




**United Methodist Volunteers in Mission**  
**South Central Jurisdiction**  
**Newsletter - January 01, 2012**  
*“Connections”*

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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 January 21, 2012 in Stillwater, OK and sessions March 03, Sept 15 and November 03, 2012 in Oklahoma City, OK. For more information please call the conference VIM office at 405.530.2029.

**Early Response Training**

Completing this class will qualify you to serve on an Early Response Trained team, which is a ministry of the local church. The training equips volunteers to help after a disaster with clean-up, debris removal, and making homes safe, sanitary and secure.

- Northwest Texas Conference will hold a session **February 25, 2012** at First UMC in Frisco, TX. For more information please contact Sharyn Yetman at [missions@ntumc.org](mailto:missions@ntumc.org) or at tel. no. 800.969.8201.

**TRAINING NEWS AND DATES (Continued)**

**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**

**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.

**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)**

**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.

**VIETNAM OPPORTUNITY (NEW)**

The Louisiana Conference is hosting a VIM medical mission team to Vietnam, **March 15-28, 2012**. The timeframe allows for setting up a clinic, operating the clinic, and then three days of sight-seeing at the end of the mission. Approximate cost of the trip is \$3,200. Our in-country missionaries have been busy getting everything organized. They are asking us to see patients in 4 villages! To accomplish their goal, we are going to need a few more medical as well as non-medical Team Members who are willing to give freely of their time and talents to villagers with limited access to basic health care. All medical and dental healthcare professionals and chiropractors can be very beneficial to this mission. Non-medical helpers have a variety of roles from patient intake to prayer corner workers. If you are interested, or if you have questions, please contact Beverly Dinnel at [dinnels@bellsouth.net](mailto:dinnels@bellsouth.net) or tel. 985.320.2393.

**HAITI OPPORTUNITY (NEW)**

Lake Travis UMC in Austin, Texas will take a mission trip to Haiti **March 10-17, 2012** to rebuild housing, and has open slots for missionaries to join the group—with the exception that missionaries in high school must be accompanied by one or both of their parents. For more information please contact Tom Rioux at [rioux@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:rioux@mail.utexas.edu) or cell phone 512-422-8682.

**HAITI OPPORTUNITY (NEW)**

The Northeast Jurisdiction has a VIM team going to Haiti **February 28 - March 7, 2012**, and is seeking additional members for the team. The VIM team will be working on the Croix des Mission church in Port-au-Prince. Construction experience is not required; VIM team members will be assisting skilled Haitian workers. The only requirement is a cheerful, Christian heart. The VIM team will lodge at the Methodist Guest House. The cost is \$1,800/person which includes all expenses (airfare, lodging, meals, daily ground transportation, etc.). This is your opportunity to experience Haiti. To read more about this project, visit <http://www.lebanonumc.net>. For more information, contact Bob Parker at [parker.nh@gmail.com](mailto:parker.nh@gmail.com) or [603-863-7348](tel:603-863-7348).

**VOLUNTEER IN MISSION OPPORTUNITIES (continued)**

**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).

**VOLUNTEER IN MISSION OPPORTUNITIES (continued)**

**BELIZE OPPORTUNITY (NEW)**

There is an opportunity for donations and mission teams to help build a new Methodist High School in Belmopan, the Capital of Belize. There is a great need for this, to enable more teenagers to get a high-school education, as currently there are far fewer school places than there are children – in fact overall, only just over half of the youth in Belize are able to receive a high school education.

Education in Belize is delivered through a partnership between the Church and the State, commonly known and referred to as the Church - State Relationship. In the present system, the State or the Government of Belize provides tuition grants for students, and most notably 70% monthly salary grant for secondary school teachers. However, the responsibility for the remainder of teachers' salary, proper management, and operation of the schools rests with the Church.

While primary school age is 5 – 12 and is 'free', the cost of secondary education must be borne by parents, and a variety of scholarships; in many instances this cost has become prohibitive for parents. On the other hand, since post primary education is not universal in Belize, the lack of high schools spaces to accommodate students wishing to transition from primary to secondary has become a challenge. Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) data from the Policy and Planning Unit indicate that in Belmopan in 2011 there were 630 students leaving primary school and projections for 2015 show a figure of 898 students. This data highlights the need for additional high school spaces in the Cayo District to accommodate the growing population. The establishment of this new secondary school in the Belmopan area will certainly address the need in Belmopan and in the wider Cayo District.



The project will construct Belmopan Methodist High School, accommodating 360 students. The school will initially have one story with four classrooms—each housing 30 first form students, a computer laboratory and associated administrative offices and necessary facilities. Over the next three years, a second story will be added to provide classrooms and facilities to accommodate subsequent students. We have started construction. The foundations are completed and the next stage is the columns and the concrete floor slab.

Building a new high school is a huge undertaking for us, but we are confident that with your help, both practically and prayerfully, we will accomplish the task. If you can help with funding or by sending construction mission teams, please contact Maggie Patchett, Mission Partner working with the Belize/Honduras District of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas. She may be reached at [mpatchett@gmail.com](mailto:mpatchett@gmail.com) or tel. 501.223.2610 or cell 501.628.8004.

**VOLUNTEER IN MISSION OPPORTUNITIES (continued)**

**MEXICO OPPORTUNITIES (NEW)**

Manos Juntas Mexico, A.C. (Hands Together Ministry)  
Eastern Conference of the Methodist Church of Mexico

Dear friends,

We thank our God for all his Blessings during this year and we look forward to continue our partnership with your mission teams and local Churches. As we continue to see a decrease on the number of teams and number of team members coming to our area we are seeing an increase on new ways of partnering in the mission; like people or Churches calling us and saying we are praying for you, we want to support your ministry, we are collecting vitamins, money for bibles and other things; it has been challenging to see how we have been able to grow in our ministry in the midst of less teams coming to visit us.

On our latest news, we praise God for the dedication of El Camino Methodist Church in Reynosa last November 19<sup>th</sup>, where many construction teams worked in the new 40' x 85' building plus 5 classrooms and restrooms along with other Conferences teams and many medical teams will continue to do free one day clinics.



Top of picture: Men's team from Asbury, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Three rows below from top: Medical team from Shreveport, Louisiana. Congregation of El Camino Church.

McNeese College Nursing School from Lake Charles, LA, will be with us on January 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> for a mission to our Manos Juntas clinic in Rio Bravo to support our program for diabetics and high blood pressure patients; we look forward to this as we think the relationship will grow and will invite other colleges to partner with us as well.

**VOLUNTEER IN MISSION OPPORTUNITIES (continued)**

**MEXICO OPPORTUNITIES (continued)**

Our Manos Juntas Clinic has been successfully open Monday –Saturday charging a small fee of \$5 dollars per patient and that includes most of the medicines they need and still we are not charging those that cannot pay for this, which is about 30% of those that come. Our project here is to start a laboratory; we have the space behind the pharmacy. We are looking for funding to buy the equipment we need for this.

Along with the casitas ministry, a few new construction projects are to be started, the new school building for Betania Methodist School and a sanctuary for Pueblo de Dios (People of God) Church; both projects in Reynosa. In Rio Bravo, we will be finishing the fellowship hall for La Luz del Evangelio Methodist Church that also will be used to host people from rural areas waiting for their patients at the new State Hospital, like a Ronald McDonald’s house.

We are also starting an After School program for children of 6 to 14 years old, using the dinning and lobby areas of our dorm facilities at our VIM camp in Reynosa; we got a grant from GBGM and we are looking for more funds as we want to offer computer access and a daily meal to the children.

We are re-opening a lunch program at La Luz del Evangelio Methodist Church (The light of the gospel) in January 2012 and a food bag ministry also next year to selected families.

In Nuevo Progreso, through our partnership with the West Ohio Conference of the UMC, we are finishing the remodeling of our former shop to be a family clinic to be served by medical teams and the kindergarten school has been operating under a partnership with DIF (Government Social Services) we are providing the building and they are providing the teachers. This will be for the current school year and next one until we get enough funds to operate the school and pay our own teachers.

At our Reynosa downtown Methodist clinic we are so close to finishing the upgrade to become a 5 beds Methodist Hospital; we believe we are a few months away from this dream to come true. It has been hard to find medical equipment for the clinic, so we are still asking for monetary donations to buy used or new equipment in good shape.

M3 or MMM has been activated in our Conference: Mexican Methodists in Mission, YES! Glory to God! Your example of being volunteers has open the eyes of many that are planning on participating on these Mexican mission teams, also with our Manitas Juntas (Little Hands Together) program we are teaching our children 8 to 12 years old to do work as mission teams. YES! YES! YES! We are marching! I hope to see some of these teams partnering with your teams in the near future.

If you are not being called to send a team to Mexico at this time, there are other ways of how Churches and/or individuals can partner with us:

- a) Providing funds to Manos Juntas through the GBGM Advance program #3020527; these monies are used to support the daily operations of the ministry.
- b) Blessing this ministry and the people of Mexico with some in kind donations like school supplies, tools, new t-shirts, toys, medical supplies, vitamins, vehicles, Vacation Bible School supplies, reading books, coloring books, etc.
- c) Donating food items or money for food for our breakfast and lunch programs.
- d) Partnering with GBGM (General Board of Global Ministries) to support my position as missionary through a Covenant Relationship # 3019612 for 3 years.

**VOLUNTEER IN MISSION OPPORTUNITIES (continued)**

**MEXICO OPPORTUNITIES (continued)**



Betania Methodist Hospital surgery room in Reynosa.

Again, we would like to say that the issue of safety in Mexico has been blown out of proportion by the media. Those of us who live here and worship, work, play and have sons, daughters and loved ones that carry on their lives as we have done always are surprised at the amount of fear a misguided report can have. Bear in mind that mission teams come to serve the Lord, not to get involved in illicit or dangerous "tourist" endeavors, and have the guidance and protection from Him and the knowledge and expertise of the Methodist Church of Mexico through our Manos Juntas/VIM Mexico ministry. This does not mean we can absolutely guarantee that no random occurrence may happen; nobody can give you that kind of assurance anywhere in the world, but that we do know how to minimize that possibility.

The target of the violence is very specific: drug dealers killing drug dealers, soldiers and police killing drug dealers. The cartels defend their shrinking territories fiercely and commit atrocities to scare their opponents. Most of the victims (90%) were drug dealers or people related to the drug trade, soldiers and policemen (6%) and the remainder (4%) civilians caught in the crossfire; US Citizens account for a minimal number of these, and some of the US victims were related to the drug trade or were killed in areas where danger was present. In other words, innocent civilian victims were random victims not specifically targeted to be killed. There is no place in the world where you can be safe from random acts of violence, not even in the US. - I refer you to read the recommendations and comments of Americans living in Mexico, this page has many useful information and statistics you can share with those concerned, and it is written by a US citizen. The link is:

<http://www.mexicomike.com/safety/safety-UsStateDepartment.html>.

**VOLUNTEER IN MISSION OPPORTUNITIES (continued)**

**MEXICO OPPORTUNITIES (continued)**

You can also read accounts from teams that have visited us in 2011 on our Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/manosjuntas>

Now, about Reynosa, Rio Bravo and Matamoros safety for our teams in this place. Manos Juntas/VIM Mexico has been operating continuously for more than 15 years in this city, mission teams have been coming every year to partner with us in construction and medical projects for all this time and we have not had ONE incident where violence against any of our volunteers has been a factor. We are sure our Lord has made our safety record possible and that He will continue to do so. Common sense and simple measures do the rest.

The sites where our teams go are carefully selected and monitored constantly. We insist on teams having one of our volunteers or staff with them most of the time and we are all communicated in case of need, 365 days/24 hours a day. We have seen some acts of drug related violence but these have been isolated to areas where we do not go, or random incidents that were specifically targeted. The army is now patrolling the streets, safeguarding the population. This is something that may look different to US citizens: seeing armed soldiers patrolling the streets, but that is the extent of the "violence" that you will see.

After having received teams from several states in the US, built churches, schools, homes, and conducted many medical campaigns, it is His love softly calling us to partner in furthering His kingdom. Let no howl of fear drown His sweet voice. Before you decide on cancelling your mission to Mexico, please ask us, maybe you could join another team that is in the schedule.

We are in the process of building our new web page, you can visit us at [www.handstogethermexico.org](http://www.handstogethermexico.org) please send us your comments or you can contact us at [manosjuntasschedule@hotmail.com](mailto:manosjuntasschedule@hotmail.com) Please update your records for our mail address:

Manos Juntas Mexico  
First United Methodist Church  
4200 N. McColl Rd.  
McAllen, Tx. 78504

As Director of Manos Juntas and VIM in the Eastern Conference of the Methodist Church of Mexico, I want to thank you and thank God for your commitment to this ministry during these years. I also understand the many people behind every team supporting them in their journey. Thanks to all teams for such a wonderful gift of sharing Christ to others and your friendship; I look forward to visit your Churches and give you thanks personally for all you do for our people. From our staff, please enjoy this Christmas season and its message to us.

Guillermo “Willie” Berman  
Manos Juntas/VIM Director  
[wberman@prodigy.net.mx](mailto:wberman@prodigy.net.mx)

**DISASTER RESPONSE OPPORTUNITIES**

**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.”

**HAITI PROGRESS REPORT AVAILABLE (NEW)**

UMCOR has prepared a Haiti Progress Report, detailing initiatives and results to date. The report (34,000 copies) will be mailed to all Methodist Churches within the United States in January. The report also has been mailed to the 64,000 people who donated to the Haiti Relief effort over the last two years. The report (5,000 copies) is of course also being provided for use in Haiti. The report is also being uploaded for availability on the UMCOR website; look for it there. The next edition of this *Connections* newsletter will include a link to the page on the UMCOR website where you can find the link to the full report in PDF format.

Thanks to all who contributed the necessary information to enable the publishing of the Haiti Progress Report, and by deadline! While UMCOR will not be able to do this type of reporting for every emergency and disaster that it responds to, UMCOR clearly understands the overwhelming need in Haiti, the fact that United Methodists will be there for the long term, the need for continued funding, and the fact that supporters and missionaries want to understand how their donations and volunteer efforts are being used to help. Consequently, UMCOR plans to produce a 3-year anniversary report next year.

**MISSION TRIP REPORTS (continued)**

**PRIMETIMERS VERMONT EVENT (NEW)**

Jeanie Blankenbaker provided this report on the Sep 23-Oct 01, 2011 Primetimers event, A *Kaleidoscope of Vermont Color*. (Note: Prior to her retirement Jeanie served as Assistant General Secretary for Mission Volunteers of Global Ministries).

*Question: What do Sugar on Snow, Moo Doo and Robert Frost’s cabin in the woods have in common?  
Answer: They are but a small fraction of new cultural experiences, information and things uncommon in the home states of Primetimers attending the Vermont event.*

*Arriving from all five United Methodist jurisdictions, fourteen Primetimers (PTs) quickly hit the road, loading into vans each morning from home base in Burlington, VT. Traveling within the beautiful Champlain Valley and Green Mountains, the PTs experienced a full kaleidoscope of Vermont colors, sparkling sites, and encountered brilliant, renowned speakers superbly versed in their respective fields.*



**Our Primetimers (Left to Right):**

1<sup>st</sup> Row: Keith Thayer, Nancy Thayer, Opal Lee Gill, Marilyn Knight, Debby Graves. 2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Larry Barber, Sue Holloway, Jo Tichenor, Bonnie Totten Adkins, Jeanie Blankenbaker, Faye Eacker, Dale Eacker. 3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Margaret Klohck, Ann Barber, Sara Cornett. 4<sup>th</sup> Row: Jim Holloway, George Klohck, Lee Adkins, Dennis Gill, Phil Tichenor, Gary Cooper.

*An afternoon of volunteer service took the PTs to Covenant Hills Christian Camp, located on an absolutely gorgeous 139 acre wooded-mountain site. Work on repairing and strengthening cabin decks; leveling of one cabin; prep-work for floor painting and other painting tasks were done.*

*To mention the many experiences of the week is all but impossible here. When asked, “What are your most memorable events?” Primetimers lifted these, in no priority order...the volunteer service day at the camp; Burr Morse and his maple sugar farm stories; the Shelburne Museum; all the persons our hosts knew and we heard – especially Vermont Senator Claire Ayer (health care advocate), Dr. John Elder (Robert Frost scholar), Skip Flanders (Waterbury’s President of Selectmen and member of Wesley UMC - flood damage), Bob Foster (Dairy Farm owner and producer of Moo Doo and electricity), Stuart Hall (snowflake photographer), Michelle Jenness (Director, Vermont Immigration and Asylum Advocates), and Cheryl Connor (Co-convener of Addison County Farm Worker Coalition).*

**MISSION TRIP REPORTS (continued)**

**PRIMETIMERS VERMONT EVENT (continued)**



**Entering Robert Frost’s cabin in the Vermont woods.**

*The PTs enjoyed the private visit inside the cabin of Robert Frost, Ben and Jerry’s ice-cream factory, Rokeby Museum and its Underground Railroad, worshipping at Shelburne UMC, the Lake Champlain cruise, the sample table at Cabot Cheese Factory, the picnic on top of Mt. Philo, Vermont’s incredible views, the Vermont State House tour, participating in Bill McKibben’s 350.org grassroots movement to solve the climate crisis, the Middlebury College*

*tour and the international students we met, and the observation of Vermonters working together to solve their problems. It was truly a kaleidoscope event of experiences and colors. One Primetimer summed it up – we were ‘taken with Vermont’*

**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.*

**MISSIONARY REPORTS (continued)**

**KENYA (continued)**

*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!*

*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**

**2012 PRIMETIMERS EVENTS ANNOUNCED (NEW)**

Dear Friends of Primetimers,

Greetings from the Primetimers program of the General Board of Global Ministries. Primetimers offers educational and mission service opportunities for older adults. I am excited to share with you the 2012 Primetimers Event listing:

- World Beat Connection Jamaica – “What a Wonderful World” – **February 11-18, 2010**
- McAllen, Texas – “The Way of the Cross” – **March 18-25, 2012**
- London, Stratford-Upon-Avon, and Oxford, England – “William and John, an Unlikely Pair” – **May 5-13, 2012**
- Salt Lake City Utah – “Being Methodist in a Mormon Place” – **September 8-15, 2012**
- Paducah, Kentucky – “Water is Life. Water is Baptism. Life in God Requires Water” –Fountain Avenue United Methodist Church – **October 12-20, 2012**
- St. Simons Island, Georgia – “Remembering, Understanding, and Honoring the Gullah Geechee Culture” – **November 11-16, 2012.**

If you have any concerns or questions about Primetimers or any of the specific events, please contact me at [primetimers@gbgmumc.org](mailto:primetimers@gbgmumc.org) or at 1.877.882.4724. Additional information may also be found on the website at [www.primetimers.info](http://www.primetimers.info). To register for an event, please send a completed registration form and \$100 deposit to the Mission Volunteers Office. You are encouraged to register early as some events are filled before their registration deadline. Thank you for your interest and I hope to see you at an event in 2012!

Nancy Eubanks, Consultant  
Primetimers – Mission Volunteers  
General Board of Global Ministries  
475 Riverside Drive, Room 320  
New York, NY 10115

**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 AND DOMESTIC MISSION PROJECT LISTS UPDATED**

The international and domestic project profiles lists have 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)**

**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>.

**HAITI RESPONSE PLAN REVAMPS GUIDELINES FOR UMVIM TEAMS**

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.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION (continued)**

- Teams of between 4-6 persons will be asked to contribute \$2,500 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) .

**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*

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION (continued)**

*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)*

**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) .

**SOUTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE U.M. ARMY ANNOUNCES CAMP DATES**

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!”

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION (continued)**

**U.M. ARMY ANNOUNCES CAMP DATES (continued)**

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)

**TRIP INSURANCE PROCEDURES CHANGED**

The General Board of Global Ministries has updated the process for applying for accident insurance. All UMOVIM Team Leaders, Individual Volunteers, and Primetimers 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 UMOVIM work projects listed on the Jurisdictional UMOVIM and Mission Volunteers websites, which can be accessed at <http://umvim.info>. The policy is also available for participants in UMOVIM 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 UMOVIM 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.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION (continued)**

**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.

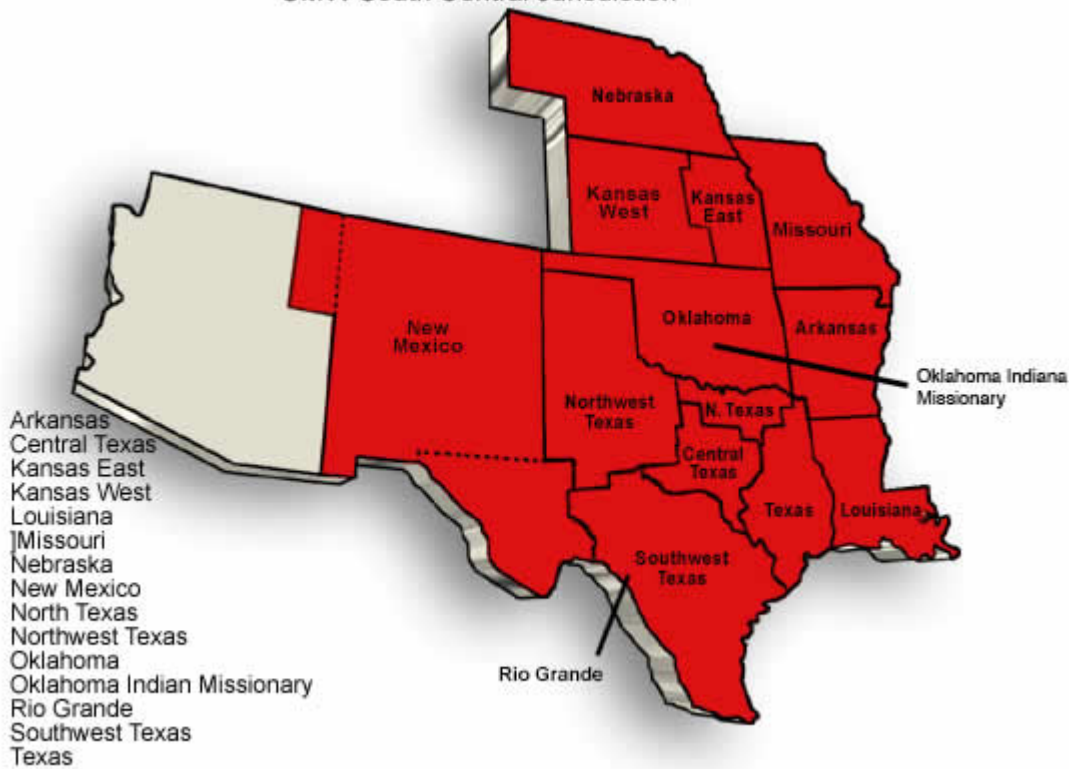
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**South Central Jurisdiction**  
**Volunteers in Mission and Disaster Response Coordinators**  
Updated January 1, 2012

Conference	Name	Phone	Email
Arkansas	Don Weeks -VIM	501.868.9193 o	<a href="mailto:dweeks@arumc.org">dweeks@arumc.org</a>
	Byron and Janice Mann-Disaster	870.703.8359	<a href="mailto:rainmaker@arkansas.net">rainmaker@arkansas.net</a>
Central Texas	Rev. Johnny Miller-VIM	254.773.3021 o 254.223.1010	<a href="mailto:Johnny@oakparkmethodist.org">Johnny@oakparkmethodist.org</a>
	Rev. Laraine Waughtal-Disaster	254.595.1503	<a href="mailto:revlaraine@yahoo.com">revlaraine@yahoo.com</a>
	Rev. Kyland Dobbins-Mission Experience Coordinator	817.877.5222	<a href="mailto:kyland@ctcumc.org">kyland@ctcumc.org</a>
Kansas East	Julie Pohl- VIM/ Disaster	816.390.0324 o	<a href="mailto:Kseastvim@yahoo.com">Kseastvim@yahoo.com</a>
Kansas West	Janet Robinson - VIM	316.253.4913 o	<a href="mailto:jrobinson@kswestumc.org">jrobinson@kswestumc.org</a>
Louisiana	Rev. Larry Norman-VIM	888.239.5286 o	<a href="mailto:lduckn@aol.com">lduckn@aol.com</a>
	Rev. Darryl Tate-Disaster	225.346.5193 o 225.303.3293 c	<a href="mailto:datate@ladrm.org">datate@ladrm.org</a>
Missouri	Audrey Phelps-International/US VIM	573.474.7155 o	<a href="mailto:phelps@umocm.com">phelps@umocm.com</a>
	Jeff Baker-VIM/Disaster	573.474.7155 o 573.673.9264 c	<a href="mailto:baker@umocm.com">baker@umocm.com</a>
	Karen Benson - Disaster	573.474.7155 o 417.466.5406 c	<a href="mailto:kbenson@convoyofhope.org">kbenson@convoyofhope.org</a>
Nebraska	Lisa Maupin - VIM	402.898.9862 o	<a href="mailto:lmaupin@bigmuddyumc.org">lmaupin@bigmuddyumc.org</a>
	Rev. Roger Gillming - Disaster	308.241.1791	<a href="mailto:Pastorroger.gillming@gmail.com">Pastorroger.gillming@gmail.com</a>
New Mexico	Mary White- VIM	915.494.3177 o	<a href="mailto:Mwhite1@elp.rr.com">Mwhite1@elp.rr.com</a>
	Rev. T.C. Broom - Disaster	575.584.2267	<a href="mailto:revtcbroomjr@plateautel.net">revtcbroomjr@plateautel.net</a>
North Texas	Rev. Marji Bishir - VIM/Disaster	800.969.8201 o	<a href="mailto:bishir@ntcumc.org">bishir@ntcumc.org</a>
Northwest Texas	Dr. Rev. Buff Hearn-VIM	806.367.8723	<a href="mailto:amarillopotter@yahoo.com">amarillopotter@yahoo.com</a>
	Rev. Vernon Baker - Disaster	806.438.3840 c	<a href="mailto:revvern@hotmail.com">revvern@hotmail.com</a>
Oklahoma	Rev. Jeremy Basset-VIM	800.231.4166	<a href="mailto:jbasset@okumc.org">jbasset@okumc.org</a>
	Richard Norman - Disaster	405.530.2032 o	<a href="mailto:rnorman@okumc.org">rnorman@okumc.org</a>
	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>
	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>
	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>
	Rev. Marilyn Roeder - Domestic VIM	361.578.2701 o	<a href="mailto:pastormk@the-i.net">pastormk@the-i.net</a>
	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>
	DeWitt Cox – Disaster (South)	832.498.4474	<a href="mailto:dewittcox@windstream.net">dewittcox@windstream.net</a>
	Clayton Whitaker– Disaster (North)		<a href="mailto:claytonwhitaker@sbcglobal.net">claytonwhitaker@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>SCJ Director UMVIM</b>	Debbie Vest VIM/ Disaster	913.568.8826 o	<a href="mailto:vimscj@sbcglobal.net">vimscj@sbcglobal.net</a>

UMW South Central Jurisdiction



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