

UMMA UpDate #35, September 21, 2005
e-bulletin of the
United Methodist Missionary Association
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"Linking mission workers worldwide"

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[1] **UMMA GATHERING October 9 to 11 by Norma Kehrberg, Chair**

STILL TIME TO REGISTER and meet at the Amsterdam Hotel, 19 Clark's Hill Avenue Stamford, Connecticut

Check out air fares (there are some bargains) and join your colleagues at the 2005 UMMA Gathering. The meeting will begin at 3 PM on October 9, 2005 at the Amsterdam Hotel. (formerly the Rodeway/Budget Hospitality Inn), 19 Clark's Hill Ave., Stamford, Conn. The meeting will open with a presentation on the topic "**Apostolic Missionary Service**" by Dr. Jim Dwyer. This will stimulate as well as, I am sure, challenge our collective thinking as missionary colleagues.

This 2005 Gathering is an important meeting for UMMA as an organization. We want to look at how UMMA is organized as the result of changes in the missionary community and perhaps as the result of **little** change on substantial issues in relationship with GBGM during these past eight years. This year Rev. Wendy Rhodehamel, a GBGM director will represent GBGM at the Gathering. She will be with us from the opening day until the official start of the Board meeting on Monday, October 10 at 1:30 PM.

Register with Fred Price, UMMA Coordinator. -- details at the end of this email.

Looking forward to seeing you in Stamford. - Norma Kehrberg, Chair

[2] **Prayer for the UMMA Gathering 2005 by Carolyn Belshe Cowen, UMMA convener of the Nurture Task Force.**

May God's Grace sustain us as a collective group of called missionaries. May our expressions of missionary endeavors carry Peace and Solidarity with the suffering and toward planting God's strength in such time of need. Cleanse our spirits of ill effects from unhealthy memories. Empower us with the stamina of spiritual, physical, emotional and

financial strength beyond human anticipation. For those among our missionary family who are struggling with life-issues, we beg courage and wellness for them.

*For those who lead the agency of the Church where we live out our calling, we ask for Wisdom in their decision-makings. May the Joy of giving and sharing sustain us all.
Amen*

[3] **LATE BREAKING NEWS**

The Rev. Dr. James A. Dwyer has been elected by members of the Steering Committee to serve as the new chair of the United Methodist Missionary Association. This is the first time that UMMA will have an active missionary as its chair. We give thanks to God that Jim is willing to take on this extra assignment in addition to his present portfolio as pastor of the International United Methodist Church in Hamburg, Germany.

Brief background: The Rev. Dr. James A. Dwyer, or “Jim” to his UMMA colleagues, earned his Ph.D. in Religion from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary (GETS) and Northwestern University. His "present portfolio" is as pastor of the "International United Methodist Church" in Hamburg, Germany. Although the church members are ecumenical in their background and their attitudes, the congregation is structured as a United Methodist congregation and is struggling to be acknowledged as a worthy part of the district and conference in Germany. Their church has just joined the AICEMEA – Association of International Churches in Europe and the Middle East and Africa. Jim has also been involved in networking United Methodist missionaries and international pastors in Europe. He is one of the charter members of UMMA and helped its formation in 1995-96. He was active as Vice Chair, Regional Representative and member of UMMA taskforce groups. Pastor Jim brings a lot of talent, energy, vision and hope to UMMA. He urges all missionaries to be more involved in UMMA. He likes the German saying, "What isn't yet, may yet be."

[4] **AGENDA for the UMMA Gathering**

United Methodist Missionary Association

October 9-11, 2005

Venue: Amsterdam Hotel and First United Methodist Church, Stamford, Conn.

Proposed Agenda

October 9, 2005, Venue: Amsterdam Hotel (former Rodeway/Budget Hospitality Inn)

3:00 PM	Opening Devotions	- Norma Kehrberg
	Call to Order/Introductions	
	Approval of Agenda	
	Approval of Minutes 2004	
3:30 PM	Presentation and Discussion:	- Dr. James Dwyer

- “Apostolic Missionary Service as a Vocation: Relic of the Past
or Critical to the Future in the UMC”
- 4:30 PM Coordinator's Report followed by Finance Report
- 5:00 PM Affirmation of change in by-laws followed by election of officers
- 5:30 PM "Financial Development with assistance of missionaries" - Lynda Byrd,
GBGM Director of Development
- 6:15 PM Adjourn for dinner on your own

MONDAY, October 10, 2005, Venue: First United Methodist Church, 4220 Cross
Road, Stamford, Connecticut

- 8:30 AM Depart Amsterdam Hotel to First UMC, Stamford
- 9:00 AM Devotions - Richard Vreeland
- 9:15 AM Introductions
- UMMA Chair Report
- 9:30 AM Issues for this meeting (presentation & general discussion) - Howard Heiner
1. GBGM Relations and Way Forward
 2. Medicare Plan B/Collins Health and Benefit
 3. Organizational issues of UMMA
Steering Committee/by-laws/finances/membership
 4. Next Gathering Planning and Strategy
- 11:45 AM Adjourn and lunch (on own)
- 1:30 PM GBGM Opening Plenary, Marriott Hotel
- President's address
- Treasurer's Report
- Dinner: (on own)
- Evening: GBGM Program Unit meetings

Tuesday, October 11, 2005

- 8:30 AM Transfer to First UMC
- 9:00 AM Opening Prayer
- 9:15 AM CCW Report - Sally Ott
- 9:30 AM Work in small groups on identified issues
- 11:30 AM Report on work in plenary
- 12:Noon Lunch in area
- 1:30 PM Plenary Reports/ Decisions/Follow-up Actions
- 4:30 PM Closing Devotions - Howard Heiner
- 5:00 PM Adjournment followed by Evening Meal Together

Wednesday, October 12, 2005

The UMMA Gathering officially closes in the evening on October 11, 2005. For those who are able to stay through part of the next day, participants can rejoin the GBGM sessions. Randy Day, the General Secretary is to present his address on this morning.

[5] OUR READERS WRITE

The first email is excerpted from Stan and Beryl Moore's invitation of the 26 retired U.M. missionaries at Pilgrim Place in Claremont, Cal. It exemplifies how UMMA is

receiving input wherever two or three are gathered together. UMMA is listening. Please let us hear from you and your neighborhood group – democracy in action. – ed.

Dear Fellow Pilgrim Place UM Missionaries: October 9-11, the UMMA Steering Committee will be meeting, coinciding with the GBGM Board meeting in Stamford, CT. Those of the Steering Committee who will be attending are vitally interested in the input of the rest of us – for they are there representing us. We need to get together for an hour on the evening of Sept. 26th to pool our suggestions and concerns to pass on to them. The UMMA Steering Committee have given much of themselves during the 10 years since UMMA's founding. They will be facing critical issues and need our support. Ric and Caring Schwenk will join our meeting. See you "right soon"! - Stan & Beryl Moore, Pilgrim Place, Claremont, CA

Hi Ric, I read Howard's important message. Sounds fine to me. He raises critical questions, indeed. I hope that there is a "younger" group, even if retirees, who will be willing to pick up the mantle that folks like you and others have so faithfully carried these past years. There needs to be a way for the missionary community to have input into the board. Throughout the years, that has been a major blind spot, it seems to me. That is one reason I have supported the work of UMMA, although not being so active. How can we continue without welcoming and providing structural 'organizational procedures for involvement in the decision making process – the very people who are most actively concerned. Of course, the partner churches need a strong voice, but so do the people our Board sends to work with the partner church. I will write no more. Thanks for all you have done to keep UMMA functioning creatively. UMMA UpDate has been a major contribution. - Elizabeth Clarke, Pilgrim Place, Claremont, CA

Hi Ric, Many thanks for all the good work you are doing to keep us abreast of what is happening in the U. Methodist mission field (and what is not). I wish I could go to the UMMA Gathering, but I am not going anywhere this year. Attempting to adjust a fixed income to the new requirements of our wonderful Pilgrim Place here in Claremont, California is taking all I have at the moment – I'm hoping for better in the future. God bless you and all of those who work so hard to keep people informed. - Vivian Woodyard, 671 Leyden Lane, Claremont CA 91711

Thank you for continuing to send the newsletter. I will be unable to attend the October conference because of financial difficulties. I have continued to minister with Japanese 1949 to present in Japan and California. Prayerfully yours, Emery Fleming-Hasegawa

Dear Friends in Christ, Thank you for your recent mailing. The Indonesian Methodist Church will be celebrating 100 years of Methodism in Jakarta in October this year. Fred and I have been invited to attend. We served there for 25 years in Sumatera 1968-1993. We would like you to keep us on your mailing list. We met Norma Kehrberg in Naperville when we were on leave from the field in the 70's. Our close friends, Elsie and Jim Pettibone served in Nepal. They often mentioned Norma's work there. Jim and Elsie live in Boulder and we visit one another. Fred and I send our warmest regards and wishes for a successful UMMA gathering in October. - Polly and Fred Ingold

Hi Richard, Thanks for your missal. It's always good to know what is going on! I read with interest your article on "phishing." I was just phished approximately two weeks ago. I had been away for several weeks and my Inbox was filled with hundreds of e-mails. In the process of trying to read and delete, there were two e-mails which I thought were from my bank. Since the bank had just updated its site and the e-mail was directed to all on-line customers, I thought it was authentic. The special bank logos were there! (I use the bank's on-line service for everything!) Not being cautious enough and determined to get through all of the mail, I answered one of the e-mails which I thought was from the bank – entered requested information and didn't give it another thought. Early the next morning, I received a call from my bank asking me if I had answered an e-mail from the bank and supplied certain personal information. ...I sure did! The bank associate told me that someone was trying to use my account in SPAIN! There was only one other small charge made but I was able to have it deleted. The associate reminded me that the bank would never request personal information on-line. I consider myself so very lucky and certainly do appreciate the bank's security. Phishing is very real!! – anon.

Dear Ric and Caring, Thanks for UMMA Update #34. Keep up the good work!! We're safely home from a very memorable, rewarding trip to Africa via Argentina, made possible by son Mark, but complicated by the South African Airlines' strike and the shortage of petrol in Zimbabwe. – Fred Brancel, 141 Shanto Lane, Monona, WI 53716

Friends are like angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly.

[6] **MISSIONARY MILESTONES**

Mozambique Southern Conference recently re-named the Teles Children of War Orphanage in their Annual Conference – changing it to **Carolina Belshe Orphanage** in honor of GBGM missionary Carolyn Belshe [Cowan].

Carolyn served as Chicique Rural Hospital administrator in the early '90's. The main objective of her assignment was to train a national person to manage the Methodist Hospital. Jeremias Franca was identified as the prospective trainee. He and his family were then sponsored through six years of university studies in San Marcos, TX. The Franca family has won the hearts of many around the world. Jeremias is making great strides in leadership of the health care system of the church for all of Mozambique.

While serving as administrator Carolyn saw too many orphans of the civil war coming to the hospital and no one to care for them. Their physical health was being restored but with no life ahead of them. She adopted three when her help around the house began to explain that she could not adopt all of the needing children, so she began working with the Bishop's wife, Nocia Mucambe Machado, to organize an orphanage for the kids she had grown to love like her own.

She used her personal funds to hire workers to rebuild former housing for the lepers who no longer needed isolation since their medicine provides them mainline living in community. A mother who had lost her family in the war was hired to care for four children who had lost their family. Then, another unit was established, and another. The

church of Sweden, of Germany, and various sponsorships from the United States began supporting the home for kids to have hope for their health and their future. Milford, Conn. UMC and delegations from Texas and Missouri have recently rebuilt the home and relocated it to Cambine Mission station for improved living conditions for the kids.

Carolyn's life changed again in '01 when she and a schoolmate of 50 years ago married. He is Jack Cowen who later flew to Africa to bring home to Oklahoma two of the three children she had adopted 8 years earlier. She was disabled due to manifestation of a muscle disease and could not get medical clearance to return to the land of her soul -- so she calls Africa -- but life did not stop. She continues to live for the kids through these two in the U.S. as well as correspondence, speaking, and writing on behalf of the kids of Mozambique who have lost their family to war and now to the war against AIDS. In asking how she feels about having an orphanage named for her, she says that it is humbling then she began to think of the responsibility of such a namesake and it makes her shudder -- standing in the need of prayer.

[7] Register for UMMA Gathering, Oct. 9-11, 2005 - Fred Price, Coordinator

The UMMA Gathering will coincide with the GBGM board of directors' meeting in a nearby hotel in Stamford, Conn. UMMA will make the reservation to be sure you get the best group rate. The hotel has complimentary breakfast. All other meals will be at your own expense. Please fill & return the following form to Fred Price (his address below) or email fred_price_30084@yahoo.com (please, note there are underscores between fred and price, and between price and 30084). Send as soon as possible to assure your room reservations and official name tags for some of the most important GBGM meetings.

- - - Please fill in the registration form below and send now by email or snail mail - - -

Rev. Fred Price, UMMA Coordinator

165 Grandview Ave.
Pitman, NJ 08071

Hi Fred, Please reserve a place for _____ (your name(s)) for the nights of (state which) 9th 10th 11th for _____ persons in _____ room(s).

I will inform you of my flight # with arrival and departure times and airport as soon as I know those details so information can be shared with others attending for possible pooling of transportation from the airport to Stamford, Connecticut.

Airline tip: LaGuardia Airport (LGA) in NYC seems to have the lowest fares and most direct flights at this time from O'Hare Field (ORD). Compare on www from your city.

I/We will be arriving by plane at approximately -- Time: _____ & Date: _____ Oct.

I/We will be arriving by car at approximately -- Time: _____ & Date: _____ Oct.

I/We will join for a day. -- Time: _____ & Date: _____ Oct.