



United Methodist Volunteers in Mission  
 South Central Jurisdiction  
**Newsletter - November 01, 2011**  
*“Connections”*

<p>Contact: <b>Debbie Vest</b>          Director-UMVIM Ministries          15120 Sunningdale Street          Austin, Texas 78717          Cell: 913.568.8826  <a href="mailto:vimsdj@sbcglobal.net">vimsdj@sbcglobal.net</a>  <a href="http://scj.umportal.org">http://scj.umportal.org</a></p>	<p><b>Important 2011 Dates</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Nov 05</td> <td>Team Leader Training, Oklahoma City, OK.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nov 07-09</td> <td>SCJUMVIM Coordinators’ Mtg, Fayetteville, AR.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nov 12</td> <td>Team Leader Training, Mansfield, TX</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nov 19</td> <td>Team Leader Training, Temple, TX</td> </tr> </table>	Nov 05	Team Leader Training, Oklahoma City, OK.	Nov 07-09	SCJUMVIM Coordinators’ Mtg, Fayetteville, AR.	Nov 12	Team Leader Training, Mansfield, TX	Nov 19	Team Leader Training, Temple, TX
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	<p>Support <b>Volunteers In Mission</b> projects through your giving. Provide funds for VIM-South Central Jurisdiction projects by designating your giving to <b>Advance #901455</b>.</p>								

**TRAINING NEWS AND DATES**

**VIM Team Leader Training**

- Oklahoma Conference will hold a session **November 5, 2011** in Oklahoma City. Contact: Kristin Terrell-Wilkes [kterrell-wilkes@okumc.org](mailto:kterrell-wilkes@okumc.org) .
- Central Texas Conference will hold sessions **November 12, 2011** at First UMC in Mansfield, TX and **November 19, 2011** at Oak Park UMC in Temple, TX. For more information please contact Rev. Kyland Dobbins at 817.877.5222 or [Kyland@ctumcl.org](mailto:Kyland@ctumcl.org) .
- Northwest Texas Conference will hold sessions **February 11, 2012, and April 21 2012**. For more information please contact Rev. Buff Hearn at [amarillopotter@yahoo.com](mailto:amarillopotter@yahoo.com) .

**Individual Volunteers Training**

The United Methodist Church, in partnership with churches and institutions within the United States and around the world, has identified mission opportunities for singles or married couples who are willing to serve for a period of three months to three years. Does this fit your calling? For more information on this program, contact: Nancy Eubanks at [nteubanks@gmail.com](mailto:nteubanks@gmail.com) . GBGM will hold its 2012 Individual Volunteers training sessions as follows:

- **January 12-15, 2012** at Riverside Retreat in Ft. Denaud, FL. (Nearest airport: Ft. Myers, FL). [www.riversideretreatumchurchcamp.com](http://www.riversideretreatumchurchcamp.com)
- **May 9-12, 2012** at the Storm Mountain Camp and Retreat Center in Black Hills, SD. (Nearest airport: Rapid City, SD). [www.dakcamps.org](http://www.dakcamps.org)
- **June 21-24, 2012** at the Wesley Center in Woodworth, LA. (Nearest airport: Alexandria, LA). [www.thewesleycenter.com](http://www.thewesleycenter.com)
- **August 2-5, 2012** at the Wasatch Retreat and Conference Center in Salt Lake City, UT. (Nearest airport: Salt Lake City, UT). [www.episcopal-ut.org](http://www.episcopal-ut.org)
- **October 18-21, 2012** at Alma Mathews House in New York City, NY. (Nearest airport: LaGuardia, NY). [www.gbgm-umc.org/umw/amh](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/umw/amh).

**VOLUNTEER IN MISSION OPPORTUNITIES**

**INDIA OPPORTUNITIES (NEW)**

The Louisiana Conference will send two UMVIM teams to India in 2012, and is looking for additional volunteers to staff these teams. Larry Norman, UMVIM Conference Coordinator, advises: “I’m pleased to announce two teams to India in 2012 from Louisiana Conference! India has for the past seven years been one of our main projects. LAVIM teams have provided VBS for the Warne Baby Fold as well as built a large paved play area for the children, purchased bicycles and tricycles and tiled the corridors of the orphanage to protect from the fingerprints of busy hands. A major project of LAVIM was the Warne Baby Fold Chapel which now serves as the center of spiritual life for the children and for many group gatherings of the Methodist Church of India. All this began with a single medical team to Bareilly, Faripur and surrounding villages near the historic Clara Swain Methodist Hospital. Both teams will travel there again in 2013 to provide needed remodeling and refurbishment to the Faripur Methodist Clinic and medical care to that village and others.

The **February 23-March 3, 2010** team will be led by Judy Barbay, and will carry out the refurbishment as well as provide VBS for the much loved children of the orphanage. I will lead a second team **February 23-March 10, 2010** which will be a medical team, and operate out of the renovated Faripur Clinic. We also plan game and educational days for the children. Both teams will lodge at the orphanage during their work weeks and both teams will join together for several days of touring historic sights in India during overlapping mission days at the last of the first team and the first few days of the second team.

Costs are estimated at \$3300 - \$3500 per team member. A deposit of \$200 is due with registration which should be received before **November 5, 2011**. Full costs must be received no later than **January 5, 2012**. A valid passport with expiration date after September 2012, and at least six open pages, is required. An Indian Visa must be purchased (not included in the cost) by the volunteer prior to departure, at about \$85.00. LAVIM will provide information to obtain the Visa upon registration. You are cordially invited to become a vital member of either of these teams. Experienced builders, carpenters, plumbers, painters, etc., are needed for the construction team. Physicians, medical technicians, nurses, dentists, optometrists, medical specialists, physical therapists, chiropractors, and all areas of health care are needed for the medical team. There is always room for those who feel God has called them who might not fit into and of these categories! If God calls, he has a place and task for you on this mission!”

For additional information or to register, please contact: Larry Norman at 225.346.1646 or 225.933.1881 (cell) or [LduckN@aol.com](mailto:LduckN@aol.com) or Judy Barbay at 225.939.1623 (cell) or [jbarbay@ebrpss.k12.la.us](mailto:jbarbay@ebrpss.k12.la.us).

**HAITI OPPORTUNITY**

Team members are needed for a Haiti Response Team, to be in Haiti **January 16-23, 2012**. Contact Rev. Stephen Hale, Chapel Hill UMC, Oklahoma City, OK for more information: telephone 405.751.0755 or email: [Stephen@mychapelhill.org](mailto:Stephen@mychapelhill.org) .

**VOLUNTEER IN MISSION OPPORTUNITIES (continued)**

**JAPAN OPPORTUNITY (NEW)**

The youth group from Cedar Park First United Methodist Church in Cedar Park, Texas is planning a mission trip to Japan to help with earthquake/tsunami disaster relief, and needs your support. See the following information for further details.

*When the Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster struck Japan on March 11, 2011, Rodney Thomson and his wife Sachiko immediately started shoring up plans for travel to Japan to help Sachiko’s elderly parents in Tokyo. However, due to the nuclear disaster, food shortages, and airline stoppages their trip was delayed for over a week. In the interim they made contact with Methodist missionaries in Japan to see how they could help upon arrival. They were immediately referred to help with Second Harvest Japan volunteer work where several Methodist members and a missionary were serving on the leadership staff.*

*Prior to their departure their small church, the Cedar Park First United Methodist Church in Cedar Park, Texas, took up donations which were delivered in person to Second Harvest Japan by the Thomson’s upon their arrival. Although the U.S. State Department had recommended against their travel the need for Sachiko to help her elderly parents overshadowed the warnings. They were surprised upon arrival to see Tokyo, a normally bustling city of over 39 million people, looking like a ghost town with few cars or people on the streets and the grocery store shelves empty. The airport was crowded with American tourists and military families evacuating the country.*

*Over the course of their three week stay the Thomson’s volunteered a number of days at Second Harvest sorting tons of food, clothing, and life necessity donations and helping to load them on trucks heading to the heart of the disaster zone. A number of Japanese were thankful but confused by their willingness to come all the way to Japan to help when so many Japanese were trying to find ways to escape the continuing radiation threats and severe daily aftershocks. They were challenged to look within relative to the meaning of Christianity and the spirit of Christian benevolence when confronted with such unsolicited kindness.*

*The Japanese Christian population is estimated to be less than one percent. This percentage is significantly less than the Christian populations in countries such as communist North Korea or China. While recognizing the Tohoku disaster provided an opportunity for the Japanese people to see the true spirit of Christian benevolence and faith in action, the youth group at Cedar Park First United Methodist Church were inspired to help after hearing reports to the church made by the Thomson’s upon their return to Texas.*

*When Sachiko Thomson was requested to determine if it was feasible to determine if a CPFUMC youth disaster relief mission to Japan was possible through contacts with Japanese Christians and church officials in Japan she was happy to help. During a trip to Japan in May 2011, Sachiko met with a Japanese Christians who volunteered to pray for and coordinate a future mission by the CPFUMC youth to Japan. As a result “PROJECT Youth to Japan” (Y2J) was born and launched.*

**VOLUNTEER IN MISSION OPPORTUNITIES (continued)**

**JAPAN OPPORTUNITY (continued)**

*Over the subsequent months an ambitious agenda was formulated by the Japanese Christian coordinators in Japan in concert with The Wesley Center in Tokyo, a missionary in Sendai, and a missionary at the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) in Tochigi Prefecture. The agenda involves a disaster relief mission by 10 youth and six adult sponsors to Japan during the high school spring break in March 2012.*

*The Y2J mission team will start their mission by attending the one year anniversary ceremonies and memorial services in Sendai, Japan before starting several days of disaster relief mission work in the Sendai and Ishinomaki disaster areas. The team will then travel to ARI where they will help with mission work at the institute before traveling on the final leg of their trip to Tokyo. In Tokyo the Wesley Center will coordinate their logistics arrangements while the group engages in volunteer relief activities at Second Harvest Japan before returning to the U.S.*

*The youth have been actively organizing and conducting fund raising activities to raise money for their mission trip. The group prays they will raise enough money to not only pay for the trip, but to leave money in Japan to continue supporting disaster relief needs after their departure. The youth have already engaged in a number of events in support their goals. This included providing “foot massages” after a High School band marching event, repairing sections of fencing, and cleaning sections of the University of Texas Football Stadium after two games.*

*During the last stadium cleaning event, two Japanese college students who were visiting Cedar Park at the time heard about the volunteer event to raise money for the Y2J mission and volunteered to help. They volunteered to help in an attempt to learn why the CPFUMC youth were willing to help people they did not know with a disaster so far away. They went back to Japan with larger questions lingering in their quest for understanding as they come to grips with the foundations of Christian faith and benevolence.*

*One of the Japanese Christian coordinators in Japan advised Sachiko that the Y2J mission to Japan is an answer to 10 years of prayer on her part. She also advised enthusiasm is now spreading amongst Japanese Christians to help insure the mission is a success in spreading the Good News in Japan as they volunteer their time to pray and provide coordination assistance within Japan.*

*You can read more about the Project Y2J mission by going to their newly established website: [www.PY2J.net](http://www.PY2J.net). Your prayers and support for this mission are very much appreciated.*

**TEXAS OPPORTUNITY (NEW)**

There is an opportunity for UMVIM teams to volunteer to assist Refugee Services of Texas, Inc., a refugee mentoring and assistance program. Volunteers are needed in many areas—after school homework assistance, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, transportation assistance, and more. For more information, please contact Suzanne Senesac Sherif at 214.821.4422 or 469.569.7431.

**VOLUNTEER IN MISSION OPPORTUNITIES (continued)**

**COSTA RICA OPPORTUNITY (NEW)**

There is an opportunity to help the Rice and Beans Ministry, an UMVIM worksite in Costa Rica. The country's Ministry of Health has approved this ministry which provides medical and dental missions in Costa Rica. The ministry has a doctor, nurse and translator which work with in-country hospitals, clinics and medical staff in local communities. Past medical mission teams from the United States have been able to help provide assistance and education to local medical teams; more volunteer medical teams currently are needed to continue this success. For more information, please see the Rice and Beans Ministry's website: <http://riceandbeansministries.com/> . Teams wishing to volunteer should contact Fred Curry, director of this ministry, at [fred@rabmin.org](mailto:fred@rabmin.org) .

**YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES (NEW)**

Several youth projects have been added to the UMVIM Youth Listing. You can find the latest list of youth projects at [www.umvimwj.blogspot.com](http://www.umvimwj.blogspot.com) . At the top of the page (under the website title) you will see "For Youth Teams". Click on this and it will take you to the page with the updated Youth Listing.

**SIERRA PROJECT OPPORTUNITY (NEW)**

With ties reaching back to the Appalachia Service Project during the 1970s, Sierra Service Project (SSP) today is a growing, independent, multi-site, and United Methodist-related mission destination for young people. Director Rick Eaton and the SSP young adult staff welcome 2,000 participants annually to sites in California, Nevada, Idaho, Arizona, Honduras, and now Guatemala. In addition to their ongoing home repair work in the United States, *Sierra Service Project* recently built 37 houses for families in partnership with the United Methodist Church in Honduras. Youth volunteers have mission opportunities ranging from rural Native American communities to inner-city urban settings like south Los Angeles. Each week-long summer or alternative Spring Break SSP experience is designed to engage young people in faith-nurturing service work that respects the people of the local communities in which their projects are based. These weeks are also designed to introduce youth to cultural realities different than their own.

If you'd like to support Sierra Service Project, please consider bringing a group to participate in a week of service, or visit their web site at [www.sierraserviceproject.org](http://www.sierraserviceproject.org) to make donations. Like their mission states, God calls us into "life changing experiences through acts of service" and SSP would love to help you and your youth or college group do just that!

**DISASTER RESPONSE OPPORTUNITIES**

**NORTHEAST UNITED STATES OPPORTUNITY**

Because of the extensive damage done by hurricane Irene, the Northeast Jurisdiction has great need for UMVIM teams to help in several of its northeast states. Greg Forrester, the UMVIM director for the Northeast Jurisdiction reports that the damage caused by this hurricane is comparable to the damage done by hurricane Katrina in the southern states. For more information on how teams can help, please contact Greg at 607.756.7799 or 607.345.2928 or [umvimnej@twcny.rr.com](mailto:umvimnej@twcny.rr.com) .

**DISASTER RESPONSE OPPORTUNITIES (continued)**

**CENTRAL TEXAS WILDFIRES**

A note from Bishop Jim Dorff of the Southwest Texas Conference: "The central Texas fires have been devastating to several of our communities and church families. The communities of Bastrop, Cedar Creek, and the Steiner housing development in Austin have been particularly devastated. We are deeply grateful for the prayers and other expressions of support. Our churches and pastors are hard at work providing shelter and support for those left homeless. Our God is present in these communities and renewal will occur." If you would like to make a donation to UMCOR please use **Advance #901670** and designate your giving as **“Texas Wildfires”**.

UMCOR has issued a press release on the major wildfire in Bastrop County, Texas. It may be found at <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/newsroom/releases/archives2011/fightingfires/>. Southwest Texas Disaster Response Coordinator Gene Hileman has issued a call for ERTs to help in response to the Bastrop complex wildfire, in Bastrop County, TX just east of Austin. See this link to register as an ERT or ERT Team <http://www.umcswtx.org/wildfire-response-registration>. You will be contacted with further information and protocols.

For updates from the Southwest Texas Conference on the wildfires, see the following link: <http://www.umcswtx.org/umc-disaster-response.html>

**NORTH DAKOTA OPPORTUNITY**

Early Response Teams are needed in the Minot, North Dakota area. The North Central Jurisdiction has put out a call for any interested persons willing to bring ERT teams as a result of the flooding disaster there. Volunteers should be ERT-trained and badged. Those wishing to volunteer should contact Barb Myers in the Dakotas Conference Office in Mitchell, North Dakota: 605.996.6552.

**MISSION TRIP REPORTS**

**UPDATE ON HAITI RECOVERY**

Susan Meister, the (US-based) Communications and Calendaring Coordinator for Haiti, provides this recent update. You can also visit this website for additional information on the mission happenings in Haiti: [www.umvimhaiti.org](http://www.umvimhaiti.org) : “Hello, friends. I hope that your summer is going well so far. There are 76 teams scheduled July-December 2011 and 74 on the books already for 2012. We are on pace for 160 teams in 2011 if there are no cancellations. I am so happy to also report to you that we are still at 100% of all teams contributing the full \$3500 and attaining the match. That is an amazing accomplishment. The word from Haiti and our teams is that they are having wonderful experiences. I hope you are hearing the same! I've been asked to go to Haiti in early September for a Haiti Roundtable. Tom and I are working on agenda items. Because we are in a "waiting list" situation for Jan/Feb/Mar of 2012, I will be sending confirmation notes in early July to all teams currently registered for those three months to double-check their intent.”

**MISSION TRIP REPORTS (continued)**

**TEAM HELPS WILDFIRE VICTIMS SIFT THROUGH ASHES TO FIND HOPE (NEW)**

The following reflection by Rev. Marji Bishir shares observations from the North Texas Conference Disaster Response Team that traveled to the Central Texas town of Bastrop to help with response efforts after the wildfires. The team members were Marji, Pete Cotting, Michelle Barber, Dick Stanley, Jim Casten, Susan Leddy, and Larry Partridge.

*On Sept. 20, I returned from a disaster response trip to Bastrop, a Central Texas town of about 7,000, where recent wildfires have destroyed entire neighborhoods. I was the team leader of a group of seven who came to help homeowners sort through the ashes of their homes.*

*The disaster was so extensive that a Presidential Disaster Declaration has been issued for Bastrop County. Since Sunday, Sept. 4, 1,814 homes have been destroyed by wildfires. While we were there, three new fires broke out. Our team heard sirens and saw helicopters flying overhead, hauling buckets of water.*

*Our Early Response team was comprised of people from different NTC churches. None of them knew each other before we left, but they'd all taken a United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Basic Early Response Teamclass, had badges and were able to go with just a few days' notice. The main thing our five men and three women had in common was the desire to serve others, to be a Christian presence.*

*Upon arrival, we received a debriefing from our United Methodist Volunteers in Mission field coordinator, Larry Etter, who described our task as "doing funerals for houses." Most of the homeowners, who are required to be present with the team, just wanted to find something they could keep as a reminder of their previous lives. Usually, they hoped to recover jewelry or other precious items.*

**A pickup sits destroyed, burned in the Bastrop-area wildfires.**



*Unfortunately, our team didn't find a whole lot that survived the extreme heat of the fires. Using mesh screens, we dumped buckets of ashes and sifted through them. At one house, we found the Navy dog tags that belonged to the father of the homeowner. Periodically we would unearth ceramic items that survived intact. It was almost like doing an archaeology dig, with traumatized people directing our efforts.*

*On our first day, my team was joined by Vickie Huffman from San Antonio and Sean Raybuck from Wimberley. They had taken a special UMCOR class in spiritual and emotional care in July, taught by UMCOR consultant Mary Gaudreau, who specializes in this training. Vickie and Sean's purpose on the team was to act as listeners who would be especially sensitive to the tangled ball of emotions in the fire survivors. However, my team soon discovered that others in the community were suffering as well.*

## MISSION TRIP REPORTS (continued)

### TEAM HELPS WILDFIRE VICTIMS SIFT THROUGH ASHES TO FIND HOPE (continued)

*One night our team was confronted by a firefighter who was a church member. He saw the lights on in the church where we were staying and thought we might be looters (which has been a problem in Bastrop). Once he realized we weren't looters, he sat down and visited with our team for a while. The firefighter was struggling with a massive sense of guilt because he'd been in a position where he had to decide which houses were saved and which ones burned. He knew all of the people who lived in those homes.*

*One homeowner we were helping was angry because his auto insurance company was questioning whether his burned out shell of a van was "really totaled" – even after he'd sent them a picture. He also told us his children were so "afraid of the trees" that their family decided not to live in another wooded area. They were relocating to town.*

*At Cedar Creek UMC, the Rev. Paul Harris said almost 30 families were burned out, "maybe 40 if you count the families in the preschool." Most of them are starting to disperse, and Pastor Harris thinks they probably won't come back. He suspects this is because of the unique natural area, called Lost Pines, where they lived. Central Texas doesn't have a lot of pine trees, but there was one isolated pine forest, and that entire area burned. Since it won't be a pine forest again in their lifetimes, many families will move. This leaves the church struggling with members leaving. First UMC of Bastrop is in the same position.*



**Tree trimmers cut branches away from power lines in an effort to prevent more wildfires in the Bastrop, Texas, area.**

*Some families had only a 15-minute notice to grab what they could and get out the door. Our team wondered what we would have done if we'd been in that position. I said it would take me 15 minutes just to get my elderly dog in the car. Then we met a family who had been on vacation the day of the fire. They told us all of their pets had burned to death.*

*Despite the trauma, we saw signs of hope, like a green shoot growing out of the ground where everything else was charred and black.*

*We saw the community coming together to help each other. First UMC Bastrop fed people lunch each day. They welcomed our team — even though we were covered with grit and filth. Our Christian presence was a sign of hope to the people of Bastrop as well.*

*It will be a long time before this town recovers. The drought, which caused all of this to begin with, continues. At this writing, the fires aren't even 100 percent contained. Yet I know from the grateful smiles directed my way and the hugs I received that we made a difference in the lives of those we served. I echo the sentiment we saw spray-painted on the side of one burned-out shell of a house: "How Great Is Our God."*

**MISSIONARY REPORTS**

**KENYA (NEW)**

The following message was sent by Jerry Savuto on October 14. She and her husband Bill are retiring from their positions in mission in Kenya:

*Dearest Friends and Family,*

*I wanted to clarify something I didn't mention in my last email about our retiring. We are retiring but Kathie Mann is not. Kathie will still be responsible for all mission work teams to Kenya – setting up dates and scheduling teams, giving the information needed and working with the teams. She was appointed to that job by Presiding Bishop Kanyaru many years ago and has done a fabulous job. Bill and I could have never managed without the hard work and perseverance of Kathie. Thus Rev. Jim and Rev. Sue will be taking our place with teams when they arrive in Maua and Kathie Mann will continue to schedule, coordinate and work with all mission work teams coming to Maua or anywhere in Kenya. If any of you are interested in a work team Kathie's email address is [texaspim@txcumc.org](mailto:texaspim@txcumc.org)*

*Also if you would like to receive emails from Stanley Gitari, the Coordinator of the Community Health Department and the person that oversees the AIDS Orphan's program, Hope Companions, Palliative Care, the Outreach Program along with the Maternal and Child Care Program, his email is [community@mckmauahospital.org](mailto:community@mckmauahospital.org) and he would be happy to add you to his list. He writes emails about the hospital frequently and that would allow you to keep up with Maua Methodist Hospital when we are gone.*

*Bill has been busy with the new kitchen construction. He visits the site many times daily and has helped the builder understand and follow the plans. He is also working with accounts. I have been working on our itineration (home assignment) schedule which includes writing to over 80 supporting churches and keeping track of who has and hasn't responded and working with Bill to make decisions and our schedule. We are so thankful for the wonderful churches and individuals that have supported us while we have served at Maua Methodist Hospital and allowed us to see the power of God's love.*

*Along with that I have been trying to complete some unfinished jobs like printing colored signs and laminating them for our Infection Control and Prevention Program and writing memos and letters about areas that will need follow-up and follow-through.*

*Last night and into this morning it rained and rained – 2.6 inches of rain. We are hopeful, prayerful that this is the beginning of a wonderful rainy season. A rainy season that allows all to have food, enough for their families and enough to sell. One way that we gauge the beginning of the rainy season is that after the first big rain of the season the termites vacate their mud homes and fly to the light, drop their wings and die. This morning our front and back door had literally 100's of dead termites, as we leave a light on at night. Thus you should see the smile on all the faces in Maua. We have been happy dancing all week as we have heard of rain and snow in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma. God is good!*

**MISSIONARY REPORTS (continued)**

**KENYA (continued)**

*A very big thank you to all of you who have sent emails and given funds to build the kitchen. We are very close to having enough money and we are grateful beyond words. The work is going on though will be delayed by rain but we so desperately need the rain, we will wait.*

*We are praying for you as you pray for us and thankful for all each of you have done to support Bill and me and Maua Methodist Hospital. Our cup runneth over,*

*Jerri & Bill Savuto  
Maua Methodist Hospital  
P.O. Box 63 -- 60600  
Maua, Igembe South  
Kenya, East Africa  
0728451643*

**MACEDONIA (NEW)**

Carol Partridge, GBGM Missionary serving in Macedonia has posted several pictures and stories on the Facebook page for "In Mission Together Eastern Europe and the Balkans." Become a fan of the page to keep up to date on what the UMC is doing in that part of Europe. Also, please consider joining us at the Eastern Europe and Balkans Consultation coming up soon in Alton, IL. To view the latest news from Macedonia, please see Carol's webpage: <http://www.carolpartridge.com/>.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**POSITION AVAILABLE – HAITI RESPONSE PLAN (NEW)**

The Haiti Response Team is in the process of reviewing candidates for the vacant position of Haiti Finance Administrator. This position oversees all financial activities, including the coordination of donated goods and supplies from UMVIM teams. Click [here](#) for the complete position description. The position of is a consultant under a six-month contract, with a possibility of extension. Persons interested in the position are encouraged to apply with the Haiti Response Team. An application form (in PDF and Word format) is available on the [UMVIM Haiti News](#) page. The completed application, along with a resume and cover letter, should be forwarded to the [Mission Volunteers office](#). If you have questions about the details of the job description or application process, contact [Una Jones](#), Assistant General Secretary, Mission Volunteers, or your [Jurisdictional UMVIM Coordinator](#).

**LATEST UPDATE ON JOPLIN RECOVERY**

You can access the current updates on the recovery efforts from the tornado at Joplin, Missouri at the Missouri Conference's website: <http://www.umocm.com>

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION PROJECT LIST UPDATED**

The international project profiles list has been updated. See [www.umvim.info](http://www.umvim.info) .

**LISTING OF CURRENT UMVIM AND DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING**

For the very latest listing of UMVIM and Disaster Response Training dates and locations, check the SCJ website at <http://scj.umportal.org>.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION (continued)**

**HAITI RESPONSE PLAN REVAMPS GUIDELINES FOR UMVIM TEAMS (NEW)**

In a September 29, 2011 news release Susan Meister, the U.S.-based Communications and Calendaring Coordinator, advised of recent changes in UMVIM team guidelines:

The staff of the Haiti Response Plan (HRP) has announced the following changes in UMVIM team guidelines with respect to team size and the amount of project funds needed for a matching grant:

- Effective November 1, the minimum team size will drop to four persons. The maximum team size will remain at ten.
- Haiti Response Plan will accept students who have graduated ninth grade. They must be accompanied by a parent or other designated guardian. All youth teams must have a ratio of 4 to 1, meaning that there is one adult for four youth, and two adults no matter how large the team. To be consistent with Safe Sanctuary guidelines, the adult leaders should reflect the gender of the youth on the team (i.e., if there are both boys and girls on the team, there must be a male and female leader.) Age and make-up of teams will be a consideration in project and site assignment.
- Youth teams should be organized following the best practices outlined in the UMVIM Training Manual for Mission Volunteers, Youth Teams, pages 70-74, including Safe Sanctuary certification for team leaders, background checks, and references. Additional forms for Youth Teams are in section 7 of the manual.
- Orientation for teams is mandatory, in particular to address cultural sensitivity.
- Teams of between 4-6 persons will be asked to contribute \$2500 in project funds to qualify for a matching grant from UMCOR. Teams of between 7-10 persons will be asked to bring \$3500 to be matched by the grant. Project funds will support labor and materials, including work at the site before, during and after the missionaries are present. The HRP staff will continue to ask that grant funds be sent to the GBGM Mission Volunteer Office in New York no later than six weeks before the team travel date.
- About six weeks before travel, the staff in Haiti will contact team leaders to discuss the skill set of their members in order to be able to use those skills most effectively on a site. Teams will continue to be notified of their project assignments about four weeks before their travel.

Tom Vencuss, Project Coordinator for the Haiti Response Plan, is excited about the change in policy that will accommodate both smaller and larger teams announced today. *"Smaller teams of 4 to 6 persons (and reduced project funds of \$2500) will complement the larger teams of 7 to 10 persons who send in \$3500 in project funds,"* Vencuss said. *"This change has come in response to the request of team leaders who are unable to fill a larger team but which still want to be part of the Haiti Response Plan,"* Vencuss continued. *"In addition, there are some project sites that require smaller teams. It is our hope that the smaller teams will allow us to appeal to an even broader base of church communities and yet maintain the high level of work and impact from our UMVIM teams."*

Please direct any comments and questions to Susan Meister, US-based Communications & Calendaring Coordinator at [HaitiVolunteers@yahoo.com](mailto:HaitiVolunteers@yahoo.com) .

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION (continued)**

**U.M. ARMY – SOUTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE (NEW)**

The Southwest Texas Conference’s U.M. Army has announced its upcoming youth camps, and put out a call for assistance with financial help. For those unfamiliar with U.M. Army, it stands for United Methodist Acton Reach-Out Mission by Youth. Its mission is: “To provide Christ-centered quality youth work camps that serve people in need and promote spiritual growth and leadership development in youth”. You can learn more about U.M. Army at its website: <http://www.umarmy.org/>.

Jenny Monahan, coordinator for U.M. Army for the Southwest Texas Conference, reports “*U.M. ARMY-SWTX had five very successful summer camps in 2011 in communities throughout its geographical area, and an additional camp in Amarillo held jointly with the Northwest Texas Conference. A great success was our first ever Junior High camp: BASIC by U.M. ARMY which took place at Cathedral Oaks, a United Methodist encampment center in the Victoria District. In total, U.M. ARMY-SWTX had 38 youth groups participate—498 participants, who worked at over 100 mission sites in 2011!*”

After such great success, U.M. Army- SWTX is planning a Christmas Camp **December 18-21, 2011** @ Cedar Creek UMC, and the following camps to be held in 2012:

- College Camp **May 20-26, 2012** @ San Marcos FUMC
- High School Camp **June 10-16, 2012**
- High School Camp **June 17-23, 2012** @ Hondo UMC
- High School Camp **June 24-30, 2012** @ Canyon Lake UMC
- Junior High BASIC camp **July 8-12, 2012** @ Cathedral Oaks
- High School Camp **July 15-21, 2012** @ Poteet FUMC
- Junior High BASIC camp **July 22-26, 2012**
- High School Camp **July 22-28, 2012** @ Seguin FUMC

Jenny notes that “*U.M. Army needs financial help as it plans its next season of camps. The coming year’s financial needs have been impacted by several events:*

- *A special Christmas camp is planned in the Bastrop/Cedar Creek/Smithville areas which were greatly affected by wild fires earlier this year.*
- *Waste disposal costs have continued to increase. We utilize several garbage dumps in those communities where our youth provide clean-up, and where they have construction debris as a result of replacing roofs, porches, sheetrock, etc.*
- *Our very successful youth leader program, Youth Advisory Board Members, which helps train our future leaders. Under this program, our “Yabbers” attend an additional leadership camp and retreats. The financial cost for the program is significant, but the payoff is great as the program help these youth fulfill the mission of U.M. ARMY to a larger degree!*
- *We have a need to extend the scope of our very successful Junior High BASIC program.*
- *We desire to hold a first U. M. Army college camp. We have a very enthusiastic Wesley group out of Texas State University that is ready to be the inaugural college camp for SWTX. We are anticipating the need of scholarships for several of these students and would appreciate help with that as well as unseen costs as we begin this program.”*

If you can help with these financial needs, or if you wish to learn more about participating in any of the U.M. Army camps, please contact Jenny Monahan at 512.557.0513 or [umarmyswtx@austin.rr.com](mailto:umarmyswtx@austin.rr.com) .

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION (continued)**

### **CHANGES AT RUSSIA INITIATIVE (NEW)**

A new coordinator for the Russia Initiative has been named. Rev. Patrick Friday, Director - In Mission Together for GBGM, announced: *“It is a joy to announce the assignment of David McLaurin as the new In Mission Together Partnership Coordinator for the Russia Initiative, effective January 1, 2012. Within the GBGM structure, he will relate to the In Mission Together Partnership Development office. While David will have similar responsibilities as Jim Athearn, his focus will be more specifically on partnership development. As you know, the establishment of the Eurasia UMC has progressed significantly over the past twenty years as evidenced by the new Eurasian Roadmap. This has enabled the church leaders to take ownership for their operations in a way that was not possible before. They are now able to assume some of Jim Athearn’s previous responsibilities, but still need our support through David’s leadership with the IMT partnership program .David brings to this position many gifts as a mission-minded church leader. He knows well the structure of the United Methodist Church and has been active in the Russia Initiative for many years. We welcome his leadership in this role and look forward to the steps we will take together with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Eurasia in the years ahead.”* Friends and participants in the Russia Initiative will want to congratulate Dr. Jim Athearn, the current Russia Initiative Partnership Coordinator, on his retirement.

### **RESOURCE BROCHURE AVAILABLE**

An updated brochure of “Find where you connect in Mission Volunteers” has been printed and is available through Cokesbury. Updated contacts jurisdictional offices are included in this update. Stock number #528545. Website: <http://gbgm-umc.org/e-store>.

### **LODGING OPPORTUNITY**

If you are taking teams to Joplin to help with the tornado recovery and your route takes you through Fayetteville, Arkansas, consider spending the night at the South Central Jurisdiction Conference and Retreat Center at Mount Sequoyah. It is offering a special rate of \$15.00 per person per night to teams helping with the storm recovery. Call Mt. Sequoyah for more information and reservations at 800.760.8126.

### **CONSIDER ADVANCE GIVING TO MOUNT SEQUOYAH**

Mount Sequoyah Retreat and Conference Center has made it more convenient to donate to its upkeep and ministries. The retreat center for the South Central Jurisdiction in Fayetteville, Arkansas has established its Advance Projects Number: # 3021239. For more information, please contact: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/Advance/projects/search/index.cfm?action=details&id=3021239>

### **CONSULTATION DATES ANNOUNCED**

Several consultations have been scheduled. **Contact Rev. Patrick Friday** (212-870-3860 or [pfriday@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:pfriday@gbgm-umc.org)) for more information on this consultation: “West Coast Central Asia Consultation” **March 16-17, 2012** in Los Angeles, CA. **Contact Rev. David Newton** (228-875-8900 or [wesleydn@bellsouth.net](mailto:wesleydn@bellsouth.net)) for more information on this consultation: “Nicaragua Connection” **April 12-14, 2012** at Seashore United Methodist Assembly, 1410 Leggett Drive Biloxi, MS. Gathering of Partners and those interested in partnering with the Nicaraguan Methodist Church. Lodging and meals available at the Assembly.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION (continued)**

**MISSIONARIES TAKE NEW ASSIGNMENTS (NEW)**

Greetings to All! Below you will find a letter informing everyone of our new place of assignment. For the last 3 1/2 years David and I have served in Honduras—David as Country Director and me as Community Based Health Care Director and VIM Coordinator/Health. Effective January, 2012 we will be serving in Santiago, Panama. David will be church planting and I will be doing much the same as I have done in Honduras. Blessings to all, Cindy Ceballos.

*September 13, 2011*

*United Methodist Mission in Honduras Partners*

*Re: Leadership changes in the Mission*

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:*

*Greetings in Christ our Lord and our Brother!*

*It is with profound sense of gratitude as well as with some feelings of sadness that we announce the reassignment of Rev. David Ceballos and Mrs. Cynthia Ceballos to a new missionary assignment in Punta Delgadita, Santiago de Veraguas, Panama effective November 2011. This decision was initiated by David and Cynthia after careful consideration and much prayer and we are in full support of their discernment.*

*David will be resourcing a new church development effort and Cynthia a community ministry endeavor. David and Cynthia have offered outstanding leadership to the advancement of the UMC in Honduras -and they will be greatly missed- but we do know that they will also be a blessing to and a resource for the advancement of the Reign of God within the Evangelical Methodist Church of Panama.*

*It is the intension of Global Ministries to find a replacement for Cynthia's position of Coordinator of Medical and Environmental Ministries but with an added emphasis on church relations. We are not planning to renew the position of Country Director at this time and the functions of the Country Director will be assigned to different staff persons including some Honduran leadership that we are hoping to recruit. In the meantime, we have identified a couple of individual volunteers to insure that the already scheduled medical and environmental teams are properly hosted and that the ongoing ministries of the Mission are minimally impacted by this transition.*

*Until further notice, partnership inquiries can be primarily addressed to my office at [eavitia@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:eavitia@gbgm-umc.org) as well as to Greg Gelzinnis from the In-Mission-Together, Honduras at [greg@bluffcitytours.com](mailto:greg@bluffcitytours.com).*

*Let us keep in our prayers the Ceballos and the Mission as we enter all into this new transitional phase.*

*Gracia, misericordia y paz,*

*Rev. Edgar Avitia, Office for Latin America and the Caribbean*

*[eavitia@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:eavitia@gbgm-umc.org)*

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION (continued)**

**GUIDELINES AND BEST PRACTICES FOR UMVIM TEAMS**

All UMVIM teams are expected to comply with national and Conference guidelines, and to follow best practices. If you have questions please contact your conference’s UMVIM Coordinator.

1. The team’s leader must have completed UMVIM Team Leader Training.
2. All team members must have completed Safe Sanctuaries training, or an approved equivalent program for protection of children and vulnerable adults.
3. All team members must be GBGM-registered and GBGM-insured.
4. The team’s project must be an approved project. Contact your conference’s UMVIM Coordinator, or see and Approved Projects List at [www.umvim.info](http://www.umvim.info) .

**TRIP INSURANCE PROCEDURES CHANGED**

The General Board of Global Ministries has updated the process for applying for accident insurance. All UMVIM Team Leaders, Individual Volunteers, and Primitimers who apply for accident insurance through GBGM must log-on to the following new webpage to apply:

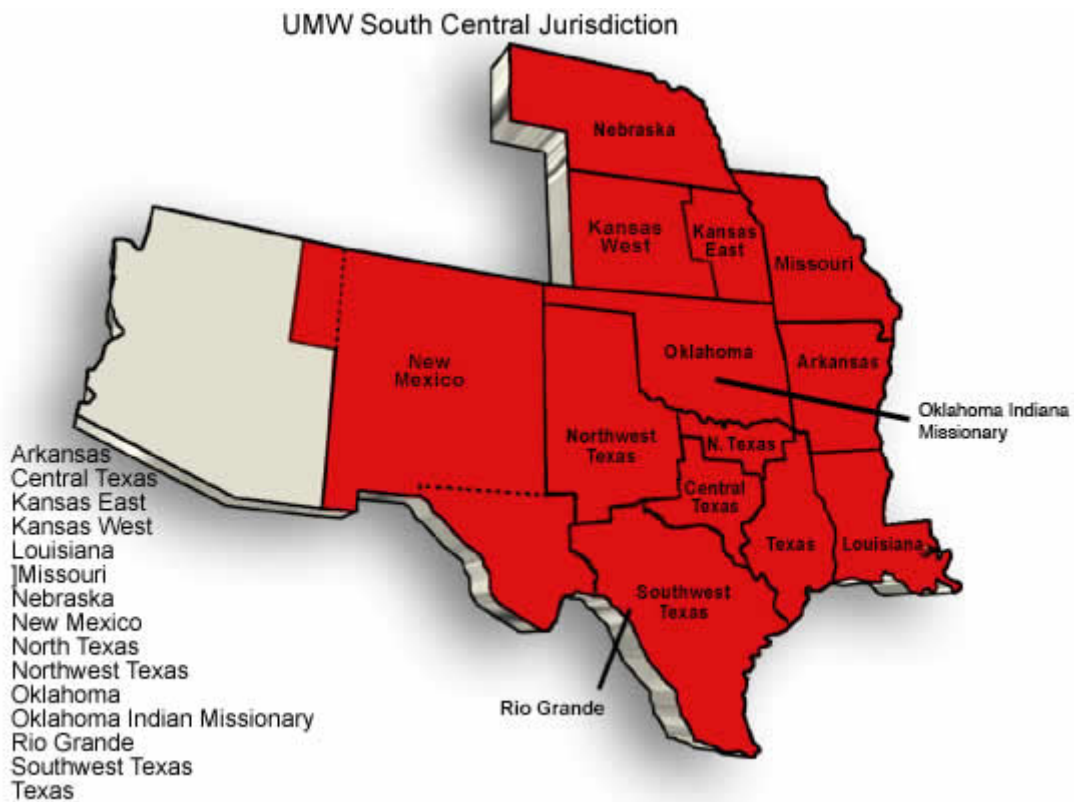
<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mv/mission-teams-umvim/insurance-application-form/>. This accident insurance policy is available for participants in UMVIM work projects listed on the Jurisdictional UMVIM and Mission Volunteers websites, which can be accessed at <http://umvim.info>. The policy is also available for participants in UMVIM projects which either are Advance specials projects, or are projects which involve working with GBGM missionaries. It is not intended for non-work trips, or for language study trips—except when required by the Individual Volunteer program. Also, please note that there has been a small increase to the daily premium paid for each UMVIM team member and Individual Volunteer. The cost of coverage now is \$0.80 per person per day (\$0.55 per person per day for Individual Volunteers), which includes the days of departure and return.

(Continued next page)

**South Central Jurisdiction  
Volunteers in Mission and Disaster Response Coordinators**  
Updated October 17, 2011

<b>Conference</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
<b>Arkansas</b>	Don Weeks -VIM	501.868.9193 o	<a href="mailto:dweeks@arumc.org">dweeks@arumc.org</a>
<b>Arkansas</b>	Byron and Janice Mann- Disaster	870.703.8359	<a href="mailto:rainmaker@arkansas.net">rainmaker@arkansas.net</a>
<b>Central Texas</b>	Rev. Johnny Miller- VIM	254.773.3021 o 254.223.1010	<a href="mailto:Johnny@oakparkmethodist.org">Johnny@oakparkmethodist.org</a>
<b>Central Texas</b>	Rev. Laraine Waughtal- Disaster	254.595.1503	<a href="mailto:revlaraine@yahoo.com">revlaraine@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Central Texas</b>	Rev. Kyland Dobbins.- Mission Experience Coordinator	817.877.5222	<a href="mailto:kyland@ctcumc.org">kyland@ctcumc.org</a>
<b>Kansas East</b>	Julie Pohl- VIM/ Disaster	816.390.0324 o	<a href="mailto:Kseastvim@yahoo.com">Kseastvim@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Kansas West</b>	Janet Robinson - VIM	316.253.4913 o	<a href="mailto:jrobinson@kswestumc.org">jrobinson@kswestumc.org</a>
<b>Louisiana</b>	Rev. Larry Norman-VIM	888.239.5286 o	<a href="mailto:lduckn@aol.com">lduckn@aol.com</a>
<b>Louisiana</b>	Rev. Darryl Tate-Disaster	225.346.5193 o 225.303.3293 c	<a href="mailto:datate@ladrm.org">datate@ladrm.org</a>
<b>Missouri</b>	Audrey Phelps- International/US VIM	573.474.7155 o	<a href="mailto:phelps@umocm.com">phelps@umocm.com</a>
<b>Missouri</b>	Jeff Baker- VIM/Disaster	573.474.7155 o 573.673.9264 c	<a href="mailto:baker@umocm.com">baker@umocm.com</a>
<b>Missouri</b>	Karen Benson - Disaster	573.474.7155 o 417.466.5406 c	<a href="mailto:kbenson@convoyofhope.org">kbenson@convoyofhope.org</a>
<b>Nebraska</b>	Lisa Maupin - VIM	402.898.9862 o	<a href="mailto:lmaupin@bigmuddyumc.org">lmaupin@bigmuddyumc.org</a>
<b>Nebraska</b>	Rev. Roger Gillming - Disaster	308.241.1791	<a href="mailto:Pastorroger.gillming@gmail.com">Pastorroger.gillming@gmail.com</a>
<b>New Mexico</b>	Mary White- VIM	915.494.3177 o	<a href="mailto:Mwhite1@elp.rr.com">Mwhite1@elp.rr.com</a>
<b>New Mexico</b>	Rev. T.C. Broom - Disaster	575.584.2267	<a href="mailto:revtcbroomjr@plateautel.net">revtcbroomjr@plateautel.net</a>
<b>North Texas</b>	Rev. Marji Bishir - VIM/Disaster	800.969.8201 o	<a href="mailto:bishir@ntcumc.org">bishir@ntcumc.org</a>
<b>Northwest Texas</b>	Dr. Rev. Buff Hearn-VIM	806.367.8723	<a href="mailto:amarillopotter@yahoo.com">amarillopotter@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Northwest Texas</b>	Rev. Vernon Baker - Disaster	806.438.3840 c	<a href="mailto:revvern@hotmail.com">revvern@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Oklahoma</b>	Rev. Jeremy Basset-VIM	800.231.4166	<a href="mailto:jbasset@okumc.org">jbasset@okumc.org</a>
<b>Oklahoma</b>	Richard Norman - Disaster	405.530.2032 o	<a href="mailto:rnorman@okumc.org">rnorman@okumc.org</a>
<b>Oklahoma</b>	Lori Foster - Disaster	405.530.2032	<a href="mailto:lfoster@okumc.org">lfoster@okumc.org</a>
<b>Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conf</b>	Josephine Deere - VIM	405. 632-2006	<a href="mailto:jdeere@oimc.org">jdeere@oimc.org</a>
<b>Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conf</b>	John Underwood-Disaster	405.229.7145	<a href="mailto:junderwood@oimc.org">junderwood@oimc.org</a>
<b>Rio Grande</b>	Gloria Venegas - VIM	830.556.7886.	<a href="mailto:gespinoza76@satx.rr.com">gespinoza76@satx.rr.com</a>
<b>Rio Grande</b>	Rev. Arturo Mariscal- Disaster	210.408.4512	<a href="mailto:Mariscal@sbcglobal.net">Mariscal@sbcglobal.net</a>

<b>Southwest Texas</b>	Judy Hutcherson - International VIM	830.685.3562 c	<a href="mailto:judybhutch@yahoo.com">judybhutch@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Southwest Texas</b>	Rev. Marilyn Roeder - Domestic VIM	361.578.2701 o	<a href="mailto:pastormk@the-i.net">pastormk@the-i.net</a>
<b>Southwest Texas</b>	Eugene Hileman - Disaster	210.557.8698 c	<a href="mailto:aehileman@umcswtx.org">aehileman@umcswtx.org</a>
<b>Texas</b>	Kathie Mann – VIM/Disaster	713.521.9383 ext. 312	<a href="mailto:texaspim@txcumc.org">texaspim@txcumc.org</a>
<b>Texas</b>	DeWitt Cox – Disaster (South)	832.498.4474	<a href="mailto:dewittcox@windstream.net">dewittcox@windstream.net</a>
	Rev. Alan VanHooser – Disaster (North)		<a href="mailto:revavanhooser@aol.com">revavanhooser@aol.com</a>
<b>SCJ Director UMVIM</b>	Debbie Vest VIM/ Disaster	913.568.8826 o	<a href="mailto:vimscj@sbcglobal.net">vimscj@sbcglobal.net</a>



DJV 11/01/11