

# The UMVIM Traveler



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UMVIM, WJ

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## UMVIM Highlight: So We Planted a Garden

By Ann Fort

The Rocky Mountain Conference has been sending work teams to Meru, Kenya for the past 15 years. They first worked at the Kenya Methodist University but now work in the community. With the help of a local Rotary Club, one of the projects has been getting clean water to a community of approximately 2000 people.

The team this year was influenced by the book written by Dr. Don Messer, Sen. Bob Dole and Sen. George McGovern - Ending Hunger Now. It suggests how this can be solved in America and also in developing countries. In an area like Meru, it suggests planting a garden by a village school. The children are hungry and they will come for food and find learning a pleasure.



Kenyan Farmers

The Rocky Mountain Mission Team found a school in the outskirts of Meru but they did much more than plant a garden. They turned a lightless, drab, unfinished and unpainted classroom into a brightly painted room with lights, bookshelves, desks, chairs and television. They renovated the school kitchen by building a new stone stove with pipe to carry the smoke outside;

built shelves for the pots and pans and a table on which the cook could work.

A Wellness Clinic was held for students and community and approximately 450 patients were ministered to. Environmental classes were held showing students how to keep their school and community free of litter. And purified water was installed at the school.

The garden was planted under the direction of a team from Nairobi whose findings show that a 4'x10' garden, properly planted, can feed a family for a year. Children, parents and the community were invited. Instructions were also given in preserving the food.

So we planted a garden  
By a village school.

The community came  
The children watched.

The seeds were there and water too  
The Instructor showed us what to do.

He dug a plot -  
The people asked "You digging a grave?"

He answered YES - we're burying  
hunger and poverty.

And that's why we planted a Garden  
By a village school.

Photo from [farmafrica.org](http://farmafrica.org)



children in action!

## UMMVM Mission News, Training & Events

### WANT TO GO ON A MEDICAL MISSION TO THE PHILIPPINES?

Philippines May 28-June 10, 2009. Sponsored by East UMC Colorado Springs. Medical mission and painting of high school classrooms. Please contact Rocky Mountain Conference UMMVM Coordinators, Betsy Keyack and Ann Fort at



bkeyack@att.net and annfort8269@comcast.net and team leader Liwliwa Robledo at liwliwa\_robledo@yahoo.com Thanks. Pastor - Rev Ramon V Robledo 1505 E

Monument St, Colorado Springs, CO 80909, Phone 719 634-2801. E-mail Address: eastumc@juno.com Church Website: <http://www.gbmg-umc.org/eastumc-cos/>. Photo: Courtesy wowphilippines.com

### URGENT NEED FOR

**VOLUNTEERS:** With winter right around the corner, the need to insulate homes affected by the December 2007 flood is **critical!** Families struggling with recovery are low on funds for essentials like food and heat. Without insulation, high heating costs will be too much for some to bear. Many have the materials on hand, but are unable to install it themselves. Other work is also needed, such as painting, building porches, and installing skirting on mobile homes.

As an UMCOR-funded case worker based out of the Rochester United Methodist Church, it has been a wonderful blessing to watch lives change through the work of the many United Methodist volunteer teams. Please help this work continue by:

- Volunteering with an UMMVM team
- Providing donations to help with flood recovery
- Contacting Ronda Cordill, Conference UMMVM Coordinator at [r\\_cordill@hotmail.com](mailto:r_cordill@hotmail.com) or Brett DeMond, case worker at [livingart@centurytel.net](mailto:livingart@centurytel.net) for more information.

### YELLOWSTONE ANNUAL CONFERENCE HAS A NEW UMMVM CONFERENCE COORDINATOR!

We welcome Sally McConnell! Sally's email is [sbmccconnell06@gmail.com](mailto:sbmccconnell06@gmail.com) and her address is 123 W. Curtiss, Bozeman, MT 59715. Her phone is 406-522-9694. We also lift up and thank the previous Yellowstone UMMVM Coordinator, Elinor Edmunds for all her amazing work and support of UMMVM

### REV. ALEX & BRENDA AWAD, GLOBAL MINISTRIES MISSIONARIES

in Israel-Palestine will be coming to the US in December to share about their work in this conflict area. Please contact Janet Lahr Lews at [jllewis@annadwa.org](mailto:jllewis@annadwa.org) to see which area

near you they plan on visiting while in the US. Photo: Alex & Brenda Awad - courtesy [gbgm-umc.org](http://gbgm-umc.org).



### UMMVM TEAM LEADER TRAININGS - PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE:

There were two UMMVM Team Leader Trainings this fall at the following locations: Westside: September 20th at Blaine Memorial UMC; 3001 24th Ave S., Seattle from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Eastside: October 4th in Coeur d'Alene at the Community UM Church from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The trainings were about 4 hours with the cost of \$25 which included the manual and is required for all those who are planning to lead a mission team from the Pacific Northwest Conference in the near future. We are looking at dates in early Spring (March) if you are considering a trip in the summer of 2009. To register or have questions please contact UMMVM Pacific Northwest Conference Coordinator Ronda Cordill at [r\\_cordill@hotmail.com](mailto:r_cordill@hotmail.com) or (509) 235-5466 (home) or (509) 993-6753 (cell)

### LOUISIANA NEEDS

**TEAMS!** Louisiana Disaster Recovery has significant needs for all forms of recovery teams. We have areas were ERT are still needed. Homes still have trees in them, needs for tarps, mucking out and evaluative and assessment needs from Gustav and Ike. Long term recovery

teams are still needed in the New Orleans and Lake Charles areas from Katrina and Rita.

Revisions are currently being made in the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Katrina/Rita response to extend to Gustav and Ike responses. The New Orleans recovery stations will phase out in 20 months. The Abbeville station will remain open due to new damage assessments from this years storms and the Lake Charles station extended. Damage from Gustav and Ike is heaviest along the coast and

For other volunteer opportunities, please visit [www.umvimwj.com](http://www.umvimwj.com)

## UMVIM Mission News, Training & Events (cont. from p. 2)

inland for up to 75 miles from Houma to the Texas/Louisiana state line. Several towns in this area are just now experiencing the retreat of storm surge and flood waters which covered the entire incorporated area. Damage (wind and flooding) from Gustav heavily effected the Baton Rouge to Alexandria areas.

Team leaders should contact their Annual Conference UMVIM Coordinators who will work with Rev. Yvonne Dayries, Louisiana Disaster Recovery, 225.346.5193, or registering on the Louisiana Conference web site: <http://la-umc.org/>. Follow the prompts to registration forms. The web site also includes a number of photos and updates on the effected areas. Photo: Courtesy [latimes.blog.latimes.com](http://latimes.blog.latimes.com)

### TEXAS EARLY RESPONSE

**TEAMS:** Texas Annual Conference is accepting recovery trained Early Response teams for some of the more devastated areas, but they are also accepting long term clean-up teams for those areas that are ready now. Teams can stay in various churches and need to be semi- self-sufficient. The area does have gas now, and stores are open in most areas so teams can buy food products. It will depend on the area they go to. Galveston Island is to be open next week for clean up teams, but only Early Response will be allowed there. Surfside and Freeport are in desperate need of muck out teams and debris removal.



Teams must contact their Annual Conference UMVIM Coordinator and register online, [www.txcumc.org](http://www.txcumc.org), and will receive a call or e-mail back within 24-48 hours. Teams can also call directly to the Rita Recovery phone number 409.892.0140 as they are back in business, but they need to call there only if they want to work in that area. If they want to work the coastal area, they need to go through the registration system. Photo: Courtesy [misnandryreview.com](http://misnandryreview.com)

### CAL-NEVADA UMVIM



**TEAMS:** Please visit the UMVIM Cal-

Nevada Conference Website to see a listing of UMVIM teams scheduled to go and serve. Go to <http://cnsite.brickriver.com/page.asp?PKValue=1113> or contact Sue King at [suek@calnevumc.org](mailto:suek@calnevumc.org).

### VOLUNTEER NEEDED IN GEORGIA

The survivors of the Mother's Day tornadoes in Macon/Bibb County, GA are ready to finish rebuilding their homes and lives. However, many still have unmet needs and have run out of resources. An UMCOR guided Long Term Recovery Committee is functioning and located in the recently closed Aldersgate

United Methodist Church in the Bloomfield area of Macon. UMCOR trained Case Managers are seeing clients, homes have been approved, funding is available to provide for supplies and **UMVIM TEAMS ARE NEEDED !!**

There is still a lot of chain saw work and debris removal to be done.



Two elderly families need roofs; other families need sheetrock work, gutters and awnings replaced and soffits repaired. More applications are being received daily for assistance with unmet needs.

If your church can form a team or have individuals able to donate time and talents, please contact your Annual Conference UMVIM Coordinator and Judy Sexton, Case Management Supervisor at (478) 297-5507. Housing and meals will be arranged for teams who can come for several days. Please lend your support and blessings to help families who have lost much to be able to recover and rebuild their homes and their lives. Photo: Courtesy [visre.com](http://visre.com)

### THE DESERT

#### SOUTHWEST WELCOMES A NEW UMVIM CONFERENCE COORDINATOR!

We welcome Dr. Ken Williamson who will be working with Bill Sanford in the Desert Southwest. You can reach Dr. Williamson at 480-286-9931.

When I was young  
I was sure of  
everything; in a  
few years, having  
been mistaken a  
thousand times, I  
was not half so  
sure of most  
things as I was  
before; at  
present, I am  
hardly sure of  
anything but what  
God has revealed  
to me.

-John Wesley

## UMMIM Mission News, Training & Events (cont. from p. 3)

**HURRICANES 2008:** In the week after Hurricane Ike hit Texas and the Gulf Coast areas, Texas Annual Conference Bishop Janie Riggle Huie, UMMCOR executive Sandra Kennedy-Owes, and conference staff visited numerous churches to assess damages, encourage church members and offer immediate help.

"There has been tremendous loss here," said Huie. "Millions need help, especially the most vulnerable." The Texas Conference will evaluate options for expanding the Rita Recovery office in Beaumont and establishing a new presence in the Houston area to serve Ike survivors and help in rebuilding and recovery.

Many in Texas are still without power and lack the basic supplies to proceed in recovery. Help affected UMM churches rebuild so that they can better serve the people most in need in their communities. You can send gifts for much-needed relief supplies or give to Hurricanes 2008, UMMCOR Advance #3019695. Photo: Texas Conference Bishop Janice Huie greets worshippers outside Alexander Chapel at Cedar Bayou UMC, Baytown, Texas. Susan J. Meister/UMM



**UMM COR SAGER BROWN:**

Staff and volunteers at UMMCOR Sager Brown, the relief supply warehouse in Baldwin, La., have been busy preparing and shipping relief supplies in response to recent hurricanes. Trailers and truckloads of flood buckets, health kits and generators were sent to several locations in Texas and Louisiana for distribution to families affected by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

A total of 9,882 flood buckets have been sent out from Sager Brown Depot, MERCI Mission Center, NC and Midwest Mission Distribution Center, Ill. Nearly 3,000 health kits were sent to five locations in Louisiana and 4,000 flood buckets were sent to eight other locations. Incoming shipments of relief supplies will go to the Texas Annual Conference to support their needs. The Midwest Distribution Warehouse also delivered 1,000 flood buckets to assist Northern Indiana where UMMCOR has responded with an emergency grant to help in recovery, as well as anticipates providing case management training. There is an urgency to replenish flood bucket supplies at UMMCOR Sager Brown and other warehouse locations. You can view a list of the flood bucket contents here. Please also send gifts to Material Resources, UMMCOR Advance 901440 Photo: Ronda Trahan, case manager at the Abbeville station, helps unload flood buckets delivered from UMMCOR Sager Brown. Susan J. Meister/UMM



**CUBA UMM COR CANNOT**

HELP CUBA with funds because UMMCOR and most other church-related humanitarian organizations based in the US are prohibited by federal law from transferring to Cuba the funds that could assist survivors of disasters. This began in 2006 for the General Board of Global Ministries, UMMCOR's parent agency, when the federal government failed to renew its license to send funds to Cuba.

Methodists in Cuba have responded to the damage done by hurricanes, although they are severely limited in their financial capacity. Reports on this work of the Methodist Church of Cuba can be found in Spanish and English on the church's internet site at <http://imecu.org/index.php>.

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

**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**  
P.O. Box 908250  
West Sacramento, CA 95798  
1276 Halyard Dr., West Sacramento, CA 95691  
916-374-1582 office  
916-202-3879  
suek@calnevumc.org

### California-Pacific Conference

**Rev. Thomas Hill**  
P.O. Box 6006  
Pasadena, CA 91102-6006  
626-568-7357  
thill@cal-pac.org

AND

### Rev. Dave & Amie Horning

2533 Meadow Trail  
Oxnard, CA 93036  
805-981-2818  
amdrhorn@aol.com

### Desert Southwest Conference

**Bill Sanford**  
1550 E. Meadowbrook  
Phoenix, AZ 85014-4040  
bill@desertsw.org

AND

### Dr. Ken Morrison

Via De Cristo United  
Methodist Fellowship  
7950 E. Refield Rd., Suite 260  
Scottsdale, CA 85260  
480-286-9931  
drkenmorrison@yahoo.com

### Oregon-Idaho Conference

**Brenda St. Clair**  
3836 Heartland Circle  
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### Pacific Northwest Conference

**Ronda Cordill**  
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509-993-6753 cell  
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### Rocky Mountain Conference

**Betsy Keyack**  
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303-905-7059 cell  
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AND

### Ann Fort

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### Yellowstone Conference

**Sally McConnell**  
123 W. Curtiss  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
406-522-9694 home  
sbmcconnell06@gmail.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 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 Making a Difference: Cuba

by Pam Buzbee

I met Chelsea during our mission trip to Mountain TOP in Tennessee. Mountain TOP is an organization that helps people who are very poor and have no way to afford housing reconstruction or renovations.



Chelsea is nine years old, the big sister to an eight-year-old brother. Chelsea and her brother have been sharing a 7' x 12' room all their lives, sleeping in bunk beds. Through the work of people before us, an addition has been added to the

side of their house creating two small bedrooms for Chelsea and her brother. One of our jobs at Chelsea's house was to hang the dry-wall in the children's bedrooms. For whatever reason, her brother's was done first. But Chelsea didn't say a word.

However, the second day, when we started putting the drywall up in her bedroom, she came in and very shyly asked if she could help. She was so excited that her room was nearing the stage of completion, telling me that she wanted to paint her room light purple and decorate it like a girl's room.

During our time in her home, Chelsea gathered walnuts and sat on a concrete pad in her yard, breaking them open with a hammer. She'd use a nail she found

on the ground to pick out the tiny pieces of nut meat and place them in a little plastic toy dish. When she'd laboriously gathered a couple tablespoonfuls of chips of walnut, she would go around to each of us asking if we'd like some nuts. Most people said "no thank you," but I realized Chelsea wanted to give us something, and I trusted that God would protect me from any germs that might have been on her hands or on the nail. I ate some of Chelsea's gift, and I was blessed. I will always remember Chelsea.

I have been given the gift of Jesus Christ, the love and fellowship of a family and a church community, and more blessings than I can count. Do I serve others because I "owe" that back to God? I don't see it that way.

The gratitude I feel for what I've been given is why I give of myself: not because I "should," but because I can't help but express my gratitude through doing.

Ask anyone who has ever participated in a mission project of any kind if they would do it again, and the answer is always yes. My prayer for you is that you will give yourself the same gift of joy in being the hands and feet of Christ in a world that needs to know about him. As my favorite saying says, "Preach the gospel at all times; use words if necessary."

*Photo: Chelsea courtesy Pam Buzbee*

To help volunteers continue living stories like these, donate to UVMIM.

## The UMVIM Story

The missionary movement of which UMVIM is only a recent development is as old as the Christian Church. Indeed, we can even think of Saint Paul not only as the first missionary but also as the first volunteer in mission. In the Acts of the Apostles, he speaks of himself as earning enough for himself and his companions. He was not sent by a mission board with full support, but went in response to God's call and provided for his own needs as do today's volunteers in mission.

In a previous generation, the caravan movement, work camps, and other "person to person" programs which caught the imagination of youth were similar in approach and had wide influence for many in our church. UMVIM is a continuation of that tradition. It has reaffirmed the conviction that all of the people of God ought to be involved in mission, a conviction that has been dormant in recent decades.

In the late 1960's and early 1970's, a handful of determined lay people and clergy in the Southeastern kept faithful to their desire for this personal experience in mission despite the lack of an official channel open to them. An ad hoc committee was formed which petitioned the General Board of Global Ministries to make available to them a missionary couple on furlough to serve as coordinators of the movement. This was first attempted in 1975 but was short lived. Another effort was made in 1976 when a missionary couple began the office which was still limited to a part-time arrangement. By 1979, the Southeastern Jurisdiction UMVIM leaders took full responsibility for the ministry and operation of the office with full time personnel.

The continued growth of the movement led the Southeastern Jurisdiction UMVIM committees to petition the General conference for action to affirm this movement as a valid form of mission and this was done. The General Board of Global Ministries was instructed to become involved and help with the development. As this was being done, other jurisdictions began to open their offices as well.

Not only has this movement spread across the United States, but other countries also have adapted this concept to their own mission program. In the Philippines, the United Methodist Church uses basically the same approach and logo, and the Methodist Church in South Africa has recently organized SAMVIM. Elsewhere the practice is essentially the same as neighbor helps neighbor. Thus, we have seen that this basic form of Christian missionary service knows no barriers nor boundaries, as it remains faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The purpose of this movement is to provide a readily available and official channel in the United Methodist Church to which our members, both lay and clergy, can quickly turn for help in offering their time and talents here at home, and around the world. Potential volunteers, whether mission teams or individuals, need prompt help in identifying suitable places of service. UMVIM leaders seek to be informed as to where, how, and when volunteers may be placed in mission locations. It is clear that international church leaders and national mission agencies in this country are eager to learn of and use many potential volunteers.

UMVIM is in a position to give careful counsel to the hundreds of groups and thousands of individuals as to the proper use of their commitment to volunteer service. On-going contacts are maintained with mission leaders around the world through frequent consultations. This information can be shared with aspiring volunteers without their having to search out where and how they might serve.

<http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/msumvim/history.html>

## Helpful UMVIM Websites

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