



Vol. 3 / Issue 3 A Monthly Mission Newsletter of the Beacon District United Methodist Church March 2015

Ebola Response Update

The spread of Ebola in West Africa has slowed, but it has not stopped. That means that the attention of the world has moved on, but the needs for improved infrastructure and treatment continue. The North Carolina Conference is committed to our partners in West Africa for the long term. One of our partners, Stop Hunger Now, has also been very active in the region.



Working together, we have provided emergency food, personal protective items, medical supplies, school kits, a tractor for the farm

at Ganta, a vehicle for the mission station, and other needed items. Our District has sent over \$7500 and the Conference has sent items and funds in excess of \$40,000. In addition, Stop Hunger Now provided \$25,500 to Ganta UMC Hospital in an Ebola emergency response grant. Among the reported impacts of that grant are:

- Ongoing purchase of sanitation supplies and PPE to ensure staff and patient safety;
- Purchase of essential medicines to handle emergency surgeries and in-patient admissions of patients unable to pay
- Hospital remained open to the public throughout the crisis, providing quality, charitable medical services
- Improved staff retention due to safe working environment.

Dr. Albert Willicor, Ganta Hospital Medical Director, has said, *"The Ebola crisis quickly exposed the weaknesses of Liberia's health care delivery*

system. As soon as the crisis began, there was a virtual collapse of the system. Hospitals and clinics closed as soon as health care workers, who were at greatest risk, began to die. Ganta Hospital remained open. Our vigilance and your timely prayerful and ongoing partnership efforts, no doubt, helped to shield our workers from the deadly Ebola."

Ebola Treatment Unit at Ganta

The American government-led Ebola response intervention enabled the construction of a prototype facility (temporary wards and other buildings) on the Ganta United Methodist Mission Station grounds during December through part of January. This ETU is fully equipped, furnished and supported by an international humanitarian organization. The total of 22 Ganta Hospital staff members are presently deployed at the ETU. The ETU has a total workforce of 83 persons including both clinical and support staff. The unit is being managed by one of our physicians, Dr. Paye Nelson Gbarmie, as Medical Director. The Ministry of Health, through the Nimba County



Health Team, provides all needed supervision. For additional current information about Ebola in West Africa follow these links:

[Five Things to Know](#) [WHO Report 2-11-15](#)

[BBC report 2-10-15](#)

CROSS

The following comments are excerpted from a letter to Jay Clark (coordinator of the CROSS ministry at Plymouth UMC) from Rev. Hank Burdick at Grace Episcopal:

With great, great thanks to you and Plymouth UMC's CROSS ministry, a team of volunteers had come to Roper, NC from Norwalk, Ohio. They were part of ACT - Answering the Call Together. They came to design and construct a bathroom that would be accessible to a person in a wheelchair. Miss Wanda is a parishioner of mine and she is confined to a wheelchair because she lost a leg to diabetes. Her home, built in 1965, had narrow doors and a bathtub that she was not able to use. The crew completely and totally designed a new bathroom and while they were at it, they replaced to kitchen floor that had been severely damaged in a flood. Other members of the team did necessary work on the exterior of the house. When the team arrived, there was standing water in the driveway so they ordered a load of crushed rock to fix that problem....Honestly, the entire experience was astonishing and amazing. Miss Wanda's sister told me that Sunday afternoon Wanda was in her new bathroom doing wheelies in her wheelchair.

It doesn't get any better than that.Thanks to you, Plymouth's CROSS ministry and a joyful crew from Norwalk, Ohio we saw some God-acts and they left us astonished and amazed.



NEW VIDEO RESOURCE

IMAGINE NO MALARIA

Imagine No Malaria has released a new video for United Methodist congregations, a companion piece to the 2015 Lent resources.

The video encourages viewers to "look up and behold" through a series of challenges to give up indifference and excess, take up the charge and the challenge and lift up the hurting and the healed.

Here is a link to the video:

[INM Video](#)



Mark Your Calendars
The Skeeter Run in Hertford has been rescheduled for

May 30, 2015

Details coming soon!



Ebola Quick Facts

Ebola deaths

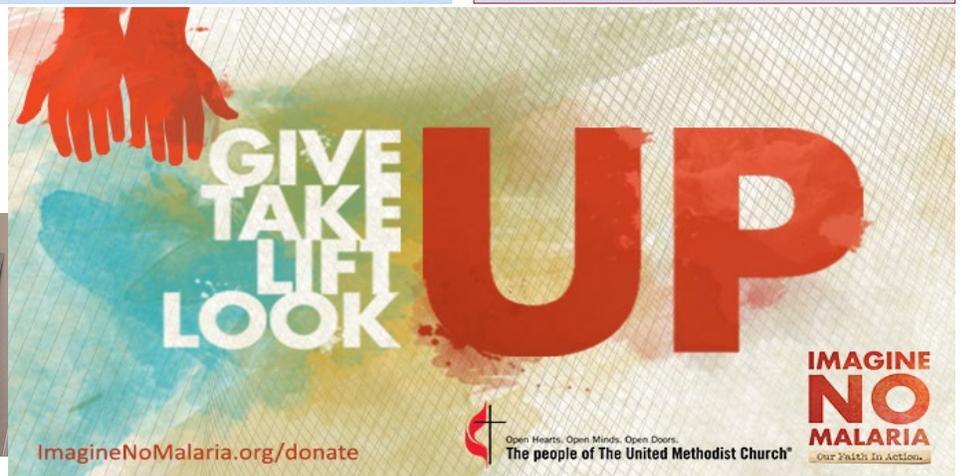
Figures up to 10 February 2015

9,268

Deaths - confirmed and suspected
(Includes one in the US and six in Mali)

- 3,858 Liberia
- 3,363 Sierra Leone
- 2,032 Guinea

Source: WHO



**Priscilla Jaiah:
What is Mission?**

Since 2009 Reverend Priscilla Legay Jaiah has served as a missionary in her home country of Liberia. Before her current assignment, Jaiah lived in neighboring Ghana for 8 years where she worked with a refugee ministry at the Buduburam, Liberia, Refugee Camp as well as with the Ghana Methodist Church. She has seen God at work through her mission.



What is mission?

Jaiah: *“Mission is what you do to work to bring the love of God among people.”*

Why is mission necessary?

Jaiah: *“The world is one place and I feel being in mission in the world we are making connections and bringing people together. Mission is necessary to build relationships, and to tell the story of who we are and who made us, and how we are one group of people.”*

For more information about the work at Ganta Mission Station please visit:

<http://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/14369T>



**Thank You from the
Ganta Mission Station**

Priscilla Jaiah, our missionary and chief operating officer at Ganta Mission Station, recently emailed thanks for our continuing support.

“Today was a joyous day for the Ganta Mission Station Agriculture Department; the tractor was received by the staff on arrival from Monrovia to Ganta. . . .The time is just right, we are about to prepare the soil for planting in April, with the tractor on the ground I think preparation will be little easier.”

She went on to thank us for the other items on the container saying, *“School kits, rice meal, health kits have been distributed among, Ganta Methodist School, Tappita District, Rehab Hospital, Securities and ground Maintenance at the Ganta Hospital.”*



Staff members are also very grateful for the funds we provided for minimal stipends while salaries could not be paid as part of our Ebola response.

Can You Help?

Over one hundred worthy students may not be able to attend Ganta Mission School this year without scholarship assistance. The cost of a full year of school is only \$175. Imagine the difference we can make in a community if we surround these students and this community with our love and support. Here is a profile of just one of the students”



Francis Dweh is in the K-2 class of the Ganta United Methodist School. He is 8 years old living with his mother, Patience

Dweh. Patience is a petty seller at her house. His father is Francis Dweh, Sr. The union has 5 children with three, including Francis, in school. The rest of the children are on the farm helping the father to make farm. There is no clear expectation as to when the others will commence school. As Francis gets a sponsor, the family will be able to take care of another child. He wants to become a pastor. The administration of the Ganta United Methodist School is also seeking a sponsor for Jackson that his dream will come true.

If you can help please forward funds to NC 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 and a profile of the student you are helping.

Food for Sierra Leone Annual Conference 2015 Mission Project



In the past several years, we have asked for donations of birthing kits or school kits to be taken to Annual Conference and distributed thereafter. This year, we are asking that Churches help prepare food buckets **before Annual Conference**. These 5 gallon buckets will be packed onto a container and the container will be blessed by Bishop Hope Morgan Ward and Bishop John Yambasu, who will be visiting our Annual Conference in June from the Sierra Leone Annual Conference.



These food buckets will be a welcomed gift for the people of Sierra Leone who are fighting the effects of the Ebola virus. Because of the quarantines which were necessary to

contain the virus, many people have become desperately in need of basic food supplies. Particularly impacted are children who have become orphaned due to the Ebola virus outbreak—and countless others who have been ostracized in their communities because of the disease.



It is well within our capabilities to load an entire container of these food buckets and send them as a gift in honor of Bishop Yambasu—who has helped to lead his country’s fight against the problems brought by the Ebola virus. Bishop Yambasu and his colleagues in the Sierra Leone Annual Conference will distribute the food on the ground as they determine specific needs.

Here are the logistics necessary to prepare the shipment:

1. Churches can begin to collect food for the food buckets at any time. The items that are needed are as follows: 1 bag of sugar (4 or 5 lbs); 1 bag rice (5 lbs); 1 bag dried beans (2 lbs); 1 package of powdered milk (10 oz or less); 1 box of oatmeal (18 oz or less); 1 bottle of cooking oil (48 oz or less); 2 cans of meat (ham, chicken, or tuna).

2. Collected food can then be either: Boxes/bags of food can be collected of the different items—and pre-sorted by type of food....Or... Churches may pack food in 5 gallon buckets with all of the items listed above. Should Churches choose to do this option, please contact Bill Haddock beforehand.

All collected food - either in the buckets or in boxes/bags - should be taken to the Ministry Center at 3MC (the small warehouse). The food can be taken to

the warehouse on **Monday through Saturday, May 11-16, 2015**. May 16 is a part of Change the World Weekend and the warehouse will be in need of volunteers to fill buckets, palletize them, and arrange them for shipment. Volunteers should arrive at the warehouse at 9 am that day.

[You can download a packing list and flyer here.](#)

Thank you in advance for your help in this project. Should you have questions, contact the Rev Dr. Bill Haddock at revbillh@nccumc.org or 910.262.3831.



A Little Mission Theology

By Bill Haddock

I want to take the opportunity in this particular monthly column to tell you about an important book which contains quite a bit of mission theology. *A Mission Journey: A Handbook for Volunteers* is truly a ground breaking effort to include theological insights, **experiences** of persons who have been on UMVIM work teams, and good common sense.

All of the book is what some folks call practical theology. Frankly, everything we do is supposed to be practical theology. We have our values that we have learned through reading scripture, praying, and, yes, through reading books - and then we apply it.

It there has been a challenge for volunteer missions teams, it has been that sometimes we just plain forgot to spend time thinking theologically about what we were doing. We have used the airplane to go around the world working on projects - sometimes literally working ourselves to near exhaustion. (Notice, I'm saying "we.")

This handbook states that anyone who goes on a mission trip (domestic or out of country) needs to remember that *presence* and *relationship* should be emphasized much more than the *work*. How many times have we worked so hard at finishing a project that we didn't take time to study or talk with or pray with to people that we are in ministry with?

This handbook is ostensibly written for the six million persons who go on missions trips annually - yes, six million. But it could just as easily be for any of us who do anything outside of the Church. Order the book and read it - particularly if you are going on a work team *journey* (not trip) anytime soon.



Interested in partnering with other churches in different cultures? You can do it by getting involved with In Mission Together: 50/50 Partnership Covenant. Already, covenants are being formed between churches in the US and Eurasia, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, to name a few.

This program fosters long term relationships, social networking, development, spiritual formation, and self sufficiency. Go to <http://www.umcmmission.org/Get-Involved/Partnerships/In-Mission-Together> for more information.

Of This N' That

Beacon District Information

1. Please plan to put together UMCOR relief kits and get them to 3MC— **We will have a work-day on March 21 from 9am to 2pm to pack kits and palletize them properly.** (see pg. 6)
2. Share your mission activities that others may pray for your work. Send your announcements to Ed Rutenkroger or Bill Haddock.
3. Mark your calendars for Change the World Weekend on May 16.
4. There will be a Skeeter Run/Walk in Hertford on May 30 to raise money for Imagine No Malaria.
5. 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.

REAP the VISION

Missions are not missions just overseas. And missions locally are not just missions here. We are called to be missionaries everywhere. Giving attention to God's prompting in our hearts for where God needs us to be hands and feet for ministry is what we are called to do no matter where it is located.

The important thing is that we are giving of ourselves in mission wherever we can. As was highlighted in my recent study with our pastors we need to live a balanced life. If we are doing everything overseas we are out of balance locally. If we are only doing missions locally we are out of balance overseas. Listen to God in where your balance is and where God might be at work to expand your tents to do more for God.

Know this. You cannot out give God. Give and it shall be given to you pressed down, shaken together and running over. Luke 6: 38 Trust the Lord. Listen for God's voice. Take courage to follow through and get involved in missions everywhere.

Winning them to Jesus,

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



Liberia Task Force at 3MC



Help Replenish our Mission Warehouse

We are in need of a variety of UMCOR kits. In the past year, we have sent birthing kits to Afghanistan; school kits to Liberia and Armenia; health kits to Liberia; sewing kits to Liberia; and, flood buckets, health kits, and school kits to several places in North Carolina where there is a great need...Literally hundreds of kits went out the door of the warehouse last year—which is what we want! I just wanted to let you know that all of our partners have asked for more kits when they are available. We literally have requests for hundreds at a time. Our shelves are getting bare.

These types of hands on activities are helpful to many church groups, so we are putting out an appeal for more sewing kits, layette kits, birthing kits, health kits, and school kits. You can find the lists for the kits at [UMCOR Relief Kits](#). Please note that any of the supplies listed are welcomed if you want to buy in bulk (for example, a supply of composition books for the school kits would be welcomed in and of themselves). **We do not need flood buckets at this time!!!**

Your kits and donations can be delivered to 3MC. **We will have a workday on March 21 from 9am to 2pm to pack the kits and palletize them properly.** We'd love for you to bring your kits then.

To learn more about sharing Christ's love through kits visit [Tangible Expressions](#)



2014 Rainbow Covenant Churches

Congratulations to the following Beacon District Churches who met all the requirements for recognition as "Rainbow Covenant" churches in 2014. Thank you for your faithfulness to first and second mile giving!

- Ahoskie UMC*
- Bethel UMC*
- Chowan: Bethany UMC*
- Colerain UMC*
- Colington UMC*
- Duck UMC*
- Edenton UMC*
- Fair Haven UMC*
- Harrellsville UMC*
- Hertford UMC*
- Holly Springs UMC*
- Kitrell's UMC*
- Kitty Hawk UMC*
- Mighty Wind UMC*
- Mount Olivet UMC*
- Mt Hermon- Creswell UMC*
- New Hope UMC*
- Newbegun UMC*
- Newland UMC*
- Parker's UMC*
- Riverside UMC*
- Savage's UMC*
- St. Johns UMC*
- Trinity UMC*
- Wanchese: Bethany UMC*
- Ware/s Chapel*
- Windsor UMC*
- Woodland UMC*

We are on the web! www.nccumc.org

Click "Districts" link Select "Beacon District"

For a calendar of events ,List of Church Locations

And Much, Much, More

910-322-0100 (District Superintendent's Cell)

252-333-0536 (Assistant to the DS Cell)

Beacon District Missions

Area Schools

Food Security Issues

World Missions

Disaster Relief

Making a Difference in Our World