or messages of condolence to Suzanne Rabb and family, 142 Amsterdam Avenue, Hawthorne, NY 10532. Memorial gifts should be directed to the Individual Volunteers Program. Checks should be made to the General Board of Global Ministries with "Advance #982465, Rabb Memorial" in the memo line.

GBGM is collecting email tributes and condolences to be posted on a forthcoming memorial board or blog. Please send yours to Klay Williams at [kswilliams@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:kswilliams@gbgm-umc.org), or Beth Buchanan at [bbuchanan@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:bbuchanan@gbgm-umc.org). Hundreds of such messages already have been received.

### **Dallas Volunteer Dies From Injuries in Haiti Quake**

#### **A UMNS Report**

#### **By Joey Butler\***

A member of a Dallas mission team providing eye care to Haitians has died of injuries suffered in the January 12 earthquake.

"Jean Arnwine passed away overnight in Guadeloupe. Doctors there tried to revive her, but were unsuccessful," Highland Park United Methodist Church announced on Friday (January 15).

Arnwine was 49.

A group of 12 missionaries from Highland Park UMC in Dallas was working in the village of Petit Goave when the clinic building collapsed. Volunteers had to dig out people buried in the rubble, the church said.

Another team member, Dr. Gary Fish, was believed to have broken ribs. He was en route to Martinique with Arnwine when she developed medical complications and their plane had to be re-routed to Guadeloupe. Fish is working with the U.S. Embassy in Guadeloupe to escort Arnwine's body home.

The other 10 mission workers landed in Dallas early January 15. Two members were treated at Dallas hospitals and released.

Highland Park has been making medical mission trips to Haiti since 1976. The Haiti Eye Clinic was built in 1985, and a surgery building was completed in 1999. Both offices are staffed by Haitian doctors supported in part by the church. These facilities provide special eye care weekly.

"Jean was very happy to be there," said team member Alexandra Paz. "She loved the Haitians; she loved helping them. It was her first time, and she was already talking about coming back next year."

\*Butler is a content editor for United Methodist Communications in Nashville, Tennessee.

## **UMCOR Joins on-the-Ground Relief for Haiti**

### **A UMNS Report**

**By Linda Bloom\***

Jan. 20, 2010 - The United Methodist Committee on Relief and a host of other faith-based groups are on the ground in Haiti as they determine how to assist earthquake survivors.

With more than \$2 million in donations received by January 20, UMCOR already has provided emergency grants to the Methodist Church of Haiti and GlobalMedic, a Canadian relief agency, to address immediate needs.

An assessment team led by UMCOR's Melissa Crutchfield was gathering in the Dominican Republic January 20 and preparing to enter Haiti. She is accompanied by five others with the relief agency, the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, and United Methodist Communications.

Other United Methodist-supported organizations, including Church World Service, Action by Churches Together International, and Stop Hunger Now, also are responding with aid.

Paul Jeffrey, a United Methodist photojournalist and missionary on assignment with ACT, watched a Mexican rescue team free Anna Zizi from the home of the parish priest at Port-au-Prince's Roman Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption.

"The rescuers were crying afterwards," reported Jeffrey. It was a welcome opportunity to feel joy amid such devastation, he said.

ACT has deployed a "rapid support team" to Haiti, which will work with members with offices already in Haiti. UMCOR is a pending member of the new ACT Alliance.

Despite rescue efforts, few survivors were being pulled alive from the rubble a week after the earthquake struck.

The Reuters news organization reported that 75,000 bodies were buried in mass graves and that Haitian officials said the toll could be between 100,000 and 200,000. An organization called Partners in Health said 20,000 people are dying daily "who could be saved by surgery," according to a January 20 story in *The Wall Street Journal*.

### **Distributing water**

UMCOR's partnership with GlobalMedic will focus on the distribution of clean drinking water, says the Rev. Tom Hazelwood, an UMCOR executive. It also will provide medical attention to earthquake survivors.

GlobalMedic is deploying paramedics, water technicians, and a doctor to assist the sick or injured, UMCOR reported. A water distribution hub will provide 65,000 people daily with clean drinking water.

Working through local nongovernmental organizations and the United Nations network in Haiti, GlobalMedic also will distribute 110,000 sachets of PUR water purifiers, 5 million Aquatab water purification tablets, and 110,000 oral rehydration sachets.

The supplies are being shipped into the Dominican Republic, and then transported by ground into Haiti, Hazelwood said.

One of the tasks for the UMCOR team in Haiti this week will be meeting with Gesner Paul, who leads the Methodist Church of Haiti, to assess how best to work with church members there.

### **Organizing volunteers**

Mission volunteers from The United Methodist Church have been a strong presence in Haiti for years, so another priority is organizing for future volunteer teams.

"We know the (immediate) need is for medical volunteers," Hazelwood said. "We're looking at trying to centralize the volunteer process."

**Bishop Joel Martinez, interim general secretary of the Board of Global Ministries, is advising volunteer teams not to set out for Haiti immediately.** "The time for volunteers will come, and their assistance will be crucial," Martinez said.

Church World Service has sent in Don Tatlock, its Latin America and Caribbean program manager, to coordinate its efforts in Haiti.

Recovery has been slow, Tatlock reported. "People are still sleeping outside in makeshift tents on street sides, parks, or any open area," he said. "In some neighborhoods, you see signs written on sheets asking for water and food."

Church World Service relief kits and blankets are being distributed in Port-au-Prince, and the agency's partners in Action by Churches Together are bringing in water and sanitation equipment.

Tatlock said a European psychosocial team supported by Church World Service also was arriving in Haiti to work with disaster survivors and first responders. "The situation is so horrifying that there is concern of post-traumatic stress syndrome for members of search and rescue teams," he said in a report on the agency's website.

### **Food aid flown in**

A planeload of 80,000 pounds of water, medicine, and medical supplies organized by Stop Hunger Now is being distributed in Haiti, says the Rev. Ray Buchanan, the United Methodist pastor who is the food aid group's founder and president.

He also has talked to Mission of Hope, the partner group in Port-au-Prince that received most of those supplies, about a previous supply of pre-packaged meals. "They told us that since the earthquake, they've been feeding 50,000 a day using the meals we sent in December," Buchanan added.

Stop Hunger Now still has five containers of bottled water and three containers of more than a half-million meals ready to go to Haiti. "We're currently doing our very best trying to find military transport," he said. "We're working with the Army, Air Force, and the Navy."

Meal donations have come from a variety of sources, including a January 18 packaging event in Lynchburg, Virginia, organized by the Rev. Larry Davies, the United Methodist district superintendent there. The effort, which resulted in 210,000 meals, "really touches the heart of what Stop Hunger Now is trying to do," Buchanan noted.

Volunteers also are needed in the United States to help assemble health kits and other relief supplies for Haiti at UMCOR's two supply depots – Sager Brown in Baldwin, Louisiana, and UMCOR West in Salt Lake City – as well as other church-owned regional warehouses.

Those interested in volunteering at UMCOR West may contact Director Brian Diggs at 801.973.7250, or via email at [WestDepot@umcor.org](mailto:WestDepot@umcor.org). To volunteer at Sager Brown, call 800.814.8765.

**[Note: Phil Bandy, who heads the California-Nevada United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Office, will be taking a team to UMCOR West, January 25-29. [Contact Bandy](#) if you would like to participate.]**

UMCOR is encouraging church members to collect health kits for distribution in Haiti.

[All materials from our Conference should be sent to the UMCOR West Office and Depot, 1479 South 700 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84104-1605.]

Gifts to support UMCOR's Haiti Relief efforts may be made on line, by phone, or by check.

Click here to make an [online donation](#) to Haiti relief through UMCOR Advance #418325. You may also phone 800-554-8583.

[Note: Your church will receive credit for your donation if you select your church's name from the dropdown list.

If you prefer to write a check and want your church to receive credit on its Apportionments statement, *do not make the check payable to Haiti Relief*. Instead:

- If you will be dropping your check in the offering plate at your church, make your check PAYABLE to YOUR CHURCH and note "Haiti Relief, Advance # 418325," on the MEMO LINE.
- If you will be mailing your check to the Conference offices, make your check PAYABLE to CA-NV Annual Conference and note "Haiti Relief, Advance # 418325," along with the name and city of your church, on the MEMO LINE, and mail to CA-NV Treasurer, P.O. Box 980250, West Sacramento, CA 95798.

See [How to Give to Haiti Emergency](#) for more information.]

The entire amount of each gift will be used to help the people of Haiti.

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

### **How to Give to Haiti Emergency**

Gifts to support UMCOR's Haiti Relief efforts may be made on line, by phone, or by check.

#### **Individuals:**

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#### **Churches:**

Please ask members of your congregation to write checks for Haiti relief PAYABLE TO YOUR CHURCH, with "Haiti Relief, Advance # 418325" on the MEMO LINE.

Then write a check payable to CA-NV Annual Conference to cover those donations.

(Checks made payable to "Haiti Relief" must be mailed directly to Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, GPO New York, NY 10087-9068. Note your church's GCFA number on the check to receive credit.)

The entire amount of each gift will be used to help the people of Haiti.

## **United Methodist Giving Tops \$1 Million\* for Haiti**

### **A UMNS Report**

**By Linda Bloom**

By Saturday evening (January 16) United Methodists had raised more than \$1 million for relief work in Haiti. [\*UPDATE: More than \$2 million had been received as of January 20.]

The donations to the United Methodist Committee on Relief will support its efforts to respond to those most in need following the devastating January 12 earthquake. An estimated 2 million to 3 million people need immediate assistance.

In a statement, Bishop Joel Martinez of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, UMCOR's parent agency, said he was thankful "for the overwhelming generosity," but encouraged further gifts.

"This is heartening but needs to be multiplied many times over," he said. "We believe that contributions to UMCOR at worship on Sunday (January 17) will be a powerful testament to the love of United Methodists for those in crisis."

UMCOR staff was expected to arrive in the Dominican Republic sometime over the weekend. The agency's emergency response efforts will be coordinated with a variety of partners, including Church World Service, Action by Churches Together, Global Medic, Muslim Aid, and the Methodist Church of Haiti.

The Rev. Lloyd Rollins, a United Methodist pastor and former UMCOR executive who now works for the Washington-based International Relief and Development, was hoping to be in Haiti by January 16.

He is part of a three-person team from his agency that will expand to about a dozen team members over the next two to three weeks. "We're going in to participate in the early assessment, particularly with USAID and the U.N. organizations," Rollins said while awaiting a flight to the Dominican Republic at the Miami airport on January 15. "We will be offering assistance to partner agencies in the relief stage, mostly in-kind donations. Then, we'll move into the longer-term issues."

Church World Service had two staff members arriving in Haiti, according to the Rev. John McCullough, a United Methodist who serves as its top executive. The agency has sent funds to local partners in Haiti. Another partner agency in the Dominican Republic is sending kits and blankets to Haiti from its warehouse in Santo Domingo, and will assist with getting other aid into Haiti.

Stop Hunger Now, the Raleigh, North Carolina-based food organization, has become a focal point for gathering resources for Haiti, says the Rev. Ray Buchanan. "We've got a 747 (jet) full of aid to go out on Sunday," he added.

Buchanan, a United Methodist pastor, said Stop Hunger Now had shipped a million and a half packaged meals to Haiti in the last two months. Its three local partners in that endeavor "have been using our meals already to feed earthquake victims."

United Methodists in Virginia are setting up "packaging events" to stockpile more meals, he reported, and the denomination's Mississippi Conference is arranging for every district to hold packaging events throughout 2010 for Haiti relief.

"The church is responding in a wonderful way, showing initiative to make sure something happens," Buchanan said.

Although it is too early to send volunteer teams, UMCOR is encouraging church members to collect health kits for distribution in Haiti.

UMCOR Sager Brown is coordinating a shipment of health kits to provide individuals with basic necessities. Instructions for assembling and shipping health kits are available [here](#).

Gifts to support UMCOR's Haiti Relief efforts may be made on line, by phone, or by check.

Click [here](#) to make an [online donation](#) to Haiti relief through UMCOR Advance #418325. You may also phone 800-554-8583.

Your church will receive credit for your donation if you select your church's name from the dropdown list.

If you prefer to write a check and want your church to receive credit on its Apportionments statement, *do not* make the check *payable* to Haiti Relief:

**Make checks PAYABLE to CA-NV Annual Conference and note "Haiti Relief, Advance # 418325" on the MEMO LINE.**

You may drop your check in the offering plate at church or mail to CA-NV Treasurer, P.O. Box 980250, West Sacramento, CA 95798.

(Checks made payable to Haiti Relief should be mailed directly to Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, GPO New York, NY 10087-9068.)

The entire amount of each gift will be used to help the people of Haiti.

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

### **UMVIM Director Sets out '10 Steps to Haiti'**

Phil Bandy, Interim Director of United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) for the California-Nevada Annual Conference, has written a letter to all UMVIM volunteers, "past, present, and future," which outlines "10 Steps to Haiti."

The letter is in response to pleas to be able to "do something" to help in the aftermath of the catastrophic earthquake which struck the Caribbean nation on January 12.

Follow the "10 Steps to Haiti" on the UMVIM [Urgent Needs](#) page on the Conference website at [cnumc.org](#).

### **Son of Pastor Deployed to Provide Haiti Relief**

The son of a United Methodist pastor in the California-Nevada Annual Conference has been tapped to participate in humanitarian relief efforts in Haiti.

Scott Dunning, an Air Force pilot stationed in Florida, was deployed to Haiti yesterday (Thursday).

He is the son of the Rev. Kathryn Dunning, pastor of Kings Beach UMC, in Kings Beach, California.

### **Help Children Cope with Images From Haiti**

The General Board of Discipleship has resources for parents and church leaders who are ministering to children, to help children navigate the images and information coming out of Haiti.

[Helping Children Cope in the Aftermath of Disasters](#) features resources offered through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and First Steps Spirituality Center as a means for adults to talk to children, know the expected signs of response to disaster, and provide comfort as the children heal.

You'll find it on GBOD's Ministries With Younger Children website ([http://blogs.gbod.org/younger\\_children](http://blogs.gbod.org/younger_children)).

### **Thomas Kemper of Germany Is New Chief Executive of United Methodist Mission Agency**

**By Elliott Wright\***

New York, NY - A former missionary in Brazil, who has strong United Methodist roots in his native Germany and broad ecumenical and international experience, has been chosen as the new chief executive of the denomination's General Board of Global Ministries, an agency of worldwide scope.

Thomas Kemper, 53, a layman, will assume the new position of general secretary on March 15. He has led the Board of Missions and International Church Cooperation of the United Methodist Germany Central Conference since 1998. He also is in his second four-year term as a director of Global Ministries, a 190 year-old organization with personnel, projects, and mission partners in 136 countries. He is the first general secretary of a United Methodist general agency who is from outside the United States.

"Thomas Kemper is uniquely qualified and gifted for this position," said Bishop Bruce R. Ough of West Ohio, president of Global Ministries and co-chair of a search committee that presented Kemper's name to the agency's executive committee. "His global perspective, missionary experience, sound Wesleyan theology, broad ecumenical involvement, and passion for Christ's mission will benefit the General Board of Global Ministries and the entire United Methodist Church as we advance our commitment to be a truly global movement."

The Global Ministries' executive committee elected Kemper on January 13, having been authorized last October to act on behalf of the board, which does not meet again until April 2010. The vote by telephone conference call took place in an atmosphere that included prayer for the organization and for the people of Haiti in the wake of a devastating earthquake. Even as the committee met, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), a unit of the mission agency, was organizing emergency relief assistance for Haiti.

"We celebrate the election of a Central Conference member to head one of our 13 general agencies," Bishop Ough said. "We anticipate the value this will add to the many mission partnerships that currently exist between United States conferences and the rest of our world-wide church."

Central Conferences outside the United States, comparable to jurisdictions within the U.S., are organic units of the denomination.

Kemper considers it imperative for the mission agency to hold mercy and piety together and to "help local churches around the globe to feel and see themselves as part of a worldwide family, and to overcome the boundaries of culture, race, and denomination in the name of Jesus Christ." He said that he profoundly believes that "the gospel can transform individuals and the world."

The new general secretary will succeed Bishop Joel N. Martinez (retired), who took over the executive position on an interim basis last September, at the resignation for health reasons of the Rev. Edward W. Paup, who had served for a single year.

Kemper has traveled extensively, done field work in Africa, worked with Vietnamese boat people in England, and can communicate in five languages.

"Thomas Kemper lives the true Wesleyan values of personal and social holiness and is an inspiring person," said Bishop Rosemarie Wenner of Germany. "He reminds us of our Methodist identity: we are a mission movement, combining evangelism and social work. We will miss Thomas Kemper in Germany, and at the same time we are proud to send him to serve as the first general secretary of a United Methodist board from a Central Conference. It is the right time for the General Board of Global Mission to make this step toward more inclusiveness in our collaborative ministry of making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We need mutual support in living a vital partnership in mission."

Bishop Wenner said that the engagement of the German church's three annual conferences in worldwide mission "increased tremendously" under Kemper's leadership.

### **Lifetime Involvement in Mission**

"My interest in the Christian mission began in my childhood," Kemper said in an interview. "Missionaries would visit the Hamburg congregation where my father was pastor and my mother was involved in the women's mission society. I was excited and challenged by the differing cultural perspectives they represented within our shared faith and Wesleyan heritage."

Kemper and his wife, Barbara Hufner-Kemper, spent eight years (1986-1994) as missionaries in Brazil through the German United Methodist Board of Missions. For six of those years, he taught in the Brazilian Theological Seminary in Sao Paulo and also engaged in ministry with the poor and new church development. The Kempers have three children, Ana, 18, Lena, 17, and Joshua, 13.

A bright spot in his reflections on Brazil is the work he did with Roman Catholic sisters in ministry with the homeless, including the organizing of worship in the streets.

Earlier, he spent almost two years in London working with the German Methodist Mission and with Vietnamese boat people. Kemper speaks fluent German, English, and Portuguese and is competent in French and Spanish.

"My desire to become involved in the international ministry of the church grew in my young adult years," he explained. "It was greatly strengthened in 1976 at a World Methodist Council youth event in Dublin, where I learned why we as Methodists so strongly believe that personal

and social holiness hold together. My roommate was from the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. He was white and able to get an exit visa from South Africa, but his friend, who was black, was refused exit. I began to see what it means to struggle for the sake of faith."

### **Mission Going Forward**

Kemper is looking ahead to United Methodist mission in a connectional network as he assumes the leadership of Global Ministries. He believes that his background in a Central Conference outside the U.S. will be helpful in engaging annual conferences in the international nature and scope of mission.

He has high regard for the value of missionaries in facilitating and interpreting mission in the 21st century. He has both a practical and theological view of the four focus areas around which The United Methodist Church is now organizing much of its ministry. The four areas stress new congregations, leadership development, ministry with the poor, and global health. Kemper is enthusiastic about each of these.

"The General Board of Global Ministries has engaged in each for decades," he said in the interview. "They grow out of the goals of mission, are rooted in the Bible, and affect people in all kinds of societies and situations." Kemper would like to put more emphasis on the biblical and theological bases for the focus areas. For example, with regard to health, he would like to focus more on "wholeness and the value of healing," and less on what he calls "technocratic" approaches.

Global Ministries has particular responsibility for ministry with the poor. Kemper has special interests in the ways in which micro-credit and fair trade can contribute to a reduction of poverty around the world. Micro-credit makes small loans available to persons who might not otherwise qualify for loans. Fair trade builds equitable exchange patterns between small producers and consumers.

Kemper said he thinks that Global Ministries can make valuable contributions to all of the focus areas by continuing its commitments to its traditional goals, such as making disciples for Jesus Christ, strengthening congregations, combating racism, seeking peace, providing humanitarian relief, and building strong ecumenical relations. A major role of the mission agency, he said, is to "enable and facilitate mission wherever it is already happening."

Kemper earned a Master of Education in adult education at the University of Hamburg in 1982. His thesis topic was "Global Learning in Church Youth Work." Three years later, he received a Master of Arts in sociology from the University of Bielefeld, where his preparation for a thesis in the field of ecology included three months of field work in Burkina Faso in the Sahel area of Africa.

### **Ecumenical and Denominational Roles**

Methodist connectional and ecumenical relations are important to Kemper. After returning to Germany from Brazil in 1994, he worked for six months for the German Board of Mission. Although Methodist, he was offered the post of director for ecumenical learning of the Lippe regional organization of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), an association of Lutheran and Reformed churches. He continued in that role until he joined the staff of the United Methodist Germany Central Conference in Wuppertal in 1998.

During 11 years in the German mission office, he worked closely with the resident bishops in promoting mission partnerships and supervising the missionaries sent and received by the Central Conference. As the mission executive, Kemper had a leadership role in establishing new mission partnerships with annual conferences and mission initiatives in Albania, Eurasia, Malawi, and Namibia; introducing new mission fund-raising methods; and starting a Volunteers in Mission program.

From 1999 to 2009, he was secretary of the European Commission on Mission, a coordinating unit for the continental churches of The United Methodist Church and the British and Irish Methodist mission agencies. He held offices in German ecumenical organizations, including the Protestant Development Service (EED), Bread for the World, and the Association of Protestant Missions. He co-founded the Protestant-Catholic Latin American Commission.

\*Elliott Wright is an author and consultant to the General Board of Global Ministries.

### **United Methodists Unite to 'Change the World' in April Impact Your Community on April 24-25**

United Methodists everywhere are encouraged to begin planning now to participate in **Change the World**, a church-wide event on April 24-25 in which members will join with others in the community to make a difference - both locally and globally.

Imagine.

What if ... on one weekend all around the world, 11 million United Methodists came together to work with their local communities?

What if ... as we serve people locally, we unite globally to eliminate a preventable, treatable disease that kills one child every 30 seconds?

During the April 24-25 weekend, United Methodist churches are encouraged to create and participate in a service or fundraising event that helps effect positive and long-lasting change - whether it's revitalizing a food pantry program, creating a new ministry to help the homeless, or increasing awareness of global health issues such as malaria. Churches may utilize existing ministries or initiate a new outreach event.

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

### **Imagine No Malaria**

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

The April Change the World event was created in *partnership* with Imagine No Malaria and the United Methodist Publishing House, as part of the Rethink Church campaign. The concept for Change the World originated with the Rev. Mike Slaughter, lead pastor at Ginghamburg Church in Tipp City, Ohio (named one of the top 50 churches in the U.S. by *Church Report*). Last October, Slaughter hosted the Change the World conference and authored a [book by the same name](#) that aligns with the vision of Rethink Church.

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

The Rethink Church campaign is seeking to utilize outreach events that embrace the concept of outward bound church, to make a positive difference in the world beyond the church doors. Rethink Church advertising will complement the April events, giving churches an opportunity to take advantage of the buzz generated by the ads.

### Getting Started

Churches are asked to get started now, by:

1. Considering how your congregation currently impacts its community. Do you have a food pantry, a clothing closet, an ESL program, a tutoring program, etc.?
2. Scheduling an activity for an existing or new outreach ministry on either April 24 or 25, 2010.
3. Inviting both your congregation and local community to be involved.
4. Using the Rethink Church World Malaria Day (April 25) Sermon Starter, available soon on [www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld](http://www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld).
5. Collecting a special offering to combat malaria.

There is one body in Christ, and throughout the United Methodist connection. We can sense its heartbeat in a coordinated event such as Change the World!

For more information about Change the World, or to learn more about how you can create an event for your church, go to [www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld](http://www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld) - or send an email to [changetheworld@umcom.org](mailto:changetheworld@umcom.org).

### Talbert Award Nominations Sought

The California-Nevada Annual Conference Commission on Religion and Race invites nominations for this year's Bishop Melvin Talbert Award for Racial Justice.

This annual award is given to a person within our Annual Conference who best exemplifies a proactive stance in addressing, and working toward dismantling, racism in the church and society.

Individuals and churches are invited to submit a one-page letter regarding their nominees. Please send the nominations, through regular mail or email, by **April 1, 2010** to:

Dr. Jeffrey Kuan,  
Chair, CORR

Pacific School of Religion  
1798 Scenic Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94709

Email: [kjkuan@psr.edu](mailto:kjkuan@psr.edu)

### **Observe Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Even if Late**

Although the events in Haiti have claimed much of our prayer focus in recent days, the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns of the California-Nevada Annual Conference reminds us that January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

CCUIC asks that, in addition to lifting up this concern, you consider inviting a neighbor congregation to attend a service or prayer gathering at your church as an observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, even though it may not be at the designated time. Such an invitation is always timely, regardless of the week!

For resources, visit: [http://www.geii.org/wpcu\\_index.htm](http://www.geii.org/wpcu_index.htm)

Another opportunity to celebrate our oneness in Christ presents itself on March 5, 2010, World Day of Prayer. For materials, visit: <http://www.wdpusa.org/about.html>

If you are planning an ecumenical event, please let the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns know, by contacting Heather Leslie Hammer, CCUIC Chair, at [revheather.stjohnsrp@earthlink.net](mailto:revheather.stjohnsrp@earthlink.net). And please remember to take photos at such events and email them to CCUIC via [revheather.stjohnsrp@earthlink.net](mailto:revheather.stjohnsrp@earthlink.net).

### **'Spiritual but Not Religious,' PSR's 2010 Earl Lectures, Are Jan. 26-28**

BERKELEY, CA - A recent Pew Research Survey of the religious landscape found that 30 percent of young people on the West Coast consider themselves "spiritual, but not religious." What does this unprecedented shift mean to contemporary religion?

That broad topic will be explored January 26-28 at the 109th annual Earl Lectures and Leadership Conference. *Spiritual but Not Religious: Chasing the Divine* is the theme of the three days of lectures and workshops, being held at the Ecumenical Center of Berkeley, on Scenic Avenue across the street from Pacific School of Religion, host and sponsor of the event.

The phrase "spiritual but not religious" can describe those who glean inspiration solely from nature and the physical world around them, as well as those who prefer to divorce themselves from institutional structures. The phrase also is used in reference to some who are alienated from organized religion - refugees from a house of worship that they believe has not accepted or affirmed them. "Spiritual but not religious" can also describe those who consider church irrelevant, or who prefer to worship in individual and private ways.

Among the questions that will be explored at the Earl Lectures are: What is the essential difference between *spiritual* and *religious*? What can religious institutions learn from those who claim to be one and not the other? And what kind of critique can those who call themselves religious offer about the description "spiritual but not religious"? The 2010 Earl Lecturers, Matthew Fox, Melissa Wilcox, Scotty McLennan, and Donna Allen will help those attending explore these vital questions that affect all of us who "chase the divine."

**Matthew Fox** (lecturing January 26 at 10 a.m.) has worked to reawaken the West to its own mystical tradition, from medieval Christian mystics to contemporary scientists who are also mystics. Fox is founder and president emeritus of Wisdom University (formerly University of Creation Spirituality) in Oakland, California and the author, among other books, of *Creativity: Where the Divine and the Human Meet* (2002).

**Melissa Wilcox** (January 27, 9:45 a.m.) is assistant professor of religion at Whitman University in Walla Walla, Washington and director of the gender studies program there. A sociologist of religion and gender/queer studies, she is interested in the cultural power of religious and quasi-religious narrative, especially as it affects oppression and empowers resistance.

**Scotty McLennan** (January 28, 9 a.m.) is dean for religious life at Stanford University. His primary research interests are in the interface of religion, ethics, and the professions. The author of *Jesus Was a Liberal: Reclaiming Christianity for All*, he teaches and oversees religious affairs on campus and is the minister of Stanford Memorial Church.

**Donna E. Allen** (January 28, 10 a.m.) is founder and pastor of New Revelation Community Church in Oakland. She has taught courses on sexuality and gender at Pacific School of Religion, and has also taught preaching and worship at the American Baptist Seminary of the West, Saint Paul School of Theology in Missouri, and Lancaster Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania.

In addition to the lectures, events during the three-day event include a series of workshops connected to the theme of the Earl Lectures; a performance by Linda Tillery and the Heritage Choir; a panel discussion of women's spirituality; and an informal discussion meeting, "theology on tap."

The Earl Lectures are free, open to the public, and require no registration. However, registration for the leadership conference workshops is \$125.

For workshop details and to register, visit PSR's website, [www.psr.edu/earllectures](http://www.psr.edu/earllectures), or call 510.849.8218 or 800.999.0528, Ext. 8218. For the first time, this year's Earl Lectures will offer both academic and continuing education credit.

A multid denominational Christian seminary in Berkeley, California, Pacific School of Religion has been preparing bold leaders for historic and emerging faith communities since 1866. For more about PSR, visit [www.psr.edu](http://www.psr.edu). To contact any of PSR's faculty experts on issues of religion, contact the PSR communications office at 510.849.8239.

### **PINCUM Consultation Scheduled for February 3-4**

The Pacific Islander National Caucus of United Methodists (PINCUM) announces a two-day consultation, "Mana, God Among Us," at the Radisson Hotel LAX in Los Angeles, February 3-4, 2010. The event will bring together Pacific Islander (PI) clergy and lay leaders to celebrate and to provide information to be used for development of a study plan for PI ministries.

General Conference 2008 approved the Pacific Island Ministry Study Plan, paving the way for development of a comprehensive plan for ministries among Pacific Islanders. The General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) assumed administration of the project, and has been in collaboration with PINCUM to develop the plan for presentation at the 2012 General Conference.

The Pacific Island Ministry Study Plan Committee will bear the cost of transportation and room and board for two people (ideally, one clergy and one layperson) from each PI congregation, and for any PI clergy serving in a non-PI setting, to attend the consultation.

To facilitate arrangements for attendees, GBGM has set up a travel administrator and agent to handle the travel needs for those flying into Los Angeles. Please provide names and travel details for attendees immediately, by contacting:

Rev. Nam-Jin Jun, GBGM staff for the Pacific Island Ministry Study Plan Committee, at 212.870.3829 or [njun@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:njun@gbgm-umc.org)

Monalisa S. Tuitahi, PINCUM Executive Director, at 714.721.6764 or [lisa-mona@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lisa-mona@sbcglobal.net)

The Rev. Dr. Eddie Kelemeni, Chair of the Pacific Island Ministry Study Plan Committee, urges Pacific Islanders to participate.

"GBGM and other general agencies of the UMC have embraced us and it is now it is our turn to do our part by making sure that we are a part of this Plan. The only sure way to do this is to be present and accounted for," he says.

"Please join us," he urges, adding, "Until then, please hold us up in prayer as we move forward in this historical venture for the PI people of the UMC."

Download [flyer](#) here.

**Deadline Extended to Apply for Ethnic Young Adult Summer Internships  
Hispanic American, Native American, and Pacific Islander applicants, ages 18 to 22,  
sought for May 30-July 31 work experience in U.S. capital.**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The deadline to apply for a 2010 Ethnic Young Adult (EYA) Summer Internship in Washington, D.C., has been extended to February 15. The EYA program is for young adults, ages 18-22, interested in exploring issues of public policy, social justice advocacy, and social change. Openings remain for applicants of Hispanic American, Native American, and Pacific Islander ethnicity.

Sponsored by the United Methodist Inter-Ethnic Strategy Development Group (IESDGD) and administered by the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS), interns will work in social justice placements in the U.S. capital from May 30 to July 31, 2010.

IESDGD is a coalition of the denomination's five racial/ethnic minority caucuses: Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR), Methodists Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic Americans (MARCHA), the Native American International Caucus (NAIC), the National Federation of Asian American United Methodists (NFAAUM), and the Pacific Islander National Caucus of United Methodists (PINCUM).

Interns will live in Christian community. Work placements will be supplemented by evening intern-led devotions, Friday seminars on topics of social justice concern, area field trips, and Sunday worship in area United Methodist churches. Participants must commit to participating in these activities.

The intern group will experience the rich diversity of The United Methodist Church by visiting a different congregation each Sunday. Congregations will reflect diversity in worship style as well as ethnicity.

### **Concern for social justice**

Applicants must be in good academic standing at their college or university, demonstrate evidence of their concern for social justice through extracurricular activity/academic study, and have some history of involvement in their church and/or community.

If employed full time, applicants must show active leadership and participation in their local church and community, including involvement in social justice activities.

IESDG and GBCS will provide round-trip transportation to and from Washington, D.C.; housing for the eight-week EYA Internship; commuter stipend for travel to intern work sites; and \$1,500 for each intern for the eight-week period.

### **Ethnic Local Church Grant**

EYA is funded through GBCS's Ethnic Local Church Grant program.

Participants are expected to return to their schools, churches, and communities with an increased commitment to working with and on behalf of marginalized groups in society. Participants also are expected to share their experience with other persons from their community, school, and church.

Application form and more information is available at [EYA Internship Program](#).

For more information, contact the Rev. Neal Christie, assistant general secretary, Education and Leadership Formation, General Board of Church and Society, 100 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, 202.488.5611; or the Rev. L.A. McCrae, EYA coordinator, 202.488.5644 (office) or 443.528.5138 (mobile).

### **Leader Chosen for 'Healthy Families, Healthy Planet' Initiative** **10 United Methodist annual conferences to work with General Boards of Church and Society and Global Ministries in international family-planning project.**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Katey Zeh, a native Georgian, has been hired by the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) as the part-time consultant for "Healthy Families, Healthy Planet." She will serve as educator, advocate, and organizer for the initiative, which is a year-long effort to build a strong constituency of United Methodists to support increased funding from the U.S. government for international family planning.

The initiative is funded through a grant from the United Nations Foundation. The initiative entails a partnership among GBCS, General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund Committee and Operation Healing Hope, a GBCS initiative on maternal health.

Zeh, who resides in Arlington, Virginia, will work with 10 yet-to-be-identified regional conferences in the United States. Her goal is to raise awareness among United Methodists in this country about the importance of international family planning and reproductive health. A multi-pronged strategy of education and advocacy will be implemented.

Zeh's work will be augmented by four persons from the Global South who will be selected by the GBGM to collaborate with her.

Zeh comes to the "Healthy Families, Healthy Planet" initiative from the Center for Health and Gender Equity. With past experience educating and mobilizing persons on issues related to maternal health, Zeh said she is enthusiastic about this opportunity.

Zeh holds a degree from Yale Divinity School. She is a contributing author to a soon-to-be published book, *Gifts in Open Hands: More Resources for the Global Community*. The book is a collection of worship materials.

Linda Bales Todd, director of the Louise and Hugh Moore Population Project at GBCS, announced the selection of Zeh to be "Healthy Families, Healthy Planet" consultant. Todd cited five key reasons for undertaking the initiative:

- Every minute a woman in sub-Saharan Africa dies from complications during pregnancy or childbirth.
- Nearly all of the annual 536,000 maternal deaths worldwide occur in the developing world.
- More than 200 million women want to avoid pregnancy worldwide, but lack a family-planning method. Investing in family planning reduces unintended pregnancy and increases health.
- When a woman delays pregnancy at least two years after the birth of her previous child, she is much more likely to have a healthy pregnancy and birth.
- By empowering women and men to make healthy decisions about how to space their children and determine their family size, family planning helps create healthier lives for the parents and for their children.

For additional information about "Healthy Families, Healthy Planet," contact Katey Zeh, [kateyzeh@gmail.com](mailto:kateyzeh@gmail.com).

### **Social justice agency announces 2010 legislative priorities**

GBCS has set its 2010 legislative priorities for the U.S. Congress. The six priorities, rooted in United Methodist "Social Principles" and aligned with the denomination's Four Areas of Focus, run the gamut from tackling global problems to issues that are U.S.-specific.

Read [2010 legislative priorities](#) on the GBCS website.

### **GBCS unveils 'prophet-driven economy'**

The social justice agency is asking UMs to urge President Barack Obama to include the needs of the poor in his State of the Union address on Wednesday, January 27. GBCS has set up web pages through which you can email the President, urging him to make the poor a priority.

Read [Prophet-driven economy](#) on the GBCS website.

The articles are included in the GBCS newsletter, *Faith in Action*. The [January 20 edition](#) of *Faith in Action* is available on the GBCS website, [www.umc-gbcs.org](http://www.umc-gbcs.org). You may [subscribe](#) to *Faith in Action* here.

The General Board of Church and Society is one of four international general program boards of The United Methodist Church, which has more than 11 million members worldwide. The board's primary areas of ministry are Advocacy, Education and Leadership Formation, United Nations and International Affairs, and resourcing these areas for the nearly 42,000 local churches of the denomination. It has offices on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., and at the Church Center at the United Nations.

### **Grow Your Church's Ministry With Children Through February Forum**

Want to help grow your church's ministry with children? Want families to find a home at your church? Want to learn about growing children as faithful disciples of Jesus? Children's Ministry Forum '10 is for you!

Travel to Raleigh, North Carolina February 23-25, and return with your cup overflowing with renewed energy, skills, and knowledge.

Check it out at [www.gbod.org/cmf](http://www.gbod.org/cmf).

### **Coaching Forum Kick-Starts New Church Development Emphasis**

"Chart the Course" is this year's Path 1 theme - and in keeping with that theme, the first Path 1 Coaching Forum launched a dynamic new ministry to support new church development across the country.

The goal of the Path 1 strategy is to initiate 1,000 new churches in the United Methodist Church during the next four years. Central to this emphasis is providing coaches who are experienced in new church starts, to coach each new church planter.

The January 7-9 forum at the West End United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tennessee was an intensive, mentor-driven experience that allowed participants to gain working knowledge in seven core coaching skill areas in a collaborative, creative, and coherent format.

It was designed to assist those who want to be trained to coach, Annual Conference and judicatory leaders who are involved in new church development, and anyone interested in the discipline of coaching.

The forum also an opportunity for networking across Annual Conference boundaries for new church start ministries.

Lee Hayward, an ordained elder from the California-Nevada Annual Conference, was one of the presenters, leading a module on "Laser Listening." Hayward is one of seven coaches endorsed by the UMC Endorsing Agency, and is ICF-certified.

Also in attendance from Cal-Nevada were Ted Virts, Denice Leslie, Kim Smith, Renae Extrum-Fernandez, and Dale Weatherspoon.

### **New Procedures in Place for Cal-Nevada Boards and Agency Heads**

The California-Nevada Annual Conference has instituted new procedures for heads of boards, agencies, and committees to follow regarding meetings and maintenance of data.

Due to financial cutbacks, the hours worked by Conference administrative assistants have been reduced by as much as 50%. To accommodate this reduction, duties have been reassigned and

some tasks traditionally performed by assistants have been shifted to the board, agency and committee chairs.

A letter outlining the changes recently was sent to all chairpersons.

Going forward, all chairs are to:

- Schedule meetings themselves, using the Conference's [online calendar](#) (whether taking place at the UM Center or at another location)
- Send meeting notices, reminders, etc. themselves
- Clean up for themselves, after meeting at the UM Center in West Sacramento: i.e. wash coffee cups, dispose of trash, pour out leftover coffee and rinse pot, etc.
- Coordinate with [Becky Sheldon](#) regarding lunch and other needs (such as arranging for audio-visual equipment), for meetings at the UM Center
- Communicate committee roster information and roster changes to [Clare Powell](#)
- Coordinate with [Shari Sandoval](#) for vouchers and financial updates for their committee
- Contact [Jane Horstman](#) for website and registration assistance

The Conference staff appreciates your cooperation in this time of transition.

### **Complete Haiti News and Resources**

Visit [www.umc.org/haiti](http://www.umc.org/haiti) for all of the most up-to-date news, blogs, and video and audio stories from within the United Methodist Church. In addition, customizable print ads, web graphics, and other resources are available there for downloading.

United Methodists everywhere are invited to share a prayer for those affected by the Haiti earthquake. Visit the [Facebook](#) group [10thousanddoors.org](http://10thousanddoors.org) to lift up your praise or concern on the wall – and to share spiritual encouragement.

Access GBOD's Current but Still Growing List of Worship and Music Resources for Haiti Earthquake at

[http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?loc\\_id=739,1112,1198&act=nav\\_loc](http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?loc_id=739,1112,1198&act=nav_loc)

### **Read These UMNS Stories:**

[We Were Spared to Help, Haiti Volunteers Believe](#)

[Worshippers Remember Haiti in Prayer, Song, Gifts](#)

[Hope in God Supplants Grief in Haitian Congregation](#)

[United Methodist Music Video Gives Hope to Haitians](#)

**The Instant Connection is published each week by Jane Horstman on behalf of Cate Monaghan, Interim Director of Communications for the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.**

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