



WD News

August 2004

Wilmington District - The United Methodist Church - West Ohio Conference

West Ohio UMC Resident Bishop - Bruce R. Ough
District Program Coordinator - Marcia Rummel

District Superintendent - Thomas D. Hanover
Secretaries - Lorene Williams / Sherry Williams

FOOT WITH BRUISED TOES

Have you ever seen a cactus that looks like feet with four bruised toes? Yeah, I'm sure they are not common in Ohio. They are flat with the expected needles. When they go to seed, they grow 4-7 "toes" on the top. It is quite a sight to see. I have several pictures. My Mexican hosts thought I was nuts to take pictures of them. But I'm getting ahead of the story.

I leapt at the chance to spend a week in Mexico shadowing a pastor as part of our Conference's partnership with the Oriental Conference in northern Mexico, Lupina's home conference. By quirk I spent the week in Reynosa, just across the Rio Grande River from McAllen, Texas. I lived in the pastor's home, ate at his table, prayed in his car (especially when he was driving), and attended their family celebrations. We visited homes, attended Bible School, and ran errands. I even had the opportunity to preach.

One of my favorite times was Saturday morning when I saw the cactus. The church had established a mission station just outside of Reynosa in one of the poorest neighborhoods of the area. Seven people were coming to be baptized in a local lake. Some were young and others were older. There were both men and women. Some of them brought their young children along. Most all of them were very poor, living in homes with dirt floors, no windows or doors, in shacks most of us wouldn't park our cars in.

We sang songs. The pastor played his accordion. We prayed together. They waded out into the lake and the pastor immersed them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It was a moving experience. And in typical Methodist fashion, we ate a potluck dinner afterwards.

I thought to myself: "This is what it is all about. This is what really matters." (I am referring to the baptisms, not the potluck.)

It is tough in our American culture to keep focused on what really matters. We are buried under mountains of expectations. We worry about money and

buildings and staff and reports and paperwork. No question. Those things need to be cared for. But those things are important because they create opportunities for mission like these seven baptisms in a lake decorated with cacti that look like feet with bruised toes.

It is not about potlucks and paperwork. It is about people coming to Jesus Christ!

Let me say thanks to the leaders and churches of the Wilmington District for making those kinds of mission happen. As of the end of June, Wilmington District led the West Ohio Conference in percentage of apportionments paid and in percentage of increase over the previous year. I know some of the apportionments are salaries and paper clips. But I also know that some of the apportionments make mission possible: in a new church start in Maineville, Hispanic ministries in West Chester and Hamilton, and a mission church outside of Reynosa, Mexico, where the pastor baptized seven adults in a lake decorated with cacti that look like feet with bruised toes. Thanks to your faithful commitment people are finding hope and healing in Jesus Christ. Thank you for letting the light shine to the far corners of the earth.

When you see someone else in church this month, shake their hand and say, "Thank you. Thanks from a mission church outside of Reynosa, Mexico, where the pastor baptized seven adults in a lake decorated with cacti that look like feet with bruised toes." That's what it's all about!

NICARAGUA FOR PASTORS

Tom Hanover and Jack Reif will be leading a trip for pastors to Najapa, Nicaragua, Feb. 21-March 1. Cost is \$1000-\$1200. We will be doing construction, visitation in hospitals, neighborhoods, and a Christian School in Managua. There will be time for worship, reflection, etc. For more info contact Tom: thanover@wocumc.org



Condolences to...

- Bonnie Loudner, Brice UMC, PO Box 79, Brice 43109, on her mother's death.
- Rev. Paul Adler, 15146 CR 205, Findlay 45840, on his father's death.
- Rev. Carolyn Hoskinson, 6054 Twp Rd 292 SE, Corn- ing 43730, on the death of her brother.
- Rev. Paul Bunnell, PO Box 345, Mendon 45862, on the death of his wife Ruth.
- Rev. Jeffrey Julien, 137 Cottage St, Lockbourne 43137, on the death of his mother.
- Rev. Earl Russell, 223 Gardner Ct, Washington C.H. 43160, on the death of his wife Kathleen.
- Jane Baker, 12705 SE River Rd, Apt 209A, Portland, OR 97222, on the death of her husband Rev. Harry F. Baker, former administrator of U.M. Children's Home.

DS APPOINTMENTS

- Raymond Cooper to Dodsonville
- Kenneth Harmon to Ebenezer
- Lennie Payne and Marc Wells as associates at Decatur and Aberdeen.



Living Water expresses thanks to those who gave supplies for their first community celebration this summer. There are two more celebrations for which they need: 600 hot dogs, buns, condiments, chips and desserts. Novelty gifts for the children would also be appreciated. Volunteers are needed to assist staff with games, etc. Musicians are invited to come and play contemporary Christian and well known secular music. Contact Jennie Armour, 513-894-9892, if you can help.

Learning to Read books for ESL classes are needed, such as: Ready to Read, Step Into Reading, My First Hello Reader, Scholastics books, Troll books, etc. These are used to help Hispanic children learn to read and speak English. If you could collect some of these books, or if have questions about the program, contact Jennie at j.armour@fuse.net or call number listed above.

CROP WALK

You are invited to join the first annual Greater Milford Area CROP Walk on Sunday, Oct. 3, 1:30 registration, 2:00 Walk. 75% of money raised will go to Church World Service, 25% will help Milford Miami Ministries and other local agencies.

If you would like to be a part of this event, we ask that a representative from your church attend a one hour Recruiters Meeting on Monday, Aug. 23 at 7 p.m. at Trinity UMC in Milford. If you have questions, please contact Suzanne Allen at 513-831-0262.



FESTIVAL OF SHARING CELEBRATION

Who: Bishop Ough & Cabinet Members
What: Open Forum - Questions & comments concerning missions

When: Saturday, September 25, beginning at 9:30 a.m.
Where: Clark County Fairgrounds, Springfield
COME and help us celebrate our U.M. Churches involvement in Missions. This is the time to come together on Festival Day to share in learning about Missions, a time for fun, food, fellowship, and worship.
 Next District Meeting - Aug. 3, 10 a.m. district office.

U.M. MEN'S GOLF OUTING

You are invited to the Cincinnati District U.M. Men's Golf Outing to benefit Sunday Morning Free Breakfast for homeless and residents of Over-the-Rhine held at Nast Trinity UMC.

Date: Friday, August 13
Time: 8 A.M. "Shot-Gun" start for Scramble
Place: Fairfield Golf Course, John Gray Road
Cost: Regular - \$60; Seniors (55 or over) - \$55
 Includes green fees, cart, and LUNCH!

Reservation Deadline: Friday, August 6
Call: Jack Strong, (513) 385-1345; Tip Jockers 741-3632; or Monfort Heights UMC, 481-8699.

BRENNAN MANNING TO SPEAK

"Lights on Campus", the student Campus Ministry organization at Miami University in Oxford, is sponsoring an event with Brennan Manning, noted author and speaker. Manning is author of: The Ragamuffin Gospel, Abba's Child, Lion and Lamb, and many more. He will be speaking on "Healing Our Image of God and Self" on Friday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m. in Hall Auditorium. Admission is free, but tickets are limited, so call 513-523-4848 for reservations.

There will also be a breakfast and conversation with Manning on Saturday morning, tickets are \$10 each (advance sales only). Mr. Manning will be available for book signing and questions.

PASSIONATE WORSHIP



A Passionate Worship Workshop for the Small Membership Church will be held Saturday, Aug. 14, 9:30-11:30 am at Bellbrook UMC. Anyone interested in learning how to create *Passionate Worship* is invited to attend.

There is no charge for the workshop, but registration is required by Aug. 12. Brochures available at the district office, or contact Rev. Terry Heck for more information, e-mail: pastor@bellbrookumc.org or phone: 937-848-2909.



SHOUTFEST

Methodist Theological School in Ohio will host a one-day festival of Christian music, food, games and ministry for teens and young adults on Saturday, Aug. 28 on the campus grounds.

Please join us for **Shoutfest** where many nationally know Christian bands will be performing. The festival kicks off around 3 pm and ends around 9:30 pm. Tickets are \$13; \$10 for groups of ten or more.

There will be a "Battle of the Bands" contest two weeks prior to Shoutfest with the top three bands playing on the main stage on the 28th. That winner will then be pitted against other winners from around the country to vie for a recording contract with a national record label. You can read more about this, and other aspects of Shoutfest at www.mtso.edu/shoutfest.htm

UNITED METHODIST DAYS at KING'S ISLAND

Friday & Saturday, August 13 & 14

\$30 per ticket - save \$12.99

\$1 of each ticket goes to Youth Service Fund
For Missions!

All tickets include: admission to King's Island and Boomerang Bay Water Park, plus "*Last Blast of Summer*" West Ohio's rally for Youth Service Fund in the International Restaurant with All-You-Can-Eat chicken, side dishes, cookies and sodas! Please choose either lunch (noon) or dinner (6 pm) when ordering your tickets.

ADVANCE SALES ONLY!

Order tickets online at www.pki.com (ID woccym) or by phone 1-800-333-8080.

U.N. SEMINAR

The W.O. Conference UMW and the Board of Christian Social Witness is sponsoring a trip to New York for the 2004 United Nations Seminar, Oct. 3-9. This year's theme will be "Women and Children in Crisis." The seminar will be held Monday thru Thurs. at the Church Center for the U.N. and consists of lectures, discussions and an opportunity to meet with representatives from the International Community. The cost is \$660 per person and includes bus fare, six nights at the Edison Hotel, fees for U.N. seminar and tour, one theater ticket, etc. For more info, contact Henry & Rosetta Schaffner at 937-859-1626 or roseyc@juno.com

UM HERITAGE CAMPERS

The Ohio UM Heritage Campers, Chapter #1580 of the Family Campers and RVers, promotes Christian family camping. Membership is open to people of all faiths.

Upcoming campouts: Aug. 6-8 - Back 40 Camp Grounds, Rushsylvania. A good place for children; Sept. 19-21 - Fall Statewide, Holmes County Fairground, Millersburg; Sept. 25-26 - Festival of Sharing Day, Clark County Fairgrounds, Springfield.

For more info, contact Rev. Harold Braley, 937-364-6797 or email: hbraley@cinci.rr.com

RED BIRD OPEN HOUSE

The Red Bird Missionary Conference and its mission institutions, Bennett Center, Henderson Settlement, Red Bird Mission and Red Bird Clinic will hold an open house Oct. 23 in its eastern Kentucky locations at Beverly and Frakes. There will be craft vendors, food vendors, entertainment and games for the children. Call the visitor coordinator at 606-598-5915 for info or to make reservations.

INSTITUTE FOR EVANGELISM

The Institute for Evangelism is a shared ministry of East & West Ohio Evangelism committees and MTSO and will be held on the seminary campus. Keith Wasserman, Exec. Dir. of Good Works, a community for the homeless in Athens, will lead focus seminars on "The Kingdom of God and the Poor: Bringing Good News as the 21st Century Church." This 3-day institute is designed to assist both clergy and lay to be genuinely motivated and equipped for a faithful, informed, and effective practice of evangelism. It is intended for teams from the local church to share together in learning how to share faith. For more information, please visit: www.mtso.edu/programs/evanreg.pdf or contact Joon-Sik Park: jpark@mtso.edu

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE and EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE

Springfield District is sponsoring a Retreat for Clergy, Sept. 21-23 at Proctor Center, London, OH. Leader will be Rev. Robert C. Morris, an Episcopal priest, trained spiritual director, meditation teacher and participant in interfaith collaboration and dialogue. Cost is \$200. Brochures at Dist. Office.

U.M. MEN'S RALLY has been rescheduled for July 31 at Chillicothe Trinity UMC.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 1 - DS preaching at Westboro, 150th anniversary
Bishop Ough leading afternoon worship
- 2-6 - DPA at Nehemiah Training, Conf. Center
- 3 - Festival of Sharing mtg, district office, 10 am
- 11 - DS meeting at Living Water
- 13 - District Clergy Family Picnic, Otterbein-
Lebanon pavilion, 6 pm gathering
- 16 - DS Otterbein Board meeting
UMW Team work on Scroll, dist. Office
- 17 - Charge Conference Briefing, Lebanon, 10
DCOOM to meet following Briefing
- 18 - Conversations with DS: Gleason, 10;
Coleman, 11; Poling, 1; Johnson, 2
Dist. Strategy mtg. Waynesville, 4 pm
- 19 - Conversations at Hamilton Lindenwald:
Montgomery, 10; Burns, 11:30; Recalde, 1;
L. Calixto, 2; M. Calixto, 3; Long, 4
- 21 - Charge Conference Briefing, Bethel, 10
- 22 - DS meeting with Boston & New Petersburg, 3
- 23 - Conversations: Sanders, 10; Jackson & Orr, 11
Carroll, 1
- 24 - Conversations at Mt. Orab: Adams, 9;
Davidson, 10; Blevins, 11; Luckey, 1; Krody 2
- 25 - CABINET
- 26 - Charge Conference Briefing, Hillsboro, 10
- 28 - Conversation: Keith, 10
- 29 - DS preaching at Milford First
- 30-Sept. 2 - Interim Ministry Training, Conf. Office



GOSPEL JAM

For Clinton County Homeless Shelter
 Sunday, August 8, 2:00-8:00 p.m.
 Wilmington High School, 300 Richardson Place
 Sponsored by Wilmington UMC
 Adults - \$5 Kids - Free

Bring your instrument and join one of the parking lot jam sessions, or come and eat and visit, listen and join in the 8 p.m. Hymn Sing and Jam Session.
 Call Dean Feldmeyer, 937-382-1465, if you want tickets

LEGAL FORUM

The 8th Annual Legal Forum for West Ohio will be held Nov. 5 at Methodist Theological School in Ohio at Delaware. Selected topics: When do we need a lawyer? How do we find a lawyer? How do we best use a lawyer? - for church related issues. How to deal with local officials on zoning issues. ...And many more!
 Registration information will be mailed in September.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Dorothy Odon, wife of former Rev. Louis O. Odon and mother of Katharine Pellett, will celebrate her 100th birthday on Sunday, Sept. 5. An Open House will be held from 1:30-3:30 at the Phillippi room, Otterbein-Lebanon. No gifts please, but cards may be sent to her at 585 N. SR 741, Lebanon, OH 45036.

**The United Methodist Church
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