

# 3



Photo: Christopher Heckert

## EDUCATION FOR MISSION

As indicated in the previous section, conference mission leaders (and especially Conference Secretaries of Global Ministries) will find particular rapport with the Mission Education Program Area of the General Board of Global Ministries. This chapter explores that relationship and also looks at the topic of education for mission broadly and with reference to other units of the mission agency.

The Mission Education Program Area is charged with the development of a mission education philosophy for the Board; a philosophy rooted in a biblical and theological understanding of Christian global mission consistent with the Wesleyan and United Methodist heritage. An adequate philosophy entails a transformational approach to mission education summed-up in the phrase, Education for Mission. It seeks to engage the whole church—preparing for and facilitating reflection upon the meaning, purpose, and outcomes of a total program of global ministries within the life of the church. These efforts undergird the program of the General Board of Global Ministries through education for mission by providing opportunities for United Methodists and others to learn about the global ministries of The United Methodist Church.

These opportunities occur through a variety of mission education programs within the life of congregations, districts, and annual conferences. Mission education needs to be regular, of high quality, valued, and promoted. Congregations need annual education and emphases that integrate education for mission into the weekly and monthly experience of Christian discipleship. Mission education should be comprehensive education.



Photo: Paul Jeffrey

## A. MISSION EDUCATION TOOLS

The General Board of Global Ministries offers a range of resources, study opportunities, seminars, and workable suggestions to highlight the importance of engagement in God’s mission in the contemporary world. These include the following:

### **ACADEMY OF MISSION RENEWAL**

The Academy of Mission Renewal helps United Methodists to expand their understandings of mission theology and increases their capacity to engage in God’s mission.

The idea of the academy arose from discussions among the directors of Global Ministries’ Mission Education program area. The directors recognized the need for more mission education opportunities for clergy, especially education centered on the theology of mission. The idea was for academies carried out by annual conferences with educational resources provided by Global Ministries. The concept was quickly expanded to include not only clergy but also any who, because of their church offices or personal interests, want to more fully understand God’s mission today. A major goal of the academies is to provide contexts for developing and exploring firm Wesleyan missiology, thus enabling congregations and persons to have greater interest and involvement in mission.

*Faithful Witnesses* is the first resource book of the Academy of Mission Renewal. It covers the theology and practice of mission and explores “missio Dei”—that is, the



Photo: courtesy of Kelly Martini

nature of God's mission and why believers are called into mission. The book provides suggestions to more fully engage members and congregations in mission and explains what it means to be faithful witnesses of the gospel. The outlook is global and the impact is local.

**Website:** <http://academyofmissionrenewal.org>

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"Faithful Witnesses" is available through *Cokesbury*:

Order online at [gbgm-umc.org/e-store](http://gbgm-umc.org/e-store)

Phone orders: 1-800-672-1789

## MISSION STUDIES-SCHOOLS OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

Mission studies lead to action by motivating, informing, and enriching the commitment of United Methodists to global ministry. Each year, the church has three recommended study themes, including a geographic study, a general (or topical) mission theme, and a spiritual growth study. Some themes are repeated in an ensuing year. The Women's Division of Global Ministries has a major role in the selection of the themes and production of study materials, some of which are prepared in multiple languages and some for varying age groups. Schools of Christian Mission are held on regional and annual conference levels, one objective of which is to prepare leaders of the studies. Local studies may be four to six sessions held over successive weeks, during a weekend retreat, or in a daylong study. Study books and other materials are available for purchase through the Mission Resource Center (see page 32). Articles that update and explore the themes appear in *New World Outlook*, the Global Ministries mission magazine, and

*Response*, the magazine of United Methodist Women. Study themes can also be used in Sunday schools and youth groups.

The mission study themes for the 2009-2012 quadrennium are:

### 2008-2009

Spiritual Growth: I believe in Jesus  
 Geographical: Israel and Palestine  
 Topical: Giving Our Hearts Away:  
 Native American Survival

### 2009-2010

Spiritual Growth: Food & Faith  
 Geographical: Sudan  
 Topical: Giving Our Hearts Away:  
 Native American Survival

### 2010-2011

Spiritual Growth: For the Love of God:  
 John's Letters  
 Geographical: Sudan  
 Topical: Mission and Evangelism

### 2011-2012

Spiritual Growth: Coming Out on the Side  
 of Grace: Reconciliation  
 Geographical: Haiti  
 Topical: Mission and Evangelism

### 2012-2013

Spiritual Growth: Living Sacramentally and  
 Walking Justly  
 Geographical: Haiti  
 Topical: Global Warming

## Mission Study Resources

A range of study resources are issued or identified for each study. The following list for 2008-2009 is illustrative. Unless otherwise indicated, materials should be ordered, using the “M” number indicated, from the Mission Resource Center. (Phone: 1-800-305-9857 or by email: [www.missionresourcecenter.org](http://www.missionresourcecenter.org))

### Resources for Adults:

*I believe in Jesus* by Bishop Minerva Carcaño with Study Guide by Glory E. Dharmaraj (M3023/\$7.00).

*Israel and Palestine* by Steve Goldstein with Study Guide by Sandra Olewine (#M3006/\$8.50).

*Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival* by Thom White Wolf Fassett with Study Guide by Brenda Connelly (M3015/\$10.00).

### Resources for Children and Youth:

*I'm Living the Faith* by Jay Godfrey and Alison Lutz. Youth study. (M3028/\$7.00).

*Walking in These White Man Shoes: Youth Explore Native America* by Ray Buckley (M3022/\$8.00).

*Creator Sang a Welcoming Song: Native America for Children* by Ray Buckley (M3021/\$8.00).

*The Give-Away* by Ray Buckley (Abingdon Press); *The Wing* by Ray Buckley (Abingdon Press); *The Christmas Moccasins* by Ray Buckley (Abingdon Press) \$14.40 each.

Order from Cokesbury at [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com) (Phone orders: 1-800-672-1789).

### Additional Resources:

*Stories from the Circle of Life* DVD. Includes an audio version of the adult text, *Giving Our Hearts*

*Away: Native American Survival* by Thom White Wolf Fassett. (#M3016/\$19.95).

## MISSION TRAVEL SEMINARS

These exposure trips help United Methodist annual conference teams gain knowledge and understanding of current issues in a specific country, while raising awareness concerning the realities and misconceptions about the land, people, resources, and conflicts. The trips are often coordinated with the geographical mission studies and, if that is the case, participants are encouraged to serve as study resource persons in their conferences, districts, and congregations.

Participants are introduced in the places visited to the work of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), and mission partners. Depending on the location, emphasis may be placed on peace building, poverty alleviation, ethnic reconciliation, or community building. Areas recently visited include Palestine/Israel, India, and Pakistan. The 2009 Mission Travel Study trip is to Sudan.

**Website:** <http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/about/us/me>

Staff Contact: Giuseppina Avitia, [GAvitia@gb-gm-umc.org](mailto:GAvitia@gb-gm-umc.org), 212-870-3792

## GLOBAL MINISTRIES' SEMINARS

Global Ministries' Seminars are offered for a wide range of groups at 475 Riverside Drive in New York City. Each event is individually designed to reflect the needs and concerns of the group. Seminars can run from a 90-minute session to an 8 to 10 hour program spanning two to three days. Participants have the opportunity to:



Photo: Annette A. Akpan

- Learn more about global mission in The United Methodist Church.
- Visit the offices of the General Board of Global Ministries, located in the Interchurch Center in New York City.
- Receive information on how to be a missionary, how to support a missionary in a Covenant Relationship, and how to support Advance projects.
- Discover anew the mission-minded United Methodist Church through video resources and conversations with Global Ministries' staff.

Seminars are available for: youth groups/confirmation classes; United Methodist Women; new pastors and seminarians; local church mission teams; conference mission leaders; conference and district secretaries of global ministries; and others.

**Website:** <http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/about/us/me>

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## MISSION CELEBRATION EVENTS

Mission Celebration Events, often held on the district level, are wonderful opportunities for sharing how The United Methodist Church is participating in God's mission throughout the world. Celebration events can be organized for the entire congregation, specific age groups, or even special focus groups to hear from missionaries and mission interpreters (speakers available through the General Board of Global Ministries who are trained in telling the story of mission). Interpreters share the story and the story becomes a transformational tool in the education for mission. The goal is to provide every local church within a district the opportunity to host one or more mission interpreters within a three to five day period. These events provide both a big picture of mission work at larger gatherings, and the details of mission work through the more intimate gatherings of smaller groups.

**Website:** [http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/connections/mission\\_education/celebrations/](http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/connections/mission_education/celebrations/)

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## UNITED METHODIST SEMINARS ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

United Methodist Seminars on National and International Affairs constitute a collaborative program of the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Church and Society. Interactive educational seminars are held throughout the year for groups who want to come to New York City and/or Washington, DC, to study complex social issues from a perspective of faith.

**YouTube Video:** "Make a Difference"—Eight-minute video about this program. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9o8aPNAr28>

**Website:** <http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/connections/missioneducation/index.cfm?i=16979>

## HALLELUJAH MOMENTS

Hallelujah Moments are short mission stories designed to show how Global Ministries participates in God's mission in the world. These inspirational vignettes can be used during Mission Moments, as devotionals for committee meetings, and as bulletin inserts. Hallelujah Moments are available on the web or through email delivery by sending a request to: [join-missionstories@list.gb-gm-umc.org](mailto:join-missionstories@list.gb-gm-umc.org).



Photo: Zaven Khachikyan/UMCOR Armenia

**Website:** <http://new.gbmg-umc.org>. Go to: Resources, and then Hallelujah Moment (to the right of screen).

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### **UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S FUND FOR CHRISTIAN MISSION**

The United Methodist Children's Fund for Christian Mission is about children helping children and is a tool for mission education

**Website:** <http://www.gbod.org/ministries/children/cf08.pdf>

Staff Contact: Jodi L. Cataldo, JCataldo@gbgm-umc.org, 212-870-3615

### **MISSION EDUCATION RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

The Mission Education unit provides a selection of United Methodist resources that educate children and youth for mission through the internet. Included is a review of each resource and instructions on how that resource can be obtained.

**Website:** <http://new.gbmg-umc.org/about/us/me/resources/childreneyouth/>

Staff Contact: Jodi L. Cataldo, JCataldo@gbgm-umc.org, 212-870-3615

### **KID'S CORNER**

This offers interactive mission education web pages designed specifically for children. Activities include "Spin the Globe" and "For Children Only—Stories and Activities from Around the World."

<http://gbgm-umc.org/kc/index.cfm>

Staff Contact: Jodi L. Cataldo, JCataldo@gbgm-umc.org, 212-870-3615

### **PARTNERSHIP FOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

The General Board of Global Ministries is forging a partnership with the General Board of Discipleship, the Christian Educators Fellowship, to encourage Christian educators to develop indigenous curriculum resources in various parts of the world. Target locations are typically places designed by Global Ministries as Mission Initiatives (see pages 52-59).

A team works in the US to raise awareness and funds, receive necessary training in the culture of the Mission Initiative church and to be trained in curriculum production. Three persons travel to the host country to work directly with a curriculum team there.

**Website:** <http://new.gbmg-umc.org/media/me/pdf/resourcingtogether.pdf>

Staff Contact: Jodi L. Cataldo, JCataldo@gbgm-umc.org, 212-870-3615

### **GLOBAL PRAISE: TRANSFORMATION, FAITH SHARING, AND MISSION EDUCATION THROUGH GLOBAL SONG**

Global Praise is a component of mission that gathers and shares the songs of faith and mission among Methodists, United Methodists, and other Christian communities around the world. It is part of the Mission Education unit of Global Ministries but serves the entire agency and the church at large. (See pages 74-76) for a full section on Global Praise.)

## B. A YEAR-ROUND MISSION EDUCATION PLAN FOR CONGREGATIONS

This annual mission calendar model provides guidelines and reminders of the connectional mission responsibilities to God's mission. It is prepared particularly for congregations in the US. These suggestions could support new opportunities to expand your church mission outreach. Conference or district mission leaders may want to reproduce and distribute it to congregations.

### JANUARY

- Launch or renew a Covenant Relationship with a missionary. For additional information, contact the Conference Committee on Mission Personnel, or Conference Secretary for Global Ministries, and/or the Covenant Relationship Office of The Advance. (See pages 49-51 for information on covenants.)
- Promote Human Relations Sunday, which is the first of six Special Sundays that The United Methodist Church asks all congregations to observe annually. It falls on the Sunday closest to the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who died attempting to create better relationships among all people. Invite community developers, United Methodist service agencies, or police community-relations programs to address the congregation. (See page 90.)
- Remind the church school superintendent to order the Children's Fund for Christian Mission materials from the General Board of Discipleship: <http://www.gbod.org/ministries/children/>.

### FEBRUARY

- Celebrate Black History Month.
- Begin to promote mission studies. (See page 31.) Resources are available for adults, children, and youth.
- Plan a mission volunteer trip (see pages 60-66). Consult annual conference or jurisdiction mission volunteer coordinators, or search this website for volunteer opportunities: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mv/> and click on Volunteer Opportunities; and/or <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mv/> and click on Mission Teams UMVIM, at the upper right of the screen.
- Lent can begin in February or March, depending on the calendar, and is a good



Photo: Matthew Morgan

time to emphasize mission as part of the preparation to receive God's gift of salvation on Easter.

### MARCH

- Promote One Great Hour of Sharing (second Special Sunday offering), which is essential to UMCOR. A gift to this offering underwrites UMCOR's costs of doing business. That helps us keep our promise that 100 percent of every other gift you make to a specific UMCOR project can be spent on that project—not on home office costs. Distribute materials and invite speakers who work with UMCOR to speak about hunger, refugees, and disaster relief. (See pages 77-82).
- Check on the dates of Lent. (See above.)
- First quarterly contact with your missionary. Send Easter cards, using the *Prayer Calendar*, available from the Mission Resource Center, to find names and addresses of additional missionaries and Global Ministries staff.

### APRIL

- (Usually) Holy Week, Easter, incorporate Global Praise music (see pages 74-76), which offers songs of faith from diverse traditions around the world. The songs also affirm the global Christian faith of God's people.
- Native American Ministries Sunday (third Special Sunday offering). This offering nurtures outreach with persons of all ages and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians. (See pages 90-91.)

### MAY

- Mission Month (Aldersgate Day). Celebrate your local, national, and international mission involvement. Hold a Mission Rally Sunday, gather for a mission dinner, or invite a mission speaker.
- Visit the home page of Global Ministries (<http://gbgm-umc.org>) for additional ideas and resources.

- Plan a mission seminar to take place at Global Ministries' offices at 475 Riverside Drive in New York City. (See pages 32-33).
- Heritage Sunday (May 24 or the Sunday preceding) is a Special Sunday celebrated by United Methodist congregations to reflect on our heritage, to celebrate the church's history, and look forward to the future. See <http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/resources/annual/heritagesunday/>



Photo: Shawn Bakker

## JUNE

- Visit a local mission project and design a visit to take place during vacation Bible school.
- (Usually) annual mission travel seminars. (For more information see page 32.)
- Encourage members to visit mission institutions or community centers during their summer vacation trips around the US and the world. (See Community and Institutions website, [http://gb-gm-umc.org/who\\_we\\_are/cim/NMIs.cfm](http://gb-gm-umc.org/who_we_are/cim/NMIs.cfm))
- Make mission volunteer trip organized and planned in February.
- Peace with Justice Sunday (fourth Special Sunday offering is always the Sunday after Pentecost). Because of the special offering God's people learn to coexist lovingly and peacefully. Global outreach through the General Board of Church and Society and annual conference-related peace with justice ministries transforms lives. (See [www.umcgiving.org](http://www.umcgiving.org).)

## JULY

- Encourage church members, especially mission leaders, to attend a School of Christian Mission conducted by the annual conference, <http://gb-gm-umc.org/umw>, then click on Our Work and then click on Schools of Christian Mission.
- Receive UMCOR Hotline updates to stay connected with needs around the world: <http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/umcor>: Then click on Newsroom and on list below click on Hotline News Update.

## AUGUST

- Arrange local visits to mission projects that the church supports. Request updates on the needs and recommendations of the projects in order to plan for next year.
- Renew subscriptions for the mission magazines, *New World Outlook* and/or *Response* and order new resources from Cokesbury and the Mission Resource Center.

## SEPTEMBER

- Celebrate mission outreach during the past year by the local church, district, or annual conference by hosting a special event to tell stories of mission involvement on the second Sunday in September.
- Plan mission programs and activities for following year and submit an article the congregation's newsletter and/or website. Invite members to become engaged in God's mission and suggest opportunities.
- Sign up for Hallelujah Moments email: <http://gbgm-umc.org/about/us/me/resources/hallelujahs/> another resource to keep the church connected.
- Plan a mission activity for children and youth. Explore websites for ideas and resources. See <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/me/resources/childreneyouth/>

## OCTOBER

- Promote World Communion Sunday (fifth Special Sunday). Invite people of many nationalities to participate in worship, dress the common table or other area in a way that represents different cultures of the world, serve communion with bread from different parts of the world, and incorporate more than one language into the litany. This offering supports scholarships for students preparing for Christian leadership in our world. (See page 91.)
- Observe Children's Sabbath, an interfaith event in which many United Methodists participate. (Search [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org) for information and resources.)

- Thanksgiving. Create thanksgiving opportunities for the church to participate in and enhance ecumenical and interfaith relationships.

## NOVEMBER

- Emphasize mission channels through The Advance for Christ and His Church. Plan a program that educates the congregation on the why and how of The Advance. (See pages 93-96.)
- United Methodist Student Day (sixth Special Sunday), last Sunday in November, guides promising students into the way of peace. See [www.unitedmethodiststudentday.org](http://www.unitedmethodiststudentday.org)

## DECEMBER

- WORLD AIDS DAY (December 1). This observance helps raise awareness and understanding of this deadly disease. News, worship resources, and materials are available at <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/resources/annual/worldaidsday/> or <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/work/health/hivaids/wad07/>
- Christmas, give a gift that changes the world. <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/give/gift-catalog/> also available from UMCOR by calling 800-554-8583.

*The Official United Methodist Program Calendar* will complement your mission calendar and mission planning. It is available from United Methodist Communications: <http://www.umcom.org/> .