

The UMVIM Traveler



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UMVIM, WJ

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UMVIM Highlight: ZIMBABWE – TEAMS NEEDED AND WELCOME

Zimbabwe is in the midst of a dire humanitarian crisis due to civil and political turmoil. In such times, many who feel led to go and serve there wonder if it safe. The Western Jurisdiction United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) encourages volunteers to go and serve the people of Zimbabwe who are in need. There are several UMVIM sites that are welcoming volunteer teams including Africa University. The Cal-Nevada Conference is sending a Young Adult team to serve at Africa University this year and more teams from around the jurisdiction and country are welcome.

United Methodist Church in Mansfield, TX and a program of the North Carolina Annual Conference.

While nearly all public hospitals have been shuttered and the doctors are on strike, Nyadire and Old Mutare and Mutambara United Methodist hospitals continue to treat patients as they are able.

A cholera epidemic broke out as the people of Zimbabwe were burdened by an inflation rate of two million per cent caused by a political system in chaos.

"The humanitarian needs in Zimbabwe are almost beyond description," Sam Dixon, head of UMCOR, said. "The church there is attempting to respond but all institutions find themselves overwhelmed."

Most hospitals in Zimbabwe are without even the most basic supplies and many of the country's doctors are on strike. At great personal cost, United Methodist hospital staff members continue to help people with the supplies at hand.

UMCOR is helping them to stay open by providing additional support for salaries, food and fuel as well as sending medical supplies. An emergency shipment of cholera kits has already been received by the hospitals. These additional medicines will allow them to treat many thousands more people.



REUTERS/Philimon Bulawayo
Courtesy alertnet.org

Photo: Children walk past house in Hatcliff, Courtesy, UMCOR.

United Methodist health facilities in Zimbabwe remain open in the face of the country's burgeoning health and economic crises, and their capacity to treat persons with cholera is increased by generous donations from First



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UMMIVM Mission News, Training & Events

⌘ FLOOD RECOVERY EFFORTS, PACIFIC NORTHWEST



UMMIVM teams from around the Western Jurisdiction will be needed to help with flood recovery efforts in the Washington state area of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference (PNW) due to the severe storms in January 2009 and past storms during the winter of 2007. Please contact PNW Conference UMMIVM Coordinator, Ronda Cordill for more information at R_Cordill@Hotmail.com or 509-993-6753. Your financial donations are needed and can be sent to: Pacific Northwest Annual Conference Treasurer, PO Box 13650, Des Moines, WA 98198, designated for "PNW Disasters Response".

Photo: Roads flooded, courtesy daylife.com

⌘ UMCOR IS CONTRIBUTING TO HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS IN THE GAZA STRIP

through multiple partner agencies working in the region. The complex issues surrounding the situation in Gaza are compounded by limited access to areas most affected by the conflict. UMCOR is working with partners, including Action by Churches Together (ACT), to overcome these obstacles to reach survivors with tangible assistance. Give to Middle East Emergency, UMCOR Advance #601740 to support UMCOR's efforts to bring humanitarian assistance to Gaza by visiting www.umcor.org. Photo: Family in cart, courtesy UMCOR.



⌘ UMMIVM TEAMS ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED IN NEPAL



to help build churches. The UMC is growing in Nepal and the people worship in a variety of settings. They'd love to start building actual churches for worship, alongside volunteers from the USA. If you feel called to participate in this partnership for peace, contact Kurt/Jan Kaiser at love2trvl@imbris.com and PNW UMMIVM Conference Coordinator Ronda Cordill at R_Cordill@hotmail.com. We do need some skilled construction workers, along with lots of helping hands, warm smiles, and willing hearts! Photo: Nepalese women, courtesy travelblog.org

⌘ DSO TRAINING - Designated Safety Officer (DSO)- The Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church values the safety of our children, youth and vulnerable adults. In response to that concern our churches have developed Safe Church Policies and procedures. Designated Safety Officers are individuals with particular responsibilities to help ensure those policies are reasonably in place at our churches and events. DSO Trainings are being offered on the following dates in the following locations. January 31, cost \$10, place Edmonds UMC, 1pm (no meal), March 7, cost \$10, place Seattle/Tacoma district training event. (no meal) If you are interested in exploring this additional training; or if you would like to know a little more, please contact Sharon Meeds for more info or a registration form. phone: 1-800-755-7710 or camping@pnwumc.org



⌘ THE BOULDER CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CONFERENCE IS ORGANIZING A UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION (UMVIM) TEAM TO TRAVEL TO SWAZILAND IN JULY, 2009.

The team will work with Bulembu Ministries Swaziland (BMS), located in the town of Bulembu, which provides refuge and hope by feeding the hungry, rescuing abandoned babies, renovating foster homes for homeless orphans, providing jobs, and restoring dignity. Its goal is to nurture healthy individuals and families, to educate and equip leaders within Swaziland, and to create a vibrant, self-sustaining community.

The team will be led by Becky Perry, a trained UMMIVM team leader, lay

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leader at Boulder Creek UMC, 2008 Conference Lay Minister (CLayM) training graduate, and experienced traveler—who visited Bulembu in May of this year.

You are invited to be a part of this incredible UMVIM opportunity. Team meetings will begin in January: contact Becky at perry95006@yahoo.com for more information and your UMVIM Conference Coordinator. (Photo: Children of Swaziland, courtesy www.calnevumc.org).



PLEASE SEE WWW.UMVIMWJ.COM for a listing of where future UMVIM teams are planning to serve as well as find UMVIM sites that are requesting volunteers.

IF YOU ARE GOING ON AN UMVIM TRIP THAT WILL FOCUS ON CONSTRUCTION and repair of church buildings then check out <http://carperterbooks.com> to read free safety and procedure articles that will help you and your team receive some background in church carpentry.

ARE YOU A YOUNG ADULT WITH A PASSION FOR SERVICE AND YOUTH MINISTRY? Do you want to spend the summer with other young adults with those same passions, working hard and humbly serving others for God? Then Sierra Service Project (SSP), an UMVIM approved ministry, is the more than just a summer job for you! The life of an SSP staffer is along side each other for nine challenging and rewarding weeks. Positions are available in program planning, construction and cooking. In addition to job specific tasks, staffers take on the role of spiritual mentor to the hundreds of youth who attend SSP every summer. SSP works on five reservations in the Western US, South Los Angeles, and Tijuana, Mexico. Please visit the SSP website for more details and application instructions. Applications for new applicants are due February 15. Don't hesitate to call the office with any questions, (916) 488-6441.



For other
volunteer
opportunities,
please visit
www.umvimwj.com

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT'S (SSP) COMMUNITY WORK DAY at the Vermont Square United Methodist Church in South Los Angeles. Vermont Square is the site of SSP's summer Urban Project. Participants will do a variety of clean-up, repair work and painting at the Vermont Square United Methodist Church and at a house owned by the church in the neighborhood. The house will eventually be rented to a non-profit community organization aimed at helping South LA youth. The work day is Saturday, March 14 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, lunch included. A permission slip is required for volunteers under 18. Please visit the SSP website for details and to download a permission slip. RSVP required.



PLEASE COME TO THE CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC (CAL-PAC) CONFERENCE MISSION FESTIVAL to hear from UMVIM volunteers, Global Ministries missionaries, and others. There will be great music, food, workshops, worship, and panel discussions. It will be held March 21, 2009 at Hacienda Heights UMC from 8:30-3:00 pm. Please contact Thomas Hill at thill@cal-pac.org or 626-568-7357 for more info.



HAVE A PASSION AND CALLING FOR RUSSIA? The Russian Initiative in 2009 will be held in the Cal-Pac Conference at the Marriot San Diego Mission Valley Hotel March 5-7th. Please contact Janis Lilly, Registrar, at 212-870-3837 for more information about this exciting event.



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IF YOU SERVE IN THE AREA OF DISASTER RESPONSE AND/OR UMVIM then you are invited at your own expense to the Latin America and the Caribbean UMVIM/UMCOR Disaster Response Consultation hosted by the Methodist Church of Mexico in collaboration with the Council of Evangelical Methodist Churches of Latin America (CIEMAL) and the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA). It will be on Tuesday March 24-Friday March 27 at the Metropol Hotel in Mexico City. Please contact Heather Wilson at umvimwj@hotmail.com for more information and registration materials. Photo: Members of CIEMAL and MCCA, courtesy GBGM



TEAM LEADER TRAINING will be held February 21, 2009 at Epworth UMC in Berkeley, CA from 9:00 to 3:30 pm. Please contact Cal-Nevada UMVIM Conference Coordinator, Sue King, at suek@calnevumc.org or at 916-374-1582.

IF YOU ARE AN OLDER ADULT THAT LONGS TO SERVE IN MISSION THEN PRIMETIMERS is for you. Primetimers is an educational and Mission Service Experience that brings older adults from all over the country together through different mission experiences. There are several events throughout 2009 where you can serve in Colorado, Alaska, Kentucky, Oregon, Louisiana, and Cambodia. Please contact Nancy Eubanks for more information at nteubanks@gmail.com or www.umvimwj@hotmail.com to read more about the exciting opportunities in 2009. Photo: Primetimers group, courtesy gbgm.org.



PARTNERS IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE 2009

April 14-15, 2009
Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center.
www.partnersinemergencypreparedness.com
Scholarships available.

THE ADVANCE FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH (THE ADVANCE) - A WAY TO CONTINUE RELATIONSHIP WITH UMVIM MINISTRIES



Many of the UMVIM sites where teams go and serve at are also General Advance Specials. The Advance is a program whereby you and your church can give financial support to the site you volunteered at. 100% of your donation will be received and it is a wonderful way to remain in relationship with those you worked with and met during your UMVIM service. Please visit the Advance website at www.gbgm-umc.org/Advance/ to see if your UMVIM site is also an Advance Special that can be supported through this life-giving ministry.

"Almost a thousand projects and programs in 100 countries are included in the new Giving Resource Guide from The Advance, the United Methodist designated mission giving channel. Subtitled Strength in Numbers, the 111-page guide, a magazine-style catalogue, lists approved recipients for the quadrennium, or four-year period, from 2009-2012. It also contains other information on mission support, such as how congregations can enter into Covenant Relationships with missionaries.



Some \$39 million is given in a typical year through The Advance for a wide range of mission projects, missionary support, disaster relief, and humanitarian service. Funds for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) go through The Advance, officially, "The Advance for Christ and His Church." One hundred percent of every Advance gift goes to the ministry designated by the donor. No administrative costs are taken from the contributions.

Copies of the guide were mailed in January to all bishops, pastors, associate pastors, diaconal ministers, and a wide range of annual conference officers and staff members. Other mailings are planned.

Persons needing the print guide for their work on congregation, conference, or institutional levels may obtain single copies through United Methodist Communications or by calling Cokesbury at 800-672-1789.

The grace or love
of God, whence
cometh our
salvation, is FREE
IN ALL, and FREE
FOR ALL.
-John Wesley

Conference Coordinators

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

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“Do all the good
you can,
By all the means
you can,
In all the ways
you can,
In all the
places you can,
At all the times
you can,
To all the
people you can,
As long as ever
you can.”
-John Wesley

UMVIM Highlight: ZIMBABWE – TEAMS NEEDED AND WELCOME (continued from page 1)

In addition to cholera medicines, 35 Medicine Boxes are also en route. They contain medicines and supplies for basic primary care. Each box has sufficient supplies to treat a community of 1,000 for basic illnesses and injuries for three months.

In addition to serving as a volunteer there you and your church can help the United Methodist Church through UMCOR that is implementing immediate and long-term projects that will provide food and water for thousands of people. Financial gifts will support these efforts. Please give to Zimbabwe Emergency, UMCOR Advance #199456 to support the general response. You can also give gifts to Hospital Revitalization, UMCOR Advance #982168 that will specifically support United Methodist hospitals.

You may give financial donations by phone via credit card by calling 888-252-6174 or by sending your check to Advance GCFA, PO Box 9068, GPO, New York, NY 10087-9068, or online by visiting www.umcor.org. You can also give your gift through your local church by putting your check made out to your local church in the offering plate with the UMCOR Advance # on your check's memo section.

Helpful UMVIM Websites

- www.umvim.info
- www.umvimwj.com
- www.gbgm-umc.org
- www.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mv/mission-teams-umvim/
- www.umcor.org
- www.umc.org
- www.umvim4health.blogspot.com
- www.gbgm-umc.org/westernvim/
- www.pnwumc.org/missions
- www.umvim.org/home.htm
- www.inmissiontogether.com
- pastor@crossinthedesert.org – Email for Mel Munchinsky In Mission Together Advocate or phone at 480-969-5577.
- www.umvim4health.blogspot.com

How To Support UMVIM in the Western Jurisdiction

Advance #901463-3 UMVIM Western Jurisdiction

By contributing to Advance #901463-3 you will be supporting the United Methodist Volunteers In Mission Western Jurisdiction office which provides guidance, training, education, cultivation and placement for short-term mission volunteers in the western jurisdiction through the 8 conferences (Alaska Missionary, California-Nevada, California-Pacific, Desert Southwest, Oregon-Idaho, Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountain, Yellowstone)

You can send your contributions through your local church treasurer, or directly to the jurisdictional office, or to the national office in NYC (General Board of Global Ministries, Mission Volunteers, 475 Riverside

Drive, NYC, NY 10115) ** Please be sure your check is clearly marked "Advance #901463-3 UMVIM WJ".

To make credit card donations, call 800-554-8583 and specify Advance number #901463-3, UMVIM WJ.



**Thank you for
your
support!**