



Eradicating Poverty

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The General Church Responds to Poverty

From the General Board of Global Ministries website

The World Hunger/Poverty Program has been an integral part of Global Ministries' (GBGM) mission to enable United Methodist congregations to put love into action, through integrated programs that emphasize agriculture, food security, stewardship of natural resources and the environment, education, microcredit, enterprise development, supplemental food programs, and advocacy to alleviate hunger and poverty.

The World Hunger/Poverty Program is an integral part of GBGM's mission to empower the most vulnerable. In a world with unparalleled wealth and food production more than 800 million people go hungry every day. They're hungry not because there is not enough food but because of accessibility and equal distribution to all people, regardless of their class, gender, geography, religion, earning power, or status.

The role of the church in alleviating hunger and poverty is crucial. God has placed the responsibility for leadership on our shoulders. As a church that follows the teachings of Wesley and Christ, we have a responsibility to share the blessings that God has bestowed upon us.

The mobilization of resources through United Methodist connections brings us closer to our goal of eradicating the root causes of hunger and poverty see more information in this news release about how you can get involved.

Sharing the blessings of God

The task of trying to resolve the problem of hunger and poverty involves many layers of socio-economic and political structures and systems that may be difficult to influence or control. As a church that follows the teachings of Wesley and Christ, we have a responsibility to share the blessings that God has bestowed upon us. We must also be of a mind to do this "sharing" in the spirit of sacrifice rather than charity. Charity is giving out of one's excess. Sacrifice is giving as Christ did-when we ourselves may not have enough.

Other Strategies and Integrated Programs

- Stewardship of natural resources and the environment
- Education, training, and literacy
- Sustainable agriculture and development
- Microcredit and enterprise development
- Urban agriculture
- Leadership development
- Supplemental food programs
- Advocacy to alleviate hunger and poverty
- The mobilization of resources through the United Methodist connection
- Eradication of the root causes of hunger and poverty

August 2010

Editor,
Libby Oberdorf

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Then Jesus went to work on his disciples..."Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is not help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self."

- Matthew 16: 24-25

The Message



Haiti Response

On July 6-12, 2010 the first Kansas East Conference Volunteer in Mission Team went to Haiti to help with clean up following the major earthquake that rocked the world of this already impoverished country. The team was led by Sheryl Crooks from Alta Vista and included Doug Pishney from Blue Rapids UMC. The following articles give you a glimpse of what they experienced.

Mardi 12 Janvier 2010.

**Dieu est bon
(God is Good)**

The above is written on the chalkboard in the Methodist School in Mellier, Haiti. Mellier was close to the epicenter of the January earthquake. The church was completely destroyed and the school is not longer structurally safe. Classes are held in a UNICEF tent and under trees. Tarps are hung to shade the students and teachers from the hot sun. July 2010 a group of 6 people from the Kansas East Conference spent time in Mellier. The consensus of the group would be to describe Mellier as...unforgettable, unbelievable and we want to go again.

The people of Mellier were so welcoming. Smiles were always on everyone's faces.

Our project cost which were paid by the Haiti Fund and a Haun Grant that was matched by UMCOR. With the project costs we hired 25 Haitians to help with construction and to fix meals for the workers and our team. We worked on a wall around the church and school. We carried rocks and more rocks and when we finished carrying rocks we carried some more! We spend the time laughing with the Haitian workers.

The church had been rebuilt and was very active every night. The day we arrived, there was a funeral so the workers only worked a 1/2 day so they could attend the funeral. The service was certainly a celebration of life for Lucianna Pierre, born in 1922, a member of the church. Her family hired a band that played before the service started and lead the march in front of the hearse to take Lucianna to her final resting place. Her service was an experience we will never forget!

We had the honor of visiting with the band during the service. They were a group of professional musicians from Port-au-Prince. The instruments they played were held together with tape. The horns didn't have finger pads. The drum was taped on the top with duct tape. The director of the band spoke to us about a dream he has. He wants to start a music school in Port-au-Prince for kids. He was very insistent he was NOT asking for money. He wants instruments for kids. So our team told him we would see what we could do. We made sure he knew we were not promising anything but we would try to help.

Our week was very inspirational. People that have so little in material things but are so wealthy with the spirit of the Lord. Our devotion time in the mornings were spent sharing experiences, past and present. Our new friend, Cass asked to join our devotions. What they brought to our group, I could never experience sitting in a church pew for the rest of my life. Cass is a young man of God who is worried about the future of Haiti. Cass liked to be around us because he knew we cared for him. And yes, we reassured we loved him.

"Men anpil chay pa lou." Haitian Proverb
(Many hands make the load lighter.)

Submitted by Sheryl Crooks, Team Leader

First Call - Haiti

I retired a little over a year ago and early last year attended a Leadership Event in Wamego. My wife Becky and I attended a workshop on Disaster Response Training. We heard Joe Edgerton speaking about the problems in Haiti. Several times during the spring we thought about the workshop and wondered if we would have a chance to help somewhere. In early June my wife was talking to Sheryl Crooks about School of Christian Mission and asked her about the VIM trip that Kansas East Conference was planning. Sheryl said she had 2 more spaces to fill. Becky told Sheryl that I might be interested. When Becky asked me if I would be interested in going to Haiti it took only a few minutes to agree to meet with Sheryl and find out more. Within two days I had agreed to go.

Most of the planning had already been done at that time, and I had a two week vacation to Alaska planned. When we returned from there, I had one week to get ready. I met with the rest of the team to pack supplies and learn just how little personal items we could take. We were allowed to check two 50 pound suitcases, but they were to be filled with supplies. Each team member was allowed a carry-on bag. It is true that one can get by on less if one must.

We arrived in Port-au-Prince and stayed one night at the

The campus was also home to a tent city of about 300 tents. There were many tent city areas in Port-au-Prince and even on the median of a highway. The next day we arrived in Mellier, the worksite for our mission team. It is a small village near the epicenter of the January earthquake. The church and school were destroyed as well as many villagers' homes. Prior to our arrival a temporary church had been erected. While we were there two temporary buildings were erected to act as schools for the time being. While in Mellier, I helped dig a foundation for a wall to go around the compound. When complete I am guessing it will be about 230 by 400 feet. We hand dug about 3 feet deep and workers were building a foundation from round rock. All the work is done by hand. Later the wall will be built higher from concrete blocks.

One image I have of Haiti is the smiles. We were greeted everywhere with smiles of gratitude. The people have so little, but they still have joy in their hearts as evidenced by their beautiful smiles. The workers building the wall were grateful for the work they were being paid to do. Our cook smiled as she worked in the heat. Women carrying loads on their heads smiled as they walked by. The children were very curious and swarmed around us when school let out. They were also full of smiles. On Sunday we attended church and once again, the joy of the people came through to us from their singing and their smiles.

We took a portable generator to Mellier. That is the only electricity they have. Every night we were there something was happening in the church. Our sleeping area was very near the church. We had two tents. We slept on canvas army cots and used battery powered fans. We had an outhouse and a place to take a limited bath. Many of the people of Haiti sleep in tents or makeshift homes not nearly as nice as our tents were. Sometimes the tents go on for miles in both directions. There is no permanent sanitation. Haitians do not have battery operated fans. They have no hope of going anywhere better. Our stay was not very comfortable and the week seemed long, but we knew it would end and we would be back to our comforts soon enough. Sheryl Crooks, Beth Mechler, Janie Vanwallegem, Bob Svec, and Pastor Piet Knetsch were veteran VIM team members. They were an inspiration and very helpful in getting me through the week.

When I first returned home, I choked up with emotion when I talked about the trip. I kept remembering the terrible conditions I had witnessed, and the beautiful smiles. As time goes on I hope that other teams will go. I hope that the organization of the work teams will improve so that everybody can better use their ability to help in making life easier in Haiti. And just as important, I hope that I will continue to be grateful for all that I have and never forget to smile and show joy in life.

Submitted by Doug Pishney

Haiti Support—UMCOR Update

On June 15, volunteers and staff at UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana, loaded a truck with health kits, school kits, and UNICEF school boxes for shipment to Haiti. It was the first shipment of relief supplies to go directly from an UMCOR depot to the new UMCOR field office in Port-au-Prince.

The arrival in Haiti of the container of supplies meant that 5,532 children could attend school and have the pencils, paper, crayons, and other tools necessary to do their best. It meant that 2,688 individuals would have soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, and other hygiene items to protect them against disease.

Generous United Methodists and other people of goodwill have so far given more than \$40 million to earthquake relief in Haiti through UMCOR. The outpouring of support for rebuilding has been humbling.

Please continue to keep the Haitian people in your prayers as the work of clearing away debris and rebuilding homes, schools, places of worship, small businesses—and lives—gets underway. Your ongoing financial commitment to this endeavor is much needed and appreciated. Gifts to support UMCOR's work can be made online by visiting www.umcorhaiti.org. For gifts by mail, please make checks payable to UMCOR and mail to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087. Please indicate **Haiti Emergency, UMCOR Advance #418325** on the memo line of your check. One hundred percent of gifts to this Advance will help the people of Haiti.

“Sometimes it is rebuilding a home. Sometimes it is helping someone find a job. Sometimes it is as simple as making sure people have enough to eat or enough income to sustain themselves. There are so many ways in which we interact with people in helping them move forward and to be self-sufficient.”

- Tom Hazelwood, UMCOR's US disaster response executive

What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty

When I was growing up we played a lot of fun games from Red Rover, to chicken on our bikes or hide-n-seek. Some of our old favorites are no longer games of choice because as we know people often got hurt physically and emotionally by these games. I often wonder what we learned from these games.

In Red Rover we were invited to be part of team but it only required a couple of people in the chain to do anything while the rest of the people looked on. The person who was trying to break through the chain of the other team looked for what they believed was the weakest link. If you were big and strong or knew the other teams strengths and weaknesses you would do well at this game, if not you were always a loser.

So what did we learn? We learned that the strong have the power. We can try to break through but it will most likely be painful. We will only succeed if we are really strong or know the other team's tactics. The people on the other side aren't going to help and will probably make it even harder to get through. They will stand stronger the closer we get.

No wonder this game is obsolete!

Unfortunately, we often still relate to others in these same ways, especially when it comes to people in poverty. We expect people in poverty to know the rules (many of them hidden) and to be able to be strong enough to move out of poverty even though we aren't helping, and often make it more difficult. We know their bodies are weak and they struggle to learn from lack of nutrition, yet we expect no less from them than we do our other neighbors.

Even though I have experienced poverty and worked with people in poverty I realize that I don't really know enough about the effects of poverty. As the Kansas East Annual Conference focused on "Eradicating Poverty" this year I realized that I needed to know more if I wanted to be a part of the solution. One book that was recommended was "**What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty**" by Bill Ehlig and Ruby K. Payne. I recently picked up a copy of this book and found there was much more to learn about poverty and how it affects our communities and our relationships, especially in the church.

From "**What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty**" I learned:

- * there are "hidden" rules of economic class
- * communication and conflict-resolution strategies
- * distinctive mindsets about family, marriage, and stewardship (
- * how to use inventory tools to learn where my thinking comes from and where my church is in relation to me and those in poverty
- * tips for integrating people in poverty into the congregation

The most important lesson I learned from this book was that I didn't know enough about poverty, nor did I realize how much of what I do and how I view the world is affected by the social class in which I was raised. It was a great "aha!" I recommend that you read this book if you are working with or planning to work with those in poverty.

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Imagine a movement that mobilizes tens of thousands of people in 10 days.



It's called 10-Fold.

10-Fold is about multiplying ministry and mobilizing passionate people to stand up and be counted for the causes they believe in.

The event will launch on October 10, 2010 and last for 10 days. Every day will focus on a different project supported through The Advance, the designated giving arm of The United Methodist Church. The goal is to gain the support of 10,000 people for each of the 10 projects.

With the support of annual conferences and churches, 10-Fold will bring these global projects to the people through webcasts, streaming video, online chats and other media. For 10 days, these ministries will be on your doorstep.

You can provide tangible support just by registering your interest with one of these Advance projects. During the event, \$1.00 will be donated for every person that signs up as an advocate for a 10-Fold project, up to \$10,000 per project.

It's time to step out and be someone who stands for something. Be counted. Be a part of the movement. It's in your hands to multiply God's work; Turn 10 to 10,000 and make it a movement 10-Fold. For complete information visit www.10-fold.org.

What will you do?

10 projects. 10 days. 10-Fold Unfolded

From October 10th through 19th you will be able to learn about mission projects of the General Board of Global Ministries around the world supported through The Advance, the designated giving arm of The United Methodist Church, during an online event unlike anything you have experienced before. It's called 10-Fold. Through live webcasts, streaming video, online chats, and other media at 10-Fold.org, you will see and hear about amazing efforts that are changing people's lives.

Here is the daily schedule of projects that will be featured at 10-Fold.org:

- ❖ October 10: **Haiti Recovery** – 3,000 humanitarians helping a country rebuild itself
- ❖ October 11: **Children's Health and Wholeness** – Transforming communities so that children can live healthy and whole lives
- ❖ October 12: **Missionaries in the US** – Dedicated men and women living their faith through remarkable service
- ❖ October 13: **Missionaries Around the World** – Growing a global force for faith and hope in over 60 countries
- ❖ October 14: **Training Church Leaders** – Training the thousands called to devote their lives to Christ and the Church
- ❖ October 15: **Church Planting Worldwide** – From Asia to Latin America, introducing the United Methodists and sharing the gospel through word and deed
- ❖ October 16: **Justice for Our Neighbors** – Church-based teams helping refugee-seekers and immigrants navigate their way as they start their lives in the United States
- ❖ October 17: **Clean Water and Sanitation** – Helping families in Africa and South America gain access to safe water and sanitation facilities
- ❖ October 18: **Healthcare in Africa** – Combating disease in 22 hospitals and clinics across Africa
- ❖ October 19: **Sustainable Agriculture** – Training farmers so rural families and communities can thrive

Because of the unpredictability of planning a global event online, this is a preliminary schedule and is subject to change.



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Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 10th of each month.

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Emporia
"Open Doors, Clean
Hearts, Dirty Hands"

**Don't let this
opportunity pass you
by...**

**Grab the enclosed flyer
and register TODAY!**

**Saturday
September 25
9:00-4:00**

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