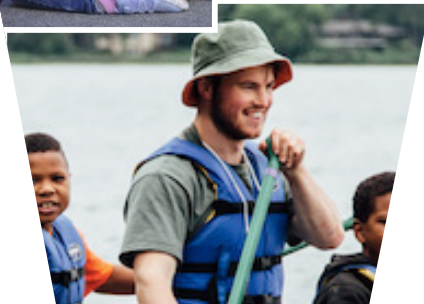


UMM MEN

The magazine of
UNITED METHODIST MEN

WINTER 2020 ● Volume 22 Number 5



OUR PARTNERS IN MINISTRY



GIL HANKE

General Secretary/
Chief Executive Officer

How are we not like the others?

Let me state a few things that I hope will not surprise you.

The General Commission on UM Men is one of more than a dozen general agencies of the United Methodist Church.

Some agencies have more than 100 staff members, others have fewer than 12. Some own their buildings, others rent. Many are in Nashville, but more are in other cities.

Some agencies are completely dependent upon general church apportionments and some raise additional funds. Only 25 percent of our commission's budget comes from apportionments.

Staff and board members of each of these general agencies develop programs and allocate funds to achieve the goals established for them by General Conference.

We are different for good reasons.

We also find ways to work with other agencies to collectively embrace the goals of the UMC.

One unique feature of the commission is our relationship with other organizations. Some of these partners are United Methodist organizations and some bring leaders of several denominations together. Some focus on ministries with young people while others focus on leadership training or missional opportunities.

Some have a financial relationship with the commission, but many have no financial tie with us.

These important ministries are the center piece of this issue of the magazine.

We have three levels of affiliation: 1) Affiliate Partners; 2) Affiliates, and 3) Endorsed Ministries. The relational category is determined by commission staff and board based on several factors. Each ministry does remarkable work. Each has been vetted by the commission board and staff, and our relationships will be re-evaluated by the staff and board in 2020. The board will also consider affiliation requests from additional ministries.

This is not a forever or unchanging list. Several organizations have lost their affiliation in the last decade. Yes, this a lot of work and occasionally the results can be disappointing. But the goal is worthy. We want to recommend, without reservation, ministry partners to local churches, districts and conferences.

Local churches are frequently approached by outside programs with expensive products, and they appreciate knowing when an organization has been vetted by a trusted and informed source.

This process also helps the commission. Like local churches, we are approached by entities who are more interested in making money than making transformed disciples of Jesus Christ. Organizations requesting affiliate status know that we are the largest most organized denominational men's ministry and the largest sponsor of scouting in the world.

When we explain the process to gain affiliation, it quickly separates those who welcome being tested from those who resist examination.

When you read about each of these ministries, I hope you will add one or more as a way for your church to extend its outreach. Your church and community will be the beneficiaries.

Contact me, other staff members, or leaders of the partner organizations for additional information.

Enjoy reading about organizations that help us make a difference across our connection.

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UMMen is published four times a year:
 Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall.

This magazine includes articles from individuals who hold diverse opinions. We hope all articles are thought provoking; they are not necessarily the opinions of the General Commission on United Methodist Men. Articles without bylines are written by commission staff.

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contents

Letter from the General Secretary	2
Letter from the Editor	4
UM Men's Partners	
National Association of Conference Presidents	6
UM Men Foundation	8
Strength for Service	10
Society of St. Andrew	12
The Hope of Hearing	14
The Living Prayer Center	16
Wesleyan Building Brothers	18
Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries	20
Mobility Worldwide	22
P.R.A.Y	24
Man in the Mirror	26
Living Waters for the World	28
Love Packages	30
WesleyMen	32
Servants at Work, Inc.	34
Lead Like Jesus	36
Rise Against Hunger	38
Boy Scouts of America	40
UM Men News	
Strength for Service Names Two to Board	42
Three Bishops Assigned to Board	44
UM Men News	45
General Conference News	
General Conference will consider creating a U.S. Central Conference	46
UM Men will seek revisions to four resolutions	48
Conference will consider changes in map	50
UM Men Insights	52
Men's Health	54
In Memorium	56
Dad's Zone	60
Across the Nation	62



letter from the **EDITOR**



REV. RICH PECK

Editor

Most readers are familiar with a few of our ministry partners, but I suspect most readers will be surprised to learn about other existing or proposed partners.

I have no idea how many millions of people are impacted by these agencies.

The figures just for the year 2018 are staggering:

- **Boy Scouts of America had 2.3 million youth participants and about one million adult volunteers.**
- **Girl Scouts had 2.3 million members and 890,000 adult leaders**
- **Rise Against Hunger served meals to 794,700 people.**
- **A total of 145,429 “littles” were served by the Big Brothers Big Sisters network**
- **Love Packages provided literature for 50 million people.**
- **Campfire served 187,114 youth**
- **The Society of St. Andrew distributed 10 million pounds of potatoes and fresh-fruit.**
- **The Upper Room Prayer Line received 264,940 prayer requests.**
- **A total of 11,111 copies of *Strength for Service* books were distributed.**

These statistics only relate to partner agencies in the United States. Figures for a global outreach are unknown and probably unknowable.

Some of these U.S. agencies have been in existence for more than 50 years, so some competent statistician with a calculator could probably come up with 50-year totals.

The one-year totals are impressive enough.

These agencies multiply the ministries of the General Commission on UM Men, and this issue gives us an opportunity to celebrate our cooperative efforts. In some cases, the introduction of a ministry partner may provide a gateway for your UM Men organization to expand your outreach to your community and the world.

While the commission has not spent a lot of time worrying about the 2020 General Conference, a couple of articles will review proposals to be considered by that legislative assembly meeting in Minneapolis.



COMMUNICATIONS

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The boots-on-the-ground organization

By Steve Nailor

The purpose of the National Association of Conference Presidents (NACP) of UM Men is to develop strategies and resources in order that all UM men may realize their primary purpose of bringing men to Jesus Christ and enabling them to grow in knowledge of His grace.

The organization helps men:

- Engage daily in Bible study and prayer.
- Bear witness to Christ through words and actions.
- Engage in Christian service.

The NACP developed a Jurisdictional Executive Committee to help leaders of the five U.S. jurisdictions establish structures to achieve their

goals and objectives. The General Commission on UM Men provides the ministry resources for use by local units in the jurisdictions.

Bible distributions

The NACP was the driving force in developing the Faith-Sharing New Testament with the Psalms (NRSV Version).

Approximately 9,000 of these pocket-size books have been distributed. In the front of the book is the purpose statement and a section called the Basics of Christian

Conversion and Discipleship. A section in the back provides essentials for leading a person to Christ. These New Testaments are being distributed across the U.S. and overseas.



CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS AND PRAYER ADVOCATES GATHER IN A NASHVILLE BOARD ROOM DURING THEIR 2019 ANNUAL MEETING.



The General Commission on UM Men recently accepted an NACP recommendation stating the commission would provide programs for men's ministry. The NACP is the boots-on-the-ground organization to promote and communicate these programs. The UM Men Foundation will provide financial support for the NACP and the commission in order to supplement the income generated from chartered churches, EMS, Legacy, and Circuit Rider members.

Men's ministry specialists

The NACP serves our jurisdictions, conferences, and local men's units by providing training, and equipping leaders. We have 38 trained and certified men's ministry specialists and 23 men in training



Steve Nailor is the president of the National Association of Conference Presidents

to become certified. These men are available to help local churches and districts explore new ways to reach men in their churches and communities.

The NACP seeks to encourage knowledge of, and support for, the total mission of the UMC by:

- Engaging in evangelism and sharing the fullness of the gospel in its personal and social dimensions.
- Clarifying and speaking to the identity and role of men in contemporary society.
- Seeking commitment to discipleship.
- Studying and becoming familiar with the UMC, its organization, doctrines, and beliefs.
- Cooperating with all units of UMM in obtaining these objectives through district, conference, jurisdictions, and church-wide goals.

Become involved and make a difference in someone else's life. You will truly be blessed by your involvement.



Thirty-eight years of financial support

By Glenn Wintenberg

The birth of the UM Men Foundation came about when the UMC appeared to be giving up its financial support for scouting ministry.

In 1981, the National Association of Conference Presidents created the UM Men Foundation to financially support the office of UM Scouting Ministries when it appeared there would be no other source of funds.

The 1996, General Conference established the General Commission on UM Men, and since that date the two have worked together smoothly.

Today, in addition to the financial support for the Center for Scouting Ministries Office, the foundation also supports the Center for Men's Ministry and the Upper Room Living Prayer Center.

The foundation currently has 17 endowments/funds and manages a portfolio valued at \$2.42 million.

We annually contribute \$114,000 to the Center for Scouting Ministries and \$41,000 to the Center for Men's Ministry.

Our financial support for the Center for Scouting Ministries has not increased since we made the commitment to the commission in 1996. Expenses climb, and it is important for those throughout our denomination to get to know and support the UM Men Foundation.

The foundation has many avenues to provide financial help for the commission in its mission to win men to Christ.

- **Legacy Builders** is an individual's investment in the commission. The commission receives the first \$120 and every dollar above that amount goes to the foundation.
- **The Life Achievement Award** recognizes individuals who have given years of service to local, district, conference, jurisdiction, or national organizations. The contribution for the award is \$250.
- **The Society of John Wesley** is a fellowship of individuals committed to the support and expansion of UM Men's ministries. A gift of \$1,000 enables a person to become a fellow in the society. The recipient receives a lapel pin and an embossed plaque.
- **Society of John Wesley Plus Program** encourages men to step beyond their current \$1,000 gift. The program will focus on monthly and annual gifts in increments of \$1,000. The program will have no limit on the multiple \$1,000 gifts given. The recognition for the program is still being developed.
- **UM Men Foundation Heritage Society** is an opportunity to support the foundation through planned gifts, including wills, life insurance policies, charitable gift annuities, and charitable endowments. Planned gifts offer donors an opportunity to leave a legacy that will provide for the continuation and growth of these ministries.

For as long as there is a ministry to men and youth, there will be a foundation to support it.

Glenn Wintenberg is the former president of the National Association of Conference Presidents and the current president of the United Methodist Men Foundation.



Glenn Wintenberg is president of the UM Men Foundation and former president of the NACP.



FOUNDATION

*“And it shall come to pass...
your old men shall dream dreams and
your young men shall see visions.”*

– Joel 2:28



GLENN WINTEMBERG (RIGHT)
PRESENTS A DALE WAYMIRE
LEADERSHIP AWARD TO LARRY
COPPOCK DURING HIS 2018
RETIREMENT FROM THE GENERAL
COMMISSION ON UM MEN.

Book ministry celebrates its 20th anniversary

By Larry Coppock

In 1999, 13-year-old Evan Hunsberger, an Orange County California Roman Catholic Boy Scout, presented an idea for his Eagle Scout service project. He wanted to republish a WWII book of daily devotions that his grandfather, Eugene, carried with him as a Navy corpsman in the Pacific.

1942

Strength for Service to God and Country was published in 1942 after the Japanese naval and air forces attacked American ships and bases at Pearl Harbor.

Originally published by the Methodist Publishing House, the book includes 365 devotions written by lay and clergy leaders from several denominations. Authors included the Rev. E. Stanley Jones, famous Methodist missionary; Methodist Bishop Charles Flint; Episcopal Bishop James Freeman; Johnson Reemtsma, a well-known radio commentator; Dr Frank Mossman, president of Southwestern College; and Dr. Albert Beaven, president of Colgate-Rochester Divinity School.

The book was compiled and edited by the Rev. Norman Nygaard, a chaplain at Lockheed Base in North Ireland. Each daily devotion starts with a Scripture reading followed by an inspirational story and ends with a prayer. More than one million copies were distributed to military troops during WWII and the Korean conflict.



The book lay fallow until Evan's idea caught fire in 1999.

2000

The General Commission on UM Men served as Evan's project sponsor. In 2000, Evan and staff members recruited contemporary writers to complement the 1942 contents.

We recruited the Rev. Robert Schuller, founder of the Crystal Cathedral; Rudy Ruettiger, a Notre Dame football player made famous by the movie, *Rudy*; the Rev. Carolyn Oehler, former executive director of the Scarritt-Bennet Center; Dr. Gerald Turner, president of Southern Methodist University; Episcopal Bishop Wallace Conkling; United Methodist Bishop Ernest Lyght; Dr. Joseph Hough, president of Union Theological Seminary; Gil Hanke; Dr. Edward Malloy, president of Notre Dame University; and Roman Catholic Cardinal Roger Mahoney.

Chaplain (Col.) James E. Townsend (ret.), a member of our ad hoc SFS publishing team, approached the Office of the Chief of Chaplains at the Pentagon. At the request of the Pentagon, we added devotions from leaders of other faith traditions not included in the 1942 edition.



Larry Coppock is the former director of Scouting ministries for the commission and now executive director of Strength for Service, Inc.

2001

The September 11 attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon propelled our staff on the spiritual mission that continues to this day.

Dr. Joseph Harris, the first general secretary of the General Commission on UM Men; Larry Malone, director men's ministry; and I, a commission staff member responsible for Scouting and other youth-serving ministries, read the September 11 devotion entitled "Chosen to Suffer." Realizing the devotion appropriately addressed the events surrounding the 2001 events, our path to the ministry of inspirational publishing was set in motion.

Since 2001

More than 570,000 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Country* have been distributed to military men and women around the world. Chaplains report that it is the second most requested book after the Holy Bible. Most of that is due to its pocket-size and timeless content.

First responders, who also experienced personal and psychological trauma, asked that a devotional book be written for them. So, in 2013, the SFS team created *Strength for Service to God and Community*. More than 70,000 copies of that book have been distributed to police, firefighters, EMT's and related public service personnel, mostly through chaplains.

Copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* have been given free to police and firefighters in places where tragedies have occurred, including: Newtown, Conn. (school shooting), Boston, Mass. (bombing), West, Texas (fertilizer plant explosion), Thousand Oaks, Calif. (night club shooting and fires); El Paso, Texas (Walmart shooting); Pittsburgh, Pa. (Jewish Synagogue shooting); Mooresville, N.C. (shooting), and Gainesville, Ga. (sheriff's officer shooting).

Commensurate with the second books' initiation came the creation of a nonprofit entity to direct publishing efforts, Strength for Service, Inc. A 12-member board of directors provide leadership and governance along with support from a 17-member advisory committee. L.W. Smith, a UM layman from Columbia, S.C., is president of the board.

While the ministry continues its ecumenical focus, it values its relationship as an endorsed partner of the commission. SFS gives the commission one dollar from the sale of each book. It also provides financial compensation for commission staff support.

We invite you to make an individual donation to support our free book ministry. Or, invite your local church to purchase a case of books for your local fire or police department or military base. Please visit [here](#) for more information or call 615/513-6202.

CHEROKEE COUNTY UM MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GIVE COPIES OF STRENGTH FOR SERVICE TO GOD AND COMMUNITY TO FIRE FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS AT THE MURPHY (N.C.) VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.

TOWN OF
MURPHY



Feeding America's hungry

By Wade Mays

More than 40 million Americans sometimes go hungry, including women, children, the unemployed, the working poor, seniors and those who are homeless. And yet, plenty of food is available.

The USDA estimates more than 25 percent of the food grown in the U.S. is never made available for people to eat. A lot of this food is left in the fields after harvest. Much more is deemed excess or unmarketable because it is not pretty enough. It is plowed over or dumped into landfills where it creates harmful greenhouse gases. And after the remaining food is delivered to supermarkets and restaurants, another 133 billion pounds of food is thrown away every year.

There is enough food for everyone. The need isn't a shortage of food. The need is for the available food to be within reach of hungry people.

Forty years of ministry

Since 1979, the [Society of St. Andrew](#) (SoSA) has helped bridge the gap between the good food going to waste and the millions of Americans in poverty. SoSA saves and distributes 25-30 million pounds of fresh produce each year by coordinating resources that already exist.

Farmers and packing houses with excess food let SoSA know when and where that food will be available to glean or to take away in tractor trailers.

Volunteers are called when crops are available and they go into fields and orchards, gathering the food and packing it for delivery. Feeding agencies then pick up the food or it is delivered directly to food pantries and used for prepared meals in soup kitchens.

The problem of hunger in America is very real. It is not only an "overseas issue." Food insecurity erodes people's health, setting the stage for them to develop a host of mental and physical health problems. They are less able to manage chronic health conditions, and research has shown that over the course of a year severely food insecure adults consume more than two times the health-care dollars as those who are food secure. By the time people are struggling to put food on the table, they are compromising many other expenditures. They are making tough decisions about whether to pay for necessary medications and other necessities or food.



Wade Mays is the director of Meals for Millions for the Society of St. Andrew.

A productive partnership

SoSA is thankful to be an affiliate partner of the General Commission on UM Men. The support from the board, staff and laity around the country has been vital in making sure those that are hungry have access to nutritious food. This partnership has been instrumental in helping to glean and salvage food across all conferences of the UMC.

In 1998, the Society of St. Andrew joined with the commission and the National Association of Conference Presidents to establish the Hunger Relief Advocate (HRA) Initiative. This joint effort is designed to help the denomination engage in ministry to and with the poor and hungry under leadership of UM Men.

Hunger Relief Advocates are charged with: establishing and administering gleaning networks to provide food directly to those in need locally; raising awareness of the extent of hunger in America and training in the development of local anti-hunger programs; championing UM Men participation in the Meals for Millions giving

program that provides funding for the HRA Initiative; serving as an education and action resource for the church on hunger relief and poverty issues; and engaging in other hunger relief activities.

The goal of the HRA Initiative is to feed America's hungry through a network of part-time HRAs in every state plus volunteer advocates in every UM Men district and each local UM Men's group. We are continuing to look for those in every UMC conference that are passionate about hunger and are willing to put their time and energy into doing something about this issue.

It's hard to believe that we have so many hungry right here in America.

Help the Society of St. Andrew as we seek to do something about hunger so that one day everyone will have something to eat.

We are thankful you have followed God's command by your faithful and generous support of our ministry.



God moments in Haiti

By Gil Hanke

This is a small and focused ministry.

The beginning

My first trip to Haiti was in 1988. I was invited to participate on a medical and construction team, but I thought I would be useless because I could not speak Creole.

As it turned out, I was able to use my training as a speech pathologist to work with deaf children in the St. Vincent School in Port-au-Prince.

Since I knew sign language, I found that I could be only helpful to the children who could not hear me.

This was an only-God-could-have-done-this blessing.

The following four years, I served on several other mission trips to Haiti where I spent most of my time on construction crews. But I also found time to work with children at the St. Vincent School.

Delayed blessings

In 1992, I invited a team of audiologists to come with me. With the help of staff of the Methodist Guest House, we tested children in three schools and identified 56 children who could benefit from hearing aids. We took ear-mold impressions and we planned to return in six months with hearing aids. However, political issues in Haiti made travel impossible at that time. It was 18 months before we could return.

Of the 56 children in three different schools, we found all 56 and every ear-mold fit perfectly. It was another God moment.

Earthquake changes mission

In 2010, an earthquake devastated Haiti. The two schools we served in Port au Prince were destroyed, and the school we served on the southern coast was inaccessible. I, and members of our team, spent 2010 and 2011 doing recovery work, but our work with children began again in 2012 in several new locations.

The process

Our current practice is to test all the children, first by a visual evaluation of each ear canal, followed by middle-ear testing (if we have electricity), followed by a diagnostic testing with battery powered audiometers. Many children are so profoundly impaired that a hearing aid will not help them. But, for others, the placement of a hearing aid is life changing.

When we know a hearing aid will be beneficial, we make custom ear molds in order to get them maximum volume without feedback.

Prior to our 2018 visit, we had a two-step process, using a temporary ear mold and sending the finished mold back to Haiti weeks or months later. In 2018, we developed a process to make the ear molds on site. This new process made for longer days and shorter nights in Haiti, but the end product was completed in 12 hours.

Witnessing a child or adolescent hear for the first time is a special blessing.



Gil Hanke is the general secretary of the General Commission on UM Men and founder of Hope of Hearing.



GIL HANKE TESTS THE HEARING LEVEL OF A HAITIAN CHILD

The source of hearing aids

We receive hearing aids in two ways.

People send us their old ones and if they are in good condition, we use them or trade them for a new or reconditioned devices. Behind-the-ear hearing aids work best.

Also, hearing-aid companies occasionally give the ministry new devices because they did not sell well to the general public.

Our hope

Our hope is that someday, children and adults in Haiti with hearing loss will be served by audiologists who live in Haiti. Until that happens, we will continue to serve these precious children in these special schools.

On each trip, we bring a year of batteries for each hearing aid. That cost is nearly \$1,000. Funds donated to The Hope of Hearing purchase these batteries and cover room and board at the schools we serve. Team members pay their own travel expenses.

Each year, we go where we are needed in that island nation, and we continue to be amazed by God's provision and guidance.

Prayer is at the center of who we are

By Migdiel Pérez

The Upper Room invites people to create daily life with God. And prayer is at the center of this daily life. We are “where the world meets to pray.”

Long-term partnership

For 42 years, The Upper Room and UM Men have been in partnership at The Upper Room’s prayer center.

Recently we have made some changes that bring our shared prayer ministry into a new phase on behalf of the world. We offer an online prayer wall that is available 24/7 to people all over the world. In this place, we receive prayers not only from the United States, but also from people facing illness in every continent. We pray for our brothers and sisters who post prayers for help from refugee camps and homeless shelters.

And we are so grateful for our partnership with UM Men, who offer prayers for these brothers and sisters in need.

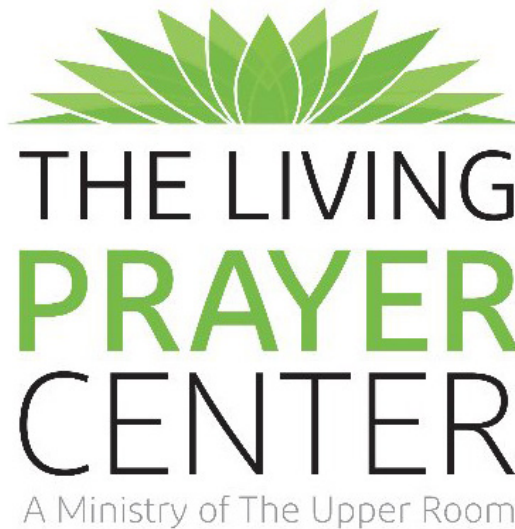
We hope that you will continue to join us in our prayer ministry.

Prayer requests receive responses

The [Prayer Wall](#) is the place where prayer requests are now posted. These requests are sent by email to our prayer volunteers.

UM Men organizations are also encouraged to respond to these prayer requests.

When a user submits a prayer to the prayer center, we replicate the experience that users had when they called our prayer line. We promise that the names of people requesting prayer are kept confidential, and that their prayer request will be prayed for by trusted prayer servants.

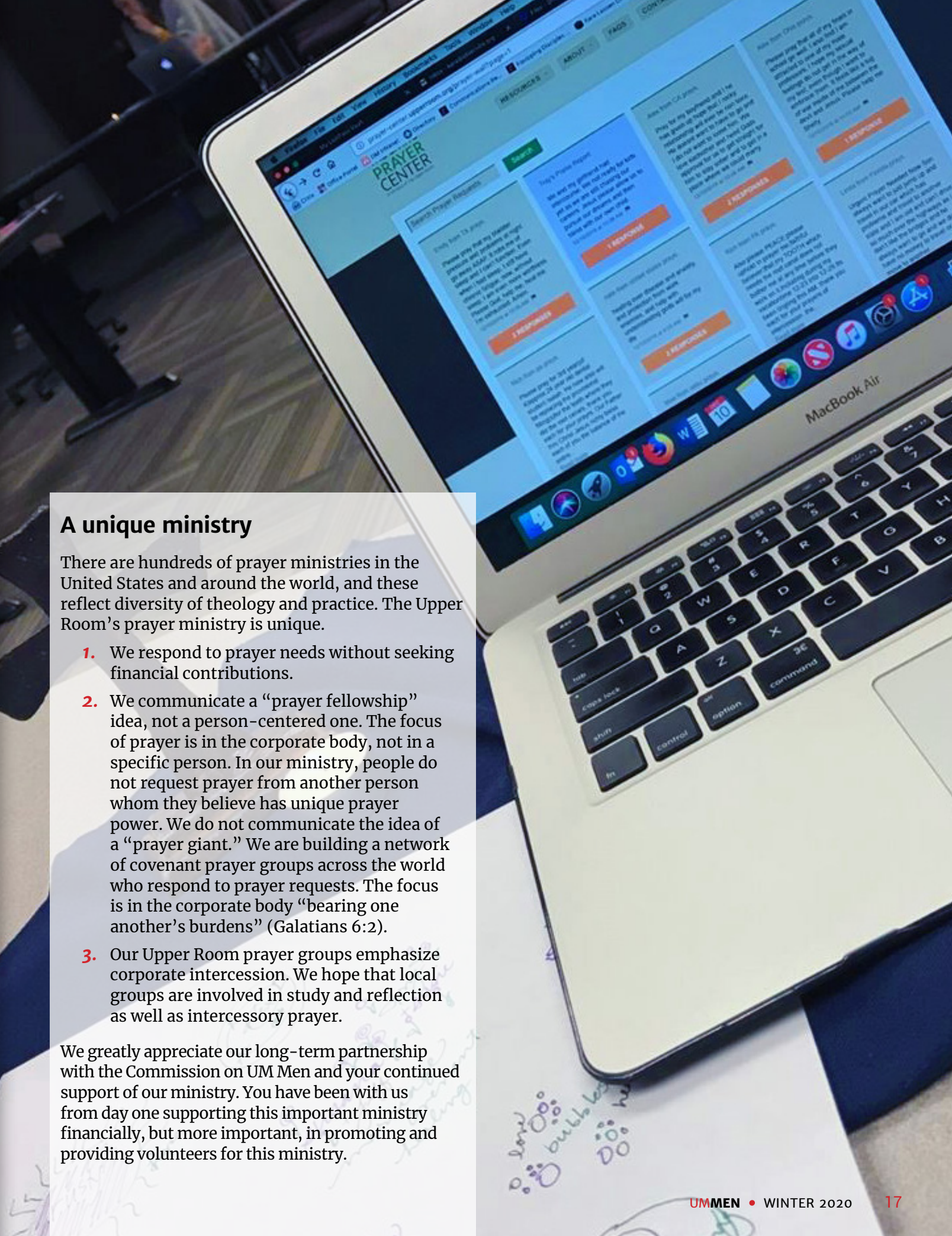


The Upper Room Prayer Center includes all these important partners:

- People who need prayer.
- Online Prayer Wall volunteers.
- Upper Room prayer groups and/or individual prayer partners.
- UM Men prayer advocates.
- UM Men organizations that respond to the requests



Migdiel Pérez is the manager of the Upper Room Prayer Center



A unique ministry

There are hundreds of prayer ministries in the United States and around the world, and these reflect diversity of theology and practice. The Upper Room's prayer ministry is unique.

1. We respond to prayer needs without seeking financial contributions.
2. We communicate a “prayer fellowship” idea, not a person-centered one. The focus of prayer is in the corporate body, not in a specific person. In our ministry, people do not request prayer from another person whom they believe has unique prayer power. We do not communicate the idea of a “prayer giant.” We are building a network of covenant prayer groups across the world who respond to prayer requests. The focus is in the corporate body “bearing one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2).
3. Our Upper Room prayer groups emphasize corporate intercession. We hope that local groups are involved in study and reflection as well as intercessory prayer.

We greatly appreciate our long-term partnership with the Commission on UM Men and your continued support of our ministry. You have been with us from day one supporting this important ministry financially, but more important, in promoting and providing volunteers for this ministry.

A step to becoming a spiritual father

By George Houle

The vision for Wesleyan Building Brothers was the result of a 2006 meeting with Larry Malone, then director for men's ministry, and leaders from Man in the Mirror and Building Brothers ministries.

We all agreed that for ministry to work at the local level, we needed spiritually growing men. The General Commission on UM Men recognized that Building Brothers could help achieve that goal and it could keep reproducing spiritually growing men who would support the entire ministry.

Dan Schaffer, founder of Building Brothers, trained me as a leader and graciously gave us permission to modify his materials in accordance with Wesleyan teachings.

Wesleyan Building Brothers was born.

We launched the ministry in a dozen Kansas churches. Six groups (generations) of men in Wichita Calvary UMC completed the process

over a period of six years. The groups are called generations because at the end of the process they reproduce another generation who experience the process.

In 2007, we introduced Wesleyan Building Brothers to a dozen churches in Virginia.

Culpeper UMC currently has trained nine generations of men, and it is still going strong under the leadership of Johnny Draughton and David Bean, Virginia-based men's ministry specialists.

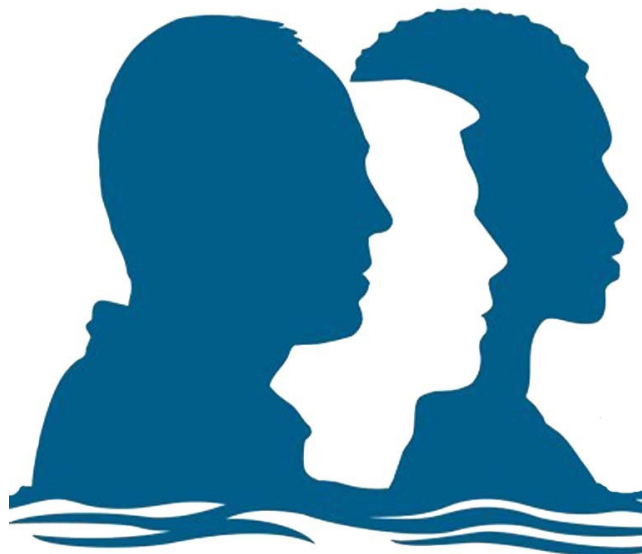
In 2010, we launched our first national group using ZOOM technology. The group included Gil Hanke, Dan Schaffer, Tom Albin, dean of the Upper Room Chapel, three others, and

me. We agreed to make some additional changes to the program.

Since then we have had at least one ZOOM generation every year. The meetings have included national, jurisdictional and conference presidents of UM Men. More than half of the 38 certified men's ministry specialists have been through the process.

Four quarterly studies

Wesleyan Building Brothers is a process in which 6 to 12 men participate in one-hour weekly meetings with a local leader for four distinct quarterly trainings over a one-year period.



George Houle is a member of Calvary UMC in Wichita, the vice president for Kansas for the Great Plains UMM, a men's ministry specialist and a trained instructor of Wesleyan Building Brothers.



UNITED METHODIST MEN TRAINING TO BECOME LEADERS OF WESLEY BUILDING BROTHERS

A leader from the national Wesley Building Brothers ministry provides a five-hour introduction to the topics discussed in each of the 11-week trainings.

A full-year commitment? That may sound scary; however, in reality, most men remain in the group after the year is over.

In fact, the first 2010 Wesleyan Building Brothers Zoom group still meets every Tuesday morning.

Wesley Building Brothers follows Matthew 28-20

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.’”

Our method of teaching others to follow the teachings of Jesus is the same as the instructions given to Timothy;

“... and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well.”

Creating spiritual fathers

We believe this reproductive model is key to keeping Jesus’ final command to regenerate God’s church.

Our goal is to help men grow spiritually as described in 1 John.

John challenges us to grow from being spiritual children to adults who are overcoming the evil one by reading scripture and transforming our lives in a small community of men.

The final goal is to become fully mature spiritual fathers who walk with God and who help reproduce other spiritual children.

We want to help local churches create a culture similar to the church at Ephesus where men feel safe to struggle with God and develop their gifts so that they may go out into the world and do the task God has prepared for them.

How does Wesleyan Building Brothers come to your church?

Pray for and identify 6-12 men who are committed to growing and reproducing spiritually. Learn more [here](#) and contact [me](#).

I look forward to serving with you.

A ministry to prisoners in six states

By Mark Hicks

Today there are 2.3 million people in America's prisons. That's a population larger than many countries in our world. America incarcerates more of her citizens than any other country.

Christian leaders have called American prisons one of the greatest new mission fields. One noted Christian leader even went so far as to say that if a new Great Awakening is to take place in our nation, it will come from the prisons. Indeed, faith burns bright among the incarcerated and the fervency among new prison converts is real!

Prison ministry should be at the center of our missional zeal. Jesus said, "I was in prison and you visited to me," and the Apostle Paul called the faithful to "Remember those in prison as if you were in prison yourself."

These calls for action and the fertile ground for ministry demands a faithful response.

Twenty years of ministry

For 20 years [Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries](#) (DBOM) has responded to this need by establishing volunteer-led Disciple Bible Study classes in prisons throughout the U.S.



First begun in North Carolina, the DBOM ministry spread to Virginia, Tennessee, Illinois, Louisiana and now Texas where new efforts are underway to expand this ministry throughout the state.

The General Commission on UM Men has been a faithful partner in these efforts offering organizational leadership, volunteers support and funding, but more volunteers are needed.

In Matthew 9 Jesus reminds us that the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. He says, "Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send workers into the fields."

I call upon you, my faithful brothers and sisters, to join in this effort. If you feel a call to ministry to the incarcerated and want to get a DBOM ministry started in your area, please contact me.

Please pray for this ministry. Lives are being changed for Jesus Christ.

Will you answer the call to visit those in prison?



Mark Hicks is president of Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries National. He may be reached at:
mhicksdbom@gmail.com
(910) 363-4409.

A testimony

So, what impact has it made among those participating? Here is a testimonial from men involved in our newest outreach at the McConnell prison unit in Texas.

Q.

Tell us about your newest study? In what prisons are we working with you and how many folks are involved?

A.

The newest study is Disciple 4. We're in the McConnell Prison unit and have three classes that meet Thursday evenings.

The Disciple I class just finished and moving on to Disciple II, while we search for two new volunteers to lead a new Disciple I group. Disciple 18 with 18 participants, Disciple 20 with 20 participants, and Disciple 2 with 24 participants. When the new Disciple 1 class starts it'll have 25 participants. The churches involved are Grace United Methodist, Annaville Baptist, and Portland United Methodist.

Q.

Share with us any testimonials we have from the classes. What has been the impact, etc.

A.

The impact has been amazing. The waiting list for Disciple classes is the longest of any class in the prison, faith-based or otherwise. It's an incredible blessing to walk into a two-gym Chaplaincy every week to dozens of Brothers in White (editor's note: prisoners wear all white and visitors are prohibited from wearing white) who are who are ready to immerse themselves in Scripture. We receive excellent cooperation from the prison guards because they're aware of the impact the classes are having not only on the brothers in the class but on the unit.

As far as testimonials, how much time do you have? The main one that comes to my mind is Sam (name changed), a brother we met in Disciple I. Like many prisoners, Sam struggled with a ton of guilt and an inability to accept forgiveness.

The concept of Jesus' death for our redemption was beyond reach. Seven weeks into Disciple I, Sam finally realized that Christ indeed was calling him into a personal relationship and wanted Sam to accept Him as his personal Lord and Savior. Sam got on his knees and gave his life to the Lord, and a week later he found out, after serving 24 years on a life sentence, that he was being paroled almost immediately. Sam knew without a doubt that it was Jesus who had set him free, in more ways than one. Ever since he has been out, Sam has been a servant of the Lord, and last weekend, for the first time, Sam went back into a prison, this time as a disciple of Jesus Christ, and shared his testimony with other Brothers in White.



Providing dignity for people around the world

By Scott Walters

Imagine living in a desolate, remote area in the developing world where there are only dirt paths; no roadways or sidewalks of any kind. Now imagine you are unable to walk due to an injury or birth defect. How will you get to where you need to go?

The answer is that you would crawl in the dirt unless a friend or family member offers to carry you on his or her back.

It's these often-forgotten people that [Mobility Worldwide](#) helps through the gift of a unique three-wheeled, off-road wheelchair operated by hand power. Mobility carts are handcrafted in shops scattered around the US and Africa and are usually staffed by volunteers from local UM Men's ministries.

80,000 carts given to 100 countries

For 25 years, Mobility Worldwide, formerly known as PET International, has sent its mobility carts in shipping containers to more than 100 countries. Christian charities and NGOs that operate abroad accept the carts and provide them to those in need.

Frequently, the recipients must be sought out as they are shunned by their local community or hidden away in a back room so their immediate family is spared the embarrassment of their existence.

Mobility Worldwide's vision is to end immobility in the world. They strive toward this vision through their mission of seeking to reflect the love of God by bringing mobility and dignity to those in developing countries who are unable to walk. The organization has provided about 80,000 carts through the years.

A gift of dignity

Once people are lifted from the dirt and placed on the seats of mobility carts, they are no longer looked down on by others. Suddenly they are at eye level and feel a sense of acceptance. They have freedom to go where they want to go and when they want to go. Often, this is the first time in their lives that they have freedom and with that comes dignity, self-confidence and hope. Many recipients convert their mobility cart into businesses and start to earn money by delivering newspapers, shining shoes, or selling refreshments.

Men who handcraft the mobility carts come from all walks of life. Some are retired woodworkers or metal fabricators or engineers. Others who have no experience in the vocational-technical world come and learn the joy of not only helping others but building a machine to be cherished by people who they will never have the pleasure of meeting.



Scott Walters is executive director of Mobility Worldwide

Support of UM Men

Unlike most other charities, Mobility Worldwide's volunteer corps, which numbers several thousand, is comprised mostly of men who are at or near retirement. They enjoy working with their hands and getting grease under their fingernails. Mobility Worldwide is greatly appreciative of the UM Men who volunteer for our international humanitarian organization. It's safe to say that Mobility Worldwide would not exist without the support of UM Men.

Many of the volunteers have participated in missionary work at Christian hospitals or clinics in the Third World. It's not uncommon to bump into a retired physician or nurse who is working in one of the 23 manufacturing shops within the network of Mobility Worldwide. The physicians will tell you that a mobility cart is miraculous in that it provides immediate relief. No other method provides immediate assistance like that offered by a mobility cart.

A continuing need

Mobility Worldwide is now looking for ways to help even more people in need. With 70-million people around the world in need of wheelchairs (according to the World Health Organization), leaders have taken upon themselves a charge of expanding their operations by opening more manufacturing sites and by working with companies to mass produce additional cart chassis made of sturdy plastic. Mobility Worldwide will also collect other helpful devices like crutches to distribute to those in need of help but not necessarily in need of a cart.

Whatever the form of help provided, one thing is for sure. It can't be done without the dedication and Christian support of UM Men. We welcome your help whether it's your time, financial donation or talent in helping spread the word.



HAITIAN MAN WITH CART.

Studies increase youth's understanding of God

By Jason Noland

P.R.A.Y. is best known for its religious classes and awards programs.

The studies enable young people to develop a deeper relationship with God by helping them see ways in which God is active in their lives and the world.

Age-appropriate classes pair Bible lessons with service projects to help young people reach out in love and in service to others.

P.R.A.Y. encourages families, and youth engaged in Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts USA, and Campfire, through UM churches to use P.R.A.Y. materials to foster spiritual growth in children, youth and families.

P.R.A.Y.'s mission statement is to "foster the Christian growth of children, youth, and families through churches and youth-serving agencies." Everything that the P.R.A.Y. national board does is centered on collaboration with churches and youth-serving agencies.



Six classes

The P.R.A.Y. program is available to young people from kindergarten to the 12th grade. Each study is written and presented for the target age group.

- Jesus and Me (kindergarten to first grade)
- God and Me (grades 1 – 3)
- God and Family (grades 4 – 6)
- God and Church (grades 6 – 8)
- God and Life (grades 9 – 12)

In addition, Bible Basics RP3 is a free Bible-based curriculum designed to help families and groups "Read the Bible; Picture the passage; Ponder its meaning; and Put it into action."

A major component of any religious emblem includes opportunities for young people to meet and speak with ordained or lay ministers as part of the final approval process.



Jason Noland is the chief executive officer of St. Louis-based Programs of Religious Activities with Youth.



FIRST UMC LAWTON, OKLA., PRESENT
P.R.A.Y. AWARDS ON SCOUT SUNDAY.

Youth receive patches

Most emblems take several weeks to complete and are recognized nationally by the youth agency partners as the official uniform recognition for young United Methodists who connect their faith to a Scouting experience.

P.R.A.Y. also provides opportunities for churches to recognize adult leaders through the “God and Service” and “Building Faith in Youth” awards.

P.R.A.Y. is a small organization and we multiply our work and ministry through, thousands of volunteers who serve as curriculum writers, counselors, and instructors.

P.R.A.Y. collaborates with the Center for Scouting Ministry at the General Commission on UM Men to provide these spiritual-enrichment opportunities for children and youth.

This side-by-side cooperation enables young people to be trained both inside and outside of the church. By working together, we reach objectives not attainable by either working alone.



Camp Fire

Provide a discipleship pathway for every man in your church

By Brett Clemmer

A story: Three men are walking by a river when they notice a baby floating downstream. One man quickly jumps in the water and saves the crying child. Before he can get back to the shore, another baby comes floating down the river. The second man jumps in the river and saves that child.

Baby after baby comes floating down the river and soon all three men are in the water grabbing two and three babies at a time, clambering back to the shore, and swimming back out to grab more babies. They are overwhelmed and devastated as babies start passing them and disappearing around a bend in the river.

Suddenly, two of the men see their friend climbing out of the river and walking away. “Where are you going?” they ask. “We’re not saving all the babies with the three of us; how can you leave?” The man

looks at his struggling friends and replies, “You’re right. We can’t save all the babies. I’m going upstream to stop whoever is throwing them in!”



Too many babies

We are all somewhere in this story. The “babies” represent the results of divorce, fatherlessness, poverty, incarceration, sexual violence, addiction, and suicide.

The reality is there are too many “babies” for us to save. The results of sin, tragedy, and misfortune are all around us.

What can we do?

We must go upstream and prevent them from ending up in the water in the first place. By going upstream, we often find a man who failed because he didn’t know Christ and was not disciplined.

At [Man in the Mirror](#), we know that no man fails on purpose. No man wakes up one day and decides to wreck his life—to throw babies in the river.

But we also recognize that no man succeeds by accident. He needs to know Christ and he needs other mature men to disciple him so he can, in turn, disciple others. In short, the solution is the core of the UM Men mission: to help men grow in Christ so others may know Christ.



Brett Clemmer is president and chief executive officer of Man in the Mirror

Partnership with UM Men

Just as no man succeeds by accident, no church succeeds by accident either. That's why we developed the No Man Left Behind Model for churches. The model is designed to help you provide a discipleship pathway for every man in your church.

More than a decade ago, we had the privilege of starting a partnership with UM Men with the aim of equipping men's leaders and pastors to do this effectively. This partnership resulted in the creation of the UMM Men's Ministry Specialist program, through which lay leaders (or clergy) in the church are trained on the No Man Left Behind Model and equipped to help churches reach men.

Today, we bring No Man Left Behind to UM churches through the book, video-based training, and No Man Left Behind LIVE, a one-day training event hosted in Orlando that is simulcast to various locations across the country. The event serves as an easy way to arm your leaders with a game plan for your ministry to men.

Jumpstart your ministry

We've also created GO: Jumpstart Your Ministry to Men. In just nine weeks, your church can recruit new leaders, provide basic training, plan a kick-off event, engage men in small groups, and connect them to long-term growth opportunities.

Using GO, Suncreek UMC in Allen, Texas, worked with their local Man in the Mirror Area Director, Ron Greer, to jumpstart their ministry. They recruited five men to serve on the leadership team, and that team planned a creative kick-off event at an outdoor outfitter. From there, 50 men participated in the follow-up four-week study. "It was the spark they needed," Ron says, "and a reminder that God is moving."

God is moving, indeed! And the ministry of UM Men is a part of that movement.

We hope these training opportunities—along with our video Bible studies, books, men's events, and local area directors—will help your church effectively minister to more men.

When men grow spiritually and relationally, then marriages, families, workplaces, and communities are radically transformed.

Babies stop appearing in the river, and the river becomes a source of life instead of tragedy.

It's been an honor to partner with UM Men in this mission.



MEN GATHER FOR GO AT SUNCREEK UMC IN ALLEN, TEXAS.

Changing lives through clean water

By Jennifer Zehnder

How often do you think about whether the water you drink will make you sick? Or whether your child's intestinal parasites will prevent her from going to school this week? Fortunately for most Americans those are not common concerns, but for millions of people around the world they are a daily reality. In fact, according to the World Health Organization, 785 million people lack even a basic drinking-water service.

But that doesn't have to be.

Living Waters for the World (LWW) is a ministry that trains, supports, and empowers mission teams to change lives through clean water.

Anticipated partnership

"Living Waters for the World deeply appreciates and celebrates our pending partnership with the General Commission on UM Men," says LWW Executive Director Steve Young. "Together, we invite UM churches who seek to initiate a water mission or to add water to existing mission programs, to join with us in this mutually transforming work."

LWW's ministry is built on the beliefs that all God's children deserve clean water and that God empowers people of faith to be agents of



change. Therefore, they prepare mission teams to transform lives through the nurturing of a long-term relationship with an international partner community and the installation of a simple, effective water purification system and health education curriculum.

United Methodist response

Bill Johnson of Broad Street UMC in Cleveland, Tenn., began partnering with LWW in 2012 to [add water to the church's mission activities](#). As a retired general surgeon with a 30-year history of medical mission work in Honduras, Bill saw many cases of illness caused by contaminated water, so he started investigating ways to provide access to clean water. Well-drilling companies told him they could access water, but depending on the depth, it could cost between \$5,000 and \$12,000. Bill didn't feel comfortable asking his church to fund a project with that potential cost variance, so he kept searching for a solution.



Jennifer Zehnder is director of development for Living Waters for the World.

Bill learned about LWW from a Rotary Club friend, and he knew he had found his answer. The cost of system components was reasonable, predictable and equally effective at serving the community with clean water. To top it off, LWW's hallmark training program, Clean Water U, equips volunteers to build and lead water mission teams and empower community partners to carry the clean water ministry forward sustainably. To date, four volunteer leaders from the Cleveland church and their local Rotary Club have been trained and their water teams have partnered with nine Honduran communities. They plan to continue partnering with a new community each year.

Massive health benefits

Reflecting on the impact of clean water on their community partners Bill says, "Is the overall health better with fewer parasites? Absolutely yes. Living Waters has been the answer to probably 75 percent of the health-care issues in the little communities where we work." Since then the key to their water

partnerships and improved community health has been, as Bill calls it, "Christians united."

With funding from the Sunrise Rotary Club of Cleveland, mission volunteers from the church, training and support from LWW, and the hard work and dedication of their partner communities, their water mission reaches across denominations and unites people in a common call to share clean water.

"We don't come down and have a slingshot week of ministry in a community," emphasizes Broad Street UMC Pastor Micah Nicolaus. "Rather, our partnership with LWW is a ministry that has traction and continues to bless the community and continues a partnership that is long-standing."

Whether you and your church are new to global mission or have established mission relationships and programs, Living Waters for the World can empower you to share clean water with God's children in need. For more information about how you can start a water mission and have a long-term, global impact visit [here](#).



We ship Bibles and Christian literature to Third World nations

By Steven J. Schmidt

It is estimated that on the continent of Africa there are 500 million people who go to church on a regular basis, but they do not have Bibles.

Love Packages collects new and used Bibles along with other quantities of Christian literature from across America for people in Third World countries.

I want to thank the many United Methodist men's groups who have engaged in Bible drives in their local communities. These drives have enabled us to send Bibles to people who do not have them.

If you're not familiar with Love Packages you can find more information about us [here](#).

I started the ministry in the summer of 1975, when I saw Christian material just lying around or being trashed. I knew of the need in less fortunate nations.

The first year, I shipped 60 boxes of literature overseas.

The ministry has increased over the past 44 years. This year we will ship 2,000 tons of usable Christian literature to people in undeveloped nations. That is enough literature for 50 million people.

It is difficult for Americans to understand the need. Believe it or not—there are pastors all over the world today who still do not have Bibles.

The following testimony from Zimbabwe may help you understand the need.



Steven J. Schmidt is the founder and director of Love Packages.

“We brought boxes of literature and Bibles to Shurugwi, Chivhu, and Umvuma south of Harare, there are 36 churches in the area. Several of the churches or I should say most of the them have never ever held a Bible in their entire life, but they still would still go to church year by year without a Bible. Oh, I wish you could see the joy, the singing, the dancing, the screaming all because Love Packages was able to hear to the cry of the people of Zimbabwe. One lady was on her knees for over one hour just clasping her Bible. We were excited for them to have the literature and Bibles. Thank you to all that made this possible.”

Maybe your men's group could come to one of our warehouses and volunteer – last year we had some 2,800 volunteers.

Here is what one volunteer had to say.

“It is so rare and so special to see people spending their whole day working to further God's Kingdom. That really shows me that I could be doing much, much more for God. Overall, I love going to Love Packages and I can't wait to go again. Going to Love Packages was an experience I'll never forget. When I was standing there doing my job, an overwhelming feeling washed over me: I was helping give the Gospel to people who had never heard or seen it. By the end of the day, I had tears in my eyes from hearing the different testimonies. Overall, it was extremely powerful for me, and I can't wait to go back! When my class went to Butler, Illinois, I never expected myself to be so moved and touched by the worker's love and passion for sending Bibles and devotionals to millions of people so they could have God's Word. Yes, I know packaging the books is a back breaker, but knowing that somebody could be eternally changed because of a simple act of kindness is worth my pain and time.”

Our warehouses are located at 220 Union Street in Butler, Ill. (217/532-6701) and 60-D South Mountain Drive in Decatur, Ala. (256/355-3004).



LOVE PACKAGES



VOLUNTEERS PACKAGE DONATED BIBLES AND CHRISTIAN MATERIALS FOR SHIPMENT TO THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES.

Our connection with the Wesleyan World

By Steve Hickle



WesleyMen is the men's affiliate of the World Methodist Council and essentially, the connection point of UM Men to the greater Wesleyan World. Officially the organization was created as The World Fellowship of Methodist and Uniting Church Men; the name has now been abbreviated to WesleyMen.

Effort to end hunger

The primary focus of this ministry is to connect men in Wesleyan tradition for Christian fellowship and witness through active works. This is lived out in the flagship program FastPrayGive.org, a global grassroots movement to end hunger.



WESLEYMEN SPONSOR A MEAL PACKAGING EVENT.

The program started with a 2001 resolution by the World Methodist Council calling all Methodists to fast, pray, and give to end hunger. Through these actions, which John Wesley often called the means of grace, we can make new and stronger disciples for Jesus Christ while ending hunger.

Program participants receive fasting encouragement, help with prayer, and they are invited to make monthly donations to help fight the systemic causes

of chronic hunger. Funds are shepherded and disbursed via grants to organizations that are working to end hunger. Grants are issued to organizations which feed vulnerable and developing communities around the world.

Study guide

Through partnerships with the UM Men, including the Center for Men's Ministry, FastPrayGive.org has developed a small-group study and leader's guide to aid in the adoption of the spiritual practices of fasting, prayer, and generous giving.

In addition, WesleyMen stands alongside other amazing partners and endorsed ministries like the Society of St. Andrew and Rise Against Hunger in calling men everywhere to be leaders in a global movement to declare hunger intolerable and to do as Jesus instructed his disciples at the feeding of the multitude, "Give them something to eat."



The Rev. Steve Hickle is the world president of WesleyMen



FROM GENESIS:

And God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the earth."

Then he made the earth round and He laughed and laughed and laughed.

Building freedom one ramp at a time

By David Kennedy

Close your eyes and try to envision the house where you grew up. Now envision yourself going in and out (letting the door slam to your mother's annoyance) -- up and down the steps, free as a bird.

Now envision yourself sitting at that same front door . . . in a wheelchair.

Twenty-two-year-old Jamie didn't have to close his eyes and imagine. He lived in the house where he was born. In 22 years, Jamie had never been outside his house without help from others. His parents installed a ramp of their own, but Jamie still had to wait because the ramp was too steep for him to get up or down alone.

A new ramp for Jamie

With financial support from the Southwest Indiana Regional Council on Aging, Jamie's ramp was designed, laid out and constructed. Throughout the day of the build, Jamie kept coming to check on his ramp's progress. Finally, Jamie was invited to try it out. He quickly zipped down the ramp in

his motorized wheelchair, turned around on the sidewalk and zipped back up. "Now, that's what I'm talking about!" exclaimed Jamie.



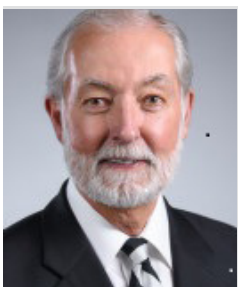
Twenty-two years of waiting were over. Jamie has his freedom at long last. Five guys, \$700 worth of materials, and five hours of effort provided this young man with freedom he had never known. If you don't think you can make a difference in this world, ask Jamie.

A few dollars or a few hours of effort can transform another person's life...just like Jamie's.

Founded in 2003

Servants at Work, Inc. (SAWs), is an ecumenical organization that builds wooden wheelchair ramps for low-income people with disabilities and the effects of aging who are otherwise trapped in their homes. SAWs was founded in 2003 as a ministry of Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, Ind. Joined two years later by St. Luke's UMC in Indianapolis, the program began growing exponentially.

The SAWs mission statement, "SAWs builds freedom for low income individuals with disabilities demonstrating God's love and offering a transformative experience for volunteers through the construction of quality wooden ramps," underscores the similarities between itself and the UMC approach to God's world and its inhabitants. While the aim is to provide freedom, the goal is to change people's lives.



David Kennedy is SAWs National Director of Affiliate and Partnership Relations.

SAWs is approaching 3,000 ramps, built by volunteers and donated funds, during the last 16 years. Hundreds of volunteers and thousands of volunteer hours have been invested to give freedom, independence and dignity back to these individuals. In his book, *When God Winks at You*, Squire Rushnell describes the times when God is speaking directly to you through events that might seem to be coincidental. SAWs build wheelchair ramps as fast as is humanly possible (over 350 last year), but we sometimes fail to see when God winks at us.

Proposed partnership

In the summer of 2017, God winked at SAWs. For two years we had been searching for the means by which we could begin to expand beyond the state of Indiana. During the 12th National Gathering of the UM Men at St. Luke's in Indianapolis, Rick Vance, director of the Men's Ministry Center, and Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General

Commission on UM Men, observed a ramp build demonstration and decided that they wanted to help SAWs go national. Secretary Hanke proposed that SAWs become an affiliate partner of the commission to spread ramp-building nationally.

David James, president of UM Men in the Desert Southwest Conference, volunteered the conference as a Beta Test for the partner relationship. The Desert Southwest Conference has patiently endured the efforts necessary for the transition from SAWs Indiana to SAWs National. While challenges remain, the effort is moving forward steadily with the help of many "winks" from God.

Now close your eyes again and envision all those people sitting in their wheelchairs at the threshold of their doors, waiting...waiting for that freedom most of us take for granted. It is a huge task but SAWs "Builds freedom one ramp at a time."



A HANDICAP RAMP IN INDIANAPOLIS

Creating heart-centered transformative leaders

By Jim Boesch

Lead Like Jesus is a global organization designed to create heart-centered transformational leaders modeled on Jesus, the greatest leader of all time.

Lead Like Jesus partners with the General Commission on UM Men and other ministries to teach church members how to lead more effectively. We are blessed to be the catalyst for countless individuals around the world who carry Jesus into their own spheres of influence daily.

What makes Lead Like Jesus different?

1. Our framework. We believe skills and knowledge can't replace character and integrity. Leading like Jesus involves the alignment of our Heart, Head, Hands and Habits.
2. Our definition. We believe leadership happens anytime we influence the thinking, behavior or development of another.
3. Our model. We believe Jesus is the greatest leadership role model of all time, so our leadership philosophy is simple: follow the leader.

Our Vision:

Someday everyone, everywhere will be impacted by someone who leads like Jesus.

Our Mission:

Our mission is to glorify God by inspiring and equipping people to lead like Jesus.

Resources:

Lead Like Jesus offers a wide variety of resources for individual study, small groups, churches, and employers on leadership development, teambuilding, and spiritual growth

1. Workshops and seminars
2. Website store
3. E-Books
4. Free webinars
5. Blog daily devotionals
6. Podcasts

2020 Goals

Train 50 new Encounter facilitators in North America.

Certify 50 new DISC (Dominance, Influencing, Steadiness, and Conscientiousness) practitioners.

Have 25,000 participants experience the Lead Like Jesus Encounter workshops

Have 30,000 participants experience our youth leadership materials



Jim Boesch is a deployed staff member of the General Commission on UM Men and a certified leader of Lead like Jesus.



In North America, we are focusing on work with churches and other non-profit organizations. We get our best results when an internal champion (pastor or organization leader) leads the way in bringing the Encounter into the organization and then champions a follow-up developmental process with our other materials.

We continue to focus on developing godly men and women who lead like Jesus.

For additional information, contact [Rich Meiss](#), director of leadership development, Excelsior, Minn.



JIM BOESCH, A DEPLOYED STAFF MEMBER OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION ON UM MEN, LEAD AN AUGUST SESSION OF LEAD LIKE JESUS FOR 33 PEOPLE FROM 11 KANSAS AND NEBRASKA CHURCHES AT FIRST UMC IN MCPHERSON, KANSAS.

UM Churches Package Over 100 Million Meals

By the Rev. Kevin Magee

In the Fall of 2018, Dunwoody UMC put us over the top, so to speak, when they packaged The United Methodist Church's 100 millionth meal with Rise Against Hunger, a partner agency of the General Commission on UM Men.

As of this fall, the UMC has packaged another 11 million meals bringing the total to over 111 million. That's nearly a quarter of the 495 million dehydrated meals that have been distributed by Rise against Hunger to people in 74 countries.

The Rev. Ray Buchanan, a UM pastor, started what was then called Stop Hunger Now after working on food insecurity in the U.S. with the Society of St. Andrew. He knew the food-packaging model would appeal to his denomination.

"Methodists are very socially oriented," he explained. "Tie that to a social consciousness (which is part of our DNA) to the desire of all people to make a difference. We are committed to the

vision of world without hunger because #1, it is right, and #2, it is possible."



Participants of all ages at a meal packaging event combine fortified rice, protein-enriched soy, dehydrated vegetables and a highly nutritious vitamin packet into meal pouches for distribution. Each package provides enough food for six people.

Since 2005, 791,884 volunteers have packaged 111,335,881 meals at 5,132 United Methodist meal packaging events.

A rural health post grows into a regional referral hospital.

The Ganta United Methodist Hospital is administered by the UMC of Liberia. The hospital was established in 1926 by Dr. George Way Harley, a Methodist Missionary from North Carolina. What began as a rural health post has today grown to a regional referral hospital. Rise Against Hunger has partnered with the NC Annual Conference of the UMC since 2012 in support of Ganta UMC Hospital. The hospital has received seven container shipments over the six-year partnership distributing \$2,935,922.70 of medical aid.



The Rev. Kevin Magee serves as the manager of Faith-Based Global Partnerships to connect faith communities with the mission to end hunger by 2030.

MEMBERS OF DUNWOODY
UMC PACK MEALS FOR RISE
AGAINST HUNGER. THE ATLANTA
CONGREGATION HAS ASSEMBLED
MORE THAN 2.7 MILLION MEALS
SINCE 2012.

PHOTO BY BRYAN JORDIN.



Rise Against Hunger: Behind the Mission

Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization that distributes food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable, mobilizing the necessary resources to end hunger by 2030. Rise Against Hunger is aligned with the [United Nations Sustainable Goal #2](#) of Zero Hunger. From the implementation of sustainable community development projects to the organization's meal packaging program that harnesses the passion of local volunteers, Rise Against Hunger strives to make an impact on hunger by building resilience, self-sufficiency and community empowerment.

While communities work toward a future in which they can thrive, vulnerable families and individuals around the globe still have basic, immediate needs.

That's why Rise Against Hunger supports safety net programs that provide nourishment, as well as additional skills training or services that support the difficult journey out of poverty.

Rise Against Hunger meals are provided in schools to encourage increased enrollment and attendance. For adults in community empowerment programs, the provision of meals offsets productive time lost while attending training sessions. Meals distributed in hospitals and clinics may support patients' nutritional needs and complement their treatments.

For information on organizing a packaging event visit [here](#).

100 years of Methodist Scouting

By Mike Surbaugh

It is truly my honor as chief executive of the [Boy Scouts of America](#) to recognize and celebrate the historic partnership with the UMC, and specifically UM Men.

On February 12, 2020, we will recognize a 100-year journey that we have taken together to impact the lives of youth throughout our nation.

Church provides more than meeting space

As a new district executive in Jacksonville, Fla., I was struggling to learn how the chartered organization relationship worked on a structural level.

Having been a Scout in Troop 360, chartered by the Bethel Park (Pa.) UMC, I knew that this relationship was much different than simply having a place for the troop to meet.

While the church was generous in providing space for our equipment storage, parking for our troop trailer, and a meeting hall for our weekly outings, I sensed that there was much more to this bond.

As I grew in the program and began participating

and leading service projects, our first thought was always towards our chartering partner. Our Scoutmaster emphasized how special the relationship was and how the generosity of their support made our troop operations possible.

Often, as we were painting the basement, landscaping and various other projects, we slowly grew to realize that we did not have just a meeting place, we had a chartering partner that took ownership of our Scouting unit. That bond was strengthened as we participated in Scout Sunday and the pastor gave us responsibilities throughout the worship service.

All those thoughts came flooding back to me as I prepared to make my very first “sales call” to try to start a brand-new scouting unit.

Knocking on door of a UMC

It was natural that I was most comfortable knocking on the door of the UMC in a small town in rural north Florida. I was warmly welcomed by the pastor and as I began my sales pitch, he laughed and said, “You can save the pitch. I’m an Eagle Scout. I get it.” He said that he had wanted to start Scouting but had been challenged because of a lack of available leadership.

Over the next few months, we developed a steering committee, formed a troop committee, and selected an outstanding scoutmaster who was not then a member of the church. Interestingly, that Scoutmaster later joined the church with his family and became a key lay leader.



Mike Surbaugh is the Chief Scout Executive for Boy Scouts of America.

The troop started out with just six boys, and quickly grew to 15 over the next few months. We then started a Cub Scout pack. I didn't know at the time that this is usually the reverse of how you organize units—typically, Cub Scout packs are first—but, in the end, it all worked out and we had a vibrant Scouting community in a town that had long been without the program.

Over the years, I have thought many times how different my career might have been if I had not been mentored and nurtured by key members of the Methodist Church through both my boyhood experience and learning the ropes as a new Scouting professional.

Rich heritage

Nearly 100 years ago James V. Thompson, superintendent of the Methodist Young People's Department, said, "We shall do all we can to promote the use of the Boy Scout program throughout the Methodist Church."

Over this time, our relationship has remained strong throughout many changes in both the Boy Scouts of America and the UMC.

Scouting and the UMC have placed priority on reaching out to our communities. This dynamic partnership has been seen not just as a statement of faith but has provided an opportunity for many who are unchurched to experience a faith component in their families.

Scouting has provided an outreach ministry opportunity to the church and, in return, Scouting has grown across America due to the commitment and enthusiasm of UM Men.

Speaking not as the chief executive for the Boy Scouts of America, but as one timid little 11-year-old walking through the doors of the Bethel Park Methodist Church, thank you.



Strength for Service names two police chaplains to board of directors

The Strength for Service Board of Directors elected the Rev. Angela Pleasants and the Rev. Richard Hartman to three-year terms on the governing board.

The board is responsible for raising the funds for books of daily devotions for members of the U.S. Armed Services and first responders, such as police officers, fire fighters and EMS workers.

The first book, *Strength for Service to God and Country*, was first published in 1942 shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The book was sent to more than one million troops in World War II and the Korean Conflict. It went out of print in the 1950s until it was republished as a 2002 Eagle Scout project by Evan Hunsberger, a Roman Catholic in California. An expanded edition of the historic book has been sent to some 500,000 military troops and veterans.

On a few occasions the military book was given to first responders. While they were appreciative, they asked if a similar book could be published for them. In 2013, the ministry published *Strength for Service to God and Community*, a book of daily devotions for those community servants.

Angela Pleasants

Angela serves as superintendent of the 165 churches of the Catawba Valley District in the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and a chaplain to the Charlotte Field Office of the U.S. Secret Service.



REV. ANGELA PLEASANTS

A graduate of the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and Duke Divinity School, she has served various churches throughout the Western North Carolina Conference. She serves the conference as the assistant secretary and a member of the Conference Worship Committee, the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the Board of Directors of the Conference Foundation. She has served as a delegate to General Conference.

A member of the International Conference of Police Chaplains, Angela has received special training in managing stress and trauma and the psychological impact of terrorism.

Richard Hartman

Richard is pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind., and a chaplain at the Fort Wayne Police Department.

A graduate of Butler University in Indianapolis and Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, Richard served Trinity Lutheran Church in Linton, Ind., and St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Monroeville, Ind., prior to his 2000 appointment as pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne.

He has served as chaplain of the Fort Wayne Police Department since 2010. He was named lead chaplain in 2015 and an instructor and assistant director of Region IV of the International Conference of Police Chaplains.



REV. RICHARD HARTMAN

How to Get into Heaven...

A man dies and meets St. Peter at the Pearly Gates.

Peter says to the man, "Here's how it works. You need to have one hundred points to get into heaven. You tell me about all the good things you've done. They are all worth a certain number of points. If your total is one hundred or more, you can come in."

"Well," says the man. "I was happily married to the same woman for 52 years. I never looked at another woman. I was attentive and loved her dearly."

"That's great," says St. Peter. "That'll be two points."

"Hmmm," says the man. "This is going to be harder than I thought. Well, I attended church regularly, volunteered my time and tithed faithfully."

"Wonderful," says St. Peter, "That's worth another point."

"One point!" says the man. "Okay, okay. I was involved with a prison ministry for twenty-five years. I went into the prison, at least monthly, and shared Jesus with them."

"Wow!" says St. Peter. "That's another two points!"

"Only two points!" says the man. "At this rate, it'll be only by the grace of God that'll I'll ever get into this place."

"Bingo!" says St. Peter. "That's one hundred points! Come on in."



Three bishops assigned to board of directors

The Council of Bishops has announced the assignment of bishops to the boards and agencies of The United Methodist Church for 2020-2024 quadrennium.

The assignments will become official following the 2020 General Conference.

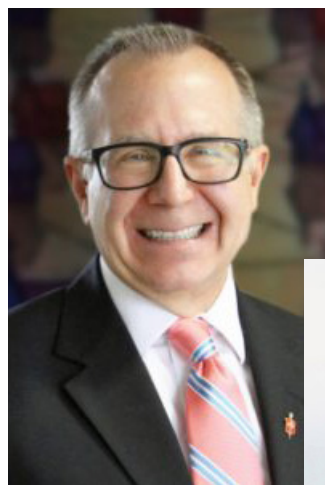
Arkansas Area Bishop Gary Mueller and Southern Congo Area Bishop Kasap Owan will serve a second 4-year term on the board of directors of the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

Louisville Area Leonard Fairley was selected by the Council of Bishops to be the third episcopal leader to serve on the board.

Bishop Fairley was elected to the episcopacy in 2016. He had served the North Carolina Conference since 1984 and appointment before election was as district superintendent of the Capital District is the largest district in the North Carolina Annual Conference. He is a graduate of Pfeiffer College and Duke University's School of Divinity.

Mississippi Area Bishop James Swanson served as president of the board for the maximum two 4-year terms.

The board will elect officers at an organizational meeting following jurisdictional conferences in July.



BISHOP GARY MUELLER



BISHOP LEONARD FAIRLEY



BISHOP OWAN KASAP

65 years as Girl Scout Leader

DUNWOODY, GEORGIA

The Council Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta honored Susan Cunnold for 65 years of service to Scouting at Dunwoody UMC



Chris Karabinos, North Georgia Scout Coordinator, congratulates Susan Cunnold for an honor presented by the Council of Girls Scouts of Greater Atlanta.

Susan was recognized at the Volunteer Leader Conference as one of the major reasons why Dunwoody UMC has the largest Scout program in the North Georgia Conference. The church has 13 Girl Scout troops and two Boy Scout troops.

Scout receives Good Samaritan Award

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

The Westhampton UMC presented Scott Butterfield with a Good Samaritan Award following his service as an acolyte, a Vacation Bible School leader and a coach for a little league baseball team.

The Rev. Christy Haga Turner says Scott delivers food and water to guests at the Bon Secours Reinhart House and plays his viola during worship services. He also cleaned graffiti off signs at a middle school, picked up trash along a river bank, and assisted with landscaping at a local library.

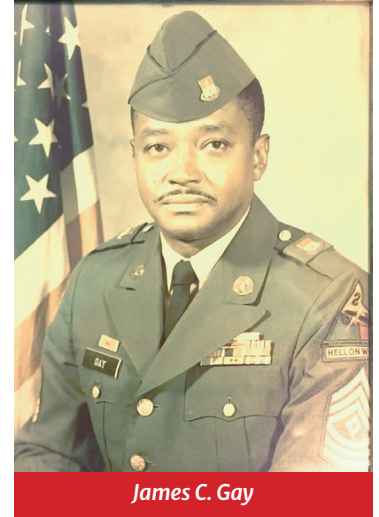


Scott washes a car during a youth car wash.

Men honor a veteran of three wars

NATCHITOCHES, LA

Men of Asbury UMC presented James Gay, 92, with a Life Achievement Award following his service in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.



James C. Gay

His remarkable 26-year career in the U.S. Army goes back to his enlistment at age 17 when he was assigned as an aircraft mechanic for the historic Tuskegee (Ala.) Airmen in World War II.

James was serving in Germany when President Truman signed a 1948 law that integrated the military. So, when the Korean War broke out, James served three tours of duty alongside whites as a member of a combat tank crew. He would do the same during the Vietnam War.

He also served three tours in Germany, and one each in France and Japan.

He was awarded the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal.

“I still thank the good Lord every day. We got through a bunch of stuff without getting torn up,” he says.

James retired from the Army in 1973 as a first sergeant. He then bought a van to transport preschool and special education students. He was hired by the school board in that capacity and continued to drive for many years before retiring.

A long-time member of Asbury UMC, he chaired the Board of Trustees, and he is a former grand master of a Masonic Lodge and chaplain of a VFW Post.

General Conference will consider creating a U.S. Central Conference

The Connectional Table is proposing a new structure for churches in the United States, called a regional conference.

At present, General Conference delegates from outside the U.S. vote on matters that only affect the U.S. while central conferences (annual conferences outside the United States) are able to revise the *Book of Discipline* in accordance to the needs of their nations.

The end result is churches outside the U.S. vote on issues that do not involve them, but U.S. churches do not vote on issues that only involve churches outside the U.S.

The proposed legislation stipulates that the U.S. Regional Conference would have geographic boundaries congruent with the territory of the U.S. annual conferences. Jurisdictions would continue to function with their current powers and duties, including the elections of bishops to serve within their jurisdictions.

“The current proposal will help the General Conference focus its work on matters truly global,” says Bishop Christian Alsted, chair of the Connectional Table board. The U.S. Regional Conference will deal with matters pertaining specifically to the U.S. context, including the development of strategies and priorities, pension and healthcare issues and, not least, adaptations to the *Book of Discipline*.”

The U.S. group could not alter the Social Principles.

Two steps

Creating the U.S. Regional Conference will be done in two stages:

The assembly will be asked to call for changes to the constitution that will create regional conferences. If approved by a two-thirds vote of the Minneapolis body, the proposal must then be confirmed by a two-thirds majority vote of the aggregate total of annual conference members from around the world.

The 2020 legislative body will also be asked immediately to form a committee of the General Conference to deal with U.S.-related resolutions and non-disciplinary petitions concerning U.S. matters.

Following approval of the constitutional amendments by annual conferences in 2021, the 2024 General Conference will be asked to create the U.S. Regional Conference, and the Stage I committee will end its work.

Gil Hanke worked with the U.S. Contextual Ministries Advisory Group. He suggests the U.S. Regional Conference might be composed of all jurisdictional conference delegates. Instead of meeting in five different cities within their jurisdictions, they could all meet together to vote on matters concerning U.S. churches and then break into jurisdictional groups to vote on bishops and other jurisdictional issues. The site of the meeting could continue the present General Conference pattern of moving to cities in the five jurisdictions on a rotating basis.

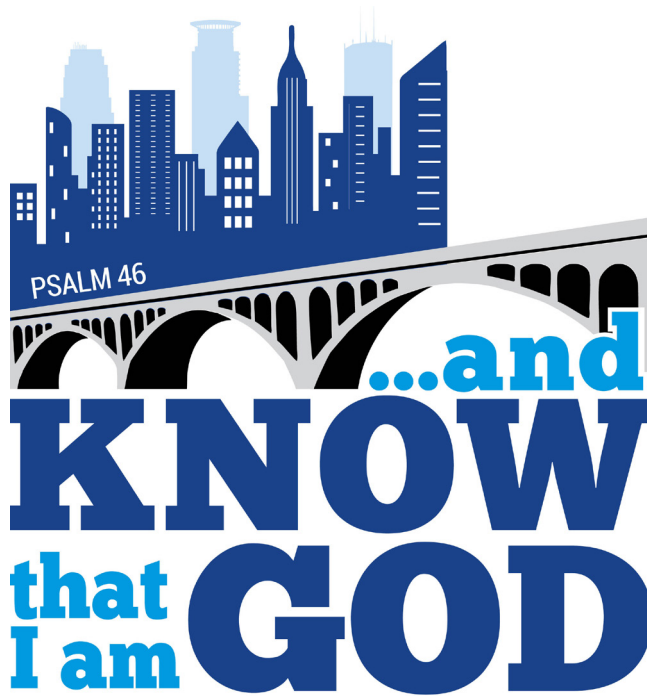
The result would be a much shorter General Conference, that only deals with global issues. Delegates from nations outside the U.S. would not vote on matters that affect only U.S. congregations.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020

Eight hundred and sixty two delegates (equal numbers of lay and clergy) and some 4,000 visitors will attend the May 5-15 session of the 2020 General Conference in Minneapolis, Minn.

Of the delegates, 55.9% will be from the U.S., 32% from Africa, 6% from the Philippines, 4.6% from Europe and the remainder from concordat churches that have close ties to The UMC.

The main task is revising the Book of Discipline and the Book of Resolutions. The assembly will also elect members of the Judicial Council and the University Senate.



The United Methodist Church General Conference 2020
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE OF THE 2016
GENERAL CONFERENCE IN PORTLAND, OREGON.

PHOTO BY PAUL JEFFREY, UM NEWS.



General Commission on UM Men will seek revisions to four resolutions

The General Commission on UM Men, meeting August 15-17, agreed to ask General Conference to revise four statements in the *2020 Book of Resolutions*.

Support for clergywomen

The 20-member board of directors will ask the 2020 gathering in Minneapolis to update a resolution supporting clergy women. The statement acknowledges that UM congregations “have not always welcomed the appointment of clergywomen and provided them with support following their appointment.” The proposed resolution urges UM Men organization to welcome women to the pulpit and to “share in the participation in the studies and activities of local chapters UM Men organizations.”

A resource to combat violence against women

The commission worked with the YWCA of Middle Tennessee to create *Amending through Faith*, an 8-week study designed to help men understand how their attitudes have created an environment that treats women as objects and tolerates abusive actions. Commission members will ask General Conference to include this resource in a listing of actions designed to “engage men and boys as allies in the promotion of gender equality.”

Welcoming LDS Scouts

Noting that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will have ended its relationship with Boy Scouts of America on December 31, 2019, the commission is asking the assembly to encourage UM congregations to welcome LDS Scouts into their packs and troops.

Expanding outreach

A resolution titled “Expanding our outreach to men and youth” will expire and no longer be included in the



2020 Book of Resolutions if General Conference takes no action on the issue. Therefore, the commission updated the resolution with new research that finds “only 31 percent of American men attend church at least once a week compared to 40 percent of American women [and] only 10 percent of few U.S. churches maintain vibrant men’s ministry programs.” The commission encourages churches to offer Scout packs and troops, charter UM Men organizations, utilize training tools provided by the commission, invite people to serve as men’s ministry specialists or scouting ministry specialists, and to participate in Class Meetings.

One proposed change in the *Book of Discipline*

The commission agreed to seek one change in the *Book of Discipline* that reflects the fact that the Upper Room Living Prayer Center has discontinued its practice of receiving prayer requests through a toll-free telephone line. Prayers are now posted on a website and UM Men are encouraged to support those prayer requests. The proposed change indicates that UM Men will ensure there are prayer advocates at the conference, district and local church levels.

WAIT FOR THE POLICE

A priest and a rabbi are in a car crash and it's a bad one. Both of their cars are demolished but amazingly neither one of them is hurt. After they crawl out of their cars, the rabbi says, "So you're a priest. That's interesting; I'm a rabbi. Wow just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but we're unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace."

The priest replies, "Oh, yes, I agree. It's a miracle that we survived and are here together."

"And here's another miracle," says the rabbi. "My car is destroyed but this bottle of wine didn't break. Surely God wants us to drink the wine and celebrate our good fortune," he says, handing the bottle to the priest.

The priest nods in agreement, opens the wine, drinks half of it, and hands it back to the rabbi.

The rabbi takes it and puts the cap back on.

"Aren't you going to have any?" asks the priest.

"Not right now," says the rabbi. "I think I'll wait until after the police make their report."



Conference will consider changes in map of Africa

By Heather Hahn

A UM leadership body will ask General Conference to approve a plan that changes the church's map in Africa and adds five new bishops to the denomination's fastest-growing region.

The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters proposes the creation of a new central conference to the continent and increasing the number of African bishops from 13 to 18.

Establishing a new central conference requires a two-thirds majority vote at General Conference. The delegates, by a simple majority, also determine the number of bishops the denomination will fund.

The African continent currently has three central conferences — Africa, Congo, and West Africa. Each includes multiple countries and languages.

Under the proposed legislation, the four central conferences would be as follows:

- Central Africa Central Conference — consisting of Central African, Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zambia.
- East Africa Central Conference — consisting of Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda.
- Southern Africa Central Conference — consisting of Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa and Zimbabwe.
- West Africa Central Conference — Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

The legislation also would authorize:

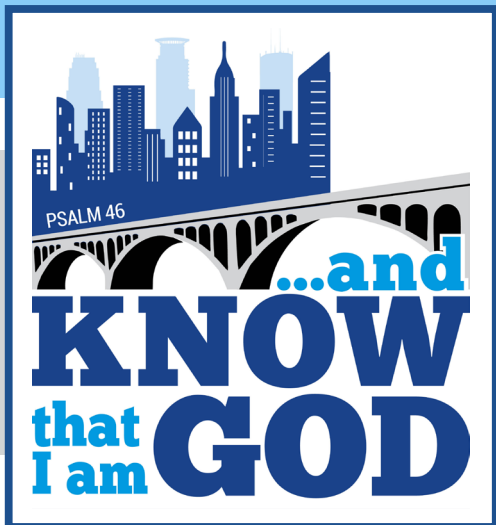
- The Central Africa Central Conference to elect two new bishops, bringing its total to six.
- The East Africa Central Conference to elect one new bishop, bringing its total to two.
- The Southern Africa Central Conference to elect one new bishop, bringing its total to five.
- The West Africa Central Conference to elect one new bishop, bringing its total to five.



Heather Hahn is the multimedia news reporter for UM News Service



- Africa Central Conference
- Congo Central Conference
- West Africa Central Conference



The United Methodist Church
General Conference 2020
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Confessing my addiction

By the Rev. Walter Albritton

I confess. I am addicted to certain adjectives. I use them repeatedly. I am not sure I should feel guilty about it, but I cannot stop. The words I overuse are “magnificent,” “remarkable,” and “marvelous.”

Damn good advice

Mark Twain’s remedy for deleting overused words will not work for me. Twain wanted to ban the word “very” from writing. His advice: “Substitute ‘damn’ every time you are inclined to write ‘very;’ your editor will delete it and the writing will be just as it should be.” I see his point. I overuse the word “very” too.

But if I followed Twain’s advice, I’d have a lot of “damns” in my writings.

Rich might not catch all of them.

There is, in fact, no evidence Twain ever made that statement. It seems the humorous advice was offered by William Allen White, a Kansas newspaper editor, in a speech to a group of “cub” reporters. In addition to the words usually attributed to Twain, White went on to say that “very” is the weakest word in the English language.

Whether White or Twain said it, the point is well taken.

I try very hard to follow this advice, and I am very sure that my writing is very much better now.

Magnificent

But for the life of me, I cannot stop using the word “magnificent.”

Let me share an example. Take a magnificent scene in the Bible, like the time the resurrected Jesus cooked breakfast for his disciples while they were out fishing. When they recognized Jesus, they were stunned to hear Jesus say, “Come and have breakfast.” Now think about it: that was a magnificent moment in time. Instead of reprimanding his disciples, Jesus cooked breakfast for them. There is no better word than “magnificent” to describe that!

Look at it. The disciples had scattered like cowards while Jesus was being crucified. So, what does God think of cowards, or people who have failed or lied, or turned a deaf ear to God? That breakfast is your answer. God forgives you. He loves you. He will not let you wallow alone in defeat and despair. He comes to you. He cooks breakfast for you. Is that not the magnificent attitude of God?

Remarkable

I am also addicted to the word “remarkable.”

Look at the leader of the disciples, Peter. A wreck of a man. He had lied about even knowing Jesus. He was shamed and disgraced. Jesus does not scold him. He loves him, forgives him, redeems him and Peter is suddenly a new man. This is a remarkable story of God at work, changing wasted lives into wonderful lives! Peter became like clay in the hands of the Master Potter and God released Peter’s remarkable potential!

Peter had to forgive himself in order to become God’s man. Forgiveness is never easy. It is difficult to forgive someone who has hurt you. It is even



The Rev. Walter Albritton is pastor emeritus of St. James UMC in Montgomery, Ala.



**HOW
MAGNIFICENT!**

more difficult to forgive yourself for your own sins, for the way you have hurt others. But when you become willing to forgive others, and forgive yourself, you begin to experience the remarkable power of God to change your heart, your future, your destiny. You discover that God can set you free from resentment, self-pity, despair, hatred and doubt. Suddenly you feel like shouting about how remarkable God really is!

Marvelous

Sometimes there aren't enough adjectives, so I add "marvelous" to the list of words I am tempted to overuse.

Maybe God had seemed distant, uncaring. Now you see with new eyes that he is willing to give you a new attitude, a new future. He will not force his way into your life, but when you open the door and invite him in, he comes in. Slowly he changes the focus of your life. You learn to glance at the world and its problems but gaze at the God who gives you peace during life's storms. That's marvelous.

After forgiving himself, and letting Jesus restore his life, Peter begins to find joy in obeying God. He has a reason to live; he has a mission. And God gives him the marvelous power to stay the course even while he was being persecuted.

I hope by now you understand my addiction. When I realize that God is like Jesus, who cooked breakfast for sinners like me, I want to tell the world about God's magnificent power to change wounded, ordinary people into remarkable disciples who can live beautiful lives for the glory of God.



**HOW
REMARKABLE!**



**HOW
MARVELOUS!**

We're all getting older -- How to preserve your muscle mass

By Dr. Bryant Stamford

Aging baby boomers call attention to age-related problems including the loss of muscle mass.

On average, we start losing muscle mass at age 30, but the process speeds up after age 50 and goes into overdrive at age 70.

To offset at least some of this loss, I have been preaching about the benefits of resistance training, and how it becomes increasingly more important the older you get. But even in those who train vigorously well into their advanced years, there will still be muscle loss. This has inspired considerable research into the variety of factors that may contribute to muscle loss with age, and a big one is anabolic resistance.

MUSCLE PROTEIN SYNTHESIS

Anabolic resistance is the reduced ability to take dietary protein and synthesize it into muscle protein. Crafting new tissue with protein is vitally important throughout the body because old cells constantly wear out and need to be replaced. An example is red blood cells. They live about 120 days, then die and are automatically replaced. The problem with muscle is when lost, it is not automatically replaced unless there is an incentive to replace the loss.

If you are inactive, your body sees muscle as an unnecessary luxury, and it will get rid of it. Being confined to a hospital bed is the extreme of inactivity, and it's easy to lose several pounds of muscle in a relatively short period of time. In contrast, if you regularly challenge your muscles with resistance training, you convey the message to your body that your muscles are important and highly valued, and you want to keep them around.

But resistance training alone may not be enough. It's critically important and it sets the stage, but additional steps may be needed to promote increased muscle protein synthesis.

THREE STRATEGIES


A major problem with aging is the loss of appetite and consuming fewer calories. This results in a number of problems associated with malnutrition, and a huge one is a lack of adequate protein intake. It used to be thought that the very young need large amounts of protein because the body is in a dynamic state of growth and development. But with maturity, it was thought that protein intake should decrease, and when you are in your baby boomer years and beyond your protein needs are much less.

New research says this is wrong.

Recent research findings out of a Purdue University study suggest the elderly need more protein, not less, and as much as 30 percent more than the recommended daily allowance (RDA) of 0.36 grams of protein per pound. So, for a 150-pound person, the RDA would be 54 grams of protein per day ($150 \times .36 = 54$). Adding 30 percent to that would boost it to 70 grams.



Bryant Stamford is a professor of kinesiology and integrative physiology at Hanover College in Indiana. This article is courtesy of the Louisville Courier Journal.

A person wearing a white t-shirt and grey shorts is stretching their leg on a paved surface. They are leaning forward with their hands resting on their knee. The background is a bright, outdoor setting with a paved ground.

My elderly mother was eating very little, and what she ate provided inadequate nutritional value. As a result, she was easily fatigued and barely able to climb just one flight of stairs. After we added the daily high protein blends, the transition in her was amazing.

So, strategy number one is: add more protein to your diet.

The second strategy is spacing your protein intake evenly across the day at all three meals and possibly a snack later in the day. You will be more efficient at digesting and using protein if you take it in smaller and more consistent amounts.

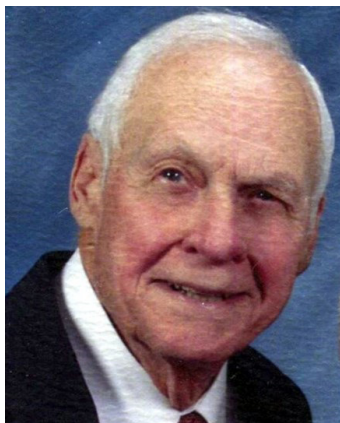
The third strategy entails exercise. New research suggests that exercise alerts the cells and makes them more sensitive and welcoming to dietary protein. To maximize this effect, perform some modest exercise before eating protein at meals. I'm not talking about a full-blown workout. Just five minutes or so doing a variety of resistance exercises with dumbbells is sufficient. Other forms of exercise like climbing stairs and brisk walking also may be helpful.

In order to maximize benefits and sustain more of your muscle mass as well as increase your strength, I encourage you to engage in real workout sessions twice a week in which you work your muscles to failure. Afterwards, be sure to consume a generous dose of dietary protein.

In Memoriam

Thomas Edward (Ed) Cole

Nacogdoches, Texas



Ed Cole, 97, the person who, with his wife Gwen, paid off the mortgage on the Nashville office of the General Commission on UM Men, died

December 5, one week after he suffered a stroke.

The Ed and Gwen Cole Center

In 2007, the office building on Music Row was named in their honor.

“Ed and Gwen Cole’s names grace the front of our building,” said Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men. “Their wonderful donation allows us to use all our resources for ministry to men and scouting.”

In 2007, Ed and Gwen were active members of First UMC in Nacogdoches while Gil and Sher Hanke were members of Perritte Memorial UMC in the same city.

“Ed and I served together on many UM district committees and rode together to meetings,” said Gil. “We often saw each other at events at Steven F. Austin (SFA) State University, particularly women’s basketball.”

Robert Powell, president of the UM Men Foundation in 2007, and Larry Coppock, a staff member of the commission at that time, presented the proposal to pay off the \$500,000 mortgage of the building.

“I asked them for time to think it over,” said Ed.

“Ed and Gwen were joyful givers,” said Hanke. “Ed told me that when they were discussing our request to pay off this building Gwen commented, ‘This just makes too much good sense.’”

“Their gift to the commission continues to be a wonderful blessing,” said Hanke.

The beginning

Ed was born July 22, 1922, in Homer, La., and the family later moved to White Oak, Texas.

After high school, Ed attended a welding school. However, before he could complete the course, he was offered a job at a shipyard in Beaumont, Texas. He worked there from November 1941, to January 1943, when he entered the U.S. Air Force and spent the rest of World War II in England.

Following his 1946 discharge from military service, Ed went to work as a salesman for an oil field supply company in Longview, Texas. “Something is always wearing out on oil drills,” said Ed.

In 1953, Ed hung up his salesman hat and put on a tool belt to help his father build homes. In 1957, he returned to work with an oil field equipment rental company. A year later, he jumped at an opportunity to purchase a 20,000-pound device to prevent oil well blowouts.

“I had to sell everything I owned to purchase the equipment,” he said. But after February 1958, Ed became his own boss renting a device that could prevent oil fires. As time passed, he added more equipment and subsequently formed Cole Rental Tools.

Ed meets Gwen

In 1965, Ed was introduced to Gwen Peck by his aunt who taught Sunday school with Gwen at Noel Methodist Church in Shreveport. They were married a year later on Valentine's Day when they were both 43 years of age.

Gwen was a graduate of Meadows-Draughon Business College in Shreveport, La. She worked for 26 years for the Home Federal Savings and Loan Association in Shreveport. "I did everything, including dusting the boss' desk," said Gwen. She was named a vice president after working there for 20 years.

The couple later joined with Lloyd (Red) McLin to form C&M Rental Tools in Beaumont, Texas.

They retired to Nacogdoches in 1978 where the couple became active in activities of SFA State University and First UMC.

Gwen died in 2014.



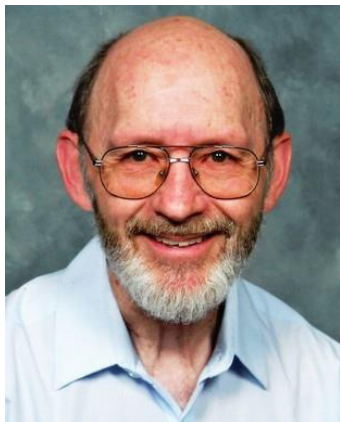
Support for SFA State University

The Coles never had children, but they sent thousands of young people to college. There are endowed scholarships at SFA State University in their names for music, theater, basketball, audiology, and STEM. "We always think of SFA students as our children," said Ed.

They also provided funds for Ed and Gwen Cole Student Success Center, Cole Arts Center, Ed and Gwen Cole Concert Hall, Ed and Gwen Cole Simulation Lab at Dewitt Nursing Center and Audio and Simulation Lab.

"I never had the chance for a college education," said Ed. "I wanted to make sure others could have the opportunity I didn't have."

In Memoriam



Howard (Rod) Erskine

Westlake, Ohio

Rod Erskine, 86, a former president of East Ohio Annual Conference UM Men, the treasurer of the National Association of Conference Presidents, and a former member

of the General Commission on UM Men (2001-2009), died September 4.

Following his service as NACP treasurer, Rod was elected treasurer of the commission in 2005 and was one of the first Legacy Builders.

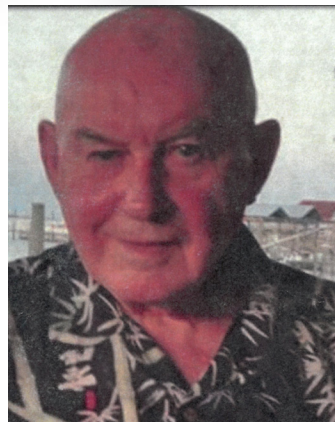
Upon his death, an attorney notified the UM Men Foundation that Rod had left a financial gift to continue his legacy of supporting the ministry to men and scouting.

Rod was an executive with Eveready Battery Company, and he frequently supplied hearing-aid batteries to Gil Hanke for Haitian children.

Rod and his late wife, Mary, were members of Rocky River (Ohio) UMC where Rod was a leader of UM Men and a member of the handbell choir.

His funeral was held September 7 at the Westlake UMC.

He is survived by daughters Nancy Trexler (Phil) and Tricia Erskine, and by grandchildren Felicia Brewster, Jason Clark and Michael Trexler.



James Paxton Roy Jr.

Nashville, Tennessee

Jim Roy, 85, former director of the Upper Room Prayer Center, died September 21.

During an Oct. 4 memorial service in the Upper Room Chapel, those who knew him

best, said, "He knew Jesus," a statement Jim wished could someday be said of him.

He was born in Morgantown, W.Va., and he was manager of support services at the University of West Virginia prior to his appointment as a computer-science instructor at the Nashville Technical Institute. While serving on that campus for 12 years, he volunteered his services to the Upper Room Prayer Center.

In 1993, he married Josephine Medlin and moved from teaching and volunteering to become an assistant to Betty Cloyd, director of the prayer ministry.

In 1998, Betty retired, and Jim was named director of the Prayer Center, a post he held until his 2002 retirement.

Having been a pilgrim on the Upper Room Emmaus #1, Jim remained an active member of the Nashville Emmaus Community until 2005 when he and Josephine moved to Foley, Ala. For 14 years, they were active members of St. Andrew by the Sea, a community church in Gulf Shores, Ala., and the Servant Heart Emmaus Community in Citronelle.

They returned to Tennessee in April 2019.

Jim is survived by Josephine, sister Janet Parker (Dewey, Ariz.), and children James P. Roy III (Asheville, N.C.), Judith Roy (Morgantown, W.Va.), Jonathan Roy (Richmond, Va.), and Joseph Roy.



Ed Shytle

Ashland, Kentucky

Clyde Edward (Ed) Shytle Jr., 74, former president of the UM Men Foundation (2013-2016) died November 7 following a battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS – the Lou Gehrig’s Disease).

While serving as president he established the Ed and Louise Shytle Endowment Fund within the foundation.

Prior to his election as president of the UM Men Foundation, Ed served as president of UM Men of the Kentucky Annual Conference (2013-2016). In 2019, John Burlew presented Ed with the Dale Waymire Leadership Award.

Ed also served on the General Commission on UM Men (2013-2016).

“Ed was a steady, inquisitive, forward thinking, dependable, deeply committed Christian Leader,” said Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the commission. “It was an honor to work with him on the leadership teams of the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men and the commission.”

Ed was born in Spindale, NC on June 2, 1945 to the late Clyde Edward and Cleo Daniel Shytle. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his brother Olyn Daniel Shytle and his sister Mary Ellen Yearwood. Ed is survived by his wife of 52 years, Louise, his sons and their spouses; Steven Edward and Joy Gehringer Shytle; Jonathan Leigh and Kelli Parker Shytle of Ashland, KY; four grandchildren, Daniel Edward, Sara Davis, Jacob Richard, and Molly Catherine Shytle.

Ed was a 1967 graduate of Berea College followed by an MBA from Morehead State University. After college he served three years in the Army, 30 years in retail, and three years as director of the UM Mountain Mission.

He was a member of First UMC of Ashland where he served as chairman of the Finance Committee. He also served as a member of the Kentucky Annual Conference and a delegate to Jurisdictional and General Conferences. (Morgantown), and five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Family, friends, co-workers at the Upper Room, and those who volunteered as prayer warriors knew Jim as a man who knew Jesus.

The power of your mission

By Tom Tozer and Bill Black

We all have a mission through service. In Mark 10:45, Jesus says, “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.” We want to focus in this column on service to our children.

A recent report, *The Power of Relationships: How and Why American Adults Step Up to Mentor the Nation’s Youth*, reveals what adults think about mentoring kids who are not in their family. The report was released by The National Mentoring Partnership (MENTOR), the nation’s leading advocacy, training, and public awareness organization for youth mentoring.

Mentoring brings us together. While we can often focus on what separates us from one another, the mentoring relationship can teach us how alike we are and what it means to make a difference in someone’s life, regardless of status, culture, or upbringing. According to the report, 25 percent of adults in the U.S. are now engaged in mentoring relationships. More than 60 percent of mentors in structured programs are men.

Remembering a mentor

Many of us can think about a time when an adult who was not our parent helped us with an important problem, offered advice or taught us a skill. Bill remembers when a high school counselor recognized his potential for college work and encouraged him to apply when he thought he never would. It made a significant difference in his life.

Tom remembers fondly his speech teacher in high school, Mr. Harrison Rose, who encouraged him to enter a state competition. Not only did Tom reach the state semi-finals that year, but years later, he taught

high school English, speech and drama, thanks to Mr. Rose’s lasting influence.

The need for service

This service to others occurs in two common ways: through a structured program or organization whose mission is to connect adults and youth in meaningful relationships; and through informal arrangements in schools, after school programs, neighborhood associations, or places of worship.

The mentoring need is real. In MENTOR’s 2014 report, *The Mentoring Effect*, one in three youth had no non-parental adult role model to guide them or support them. The lack of a mentor was even higher for kids who grew up with the greatest levels of risk in their environment, even though their desire for a mentor was highest.



*Tom Tozer and Bill Black are authors of **Dads2Dads: Tools for Raising Teenagers**. Like them on Facebook and follow them on Twitter at **Dads2Dadsllc**. Contact them at **tomandbill@Dads2Dadsllc.com**.*



The facts

In the last year, 24 million adults in the US were mentoring in structured programs, and 44 million adults were mentoring informally. Eighteen to 29-year-olds are more than twice as likely to have had a mentor in their life than those over 50, showing a rise in mentoring relationships. Almost half of today's young adults report having a mentor.

As the report points out, when a lack of unity is being felt and we are questioning our commitment to one another as citizens, mentoring provides an opportunity to reconnect and make a difference. Each of us can extend a hand and serve our youth by using the power of relationships to heal, solve problems, and form a more perfect union.





RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

Strength for Service provides support following gun battle

The Strength for Service ministry rushed 104 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* following the fatal shooting of a California Highway Patrol officer.



Officer Andre Moya Jr.

Officer Andre Moya Jr., 34, was killed after a man driving a truck that was to be impounded opened fire during a traffic stop. Two other officers were wounded in the gun battle. Both have recovered. The gunman was killed in “a long and horrific gun battle,” said Riverside Police Chief Sergio Diaz.

Chaplain Douglas Duke distributed the books to the two wounded officers and bereaved members of the highway department.

Books were provided by the Steward Family Foundation. Shipping costs were paid by friends of the ministry.

PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA

Igniting Men Conference addresses areas of trouble

Edgewater UMC hosted a one-day September conference that provided opportunities for men to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and each other. Workshops and lectures addressed areas of their lives that needed improvement, including marriage, family, addictions, friendship, and career.



John Delaney (center) moderates a panel focusing on problems encountered by boys. Keith Collins, Dave Enslow, Larry Leak, and Sam Mehaffie provide evidence that “the boys are not all right.”

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Men build homes for homeless

Members of three UM congregations help provide “Tiny Houses” for veterans living on the streets of Savannah.

Men of Wesley Monumental UMC, Trinity UMC, and Isle of Hope UMC helped build several 145-square-foot houses. Each \$14,000 house has a bathroom, a kitchenette, and a sleeping area that doubles as a living area.

Members of the three churches raised \$80,000 to build the houses. Residents of the Tiny Houses pay \$240 a month rent.



UM Men help build Tiny Houses for the homeless.

AURORA, ILLINOIS

Santa arrives early

Santa Claus (aka Paul Eggert) paid a visit to the Banana Split Ice Cream Parlor for a Christmas in July fundraiser for the Salvation Army. He was joined by the Salvation Army brass band.

People brought new unwrapped toys for underserved children and received “Banana Buck” coupons for \$1 off ice cream treats.



Paul Egger, a member of Flowing Forth UMC, serves as Santa Claus for a Salvation Army fundraiser in Aurora. Photo by Al Benson.

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

Men present check for \$20,400

UM Men of the Rockford District raised \$20,400 for hunger agencies during 2018. They presented a check at the home plate of the Rockford Rivets baseball team in Loves Park, Ill.

Each year, UM Men hold the Harmony for Hunger Concert to raise money for hunger relief. The concert includes performance by the Alleluia Quartet from Rockford District UM Men and the Triumphant Quartet from Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

Thirty-five community organizations provided \$10,000 in sponsorships. Ticket sales totaled \$10,143; and an offering added \$6,657. Expenses totaled \$6,400.

The UM Men concerts have raised \$150,000 for hunger relief efforts during the last 11 years.



Receiving checks, from left: Gloria Gregory, Helping Hands Pantry; Sue Mangus, Pecatonica Food Pantry; Brian Lee, Rock River Valley Food Pantry; Steve Nailor, president of the National Association of Conference Presidents, representing the Society of St. Andrews; Jamie Christensen, Rockton-Roscoe Food Pantry; Kim Bakke, Rock River Valley Pantry; Eric Miller, president of Empower Boone County Food Pantry; Dave Hilton, president of Rockford District UM Men; and John Vanderheyden, a member of the Alleluia Quartet and district secretary/treasurer of UM Men.

MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

UM Men sponsors golf outing

For 24 years UM Men have sponsored golf outings at the Wildwood Golf Club. Ninety men participated in the 2019 tournament.



Golfers are well fed following 18 holes of golf.

FORT BUCHANAN, PUERTO RICO

Strength for Service sends 528 books to Army Garrison

At the request of Major Mark East, command chaplain of the U.S. Army Garrison in Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, the Strength for Service ministry sent 528 military books to soldiers still helping the island recover from two 2017 category five hurricanes.

“In an unprecedented fashion 2,500 reserve soldiers and 3,000 guard soldiers helped Puerto Rico recover while being victims of the disaster themselves,” said Chaplain East. “I was present for both storms and the recovery mission.”

In requesting the books, Chaplain East wrote, “Your book, *Strength for Service to God and Country*, was one of the resources that I thought of as a tool to assist our soldiers and families to be spiritually ready for whatever comes.”

Chaplain East distributed the historic books of daily devotions during previous deployments.

“Thanks for all you do, your devotional is outstanding,” he concluded.



Sgt. Katherine Dozier, 25, originally from Cidra, Puerto Rico, is now able to help her home community recover from two devastating hurricanes.

Photo Credit: SPC Beliz Rodriguez

ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

‘Faith of our Fathers’

Men of Mount Nebo UMC celebrated UM Men’s Day with the theme “Faith of our Fathers.” Breakfast was served after worship service. The pastor of the church is the Rev. Thurmond Williams. The speaker for the occasion was Curtis Murph Jr., a lay servant minister at Bethlehem UMC.



Mount Nebo men celebrate UM Men’s Day. Photo by Samantha Williams.

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA

Men paint Wesley Foundation building

Fourteen men from four churches in the Rock Hill District gathered at Winthrop Wesley Foundation in Rock Hill to paint the interior rooms of the facility.

Funds to cover costs were raised via donations and a smoked chicken barbecue.



Neel Hollis, president of Rock Hill District UM Men, leads the painting project. He is joined by the Rev. Joe Long, superintendent of the Rock Hill District, and Marvin Horton, president of S.C. Conference UM Men. Photo by Bob James, president of Woodland UM Men

BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE

Rotary Club provides devotional books

A Rotary Club provided members of the Brentwood Police Department and Fire Department with 170 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community*.



EL PASO, TEXAS

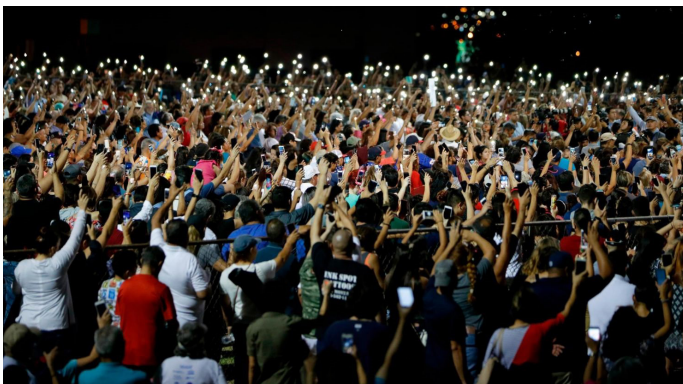
Devotional books rushed to first responders

Strength for Service rushed several cartons of books to the Rev. Carlos Flores, chaplain of the El Paso Sheriff's Dept.

"Flores was among 10 chaplains who ministered to men and women who bravely reacted to the Walmart shooting," said Larry Coppock, top staff executive of the Nashville-based ministry.

A lone gunman killed 22 people and injured 24 others.

Books were provided by the St. Louis-based Steward Foundation, and shipping costs were paid by members of Palestine UMC in Springfield, Tenn., a congregation served by Coppock's wife, Diane.



People raise their arms during a vigil for El Paso victims.
Photo by John Locher/AP

HENDERSON, TEXAS

Men give devotional books

The Men's Ministry of First UMC presented the Rusk County Sheriff's Office with 90 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community*.



First row from left: Shaunda Woods, Teresa McCutcheon, Sheriff Jeff Price, Henderson Police officer Vicki Moore, Cassandra Shaw, Russel Smith, and Robert Wright. Back row from left: Janice Childress, Lt. Brian Pool, Pastor David Luckert, Chief Deputy Charles Helton, Josh Wardle, and Gary Pointer.

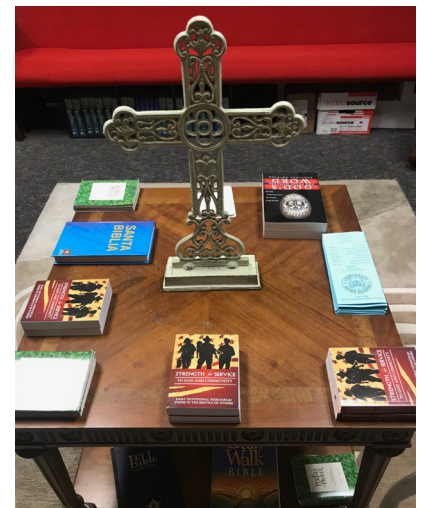
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Books kept in Prayer Room

The Rev. Vincent Johnson, chaplain of the Houston Police Department, says he keeps copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* in the Prayer and Meditation Room.

"These messages have been so inspirational, I included them in care packages we sent to 10 officers deployed to the U.S. Armed Forces," said Johnson.

"Many police officers tell me, 'Chaplain, you weren't in your office, but I grabbed a daily devotion book and it helped me keep the faith and carry-on.'"



VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA

Ministry sends 104 devotional books following shooting

Strength for Service, a ministry formed by the General Commission on UM Men, sent 104 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* to the Virginia Beach Police Department following the fatal shooting of 12 people and the wounding of four.

Chaplain Deb L. O'Neil Lewis distributed the books to the law enforcement personnel who had engaged in a prolonged gun fight that finally resulted in the death of the perpetrator.

Virginia Beach Mayor Bobby Dyer said, "This is the most devastating day in the history of Virginia Beach."



Police work the scene where 12 people were killed during a mass shooting at the Virginia Beach public works building.

CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA

UM Men provide back-to-school bash

UM Men of Duff Street UMC added outdoor fun and games to a monthly free community dinner in August. The men cooked hot dogs and provided music and games for children and young people as part of their "Back to School Bash."

This is the fifth year UM Men have sponsored the event.



Brennan Gumm, 12, plays checkers with his 9-year-old brother, Ryan.



A United Methodist at the race track

Did you hear about the about the United Methodist who was in the habit of sneaking to the race track to bet on the horses?

One day he was losing badly when he saw a priest step onto the track, walk up to line-up and bless one of the horses on the forehead. The horse was a long shot, but the United Methodist thought, "With the priest's blessing, surely this horse will win."

He placed a small bet and, sure enough, the horse came in first.

At the next race, the priest stepped onto the track and blessed another horse's forehead. Even though this horse was also a long shot, the United Methodist was a little bolder this time and placed a larger bet on that horse. Again, it won.

A third time, the priest stepped onto the track and blessed a horse on the forehead. Like the others, this horse was also a long shot. The United Methodist placed an even larger bet this time and, sure enough the horse won.

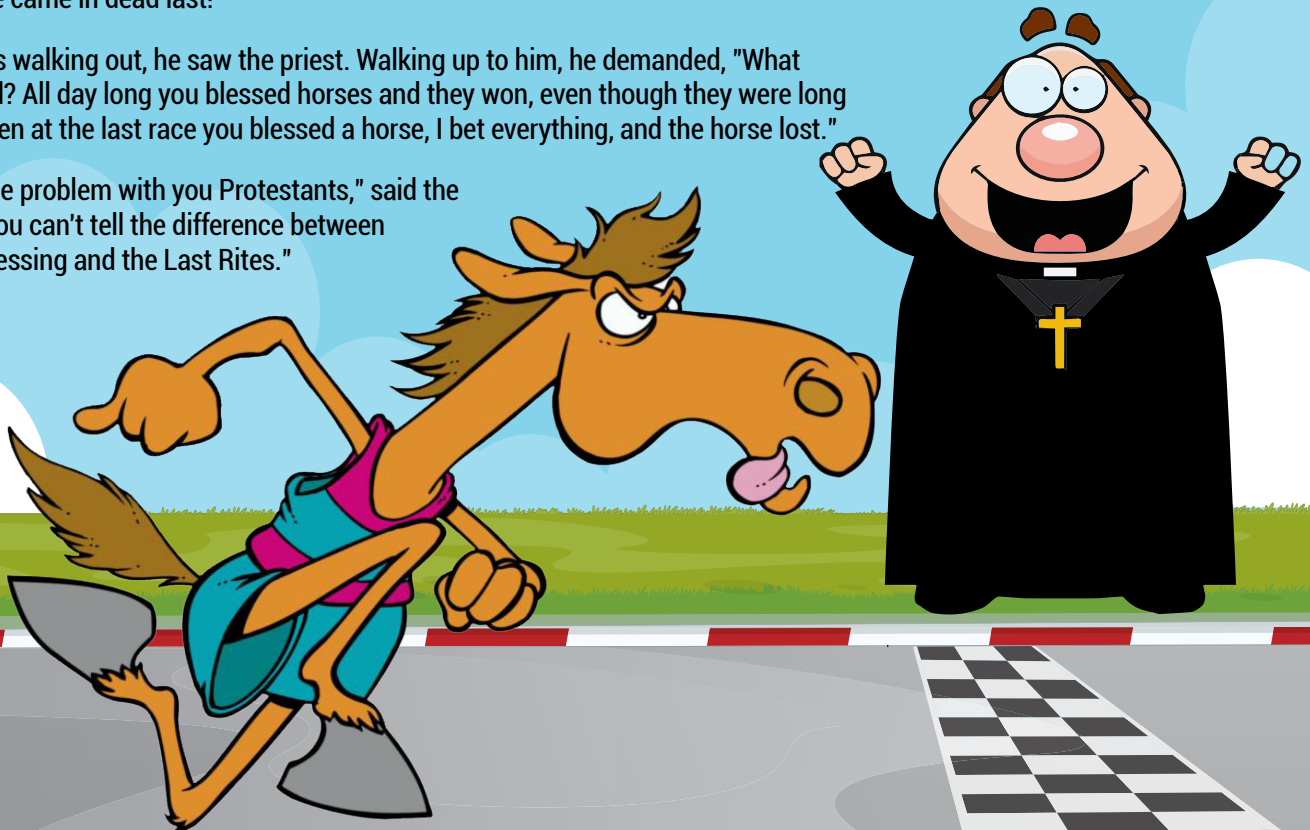
This pattern continued throughout the day with the priest blessing the forehead of a long shot horse, the United Methodist placing larger and larger bets and the horse always winning.

At the last race of the day, the United Methodist thought, "I have got to go for broke here." With great anticipation, he watched as the priest stepped onto the field one more time, walked up to the line-up and blessed the forehead, eyes, ears and hooves of one of the horses. The United Methodist ran to the ticket counter and bet all he had on that horse.

The horse came in dead last!

As he was walking out, he saw the priest. Walking up to him, he demanded, "What happened? All day long you blessed horses and they won, even though they were long shots. Then at the last race you blessed a horse, I bet everything, and the horse lost."

"That's the problem with you Protestants," said the priest. "You can't tell the difference between simple blessing and the Last Rites."



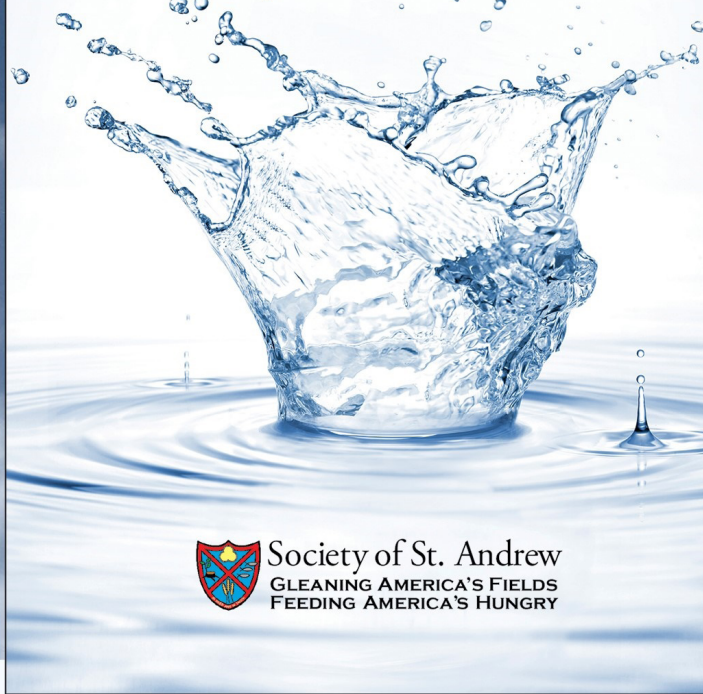


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