

# Stewardship In *Mission*



Meaningful Choices . . .

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## Your Gift Matters!

When the "Women of Faith" Sunday school class of Coker United Methodist Church in San Antonio, Texas, heard about a need for songbooks for a Methodist congregation in Italy, they got involved.

Several of the women are music lovers and members of the chancel choir. So the possibility of supplying another congregation with copies of a United Methodist songbook, *The Faith We Sing*, was a natural response.

Pastors David and Kristin Markay are missionaries serving the Chiesa Evangelica Metodista di Milano (the Methodist Church of Milan). After arriving at their new missionary assignment, the Markays quickly assessed their new congregation's opportunities for ministry and partnership in mission.

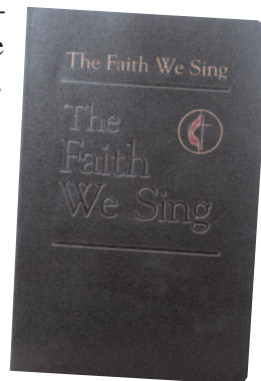
David Markay



La Corale Internazionale della Chiesa Evangelica Metodista di Milano

Music is a universal channel for building community. The Chiesa Evangelica Metodista di Milano is a congregation of great diversity, with members from the Philippines, Ghana, India, England, Sierra Leone, Ecuador, and the United States. When asked how *The*

*Faith We Sing* songbooks contributed to the worship experience, Pastor Kristin Markay said: "We have a 'Praise and Worship' group made up of youth, children, and adults. The singers are accompanied by guitars, African drums, bass, and piano. Often, some of the more difficult songs are introduced to the congregation as special music sung by the choir. In this way, the congregation becomes acquainted with the new melodies. Some of the songs in *The Faith We Sing* have been translated into Italian. We're hoping to be able to use these in our bilingual worship services."



Connecting the church through mission helps congregations reach across miles, cultures, and languages to share the good news of Jesus Christ. The 50 *The Faith We Sing* songbooks sent from a Sunday school class in San Antonio, Texas, are now a vital part of worship in Milan, Italy. Both congregations understand how important it is to be in mission together! ❖

*"So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another."*

Romans 12:5

Thank you for your gift that helps on giving.

# Over 11,400 Mission Teams in 2005



If your local church participated in a mission team over the past several years, you're probably privileged to know Jeanie Blankenbaker.

Jeanie retired in July after serving as Volunteers-In-Mission Coordinator. Her work involved training teams and annual conference leaders; identifying places of service and mission needs;

advising teams to help them have the best possible mission experience; and overseeing the countless details critical to a successful mission trip.

In 2005, 11,419 mission teams, including 139,665 volunteers, were in mission in 70 countries and 48 of the 50 US states. These teams put in the equivalent of 858,140 workdays, using equipment and in-kind gifts in excess of \$25 million.

Volunteering on mission teams is a win-win opportunity that has lasting impact on the individual volunteers and the communities served. Thanks to each of you who gave in this special way in 2005, and thanks to Jeanie Blankenbaker for a job exceptionally well done!

The Rev. Clinton Rabb of the Southwest Texas Conference has assumed responsibility for the coordination of Volunteers In Mission. ❖

## Ways to Give...NOW!

So often the desire to give is frustrated by the question of *how* to give. Considering the many places where United Methodist mission is in place around the world, your thoughts may be of making a gift to fund scholarships, perhaps for Honduran, African, US, or Latin American students; or of securing basic medical supplies to equip a clinic in one of the thousands of places where health-care is sorely lacking or nonexistent; or of leaving a memorial for a loved one whose love for mission was boundless. The desire to make a difference through mission can be satisfied by choosing from a wealth of opportunities.

What stops us from making the gifts we want to make? The need for income or assets later in life is just one important reason why charitable gifts are delayed or abandoned. Yet there are stewardship plans that allow the giver to make charitable gifts while also receiving generous payments that will not change over time.

**Charitable Gift Annuities** are a popular, reliable, and proven way to exercise your generosity, while also preserving, or even enhancing, your personal economic well-being. To learn more about charitable gift annuities as a way to continue your support for mission, contact any member of the Current and Deferred Giving staff. ❖

*"And we receive from [God] whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him."*

*1 John 3:22*

## A Really Great New Law!

IRA rollovers for mission are effective now! The Pension Protection Act of 2006 was signed into law on August 17, 2006.

During 2006 and 2007, persons aged 70.5 and older may roll over amounts up to \$100,000 as qualified charitable gifts. Call a Current and Deferred Giving staff member to find out more about this new law and how it can provide multiple benefits to you and to places of mission. ❖

## Stewardship In Mission

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# Meaningful Choices...Meaningful Choices??

Meaningful Choices...Meaningful Choices??



\$6



A \$6 “Happy Meal” can provide instant gratification...perhaps. The same \$6 can provide an insecticide-treated bed net, with five-year-use expectancy, that protects children and pregnant women from contracting malaria. Malaria is a debilitating, often deadly, mosquito-borne disease that endangers millions of lives in sub-Saharan Africa.

Perhaps you or your Sunday school class, Bible Study group, or Youth Fellowship will explore “Meaningful Choices” as a mission opportunity.

## Why Make an Undesignated Gift?

**H**ave you considered making an undesignated gift? Undesignated gifts are critical to providing the funds necessary to implement and administer every mission initiative.

What can an undesignated gift do? Here are just a few examples:

- It can purchase bicycles and motor vehicles for missionaries and other mission staff; estimated costs: \$15–\$25,000;
- It can research, design, and purchase landmine-removal equipment; estimated cost: \$1.6 million;
- It can pay for the training of indigenous health-care staff workers for clinics and training in agricultural skill development for workers in rural economic development mission initiatives; estimated cost: \$750–\$2,500;
- It can provide funds for rebuilding in communities destroyed by natural or human-made disasters; estimated cost: \$120,000–\$3.5 million.

Undesignated gifts make possible the effective use of funds received for designated needs. Without undesignated funding, too often designated gifts cannot be used as quickly as needed. ❖

## Have You Considered an Estate Gift?

While reviewing or making your estate plans, there are so many ways that a gift to mission can be realized far into the future.

Consider a gift to mission from your real estate holdings, retirement plan, living trust, or life insurance. These are just a few ways through which sustained mission can be assured. ❖

“Do all the good you can,  
by all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
in all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
to all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.”



—John Wesley

# Stewardship In *Mission*

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Address Correction Requested

CONNECTING THE CHURCH THROUGH MISSION!

## Keeping “Special Sundays” SPECIAL!

Are “Special Sundays” treated as truly special in your congregation? Several Special-Sunday offerings occur in the fall and winter months.

**World Communion Sunday** is observed annually on the first Sunday in October. Gifts from this offering provide scholarships for both US racial and ethnic minority students and for international students • **United Methodist Student Day** is observed the last Sunday in November. This offering furnishes scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related colleges and universities and other accredited institutions of higher learning • **Human Relations Day** occurs in the church calendar on the Sunday preceding the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday. This offering strengthens outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico. Through ministries supported by the Human Relations Day offering, social justice is advanced and work with at-risk youth is carried out. Inquire about the participation in these offerings by your congregation. Look especially for places in the congregation and community where these offerings have made and are making a difference. ❖

My United Methodist Church

is located in a specific (a)\_\_\_\_\_ within  
an (b)\_\_\_\_\_.

Within the  
United States, there are (c)\_\_\_\_\_  
annual conferences, with leadership assign-  
ments divided among (d)\_\_\_\_\_ bishops.

The regional structures outside the United  
States are called (e)\_\_\_\_\_ that are further divided into (f)\_\_\_\_\_.

(Check your answers inside.)

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