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HOOSIER UNITED METHODISTS Mission Opportunities

For Monday, December
22, 2008

This newsletter is paid
for through your annual
conference connectional
ministries tithe.

Edited by Dan Gangler,
director of
communication

dgangler@inareaumc.org

**FOR THE LATEST IN DISASTER NEWS AND RECOVERY
LOG ON TO**

www.disasternews.net and www.gbgm-umc.org/umcor

**The next Monday Mission Opportunities will be published Monday, Jan. 5,
2009.**

The Area Office will be open Dec. 29 and Dec. 30.

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DEATH

BEATRICE ISCH, mother of Philip Isch (husband to the Rev. Michele D. Isch, serving Pleasant Mills UMC in the Huntington District of the former NIC), died on Wed., Dec. 17, 2008. A memorial service was held on Saturday, Dec. 20 at Downing Glancy Funeral Home in Geneva, Ind. Condolences can be sent to the Rev. Michele and Philip Isch, 11104 S. 400 W, Geneva, IN 46740.

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NEWS

OPERATION CLASSROOM ANNOUNCES NEW COORDINATOR FOR LIBERIA

Operation Classroom announces that Jennifer Dioh has been appointed the new country coordinator for Liberia beginning March 9. Dioh has served as associate country coordinator for the past few years. When Dr. Anthony Dioh was in the states a few years ago Jennifer served and interim country coordinator. Jennifer is a graduate of Gbarnga School Theology and has served as the associate director of the Peal Center since it beginning. Anthony has resigned so he can take a position at Tubman University in Maryland County. We regret Anthony leaving, but we are glad that Jennifer will continue work with us.

In other news from West Africa, the Rev. John Yambasu was elected Bishop of Sierra Leone this weekend at the Central Conference, effective Jan. 1. Yambasu has been serving as a missionary for the past few years. We have known John for the past 20 years. – Joe Wagner, coordinator, Operation Classroom

SIERRA LEONE RANKS LAST IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

DAKAR – For the second consecutive year Sierra Leone has come last in the UN Development Programme ranking of human development indicators of 179 countries. Some analysts say Sierra Leone is nonetheless advancing in some areas and that the impact of the country's 11-year civil war must be taken into account for a full measure of progress. The UN human development index measures development based on three principal dimensions: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living. These are measured by life expectancy at birth; adult literacy and combined gross enrolment in primary, secondary and tertiary education; and per capita income in terms of purchasing power.

Life expectancy in Sierra Leone is 42, or just over half of the life expectancy in the top 20 ranked countries. Just 25 percent of women are literate, with the level at just 37 percent for the entire population. Sierra Leone's maternal mortality indicators – the highest in the world – continue to drag the country down, according to UNDP-Sierra Leone deputy country director Samuel Harbor. Of every 100,000 live births, 1,800 women die according to the UNDP figures, while one in four children die before they reach age five. The government is making progress on maternal mortality, says UNDP's Harbor. The government has developed a maternal and child health strategy and is collaborating closely with partners, including UNDP, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the African Development Bank. – United Nations Integrated Regional Information Networks

Editorial note – These figures indicate the importance of the Indiana Conference's ministry to Sierra Leone through Operation Classroom and our continuing work at the United Methodist Kissy Hospital.

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EVANSVILLE DISTRICT PARTNERS WITH LUBUDI DISTRICT IN CONGO

During Sunday morning worship at the Epworth UMC in Newburgh, Evansville District Superintendent Glenn Howell presented Indiana Conference (Bloomington Center) staffer Bob Walters with three checks for church and parsonage construction in the Lubudi District, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Baker Chapel challenged with \$10,000; the Spencer County/Warrick County Cluster of Churches matched with \$10,000; and the Evansville District trumped with \$10,000 with another \$10,000 to come later. This amazing partnership grew out of the hospitality the Evansville District provided our Congolese general conference delegates visiting in Indiana this last summer, including the afternoon Baker Chapel folk and Congolese pastors swapped their compelling stories. Carl Barnett of Baker Chapel said, "We had to do something. So many people helped us rebuild."

The District Superintendent of the Lubudi District, the Rev. Kanumbika Kasenga has sent word that 10,000 bricks have been fired and construction is ready to begin. The support from the Evansville District will pay for cement and roofing. There should be enough money to build two churches and two parsonages. Bob Walters and Taylor Walters Denyer will be in Lubudi this next summer working with the district superintendent, pastors, and lay leaders in leadership development, community development, and peace building. Delegates from the Evansville District are hoping to join them there.

FAITH LEADERS URGE OBAMA TO DROP CUBA TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

Global humanitarian agency Church World Service, the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society and other leading U.S. Christian organizations and denominations are joining the mounting chorus of voices calling on President-elect Obama to change this country's longstanding, restrictive policy toward Cuba. They are joining the mounting chorus of voices calling on President-elect Obama to change this country's longstanding, restrictive policy toward Cuba. The group is pressing most immediately to end longstanding U.S. restrictions on the ability of all Americans to travel to Cuba. Ending the restrictions on religious travel is especially important to national and regional church institutions.

In a letter sent on Friday, Dec. 19, to Obama, the Rev. John L. McCullough, executive director and CEO of CWS and a United Methodist clergyman, along with leaders of 15 other Christian denominations, their agencies, and ecumenical organizations applauded Obama's early statements indicating his willingness to review and revise the limiting U.S. Cuba policies. The letter urged the incoming administration to put the issue on the front burner. Citing severe U.S. restrictions on religious travel to Cuba, in place since 2005, the religious leaders emphasized that its long history of effective humanitarian and missionary activity in Cuba, "transcends political ideologies." – Church World Service

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FAITH CHAPEL TO HOST HUNTINGTON DISTRICT MISSION EVENT, JAN. 4

Faith Chapel UMC is scheduled to host the Huntington District mission event “New Life in Africa, on Sunday, Jan. 4 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. United Methodist missionaries Ken and Deb Vance will be the featured speakers at the event. The Vance’s will be sharing about the exciting work of the Kafakumba Training Center in Zambia, where Pastor Dave and Mary Marty spent three weeks in November. Dave Marty also will share some of his photos and video footage from their trip. Refreshments will be served. Faith Chapel UMC is located at 2978 W 1100 N, Huntington, IN 46750. For more information call Pastor Dave Marty at 260-344-1466.

UMCOR ADVANCE NUMBERS ASSIGNED FOR HAITI TEACHERS’ SALARY

Here is another and definitely more accessible avenue for helping the teachers in Methodist Schools in Haiti receive some compensation for work they are doing. This was lifted as one of two priority needs at the Haiti Consultation in Atlanta in early November.

Send funds to this Advance: UMCOR Advance #3019695 - “Hurricanes 2008” and designate ‘Haiti – teacher salary priority’ in the memo line.

This information comes from the Michigan Area Haiti Task Force.

Thank you all. – Lorna Jost, UMVIM-NCJ Coordinator

ACTIVE HURRICANE SEASON PREDICTED

If current trends in the oceanic conditions hold, we can expect an above average hurricane season, Dr. Phil Klotzbach and Dr. William Gray of Colorado State University said in a report issued last week. Though he retired officially in 2005, Gray – who has become synonymous with long-range hurricane prognostication, has continued on with the CSU Tropical Meteorology Project, while turning the main prediction duties over to Klotzbach this year. This year’s report, which includes data collected through the end of the last hurricane season, shows the next season, which begins June 1, will be “somewhat more active than the average season”, based on statistics from 1950 through 2000. The report offers the prediction that there will be approximately seven Atlantic hurricanes in 2009 (the average is 5.9). There will be, the report claims, 14 named storms, though only about half of those will strengthen beyond the tropical storm stage. (The average number of named storms is 9.6 per year.). According to the predictions, the 14 named storms will take place over the course of 70 days scattered throughout the 183 day season. The average year has 49 days. – Disaster News Network

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PROGRAMS OF INTEREST THIS WEEK ON TV

VOICES OF CHRISTMAS, CBS, DEC. 24, 11:35 P.M.

CBS-TV will present “Voices of Christmas from the National Council of Churches,” on Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24, at 11:35 p.m. Eastern Time in most cities – in observance of the Council’s 100th anniversary . Hosted by Dr. Michael Kinnamon, general secretary of the NCC, the program will feature music from across the 35 communions that make up this ecumenical fellowship. It will celebrate the movement toward Christian unity and the common call to mission that brings these diverse believers together in the spirit of the Christ child of Bethlehem. North Central Jurisdiction retired Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader, now bishop in residence at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill., will be one of the featured speakers during the program.

‘INTRODUCING JESUS OF NAZARETH’ DEC. 28, 6 A.M., HALLMARK

Join pastor and theologian Peter Marty as he travels through the Holy Land in this expanded broadcast version of “Introducing Jesus of Nazareth.” Produced by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Sunday, Dec. 28, 6 a.m. ET/PT on Hallmark Channel.

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REMINDER – BISHOP’S CHRISTMAS OFFERING THIS WEEK

Indiana Bishop Mike Coyner urges United Methodists to pray for all the children of the world this Christmas. He also encourages each United Methodist church to receive a special Christmas offering for children to be divided among children’s ministries in Indiana, throughout the United States and around the world.

In Indiana, that offering will benefit children’s ministries including a worship service for developmentally disabled children in South Bend, the North Indiana Conference Children and Poverty projects, children’s summer camping programs, children’s community outreach projects in Fort Wayne, Lafayette, Anderson, Muncie, Kokomo and Indianapolis, plus United Methodist children’s homes in Goshen, Evansville and Lebanon.

Throughout the United States, that offering will benefit children’s ministries including the Henderson Settlement and Red Bird School in Kentucky, the McCurdy Mission School and Covenant Education Center in New Mexico, the Tree of Life Ministry for Native American children in South Dakota, the Gateway Children’s Ministry in Gulfport, Mississippi, and the North Rampart Street Community Center in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Around the world this offering will benefit children at the Grace Children’s Hospital in Haiti; a baby fold and school in India; a children’s shade and fresh water project in Brazil; the Babyfold and Lane School in India; Homeless, orphaned and Abandoned Children in Kamina, Congo; the Infant Welfare Center in Old Jerusalem and a

children's programming mission storehouse in Marion, Indiana.

Thank you for your generous gifts this Christmas to the Indiana Bishop's Children's Offering.

For more information, offering materials and PowerPoint presentation, log on to www.inareaumc.org and click on Bishop's Christmas Offering.

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UPDATED

A REMINDER TO ACCEPT PROPOSALS FOR PASTOR'S CONVOCATION

Workshop proposals are now being accepted for the 2009 Convocation for Pastors to be held Oct. 12, 13 and 14 in Columbus, Ind. Any clergyperson in the Indiana Conference may submit a proposal for a 1½ hour workshop related to the theme of the Convocation, "Our Mission Together." All workshops will be conducted at least once on Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 13. Some workshops will be scheduled to repeat on Tuesday afternoon; others will repeat on Wednesday morning. Workshop presenters should be prepared to repeat the workshop.

Proposals must be received no later than January 31. Late submissions will not be accepted. All proposals will be reviewed by the Panel on Continuing Formation on Feb. 11. Three proposals will be selected to be part of the 2009 Convocation for pastors. Those selected will be notified by March 1. Presenters will receive paid registration, hotel accommodations, and a \$100 gift certificate from Cokesbury. Please submit your workshop proposal no later than Jan. 31 to the Rev. Sandy Harlan, South Indiana Annual Conference, 1520 South Liberty Drive, Bloomington, IN 47403 or e-mail to: sharlan@sicumc.org. For application form, log on to www.sicumc.org and then clicking first on "clergy", then "Interested in leading a workshop..."

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REGISTER FOR THESE EVENTS NOW

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR YOUNG ADULT MISSION APPLICATIONS

Jan. 1 is the NEW application deadline for the next classes of short-term young adult missionaries through the mission agency of The United Methodist Church.

The deadline applies to the US-2 and Mission Intern programs. The US-2 opportunity places young adults in two-year appointments in the United States. Mission Interns serve for three years, the first half in an international placement and the second in the US. All applicants should be between ages 20 and 30. To see if these programs are for you visit these sites to learn about the programs, get applications, submit questions:

- US-2's: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mp/missionaries/youngadults/us2/>

- Mission Interns: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mp/missionaries/youngadults/interns/>

Applications or questions can be directed to the executive director of the Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Rev. Suzanne Field-Rabb, at sfrabb@gbgm-umc.org. – UMVIM

FLOOD RECOVERY INFORMATION

UNITED METHODISTS CONTINUE IN FLOOD RECOVERY EFFORTS STATEWIDE

The floods may seem long gone and out of the news, however volunteers are still needed to assist residence in northwest, far northwest and the central parts of Indiana.

REVISED INFORMATION In far northwest Indiana, including Lake, LaPorte and Porter counties, volunteer centers are located in Munster and Portage. United Way, a partner with Ridge UMC and other area churches, organized the Lakeshore Area Regional Recovery in Indiana (LARRI). Volunteer recovery activities are now coordinated through LARRI (<http://www.larri.info>). Contact Director Mark Kurowski or Laurie A. Griffith, Technology Development, LARRI at 951 Eastport Centre Drive, Valparaiso, IN 46384; phone 219-464-3583 or e-mail info@larri.info. As a secondary source to find out information about volunteering for flood recovery in Northwest Indiana, contact the Rev. Steve Conger at Ridge UMC in Munster at steve@ridgeumc.org or www.ridgeumc.org or call 219-838-4770.

Across central Indiana, volunteer work teams are still needed to assist in flood recovery efforts in central Indiana. For work team schedules in the Columbus area, contact Angie Huebel at the United Way of Bartholomew County, 1531 13th Street, Columbus, IN 47201. E-mail ahuebel@uwbarthco.org or phone 812-314-2344. For other communities, contact Jenni Walker, South Indiana Resource Administrator. E-mail jenniwalker@mac.com. Phone 812-893-1760.

In Northwest Indiana around the communities of Remington, Delphi and Monticello which was hit by floods in January, volunteers are needed. Those interested in volunteering their services to flood survivors in northwest Indiana can contact Alan H. Welch, director, DANI-Disaster Assistance for Northwest Indiana 1021 N 10th Street, Lafayette, IN 47904-1947 of Phone 765-742-4718. Call toll-free 877-773-0249 or send e-mail to welchah@gmail.com. DANI information is available by logging on to <http://daniflood.org>.

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NEWLY LISTED MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

AFRICA UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP NEEDED

The Rev. Kalau Itela is a graduate student in Peace Leadership and Governance at Africa University. He is a United Methodist pastor from the Lubudi District in the North Katanga Conference, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Rev. Itela is writing

on the culture of domestic violence in war torn DRC.

If you or your church is interested in picking up all or a part of his scholarship, please contact [Bob Walters](#) at the Bloomington Center or 317-408-5036. The Institute of Peace Leadership and Governance at Africa University is training our strongest pastors for major leadership roles in the United Methodist Church in Africa. In regions like the Katanga Province of the DRC, the United Methodist Church is the difference between war and peace, death and life, despair and hope.

GET A NEW BIKE FOR CHRISTMAS? DONATE OLD ONE TO SHIFTING GEARS

Get a New Bike for Christmas? Donate Your Old Bike to Shifting Gears and Change Lives Shifting Gears Bike Donation Drive Dec. 26-31. Bicycle Garage Indy (BGI) and the Indiana Department of Correction are calling on Hoosier communities to donate used bikes by the end of the 2008 to Shifting Gears. Through the Shifting Gears program, each donated bike makes a positive difference in the many lives it touches – from the donor, to the people refurbishing the bike and finally for the person receiving the refurbished bike.

If donations are received by Dec. 31, donors can receive a tax deduction for 2008 – Used bikes donated through Bicycle Garage Indy to Volunteers of America for the Shifting Gears program may be eligible as a tax-deductible donation to the Volunteers of America.

Shifting Gears is a unique partnership between Bicycle Garage Indy, the Indiana Department of Correction and Volunteers of America. Through the program, donated bikes are refurbished by Shifting Gears program participants in the Indiana Department of Correction. The program teaches valuable maintenance and repair skills and provides the opportunity to make a positive contribution to society. Refurbished bikes are donated back to the community through charitable organizations to those in need.

In its role as the bike shop partner in the Shifting Gears program, Bicycle Garage Indy accepts donated bikes, transports them to the correctional facilities to be refurbished, arranges for purchasing of parts and promotes the program through its Web site, e-mails to customers and in-store signage. Bikes can be donated during business hours at either Bicycle Garage Indy location:

- BGI North: 4130 E. 82nd St., Indianapolis, 317-842-4140
- BGI South: 997 E. County Line Rd., Greenwood, 317-885-7194

For additional information: www.bgindy.com/for/shiftinggears.

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VOLUNTEER INVITED TO WORK ON TWO PROJECTS IN COLOMBIA

Volunteers are invited to participate in an United Methodist Volunteers in Mission work trip to Brisas del Mar, Colombia, South America, beginning Jan. 9 for six or

seven days. There are two projects for this trip:

1. Two Classrooms at the schools supported by the local Methodist Church have roofs that are collapsed. We propose to replace the fiber cement roof panels in time for kids to utilize these rooms when they return from winter break. Otherwise several classes will be bunched into one room.
2. Construction of a health post in Brisas del Mar has commenced and volunteers will find plenty of work assisting in this UMCOR project. This project will provide healthcare for Brisas del Mar and five other communities in this area.

Robert Rabb is the UMVIM Coordinator in the U.S. for the Colombian Methodist Church. Contact Robert at Rupert@koyote.com.

Information forwarded from Clint Rabb, Assistant General Secretary – Mission Volunteers, United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries.

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PREVIOUSLY LISTED MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

UM CLERGY URGED TO SUPPORT CENTRAL CONFERENCE PENSION FUND

Those of us serving as pastors in the Indiana Conference look forward to a retirement in which most of our needs will be met by our pension plan. Our service is rewarded by a church connection which cares for our dignity and welfare. By sharing our blessings, we can make a drastic difference in the lives of Central Conference (beyond the U.S.) clergy who do not have similar support. As we honor their faithfulness in service to the gospel of Jesus Christ, we also acknowledge and respect their sacrifice. We experience our faithfulness in living out the relationship of connection and covenant with our fellow clergy.

Our goal is that every clergy person in the Indiana Conference will participate in this initiative. In the coming months, we will share with you some creative ways that our colleagues have found to be part of this solution. Already we have 13 of our clergy members respond with gifts and pledges, as well as four churches. These pledges and gifts equal more than \$100,000. If you want to make a pledge feel free go to the CCPI Web site (www.ccpi-umc.org). At the site you can hear the stories of some of the pastors you will be helping.

DOING ALL IT TAKES TO REACH THE NEXT GENERATION FOR CHRIST

IMPACT 2818, a camping ministry of the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church at Epworth Forest, Pine Creek, Lake Wood and Camp Adventure.

Consider a Christmas present of a scholarship for children or youth to go church camp next summer. Summer church camp is about bringing kids to Jesus Christ. With the economy as tight as it is, next summer many kids will have to stay home instead of spending a week at church camp. To help fund a scholarship for camp, you tax

deductible gift of \$400 will provide a full camp scholarship, \$200 will provide assistance for a youth to attend camp, \$100 will be a blessing to a child who wants to know more about Jesus. All gifts are a blessing. Gifts can be made by mailing your check payable to IMPACT 2818 (note for summer camp scholarships). Mail it to: Indiana Conference UMC, Impact 2818, P.O. Box 16, North Webster, IN 46555-0016. For more information, call the camping office at 888-628-2818 or log on to www.impact2818.com.

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HARVEST MINISTRY TEAM IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2009

Harvest Ministry Team, a ministry based in the Illinois Great Rivers United Methodist Conference, is accepting applications for the 2009 Harvest Summer Teams. Now in its fourteenth year, Harvest, led by Tim Price, will be assembling a team of young adults to travel for eight weeks during the summer of 2009 as short term missionaries. The team will provide music/leadership for camps, churches, youth retreat and other events all over Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and the Midwest. To be on a Harvest Ministry Team you must be at least 18 years of age and must have completed the 12th grade. For more information about applying for a team please visit:

www.harvestministryteams.com/about/summer_teams2009/index.html.

For information on booking Harvest for your camp or church, please visit: www.harvestministryteams.com/about/booking_form.html or call 618-667-6241 ext 415.

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MISSION OPPORTUNITIES REMINDERS

More information about these opportunities as well as a listing of ongoing projects and contact information can be seen at www.inareaumc.org/general_info/mission_opportunities_listings.htm, which has all the details for these opportunities.

UMC PHONE CARDS STILL POPULAR MISSION PROJECT FIVE YEARS LATER

- One 120-minute card costs \$4.95 and 15 orders for 5,000 cards have been placed since the program began.
- To contribute to the phone card program, send checks payable to: United Methodist Endorsing Agency, (UMEA), General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, PO Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007.

SOUTH INDIANA CONF. OFFERS NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES PROJECT

- A downloadable PDF flyer provides full details at www.sicumc.org/PDF/crowcreekXmasflyer.pdf.
- For more information about Pat's work please visit

www.sicumc.org/Advocacy then click on "Native American."

SUPPORT NEEDED FOR FARMERS-TO-FARMERS PROJECT IN AFRICA

- If interested and want more information contact one of the following: at [Wade Wiley](#), [Jack Dwiggins](#) or [John Huie](#).

NORTH KATANGA AREA NEEDS BIKES FOR PASTORS

- Bicycles in the Congo cost \$110.
- Send checks to the South Indiana Conference Treasurer, (1520 South Liberty Drive, Bloomington, IN 47403-5167) marked for Bicycles for African Pastors.
- For more information, contact [Bob Walters](#) or call 800-919-8160.

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FLOOD BUCKET SUPPLIES NEED TO BE REPLENISHED

- For more information and instructions, log on the www.midwestmissions.org.
- For a list of supplies, visit <http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/flood-bucket/>. Financial gifts can be sent to UMCOR Material Resources Advance #901440.

OPERATION CLASSROOM NEEDS HELP

- Send your health and school kits to the Operation Classroom warehouse in Lapel, Ind. by UPS and include \$1.50 per kit for shipping costs.
- For more information, contact Joe Wagner, Operation Classroom, Inc., P.O. Box 246, Colfax, IN 46035 or call 765-4360-2805, e-mail [Operation Classroom](#) or log on to www.operationclassroom.org.

OPERATION CLASSROOM SEEKS SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS FOR NURSES

- For \$580 one can send a student to nursing school for a year.
- Send your funds to the OC office Operation Classroom, Inc., PO Box 246, Colfax, IN 46035.
- For more information contact OC at 765-436-2805 or [Operation Classroom](#).

MISSIONARY IMMIGRATION LAWYERS NEEDED FOR MICH., TENN.

- For more information, contact Brenda Connelly via e-mail at cworker@gb-gm-umc.org or by calling 212-870-3819 or 828-294-2107.

MOUNTAIN T.O.P. SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR 2009

- More information about the SpringBREAKoutreach, Youth Summer Ministry (YSM) and Adults In Ministry (AIM) programs, as well as applications for 2009 camp events, can be found on the Mountain T.O.P. Web site,

www.mountain-top.org, by e-mailing info@mountain-top.org or by calling 931-692-3999.

ETHNIC YOUNG ADULT SUMMER INTERNSHIP AVAILABLE IN D.C.

- Deadline to apply is Feb. 1.
- More information and an application form is available at www.umc-gbcs.org or you may contact the Rev. Neal Christie, Assistant General Secretary, Education and Leadership Formation, General Board of Church & Society, 100 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, or nchristie@umc-gbcs.org or call 202-488-5611.

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YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT MISSION DISCOVERY PLANS GRENADA VIM TRIP

- Dates are Dec 26 to Jan 6.
- Cost is \$1,600
- If you have questions, give Bonnie Albert a call 219-464-1447 or 219-241-7250.

ZOAR CHURCH PLANNING VIM TRIP TO TEXAS AFTER CHRISTMAS

- The team plans to leave Dec. 27 and start back on Jan. 2.
- For more information, contact Darren Trummel, Zoar UMC Missions Coordinator, Vincennes District, at 812-536-5345.

UMC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MEDICAL TRIPS TO WEST AFRICA, INDIA

- Medical Team to Taiama, Sierra Leone, West Africa
 - Dec. 27-Jan. 9
 - Cost is \$3,400 and includes airfare, ground transportation, food, lodging, basic insurance and each team member contribution to the work fund
 - For more information contact Elyse Bell at 731-431-7674 or Joe Geary at 731-693-7901 or e-mail korimissions@yahoo.com
- Medical Mission trip to India
 - Feb. 4-20
 - Cost for one week in India is \$3,170; cost for two weeks is \$3,940. This cost includes flights, lodging, food, and local transportation, plus a portion of the medicine costs.
 - [Please contact Roger Weaver with Crouse Chapel UMC.](#)

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WESLEY FOUNDATION OFFERS TWO WINTER, SPRING-BREAK MISSION TRIPS

- Winter Break Mission Trip to Louisiana
 - Jan. 2-10
 - Cost is \$200-\$250.
 - Contact Pastor Lana by Dec. 15 if interested, lane@wesleyfoundation.org.
- Spring Break Mission Trip to Mountain TOP Tennessee
 - Cost is \$200/person + approx. \$50 for gas and food.
 - Contact Pastor Glen if interested, glen@wesleyfoundation.org.

MISSION DISCOVERY OPTION AVAILABLE FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK

- Curacautin, Chile
- Jan. 9-19, 2009
- Contact Oscar and Joyce Carasco, ocarrasc@umcnic.org, (847-931-0710 X 10)
- For application and more information on this team, log on to www.gbgm-umc.org/northcentralvim/mission_discovery.html or write to umvim-ncj@brookings.net.

OPERATION CLASSROOM VIM TEAMS FOR THIS FALL, EARLY WINTER

- Here is an update on Operation Classroom VIM teams to West Africa.
- 2009 Sierra Leone VIM Team
 - Jan. 14-Feb. 14. Medical team to Kissy and Taiama, Sierra Leone, Don and Marilyn Griffith, team leaders. Filled.
- 2009 Liberia VIM Teams
 - Jan. 10-20 St Matthew UM School, Monrovia, (Warsaw District North Indiana) Rev. Cindy Reynolds, team leader.
 - Feb. 28-March 14. Ganta United Methodist School, Goshen First UM Church, IN, Sherri Deranek, team leader
- For more information, contact Joe and Carolyn Wagner at Operation Classroom, P.O. Box 246, Colfax, IN 46035, phone 765-436-2805, e-mail [Operation Classroom](mailto:OperationClassroom) or Internet at www.operationclassroom.org.

UNITED METHODIST VIM OPPORTUNITY TO PUERTO RICO

- Jan. 21-Feb. 4 – three people needed
- Feb. 11-25 – four people needed
- If you are interested, contact Barbara Glad immediately at Barbaraglad@aol.com.

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VOLUNTEER IN MISSION TEAM HEADED FOR THE PHILIPPINES

- Feb. 16-27
- For more information, contact the Rev. Noah R. Panlilio, 815-838-1017, pstrnoah@comcast.net.
- Deadline for application is Dec 15.

WARSAW/MICHIANA TEAM PLANNING VIM TRIP TO DULAC, LA.

- Feb. 28-March 7
- For reservations, contact jness@ccumc.us. Cost details to come.

VOLUNTEER IN MISSION LEADER TRAINING EVENT COMING

- March 14 - New Life UMC in Mexico, Ind.
- 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- For more information, contact [Bonnie Albert](#) or call 219 464-1447.
- Registration deadline is March 6.

TERRE HAUTE DIST. TEAMS UP FOR MEXICO CITY MISSION TRIP

- March 21-28, 2009
- Contact: Bob Kumpf – 812-448-8103 or Terry Walters 812-864-2476
Harmony UMC – 812-448-2917 Terre Haute District Office 812-237-0101

VOLUNTEER IN MISSION CUBA TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED

- April 14-26
- Contact team leaders Tom and Judy Bonds, Jonesville UMC, at 518-371-1547 or bondsjt@gmail.com.

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VOLUNTEER PHYSICIANS NEEDED FOR MEDICAL WORK IN PHILIPPINES

- May28- June 10
- For information regarding travel arrangements and cost please contact Liwliwa Robledo at liwliwa_robledo@yahoo.com

IOWA WORK TEAM TO NIGERIA SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

- Volunteers needed:
 - Health care professionals
 - Librarian
 - Computer Technician/Software Engineer
 - Office Manager/Administrative Assistant
 - Construction
 - Supervisor for Fencing Project
- Tentative dates are June 13-July 3
- Application deadline is Feb. 14, 2009.

- Contact for additional information and application form: Beverly Nolte, 515-2370-8544, bnmedical@aol.com or Linda Rowe, 641-664-1828, Linda.rowe@gpaea.k12.ia.us.

TEAM NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS FOR SUMMER CUBA MISSION TRIP

- Dates are June 27-July 10, 2009
- For further information contact Neil Vander Linden (ngvl@charter.net) or 864-859-3652 home, 843-297-0673 cell.