



Vol. 3 / Issue 4 A Monthly Mission Newsletter of the Beacon District United Methodist Church April 2015

## Scholarship Assistance is Still Needed! Can You Help?



We currently have scholarships for 17 students at Ganta United Methodist School. Praise God for the generosity of those donors! We remain hopeful that we can fund at least 25 students in the next few weeks. These scholarship help children, families, and indeed the entire community recover from the impact of the Ebola crisis. At the same time they provide the funds the school needs to pay teachers and meet other expenses.

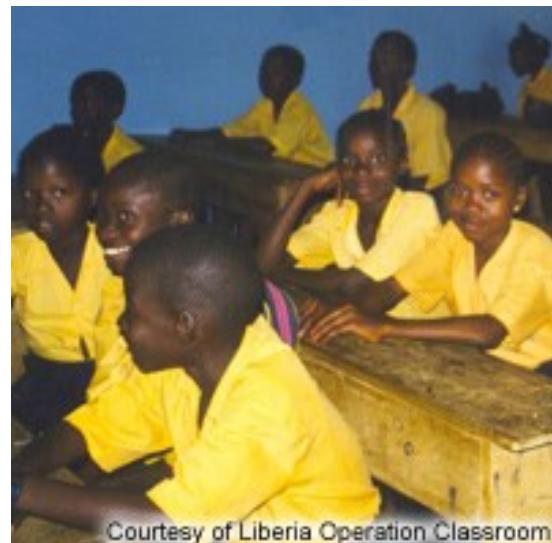
Here is a profile provided by the school for just one student who is still in need of help:



“Julius Tokpah, 17 years old, is an 11th grade student of the Ganta United Methodist School. Julius lives with his single father (a farmer) because his parents separated two years. His father engages in gardening to support his four children left

behind by his wife. Three of the children are presently in school while the last stays home with him. He volunteered to work on campus during the last academic in order to receive financial assistance towards his education. The School is unable to render such assistance this year because of economic crisis facing the school, further intensified by the Ebola crisis. Julius wants to become a Medical Doctor and loves to eat chicken with rice. The Ganta United Methodist School’s administration is seeking for scholarship opportunity to enable him accomplish his dreams in life.”

*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](mailto: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.*



Courtesy of Liberia Operation Classroom

## Bishop Yambasu of Sierra Leone to Speak at Annual Conference:



### We Need Your Help to Fill a Container With Food Buckets!

We are very fortunate that Bishop Yambasu will be able to share time and thoughts with us at Annual Conference this year. His home nation has been especially hard hit by the Ebola virus and there is still a great need for assistance. As part of our global response, we have pledged to fill and ship a container with food buckets for the churches in Sierra Leone to distribute in their communities.



These food buckets will be a welcomed gift. Because of the quarantines which were necessary to contain the virus, many people have become desperately in need of basic food supplies.

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.

Here's how you can help:

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. 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. For further instructions.**

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 [revbillh@nccumc.org](mailto:revbillh@nccumc.org) or 910.262.3831.

### **Food Bucket Packing Day!**

**Please mark your calendars and plan to join others from around the Conference at 3MC on May 16 from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM**

**We will be packing Food Buckets for Sierra Leone and preparing them for shipment first to Annual Conference to be blessed by Bishop Hope and Bishop Yambasu, and then on to Sierra Leone.**

**This will be a day of hands on ministry that is both fun and meaningful!**





The Skeeter Run/Walk 5K is scheduled for May 30 at 9:00 a.m. at Camp Cale in Hertford followed by a Block Party at Hertford United Methodist Church. T-shirts are guaranteed for the first 100 people who register. Come join us for a great time and help us to end malaria. Runners and walkers are welcome! More information will appear at [www.itsyourrace.com](http://www.itsyourrace.com)

The Beacon District of The United Methodist Church is working to raise money to support “Imagine No Malaria.” The Skeeter Run/Walk 5K is a part of the campaign to help wipe out malaria.

Unlike many other diseases that are awaiting a cure, malaria was eradicated in the U.S. in the 1950's. 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.

This out and back race will take

place on the Camp Cale trail with a turn-around at the mid-point.

After the run/walk, or if you do not want to run or walk, please join us for a “Change the World” Community Block Party at Hertford United Methodist Church, 200 Dobbs Street, Hertford, NC 27944 .

For more information about volunteer opportunities the day of the race, please contact Rev. Jane Leechford at [jleechford@nccumc.org](mailto:jleechford@nccumc.org)

If you are not ready to register for the run, but you would like to donate to The United Methodist Church’s “Imagine No Malaria” campaign, please make your donation to Hertford UMC, 200 Dobbs Street, Hertford, NC 27944. Indicate “Imagine No Malaria” on your check.

Directions to Camp Cale can be found [here](#).  
377 Camp Cale Rd.  
Hertford, NC 27944

**Mark Your Calendars**  
**The Skeeter Run in Hertford**  
**is at Camp Cale**  
**May 30, 2015**



**IMAGINE NO MALARIA**  
Our Faith In Action.



The people of The United Methodist Church®



*A Prayer for Mission*

*O gracious and loving God, you work everywhere reconciling, loving, and healing your people and your creation. In your Son and through the power of your Holy Spirit, you invite each of us to join you in your work. We, young and old, lay and ordained, ask you to form us more and more in your image and likeness, through our prayer and worship of you and through the study of your scripture, that our eyes will be fully opened to your mission in the world. Then send us into our communities, our nation, and the world, send us to serve with Christ, taking risks to give life and hope to all people and all of your creation. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.*

Early Childhood and Primary Classes displaying their school kits



## Ganta United Methodist School Extends Gratitude to NC Conference for School and Health Kits

The Ganta United Methodist School received delivery of 55 boxes school kits and 6 boxes of health kits from North Carolina Conference on February 12, 2015. The health kits were distributed among administrative, instructional and support staff members of the School. "It has been years since we last received such wonderful gestures from our friends oversea and I pray that this is a time of permanent connection between us where we will continue to wear smiles in our faces. Please extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to them," averred Mr. Nyam M. Guambei, Head of the Staff Welfare Committee who has been working at the School for over 15 years.

Students of the Junior High rejoicing upon receiving their school kits.



Students of the School began receiving their school kits on February 25, 2015. Due to the huge turnout in the school population, the supplies received were only able to cover the primary, elementary and junior high divisions. The senior high division was left out and is appealing to administration to make them feel a part of the school by supplying them as well. "I feel very bad that we did not receive our supplies as well. We all have needs and so we hope the administration will appeal to partners to consider us as soon as possible," said Student Prince Sonwabe of grade 12. "We however thank our friends, who thought of our school and sent these gifts for us. Let God continue to bless them," Student Sonwabe, the Student Leader of the School continued.

Staff received their health kits with joy



As administration, we join words with the staff and students to say a "big thank" you to our partners for the gifts. Let the divine grace and favour of God abide with you always.

*Article courtesy of Roger S.W.Y. Domah, Principal/GUMS*



## What's In a School Kit?

Each Kit contains the following basic school supplies in a cloth bag:

Blunt Scissors  
3 pads of paper  
Pencil Sharpener  
Ruler  
6 pencils  
An eraser  
24 crayons

## What Is a Health Kit?

Health Kits contain the following basic home health supplies in a one gallon zip lock bag::

One hand towel  
One washcloth  
One metal nail file or clippers  
One comb  
One bath size soap  
One toothbrush  
Toothpaste  
Six adhesive bandages





Outreach ministry can be spiritually rewarding for everyone. Many unchurched community members would prefer to be introduced to your church by participating in outreach rather than attending a worship service. So plan for a service day and choose a specific group to help such as older adults, veterans and single parents. The ideas are endless. Cook, clean or shop for these people and become missionaries in your own backyard and town.

One opportunity to unite with United Methodists all over the globe is the Change the World event happening May 16-17. Perhaps you will help pack Food Buckets that day, but others may prefer to take on a local project. Here are some ideas to get your creative juices flowing:

### **1. Reading is feeding**

Who doesn't love to read and watch children laugh? Do you enjoy preschoolers crawling in your lap, listening to your every word? Take a group from your church to a library or school and help promote literacy.

At each reading, tell the children they can help feed the world by learning vocabulary at [FreeRice.com](http://FreeRice.com).

For every vocabulary question answered correctly, FreeRice donates 10 grains of rice to the United Nations Food Programme. Try the link and start playing!

### **2. Learn to be a mentor by tutoring.**

Many children and youth struggle with their homework. For some, it's a matter of not getting enough guidance or attention at home.

Contact social services to see how you can help. They will set you up at a local school or community center where you can tutor. You'll never forget the sparkle in a child's eyes as he or she looks up to you. It's pretty much the eighth wonder of the world.

### **3. Retirement home dance party!**

Call the activity director at a retirement home and plan a "ball." Find someone in the church who can help your group learn a few basic waltz or two-step dance moves. At the retirement home, introduce your group to the residents, slip on some Sinatra and let the fun begin.

Bring some games for those who don't dance. Try to find games from the 1950s and '60s-era. Some residents who may be experiencing early signs of dementia will often still remember and love games they played in their younger years. You can also play music, sing hymns, perform skits, read or just talk.

Ask when the activity director is taking the residents out for a ball game or a trip to the zoo. They will appreciate extra help pushing wheelchairs or someone to socialize with residents. Also, check out these outreach ideas for caring for the caregiver.

### **4. Break bread with the homeless.**

Volunteer at a local soup kitchen. Even better, see if you can break bread with the homeless. Eating

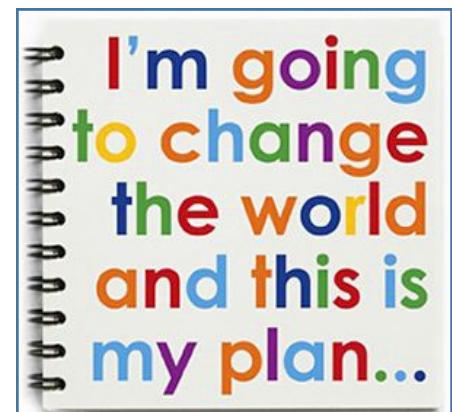
together creates community and breaks down barriers. Some shelters feed the homeless in open areas, such as parks or under bridges.

Attend one of these events and bring some icebreakers such as kites, Frisbees, sidewalk chalk, dogs and more! Include some practical items, such as socks, bottled water and underwear. However, it is not necessary to bring any of these. People simply want to talk and be treated with respect. Connecting on a personal level is the key.

### **5. Prom dress exchange**

This is a great ministry for teen girls looking for a way to give back during prom season. Many teens don't have money for expensive new dresses. Start a prom dress exchange so teens in need can feel special on that big night. Invite teens to donate gently worn prom dresses and invite young women who may not be able to afford a new dress to choose from the selection.

Most importantly - please remember that Changing the World is not a one day thing. In fact it is the mission of the United Methodist Church... to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!



## A Little Mission Theology

By Bill Haddock

All through the book of Acts, Peter, Paul, Barnabas, Timothy, Luke and many others shared the gospel - the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the midst of the horrors of Christian persecution, the trafficking of persons to engage in prostitution, unjust working conditions for migrant workers, etc., it is important to remember that we have good news.

I grew up working in tobacco on my granddaddy's farm. Many summer days were oppressively hot. My granddaddy had perfect timing in that he could get us started at one end of the row and would invariably drive up to meet us right when we got out of the other end of the row. It was uncanny. I was always glad to meet my granddaddy. But one day was particularly good. He loved the little Cokes (said they were better than the bigger ones), so he got everybody one of those on this particularly hot day as a bonus. But in the bag was also a Grape Nehi. He knew that was my favorite drink. That grape drink on that day was the best tasting drink I've ever had. It was exactly what I needed when I needed it. It was an expression of love. And it was good news.

How many times did Jesus supply the water of life, the bread of life to those who needed it? How many times did he bring light into the darkness? In his first sermon, Jesus said that he was preaching the good news of the kingdom. That good news is still being offered to all when we are engaged in doing what God called us to do: That is, to offer good news. You might just make a few memories. You might just make a disciple.



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.umcmission.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 May 16 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

Easter brings with it a bitter sweet celebration. You must go through the suffering to get to the resurrection. I often hear others and myself speak of the suffering we are going through, but the suffering we experience is nothing in comparison to those around the world who suffer for the sake of the Gospel.

I invite you that the next time you encounter suffering or think that your suffering is more than you can bear that there is someone in the world suffering more than you. Take time right then and there to say a prayer for those who suffer. Pray for our missionaries who have given their lives to make a difference in the lives of others who suffer. In scripture we are reminded

“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;”

Philippians 1: 29

Mission work is not easy at any level in which you engage this work. Don't allow discouragement or complacency to steal the opportunity to be about the work of the Kingdom. Read through this newsletter. Find one project that has your heart. Get involved in some way with sharing the Gospel through that ministry. Begin the suffering for in the end you will reap joy everlasting for after the crucifixion comes the resurrection.

Winning them to Jesus,

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



## Your Help Is Still Needed to Restock Kits at the Mission Warehouse

We had a great day at the Mission Warehouse on March 21. Lots of volunteers helped sort materials, pack over 200 school kits, pack hundreds of health kits and more. This was a great start, however, many more kits are still needed. We have outstanding requests from migrant ministries right here in North Carolina for many more health kits. We have requests from many locations both in state and out of country for more school kits, and, of course, there is always a need for sewing kits to train women in Africa and empower them to make a living on their own. Sewing kits foster independence rather than dependence. Women can make clothing in their own size and in the style of their culture. Cottage industries often grow out of the sewing classes where women use these kits to practice valuable income-generating skills.



Putting these types of kits together provides meaningful activities for 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 or blunt scissors for the

*We are on the web! [www.nccumc.org](http://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)

school kits would be welcomed .... we would also welcome contributions of scissors suitable for cutting fabric for use in sewing kits.).

**Please note that we do not need flood buckets at this time!!!**

Your kits and donations can be delivered to 3MC. If you have any questions please contact Ed Rutenkroger [erutenkroger@nccumc.org](mailto:erutenkroger@nccumc.org) or Bill Haddock [revbillh@nccumc.org](mailto:revbillh@nccumc.org)

**We will have a workday on May 16 from 9am to 2pm to pack food buckets (see article on page 2) and other kits and palletize them properly. We'd love for you to bring your kits then and stay a little while to help.**



## Beacon District Missions

**Area Schools**

**Food Security Issues**

**World Missions**

**Disaster Relief**

**Making a Difference in Our World**