



UMMA UpDate No. 4 New Series — 3/2017

Editor: Rev. James Dwyer, Ph.D.

About this Issue

This issue of UpDate is no. 4 in the New Series. We are pleased to bring reflections by the Rev. Dr. Mande Muyombo, executive director of Global Ministries' Global Mission Connections unit by permission of Christie House and the editorial staff of **New World Outlook**. This UpDate comes to you directly from your editor in California, who will again be mailing the hardcopies. Our prayers continue with Insook and Gene Matthews in Insook's illness and with several other members dealing with serious illness and end-of-life issues.

ALTHOUGH THIS POSTAL MAIL ISSUE WILL REACH YOU AFTER THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE, I HOPE YOU WILL APPRECIATED BEING REMINDED OF THE APRIL EVENTS!

APRIL 2017 FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

You are invited to Atlanta, GA to join in several fellowship opportunities hosted by the United Methodist Missionary Association and Global Ministries at GBGM's NEW offices. These events are scheduled to follow the GBGM Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday - Saturday, April 20-22, 2017.

Your current dues payment (2017) will make a registration fee unnecessary!

SPECIAL GATHERING OF UMMA

What: UMMA business, planning & strategy meeting

(1) First Session

When: Saturday, April 22, 2017 2:00-5:00 pm

Where:* 458 Ponce de Leon Ave, Atlanta, GA 30308

Who: All UMMA Members — Lunch & evening meal opportunities to be arranged

What: Intergenerational Conversations on **Theology of Mission**

(2) Second Session

When: Sunday, April 23, 2017 2:00-5:00 pm

Who: Current, Former & Retired UMC Missionaries

— Lunch opportunity to be arranged following 11 a.m. worship at Grace Church

— Evening meal opportunities to be arranged

What: Regional or Class Reunions (at your initiative)

When: Saturday or Sunday 7:00-10:00 pm

(Please share reunion plans as they may develop!)

GLOBAL MINISTRIES OPEN HOUSE

What: Open House at Global Ministries' NEW Headquarters

When: Monday, April 24, 2017 10:00 am-3:00 pm

Where: 458 Ponce de Leon Ave, Atlanta, GA 30308

Who: Former and Retired Missionaries for Global Ministries

What can be expected: Worship in the beautiful on-site sanctuary / An address by General Secretary Thomas Kemper / Tour of the new facility / Lunch / Time to reunite with others with whom you served

(The registration form has been removed from this postal mail version of the **UMMA UpDate** due to lack of timeliness. If you are interested in attending and have not yet registered, please contact Larry & Kristen Schmitz, our missionaries-in-residence by phone (816) 500-2584 (Kristy) or (816) 560-6739 (Larry) or email <mir@umcmisson.org>.

NO CENTER NO PERIPHERY: A REGIONAL APPROACH TO MISSION

by Mande Muyombo

I look upon all the world as my parish; thus far I mean, that in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right, and my bounden duty to declare, unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation.

—John Wesley's Journal, June 11, 1739

As the General Board of Global Ministries moves to establish a headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, it also seeks to set up regional offices in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America. These regional offices will provide valuable on-the-ground resources, enabling Global Ministries to be more fully present, regularly engaged, and quickly and easily responsive to the global church and its partners in key world regions.

The theology of our regional structure is based on our sense of mission “from everywhere to everywhere” — while recognizing the shift of Christianity’s center of gravity. Mission used to be thought of as coming from the center (churches in developed countries) and going to the peripheries (people in developing countries). But our sense today is that there isn’t a center anymore — that doing mission lies in mutuality, looking at each other as equal partners and learning from one another. Our heritage from the Wesleyan movement tells us that God’s grace is everywhere and everyone shares in it.

MISSION IN THE REGIONS

We follow God’s mission and God’s movement — the *Missio Dei* — through the Holy Spirit. In this sense, the regional office becomes an avenue for Global Ministries not only to strengthen existing partnerships and create new ones but also to learn the best mission practices and facilitate interaction between regions. This structure will bring new perspectives and insights to our work. How can US churches learn from Latin America and what can Africans learn from the Asia Pacific? We are seeking to create space for learning the best mission practices. A regional structure also creates a sense of proximity with our partners.

We recognize that God is at work everywhere in the world. There is always something exciting happening in one region that may very well ignite passion in other places.

Programmatically, the regional offices will help to maximize the church’s impact. Being in closer proximity to the work, staff members can monitor and evaluate programs more effectively, while having the opportunity for more interaction in local contexts. Seeing first-hand how a local faith community is engaging in global mission, staff members can better design programming based on that community’s collective faith experience.

We also recognize that a regional presence allows Global Ministries to better respond to our missionaries in that region, enabling better supervision. Through partnership and proximity, we can create placements that are contextual and responsive to local priorities. This will help us maximize our work, whether it involves recruiting, sending, and supervising missionaries or cultivating placements. All of our programs will expand exponentially thanks to our proximity.

Global Ministries' work in other areas — such as humanitarian aid, disaster response, global health, and finance and administration — will help us to build capacity for regional partners to work effectively in all of those areas. A regional presence also creates an opportunity for Global Ministries to forge deeper relationships with autonomous Methodist church, UMC, and ecumenical partners.

AGENCY PARTNERS

Initially, we are partnering with The Upper Room—a program of the General Board of Discipleship (Discipleship Ministries)—to open our first regional offices in Argentina and Korea. The Upper Room is concerned with spiritual formation, enabling the two general agencies to work together at both local and regional levels. In fact, Global Ministries becomes a channel to facilitate program work with various United Methodist agencies and other partners, creating an even playing field with no center and no periphery. Mission can be accomplished from everywhere to everywhere because God is at work everywhere.

The Global Ministries/Upper Room office in Latin America will open in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and an Asia-Pacific office will be established in Seoul, South Korea. We are still exploring a number of possible placements for an office in Africa. In Europe, we have a presence in Parnü, Estonia, through a staff member who lives there.

Global Ministries will also maintain a presence in New York City through a United Nations Liaison office. The work United Methodists will do in the regions — as part of our social holiness movement within the Wesleyan tradition — will help advance the United Nations' sustainable development goals. These goals extend from 2015 to 2030 and involve ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years. A

staff presence close to the United Nations enables Global Ministries to continue that work as well.

Regional offices are actually catalysts for keeping us connected in mission as a global church. The unit that oversees this work is called "Global Mission Connections." We accomplish God's mission by connecting. Actually, Global Ministries exists for this very reason — to connect the church in mission.

The Rev. Dr. Mande Muyombo is executive director of Global Ministries' new Global Mission Connections unit. Originally from Katanga, DR Congo, he earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from Africa University in Zimbabwe as a Global Ministries' scholar, followed by a Master in Theology and a doctorate from St. Paul Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri. After returning to DRC, he was appointed by Bishop Ntambo to serve as director of Kamina Methodist University, where he increased the enrollment fivefold during his tenure there.

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IN THE NEWS

In an article by Eriech Tapia for *The Oklahoman* dated August 20, 2016, the newspaper lifted up retired missionary **Hall Duncan**, 92 at the time, for his ongoing work to fight sex-trafficking of children, especially on Dominica in the countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. You'll want to read the article found online here. Visit Hall's website for more details of his captivating life stories, including his work as a cartoonist and illustrator and as a missionary in Congo and South Africa.

A PENULTIMATE WORD ON WOMEN IN MINISTRY

•**Merwyn Nelson** writes, "The Rev. Grace Huck and the Rev. Marian Kline were said to have the earliest ordinations as women. Grace is still living in Spearfish, SD and is 100 years old. Her mind is still quite good."

While you contemplate this matter, you may also want to reflect on Women's History Month at these websites:

US Women's History Project <<http://www.nwhp.org/womens-history-month/2017-honoree-nominations>>

UMC Timeline of Women in Methodism <www.umc.org/who-we-are/timeline-of-women-in-methodism>

(We could add to the second list the Rev. Karen Oliveto's role as pastor of one of the largest churches in the denomination (Glide Memorial UMC in San

Francisco) and her election as the first "out" gay or Lesbian bishop (Western Jurisdiction to Mountain Sky Area) in the United Methodist Church, including a Judicial Council footnote to be added in April.)

BOOKS

• **William Mooney**, formerly missionary in Vienna, has assembled a PDF edition of his poems. It is available for download from the UMMA website here or in printed form directly from Bill via email or ask the editor for his mailing address or contact information.

PASSINGS

• **William Hinson**, 96, died August 26, 2016, in Marietta, GA. Beginning in 1954 he spent most of his years teaching at Wesleyan College in Macon, GA, Baker University in Kansas, Epworth Theological College in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and Faculdade de Teologia in São Paulo, Brazil. While on sabbaticals he was a Visiting Scholar at Clairmont School of Theology in CA, Drew University in NJ, and Union Seminary in NY. The full obituary is available at Legacy.com.

• **Patricia J. (Pat) Patterson**, 81, died January 17, 2017, at Pilgrim Place in Claremont, CA, after a short battle with cancer. Japan missionary Connie Kimos provided her obituary. Pat worked for almost 40 years with the United Methodist missions. She was an associate professor at Aoyama Women's Junior College and University in Tokyo, Japan from 1957 to 1972. Thereafter, she held successive positions in Missionary Affairs and as a liaison in programmatic relations with Indochina, Japan and Korea. She worked to end the war in Viet Nam and consulting with Protestant church leaders and Vietnamese and US negotiators, participated in ecumenical support for Korean peace and unification (1972-1990) and was coordinator and executive for the Japan-North American Commission on Cooperative Mission (JNAC) based in New York but including five denominations in the United States, two in Canada and two in Japan (1990-2000). She wrote hymns and many poems, publishing five books of her poetry. Pilgrim Place named her Poet laureate during its 2015 centenary celebration. The full published obituary can be viewed on the UMMA website. umma-global.org/resources/Variousresources/PJPatterson_obit.pdf

• **Lois M. Gilliland**, 88, died March 8 in Bishop, CA. She and husband Dean were married 62 years before his passing in 2013. She spend the first years of her life in the Belgian Congo with missionary parents and in boarding schools

while they were in missionary service. She and Dean were missionaries in Nigeria among the Hausa-speaking population for nearly 25 years. Her obituary can be found online in the Inyo Register listings at Legacy.com.

LAST WORDS: Sojourners verse/voice/prayer.on 12/27/2016 verse of the day

Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on [God's] law they meditate day and night.

— Psalm 1:1-2

voice of the day

... those who choose not to empathize enable real monsters.
For without ever committing an act of outright evil ourselves,
we collude with it, through our own apathy.

— J.K. Rowling

prayer of the day

God, teach us the power of a generosity that interrupts scarcity with divine love.

— adapted from **Common Prayer**

***"Linking mission workers worldwide
and moving forward"***

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Our mailing address is: United Methodist Missionary Association, c/o Jim Dwyer,
Communications Chair, 787 Plymouth Road Claremont, CA 91711-4249