



The UMVIM Traveler

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2008

UMVIM, WJ

Special points of interest:

- Upcoming Teams Around the World
- World Fair Trade Day
- Prayers and Stories
- Find Your Conference Coordinator
- Volunteer Training in Oregon

Inside this issue:

Let's Get Going	1
Do's and Don'ts	1
The Calendar	3
UMCOR	4
UMVIM	4
What, Why, & Where	5
Helpful UMVIM Websites	6

Let's Get Going: Upcoming Teams of Service

1) Guatemala (Medical): August 29-September 7 2008

Surgical team in great need of 2 anesthesiologists and 1 general surgeon. General surgeon is needed for cleft palates. Will be hosted by Dr. Phil Plunk. Contact Betsy Keyack, bkeyack@att.net or Mark Ely, marcos@puravida.org, from Rocky Mountain Conference.

2) Guatemala (Medical/ Construction): November 8 -16, 2008

Contacts are Marilyn and Hugh Douglas, Marilyn.Little@slcc.edu, 801-571-4870, from Rocky Mountain Conference.

3) Zambia (Construction) May 20-June 3, 2008

Led by Julian Davies/ Sylvania. Contact juliandavies@theuniversitychurch.net 429-343-8783 from West Ohio Conference

4) Zambia (Construction) February 2009

Led by Jay Triik at jaytriik@nconnect.net from Wisconsin Conference.

5) Pine Ridge Reservation (Construction) July 2008

Led by Barbara & Steve Meyer at sbmeyer@netzero.com, from Rocky Mountain Conference.

6) Kenya (Construction) July 11-18, 2008

Led by Ann Fort at annfort8269@comcast.net from Rocky Mountain Conference.

7) Kenya (Construction) July 11-August 2, 2008

Contact Ann Fort at annfort8269@comcast.net from Rocky Mountain Conference.

8) Romania (Community) July 12-26, 2008

Contact William Johnston at william.johnston@Level3.com from Rocky Mountain Conference.

Continued on page 6

Do's and Don'ts for UMVIMers

DO:

*Observe local customs about shaking hands (sometimes it is done on entering and on leaving), kissing on one or both cheeks (women; giving "abrazos" (hugs). If in doubt, ask your host to explain what is proper.

*Eat what is offered, and

do not ask or hint for anything not offered. (Luke 10:18)

*In most cultures, you should take time for polite conversation before talking "business."

*If any gift-giving is done, do it discreetly and not ostentatiously. Ask your host what to do about gift-

ing to beggars, and follow that advice.

*Be aware that in some cultures people maintain a closer distance when engaged in conversation than we North Americans do.

*Be aware that in some countries, toilet paper may not be put in the toilet but must be put in the waste-





Do's and Don'ts for UMMVIMers (Continued from page 1)

basket. Ask if you are not sure. A stopped-up toilet is very unpleasant to deal with.

*Learn as much of the local language as you can, and use it every chance you get.

*Be prepared for worship services that are very different from those you are accustomed to -- either more formal or much less formal, even charismatic/Pentecostal.

*Be prepared to give your personal testimony, to pray aloud, and possibly to preach.

*Smile!

DON'T

*Don't take pictures of anything military unless your host says it's okay.

*Don't waste water. Use it sparingly for showering, bathing, laundry, etc. Don't waste food. Take what you want, eat what you take. If you are being served, it is permissible to say "just a little, please," or "no more, thank you." Don't eat raw vegetables or unpeeled fruit unless they have been washed in water treated with chlorine or iodine.

*Don't drink untreated water

unless you know beyond the shadow of a doubt that the water is safe for North Americans to drink (not just safe for people who live there all the time). Bottled water is available in most countries; boiling 15-20 minutes is a good alternative; water purification tablets should be potent enough to guard against giardia as well as common bacteria. Don't use ice, unless you know it is made with pure water.

Support Africa
University at
www.supportafricauniversity.org

The Calendar: News and Events

* April 23-May 2, 2008 - General Conference meets in Fort Worth, TX. You can keep track of legislation brought to the highest body of the United Methodist Church online at www.unumc.org.

*April 2008 - Team Leader Training Workshop led by Oregon/Idaho Annual Conference UMMVIM Coordinator, Brenda St. Clair. Please contact Brenda for further information and news of future workshops at jgbrndr@cableone.net or 208-522-3232.

June 20, 2008 - MISSIONS Dinner - Friday, June 20, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, Hope UMC, Englewood, CO. You are invited! Guest speaker will be Elizabeth McKee Gore, Executive Director of Global Alliances for the United Nations Foundation and the Nothing But Nets (malaria prevention) Program. Cost is \$20. Please register with Betsy Keyack, bkeyack@att.net or Ann Fort annfort8269@comcast.net.

*You can know support Africa University online at www.supportafricauniversity.org. Bishop Ernest S. Lyght, Chair of the Africa University Board Development Committee and the Advisory Development Committee, says, "I ask you to keep Africa University in your prayers and before your people. It is one of the best examples of how a connectional church helps us to accomplish things no one congregation could do alone."



*VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS need mission teams in the Rocky Mountain Conference for May and June. Please contact Ann Fort to get connected at annfort8269@comcast.net.



* April 17-19, 2008 - Learn more about the Honduras Initiative and other United Methodist Mission

Initiatives at the Mission Initiatives Summit held in Plano, Texas with guest speaker Pastor Mike Slaughterhouse of Ginghamburg Church. For more information about the summit and these mission initiatives contact Rev. Patrick Friday at pfriday@gbgm-umc.org or 205-529-4209. Photo: Pastor Mike Slaughterhouse

*May 2-4, 2008 - Rx Connection - Making medical connections through UMMVIM! Are you a medical professional and/or interested in serving as a medical/health volunteer? Go to this event held at Sugar Creek UMC in Chatham, IL to meet others like you! Guest speakers include Dr. Cherian Thomas of Global Minsitries and Dr. Roger Boe of Individual Volunteers. Contact Lorna Jost at umvim-ncj@brookings.net for more information.

Fort Worth, Texas
Apr. 23-May 2, 2008

UMCOR News (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

*UMCOR is helping the Arkansas Annual Conference get



relief from a recent tornado that moved through Arkansas on April 3. The tornado, the latest in a string of storms to hit the state affected the Bryant and Benton areas in Southwest Pulaski County.



UMCOR is already on the ground with early response teams aid-

ing in the clean-up following massive floods caused by earlier rainstorms. Over the past two months, Arkansas has been hit heavily enduring tornadoes, ice storms, torrential rains, and record flooding.

Severe flooding continues along the White River in the communities of Des Arc, DeValls Bluff, and Clarendon. Bryant UMC is serving as a shelter to help those in need.

Photo: Fire Department volunteers work with a home owner in Polk County, Ark., to save

valuables from a newly built house which was totally destroyed by a tornado in February. Leif Skoogfors/FEMA

*UMCOR is helping the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference recover from massive floods caused by torrential rains throughout the Midwest over the past few weeks. In addition to providing immediate assistance, the organization is in contact with the conference to help with long-term recovery needs. You can help in the clean-up process by purchasing much-needed flood buckets which contain bleach, soap, gloves, scrub brushes and more. Please send your gifts to Material Resources, UMCOR Advance # 901440.

Photo: In Illinois, faith based volunteers paddle to homes of Harrisburg residents as floodwaters damaged homes. Harrisburg Daily Register/Courtesy of DNN.

*In Africa, malaria is one of the biggest killers of children accounting for nearly



one in five deaths throughout the continent. The Mozambique Initiative, a ministry of the Missouri Annual Conference, is on a mission to combat malaria. Originally a pilot project to inform the United Methodist Church about increasing efforts in malaria prevention and education, the initiative turned into a two-year assignment—educating and distributing nets to hospitals, orphanages, women shelters, churches and clinics throughout Mozambique.

Observe Africa Malaria Day on April 25 and help save a life. You can also support programs like these by giving to Community-Based Malaria Program, UMCOR Advance # 982009. Photo: Nets being passed out. Courtesy- Ginger Cooper/GBGM

*Mr. Ngov, a farmer in the Democratic Republic of Congo, no longer has a problem feeding his family. Thanks to the Integrated Crop and Pest Management (ICPM) training provided by UMCOR's Sustainable Agriculture and Development program, there has been marked

improvement in his life as well as the lives of 93 other participants.



You can help farmers like Mr. Ngov care for their families and provide a future for their children by sending your gifts to Sustainable Agriculture and Development Program, UMCOR Advance #982188.

Photo: Farmer in the DRC shows her crops as a result of UMCOR's SA&D program. Courtesy - UMCOR

Highlight On an UMVIM Volunteer: Prayers & Stories



This month is a busy month for Volunteers in Mission heading to the Gulf Coast to continue helping the

Long-term Disaster Recovery work in areas ravaged by the Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma in 2005. That these volunteers continue to remember and help the survivors of those storms in a practical way is a testament to their faith and

faithfulness.

One of these volunteers, Haati Nai of Salinas First UMC, is heading to the Gulf for the eighth time. Haati makes his living as a roofer, his wife is a nurse's aide, and they have 3 children at home. His goal is to build one roof on a hurricane-ravaged home for each year he has been alive. If you ever have the pleasure of meeting Haati, you'll know he is going to make that goal! Haati has recently been honored by his community for his volunteer

work.

Sue King - UMVIM ACC California-Nevada Conference

* "To hold in your arms a small child whose body is so malnourished that it feels like you are going to break her tiny little bones just by lifting her into your arms, and then to feel her rest her head upon your shoulder and snuggle into you and fall asleep. To realize this little child from this orphanage has probably never been held before, just to be held- and for a moment you think, "My

"In Africa, malaria is one of the biggest killers of children accounting for nearly one in five deaths throughout the continent. "

The Calendar (Continued From Page 2)



Local Farmer (World Fair Trade Day)

Photo: Paul Jeffries Courtesy/Act International.

World Fair Trade Day is May 10, 2008!

Promote justice by committing to purchasing fair trade products.



Primetimers at Gulfside Assembly - GBGM

*The PNW Annual Conference adopted the petition "Support for the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund," Advance Special #982345, in 2006, committing to a goal of raising one dollar per member this quadrennium. General Conference in 2004 committed to establishing this fund and raising \$8 million. To date, \$1.3 million has been raised with \$6,599 from PNW. A reminder: 25% of the funds raised in a Conference remain IN that Conference for AIDS-related programs/projects. Conference Treasurer Craig Parrish states that our PNW current level of receipts represent closer to 10¢/member than \$1. Please list this Advance to your local congregations.

* Clean-up and recovery efforts are continuing in Fernley, NV as a result of flooding due to breaches in the levees. For more information please contact Sue King at suek@calnevumc.org.

*May 10, 2008 is World Fair Trade Day! While promoting justice in trade by committing to pay a living wage to marginalized communities, Fair Trade also encourages partner producers to invest in environmentally friendly production. Equal Exchange is a partner of UMCOR in Fair Trade products and development. It reaches out, for example, to Farmers' Hands in Guatemala, through which seven cooperatives of over 1000 small coffee farmers can sell their coffee at a fair price. For more information visit www.wftday.org or www.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/work/hunger/fair-trade. Photo: Paul Jeffries Courtesy/Act International.

* June 11-14, 2008 Individual Volunteers Training at Alton Collins Retreat Center in Oregon led by Nancy Eubanks. For more information contact Heather Wilson at sweetland5@hotmail.com or Nancy Eubanks at nteubanks@gmail.com, or Brenda St. Clair at jbbrndr@cableone.net.

* Primetimers offers educational and mission service experience for older adults. Exciting 5-10 day events offer opportunities for educational forums, cross-cultural exposure, faith-filled reflection, and greater exposure to the work of The United Methodist Church and the church universal. For more information please contact Kim Lehman at primetimers@gbgm-umc.org or (877) 882-4724. Photo: Primetimers at Gulfside Assembly - GBGM

*The 2004 General Conference ruled that each annual conference may set aside a Sunday to be declared Volunteers In Mission Awareness Day. For more information www.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mv/mission-teams-umvim/umvimsunday/.



Margery Hail Marshall © 2008

* UVMIM & The Advance for Christ and His Church (The Advance) are partners in mission!

Many of the UVMIM projects and sites that teams serve on receive support through The Advance designated giving program. This means that once you return from your time of service, you can often continue to financially support the project you served through The Advance, where 100% of your donation

goes to the project. For more information go to www.gbgm-umc.org/give/advance/.

*Long term response has begun in Lewis County, WA due to the flooding that took place back in early Winter. Please contact Ronda Cordill at R_Cordill@hotmail.com if you are interested in being part of this effort.

*June 15-19, 2008 is the TeachUM Conference with an "Emphasis on Cultural Sensitivity". It will be held at Marquette Park UMC in Gary, IN.



This conference is geared towards those in the educational profession who are interested in serving on mission teams as teachers! Please go to www.gbgm-umc.org/northcentralvim/teachum.html for more information. Photo: Courtesy North Central VIM.

*2007 proved to be an active year of service for UVMIM in the Western Jurisdiction! With our eight annual conferences there was a total of 274 teams (includes construction and medical teams), made up of 3,470 people, 16,223 work days, and contributions (volunteer work hours, team expenses, and supplies given) of \$2,897,896 serving in 34 countries and 41 states throughout the United States! Thank you to all our volunteers, hosts, and UVMIM Annual Conference Coordinators!

Highlight On an UMVIM Volunteer (Continued from Page 3)

arms for this child are the arms of Christ." – Rev. Tori Hicks

To read more stories from volunteers in the Western Jurisdiction please go to www.gbvm-umc.org/westervim/stories.htm.

* Please pray for all our volunteers:

Emergency Response/UMCOR
Global Justice Volunteers
Primetimers
NOMADS
Individual Volunteers
Ubuntu eXplorers
UMVIM Teams serving in the

U.S. & abroad



What, Why, & Where?

Your UMVIM Annual Conference Coordinators (UMVIM ACCs) are available to help you, your church, district, and conference to meet God's calling on your heart through volunteer service.

Alaska Missionary Conference
Lori Staats
400 W. 76th #307
Anchorage, AK 99518-2555
907-351-4498 cell
907-522-2579 home
staatslori@gmail.com

California-Nevada Conference
Sue King
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West Sacramento, CA 95798
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916-202-3879
suek@calnevumc.org

California-Pacific Conference
Rev. Thomas Hill
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Pasadena, CA 91102-6006
626-568-7357
thill@cal-pac.org
AND
Rev. Dave & Amie Horning
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Oxnard, CA 93036
805-981-2818
amdrhorn@aol.com

Desert Southwest Conference
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9090 E. Gray Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
Bryanrutha7@yahoo.com
AND
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bill@desertsw.org

Oregon-Idaho Conference
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509-235-5466 home
509-993-6753 cell
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Rocky Mountain Conference
Betsy Keyack
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Highlands Ranch, CO 80126
303-346-7057 home
303-905-7059 cell
bkeyack@att.net
AND
Ann Fort
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Centennial, CO 80112
303-220-0840 home
303-437-3183 cell
annfort8269@comcast.net

Yellowstone Conference
Elinor W. Edmunds
922 ½ 8th Ave.
Helena, MT 59601
406-465-8799 cell
elinorfromkabal@hotmail.com

Interim Western Jurisdiction
Coordinator
Heather Wilson
11707 Terra Bella St.
Lake View Terrace, CA 91342
818-834-5061 home
818-333-6730 cell
sweetland5@hotmail.com

Do you know
where your
Conference
Coordinator
is?



Let's Get Going! (Continued from page 1)

9) Nicaragua (Construction)
July 2008

Led by Bev Marler at
bkmarler@qwest.net (303)
422-3459 from Rocky
Mountain Conference.

10) Guatemala (Construction)
August 2-10, 2008

Led by Liz Foster at
LizfosterRemax@aol.com
from Rocky Mountain
Conference.

11) Guatemala (Construction)
August 2-10, 2008

Led by Sheila Russell at (307)
640-0486 from Rocky
Mountain Conference.

12) Guatemala (Medical)
August 29-September 7,
2008

Led by Dr. Dough Rowley.
Contact Ann Fort from Pacific
Northwest Annual
Conference at
annfort8269@comcast.net
for more information.

13) Puskin (Education/
Construction) September 15-
25, 2008

Led by Donna Ralston at
mngmntplus@qwest.net or
(303)220-9344 from Rocky
Mountain Conference.

14) New Mexico (Repair)
October 2008

Led by Marilyn Little at
Marilyn.Little@slcc.edu from
Rocky Mountain Conference.

15) Guatemala (Medical/
Building) November 2008

Led by Marilyn Little at
Marilyn.Little@slcc.edu from
Rocky Mountain Conference.

16) Tonga (Medical) May
2008

Contact Ronda Cordill at
r_cordill@hotmail.com for
more information from
Pacific Northwest Annual
Conference.

17) Mexico (Medical) May,
September, & November
2008

Serving in Agua Prieta,
Mexico. Contact Bryan Rutha
at bryanrutha7@yahoo.com
from Desert Southwest
Annual Conference.

18) Bolivia (Construction/
Connectional) June 7-21,
2008

Serving in Cotani, Bolivia.
Contact Sue King at suek@cal
-nevumc.org or 916-374-
1582 from California-Nevada
Conference.

19) Mississippi (Hurricane
Recovery) June 14-22, 2008

Serving in Iberville, MS.
Contact Sue King from
California-Nevada Conference
at suek@cal-nevumc.org.

20) Mexico (Construction/
Immersion) June 29, July 5,
2008

Serving in Pazacola, Mexico.
Contact Sue King from
California-Nevada Conference
for more information at
suek@calnevumc.org.

21) Guatemala (Medical) July
25 - August 3, 2008

Team to Coatepique,
Guatemala led by Doug &
Betsy McLeod at
MAC4160@comcast.net or
(925)212-7459 from
California-Nevada
Conference.

22) Bahamas (Construction)
July 28 - August 9, 2008

Please contact Sue King at
California-Nevada Conference
at suek@calnevumc.org for
more information.

*For a further listing of teams
leaving from the California-
Nevada Conference please go
to [http://
cnsite.brickriver.com/
page.asp?PKValue=1113](http://cnsite.brickriver.com/page.asp?PKValue=1113)

* For more information on
Future Teams please visit
www.umvim.info.

Helpful UMVIM Websites

Helpful UMVIM/Mission Websites and Links:

- * www.umvim.info
- * www.gbgbm-umc.org
- * www.gbgbm-umc.org/about/us/mv/mission-teams-umvim/
- * www.umcor.org
- * www.umc.org
- * www.umvim4health.blogspot.com
- * www.gbgbm-umc.org/westernvim/