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Bishop's Letter

Reflections: A Decade Following 9/11



Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

If you are old enough to have memories of the year 2001, you can probably describe, in some detail, where you were and what you were doing on Monday, September 11th, 2001 when you first realized that the United States was under attack by terrorists. This month as we mark the 10th anniversary of 9/11 we pause to remember the lives lost in devastation and the work still needed to live in right relationship in our world. Pictures of a beautiful day with clear blue skies belie the grief and far-reaching impact the attacks would have on our country and the world. From the first plumes of smoke rising above the Twin Towers, to the harrowing stories of passengers plunging to their death on Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania to prevent another attack, to the images of a plane flying into the Pentagon - our future was irrevocably changed that tragic day.

In the aftermath of the devastation; so many people were looking for someone or something to blame. Churches became a voice of reason in the midst of quick judgments and displaced anger. Many of the congregations in Northern Illinois stood with their Muslim neighbors protecting their mosques as tempers flared. We asked hard questions about our own actions and the animosities we helped foster in the world.

We learned much from that fateful day. We learned of the resiliency of the spirit, the generosity of our neighbors, the heroism of our police and fire personnel. We learned that we cannot take our relationships for granted but must work at building bridges. Today the Northern Illinois Conference celebrates a covenant relationship with the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago. We continue to learn from one another, to grow in our understanding of each other's faith. We have strived to live with respect for those whose beliefs are different, resisting the temptation to see all Muslims through the actions of a few.

I know that many churches will offer special remembrances on Sunday, September 11th by honoring first responders, joining in acts of mercy throughout the community, or holding joint interfaith services. It is imperative that we mark the anniversary and learn for our future. There is much we can continue to address to right our relationships in the world.

Hatred and anger are still forces we must address. Shocking violence continues to disrupt our world like last month's methodical killing of innocent adults and children in Norway. We lifted up the victims, families and the country which were overcome with grief and pain. Continued alarming stories of extremism are a wakeup call for each of us.

Christ calls us to embrace those who are different, to welcome the stranger, to advocate for the downtrodden. And so the church must continue to address issues of violence, immigration and reconciliation. We must embrace the stranger and those who believe differently than we do. We must welcome the sojourner in our midst. We must model Christ's gracious spirit of hospitality.

Remembering the events of 2001 is important. Working to create a better world of hope and reconciliation for the future is essential. May God help us all in our sorrow to find hope, and in our hope to become people of compassion, inclusion and peace.

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung



Dream Sabbath 2011

The United Methodist Council of Bishops Committee on Immigration, the United Methodist Interagency Immigration Task Force and the General Board of Church & Society encourage congregations to observe a DREAM Sabbath, a time for education, reflection, action and solidarity in diverse faith communities across the country.

Interfaith communities across the country are asked to choose any Sunday between **September 16 and October 9** to conduct a conversation about the DREAM Act. The bill, "Development, Relief & Education for Alien Minors (DREAM)," gives undocumented students, "dreamers", a chance to earn legal status if they came here as children, are long-term U.S. residents, have good moral character, and complete two years of college or military service in good standing.

The Dream Sabbath can be devoting an entire worship service to immigration issues, printing the bulletin inserts (available in the toolkit), doing an adult Bible Study on immigration, or

having a youth group discussion.

The Northern Illinois Conference would like to see seven or more churches participate. So far St. Andrew Homewood UMC has planned a Dream Sabbath event. Congregations are urged to Sign up for a Sunday online at www.interfaithimmigration.org to ensure sponsors and others in their area are aware of the church's participation. If

your event is not registered, legislators and others concerned about immigration will not see the impact your congregation has made.

Though we may pray in private, this is a public act to show that

United Methodist congregations are thoughtfully discussing immigration.

A free downloadable toolkit is available to help congregations participate in the DREAM Sabbath. The packet includes planning resources, sacred readings, reflections, links to videos and sample bulletin inserts. To download the toolkit, sign-up your church's event and for more information visit www.interfaithimmigration.org.



Northern Illinois Delegates Travel to World Methodist Conference

By: Rev. Harriette Cross

More than 1,850 Methodists from about 58 countries attended the 20th World Methodist Conference in August for five days of worship, education and mission in South Durban, South Africa. The conference is a time for the Wesleyan family to gather in fellowship. The theme of this conference was "Jesus Christ, for the healing of the nations." Representing the Northern Illinois Conference, Rev. Robert Sathuri attended the conference as a World Council member.

"This is a chance to celebrate Wesleyan history with people from six continents - people of different races and nations," said Rev. Sathuri.

The opening of the conference always begins with a procession of banners of member churches and the Africa University Choir sang at the ceremony. Dr. Joy Moore of Duke University gave a daily bible study that many conference attendees said challenged and changed their thinking on how the bible calls us to heal the world. This year the Peace Award was given to Rosalind Colwill who works in Nigeria with the mentally

ill. Peace and Reconciliation of the wounds of the world was a major theme of the speakers. Archbishop Elias Chacour spoke about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He is head of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Galilee. He asked for prayers and support for both sides of the conflict. He urged Christians to remember that history is still very much alive in the Holy Land within the Christian community. In speaking of the total experience of the conference, Rev. Sathuri said, "We have had a chance to celebrate together in

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From the left: Rev. Mario Mayer, Fabiola Grando, Rev. Harriette Cross, Emmy Lou John, Rev. Im Jung, Rev. Robert Sathuri and Teresa Sathuri represented the Northern Illinois Conference.

Northern Illinois Delegates Travel to World Methodist Conference

Continued from front page

worship. We have also learned to understand that in order for Christians to heal the world—mission and evangelism cannot exist without one another.”

For the first time in the history of the World Methodist Conference, a march was held through the streets of Durban. At least 5000 delegates and South African church members marched through the streets singing and praising God, as onlookers watched and clapped.

There were many opportunities to be in mission to the people of South Africa. “I got a chance to visit a shack in order to see poverty,” said Rev. Sathuri. “The children that I saw while there, are the face of my heart,” Sathuri continued. An affiliate organization of the council, Stop Hunger Now, asked delegates to help pack 100,000 meals intended for people throughout the world. Delegates worked alongside Durban school children. Robert Sathuri, Teresa Sathuri and Harriette Cross were part of team of 20 delegates who visited Methodist mission sites for children in order to deliver school supplies. They visited a preschool for displaced children, an after school program and a home for foster children. Theresa Sathuri said that she was looking forward to coming back home to share the needs she witnessed and encourage the young people of the church to participate in mission projects. “It was said in the conference that if the world is still the same when the conference gathers again in five years then we have failed. The memories and the experiences that I have from this trip have certainly changed me,” said Teresa Sathuri.

There were many times for fellowship and fun throughout the conference. There were evangelistic services, a beach party and church visitation on Sundays. Durban and the province of Kwazulu Natal has a rich cultural heritage with influences from many cultures including Zulu and Indian. It is a city where there are Christians, Muslims and members of traditional African religions. It is a city where many have immigrated from other African countries to what the Zulus call a “heavenly place”. The Zulu word Ubuntu literally means ‘I am because you are’. The spirit of fellow-



Robert Sathuri, Harriette Cross and Teresa Sathuri with children from an Indian Mission church which received school supplies collected at the World Methodist Conference.

ship and interconnectedness undergirded all that happened.

Other delegates and participants from the Northern Illinois Conference included, Im Jung, a representative from the Council of Bishops, and Teresa Sathuri, Rev. Harriette Cross and Rev.

Mario Mayer, Conference delegates. Fabiola Grandon attended as a World Methodist council member. She is a part of the governing body of the council, representing youth and young adults. Judy Siaba was a voting delegate and is the president of the North America Area for the World

Methodist Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. Their conference was held in Johannesburg from August 10–15. Judy Siaba and Emmy Lou John, who was significant in establishing the event, was also in attendance at that meeting. Rebecca John was a presenter.

Welcome Our New Administrative Assistants

Rockford/DeKalb District Administrative Assistant: Betsy Smith

I was born and raised in Rochelle, IL and I now live in Lindenwood, IL just 10 minutes north of Rochelle. I am married and my husband and I have three boys (23, 20 & 15). In my free time, I love to quilt, attend Broadway Musicals, shop and spend as much time with my kids as they will allow me.

I have worked in the Administrative field for 20 years. My last position was for Court Street UMC in Rockford, IL as the Church Administrator. This was more than a job, it was my vocation. I loved and treasured every one there and was blessed to work with four great pastors. They each taught me much, which enriched my gifts in administration. I recently felt called to move forward with my gifts so that I may help others in the church office capacity through PAUMCS. This brought me to apply for the position of Administrative Assistant for the Rockford/DeKalb Regional Office. So here I am, and I can't wait to get to know everyone who is working through the Northern Illinois Conference.

Peggy Morrell, the wonderful lady that is retiring from this current position, has been such a treasure to work with and train under. I wish her the best and can't thank her enough for her 27 years of service to the Conference. She will be a hard act to follow. Blessings, Betsy Smith

Besty can be reached at 815-561-8285 or by email bsmith@umcnic.org.



Betsy Smith

Northwestern/Southern Chicago District Administrative Assistant: Debbie Rogers

Debbie Rogers comes to the Chicago Metropolitan Regional Office after serving as the Administrative Assistant at Wesley UMC Naperville for 13 years. Previously, she served as Administrative Assistant to United Voices for Children, Director of Seminary Relations at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston (G-ETS) and taught Middle School Mathematics.

Debbie earned an MDiv from G-ETS in 1994, and is Certified as a United Methodist Church Secretary (GCFA, Class of 2008). She currently serves on the Steering Team of the Northern Illinois Chapter of PAUMCS (Professional Association of United Methodist Secretaries) and is a member at Bethany of Fox Valley UMC, Aurora.

Debbie is married to Mark, and they have two children, Doug (22 years) and Michelle (20 years). “It's such an honor and a privilege to be able to work here in the Chicago District offices. There is a lot to learn, but I know that I'm not alone and am so grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside so many wonderful people,” said Debbie.

Debbie can be reached at 312-346-9766 ext. 132 or by email drogers@umcnic.org.



Debbie Rogers

Come Walk the Path of Life

You will show me the path of life, you, my hope and my shelter; in your presence is endless joy, at your side is my home forever.
Psalm 16:11

Kingswood United Methodist church invites you to take a walk on the “path of life” at a newly dedicated labyrinth on the church’s grounds. Rev. Margaret Gramley says she germinated the idea last fall to create a place for prayer and contemplation at Kingswood while walking the labyrinth at Mercy Center in California. Kingswood member, Tommy Gates volunteered to take on the task and constructed the winding pathway for his Eagle Scout project. He and volunteers spent hundreds of hours this summer laying the brick and stone. “The labyrinth is like life,” said Tommy Gates. “It has a beginning and an end but the end is a new beginning.”

The labyrinth is an ancient spiritual tool and symbol found in many cultures around the world. It is a way to pray and meditate, although it can mean different things to different people and at different times in a person’s life. “I love the simple descriptive: *A labyrinth has only one path. The way in is the way out.* How true that seems to be ... not only on the literal labyrinth, but on our journey of life,” said Rev. Gramley.

The labyrinth was dedicated to the memory of two young church members, Steven Taylor and Katie Traynor who died in the past year. The Taylor and Traynor families thanked the church for remembering their children in this special way. “We have had so many twists and turns. The labyrinth is the opposite, and it takes us to the center through only one path,” said Cindy Traynor. “I hope it brings everyone peace.”

“I pray that many will find the Kingswood Labyrinth to be a place to enter and deepen their spiritual journey, a place where we find ourselves on the ‘path of life,’ aware of the presence and shelter and guidance of our loving God, who offers us endless joy and a home forever,” said Rev. Gramley.

Another Kingswood member, Jeremy Koppenhaver will add landscaping around the labyrinth this fall and spring as part of his own Eagle Scout project. The labyrinth is located on the west side of the church which is located at 401 W. Dundee Rd. in Buffalo Grove, IL. It is open to anyone.



From the left; Tommy Gates, Rev. Margaret Gramley, Kingswood Youth Minister, Luke Pepper and Jeremy Koppenhaver stand in the center of the Kingswood Labyrinth during a recent dedication ceremony.

Come Explore the China Bible

Thy Word is Truth

October 12–16, 2011

Bible Ministry Exhibition of the Protestant Church in China



Come explore how the Bible was brought into China, how it has been translated, published, distributed, used and loved by the Chinese people. Since 1980, more than 55 million bibles have been printed in China to meet the need. This is an extraordinary opportunity to learn more about the growing, changing landscape of Christian faith in China.

Free Daily Exhibit

8:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

First UMC at the Chicago Temple
77 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL

Artisan Performances Daily 10:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Simultaneous Partner Exhibition

October 15, 4p.m.–9 p.m. & October 16, 8 a.m.–6 p.m.

Willow Creek Community Church,
67 East Algonquin Rd., South Barrington, IL

Presented by China Cristian Council & National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (CCC/TSPM)

Steering Committee: Apostolic Church of God, Chicago Bible Society, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America—Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, Greater Chicago Christian Broadcast Ministry, InterFaith Connect, United Church of Christ—Illinois Conference, United Methodist Church—Northern Illinois Conference.

Call 312-346-9766 ext. 110 for more information or visit www.bibleinchina.org and www.umcnic.org/chinabile



Cameras, Contemplative Tools in a Digital Age

A special retreat titled, *Cameras, Contemplative Tools in a Digital Age*, will bring mystics at heart together at the Reynoldswood Retreat Center in Dixon on **Saturday, October 8**. Planned by the NIC Spiritual Formation Committee, participants will have the opportunity to spend a part of the day exploring the earth through a lens as it relates to our spiritual life.

We will be led by Marianne Saig, OSF, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Joliet. A Spiritual Director, Retreat Facilitator, Teacher and Photographer, Sister Marianne will guide us as we consider the difference between a snapshot and a photograph. We will focus on the important parts of our lives in nature. Sister Marianne shares, “Images are all around us and images within can come together as we reflect on a deeper level with our cameras.”

The cost for the day is \$30.00 which includes lunch and healthy snacks. Participants are invited to bring a camera of their choice as the burnished reds and golds at Reynoldswood will invite a snap of the shutter! Deadline for Registration is **September 26**. The event brochure and registration form can be found on the conference website under “Ministries-Spiritual Formation”. Cokesbury will provide related books for the day. Come, discover and share!

Campbell Labels Helps Marcy-Newberry with Supplies

By: Rev. Margaret Ann Williams

Over the years, numerous program supplies, office supplies and school supplies have been purchased for the Marcy-Newberry Association from Labels for Education, resulting from the continued support of United Methodist Women from across the Northern Illinois Conference. In 2003, a brand new van was purchased by a million and a half Campbell Soup Labels.

In July, 2011, three school age programs (Newberry, FOSCO and Marcy Centers) and the agency administrative office were overjoyed to receive a large delivery of games and educational materials from 171,500 redeemed labels. Anne Genter, Campbell Soup Labels Coordinator for the last 14 years, helped place the order. See the list to the right of everything they were able to acquire. Genter has been a member of the Board of Directors of Marcy-Newberry Association, Inc., a past President of the Conference United Methodist Women and has held other local, district and conference UMW positions. She is a member of Morgan Park United Methodist Church where the Campbell Soup Labels Headquarters is housed.

Thank you to ALL who have saved/mailed in labels for our programs and services.

As we move toward the fall and winter months, we would appreciate your continued clipping and saving of the various acceptable labels that include: Spaghetti O's, Pepperidge Farm: Prego Sauces, Swanson Broth and Canned Chicken, Breads,



NIC UMW President, Rita L. Smith and UMW/Labels Coordinator, Anne Genter help children sort through the games and educational materials recently acquired through the labels program.

Croutons, Rolls, Stuffing, Goldfish Crackers, Cookies and Frozen items (Breads, Cakes, Puff Pastry, Turnovers and Dumpling.)

We are deeply appreciative of your sharing and encouraging family and friends to save and share after the soup and casseroles have been enjoyed.

Items Marcy-Newberry received from your redeemed labels:		
Quantity	Description	Points Required
1	Metal TV Cart	13,500
1	Manual Wall Screen	5,000
1	DVD Recorder & VCR	13,500
2	Overhead Projector	9,500
1	Paper Cutter	5,100
1	Personal PA System	6,100
6	Exercise Ball	13,200
4	Compact Disc Player	15,000
2	Cassette Recorder Center	16,500
3	Presidents	4,100
3	Lego Basic Bulk	15,000
3	Banana Greenhouse	3,000
3	101 Science Experiments	3,900
2	World & US Wall Maps	4,200
3	Kids Game PK	24,000
2	Naturally Play Sand/Water	15,000
1	T-Gel Pen	1,500
1	Roller Pen	1,350
1	V-Gel Pen	1,175
1	Bic Great Erase Kit	875
		<u>171,500</u>

Workshops Announced for School of Evangelism

By: Rev. Dr. Jay D. Carr

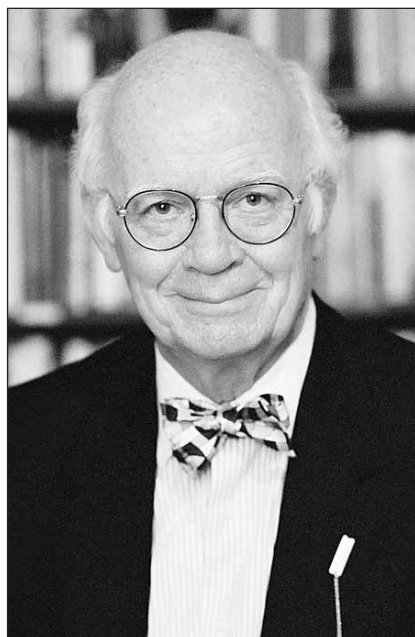
Both "basic" and "advanced" workshops will be available this year at the NIC School of Evangelism to be held **October 15**, from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at Cornerstone UMC, 41W170 Russell Road, Elgin, IL.

The planning committee has made attempts to respond to the needs of local congregations in the area of evangelism. While the workshops are identified as "basic" and "advanced", participants may choose from either category without any prior attendance requirement at the School of Evangelism. The designations are primarily to help participants choose the appropriate workshop for their church. All workshops will be held both in the morning and in the afternoon so that participants will be able to attend two different workshops.

Continuing education units will be awarded to those clergy who participate the entire day.

Registration can be done on-line or through the mail. Registration materials have been mailed out, or you can register at www.umcnic.org/evangelism. Congregations are encouraged to send teams of at least three people. Early bird registration ends September 19.

A preview of this year's topic "Christian Outreach in a Post-Christian Culture" featuring a conversation between Dr. Martin E. Marty (keynote speaker) and the Revs. Jay D. Carr and Felicia Howell LaBoy (members of the SoE planning committee) can also be viewed on-line at www.vimeo.com/umcnic. In this preview of Dr. Marty's keynote, he reminds us that we should not get discouraged by our changing culture, but that we do need to be more creative in our outreach.



Martin E. Marty

Workshops scheduled for the 2011 School of Evangelism are:

Basic Workshops

Designed for congregations who are developing or want to develop an evangelism ministry

#1 **Twelve Best Practices**

We are in the midst of great societal change. Learn 12 ways your congregation can use the changes in our society as powerful tools of evangelism.

Rev. Enrique Gonzalez, Pastor of Centennial UMC, Rockford

#2 **Evangelistic Worship: Intelligent, Intelligible, and Relevant**

Worship that is attractive to non-Christians isn't about being flashy or dumbed-down. With the resources and talents you already have you, can shape a service that is both God-honoring and attractive to new people.

Led by the Worship Work Area

#3 **Exploring the Meaning of Life**

Learn how your church can use "Alpha" and the United Methodist "Walk to Emmaus" to help people explore the meaning of life through the lens of Christianity.

Tedi McClain, Regional Director, Alpha USA

#4 **Twenty-first Century Evangelism and Technology on a Shoestring Budget**

Jump start evangelism at your church by learning how to use You-Tube, Facebook, and flyers—with a little help from the salespeople at the local Best Buy.

Rev. Charles Straight, Senior Pastor, Faith UMC, Dolton

Advanced Workshops

Designed for congregations who are ready for more intensive evangelism efforts

#5 **God Isn't Finished**

While the church in America struggles to figure out how to adjust to the changes in our culture, see how your ministry can proclaim, "God is not finished with us."

Dr. Martin E. Marty, keynote speaker

#6 **Faith Sharing 202**

Move beyond the basics of sharing your faith and be empowered to share your own story of God's grace in the midst of life situations.

Rev. John Lee, pastor of Faith UMC, Freeport, returns to the SoE to take us deeper into the area of faith sharing.

#7 **Evangelism that Empowers the Community and the Church**

Empower your church to create opportunities of justice for others as tools of evangelism within your local community and beyond.

Rev. Orlando Moeller, Bethany El Buen Pastor UMC and Rev. Dr. Felicia Howell LaBoy, Maple Park UMC

#8 **Closing the Back Door, Keeping New People**

Some visitors to our worship services stay and become part of the church family; many do not. Explore ways to keep new people from going out the "back door."

Rev. Brian Channel, Pastor of Durand UMC, Durand



ABOVE: Ordinary household items were scattered among the debris. LEFT: Homes were rocked off of their foundations and left uninhabitable.

100 days after the earthquake and Tsunami: Journey to a Land of Disaster and Hope – Part II

by Rev. Im Jung

One week before I left for Japan, my pastor from Grace United Methodist Church in Naperville, Illinois, preached and challenged people saying, “This summer how would you give yourself for others?” The opportunity was waiting for me. While on my journey in Japan, I gave myself to volunteer work one day with others through Samaritan’s Purse. I took about 30 Upper Room tri-language (English, Korean, Japanese) devotional magazines with me. I asked the leaders of volunteers to announce that this gift was for them. It was so good to see many people come to pick it up and start reading it. Some people had never seen this booklet before in their lives, but now it became soul food for these tired volunteers.

My group of eight people went to one house, and everybody had their own duty. Our work was very simple, but very important. We were preparing for carpenters to come and do their work. They gave me tools, a chisel and hammer, a paintbrush, and a shovel. I had to use the hammer and chisel to crack the remaining clay walls, and use a paintbrush to brush off all the dry salt mud, and then shovel it out from the ground. It sounds so simple, but it was a hard job. My face was sweating like rain because I wore a mask. The lunch hour was especially horrible. Our lunch table was in the middle of the street where we all sat and started eating. The lunchbox food was delicious, but we all had to fight the community odor and flies. I had to quickly put each bite into my mouth before flies flew into my mouth with the food. They were everywhere.

After lunch, I had a little break to chat with the owners of the house we were working on. They are still living in the shelter in the elementary school with 200 more refugees. First, the government provided three meals with security. A couple of months later, they served two meals a day. Then later, they provided only one meal a day, and that day, while we were talking, there was no more government aid, and the army moved back to their own base. The homeowners expressed anger and fear, but were still grateful for their lives and hoped to move back into their house that might be fixable. With compassion, I gave him an Upper Room devotional booklet for himself, and extra copies to share with his friends in the shelter. He was very appreciative, even though he was not Christian.

Before we left, we gathered together again with the homeowners and we prayed. “The Teacher” was among us, both homeowners and volunteers, with a lifeline.

The final day, as we drove down the shoreline, we stopped at Matasima and we were very happy to see this community was almost restored from its damage. Restaurants, ice cream parlors and street markets were open, so we went in one of the waterfront restaurants and ate lunch with tourists. We saw even the cruise ship going through the small islands. In front of several restaurants, women were busy washing their salt and mud covered dishes. What a heal-

ing joy. Around the corner of the restaurant where we ate, we saw the Japanese Buddhist temple. Of course, they had damage so that we could not see the full temple, but it was good to see parts of their culture and religion.

In the late afternoon, unexpectedly, we got a chance to visit a Japanese Christian church in Sendai. The sanctuary was so pure and simple. About 100 people worshipped in this house of God, and they hosted volunteer workers. My prayer and hope was that both religions continued to serve humanity with peace and harmony. Certainly, the great Teacher was there in both communities.

We went next door to the Emmaus Center in Sendai to visit UMCOR (United Methodist Commission on Relief) and UCCJ (United Church of Christ, Japan). Unfortunately, the UMCOR representative went back to the United States, but the director of UCCJ greeted us and shared his ministry with us. He was still overwhelmed with this catastrophe, but he was trying to do what he could to rebuild Japan. I offered words of encouragement and prayer of strength and healing. At the Emmaus Center, about 30 men and women from all over Japan were volunteering to help rural areas with their bikes. There are still many places not accessible by car. There was hope in the midst of hopelessness. The Teacher strengthened the people of Japan.



As the cherry trees brought forth abundant fruits, the people had great hope to restore and rebuild their communities in the midst of hopelessness. They seemingly continued to try to live as normal lives as they could. As I prepared to leave the Sendai coast to travel to Tokyo, the sky was again a clear blue, the ocean was calm, the moun-

tains held up strong green trees, rice patties were full of rice plants, fields were full of harvest barley, and cherry orchards were full of bright red cherries. I saw great hope in this country.

As I left Japan, I no longer had to ask, “Teacher, where are you staying?” I came to know and experience that the Teacher was staying at home with family and friends in preparation for my journey to Japan; staying in the midst of fear, despair, and hopelessness in the northeast shorelines; staying with volunteers and misplaced homeowners; staying with both faith communities, staying with long-term relief workers; staying in the midst of restoration, and rebuilt communities; and the Teacher was in the midst of the beauty of the land.

Yes, I see the Teacher in the midst of disaster, disappointment, distress, depression, death, suffering, pain, and anger. I also see the Teacher in the midst of people with passion, hope, healing, wholeness, contentment, gratitude, and humility. I saw the Teacher embrace people’s pain, suffering, and wounds near to His own pain, suffering, and wounds. That was the Teacher’s home and I was invited. It is a true blessing what the Teacher has done in my life. You are also INVITED.

(I would like to acknowledge those people who financially supported me to be a ministry of presence in Japan; the Upper Room Ministries USA and Korea, Grace United Methodist Church, the Northern Illinois Conference, Jerry Haas, the Bishop Hee-Soo Jung. I also appreciate my family and those friends both near and far who journeyed with me through their prayers and guidance. Special thanks goes to Rev. Lee, who embraced and guided me along many, many miles of that coastline unconditionally. Also, thanks to his family and church.)

Im Jung spent a week in Japan from June 24–30 and will be returning in November. You can read Part I of her journey at www.umcnic.org. UMCOR is working through relief and church partners in Japan to respond to and provide immediate assistance and long-term rehabilitation. If you would like to help, you can give to Japan Emergency Advance #: 3021317.

Postscript:

Lately, I received an email from Rev. Lee that one of his parishioners who was diagnosed with cancer and given a month to live, started to read the Bible and the Upper Room devotional magazine. The July 2 devotion so touched him and moved his heart that he highlighted and marked that page several times. He received baptism in his sick bed, is praying for his healing, and while he was in the hospital bed, he passed out but he heard God calling his name. He woke up, alive! Rev. Lee asked us to continue to pray for him. This is a special story for a Japanese man and community of faith. The Teacher was there for him.

UMM Spiritual Congress

All NIC United Methodist Men and Clergy are invited to a UMM Spiritual Congress the weekend of **September 16-18** at Williams Bay, Wisconsin. The emphasis this year will be on Spiritual Formation. The leaders of the Conference will be Dr. Jerry Haas, who is a primary consultant in the development of The Upper Room's Worship book, co-editor of *Rhythm and Fire: Experiencing the Holy in Community and Solitude* and Dr. Norval Brown, a leader of retreats, revivals, and individual spiritual direction and current pastor of Thornton and Park Forest UMC.



Rich Rubietta, who established the Abounding Ministries program, will lead us in music. Rich has led many worship services in churches throughout our conference. His message through music is inspiring and compelling. Saturday evening, Alleluia Quartet will provide a music program along with various other musicians from many of the districts.

Workshops on Mission, Wesley Quadrilateral, Letters from Dad, and Finding the Meaning in Retirement will also be held. This year's attendees will have the opportunity to participate in two of the workshops being offered. The workshops are designed to stimulate our thinking and strengthen our walk with God.

This is the 51st year for the Spiritual Congress and over the years men have given witness to God's work in their lives. Each pastor and lay members to Annual Conference have been provided at least one registration form. If you do not have one please contact Steve Nailor, Conference President at sdnailor@comcast.net or George Bush at gbushdos@gmail.com or your district president or go to www.nicumm.org to print a copy. Invite a friend and spend a relaxing weekend in one of the most beautiful settings in our area.

Mark Your Calendars

Conference
UMW Annual Meeting



Saturday, October 22, 2011
Location: New Lenox UMC
339 W Haven Avenue
New Lenox, IL

Coordinator: Judith Siaba
(312) 346-9766, ext. 124
jsiaba@umcnic.org

Early Response Team Training

Would you like to be one of those trained United Methodists responding with UMCOR? Then you are someone who will want to attend the Northern Illinois Conference Early Response Team training on **Saturday, October 29** from 8:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. at the Conference Program Offices, 217 Division St., Elgin, IL.

The mission of an early response team is to provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster, under very specific guidelines that enable a team to be productive and caring while causing no further harm or being a burden to the affected community.

UMCOR Staff will train and teach us the why, when and how of responding to disasters in our local communities as well as elsewhere in the US and globally.

SPACE IS LIMITED TO 20. COST: \$35.00 which includes: notebook, lunch, t-shirt, and Safe Sanctuary background check. Contact: Bruce Nelson orm@niccamp.org for more information.

Denman Awards Announced

By: Rev. Dr. Jay D. Carr

The Northern Illinois Conference Evangelism Work Area is excited to announce the 2011 Harry Denman Evangelism Award recipients. This year's clergy recipient is the Rev. Enrique Gonzalez, and the lay recipient is Beth Taylor.

The Denman Evangelism Award is presented annually to a United Methodist lay and clergy person in each Annual Conference for outstanding work in Christian Evangelism. The award is named for the late Dr. Harry Denman, distinguished lay evangelist whom Dr. Billy Graham called "my mentor in evangelism." The awards are made possible by The Foundation for Evangelism, which was founded in 1949 by Dr. Denman.

Enrique Gonzalez was born in Mexico City. He's been serving as an elder in the UMC in the US for twelve years, first in Texas and now in the Northern Illinois Conference. While in Texas he planted a new Hispanic congregation from the ground up. Since moving to Northern Illinois, he started two satellite ministries based out of El Mesias, Elgin, while he was pastor there. Also during his pastorate at El Mesias that congregation was the host site of the first NIC School of Evangelism. Gonzalez will return to the school this year as a workshop leader to teach the workshop "Twelve Best Practices."

Gonzalez is currently in his second year as Pastor of Centennial UMC in downtown Rockford, which is seen as a congregational redevelopment ministry. He is leading Centennial in a process of revitalization, ministering to four different ethnic and cultural groups.

Beth Taylor is a member of Disciples United Methodist Church in Mt. Morris, Illinois and is described by her pastor, the Rev. Doc Newcomb as having "a heart for people to know the transforming love of Jesus." She is the volunteer leader of the church's youth group, is active in helping the congregation reach young families through leading the congregation in new styles of worship music and has been a leader in the church's annual women's retreat.

Under Taylor's leadership Disciples UMC has rented a trailer in a local mobile home park and began a ministry within the mobile home community that includes a Kids Club, mentoring program, lunch program and provides school supplies. Mary Gardner, Lay Leader of Disciples UMC says that Taylor doesn't do good works as a way to "earn her way into heaven. She does good works because she believes that God wants us to take care of his children."

The awards will be presented this year at the NIC School of Evangelism, on October 15, at Cornerstone UMC, 41W170 Russell Road, Elgin, IL.

September Safe Sanctuary Training

September 17, 2011—9:00-3:00pm

First United Methodist Church, 216 East Highland, Elgin, IL
Sponsored by: Northern Illinois Conference
Safe Sanctuary Committee

Workshop leadership includes: representatives from the FBI, DCFS, Assurance Insurance and the Safe Sanctuary Committee

Child care will be provided. Please register your needs.

Check in and Coffee at 8:30

Registration deadline: September 10

You may pay \$25 per person by check or credit card.
Box lunch and background check included.

If you have any questions contact Connie Colon at 800-642-2267 or e-mail at orm@niccamp.org

The Safe Sanctuaries program is a process developed to train and certify persons as safe workers with children, youth and vulnerable adults in Northern Illinois Conference ministries. The policies are in response to God's call to welcome all children and vulnerable adults while protecting them from the devastating effects of abuse.

Thank You

Dear Members of the Northern Illinois Conference and friends from other states, and internationally:

I just wanted to express my heartfelt appreciation for your prayers and support while I was hospitalized and recovering. I felt a warm spirit comfort and embrace me because I know it was your prayers.

My recovery was fast ...
because your prayer shawls were on my shoulders;

because your prayer beads were in my hands;

because your homemade meals, edible fruit bouquet and baskets nourished my body;

because your plants and flowers delighted my spirit;
because your visits and treats of meals re-energized me;
because your many, many caring cards and emails overwhelmed me with your love and friendship.

I am full of gratitude and humility.

Through my illness, I experienced God is God of Healing, Comfort, Strength, and always present with me. May this same God be with you on your life journey.

Honored to serve God with ALL of you,
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung



Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Shaping a Life of Significance for Retirement

A one day conference for people who are recently retired or are contemplating retirement. (not just clergy) Presented by co-authors R. Jack Hansen and Jerry P. Hass.

When: Friday, September 16—9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Where: Kingswood UMC
401 W. Dundee R1d.
Buffalo Grove, IL

Cost: \$40/single or \$50/couple
(includes one book and lunch)

Register and pay online at www.kingswoodumc.com, click on the donate link then retirement seminar or contact the church office at office@kingswoodumc.com or by phone at 847-398-0770.

Bishop Jung on Renewal Leave

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung will be on Renewal Leave this fall beginning September 1 and concluding December 15. Every four years, Bishops in the United Methodist Church are required to take a three month renewal. Bishop Jung will spend much of his renewal time in Seoul, South Korea. While in Seoul, the Bishop will be a guest lecturer at Methodist Theological Seminary, while the Bishop's spouse Reverend Im Jung will teach spirituality at Ewha Woman's University. The Jung's will also spend time traveling, as well as visiting with family and friends.

Bishop Jung will return to Northern Illinois for two weeks in mid-October to participate in the China Bible Exhibition. In addition the Bishop will travel to Japan in November on a Disaster Relief mission.

Our prayers are with the Bishop that he might experience a time of spiritual renewal and physical refreshment.

How to Contact Us

Please submit items at least two weeks prior to publication date. Include your name, address, phone number and name of local church. Space is limited.

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