As we continue our emphasis on Imagine No Malaria we encourage you to use the resources at imaginrenomalaria.org. Here is a sample of what you can find there:

Continue the journey to Imagine No Malaria with us in Lent! Our team has been working hard to produce an undated and themed set of graphics, worship resources and videos that embody the spirit of Lent:

- Give Up Indifference
- Give Up Excess
- Take Up the Charge
- Take Up the Challenge
- Lift Up the Hurting
- Lift Up the Healed
- Look Up to Overcome

As you know, the North Carolina Conference has pledged One Million Dollars toward the overall goal of 75 million dollars. You can help us reach that goal by incorporating the available resources into your planning for the Season of Lent and the time leading up to Annual Conference in Wilmington.

We invite and encourage you to take advantage of the available sermon starters, worship elements, children's sermons, graphics, videos and more as you plan your Lent worship. Also available are PowerPoint templates for each week in Lent corresponding to the weekly themes.

There are a variety of downloadable resources and free items including Lenten collection box banks, promotion bracelets, offering envelopes, tri-fold brochures and more available at:

http://imaginrenomalaria.org/resources
GOOD NEWS, MALARIA IS 100% PREVENTABLE

Unlike many other diseases that are awaiting a cure, malaria was eliminated in the U.S. in the 1950s. However, in Sub-Saharan Africa, malaria continues to kill a person every 60 seconds. But there is hope! Imagine No Malaria is part of a global partnership and together with our partners, our generation can beat malaria once and for all.

WHAT EXACTLY IS MALARIA?

Malaria is caused by a parasite, which is transmitted to humans through the bite of the female anopheles mosquito. This mosquito flies and feeds at night (which is why bed nets are an effective prevention tool).

When an infected mosquito bites a person, the parasite enters the bloodstream and heads for the liver, where it multiplies. It then re-enters the bloodstream, attacking red blood cells. Typically, someone with malaria experiences a high fever, chills, joint pain and headaches. Untreated, symptoms eventually advance to organ failure. Nearly 90 percent of victims are children under the age of 5 and pregnant women.

WE HAVE MADE EXTRAORDINARY PROGRESS

In 2007, the World Health Organization estimated there were more than 1,000,000 malaria related fatalities. By 2012, the number had been reduced to 627,000. While that is still a staggering number, a nearly 50% increase in life is worth celebrating! Thanks to the efforts of The United Methodist Church and our partners, we are on our way to beating malaria for good.

YOUR HELP IS STILL NEEDED

United Methodists are committed to bring an end to suffering and death from Malaria. To date we have raised $64 million of our overall $75 million goal. Together we can eliminate Malaria!

Reminder– It is not too late to register for Learn and Serve Training for Disaster Response and UMVIM Team Leaders
Edenton UMC
February 28 & March 1

For more details and to sign up for any of these trainings, please go to www.nccumvim.org and click on the appropriate green or red “register” button to match your interest. You may also register for both training events.

For those staying overnight, housing will be provided at no cost. Meals are provided on Saturday and Sunday.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

There will be a 5K Skeeter Run/Walk in Hertford, NC on April 25, 2015. Details and registration info is coming soon!
BEACON DISTRICT
LIBERIA
PARTNERSHIP
ALERT

There is an urgent and immediate need for assistance at Ganta Mission Station School.

Because of the Ebola outbreak, schools in Liberia have been closed since last summer. In a sudden and unexpected decision the government announced that all schools will re-open in February. That is both good and challenging news. The good news is that, while Ebola still exists, the spread of disease has slowed enough to open schools.

The challenge is this. Economic activity throughout Liberia has been limited throughout the Ebola crisis. Therefore families have not had a way to gather the funds needed to send their children back to school, especially on short notice. The solution is inexpensive by American standards. A gift of $175 will educate a child for one year In addition, these scholarships will provide an income stream to assure that teachers can be paid and that their families can return to a more normal life. Your gift will also enable the Mission Station to use other resources for sustainable agriculture in its efforts to become self-sustaining.

Can your church, UMW, Sunday School, other group, or even an individual support the education of one or more children? If so, you will be matched with a child and provided the name of a person you can pray for even as you help them return to school.

If you can help we ask that you forward funds to NCCUMC Advance # S-00228 (Love for Liberia-scholarships) as soon as possible. At the same time please notify Ed Rutenkroger (erutenkroger@nccumc.org) of the name or names of donors so he can provide the name of the student you are helping.

There are many students in need of assistance. Their stories are similar to the these we recently received from the school principal, Roger Domah:

Yeelor Zu, 17 Years

Yeelor is currently an 11th grade student of the Ganta United Methodist School. Her parents are committed United Methodists of the Miller McAllister United Methodist Church of Gompa District, Liberia Annual Conference. She is the last of eight children of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Zu (four boys and four girls). Mr. Zu works as Maintenance Supervisor for the Ganta United Methodist Mission Station while his wife works as a Nurse Aide at the Ganta United Methodist Hospital. Both institutions were highly hit by the Ebola crisis and their employees have not been paid for several months.

For a protracted period, Yeelor’s education was financed by her elder sister, Mrs. Layson Z. Wilon, a nurse who succumbed to the Ebola virus in September 2014. She was an employee of the St. Joseph Catholic Hospital. Even though time for the registration of old students is almost expiring, Yeelor is among several old students who have not been able to register and may not be able to attend school this academic year. She is therefore seeking financial assistance to enable her continue her education.

Musuline Yini, 9 years

Musuline was promoted to 4th grade just before the Ebola crisis worsened. She has been sponsored by her grandfather because her mother is also a freshman college student. Both Musuline’s grandfather and her mother suffered (and recovered) from the Ebola virus. Ebola survivors struggle with side effects of ongoing fatigue, thus, her grandfather had to resign from his job where he served as Accountant for the Ganta United Methodist Mission Station. Musuline’s mother is also unlikely to return to school due to the lack of financial support because the father/grandfather was the family’s sole breadwinner. The School has received several calls from Mr. Yini requesting for financial assistance to enable Musuline who came 3rd in her class last academic year resume this academic year.
A Little Mission Theology

By Bill Haddock

Are you liberal or conservative? In mission theology, persons are often pigeonholed as being either liberal (interested in social justice issues) or conservative (interested in traditional values). It seems that the divide is getting deeper. Those who call themselves liberal (or who are called liberal by others) want specific types of legal and societal reforms which would help the society be restructured to give the least, the last, and the lost opportunities to flourish in this world. For persons who are so oriented, those opportunities to succeed often mean that there are going to be redistributions of wealth, easing of some legal barriers, and an understanding that governments have a large role in supporting large numbers of people. Conservatives, on the other hand, feel that there has been too much in the way of redistribution of wealth. They would provide safety nets for disabled, the elderly, etc, but would require able bodied persons to become more involved in their own economic futures. Many conservatives are also very concerned about issues which they see as moral imperatives—and struggle with the extent to which their views should become the law of the land (take for example: many conservatives are opposed to abortion in any form—and particularly opposed to having the government support such abortions). The divide between liberals and conservatives seems to be getting stronger—even in the denomination that we love. As one side or another becomes uncompromising, the whole body suffers—and the mission of the Church itself suffers. Each side begins to say “We know what the mission of the Church is—and it’s surely not what the other side says it is.”

Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience all are used to support one idea or another. Instead of beginning with foundations and finding workable conclusions, we often start with the conclusion and find supporting arguments somewhere else. Is there common ground? The Methodist movement, as it began, and as it will continue when it is at its best, finds a way to combine social justice issues with traditional values; societal change with personal transformation. In short, real missions work—real outreach—begins and ends with the same goal in mind—to help transform this world while we make disciples for Jesus Christ.

REAP the VISION

A heart for missions is a heart that is a heart after God. God has had a mission from the beginning. God’s heart is that we should be God’s people. God is LOVE and a people after God are a people in LOVE.

We love God because God first loved us. The nature of our God is love because God is love. When we surrender our lives to God, we exchange our fallen nature for a new nature that is rooted in the identity of God. We are a people of LOVE because God is LOVE. We have taken on God’s nature.

God’s nature is to give us a nature like unto His nature. Now with a nature like God’s nature we LOVE like God LOVES. Our mission, like God’s mission is to ensure that all know the LOVE of God. Who is that LOVE? It is Jesus. If you want to have a nature like Jesus then you need to ABIDE in Christ. When you ABIDE in Christ you cannot help but act like the one with whom you have been hanging around.

Reading this newsletter will stir a nature of Christ in you. It is a way that you can ABIDE in Christ when you read of all the opportunities in missions that are afforded us in the Beacon District. Be like your Heavenly Father. Have a mission to reach this world for Christ. Start by opening your life and heart to God taking on the nature of Christ. Reap the Vision. Put on Christ!!!

Winning them to Jesus,

Gil Wise, District Superintendent.
Beacon District, North Carolina Conference

Of This N’ That

Notable Mission work around the Beacon District

1. We need to receive your mission activities. The District Mission Newsletter is a connector for our District Churches. Share your mission activities that others may pray for your work. Share your stories that they may inspire others to work in their field. Send your announcements to Ed Rutenkroger or Bill Haddock.

2. Mark your calendars for Change the World Weekend on May 16.

3. There will be a Skeeter Run/Walk in Hertford on April 25 to raise money for Imagine No Malaria.

4. John Benson is the Beacon District UMVIM Coordinator. Contact John at 252.996.0905 as he is happy to help people get connected to missions work team opportunities.

The United Methodist Way

Belief lived, doctrine practiced.
Authenticity in promoting holiness.
Partnership with Stop Hunger Now and Missions Team

The Missions Team of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church seeks to increase awareness of hunger issues by inviting local churches to become involved with the ministry of Stop Hunger Now (referred henceforth by SHN). SHN is a non-profit organization that enables persons to become aware of the problems of hunger in the world—and to take steps to alleviate that massive social issue. One way that SHN raises awareness is to have packaging events during which volunteers package meals to be sent to places of need throughout the world.

For 2015, Churches will be selected by the following criteria:

The Church applying for matching funds should not have hosted a meal packaging event before.

Local Churches which apply for matching funds shall make every effort to include participants from neighboring Churches.

Each local Church (or group of Churches) should be aware that SHN will expect that a minimum of 10,000 meals be packaged at any given event. When entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with SHN, the Church(es) will be expected to pay $.29 per meal. For example, a packaging event of 10,000 meals would cost $2900. The Missions Team will pay half ($1450) for a 10,000 meal event. Contact Bill Haddock for an application at revbillh@nccumc.org

Congregations for Children (C4C) THREE AREAS OF FOCUS

1. Helping to improve K-3 Literacy rates …
   - Check with your local school and see how you might provide literacy tutoring for children
   - Sit with a child and listen to them read
   - Connect with the local school to provide books and a reading library for a teacher
   Give 5 – Read 5 books can be given at any time during the year

2. Helping to meet the Basic Needs of students (food, clothing, supplies etc.)
   - Backpack buddies … many children who get breakfast and lunch at school during the week need food to take home for the weekend (Great story of congregations in a backpack buddy ministry)
   - Partner with a teacher and provide support
   - Helping teachers with classroom setup, resources, treats, etc.

3. Helping to increase Parental Involvement
   - Encouraging parents to be involved with their neighborhood schools
   - Retired disciples acting as “grandparents” for school children … story telling, supporting, loving
   Walking across the street and asking “How can we help?”

Beacon District Missions

Area Schools    Food Security Issues    World Missions    Disaster Relief
Making a Difference in Our World