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Instant Connection

California-Nevada Annual Conference



July 22, 2010

Location Change for Bishop Dew Memorial Service

The location of the Memorial Service for Bishop William W. ("Bill") Dew, Jr. has been changed, based on seating and facility concerns. The service now will take place at First United Methodist Church of Loomis, 6414 Brace Road, Loomis, CA 95650 on Saturday, August 7 at 11 a.m.

FUMC of Loomis is less than 30 minutes east of the Sacramento International Airport, with accessible parking and seating.

Bishop Dew died suddenly on July 14 at his home in Elk Grove, California.

Memorial fund

In memory of her husband, Mitzie Dew wishes to establish *The Bill Dew Table Fund* to support the multiplication of new United Methodist faith communities based on the model of The Table – the church start in Sacramento where their daughter, the Rev. Linda Dew-Hiersoux, serves as one of the pastors. As "The Great Commandment and the Great Commission were at the heart of Bishop Dew's life and ministry, *The Bill Dew Table Fund* will nurture and support the growth of new Wesleyan churches," according to a statement released through The Table.

Please make checks payable to "Bill Dew Table Fund" and mail to: The Table, c/o Central UMC, 5265 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95819.

Gifts may be made on line at www.thetableumc.org.

Future Leaders of United Methodist Church Convene in Berlin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. | GBOD - The future of The United Methodist Church is being represented in Berlin, Germany, this month as the Global Young People's Convocation and Legislative Assembly brings together young United Methodists from around the world to share their life experiences, struggles, gifts and realities.

About 350 youth and young people representing 32 countries – from Angola to Zimbabwe –registered for the July 21-26 event, which is sponsored by Young



People's Ministries, a division of The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church.

The delegates currently are in legislative sessions.

"This event is occurring at a crucial time in the life of our church," says the Rev. Michael Ratliff, associate general secretary of Young People's Ministries. "Young church leaders from around the globe will gather to discuss the future of our denomination. They have chosen to invest their time, energy and talent in influencing a new future for The United Methodist Church. What will transpire may have ramifications for us all."

The five-day event will include worship, Bible study and leadership development for the participants, who will come together to bridge the social, economical, religious, ethnic and political gaps and differences that often separate and divide them.

During the convocation, 144 young people and adults who are attending as voting delegates will convene a Legislative Assembly, which is designed to give young people a voice in the church through the legislative process.

Two young United Methodist leaders, from the Philippines and the United States, convened the assembly. Earlie Pasion, 24, former national president of the United Methodist Youth Fellowship in the Philippines, is now Publishing Coordinator of Discipleship Resources-Philippines for the Philippines Central Conference of the United Methodist Church, and attends Central United Methodist Church in Manila. Will Green, 22, a Master's of Divinity student at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, is a licensed local pastor at Granville Avenue UMC in Chicago.

United Methodist young people from throughout the world submitted legislative proposals to be discussed and debated at the Legislative Assembly. Legislation adopted by the assembly may be referred to the Young People's Ministries Division and sent directly to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2012, carrying the name "United Methodist Young People's Legislative Assembly."

Speakers at the convocation include:

- Bishop Linda Lee from the Wisconsin Annual Conference in the United States
- Rev. Sidney A. Cooper, chaplain and lecturer at Sierra Leone Theological College and Church Training Centre in Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa
- Reto Nägelin, a musician and leader of a youth service at Takano Fachstelle EMK (Evangelical Methodist Church) in Olten, Switzerland
- April Gonzaga-Mercado, a part-time graphics designer, event planner, and video editor in Manila who has been active in the youth and young adult ministries of the Philippines Annual Conference for years. (Her great-grandfather was the first Methodist convert in her hometown of Taytay, Rizal.)
- Rev. Pavel Serdyukov, a graduate the Russia United Methodist Theological Seminary and pastor of Perovo United Methodist Church in Moscow

More information about the convocation is available online at www.globalyoungpeople.org.

GBOD's mission is to support annual conference and local church leaders for their task of equipping world-changing disciples. An agency of The United Methodist Church, GBOD is located at 1908 Grand Ave. in Nashville, Tennessee. Visit www.gbod.org for more information.

'Pray 40,' Nationwide Campaign for College Students, Campus Ministries, Begins in August

A nationwide prayer campaign for college students and campus ministries, "Pray 40," begins August 23 when all United Methodists are being asked to pray for students and campus ministries for 40 days.

Some 17 million American students head to college and university campuses each fall, while millions more flood campuses worldwide. As they make decisions, learn, and are shaped into the next generation of teachers, accountants, mothers, fathers, doctors, CEOs, journalists, and ministers – among other career choices – shouldn't it be our prayer that they do so having been shaped by Christ?

The campaign will feature 40 prayers written by students, campus pastors, bishops, and church leaders from all over the nation – and includes two prayers from Wesley House and Campus Center at the University of California, Berkeley: one prayer by a United Methodist student at Cal-Berkeley, and the other prayer by Wesley's Campus Pastor, the Rev. Tarah Trueblood.

All of the prayers will be published by The Upper Room and made available in various ways.

The Pray 40 effort is a partnership between College Union, The Upper Room, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and the Foundation for Evangelism, with special thanks to United Methodist Communications.

Pray for the next generation of Christian leaders! Participate in Pray 40 through one (or more) of several ways. Among them are: receiving an email morning, noon, and evening with the prayer for the day; downloading and sharing a prayer guide; following the effort on Twitter or by text; signing up for a 24-hour period of continuous prayer; teaching about prayer.

In order to join this group of pray-ers, please check in regularly at www.Pray40.com. The website has some basic information now, but will officially launch on August 2. Please check back regularly and help spread the word about the upcoming prayer efforts for campus ministry.

Download [news release](#) (in PDF format) to find out more.

Conferences Feature Petitions, Push-Ups

A UMNS Report

By Linda Bloom*

When Bishop Jeremiah Park wanted to demonstrate the connection between spiritual and physical health to United Methodists in the New York metropolitan area, he took off his jacket.

Then he dropped to the stage and did 120 push-ups, as church members counted along. It was all part of the fun – and commitment – evident at the 2010 New York Annual (regional) Conference in June.

Each spring and summer, the U.S. conferences of The United Methodist Church meet to conduct business, pass petitions on social issues, install new clergy, and hold worship services. Moods range from sober to buoyant as delegates confront budget problems, ponder the future of the denomination and rejoice in the faith that makes it all worthwhile.

With several mergers, the number of conferences was reduced from 62 to 59 this year, but more people than ever were following the proceedings as numerous conferences took advantage of new technology to stream their sessions live over the Internet and posted news on Facebook and Twitter.

Some went even further. The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference offered interpretation in American Sign Language, assistive listening devices and on-screen transcription of the spoken word for deaf and hard-of-hearing people. A big-screen reader enhanced written materials for persons with visual disabilities.

Discussions and deeds

In a number of localities, discussions were punctuated with deeds.

More than 630 Indiana Conference delegates and guests donned bright orange "Practice Faith" T-shirts, for example, to mark their second annual Day of Outreach to Muncie, the meeting's host city. Joining 150 local volunteers, they sorted food, picked up trash, repaired homes, visited seniors, and performed other duties for the community at 30 locations.

North Georgia gathered more than 850 volunteers from the conference and surrounding community and packaged 200,230 dehydrated meals through Stop Hunger Now to be sent to feed school-age children in Nicaragua.

Many conferences had made generous contributions for Haiti earthquake relief throughout the year, and President Gesner Paul of the Methodist Church in Haiti visited some of them.

In Grand Rapids, Michigan, Paul thanked the West Michigan Conference for the more than \$614,000 donated so far, and blessed those participating in a six-day, 400-mile bike ride from the Indiana state line to the Mackinaw Bridge to raise more funds for Haiti.

Battling malaria in Africa has become a priority for many annual conferences, particularly through Nothing But Nets and the denomination's "Imagine No Malaria" campaign. Illinois Great River delegates approved a major fundraising campaign with the goal of raising between \$2.1 million and \$3.5 million for Imagine No Malaria.

The **California-Nevada Conference** replaced the bishop's annual reception with a basketball-themed fundraiser, "Slam Dunk Malaria," in which the youth delegation raised \$4,682 for Imagine No Malaria – \$1,040 of it through texting.

In Central Texas, Bishop J. Michael Lowry dressed in a mosquito costume to promote Imagine No Malaria. Besides raising about \$35,000 in an offering, conference members sold the pipe-cleaner mosquitoes that landed at their seats for another \$3,540 and pledged more than \$100,000 in an "A Pound-a-Weigh" weight loss project that ends in November.

Social issues

One of the top issues of social legislation was the call for comprehensive immigration reform. Supporters included the Iowa, Northern Illinois, Eastern Pennsylvania, New York, Central Texas, Rio Grande and North Carolina conferences.

Members of the Iowa Conference supported a resolution calling for "continuing intercessory prayer for comprehensive immigration reform ... that is fair and just."

Human sexuality is a perennial topic for resolutions at annual conference sessions. In Minnesota, delegates endorsed eight petitions that ask the 2012 General Conference, the denomination's top legislative body, to remove discriminatory language against homosexuality in *The Book of Discipline*.

Seven United Methodist gay and lesbian families shared their stories with delegates of the California-Pacific Conference. The speakers represented a range of ages and included married couples and longtime partners; clergy and laity; gay, straight and transgender; family members; men and women.

In the Baltimore-Washington Conference, delegates tabled four pieces of legislation on homosexuality and instead listened to a panel discussion on the topic, followed by small-group conversations. Western Pennsylvania agreed to have continuing dialogue on issues of homosexuality.

California-Nevada passed a resolution calling for local churches to become bases for "confronting unjust heterosexist structures." North Carolina approved a resolution on non-discrimination towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals. The Detroit Conference supported changing Michigan's Ethnic Intimidation Act to extend protections to people such as lesbian, gays, bisexual, and transgender persons who are victims of hate crimes and discrimination.

Tackling poverty

How to change the reality that nearly 2.5 million Floridians live below the federal poverty line was part of a larger discussion on global poverty during the Florida Annual Conference. Members also wrote letters to their U.S. Representatives, asking them to urge Congress to fully fund the international affairs budget, which provides funding for hunger, poverty, and disease prevention programs abroad.

Reacting to a state case, the Tennessee Conference affirmed the denomination's stance against the death penalty and called upon Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen to commute the death sentence of Gaile Owens. On July 14, the governor announced he was commuting the sentence of Owens, convicted in 1986 of accessory to the first-degree murder of her husband. She is now eligible for parole in late spring 2012.

Among other legislation:

- Minnesota denounced a 2010 U.S. Supreme Court decision that corporations' financial support of political candidates is a form of constitutionally protected free speech.
- **California-Nevada** supported a bill that would exclude offenders under the age of 18 from being sentenced to "life without possibility of parole" and approved a resolution supporting self-determination and independence for the people of East Turkistan.
- Rocky Mountain called for a February Valentine's emphasis on Global HIV/AIDS.
- New York supported a global health initiative for mothers and babies.
- Detroit and Northern Illinois called for the divestment of funds in companies that profit from the occupation of the Palestinian territories.
- Peninsula-Delaware voted to reach out more aggressively to people with disabilities and their families and caregivers, as well as persons with mental illness and their families.

- West Virginia called for a complete investigation into the April 5 explosion at the Mont-coal Mine in Raleigh County and recommended new legislation to be created as needed to protect miners.
- Western Pennsylvania urged action to remove barriers to safe, accessible, and affordable housing, and to repeal Pennsylvania's gaming laws and encourage abstention from gambling.
- Arkansas asked churches to evaluate their environmental impact and reduce their carbon footprints.

Bloom is a United Methodist News Service multimedia reporter based in New York.

Celebrating Vital Small Congregations

Kings Beach United Methodist Church and its pastor, the Rev. Kathryn Dunning, invite pastors and lay persons to celebrate and share the ministry of vital small congregations at a workshop at Lake Tahoe on Saturday, August 21, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Reverend Dunning and her husband Rob have recently returned from participating in the Summer Collegium, a Lily Endowment project in support of small congregations at Virginia Theological Seminary.

Small congregations make up the majority of churches in mainline denominations and can be places of great faith and vitality with unique missions and ministries. This workshop offers the opportunity to explore the ministry in small congregations - what they are about, and how they can be healthy and relevant and over lunch, you can share some of the unique ministries of your congregation with others.

Dr. Marilyn Johns, from Virginia Theological Seminary and Project Manager of the Summer Collegium, will facilitate the workshop. Dr. Johns is a Certified Christian Educator in the Presbyterian Church (USA), having earned her D.Min. in Ministry Development at Virginia Seminary, where she now serves as Adjunct Instructor. She has a deep love for small church life, extensive experience in strengthening church leadership through consultation and teamwork, and a commitment to ecumenical cooperation. She is a frequent preacher and a retreat and adult education leader in churches across the country.

The cost of this workshop is \$10 per person and includes lunch. To reserve your spot please register by phone (530.546.2290) or email kitdunning@hotmail.com.

Kings Beach UMC is located at 8425 Dolly Varden Ave., Kings Beach, CA.

Register by July 28 for Two-Part Transformational Leadership Course

The August Transformational Leadership course is fast approaching!

This two-part, midweek (Tuesday-Wednesday) course is open to clergy and laity. It will be hosted at Nevada City United Methodist Church August 3 and 4 and August 17 and 18.

The course will teach the fundamentals of transformational leadership and include practice in strategically using these principles with real-life case studies.

Transformational Leadership faculty/consultant Anne Dilenschneider, DMin., will be the instructor.

3.0 CEUs are available for clergy who attend.

The \$100 course fee includes all materials (book, spiritual disciplines binder, handouts, and more). Because of the time it takes to prepare the materials so that there are enough on hand for all participants, **registrations need to be made by July 28th**.

Please help spread the word! Download [brochure](#) (in PDF format) and [course description](#) (PDF) and forward to others who may be interested in taking the course.

Nevada City UMC is located at 433 Broad Street, Nevada City, CA 95959.

If you are unable to attend in August, the course will be offered again: at Fortuna UMC, October 15-16 and 29-30, and Stockton dates will be announced soon.

Moon Lecture Series Tickets Are Available Through St. Mark's UMC

St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sacramento will host an evening with author/activist Anne Lamott, Saturday, August 7 at 7:30 p.m., as part of its Moon Lecture Series.

Anne Lamott is the author of many best-selling fiction and non-fiction titles, such as *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*, and her latest, *Imperfect Birds*. She has just been inducted into the California State Hall of Fame.

Individual tickets are \$25 and are available at <http://www.stmarksumc.com/upcoming-moon>. Capacity is limited for this special event, so purchase your tickets early!

The complete Moon Lecture Series, subtitled "Changing the World Through the Eyes of Visionaries," also includes such notables as Father Gregory Boyle, founder of LA's Homeboy Industries; activist/author and Jesuit priest, Father John Dear; Twesigye Jackson Kaguri, who is the executive director of the Nyaka AIDS Orphan Project in Uganda; Dr. Arun Gandhi, grandson of the Mahatma; author and innovative Christian thinker Brian McLaren, generally regarded as the father of the "emergent" church movement; and Sister Helen Prejean, the true-life heroine of *Dead Man Walking*.

Tickets for the entire Moon Lecture Series are \$150 and can also be purchased on the church website.

St. Mark's UMC is located at 2391 St. Mark's Way, Sacramento, CA 95864.

Early Bird Pricing Is Available for September Church Leadership Conference in Atlanta

Everyone engaged in ministry – clergy and laity alike – needs good positive opportunities for continuing education, and in The United Methodist Church, clergy of course are *required* to earn CEU credits for regular continued education. The IN Conference from Leadership Nexus is a fantastic opportunity for both!

Take advantage of early bird pricing and sign up now for **The IN Conference** church leadership training, hosted at Dunwoody United Methodist Church, September 14-16.

Clergy can earn **2.0** Continuing Education Units, and an additional **.2** CEUs are available for attending a Pre-Conference workshop.

Speakers include: Coach Dan Reeves; Bishop Mike Watson; Dr. Jan Love, Dean of Candler School of Theology; Rev. Dan Kimball, pastor, leading author, and speaker for the Emerging Church; Bishop Larry Goodpaster, New Chair of the Council of Bishops; Rev. Tyrone Gordon; Dr. Wiley Stephens; Rev. Phil Schroeder; and Dr. Bob Pierson, Executive Director of Leadership Nexus.

In addition, there will be 50 different workshops. Topics include *Small Church Ministries, Large Church Ministries, Children, Youth, Involvement, Small Groups, Needs-based Evangelism, Worship Planning, Worship and the Arts, Emerging Church, Church Administration, Community Missions, and Travel to Israel*, among others.

The conference also includes a tour of some of the largest churches in Atlanta. There also will be four panel discussions, covering: *Best Practices, Emerging Church, Sages, and Best Ideas*.

The cost for all of this training is:

Early Bird (until August 14) - \$275
General Registration - \$290
Additional Members - \$250
Spouses - \$100

Limited 1/2 scholarships are available. [Email for details.](#)

Atlanta and the surrounding region offer much to enjoy. There is reasonable lodging, convenient public transportation, and shopping near the site of the conference. You are encouraged to attend the training and have your spouse accompany you to Atlanta this fall!

Visit [The IN Conference site](#) for more details and to [register](#).

Call 918.477.7549 with questions, or [email Dr. Pierson](#).

Worship Design Studio 'Sneak Peek' Available at Special Price

What if: eight weeks before each liturgical season, you could get help from a worship designer, biblical scholar, music director, and visual-design-and-media company to jump-start your planning process and invigorate and guide your team?

You can!

With your year-long subscription to The Worship Design studio, you become part of a "virtual" creative community, working on ideas for the liturgical year.

Marcia McFee, who designed and led worship for this year's California-Nevada Annual Conference Session, will guide your church's team in a planning process in advance of each season, helping launch your immersion in the season's history, imagery, musical repertoire, and texts.

You'll have access to PODcast interviews with nationally-recognized music, visual, media, and preaching artists, which you may download and listen to at your convenience.

You'll also have access to the Worship Design Studio social networking site, where you can connect with other churches, share themes, ideas, and resources, and post pictures and video clips of your worshipful work!

McFee says, "The Worship Design Studio online is my way of being your personal worship consultant. My job is to offer ideas and inspiration to help you do the important work of worship design that is 'meaningful and memorable.'"

If you haven't tried out this resource yet, get a taste this summer with a "sneak peek" at a special price.

For just \$50 the "Sneak Peek" Special offers access to all the Worship Design Studio materials for Summer and Fall:

- two PODcasts of ideas and inspiration from Marcia and her expert guests
- "More Resources" documents that include a "how to" for starting an arts series
- "Marcia's Doorways" of thematic and resource ideas for each month of Ordinary Time
- two video sessions of Marcia teaching, with discussion questions for team meetings
- helpful worksheets to streamline your planning process
- a BONUS podcast in the Summer Materials about visual arts in worship
- a DISCOUNT COUPON CODE to use when signing up for the 2010-2011 liturgical year!

To take advantage of the Sneak Peek Special, click on the link below to pay through the PayPal system. After paying you'll receive the URL to for Sneak Peek members only.

Materials are posted there already. [Jump on board now!](#)

Register Now for 'Geography of the Soul' Personal Formation, Leadership Development Seminar

The Fellowship of United Methodist Spiritual Directors and Retreat Leaders (FUMSDRL), an affiliate organization of the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, invites you to sign up for a national training seminar in Tucson, Arizona, Friday-Monday, October 22-25, to gain "a foundational understanding from various cultural perspectives in faith formation, and to learn how to expand ministry into diverse cultures."

The seminar, "Geography of the Soul: Barrenness and Beauty – A seminar for Personal Formation and Leadership Development," will be located in the "barrenness and beauty" of the desert at Redemptorist Renewal Center.

The FUMSDRL organization has more than 800 United Methodists connected throughout the nation for support, training and networking. Its focus is transforming lives, and deepening discipleship. This ministry is achieved through teaching and training congregational, district, Conference, and national leadership to lead from a spiritually forming stance.

The "Geography of the Soul" Keynote Speaker is: [Sister Dawn Annette Mills](#), a Benedictine Sister of Perpetual Adoration at Clyde, Missouri – a word weaver and storyteller committed to promoting a lively and prayerful relationship with the Holy and the work of seeking God. Sister Dawn will offer four daily presentations:

The Wilderness: Where God Speaks
The Wilderness: Where the Demons Live
Water in the Wilderness
The Garden of the Heart

There are a variety of explorations planned for Saturday and Sunday of the seminar. Weekend workshops include:

- Creativity Unleashed: The Art Studio, led by Rev. Paul Coury, C.SsR.
- Desert Dreaming: The Dream Group as Enrichment for the Soul, led by Connie Bovier and Becky Youngblood
- Spiritual Direction with the Poor and Marginalized, led by Rev. Donita Harris
- Mestisaje, Diapora, & Barrio: The Landscape of the Latino/a Soul, led by Rev. Juan Huertas
- Trouble / Triumph / Transcendence: Spiritual Direction and the African-American Soul, with Rev. Sherry Johnson
- Music in Spiritual Formation and Direction: Experiencing and Expressing Barrenness and Beauty, with Rev. John Blinn
- The Father Wound: Isaac and Ishmael in Spiritual Direction, with Ralph Howe
- Evening Experience: Mentoring Leaders through Spiritual Direction and Formation, with Rev. Brenda Buckwell
- Extended Day Options into the Tucson Area also are available

Single room cost is \$400 for FUMSDRL members and \$450 for non-members; double room \$350 for FUMSDRL members and \$400 for non-members. The registration deadline is September 20.

Honoring the diversity and expression of the other's God experience in the midst of humanity is imperative in the multicultural 21st century. This vital experience will open new venues for training leaders within the congregation and revitalizing churches.

Download [registration booklet](#) (in PDF format).

For more information on FUMSDRL and this seminar visit www.fumsdrl.org.

Good Nutrition Program at L.I.F.E. Receives Peace with Justice Grant

Two times annually Peace with Justice Grants are awarded to various ministries in the California-Nevada Annual Conference. This year one of those grants went to the Life Is for Everyone, Inc. (L.I.F.E.) Good Nutrition Program, located in the East Salinas Family Center United Methodist Fellowship.

L.I.F.E. is a not-for-profit after-school program to prevent gang involvement, improve students' nutrition, provide safe recreation opportunities, and improve English language verbal, written, and reading skills.

Currently 47 students, kindergarten through middle school, are attending the L.I.F.E. program. They receive tutoring Tuesday through Thursday, and on the other days of the week may go to the center for recreation, crafts, and healthy snacks.

At the beginning of each school year program director Sandra Gomez talks about the types of snacks the kids will be receiving and why it's important for them to learn about good nutrition. She also focuses on table manners and taking no more than they can eat, and teaches that seconds are available after everyone has had firsts.

A snack is served as soon as the students arrive, at 3 p.m. on weekdays.

That's followed by 90 minutes of homework time, with students grouped by ages or classes so that a table of students is usually working on the same homework. Afterward, there's 15 minutes in which those who have finished their homework may hear a story, learn a life skill, or get useful information of some kind from one of the volunteers.

There's a second snack time at 5:15. Pick-up time varies but can be as late as 7 p.m.

Program volunteers establish caring relationships with the youth and children in the program. Through those relationships, and by setting high expectations and providing opportunities for the kids to contribute, they foster both social competence and a sense of self and purpose. It's believed that this not only will improve the students' academic outcomes and health, but also will be a deterrent to gang involvement.

The Peace with Justice Grant will help enable L.I.F.E. to continue those efforts.

A Story Needing to Be Told

By Chaplain Sarge Wright

John Taylor, now a retired United Methodist minister living near Shingle Springs, California, has been a longtime friend and colleague. He has a zest for living and an intense life mission that has been both interesting and productive.

John was introduced to Heifer Project International by the Rev. Bill Beck in 1970. His first service opportunity was to deliver pregnant cows to Korea in 1971. This experience introduced John emotionally to HPI, but also led him unexpectedly into a larger life mission.

A Korean missionary pleaded with him to accompany 10 Korean-American babies to America for adoption – which took him on an adventure with the 10 babies through Asia Minor, Thailand, the Philippines and Japan, and back to California. John told me that, flying at 35,000 feet over Southeast Asia one night, he "had a deep emotional conversion experience which radically changed the direction of my life, my ministry and my goals. No longer would I be content to live in relative luxury while remembering fine people living in poverty and misery."

Later, on a mission trip to Guatemala, John was inspired by Father Gregory and Mother Theresa, who developed the "finest mission that I ever visited in scores of poor countries across the world." Consequently, young people in financial distress would become his special motivation for ministry for the rest of his life – and become his expanded family, as well.

Now, at 81 years of age, John and his wife, Maggie, have embarked on an even larger and more energetic mission – which follows his latest words to me: "I am entirely and enthusiastically dedicated to helping the poverty children of the world get a break in life, and I totally believe that to do that requires formal education. It is not necessary for every person to go to college, because

there are various avenues to different careers. But it *is* necessary for them to get the basic learning experience which comes through a high school educational experience."

Let me backtrack a bit. Maggie was born in the Philippines and came to the U.S. as a young adult. After she and John married, they planned to be in mission together in the Philippines area and subsequently purchased a home in a barrio where they live each winter. They continually were confronted by the horrendous poverty of their neighbors, family, and friends: expensive sicknesses, homes with dirt floors, leaking roofs, uncovered window holes in the walls, outside roofless cooking fires, and primitive toilet facilities in the yard. Many families could afford only a half-sardine and a scoop of white rice for each person, three times daily.

The root cause of this poverty is an unemployment rate which exceeds 90%, and the root cause of the high unemployment is lack of education: A person must have both a birth certificate *and* a high school diploma when applying for a job – even to bag groceries or sell clothes.

The government of the Philippines provides for the first six years of school, but the subsequent four years of high school is each family's responsibility. The Taylors saw brilliant minds wasted doing manual labor or washing clothes for neighbors who had more discretionary funds and a measure of compassion.

John and Maggie soon decided that the best way to help individuals and their families was to provide cash and clothing to help educate the young people. Consequently, they now support 20 young people in high school and a few in college or vocational programs. They are blessed continually by visits in their home by students and graduates.

Recently a personal Certificate of Deposit matured and the Taylors decided to reinvest it for the greatest benefit. After the bank offered a miserable interest rate, they decided to give the money, instead, to a trusted relative in the barrio to purchase a piece of land, which will employ seasonal workers; the net profit will be used to supplement John and Maggie's youth education program and to help meet other pressing needs of impoverished people in that area of the Philippines.

The Taylors' experience over the years has provided them proof of "the joy of giving" – but also has demonstrated what one dedicated family can do to change one little section of the world.

Upper Room Staff Comfort UM Victims of Uganda Terrorist Bombing

By Tom Gillem*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. | July 14, 2010 | GBOD—After terrorist bombs killed and injured scores of people in Uganda watching the World Cup soccer final match, representatives of The Upper Room and other United Methodist agencies rushed to support members of a United Methodist mission group who were severely injured by the blast.

Soon after five adults and youth representing Christ Community Church, a United Methodist congregation in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, were hospitalized, United Methodist staff members in Africa were at their bedsides.

"I'm grateful that we have an international network of people who can step in and fill the gap on behalf of the church here and especially this agency," says Dale Rust Waymack, Director of

International Ministries for The Upper Room, a division of the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD).

The five Americans, and a sixth person who was not hospitalized, were part of 15-member mission group that had been working for several weeks with a sister congregation in Kampala, Uganda. The six had remained an extra week to complete a construction project and were scheduled to leave two days after the blast at an Ethiopian restaurant and a rugby club in Kampala, Uganda, on Sunday which killed at least 74 people and injured many more.

The Rev. Kathleen Kind, pastor of the 500-member Pennsylvania congregation, says three of the six missionaries are members of her church: team leader Lori Ssebulime, college sophomore Kris Sledge, 18, and Joanne Kerstetter, whose 16-year-old granddaughter, Emily Kerstetter of Baltimore, was the most severely injured.

Both of the Kerstetters were taken to the only Level 1 trauma center on the African continent at Netcare Milpark Hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Sledge and the other two, Pam Kramer and her 14-year-old son, Thomas, of Winfield, Pennsylvania, were hospitalized in Nairobi, Kenya.

Roland Rink, general manager of Africa Upper Room Ministries, who is based in Johannesburg, went to the hospital to comfort the Kerstetters and the teenager's parents when they arrived from the United States.

"They were alone, they were scared, they were in shock and they were deeply traumatized by what had gone on," Rink told Waymack.

Meanwhile in Nairobi, Philip Polo, editor of the Kiswahili edition of The Upper Room and an Upper Room representative in east Africa, was at the hospital to support the three people there.

"It's just amazing how through The Upper Room daily devotional guide we have this amazing network of people throughout the world who are able to reach out and minister and be a presence on behalf of the whole church," Waymack said.

The local congregation in Pennsylvania has received support and guidance from all levels of the church, from its local district and annual conference to numerous individual congregations around the nation, Kind said.

Rachel Keller, a missionary intern and daughter of Dennis Keller, a District Superintendent in the Central Pennsylvania Conference, also visited and comforted the Kerstetters in Johannesburg.

"As far as the connection goes, the general agencies have really jumped in to help wherever we've needed help and have also offered lots and lots of guidance," Kind said.

GBOD's mission is to support annual conference and local church leaders for their task of equipping world-changing disciples. An agency of The United Methodist Church, GBOD is located at 1908 Grand Ave. in Nashville, Tennessee. Visit www.gbod.org for more information or call the Communications Office at 877.899.2780, Ext. 1726.

*Gillem is a Brentwood, Tennessee-based freelance writer for the United Methodist Board of Discipleship.

Guidebook Filled With Details About UM-related Schools, Colleges, Universities, and Theological Schools

A new guidebook that provides a wealth of information about the 121 United Methodist-related schools, colleges, universities, and theological schools should help high school students easily compare tuition, degrees awarded, and possible financial aid.

The Guidebook of United Methodist-Related Schools, Colleges, Universities, and Theological Schools will be useful for students, pastors, youth leaders, and parents who want to learn more about United Methodist-related educational institutions.

"We hope local churches and youth leaders will make this book available to high school students to help with their college selection process," said Wanda Bigham, assistant general secretary for Schools, Colleges, and Universities of the General Board of Higher Education's Division of Higher Education. "The snapshot of information about each institution will help students find one of our colleges or universities that is the best fit for their journey."

In addition to information about the 98 United Methodist-related colleges, the guidebook contains a sketch of the 13 United Methodist theological schools, and the 10 college preparatory schools. Each institution's Web site, as well as contact information for the admission office, a list of degrees offered, and information about religious life on campus, dorms, and sports are all included.

A depiction of the student body is included: undergraduate and graduate enrollment, racial/ethnic enrollment, as well as what percentage of the students are male or female.

Order online for \$5 at www.cokesbury.com or call 1.800.672.1789.

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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