

Volume 14 • Number 2

Spring 2011

A photograph of a person from the waist down, wearing a white, textured robe and simple sandals, walking on a dry, rocky, and dusty path. The person's shadow is cast on the ground to the right. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day in an arid environment.

# UMM MEN

The magazine of United Methodist Men

## Who was Jesus?

# *A letter from the General Secretary*

I hope that this issue of the magazine finds you doing well and growing in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

Over the last few months I have been contacted by men of this great church who are concerned about the men's ministry of their churches.

They often relate that what they have is good for the guys who participate, but there is a longing to do something new, something that touches all the men of the church. Hopefully this issue will give you some ideas on what that new spark might be.

In a local church here in the Nashville area, a men's study was started on Wednesday night and has brought younger men of the congregation into new relationships.

Others have found that spark in a mission project or a new relationship with the scouting ministry of their church. It is easy to do, it just takes action.

If you need some help finding resources, please let me know. Our Nashville staff along with our deployed staff will be glad to make suggestions with proven materials that bring men into relationship with Jesus Christ.

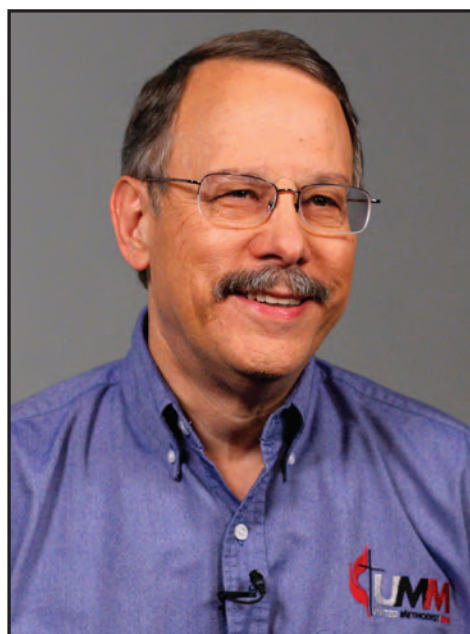
That relationship with Christ is the theme of this issue, and I know it will give you some new insights on our Lord from some different perspectives.

One of my favorite scenes in *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* was when the two were trying to elude a famous tracker who was hot on their trail. As they marveled at his skill in finding them, the repeatedly asked, "Who is that guy?"

Today men continue to ask that question regarding this savior we know as Jesus. His prevenient grace continues to track you and me. As you marvel at Christ's

unrelenting search for your heart, I know this issue will be a valuable guide in new discoveries.

Please stay in touch, and allow us to serve you and all the men of your church.



*Gilbert C. Hanke*

***The purpose of United Methodist Men is to help men grow in Christ so others may know Christ.***



# contents

Vol. 14, No. 2 Spring 2011

Copyright © 2011

General Commission on United Methodist Men

UMMen magazine is published four times a year, winter, spring, summer and fall by GCUMM: General Commission on United Methodist Men 1000 17th Ave. S. P.O. Box 340006 Nashville, TN 37203-0006 (615) 340-7145 Internet address: <http://www.gcummm.org>

Publisher: Gilbert C. Hanke  
Editor: Richard Peck  
Contributing Editor: Larry Coppock  
Editorial Assistant: Martha Davis  
Graphic Design: Parris Printing  
Change of Address: Send the mailing label with your new address to: UMMen P.O. Box 340006 Nashville, TN 37203-0006 (615) 340-7145 Allow six weeks for changes.

Advertising: Contact Richard Peck P.O. Box 340006 Nashville, TN 37203-0006 (615) 620-7264 e-mail: [rpeck@gcummm.org](mailto:rpeck@gcummm.org)

The publishing of advertising in *UMMen* does not constitute endorsement by *UMMen*, General Commission on United Methodist Men or The United Methodist Church. Advertisers and their agencies assume liability for all content of advertisements printed or representations made therein.

Subscription: Subscriptions are \$25 a year (4 issues). Bulk subscriptions available. Send check or money order to: UMMen Subscription Fulfillment P.O. Box 440515 Nashville, TN 37244-0515 (615) 340-7145

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture contained herein is from *The New Revised Standard Version*. Copyright 1989, 1995. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**UM Men**

**Spring 2011**

## FEATURES

- 5** Jesus— the homewrecker
- 8** Jesus — the vagabond
- 10** The revolutionary character of Jesus
- 12** Everyone is beautiful
- 13** One solitary life
- 14** US Methodist set course with nation 226 years ago
- 16** Military chaplains ask if the church cares
- 18** Religious parents influence young adults
- 20** Encourage young men
- 22** 12 Steps men can take to end sexism
- 23** Practices and sayings from the 1500s
- 24** The joy of giving
- 25** Maryland churches honor veterans, receive funds for historic book of devotions
- 26** Mission work: the right prescription
- 28** Brian Combs —Love for the modern day leper
- 30** You can refuse to let hurt feelings ruin your day—or your life
- 32** Across the nation

## DAD'S ZONE

- 38** How to spy on your kids
- 41** At what age should your child have a cell-phone?

## DOLLARS AND SENSE

- 42** How to provide financial help for adult children
- 44** Three ways to track your spending

## 45 MENS NEWS

## 50 SCOUTING NEWS

*Editor's note: 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 UM Men.*



## 'The peril of worshipping Jesus'

That was the title of a life-changing sermon preached by Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick while he was the pastor of Riverside Church in

New York City (1931-1946).

In his sermon, Fosdick complained that too many people would rather put Jesus "up on some high altar, pray to him, sing to him, do anything for him" than do his will.

Fosdick noted that even during Jesus' ministry, he feared people would worship him rather than follow him.

A member of the ruling class made a mistake any one of us might have made, He began a question by addressing Jesus as "good teacher."

"Why do you call me 'good'" Jesus snapped. "No one is good except God alone."

Jesus wanted to make it clear he was not to be placed on a pedestal.

Jesus then addressed the man's question, "What must I do to win eternal life?"

Jesus told the man to follow the 10 commandments and to sell everything and distribute the money to the poor (Matthew 19:15-22). Matthew tells us that "When the young man heard this, he went away with a heavy heart, for he was a man of great wealth."

I have no doubt that if Jesus had asked the man to worship him, the rich man would have quickly fallen to his knees. It was far more difficult to follow Jesus.

Jesus did not want people to worship him, he wanted followers, and discipleship demands radical changes in life styles.

In later articles, Bishop Will Willimon and Bishop Woodie White make it clear for us that Jesus was never "meek and mild" as he is sometime characterized in poetry and song.

Jesus violated religious law by associating with tax collectors, Samaritans, prostitutes, and lepers. He argued with Jewish leaders and even suggested they were like "tombs covered with whitewash; they look well from outside, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all kinds of filth" (Matthew 23:27).

No one could accuse Jesus of being meek.

Jesus disappointed many of his early followers when he refused to overturn the Roman leaders of the occupied territory. Those who welcomed him to Jerusalem as a liberator were disappointed to see him enter their own temple grounds to turn over the tables of the money changers.

It's easy to see why those who welcomed him with hosannas would later call for his crucifixion and the release of a person who was more likely to lead an armed revolt.

Yes, Jesus was a tenderhearted man, but he was also tough enough to challenge religious authorities and to suffer death upon the cross.

This issue of *UM Men* invites us to come up with our own answer to the question "Who was Jesus?"

Jesus does not ask us to worship him; he invites us to follow him.

*Rich Peck*

# Jesus — The home wrecker

*"Your mother and your brothers are outside waiting on you, calling for you," one of the disciples said to Jesus.*

*"Who is my mother and who are my brothers?" Jesus replied. "Any one who does my will, anybody who gets on board with my movement, that's my family," said Jesus.*

## **Jesus has some strange ideas about family.**

When you join a fraternity, they give you a pin and a secret handshake. But when you join on with Jesus and join the church, you get stripped naked, thrown into the pool, washed, half drowned, and required to revert and be born again. Now what does that tell you?

To those who took comfort in the old order, boasting of their memberships in God's chosen people saying, "My family founded this church" or, "I'm not very religious but I'm really, really spiritual," John the Baptist sneered, "Don't say to yourselves 'I'm a dues-paying member! I've got Abraham and Sarah as my parents!' God can raise up a family from the stones in this river if God's people won't turn, return, be washed, and get with the revolution!"

God is determined to have a family. But in order to join a new family, one must detach from the old. Membership in God's kingdom is a joyful thing, but it also involves some relinquishment.

## **Not a family values kind of man**

Look, hey, I love my family. I mean, why shouldn't I? They all look just like me. But I'm sorry to tell you that "family values" was not really a Jesus' thing. We know all about the prophet

Mohammed's kin; we know next to nothing about the family of Jesus. Mark says that Jesus had a number of brothers and sisters, but what do we know about them? Jesus' family plays a remarkably negligible role in his story.

And in his ministry, Jesus thought nothing of destroying a family business with a terse, "Follow me," demanding that these fishermen abandon their aging father in the boat and join Jesus as he wandered about with his buddies. Jesus' invitation to hit the road broke the hearts of many first-century parents who were counting on the kids for help in their old age.

"I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother," Jesus threatened. "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, can't be my disciple." That's a text rarely used by the church on Mother's Day.

"Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside asking for you," someone said. Jesus replied, "Who? Anyone who does my will is my family." "I'll follow you," a man said to him, "only first let me go give my recently deceased father a decent burial."

"Let the dead bury the dead!" replied Jesus. "Follow me and let somebody else do the funeral!"

## **Everything subordinate to his mission**

Wow! To be fair, Jesus seems no more antipathetic toward family than he is toward money or success or government officials or religious authorities. In Jesus, everything is

subordinated to his mission; nothing is more important than obedience to his heavenly Father. Still, isn't it interesting that Jesus appears to devalue that which we consider so valuable?

There was a day when Christmas greeting cards routinely displayed pictures of the baby Jesus in the manger and Joseph and Mary standing close by. Now, our Christmas cards feature OUR smiling families on the slopes at Vail. The family has become the center of our adulation, the most important of all human gatherings.

Why, Jesus? Why were you so cool toward family, sexuality, romantic attachments, all of which preoccupy us?

The gospels tell the story that the chief focus of Jesus' mission was to reconstitute the scattered lost sheep of Israel.

Jesus left his biological family in order to form a new family based not on genetic kinship--that is, the way we make family--but rather upon the gracious, barrier-breaking summons of God. Jesus got into trouble for practicing a scandalously open-handed table fellowship, calling the lost and orphaned back home.

"This man eats and drinks with SINNERS! That's one of the earliest and most persistent claims against Jesus.

Even as he was dying in agony on the cross—a gruesome form of punishment that Romans enjoyed applying to difficult-to-manage Jews—Jesus invited an outcast, a somewhat repentant thief, to join him and his family in paradise.

In all these actions and in his stories of seeking the lost sheep and seeking the lost coin and the lost boy, Jesus is forming a new family composed of those who had difficulty fitting in with their human families.

Your human family, for all of its virtues, is just too small, too closely circumscribed. As a pastor, I spend much of my time in pastoral counseling helping people get over the damage done to them in their family.

### **New birth**

Thus, when someone steps up and answers Jesus' call to follow him, the church washes that person in water—baptism—which says, among other things, that the person has been reborn, started over, and has been adopted into a new God-formed family. It is as if the person gets a new name, "Christian," that takes precedence over that person's family name.

It is as if the person has already died to old attachments and former relationships and has already been raised to new life. And the church is that fresh, new family that is composed of those who have heard Jesus' "Follow me" and have stepped forward and said "Yes." The chief act of Christian worship isn't some mysterious, dark, esoteric rite. It's a family meal with everyone around the table, the Sunday dinner that we call the Lord's Supper, family as God intended family to be.

Thus, when parents bring a child forward for baptism, Christian initiation, the pastor takes the child from them and says, in effect, "You are two wonderful people, but you are not knowledgeable enough, not skilled enough on your own, to raise a Christian. Therefore, we'll adopt your child, we'll take responsibility for this baby; we will help you raise a Christian."

In a world of grandparents without grandchildren close by, and single-parent families, and grandchildren growing up without grandparents, and marriages

under stress, you need a bigger family than the one you were born into. You must be born again into a new, far flung family, a family as large as the love of God in Jesus Christ.

What do you have to do to be credibly called a Christian, a contemporary follower of Jesus? Well, you must be willing to be baptized, that is, to be adopted by a new, far-flung, barrier-breaking family, the church. You must be disposed to let go of your innate American rugged individualism and be subsumed in a family bigger and more demanding than the one into which you were born. You must join us at the table, addressing some of the most sinful, often difficult-to-bear rascals as "brother" or "sister," just because Jesus loves them to death.


### **Baptism — a radical act**

So you can see why, when the Jesus movement got going as the church, baptism became the radical rite of Christian initiation. Baptism not only signified everything that water means—cleansing and birth, and death and refreshment, renewal, life—but baptism also meant adoption. As John the Baptizer said, "God is going to have a family, even if God has to raise a people out of the rocks in this river. To become a Christian, to have your life taken over by Jesus, is to be joined into a family, a people convened by "water and the Spirit," a family bigger and better than your biological family, a worldwide, barrier-breaking family that goes by the name, "body of Christ."

I was pleased that our church responded to the suffering victims of hurricane Katrina, sending money and rebuilding homes and staying there long after many other relief agencies had left.

But, of course, the victims of Katrina were Americans, people who looked and talked fairly much like us.

But I'll tell you, I was even more delighted when the earth shook and the buildings fell in Haiti that we sent tons of supplies, water treatment systems, and medical supplies, along with money. Why? Because Jesus has made them part of God's family and has by his love transformed us from being strangers into being sisters or brothers.

On Good Friday, as Jesus hung on the cross, he performed an amazing last act of invitation and adoption. Having been deserted by most of his family, the crucified Jesus, in a last, wild, desperate act of inclusion, invited a thief to join him in paradise—a stunningly defiant rebuke to the ways the world gathers people. Only a Savior like Jesus would parade into Paradise arm-in-arm with a criminal, some great trophy for his painful rescue operation for humanity. Well, today, every time the family of God gathers for Holy Communion, the Eucharist, the Lord's Supper or a covered-dish fellowship supper or serves up soup to the homeless on the street corner, the world looks at this odd family and says, "Jesus is hanging out with the same reprobates that got him crucified." 



*Bishop William H. Willimon is the bishop of the North Alabama Conference. This article is edited from a sermon on Day One radio program.*

# Jesus the Vagabond

by Bishop Will Willimon

The highway that winds up from the sea to Jerusalem is a rapidly ascending road through picturesque but rugged terrain. The heat is high, vegetation sparse. Israeli military trucks lumber up the hill, making it slow going to the Holy City. The name Jerusalem means “foundation of peace,” but it never has lived up to its name. Stuck in fuming traffic, inching along in the heat, I muse, “What a road for God Almighty to walk.”

All the gospels present Jesus on a continual road trip—God in motion, urgently making a way to defeat of the desert in which we wander. Some of Jesus’ best words were spoken on the run. So, if you want to know about Jesus, you’ve got to meet him on the road.

## A wandering beggar

The gospels agree that Jesus lived his adult life as a wandering beggar, without visible means of support. He never held a job or had a proper home. Many expected God to come and save them; few expected God to show up as a homeless man, unmarried and unemployed.

Constantly, Jesus crossed lines and transgressed boundaries. In clear violation of biblical law and custom, he reached out and touched lepers, insane persons, “unclean” (menstruating) women, corpses. Once, wandering about, he broke the law against plucking grain on the Sabbath, earning him the ire of the religious keepers of propriety. His family thought he was mad.

Some biblical authorities of the day attributed his healing powers to

demonic possession. He called the rich “fools,” saying to them, “woe to you who are rich,” and to the despised and neglected poor, he preached liberating “good news.”

People like me, with advanced study in religion who made their living through interpreting God to less informed people, he called “whitewashed tombs,” all spic and span outside, rotten inside.

He is the way?

## Asked others to join the journey

Not only was he on the move but Jesus constantly invited everyone to join his journey.

In my pastoral experience, Jesus holds little interest to people who are at ease with themselves, living their lives as the world tells them, content as pigs in mud.

Jesus tends to come to people where they are but rarely leaves them as they were. Conversion of thought and life, is part of the adventure of being loved by Jesus.

The Bible introduces us to a living, speaking, moving person, not to the fixed and final word on everything.

## The first Easter Sunday

Three days after Jesus had been brutally tortured to death by the government—egged on by a consortium of religious leaders like me, deserted by his disciples, and then entombed—a couple of his female followers went out in the predawn darkness to the cemetery.

At the cemetery, place of rest and peace for the dead, the earth quaked. The huge stone placed before the tomb entrance was rolled away. An angel,



messenger of God, perched impudently upon the rock.

The angel preached the first Easter sermon: "Don't be afraid. You seek Jesus, who was crucified? He is risen! Come, look at where he once lay in the tomb." Then the angel commissioned the women to be Jesus' first preachers: "Go, tell the men that he has already gone back to Galilee. There you will meet him."

Oh, it was a typically Jesus sort of moment, with people thinking they were coming close to where Jesus was resting, only to be told to go somewhere else. Jesus is God in motion, on the road, constantly going elsewhere, often to where he is not invited.

### **Get out of here**

Despite his disciples' betrayal, on the first day of his resurrected life, Jesus returns to the ragtag group of Galilean losers who failed him.

And what does Jesus say to them? "You have all had a rough time lately. Settle down and snuggle in here in Galilee among these good country folks with whom you are most comfortable. Buy real estate, build a church, and enjoy being a spiritual club"? No. This is Jesus, after all, not a United Methodist bishop.

The risen Christ commands, "Get out of here! Make me disciples, baptizing, and teaching everything I've commanded you! And don't limit yourselves to Judea. Go to everybody. I'll stick with you until the end of time just to be sure you obey me."

Ah, how like peripatetic Jesus not to allow his people to rest, not to encourage them to hunker down with their own kind, but rather to send them forth on the most perilous of missions.

Those who knew Jesus best, and were in turn known best by him, knew that, while friendship with Jesus is sweet, it is also demanding, difficult, and, at times, even fearsome.

### **Must be willing to relocate**


Anybody who wants to meet Jesus, to understand or to be with Jesus, must be willing to relocate.

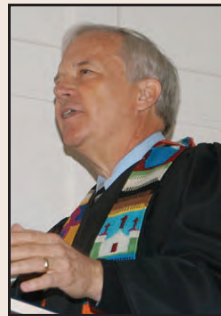
The modern world has many ways of turning us in on ourselves, eventually to worship the dear little god within. The religion evoked by Jesus, is a decidedly fierce means of wrenching us outward.

We are not left alone peacefully to console ourselves with our sweet bromides, or to snuggle with allegedly beautiful Mother Nature, or even to close our eyes and hug humanity in general.

A God whom we couldn't have thought up on our own is revealed through a Jew from Nazareth who lived briefly, died violently, and rose unexpectedly.

Here is God, not as a high-sounding principle, a noble ideal, or a set of rock-solid beliefs. Here is God on the move, moving toward us; that's a joyful thing—but more than a little scary, too.

It scares us to death but also thrills us to life. 



*Bishop William H. Willimon is the bishop of the North Alabama Conference. This article is edited from a sermon on Day One radio program.*

# The revolutionary character of Jesus

by *Woodie White*

Perhaps no historical figure has been studied more than Jesus.

He has been analyzed, critiqued, psychoanalyzed, and criticized as no other. To some he has been declared a fraud, to others the Messiah. Some have concluded he merely had a messianic complex.

What is not disputed is that his message and actions brought him into serious conflict with religious leaders and the governing authority of his day. So much so that he was tried, convicted, and publicly executed.

My reflections here are not so much an assessment of those historical events, but rather a sharing of his message, and life as they have impacted my life. I am among the millions who now consider the Jesus of history, to be the Christ of faith. That is, I have come to accept him as the Son of God, who has brought salvation to the world. To put it in the most personal terms of faith, I accept him as Lord of my life, not just lord of a faith.

As followers of Christ, the message of Jesus has diverse interpretations and emphases for us. Hence, we are divided among branches according to these historical experiences. We are Christians — Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant. Even within these broad categories there are differences in tradition, belief, practice, and emphasis.

The message of Jesus was — and is still — revolutionary in many respects.

At the heart of the definition or meaning of revolution, is radical or fundamental change. While the term is most often associated with violence, it is not inherently a violent action. Rather, revolutionary thought or action is to be in conflict with, or contrasted to, current thought, behavior, belief, ideology, or simply put — the acceptable ways of

doing things. It is, however, an extreme difference.

**There are several ways in which Jesus was revolutionary.**

- 1. He came to all people.** His coming, and the faith he preached was not parochial — ethnically, nationally, racially, or tribally. A world that was characterized by these boundaries, and one in which ultimate identity was determined by them was met with a new and revolutionary message; a new identity was found in him. In that new identity was forged a new relationship within the human family. Christians would begin to call each other brother and sister, whatever their race, ethnicity, tribe, or nation.
- 2. The law of the day, and the religion as well, allowed for the natural response to hate one's enemy, and to do to enemies what they did to you.** An "eye for an eye" was common sense human interaction, and acceptable faith practice. Jesus turns this acceptable way of relating upside down. Instead of hating one's adversaries, his followers were to love them. Instead of retaliating in kind — evil for evil — one was to forgive. He finally demonstrated this tenet himself, as he was dying at his execution by asking his Father to forgive those who had put him to death.
- 3. His message was to be taken to all nations and all peoples.** It was not simply to be enjoyed by those who had accepted him as Savior. In fact, he indicated that the measure of faithfulness and love for him was



determined by the demonstration of love and acceptance of others. The faith was kept by sharing it with others.

- 4. The most revolutionary characteristic of Jesus is unconditional love.** As I tried to explain this to a college student once, he responded, "This blows my mind." It blows mine as well. To think, there is nothing one can do to lose the love of Christ. We are socialized to believe that love gets love in return. In human relations love can be abused, it can be so battered as to be destroyed. One's love can become exhausted. It can disappear. Not so with the love of Jesus. This is a love not occasioned nor sustained by those who hold the love. The love of Jesus is characterized by his nature not by our response to it or faithfulness to his message. His love is

utterly unconditional. Can anything be more revolutionary?

This message of Jesus, was and is so revolutionary, that today, we would call it counter-cultural. Even today's followers/disciples spend a lifetime seeking to be faithful to these teachings. Jesus was not just revolutionary in his day. I submit that he and his message are still revolutionary.



*Bishop Woodie White serves as the bishop in residence at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. He served as the first top staff executive of the General Commission on Religion and Race prior to his*

*1984 election to the episcopacy. He was president of the Council of Bishops (1996-1997).*

## Cat shouldn't have joined Johnny's church

**Johnny's Mother looked out the window and noticed him "playing church" with their cat.**

**He had the cat sitting quietly and he was preaching to it. She smiled and went about her work. A while later, she heard loud meowing and hissing. She ran back to the open window to see Johnny baptizing the cat in a tub of water.**

**She called out, "Johnny, stop that! The cat is afraid of water!"**

**Johnny looked up at her and said, "He should have thought about that before he joined my church."**



# Everyone is beautiful

DETROIT, Mich. —

Cass Community Social Services in Detroit holds several fund raisers. The most memorable is the “Miss Cass Pageant,” an annual beauty pageant where contestants include mentally impaired and developmentally disabled women.

“When I first heard of it I thought it was a recipe for disaster,” said Dale Miller, pastor of Nardin Park, UMC in Farmington Hills, Mich.

“With a lot of suspicion hovering around my head, I steered my car down to the Cass UMC in Detroit, host of the event. An hour and a half later I emerged a total convert! I went home blabbering to my wife, trying to describe the experience and failed miserably.”

The following year, Miller’s wife, Susan, went with him and one year later she was asked to judge the event.


Last December, the event featured 18 contestants who participated in three areas – talent, evening gowns and answering questions.

“Women of varying ages, sizes, impairments and disabilities were excited to be on stage,” said Miller. “These are women who have rarely been noticed throughout their lives. They have struggled. They have been counted out. They have been discouraged. But not this night. On this night they were beautiful! They were displaying their talents. Some danced. Some sang. One played the piano.

“Let’s just say the dancing was more enthusiastic than accomplished,” said Miller. “The singing was more joyous than melodious. The piano player picked out a tune with her right hand only. But the people cheered and applauded for every one of them. For these ladies to have the joy and the courage to perform and to do it with such exuberance was spectacular.”

“When it came time for the evening gown procession, every woman felt a beauty in their lives they had never felt before. The donated gowns didn’t always fit perfectly nor did each contestant glide along the floor with sophistication, but never have I experienced such an elegant moment as this. When the questions were asked of them (‘What is your favorite color and why?’ or ‘What is your favorite ice cream and why?’) some contestants were clear and articulate and some of the ladies could only make sounds that never formed words. But the hearts of the audience responded enthusiastically to every answer. Applause! Applause! Applause!”

Miller said the winner was a woman named Gail. “But every contestant was a winner, and so were all 300 people in attendance. All of the ladies in the pageant hugged each other. Everybody was thrilled.”

“How wonderful it was to help people to know how beautiful they really are,” said Miller. “Wouldn’t it be fantastic if we could do that every day with every one we meet?” 




Dale Miller

# One solitary life

by James Allan Francis

A child is born in an obscure village. He is brought up in another obscure village. He works in a carpenter shop until he is thirty, and then for three brief years is an itinerant preacher, proclaiming a message and living a life. He never writes a book. He never holds an office. He never raises an army. He never has a family of his own. He never owns a home. He never goes to college. He never travels two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He gathers a little group of friends about him and teaches them his way of life. While still a young man, the tide of popular feeling turns against him. One denies him; another betrays him. He is turned over to his enemies. He goes through the mockery of a trial; he is nailed to a cross between two thieves, and when dead is laid in a borrowed grave by the kindness of a friend.

Those are the facts of his human life. He rises from the dead. Today we look back across nineteen hundred years and ask, "What kind of trail has he left across the centuries?" When we try to sum up his influence, all the armies that ever marched, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned are absolutely picayune in their influence on mankind compared with that of this one solitary life... 

*From The Real Jesus and Other Sermons ©  
1926 by the Judson Press of Philadelphia*

# HUMOR


## 11 PEOPLE ON A ROPE

Eleven people were hanging on a rope, under a helicopter — 10 men and 1 woman.

The rope was not strong enough to carry them all, so they decided that one had to leave because otherwise they were all going to fall.

They weren't able to choose that person, until the woman gave a very touching speech.

She said that she would voluntarily let go of the rope, because, as a woman, she was used to giving up everything for her husband and kids or for men in general, and was used to always making sacrifices with little in return.

As soon as she finished her speech, all the men started clapping. 

# U.S. Methodists set course with nation 226 years ago

*A UMNS Report by Elliott Wright and Kevin Nelson*

**T**hey rode from Baltimore in the first few days of 1785, around 60 mostly young preachers infused with missionary zeal and moving confidently into the lifeblood of a new nation.

Over the previous nine days, they had organized the first national Protestant denomination, the Methodist Episcopal Church, in what was becoming the United States of America.

Sixty-four of 84 Methodist preachers in the former British colonies attended the "Christmas Conference" at the Lovely Lane Meeting House, a small church long since relocated. By the meeting's adjournment on either Jan. 2 or 3, 1785, they had set an independent course for American Methodism.

With an emphasis on God's free grace and human free will, Methodism was uniquely suited to the emerging democratic country. The Methodist Episcopal Church was the largest American Protestant church for decades and exerted a powerful influence on the national character. It set the standard for a correspondence between personal and social holiness--a vision linking individual responsibility, social religion and public morality.

In Baltimore and for years afterward, the General Conference was composed of preachers; lay participation and lay votes were far in the future. Women would not engage in high-level decision making until well into the 20th century.

## **Francis Asbury**

The impact of the Christmas Conference can hardly be understood apart from the political context, including the revolution of the colonies against

British rule. It was part of a sorting out of American Methodism's relations with its own British roots.

Virtually all Anglican clergy and many Methodist missionaries in the colonies left the Church of England with the revolution. After the war, few ministers were authorized to provide the sacraments to anyone.

This concerned John Wesley, who in 1784 took matters into his own hands and ordained two "elders" for America. Wesley laid his hands on an Anglican priest, Thomas Coke, naming him "general superintendent" for America.

The new arrivals met in November of that year with Francis Asbury, one of the missionaries who had remained in the colonies. They decided to convene the Christmas Conference.

The brethren gathered on Dec. 24 in Lovely Lane Chapel for long days of discussion on the future of their movement in America.

## **'Wesley's Plan'**

An initial item on the agenda was what has gone down in history as "Wesley's Plan" for the American church, although the document he sent via Coke is more like a general description of the Americans' situation than a clear organizational blueprint.

## **Thomas Coke**

Asbury was to be a "co-superintendent" with Coke, but he declined to be ordained unless the conference elected him, as quickly happened.

Asbury was ordained deacon and elder on successive days and was then



*Artist Thomas Coke Ruckle drew this picture of the Lovely Lane Meeting House. UMNS Photo courtesy of [www.lovelylane.net](http://www.lovelylane.net).*

anointed a “general superintendent” in a service in which a local German Protestant pastor, Philip Otterbein, joined in the laying on of hands. Otterbein was a founder in the United States of what would become the Evangelical United Brethren Church, which in 1968 joined with The Methodist Church to form The United Methodist Church.

It was inevitable that the Methodist societies and the American preachers would seek distance both from the Church of England and, in a structural sense, from the Wesley organizational mantle. Asbury was more comfortable with the course of events than was Coke, who would travel to and from the young United States over the following years.


Asbury had a strong affinity with democratic processes, which he happened to be a master at influencing. He had a decidedly unappreciative view of earlier Anglican treatments of Methodism, and did not want to remain in that fold.

### **Conference opposed slavery**

In keeping with the sentiment of John Wesley, the Christmas Conference adopted

a strong resolution opposing slavery and projecting plans for emancipation. Unfortunately, the measure exerted limited influence in the southern states, and the Methodist Episcopal Church would be torn asunder by the issue two generations later. There would be outreach to free Africans in the north (and some among slaves in the south), but discrimination would lead to separate black and white U.S. Methodist movements from the second decade of the 19th century.

Early American Methodism, even before the Christmas Conference, was missionary in spirit and objective, as documented by the late historian Wade Crawford Barclay. Asbury arrived in the colonies as a missionary and never laid the role aside as he became organizer and administrator.

The preachers who left Baltimore for their circuits in early January 1785 also knew themselves to be in mission. 

*Elliot Wright is an author and consultant to the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries; Kevin Nelson is a board staff member.*

# Military chaplains ask if the church cares

*A UMNS Commentary By Randy Cross*

**H**is most recent deployment was as the chaplain of the mortuary located in Kuwait. In short, his task was to oversee the care of the military war dead.

He also gave his full attention to the spiritual and emotional needs of the staff responsible for the bodies of the heroes who would not be alive to see their families and loved ones.

Surrounded by death on an hourly basis, one of his prayers was for someone — anyone — back home in his annual conference, or anywhere in his beloved United Methodist Church to recognize and support him in that hard work.

He dutifully sent in his required annual report for persons on extension ministry. His chair of the board of ordained ministry, his bishop, his district superintendent and his local church all received that information — but no one responded. He fulfilled his mission, did his work, and served as the hands and voice of Christ in a place of death and pain, but his church never said a word.

## **'Why doesn't my church seem to care?'**

This scenario plays out daily in hundreds of locations around the world.

Women and men have answered the call to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church, and have further answered the call to serve as military chaplains, to care as shepherds for military personnel in sometimes very difficult places.

Remember that they are sent by United Methodists to represent you, and to offer Christ in powerful and holy ways.

I recently was privileged to travel and meet with our United Methodist chaplains who are assigned to locations in the Pacific. I was overwhelmed by their dedication and their willingness to serve, as well as by their ability to work in a truly ecumenical setting to care for those who stand in defense of our country. And yet they ask, "Why doesn't my church seem to care?"

Many chaplains recited stories of going home for annual conference, and having people remark that it was probably time for them to come home and do "real" ministry, or of finding either no place to sit, or a place in the back — out of the way, no registration packet, no nametag. Their required annual meeting with the bishop often occurred as a lunch in a room with other extension ministers, or those serving beyond the local church, at which there were times when the bishop was "too busy" with annual conference process to even attend.

They spoke of including in their annual reports items about family illnesses, or struggles or even divorces and no response ever came — except perhaps to remind the divorcing chaplain to follow the procedures laid out by the annual conference for separation or divorce of clergy.

They spoke with pride about representing The United Methodist Church in the military chaplaincy, and they pleaded for the church to send






*United Methodist Bishop Woodie White (front row, center) and the Rev. Randy Cross (second row, right) visit with the chaplaincy team stationed at Osan Air Force Base in South Korea. Photo courtesy of the United Methodist Endorsing Agency.*

more pastors to take on the mantle of military chaplain.

Yet, the lament was nearly universal — they wished they felt as though their church, in whose name they served, would appear to care at least a small amount about the ministry they were doing, truly extending the ministry of our church and our churches in powerful and excellent ways.

### **Time for appreciation**

United Methodist Church members: it's time for us to show our care for military chaplains in a consistent and supportive manner.

United Methodist Men — Adopt a chaplain from your conference, in a similar way to adopting a missionary. Get to know them and their families, and where they are deployed, and pray for them regularly, and most importantly — communicate with them through letters, e-mails, cards and any other way you can connect, and keep that “connection” solid and functional. 

*The Rev. Randy Cross is assistant general secretary for supervision and accountability, Division of Ordained Ministry, United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry.*



# Religious parents influence young adults

*A UMNS Commentary by David Briggs*

## **Parents matter in the religious lives of America's youth.**

This finding was clear to sociologist Christian Smith as the principal investigator for the National Study of Youth and Religion in 2002-2003, the most detailed study ever done on teens and religion.

And it was clear in a 2007-2008 study following teens into emerging adulthood.

"What the best empirical evidence shows ... is that even as the formation of faith and life play out in the lives of 18- to 23-year-olds, when it comes to religion, parents are in fact hugely important," report Smith and Patricia Snell of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society at the University of Notre Dame.

Of the many influences on emerging adults, "One of the most powerful factors was the religious lives of their parents—how often they attended religious services, how important religious faith was in their own lives, and so on," they write in their new book, *Souls in Transition: The Religious & Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults*.

We live in a culture where mothers

and fathers hover over their children in school, on athletic fields and even on social media sites such as Facebook. Yet why do so many parents take a hands-off approach to religion and spirituality, setting youth adrift in crucial areas of moral reasoning and finding meaning in life?

The question raised by Smith and others is worth considering.

Not only does research show religious teens have more positive outcomes in areas from mental health to compassion for others, but there also are larger implications for the nation of raising a generation lacking a moral framework for addressing issues of right and wrong, good and evil.

All of us on life's road must have a code that we can live by.

## **Parents don't teach**

Ubiquitous commercials on television encourage parents to monitor their children for signs of drug and alcohol abuse or other potential dangers.

But many institutions today, including no small number of houses of worship,

have given up on reaching teens and young adults with discussions of universal moral truths.

Parents, in turn, are responding to the growing cultural movement that tends to be more open and respectful of different belief systems, but wary of lifting one way of approaching truth and meaning over another.

In the name of individual autonomy, say Smith and Snell, “the usually most crucial players in teenagers’ lives disengage from them precisely when they most need conversation partners to help sort through these weighty matters.”

Yet the assumption that parents are irrelevant in the religious lives of teenagers — replaced instead by peers — is a myth, research shows.

Several studies have shown that the religious behaviors and attitudes of parents are related to those of their children.

In research, using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, sociologists Christopher Bader and Scott Desmond found that children of parents who believe that religion is very important and display their commitment by attending services are most likely to transmit religiosity to their children.

Autonomy had the opposite effect, Bader and Desmond reported in an article in the journal *Sociology of Religion*. Children subjected to fewer rules attended church less often and attached less importance to religion.

In the National Study of Youth and Religion, having highly religious parents was one of the strongest variables associated with youth being highly religious as emerging adults.

In addition, other important factors such as frequency of prayer and Scripture reading and having religious experiences are normally influenced by parents’ belief and examples, study researchers said.

“In the long run,” Smith and Snell say, “who and what parents were and are for their children when it comes to religious faith are more likely to ‘stick’ with them, even into emerging adulthood, than who and what their teenage friends were.”

### **The good that they do**


The research is significant for individuals and the larger society.

On a personal level, religious young adults had consistently more positive outcomes than the least religious emerging adults in nearly every area, including relationships with parents, physical and mental health, educational achievement and avoidance of drug and alcohol abuse and potentially problematic sexual activity.

Religious young adults also did better in areas measuring giving and volunteering, moral compassion, having a purpose in life, feeling gratitude and resistance to consumerism.

All of these areas, Smith and Snell note, also have consequences for the collective well-being of the nation.

“The question is never whether adults are engaged in religious socialization, but only how and with what effect they are doing so,” according to Smith and Snell.

The uncomfortable truth, as the nation takes a day each month in May and June to celebrate the roles of mothers and fathers, is that many parents are abdicating their responsibility to teach their children well. 



*David Briggs is the former news editor of United Methodist News Service. This article originally appeared as an Ahead of the Trend column for the Association of Religion Data Archives.*

# Encourage young men...

by David Delk

**W**hat do you think is the most common question we hear from church leaders? That's right, "How do I get more young men involved?" It seems that all across the country men's groups and men's events are filled with "seasoned" men. Thank God for these men — they are a solid foundation for many churches. But if we don't figure out the deal with young men, in thirty years a lot more churches will have been sold and turned into night clubs and bowling alleys.

Last summer, I experimented with a simple idea that turned out amazingly well. It ended up being one of the best experiences I have ever had as a father, so I want to share it with you. While this idea doesn't pretend to be a comprehensive solution to the problem of reaching young men, it will give you a practical plan to impact the lives of a few young men at a time.

## The Idea

My son was just finishing his freshman year at college and planning to return home for the summer. He'd been able to line up a summer job in Orlando and I was praying and thinking about ways for us to connect while he was home. I knew that he would likely be very busy between catching up with old friends, our vacation schedule, a few trips he had planned, and his work. So I wanted to be intentional but also simple.

I believe the Lord gave me an idea: try to schedule six or eight breakfasts with committed Christian men I knew in the community. The three of us would meet for a one-hour breakfast and they could share their story and a few key principles that they found helpful in living out their faith.

I knew it was the right time in my son's life — it wouldn't have been the same while he was still in high school — and it probably would not have been as effective if we waited until he was 25.

I approached each man with an email and then followed-up with a phone call. Because my son is very interested in business, all the men I approached were business leaders. But they were also a diverse group from different industries, educational backgrounds, and ages. I wanted my son to hear from many different voices, believing that God would use them to enlarge his perspective and strengthen his faith.

After the first breakfast got scheduled, I didn't know what to expect. The man we were meeting was a dynamic young leader who serves Christ in a very active way. But what would my son think as he sat with his dad and listened to this man's story of life and faith?

All my prayers and hopes were answered in a way far beyond what I could have expected. As we left the breakfast that morning, my son

was beaming from ear to ear talking about how incredible the time was. He couldn't wait for our next meeting, and before heading off to work, turned and said, "This is a great idea, and you're the best dad ever." I headed to my car, wiped the tears from my eyes, and thanked God for blessing us in such a wonderful way.

Over the summer we ended up having breakfast with eight different men. Each of them shared a different perspective and set of insights. And after each breakfast, my son seemed to be more enthusiastic about the idea, profusely thanking me for my efforts.

## The Lessons

Here are some of the lessons we learned:

- 1. Reliance on Scripture -** Several of the men shared how important God's word has been in their lives. They talked about how vital it was for them to read and study it regularly. One man said, "I got a business education from school, but I got an education in biblical manhood from the Bible study."
- 2. God is in control -** We heard story after story of how God had led and worked in men's lives. One man eventually came to Christ in his thirties through a friend who had been sharing with him since high school. God blocked the path of another man to keep him from something that seemed like a perfect deal, only to lead him in a direction that turned out so much greater.
- 3. Integrity and doing the right thing -** Several men told of temptations they had faced during their careers. One man told of having to stand up to a very influential leader in the community who wanted to do a deal that wasn't completely ethical. Several others shared how their bad experiences with others who didn't stand by their word helped them strive for absolute integrity in their life.
- 4. Practical business and life lessons -** Several men mentioned that one of the easiest ways to stand out today is simply to work diligently and with excellence. Another talked about the importance of going the extra mile. At the fourth breakfast, a man told about the value of follow-up, including written thank-you notes. Here's the cool thing — I had already told my son he should send written notes to the first three men. The notes went out the next day.
- 5. How to use influence, success and wealth for God's glory -** One of the most important aspects of our time together was that these men all demonstrated how to use their lives for the glory of God. Most men of means and influence in our culture today use their assets for their personal pleasure and fulfillment. My son got to see firsthand that these are men who are more committed to serving God than they are their own desires.

## How You Can Make This Happen

1. Pray about and decide which young man or men with whom you would like to invest your time.
2. Find out when they will be available.
3. Figure out how many slots for meetings will be available. Limit them to one or two per week.
4. Pray, and then make a list of men that you think would have an impact on the lives of the young men. Shoot for twice as many men on the list as you have slots for meetings. Some men will be busy or impossible to connect with during your time window.
5. Prioritize your list and approach the first few men, giving them their choice of available time slots. E-mail them first, then follow-up with a phone call a few days later.
6. At the breakfast, be prepared to ask a few key questions on topics


you want to make sure are covered. I used questions like, "What has been the one or two most important lessons or ideas that have contributed to your success? What has been one of the most difficult situations you encountered? If you could tell a young person one thing as they got started in business and life, what would it be?"

7. Don't lose the momentum; keep scheduling breakfasts several weeks in advance. 



*David Delk is the president of Man in the Mirror. This article is reprinted with permission from the Man in Mirror website (<http://www.maninthemirror.org/alm/alm190.htm>).*

## 12 STEPS MEN CAN TAKE TO END SEXISM

1. Don't interrupt women when they speak, control their space, or assume they need your protection. Focus on the effect of your actions, rather than on the intent.
2. Support women's leadership and help elect progressive women to political office.
3. Support women's equality in education, sports, and in the workplace.
4. Don't condone, laugh at, or tell sexist (racist or homophobic) jokes or stories.
5. Don't make fun of or invalidate anyone's emotional reactions.
6. Listen, believe, and be accountable to women and their stories. When confronted on your own sexism (racism, homophobia, etc.) listen instead of getting defensive.
7. Tell the women and men in your life that you love them, out loud.
8. Be the kind of father you always wanted to have.
9. Be the kind of partner you would want your children's partner to be.
10. Share responsibility for birth control and reproductive health and safety.
11. Speak up when you see violence or abuse directed at women or children, in real life, or in the media. Donate to a local rape crisis, sexual assault, and domestic violence program.
12. Oppose pornography and the sex industry. 

*Reprinted with permission from The National Organization for Men Against Sexism (<http://www.nomas.org>). The group will host a national conference April 1-3, 2011 in Tallahassee, Fla.*

## Practices and sayings from the 1500s

**M**ost people got married in June because they took their annual bath in May. Brides carried flowers to hide body odor.

**B**aths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had clean water, then the sons, then the women and daughters; babies came last. By then the water was very dirty. They were warned, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

**H**ouses had thatched roofs - thick straw - piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats, dogs and other small animals lived in the roof. When it rained, the roof became slippery and sometimes it would "rain cats and dogs."


**I**n the 1500s, they cooked in kitchens with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot. Sometimes they had "peas-porridge hot," sometimes "peas-porridge cold," and often "peas-porridge in the pot nine-days old."

**S**ometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests

And would all sit around and "chew the fat."

**B**read was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the "upper crust."

**L**ead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence, the custom of holding a "wake."

**T**o prevent burying people alive, they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have the "graveyard shift" so "dead ringers" could be "saved by the bell." 

# The joy of giving

## A congregation raises funds for a historic book of devotions

by Lynda Byrd

SAN ANTONIO, Texas —

**S**an Antonio is a military town. It's the home of four military installations: Fort Sam Houston, Randolph and Lackland Air Force bases, and Brooks Army Medical Center. Thousands of deployed military spend time in San Antonio, and facilities for wounded soldiers are some of the finest in the country. So raising funds to purchase the devotional, *Strength for Service to God and Country*, seemed a fitting initiative for Northwest Hills UMC.

The 29-year-old congregation has fewer than 1,500 members, but growth is continuous. Many veterans

Nashville responded immediately and offered ideas and promotional resources.


Northwest Hills UM Men embraced the fund-raising idea with enthusiasm. Most of the men are also veterans and it was easy for them to understand how much the devotional would mean to the troops. Their enthusiasm was infectious.

The initial goal of \$500 was met after the first of three worship services the first Sunday that *Strength for Service* was introduced. In two weeks, the total had increased to \$1,500.

Thanks to the General Commission on UM Men's website ([www.strengthforservice.org](http://www.strengthforservice.org)), responses of those who received the devotional were shared when members inquired about the books. Knowing that a \$5 gift could make such a difference had an amazing effect.

Many Northwest Hills members are new to the UMC; they were unaware of how the connectional system supports mission work across the United States and around the world.

This effort helped the congregation to see the role that it can play, as well as how much it matters when congregations rally collectively behind a worthy cause.

Now that members have experienced the joy of giving, there seems to be no stopping — much like God's giving to us. 



*A chaplain gives a copy of Strength for Service to God and Country to a member of his company serving in Iraq.*

are among its members as well as active military personnel and their families. We proposed raising funds during the month of October with a goal of purchasing 100 copies of the books of daily devotions. The UM Men's office in



## Maryland churches honor veterans, receive funds for historic book of devotions

PASADENA, Md.—

**M**embers of seven UM congregations met Nov. 5 at Pasadena UMC to honor men and women serving in the Armed Forces. The 275 people in attendance gave nearly \$1,000 to the Strength for Service fund.

Prior to Veteran's Day, Pasadena UMC invited active-duty military men and women and veterans to a "Support Our Troops – Strength for Service Rally."

The idea to honor and pray for active troops and veterans originated with the Rev. Sherrin Marshall, pastor of the host congregation. She had received information about the historic *Strength for Service to God and Country* books during a session of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, and she wanted to present the World War II books to local troops and veterans.

"One of the most moving and inspirational moments came from Captain Rose Forrest who spent time in Iraq," said Marshall.

### Captain recalls tour in Iraq

"When my unit arrived in Ramadi, Iraq, in July 2005, we went to work fortifying the base and improving our area," said Forrest. "One of our first projects was to build a chapel. It had dirt floors, a plywood ceiling, and sandbags stacked up along the wall to protect us from mortar fire. Despite these conditions, it was the finest chapel I had ever seen. Every Sunday at 1000 hours, and throughout the week if we felt the need, the building was packed with soldiers and marines who came together to pray.

"When my unit was deployed, it was post Fallujah and pre surge," said Captain Forrest. "It was the most dangerous time in the most dangerous city in the world. Our mission was to fight the bad guys, protect the innocent, train the Iraqi Army, and build a police force. Many days it got up to 140 degrees; sand constantly scratched our eyes, stuck in our throats, and jammed in our M16s.

"Throughout that year, I continued to feel the Holy Spirit, through the prayers of the American people, and also through the kind and thoughtful letters and care packages that arrived every day," she concluded.



*National Guard Chaplain (Colonel) William Sean Lee presents a recognition plaque to the Rev. Sherrin Marshall. The pastor of Pasadena UMC received the plaque for her congregation's participation in "Partners in Care," a program that helps families of deployed and returning National Guard troops.*

### Other participants

Chaplain (Colonel) William

Sean Lee of

the Maryland National Guard expressed appreciation to members of Pasadena UMC for their participation in a program that helps families of National Guard troops.

The event included an honor guard by a local Scout troop, choral presentations by choirs, bands, singing and prayers by clergy leaders of the seven congregations.

"This doesn't feel like a Friday night to me – it feels like Sunday morning and I thank God," said one of the participants. Ken Rabenstein, another attendee said he hopes the service will become an annual event.

The seven congregations participating in the rally were: Pasadena UMC, Asbury Town Neck UMC, Severna Park; Hall UMC, Glen Burnie; Asbury UMC, Arnold; Cape St. Claire UMC near Annapolis; Solley UMC, Glen Burnie; Mt. Zion UMC; and Magothy UMC, Pasadena.

Clergy participants included the Revs. Kay Albury, Patricia Allen, Roger Carlson, Lysbeth Cockrell, Sonia King, David Shank, Jr., and Marshall. 

## Mission work: the right prescription

*The president of UM Men group discovers helping others helps him heal from death of his mother, an ankle injury and the loss of a job*

*by Scott Bach-Hansen*

**W**hen someone asks about the “Got Allendale?” on the front of my shirt, I explain that it is for mission trips I organized at Aldersgate UMC that traveled to Allendale, S.C., to help their elementary school with various projects.

Sometimes I’m asked, “Do the people of Allendale appreciate your help?”

“I believe they do,” I respond, “however, that is not why we have been there four times in the past two years.”

### Can’t sit home

I have had a very challenging couple of years, and it would have been easy to sit at home and feel sorry for myself.

When I first heard about the “Corridor of Shame” and how schools along I-95 from the North Carolina to Georgia state lines were in dire straits because of a lack of funding from the state of South Carolina, I wanted to get involved.

As a father of three little girls, I believe that having a level playing field for our children is a must. Unfortunately, South Carolina distributes education funds based on how much an area contributes in taxes based on the industries and population, leaving some school districts without adequate funds.

Conversations with Bud Ferillo, president and founder of a firm that specializes in public affairs, and Dr. Thomas Truitt, retired superintendent of Florence County Public Schools, increased my desire to help. I asked Dr. Truitt which area needed the most help.

“There are many places you could



go,” said Dr. Truitt, “but, there is one area that might interest you because nobody wants to go there and that’s Allendale.”

That was all I needed to hear. Along the planning stages we were able to partner with Swallow Savannah UMC, and we slept in the church the night before our work; church members also provided us a great breakfast.

### Mother dies

Our first trip to Allendale was scheduled for early October. Unfortunately, my mother passed away at that time. We postponed the trip two weeks.

It would have been easy to walk away from going on that trip, but I felt like I would honor my mother by participating. I was there to help this community by painting classrooms and updating materials in their library. But, more importantly, I was receiving the best medicine that missions can provide -- a true sense of doing God’s work for others. I experienced a sense of peace when we were driving home --A feeling that I would not have had staying home.



### Second trip – second setback

A second trip was scheduled for the end of January. Unfortunately, another setback happened when I ruptured my Achilles tendon on January 9<sup>th</sup> and had surgery on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

Our trip was only 11 days later and I knew we had scheduled a lot to do on this trip including painting more classrooms and installing a tile floor in the nurses office to replace a 1950-era carpet. A tile floor would enable the nurse to keep the room sanitary.

I didn't ask my surgeon for permission to go, for I was sure he would refuse.

It was uncomfortable and I was confined to a wheelchair and crutches for most of the time. However, once again we took such a great group and accomplished so much that I had a calm sense within me when we finished.

There are no pain killers that can match the incredible medicine of a mission trip.

### Third trip – job loss


Prior to our third trip, I walked into the office at work to find that my position had been eliminated along with 132 other managers across the country.

Not knowing where to turn and

feeling very insufficient I was not sure that going on a mission trip was what I needed or what my family needed from me. Then I recalled that my previous trips were also challenging and I remembered the reward I received for helping others

So, I went on the trip where we pulled weeds, planted azaleas and added mulch to the front of the school.

Members of Aldersgate UMC had also raised enough money to send 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students on a class trip to Carowinds Amusement Park. This was done because their class trip was cancelled due to budget cuts. And just as I had suspected, the medicine I received was better than staying at home feeling sorry for myself.

I am amazed how helping others allowed me to recover from physical and emotional pain. If anyone asks me why I go on mission trips, the answer is, "I enjoy helping the least so; I can make the most of myself." 



*Scott Bach-Hansen is president of the Aldersgate United Methodist Men and president of the Greenville District United Methodist Men located in Greenville, S.C.*

# Brian Combs – Love for modern-day lepers

By Kathy Gilbert

ASHEVILLE, N.C. —

**T**he Rev. Brian Combs ignores labels and simply calls everyone a child of God.

“God sees us...as people of sacred worth, not by our titles or our clothes or by our affluence.”

Everyone is welcome at the Haywood Street Congregation — “white collar, blue collar, bloody collar ... just anybody,” says the Rev. Brian Combs.

Combs is a United Methodist minister at a urban church in Asheville, N.C., that bridges the gap between privilege and poverty.

“My calling is to be with people on the streets, and that’s why this church was started — to welcome the modern-day lepers.

“I think God has called me to lay myself bare in a way that I can be transformed,” he said. “The prevailing notion of homeless ministry is that the church has something to offer and that is transformation in one direction. But actually, what we would say is that sanctification is something that goes both ways. It’s reciprocal: It requires me to look at you as a minister; it requires you to look at me as a minister. And once we get on that equal footing between each other, then transformation happens.”

At Haywood, both the “housed” and the homeless worship side by side. Combs doesn’t wear a suit and tie, and his shaggy hair and beard make him look more like a construction worker than a pastor. People often mistake the businessman or banker in the church as the pastor.

“That happens all the time, which is good,” he says. “Because so much of church is getting rid of lazy stereotypes,



and God doesn’t see us that way.”

## Serving the marginalized

He would much rather people see him as “Brian” rather than “Pastor Combs.”

One of his first appointments was in Atlanta where he worked with pimps and prostitutes, crack addicts, people with mental illness and those dying of AIDS. It was the kind of ministry he felt called to do.

Asheville “has always been my favorite place on earth,” he says. The homeless population is growing in that city and the North Carolina Annual Conference had been looking for a way to address the need.

“So if I can be in my favorite place on earth, fulfilling God’s call, doing a ministry that really is needed, then this is where I need to be.”

Combs listens to the people he

*"[This church] reflects their understanding of Jesus, which is a savior with radical hospitality, inclusive love, extending grace in every direction and always inviting the circle to be widened."*

—The Rev. Brian Combs

meets. The idea for a midday worship service on Wednesdays came from a homeless man. Combs asked him what he thought the church should be doing.

The man told him, "Well I'm homeless, I'm struggling with addiction and I need something during the middle of the day because that's when I really struggle with crack, marijuana and alcohol. And if you had a worship service, I'd much rather be doing that than getting high."

### 'Spiritual manna'

Haywood Street is not like the United Methodist church Combs grew up in, but he is hearing from his


parishioners that it is the kind of church they have always wanted.

"I remember a doctor saying, 'I need to be here for my spiritual manna more than homeless folks need to be here for food and clothes.'"

Haywood Street is offering an encounter with Jesus with no strings attached, Combs says.

He's heard stories about homeless folks forced to attend church and listen to the sermons before they can get any services. Coercion and church should never be in the same sentence, he says.

"There is something antithetical to Jesus about that for me, so we've just flipped that on its head and said you can come here, you can get clothes, you can eat, you can engage in any services you want and then you can go on your way. But if you want to come to worship, you're welcome."

"When you hear somebody's story, they are no longer a stranger. They become brother and sister. We have an obligation as people of faith to include everybody in the circle of faith." 

*Kathy Gilbert is a staff member of United Methodist Communications.*

---

## Hanke to convene General Secretaries Table



Meeting in New Orleans Feb. 15–16, the General Secretaries Table (a group made up of the chief executives of the 13 general agencies of The UMC) unanimously elected Gilbert C. Hanke to serve as convener through the end of the 2009–2012 quadrennium. Hanke is general secretary of the General Commission on UM Men. He succeeds Neil M. Alexander, president and publisher of The UM Publishing House, who held the post for four years and had earlier announced his intention to step aside in light of other church-wide responsibilities.

# You can refuse to let hurt feelings ruin your day – or your life

by *Walter Albritton*

**I**t ruins your day when you allow someone to hurt your feelings. But it happens. When it happens to me I feel absolutely wretched. I wish I could fly to Spain and disappear. But getting away does not lessen the pain. And chances are I will have to endure that pain again simply because I am a human being. Getting your feelings hurt is a universal experience. It happens to everybody.

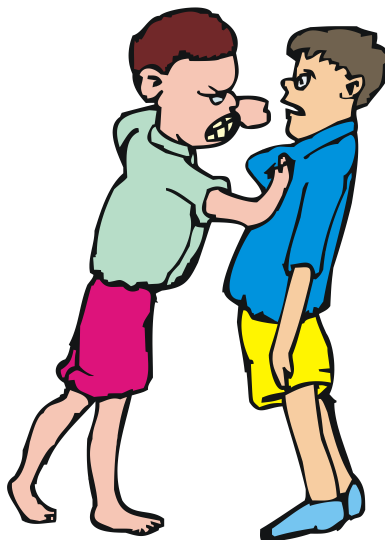
People are the problem. There are some strange dudes in this world. For every normal person, like you and me, there are half a dozen who enjoy making the rest of us miserable. They get a kick out of offending others. And these folks are here to stay. They are part of life and we have to learn how to deal with them.

So what can we do to help ourselves when we feel wounded by the behavior or comments of other people? Here are a few ideas I find helpful:

## **Remain cool.**

Keep your mouth shut. Don't make matters worse by making an angry retort that you may regret. This will allow your offender to stew in the juice of their own insulting words.

Keeping your cool will also give you a chance to mull over what you just heard. Try to give the other person the



benefit of the doubt. Perhaps the offender was not really trying to rattle your cage. Make an effort to believe that the person's barb was not hurled at you.

## **Find an excuse**

If you are convinced that the hurting words were truly directed at you, then try to excuse the offender for some reason that makes sense. Perhaps the person has hemorrhoids or is stressed out

because of personal problems at home. Maybe colleagues at work have been giving him a bad time and he is just angry with the whole world.

Try to figure out what motivated the attack upon you. Have you made some remark that may have triggered the offender's anger? Has your attitude toward the person been hostile lately? Rather than put all the blame on the other person, make an honest effort to determine if you helped to create the problem.

## **Don't nurse the feelings**

You do have a problem. But though it troubles you, you have total control over your reactions. So refuse to feel sorry for yourself. Choose not to nurse your hurt feelings. By doing so you refuse to make a mountain out of a molehill.

Yes, your feelings were hurt; but you can get over it. Grab yourself by the nap of the neck and start putting this problem behind you. Bounce back and do it now. Choose not to allow the acid tongue of another person to ruin your day – or your life.

Now take a good look at your shirt sleeves. You may be wearing your feelings on your sleeves. If you decide that is true, then ask the good Lord to give you a tougher skin, like the hide of an elephant. Decide that in the future you will not be so easily offended.

### **Forgive him**

Forgive the person who hurt you. Do it in your heart first. Then, if it seems necessary, speak to the person. You could say, "What you said hurt me, but I don't want that to destroy our friendship. If I did or said something that prompted your remark, then I ask you to forgive me."

Whatever your response do not begin sending cryptic messages to the offender. It is a waste of time to send hidden messages in the hope that someone can read your mind. If you must speak, then speak but do so graciously. Leave the barbs for the fence. Speak truthfully, but speak in love. Otherwise you may succeed in making an enemy.

If offering forgiveness seems difficult for you, then beware. You may have become the "holier-than-thou" person you say you despise. It is risky to wrap the cloak of innocence around yourself and assume that the other

person is the hateful offender.


The truth more likely is that you are not innocent. You offend people too.

You can speak carelessly or sharply when you are suffering from heartburn or some other agitation. Because you also can be offensive, you can forgive those who offend you.

### **Don't tell others**

Do yourself a big favor by refusing to tell other people about the incident. It only gets worse when you tell your friends about the terrible way someone has hurt your precious feelings. If you keep the matter to yourself, you will not drag your friends into a problem which none of them can solve for you. Wait until you have a REAL problem to seek the comfort of your friends.

Finally, move on. Focus on the beautiful things in your life. Life is too short to spend time wrestling with issues that have no eternal value. Enjoy yourself. Enjoy your friends. Enjoy life. Live. Laugh. Love. Forgive yourself.

Forgive others. And never give another person the privilege of hurting your feelings. No one can do it without your permission. 



*The Rev. Walter Albritton is pastor of congregational care at St. James UMC, Montgomery, Ala.*



# Across the Nation

IOWA CITY, Iowa —

## **St. Mark's Men hand out 42,000 pounds of potatoes**

Carol Martin of Iowa City said she has come to the Salvation Army to pick up free potatoes for herself and elderly friends at Autumn Park from the Society of Andrew and the St. Mark's United Methodist Men for the last few years. On Saturday, she was back again, allowing the men to load up more than 100 pounds of potatoes into her van. Martin was among the many people who came last November morning to the Salvation Army in Iowa City to pick up some of the 42,000 pounds of potatoes the St. Mark's United Methodist Men were handing out for free.

HILLSBORO, Texas—

## **Faith builders replace church ceiling tiles**

Faith Builders is a group organized by UM Men of Hillsboro UMC, but not limited to



church members. Each month they assist people who need help maintaining their homes. Last November, the group replaced church ceiling tiles. The men also provide church dinners and lunch for students participating in the United Christian Fellowship at Hill College.

MARTIN, Tenn.—

## **UM leader leads devotion for youth**

David Reed, a leader of UM Men in the Memphis Conference and a member of the Society of St. Andrew board of directors, led a worship service for youth attending Discovery Weekend. Part of the weekend is called the Hill of Crosses where





a service is held on Reed's farm. Reed asked the young people to compare the Hill of Crosses in Lithuania with the hill on which they worshipped and the church in Ephesus as described by the apostle Paul.

### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY, Calif.—

#### UM Men organize

Joel McCombs, president of the UMM Pasadena District South, was the keynote speaker at a November dedication service.



*Richard Kim, president of California-Pacific UM Men (center), Mario Castillo, president of First Filipino-American UM Men (Right of Richard) and Joel McCombs, president of the Pasadena District South appear with members of the UM Men at First Filipino UMC.*

### KENSINGTON, Md.—

#### Forty years of pancakes

Last fall, UM Men of St. Paul's UMC celebrated their 40th anniversary of pancake breakfasts. Originally started in 1970 as a fund raiser to buy a used bus for the church, the breakfasts have evolved into a major community event. Each month, except for July and August, the net proceeds from every breakfast are given to a variety of purposes within the church and beyond, such as the Society of St. Andrews, the Red Bird



Missionary Conference, and the Henderson Settlement. Following the 2010 breakfast, the Kensington mayor issued a proclamation recognizing the contributions the breakfasts have made to the community.

The September breakfast drew over 200 customers and resulted in \$1,200 split evenly between the Discovery Weekend at West River UM Center near Churchton, Md., and the church's music program.

St. Paul's men sponsor a Boy Scout troop, a Cub Scout pack, and a Venture crew. The men also sponsor two annual yard sales, an apple sale and a Christmas tree sale.

### Monrovia, Liberia—

#### Liberians launch \$4 million campaign

Dr. Peter Weato, a Liberian based in the United States, told a district gathering of Liberia Annual Conference Men, that he has launched a \$4 million effort to improve the living conditions of the nation following 14 years of civil war which destroyed every fabric of the society.

Weato told the men that the projects include the construction of a 120-bed medical center in the Zoe Geh District, a college in Johnsonville and a vocation college in Bahn.

Funds for the project have been provided by his wife, the Zoe Geh Foundation and other organizations in Liberia and America.

Monrovia District men began their annual assembly with a march from the Iron Factory Football Field to the Doe Juah Memorial UMC where the Rev. Robert Sieh,

pastor, delivered the opening sermon. The Rev. Jerry P. Kulah, superintendent of the Monrovia District, delivered the closing message.

**ARLINGTON, Tenn.—**

### **Church hosts BSA troop, Cub Scout pack, and five Girl Scout troops**

Arlington UMC hosts BSA Troop 452, Cub Scout Pack 452, and five Girl Scout troops for Juniors, Brownies, and Daisies. The young people engaged in a Habitat for Humanity build and they raised funds for the Baptist Children's Home. Fourteen young people received God and Country awards during the year, and the church renewed its Shepherd Church Charter Recognition.



**EVANSVILLE, Ind.—**

### **UM Men distribute 42,000 pounds of potatoes**

Men of Old North UMC distributed 10,000 pounds of the potatoes to the Tri-State Food Bank, 4,000 pounds to the Salvation Army and the remaining 28,000 pounds to other agencies and anyone who came by to pick up a sack of potatoes.

"A lot of people aren't making ends meet this year, so it's one less thing they'll have to purchase," said Pastor Janet Kelley. The men raised over \$3,000 to pay for transportation and packaging.

**BLACKSTONE, Va.—**

### **Men told it's 'Time to man up'**

Two hundred and forty six men attended the 33rd Annual UM Men Spiritual Retreat where Dr. Kevass Harding told them "it's time to man up." The pastor of Dell-

rose UMC in Wichita, Kans., said, "A man is a man who is supportive, not superior to his wife. It's not a man's testosterone that truly makes him a man, it's his testimony!" Near the close of his Saturday evening sermon, Harding said, "God loves you and so do I, and there's nothing you can do about it!"



*Kevass Harding*

UM Men President Jim Green said, "Even with the throes of recession working against us, the 2010 Spiritual Retreat was a relatively well-attended event, a measured success, and even more important, the Holy Spirit scored a great victory through the hearts and minds of the men present."

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.—**

### **Men make \$5,000 selling pecans**

Mike Landes, president of Montgomery UM Men's Club, said his group attended a retreat in Palestine, Texas in 1975. It was there he learned about raising funds by selling pecans.

"That first year we bought a box of raw pecans and bagged them up," said Landes. "They immediately sold out. As the years passed and interest increased, we started purchasing the pecans from vendors, marking them up and selling them. Interest from church members grew. We began experimenting with different types of pecans.

"We settled on chocolate covered, cinnamon covered, plain and cashews. We mark them up about \$3 per bag. This year we purchased 70 cases containing 24 bags each." The group raised \$5,000 and gave the funds to various church projects.

PASSAGOULA, Miss.—

## New president honors former president

Robert Weathersby (right) president of Eastlawn UM Men honored former president Jeffery Eiland with a gift



certificate and a model sailboat with Proverbs 27:17 engraved on the sail: "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Eiland served as president for five years.

PEACHTREE CITY, Ga.—

## Scout delivers shelters to Haiti

Brady Brettin, a member of Boy Scout Troop 75, chartered by Peachtree City UMC, led an effort to provide \$1,000 worth of tarps, tiedowns and stakes for use as temporary shelters in Haiti. Brady collaborated with the Atlanta Haitian Alliance on his project to provide temporary shelters for homeless Haitians.

CULPEPER, Va.—

## Church hosts Wesley Building Brothers

Ken Moura joined Wesley Building Brothers with nine other men. "Slowly, but surely, I found my heart transforming to where I craved a deeper relationship with God, and I wanted to share it with men who months ago I hardly knew," said Moura. "I wasn't merely learning to become a better father, but rather learning to passionately pursue God with other people and thus transforming their hearts to want to do the same, and so continuing the cycle."



*Culpeper UMC members of Wesley Building Brothers (clockwise from front center) Shane Nicholls, Jonathan Brooks, Rob Berkebille, Ken Moura, Brad Miller, Mike Evans, Lee Simpson, David Bean, and Art Fellows.*

HURRICANE, W.Va.—

## Troop fills 160 shoe boxes of gifts for children

Boy Scout Troop 17, chartered by St. John UMC, filled 160 shoeboxes with gifts for children around the world, and received the Bishop's Award for Excellence.

The church uses God and Church material provided by Programs of Religious Activities with Youth for confirmation classes.

ALBION, Mich.—

## Boy Scouts honored by congressman

U.S. Congressman Mark Schauer honored Boy Scout Troop 158 of First UMC in Albion by asking them to retire the United States flag that flew at his Jackson office during his term in Congress.

"We feel truly honored," said Scoutmaster Dave Farley.

The troop has retired many U.S. flags in recent years. The scouts cut the stripes individually away and place them in a camp fire. The blue field with the stars representing the states is also placed in the fire, but it is kept intact as the states are to always be united.

STURGEON BAY, Wis.—

## Men host Lumberjack Supper for 76 years

For 76 years, the men of the Sturgeon Bay UMC have been hosting the Lumberjack

Supper. Originally known as the Cheeseman Lunch, the cooking was done on a wood stove and only about 65 meals were served. In the 1940s a kitchen was added to the church and they were able to increase service to approximately 150 guests. Over the next 50 years the popularity of this event grew until now the men are serving about 800 meals.

**TAMPA, Fla.—**

### How to begin the new year

Paul Karstendiek proves you have to be a little off your rocker to be a scouting ministry specialist by jumping into Tampa Bay on New Year's Day.



**MURFREESBORO, Tenn.—**

### Men raise \$1,000 for carts for persons with handicapping conditions

Some 45 men attending a January meeting at Trinity UMC heard Greg Gaines, former player for the Seattle Seahawks (1981-1988), tell how God changed his life.

Fred Brown, coordinator of the Personal Energy Transportation (PET) project in Middle Tennessee, told about local efforts to build



the three-wheel, hand-crank carts for persons who have lost the use of their legs. Michael Antanaitis, world outreach pastor at Belmont UMC in Nashville, reported

on how the carts are used in undeveloped countries. The men contributed \$1,000 to purchase additional PET carts. Tennessee Conference men will host three additional PET builds this year.

**COLUMBIA, Mo.—**

### Church hosts homeless

Missouri UMC provides sleeping accommodations and meals for some 30 homeless persons every Monday night during the cold months of the year.

Along with other UM congregations, the church participates in a "Room at the Inn" ministry. The Red Cross provided cots and blankets for the emergency shelter to help offset the crowding at Columbia's homeless shelters due to the bitter cold weather.

Dave Hayden, volunteer coordinator for Room at the Inn, said spending a night with the homeless also rejuvenates volunteers. "It's a great way to make friends."



*Volunteer Rocket Kirchner counts cots in preparation for the arrival of the homeless men and women seeking shelter on Thursday at the Missouri UMC. Photo by Jonathan Cook, courtesy of the Missourian*

**RAMSTEIN, Germany —**

### Chaplain distributes devotional book to wounded soldiers

Captain Kent Lundy, chaplain of the Army Hospital at the Ramstein Air Base, greets wounded soldiers from Afghanistan and Iraq as they land at the air base and before they are transported to the hospital.

Chaplain Lundy gives each wounded warrior a copy of *Strength for Service to God and Country*, a historic book of daily devotions provided by people who contribute to a fund sponsored by the General Commission on UM Men.

# Historic book of devotions returned to relative

VINTON, Iowa —

**A** copy of *Strength of Service to God and Country* was presented to Roy Krug of Dysart, Iowa, on Dec. 25, 1944 — Christmas Day — as Roy, 33, was to head off to war.

Roy, who also served on the Vinton Police Department for 11 years, died Oct. 27, 1977. His widow, Ruby, died some time after that. The book somehow wound up at an auction, possibly in Independence.

Gary Johnson of Peosta, Iowa, bought the book.

"I go to a lot of auctions," Gary says. "I'm the type of guy, you buy a pile, you don't go through it there and take what you want, you take it all home."

A couple of decades later, Gary picked up the book, and read the inscription: "To Roy Krug from the Evangelical Ladies Aid of Dysart."

"It's like the lost ring stuff," says Gary, 64. "I like a mystery."

Gary, a retired telephone technician who served aboard the USS Bristol in the mid-1960s, knew Roy — or a relative — would like to have the book.

A call to Eva Krug in Dysart led Gary to Glenn Krug, a nephew of Roy.

"Oh yes," says Glenn, a retired mechanic and former streets superintendent in Vinton. "When I was 10 years old Uncle Roy took me to Chicago. He drove a truck for Elliott (Brothers Trucking) in Dysart."


That would have been 1938. Roy later worked for a dairy, went into the service and worked at the ham processing plant in Vinton before becoming a policeman. While Glenn doesn't recall that Roy was religious, he knows his own father walked



*Gary Johnson (left) presents a copy of Strength for Service to God and Country to Glenn Krug, a nephew of the deceased World War II veteran who once owned the book. (Photo by Eastern Iowa Life).*

to church every Sunday.

"I think it was rather ironic that Uncle Roy had this," Glenn says.

Now it will become a family treasure. After all, its daily devotions, as the introduction says, are "to strengthen and sustain you in those troubled hours when you feel a need that cannot be well put into words." 

*This article is based on a report from Dave Rasdal, a reporter for the Eastern Iowa Life.*

# How to spy on your kids

by Jay Payleitner

## Don't let your kids read this article.

They don't need to know all your secrets. Now, because my five kids will eventually read the following paragraphs, I may have to deliver this concept in dad-to-dad code, but I sense you're smart enough to read between the lines.



One of your primary jobs is to know everything possible about your kids.

- Where they are.
- Who they're with.
- Their favorite subject.
- Their toughest challenge.
- Their best friend.
- Their best friend who has never been to your home.
- Their nemesis.
- Their mentors.
- Their fears, ambitions, dreams, and core values.

You need to know if you can trust them. And if they trust you. You need to have a complete mental database on who they are and what makes them tick.

Put another way, you need to know stuff about them that they don't know that you know. Why? Because you never know when this information will come in handy.

## Use your reconnaissance data

Some examples may help:

Let's say your son gets cut from the sophomore baseball team. It's important to know that peanut butter parfait is his favorite flavor of ice cream.

If your daughter has her heart

broken by a boneheaded young man who wasn't worthy of her anyway, it's important to know that yellow roses are her favorite flowers.

If one of your children gets in trouble at school or their grades begin to slip, one of the first questions to ask yourself is what recent changes have they been going through. A dad who spies on his kid may have that answer.

The reasons to know your children extend beyond enduring negative situations. Any extra knowledge you acquire about what makes them tick can help give you hero status in their eyes.

If you overhear your son idolizing a friend's new video game controller, you have the inside track on the perfect birthday present.

If you know that your teenager is meeting up with friends at the Friday football game, you can proactively make your home a postgame destination by stoking your backyard fire pit and picking up some graham crackers, marshmallows and Hershey bars.

If a family trip takes you through Ohio, information gathered while spying on your kids will help you decide whether you should schedule a stop in Canton to see the Football Hall of Fame or Cleveland to tour the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. On the surface, you may think your son is a huge football fan. After all, he seems to enjoy his time at Cornhusker or Packer games with you. The truth may be that his first love is Coldplay or U2 or The Fray. Knowing this fact is the difference between being a typical dad and being an indisputable

hero. At the very least, don't be the dad who drags his kids to the Trapshooting Hall of Fame in Vandalia or the Accounting Hall of Fame in Columbus. (Unless that's who they are and that's what fascinates them.)

Knowing your children's secret world can help you appreciate them as individuals, guide them in their areas of strength, create opportunities, and keep them out of trouble. The goal is for your kids to pause occasionally and think my dad gets it. He understands who I am. They'll never say that kind of thing out loud of course, but once you establish yourself as a trustworthy insider, you may find that your father-child connections are deeper and conversations are more meaningful. Especially as they plow deeper into those teenage years.

So, how do you spy on your kids without invading their privacy? Diaries and dresser drawers are off limits. Searching book bags and computer histories is not acceptable. Using Jack Bauer techniques to interrogate their friends is probably a bad idea. But there are things you can do.

### Enter your child's world

Offer to drive car pools. It's surprising



what you can hear and overhear when you're driving a car full of kids from house to school to practice to lessons to church to the mall and back. You don't have to initiate conversation. It's actually better if they forget you're there. Don't turn on talk radio unless it's a decoy. Once in a while, you can ask whoever is riding shotgun to find a good station. But for the most part, just sit back, sneak an occasional peek in the rearview mirror, and get a glimpse of a little slice of their life.

Network with other parents. We have a saying in our house. "Our spies are everywhere." It sounds like a joke, but it's not. We know hundreds of parents and they know our kids. Sure, sometimes it seems like our kids are overscheduled and involved in way too many group activities, but all those kids in all those events have parents. Those parents are an extra set of eyes and ears. I'm not saying that "it takes a village to raise a child." Raising our children is a job for which my wife, Rita, and I take full responsibility, but it's still a blessing to have other parents in the neighborhood, on the sidelines, in the auditorium and just living life in our hometown who care about my kids. Having my kids on the radar screen of other parents is not intimidating. Just the opposite. It's a comfort for Rita and me – and our kids.

**Be tech savvy.** Whether it's MySpace, Facebook or the latest variation of social interactive websites, you need to set yourself up with primary or second-generation access. You don't have to have multiple accounts yourself, but stay connected with parents and other individuals who are in the know and in the loop. Expect that sometime, someplace your teenager is going to be at a gathering where something dangerous or illegal is going down. The good news (and the bad news) is that

there's a tattletale in every crowd and the dirt will show up on Facebook. Don't overreact. Don't accuse. Your child may be totally innocent, but because it's public knowledge, you have the right and responsibility to get the facts.

### **Get in their heads**

Stand in the middle of their bedroom. When the house is empty, walk into their room and just observe. Don't rifle through their things. Maybe don't even touch anything at all. But do make note of the environment they have created intentionally or quite by accident. Do a 180° turn. Imagine what their life is like. Remember your fears and fantasies when you were their age. Get in their heads. Yes, you can pull a book off a shelf or pick up a CD. It's permissible to read any poster, catalog or paper that's in plain sight, but not much more than that. Spend two minutes once a month in their world, and then leave without a trace.

Absorb what they absorb. Read some of the stuff they read. Watch some of the stuff they watch. Listen to some of the stuff they listen to. Play some of the games they play. You may fall asleep at the formulaic animated features. You may roll your eyes at the simplistic teen-angst comedies. You may be disturbed at suggestive music lyrics or the graphic nature of some popular movies or television shows. You may get angry at some of the worldview opinions expressed in the stuff they read. As you immerse yourself in their culture, you'll know more about your kids. A word of caution here: Don't assume your kids endorse or mimic everything they watch, read or hear. As they sample

culture, like you, they're going to consider, judge, accept or reject what's offered.

### **Be a trusting dad**

To any young people reading this – including my own kids – please understand this spying business is a good thing. Every dad I know wants to do his very best to protect and provide for his children. This is part of that. If and when we go too far, please let us know. Truly, we only want what's best for you.

Finally, if your spying turns up evidence that your children are endangering their life, then all ironclad rules of privacy and normal parental protocol are off. Your child's survival is more important than their "trust." As a matter of fact, if they're hitting bottom and making life-threatening decisions, they "trust" you to intervene. Also, because you're part of the parenting network, other families are counting on you to do the same for them.

*Jay Payleitner is an author, speaker, and writer/blogger for The National Center for Fathering. This article is an excerpt from his latest book 52 Things Kids Need from a Dad and first appeared at fathers.com (jaypayleitner.com).*





# At what age should your child have a cell phone?



**A**ccording to a survey by Retrevo.com, the majority of parents say kids should get their first cell phone between ages 13-18. But, your 8 year-old is already obsessed with the iPhone.

Here are some guidelines for when to give your kids a cell phone, and what rules to put around the technology:

Most children under 13 can't understand the level of responsibility that comes with a cell phone and will quickly lose or damage it. This is a general guideline that you need to weigh against issues of safety and your child's maturity.


### **Require financial responsibility**

Consider requiring your children to purchase their own phone while your pay for the monthly charges or vice versa. Children will be less likely to abuse this privilege if their own money is involved.

### **Set firm boundaries**

Before you give your child a cell phone, establish firm boundaries for its use and consequences for misuse. Helpful boundaries include:

- No cell phone use while driving
- No phone use while in class or in school
- Consequences for exceeding monthly minutes or messaging limits - restricted or revoked phone use
- Cell phone use must be monitored by mom/dad

Any technology can cut you off from your kids and expose them to dangers you may not know about. Explore technology that allows you to monitor your kids messages and activities (like My Mobile Watchdog), and talk to your kids about how they use their phone and what they are sending. 

*This article adapted from an entry at the National Fatherhood Initiative ([www.fatherhood.org](http://www.fatherhood.org))*

## How to provide financial help for adult children

### Responsibility of the parents

Parents are called by God to be the teachers of their children. It is not an option. It is a biblical admonition.

Parents need to teach, encourage, and guide them. But when parents make decisions for their children and push them, they misuse their influence, which could result in alienating the children.

Parents have been given a special trust to serve as stewards or managers of their children.

Unfortunately, some parents view their role as owners, an attitude that causes many parents to have problems and conflicts with their adult children.

Even though parents are called by God to be teachers of their children, they are not responsible for the decisions their children make. Each

person is held accountable individually. However, parents will be held accountable for their children's instruction and training. As such, there are three basic principles that are applicable to adult children.

Adult children need to understand God's principles. They need to know that they can trust God to take care of them and God will meet their needs.

Love adult children but do not coddle them. "For whom the Lord loves He reproves, even as a father, the son in whom he delights" (Proverbs 16:26).

Sometimes parents must allow

their children to fail. Some of life's most valuable lessons are learned because of trying and failing. Love them enough to allow them to fail.

### When and how to help

Crown's late cofounder, Larry Burkett, believed that too many parents attempt to buffer their children financially. This usually makes the problem worse. He cautions parents not to give their children more than they can handle. Let them know that more money won't help them change their spending habits. Parents may have the greatest motives for helping their children, but sometimes they encourage them to be dependent on parents rather than on God. If God is trying to teach the children discipline and parents step in, the children may have to go through it all over again. Parents sometimes have to take upon themselves the role that God has often taken with His own people: Allow problems to come into their lives in order to increase their dependence on God.


There is nothing wrong with helping adult children if they are truly in need. However, if the income is adequate and it is being mismanaged, parents need to let their children know that although they love them, any financial help must be contingent on the children establishing a workable budget and getting good counsel to help implement it.

Answering the question whether parents should help their adult children with a down payment on house requires wisdom and discernment. Parents must consider the personalities,



abilities, and attitudes of their children. Crown Financial Ministries believes every family should have a debt-free home; so, helping adult children purchase a home can be a great blessing if parents can afford it. But they must be sure that they are not trying to control their children's lives. Most banks demand that financial help from parents be in the form of a gift, not a loan.

### Conclusion

It is never too late for parents to teach their children about finances —particularly God's principles of handling money. If parents find that their grown children are having financial difficulties, this may be an opportunity to make their financial help contingent on the children establishing a workable budget and seeking good counsel to help implement it. 

*Adapted from an article posted by Crown Financial Ministries ([www.crown.org](http://www.crown.org)). Reprinted with permission.*

## humor A Baptist cowboy

A cowboy, who just moved to Wyoming from Texas, walks into a bar and orders three mugs of beer. He sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn. When he finishes them, he comes back to the bar and orders three more.

The bartender approaches and tells the cowboy, "You know, a mug goes flat after I draw it. It would taste better if you bought one at a time."

The cowboy replies, "Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is in Arizona, the other is in Colorado. When we all left our home in Texas, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember

the days when we drank together. So I'm drinking one beer for each of my brothers and one for myself."



The bartender admits that this is a nice custom, and leaves it there.

The cowboy becomes a regular in the bar, and always drinks the same way. He orders three mugs and drinks them in turn.

One day, he comes in and only orders two mugs. All the regulars take notice and fall silent. When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, "I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your loss."

The cowboy looks quite puzzled for a moment, then a light dawns, and he laughs.

"Oh, no, everybody's just fine," he explains, "It's just that my wife and I joined the Baptist Church and I had to quit drinking."

"Hasn't affected my brothers though."

## Three Ways to Track Your Spending

**M**any Americans have little control over their finances. They simply spend until they run out of cash—a recipe for disaster. Instead, an accurate system of accounting for expenses is key to a healthy financial life. Here are three easy ways to track your spending to control and manage your finances:

### Envelope System

This system is great for those with a tendency to overspend. Simply cash your paycheck and place the dollar bills in envelopes corresponding to your budget categories (such as housing, food, clothing, entertainment, etc.). Cash is removed as expenses occur.



For instance, if you budget \$50 for entertainment, put \$50 cash in your monthly “entertainment” envelope. As you entertain (attend movies, concerts, play sports), pay with money from this envelope. When the envelope is empty, no more spending! If you find yourself tempted to “rob” another envelope, re-evaluate your budget. Put receipts from your spending in each envelope to later analyze your spending patterns.

### Ledger System

This system requires more accountability and time, but will give you better spending information. Similar to a checking account, deposit your paycheck and use a ledger or a notebook (less than \$5 at an office store) to record your spending. On separate pages, write the monthly budgeted amount for each category. Expenses are subtracted and deposits are added to this figure in a continual increase and decrease to the account.

Using the above example, “\$50” is written on your entertainment page.

If you spend \$10 at the movies, write “movies -\$10”, leaving a balance of \$40. Do this with each expense. Next month, write “deposit +\$50” and add it to the current balance. If you have a negative number, you need to re-assess your budget – are you spending too much in this area? Can you spend less in another area to compensate? If you can’t find a solution and you’re consistently in the red on several of your accounts, consider using the envelope system.

### Electronically

If you’re technologically minded and own a computer, tracking your spending electronically might just be your cup of tea. Quicken and Microsoft Money are two good financial programs that not only track your spending but also help with extras like recording your household inventory for insurance purposes. Their versatility allows you to analyze your spending in a variety of ways, even providing a “net worth” graph as an incentive for saving and reducing debt. Both programs are relatively easy to use and are inexpensive (about \$30). And though you still need to record your data regularly, this method can be less time consuming than the ledger system.



Any of these three methods will help you track your finances and manage your money. Choose one that works best for your temperament and lifestyle, and stick with it. The payoffs will be a greater understanding of your spending patterns, freedom from worry, and ultimately the realization of your financial goals.

*This article is reprinted with permission from [freemoneyfinance.com](http://freemoneyfinance.com)*

## UM men and UM women join to oppose domestic violence

NASHVILLE, Tenn. —

**I**n an effort to oppose domestic violence, the General Commission on UM Men and the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries encouraged their constituents to ask ABC affiliate stations to air an hour-long documentary "I Believe You: Faiths' Response to Intimate Partner Violence."

An "I Believe You" discussion guide is available at no cost in the resource section of the commission website ([www.gcumm.org](http://www.gcumm.org)).

A trailer may be seen at the Diva Communications website (<http://www.divacommunications.com/programs/i-believe-you-air-times/>). That site also posts airtimes for the program, and provides information about ordering a DVD of the program.

Diva Communications, the producer of the program, is a New York-based, three-time Emmy award winning, production company.

UM Women and UM Men have also endorsed the message of the National Declaration by Religious and Spiritual Leaders to Address Violence Against Women ([faithtrustinstitute.org](http://faithtrustinstitute.org)). The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church signed this in 2006.

That statement affirms "that violence

against women exists in all communities, including our own, and is morally, spiritually and universally intolerable." It also acknowledges that Scripture is too frequently "misused to perpetuate and condone abuse."

UM Men and UM Women jointly pledge to work toward the day when all women will be safe and abuse will be no more.

"We state as a denomination that we are open," said Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, "but if we are silent on the subject of domestic violence, we send the message that it doesn't happen in our church; our silence serves as denial and it further alienates the victims. Victims of domestic violence come from all economic, religious, educational and ethnic groups. Abusers include clergy, laity, and persons of all ages.

"We need to become a church that is open to listen and minister to all persons affected by domestic violence to move victims into survivors," said Hanke.

Special training on ways to reduce domestic violence was offered to leaders of UM Men, during a March meeting in Nashville.

### Domestic Violence Statistics

- **One in four women (25%) will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.**
- **More than three women and one man are murdered by their intimate partners in the U.S. every day.**
- **During the first five years of the Iraqi war, 4,000 U.S. soldiers were killed in combat. During those same five year,**
- **more than 6,000 Americans were killed by intimate partners**
- **Intimate partner violence costs over \$5.8 billion each year. Nearly \$1.8 billion are for the indirect costs of lost productivity or wages.**
- **3.3 million American children witness abuse in their homes every year.**

## Philadelphia Area Bishop encourages churches to charter units of United Methodist Men

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. — Philadelphia Area Bishop Peggy Johnson says she loves UM Men organizations, and she encourages local churches to charter groups with the General Commission on UM Men.

“My first encounter with the UM Men was when I was 14 and I was the director of a children’s choir at my home church,” says the bishop. “The men voted to buy a set of rhythm instruments for my choir to enhance our program. It was quite an encouragement to me at that time.

It was not until much later in life that I learned that one of the UM Men’s goals was to be involved in discipleship ministries.”

Today, she says she admires UM Men for their involvement in several projects:

- Prayer advocacy (Upper Room Prayer Center)
- Scouting ministry (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire, 4-H)
- Mentoring children (Big Brothers and Big Sisters)
- Potato projects (gleaning small potatoes from farms and shipping them to food banks)
- Hope for the Hearing (hearing aids for deaf children in Haiti)

- Bible study
- Prison ministry
- Athletic ministries
- *Strength for Service* (devotional books and Bibles sent to our servicemen and servicewomen)
- Support of the children of incarcerated parents through “Amachi”
- Men’s convocation every four years



*Bishop Peggy Johnson*

Bishop Johnson notes that individual units of UM Men also engage in additional outreach ministries that are specific to their settings.

“I wish that every church would have a UM Men’s unit or if you have had one in the past that has become inactive, to get it started again,” said the bishop.

“We are United Methodists. We have many wonderful programs and support systems to do many good works together. When we do our own thing separately we cannot be nearly as effective. RE-think UM Men!”

## 300-member church has 50 EMS members, 13 John Wesley

CASEYVILLE, Ill. —

**T**he Orville N. Mueth Chapter of UM Men in Caseyville, Ill., presented their 13th John Wesley Society Award on Dec. 12, 2010, to Vernie Cox, the longest-serving member of the 300-member congregation.

The UM Men’s group of Caseyville UMC was founded over 50 years ago by Orville Mueth who passed away in 2010. The Mueth Chapter has 50 EMS members enrolled for 2011.

The surprise award was presented by chapter president Rick Penny during the morning worship. Cox thought the family was there to share in the special music by her great nieces.

“She has been an inspiration to many younger people through the years by her willingness to serve the church, the community and God in a quiet selfless manner,” said Penny. “Thank God for people like Vernie Cox.”



*Rick Penny presents a John Wesley Society Award to Vernie Cox, the longest serving member of Caseyville (Ill.) UMC.*

# UM Men Awards

## Bill Jones receives James Award

CARY, N.C. —

**U**M Men of First UMC in Cary, N.C. presented the James Award to Bill Jones at a November meeting.

The James Award recognizes lay persons who exemplify the teaching of James, “Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only.” (James 1:22).



*Dr. William Green presents the James Award to Bill Jones*

Jones has coached Pop Warner Football and founded the Cary Swim Team where he taught handicapped children and youth how to swim. Many youth have been brought to Christ by his witness and example.

Jones was the inspiration for a “Share-The-Game: Share-Your-Faith” day where 350 adults and young people attended a worship service followed by the Duke vs. Army football game.

Jones was presented the award by his pastor, the Rev. Dr. H. William Green. “Every man needs a ‘spiritual father’ to mentor him,” said Green, “and Bill is my ‘spiritual father.’”

## Former president presented life membership

GARDEN CITY, Ga. —

**J**erry Kaiser, former president of UM Men of Garden City UMC, was presented a life membership in the organization.

“He has been active in all activities of UM Men, and he has been an inspiration to all who have come in contact with him,” said Jimmy Smith, president of Savannah District UM Men.

## Sunday school superintendent honored

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. —

**T**om Crittenden, superintendent of the Sunday school of St. Peter’s UMC, received a life membership in UM Men for serving the church as chief craftsman and carpenter.

“He could be counted on to help at any time for almost any task,” said Mike Fleming, secretary of St. Peter’s Fishermen. Crittenden also served as secretary of the church’s Administrative Council.

## Thirty-year navy veteran named life member

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. —

**W**illiam (Bill) Slingerland retired from the Navy in 2002 as a force master chief for commander, Naval Surface Force in the U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Born at Camp LeJeune, Jacksonville, Fla., Slingerland spent 30 years serving on ships ranging from destroyer escorts to amphibious ships.

He was honored with a life membership in UM Men of Haygood UMC, an organization over which he presided in 1983. He also served as president of the Faith Bible Class, and he was a four-time worker on homes in Appalachia. The active churchman also sings in a chorus that performs at nursing homes, takes charge of tables at the church flea market, presides over the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, and provides free tax service for the needy.

## Ohio unit honors former president

BRYAN, Ohio —

**M**en of Wesley UMC presented a life membership to David Brown for leading annual pancake-and-sausage and barbecue-chicken dinners. “He strives to improve them each year,” said Larry Harsila, treasurer of UM Men.

Brown, a former president of UM Men, also sings in the church choir, performs with the church orchestra, and assists with church repairs and lawn maintenance.

# UM Men invited to participate in the 'Change the World' weekend

NASHVILLE —

Groups of United Methodist Men are invited to sponsor projects during the May 14-15 "Change the World" weekend.

United Methodists around the world will participate in community service projects on Saturday and neighbors will be invited to attend church services on Sunday. United Methodist Communications will provide a resource packet of posters, flyers and door hangers announcing the event ([www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld](http://www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld)).

"Change the World challenges the people of The United Methodist Church to see the world holistically by giving and serving beyond the four walls of sanctuaries and Sunday school classrooms," said the Rev. Larry Hollon, top staff executive of United Methodist Communications. "Our hope is that not only will church members participate, they will invite neighbors in the community to work side-by-side with them to make a sustainable difference in diverse ways."

Activities suggested for groups of United Methodist Men include:

- Host a Stop Hunger Now packaging event (<http://www.stophungernow.org>).
- Participate in a PET (personal energy transportation) building project (<http://petinternational.org>).
- Sponsor a Society of St. Andrew potato drop or gleaning (<http://www.endhunger.org>).
- Engage in a Habitat for Humanity building project (<http://www.habitat.org>).
- Launch a fund-raising project for Imagine No Malaria (<http://www.imagenomalaria.org>).
- Support one or more neighborhood-revitalization projects.
- Distribute Bibles, Upper Room devotionals

or *Strength for Service* devotionals at a veteran's hospital or a long-term-care facility.

- Partner with a Scout troop or other youth-serving agency to work on a community service project together.
- Host a community health fair at your church in partnership with a local hospital or nursing training program.

## The concept

The concept for Change the World originated with the Rev. Mike Slaughter, lead pastor at Ginghamburg United Methodist Church in Tipp City, Ohio, named one of the top 50 churches in the U.S. by Church Report. Last October, Slaughter hosted a Change the World Missional Network conference. His book, "Change the World" aligns with the vision of Rethink Church, and has been enhanced recently by a new small group study resource based on the concept.

"The way we love is by serving people, especially the poor and marginalized," said Rev. Slaughter. "The church in the world needs the reputation of being a community that helps people . . . a community of people that gives hope and that functions as salt and light in its neighborhood."

The Rethink Church campaign is seeking to utilize outreach events that embrace the concept of outward-bound church to make a positive difference in the world beyond the church doors. Rethink Church advertising will complement the May events, giving churches an opportunity to take advantage of the buzz generated by the ads.

*For more information about Change the World or to learn how you can create an event for your church, go to [www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld](http://www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld).*



# Society of St. Andrew

---

## *Hunger Ministry Weekend*

May 14-15, 2011

Feed people in your community

Join with the Society of St. Andrew in ministry to feed your neighbors in need.

- ♦ Join with thousands of other United Methodist churches across the nation in this special CHANGE THE WORLD weekend.
- ♦ Purchase nutritious fruits and vegetables on Saturday, May 14.
- ♦ On Sunday, May 15, bring that food to the worship service. This food will reach the tables of some of the most impoverished and hungry families in your community.

[www.EndHunger.org/CTW](http://www.EndHunger.org/CTW)



**CHANGE**  
THE WORLD



---

## **ORDER UP!** Fruits of the Spirit **Vacation Bible School**

**ORDER UP!** Challenges your VBS kids to answer the call to feed our brothers and sisters in need. The program is designed to supplement your own VBS program and is easily adaptable to any theme. Daily activities for all ages contain scripture-based stories, hunger facts, pencil activities and much more!



Place your order today:

**800-333-4597; church@endhunger.org; www.EndHunger.org/vbs.htm**

**Society of St. Andrew—national hunger-relief ministry (Advance #801600)  
3383 Sweet Hollow Rd. ~ Big Island, VA 24526**

## Cub Scout becomes youngest recipient of the Good Samaritan Award

TAMPA, Fla. —

**E**ight-year-old Gary Ancrile received a Good Samaritan Award for his actions following his teacher's grand mal seizure.

On Monday, April 19, Courtney Knowles was teaching her second grade class at Davidson Elementary School when she experienced a grand mal seizure.

Following the attack, the children began to scream and ask her if she was all right.

"Be quiet," said Gary. "Mrs. Knowles is having a seizure."

He then asked one student to push the call button, another to go after a nurse and a third to get the teacher next door.

When the principal arrived, Gary explained the situation, and Knowles received immediate medical attention.



Gary's mother, Sonia, credits scouting for Gary's helpful response. "Even though he was scared, he was able to stay calm and get his teacher the help she needed," said Sonia. "I really believe because of scouting and always discussing what to do in an emergency, Gary was able to respond the way he did."

The age requirements for the Good Samaritan Award were recently lowered from 12 to 6, making Gary the youngest Good Samaritan to date. The Cub Scout received the award from Wesley Memorial UMC in Tampa. He was also nominated for a Boy Scout Heroism Award.

## Number of Scouts in UM churches increases

IRVING, Texas —

**T**he number of Scouts meeting in United Methodist churches increased for the second year in a row, according to a recent report by the Boy Scouts of America.

At the end of 2010, 371,499 Scouts were participating in 11,237 Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops and Venturing crews sponsored by UM congregations across America. The number of Scouts is up about 1,000 from the 2009 report.

The UMC continues to have the second highest number of youth in chartered units. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints leads all religious organizations with 412,720 young people. The Roman Catholic Church ranks third with 286,733 young people in troops, packs and crews.

The total number of young people in Boy Scout units is 2.74 million at the end of 2010; that figure is down about 500,000 from 2009. Most of the losses came from troops sponsored by civic and educational organizations.

Editor: Larry Coppock

*Please send ScoutingNews submissions to:* Larry Coppock  
OCYSA • P.O. Box 340006 • Nashville, TN 37203-0006  
lcoppock@gcummm.org

# Scouting Awards

## United Methodist Scouters honor Roman Catholic priest

FORT AP HILL, Va. —

**T**he Rev. John B. Brady, a Roman Catholic priest of the Washington, D.C. Archdiocese, was presented a Silver Torch Award by the UM National Scouting Office. He becomes the first non-UM to receive the award.

Brady, 81, was honored for his contributions to Philmont Scout Ranch and the National Jamboree.

“Personally he became a mentor for me during my first jamboree in 1997,” said the Rev. Greg Godwin, a UM minister serving as a chaplain at the 1997 and 2010 jamborees. The award was presented by Larry Coppock, top staff executive of the UM Office of Scouting Ministries, and Godwin.

Brady is a major supporter of the Philmont experience. “I think that a 12-day high-adventure trek can accomplish more for a young person than two years in the troop or crew program back home,” he said. “It’s an opportunity for a young person to change from a scared, unsure person to someone who goes home more mature and filled with confidence.”

## United Methodist clergyman receives Silver Torch Award

FORT WAYNE, Ind. —

**T**he Rev. Kent Lundy, a chaplain of the Air National Guard, received a Silver Torch Award for 13 years of service as the youth pastor of Aldersgate UMC in Fort Wayne. He has led annual mission trips to Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Ky., and Washington, D.C.

A chaplain to Boy Scout Troop 349, he has attended four national jamborees, one as a youth, two as an adult leader and one as a chaplain during the 2010 session. He also leads



*The Rev. Greg Godwin (left), Northeastern Jurisdiction scouting coordinator, and the Rev. John Brady stand outside the chaplain tent during the 2010 National Jamboree at Fort AP Hill, Va.*

God and Country studies provided by the Religious Program of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.)

An Eagle Scout, the former Cubmaster previously received a Cross and Flame Award.

## Two Illinois Scout leaders honored

PEORIA, Ill. —

**R**ichard Brown and Barbara Dalin received Torch Awards during a session of the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference.

A member of First UMC in Shelbyville, Brown has been a Scout leader for 27 years, including 17 years as an assistant Scoutmaster and 10 years as a Cubmaster. As a youth he attained the rank of Eagle. Brown has also served seven years as a basketball coach, two years as a soccer coach and 10 years as a wrestling coach.

A member of First UMC in Geneseo, Dalin is an assistant Scoutmaster and assistant den leader. She is also merit badge counselor for the Illowa Scout Council and the God and Country Awards program. She serves the church as director of the hand-bell choir and as a member of the church choir and orchestra. She is a private instrumental music teacher.

## Anchorage church honors student for helping youth with Muscular Dystrophy

ANCHORAGE, Alaska —

**S**t. John UMC presented Allison Brawner with a Good Samaritan Award following fundraising efforts to seek a cure for Muscular Dystrophy (MD). Her fundraising began eight years ago after she befriended a boy with MD. Three years ago she supported efforts to start a church school class for youth with special needs. Last year, she joined other youth in a local telethon for MD.

The high school sophomore also went on a mission trip to South Africa where she helped rebuild a school and she attends Birchwood Camp in Chugiak each summer.

“Allison possesses unequalled compassion, common sense and commitment,” said the

Rev. Jo Ann Schaadt, pastor of St. John UMC.

### Two Washington state leaders receive Cross and Flame Awards

ARLINGTON, Wash. —

**A**rlington United Church presented Cross and Flame Awards to Lura M. Smith and Duane D. Weston.

Smith was recognized for over 50 years of service to the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., including time as the district chairwoman and a trainer and director of Girl Scout camps.



Weston, a Silver Beaver Award winner, led two Boy Scout troops and served on district and council committees. He also led forestry-management efforts at camps of the Mount Baker Council.

### Scoutmaster receives Cross and Flame Award

TAMPA, Fla. —

**M**ark Carr joined a few other parents to reestablish a Boy Scout troop for Palma Ceia UMC. Today that troop now has 60 youth and adult leaders. While serving as assistant Scoutmaster, Carr instituted a high-adventure patrol. As Scoutmaster, he and another Scoutmaster set up a program for boys to receive P.R.A.Y. awards. The church awarded him a Cross and Flame Award.

### Boy Scout collects 7,100 pounds of food

SPANISH FORT, Ala. —

**T**aylor LeMaitre, a member of Providence UMC, led a food drive that resulted in 7,100 pounds of food for the Prodissee Pantry, a feeding ministry for underserved people in Spanish Fort. He recruited Scouts in Troop 109 to leave



empty bags and flyers at homes and to collect, sort, shelve, and deliver the food. Providence UMC presented Taylor with a Good Samaritan Award.

### Scoutmaster for 32 years receives Cross and Flame Award

SILVER SPRING, Md. —

**W**illiam Winter, a Scoutmaster since 1979, received a Cross and Flame Award from Colesville UMC where he has served as lay leader for 20 years. During his time as Scoutmaster, he helped 32 Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle. He also serves as chaplain during summer Scout camps.

### Virginia Scout restores historic cemetery installs plaques

STEPHENSON, Va. —

**I**an C. Cochran, a member of Emmanuel UMC, noted that the site of a 1787 meeting house and a neighboring cemetery were deteriorating. For his Eagle project, Ian surveyed the area to determine property lines, erected a battlefield fence, created an



8-foot walkway, and cleaned and repaired tombstones. He then installed two plaques, one describing the historic significance of the Milburn Methodist Chapel, and a second one explaining the history of the cemetery.

Ian has also assisted in food and clothing drives, and he has helped clean the yards and repair the homes of the elderly.

### Two Baltimore youth receive Good Samaritan Awards

BALTIMORE, Md.—

**M**atthew Eberhardt and Elizabeth Crampton received Good Samaritan Awards from Essex UMC.

A member of the Civil Air Patrol, Matthew goes on search and rescue missions. He also gave 780 hours of community service, including food drives.



*Matthew Eberhardt*



*Elizabeth Crampton*

A Cadet Girl Scout, Elizabeth volunteers at a food ministry of Essex UMC and a local SPCA. She also helped raise \$3,000 for the American Cancer Society. She is now collecting socks for the homeless.

### Church presents Silver Torch Award to Scoutmaster for 24 years of service

BAYTOWN Texas —

**S**t. Marks UMC presented a Silver Torch Award to Eloy Valdes for 17 years of leadership to Trinity Episcopal Church in Baytown and seven years of service to St. Marks. During that time he has helped 105 boys achieve the rank of Eagle.

In 1988, Valdes organized Explorer Post 105, specializing in aviation activities; that post later became Venture Crew 105.

Today, Valdes serves as Cubmaster for Pack 208, Scoutmaster for Troop 208, adviser for Crew 208, adviser for the Order of the Arrow Raven Chapter, and mentor to 50 UM youth engaged in P.R.A.Y. awards.

### Church honors leader for 20 years of service

PORT NECHES, Texas —

**E**arl Jeffery, a leader of a Boy Scout troop chartered by First UMC in Port Neches, received a Cross and Flame Award from the church for 20 years of service to the church and the troop.

Jeffrey, a retired school administrator, served the church in several capacities, the last as chair of the church's buildings and grounds committee.

### Scout receives Four Star Award

LUTZ, Fla. --

**P**aul Karstendiek, presented a Four-Star Recognition certificate to his son, Victor during Scout Sunday at Van Dyke UMC. Victor completed all four of the Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY) awards over the last 11 years. Few people complete all four of the God and Country Awards.

Victor worked on two local service projects and one mission trip to Tennessee for his God and Life Award, the fourth and final award offered by PRAY.

### Three leaders receive Cross and Flame Awards

CLEVELAND, Miss. —

**H**enry Varner Jr. and Garry Lucas served as leaders of Troop 23 after Henry's father died. The now-retired-but-always-willing-to-step-in leaders helped 20 young men attain the rank of Eagle; they joined 60 boys who previously gained the rank. First UMC awarded Cross and Flame Awards to the two Scout leaders.

The congregation also presented the same award to Candy Davis for 19 years of service with Cub Scout Pack 23.

Barbara Varner, wife of Henry, serves as scouting representative to the First UMC Administrative Board; the couple's three sons all achieved the rank of Eagle.

## Scouting family loses two leaders

### Charles L. Bordeaux Jr.

CAROLINA BEACH, N.C. —

**C**harles (Chuck) Bordeaux, 56, died Nov. 22, 2010, following an 8-year battle with cancer.

He led every Cub/Boy Scout meeting, attended every camp outing and supported every Scout as if each was his own son. He coached every baseball and softball game as though every team was full of all star players. He also served as a member of the St. Paul's UMC men's organization, the choir, the ushering staff, and the group of Angel Food distributors.



A third degree Mason, he served as a substitute teacher to special needs children, and he opened his home to those who had no special place on holidays.

"Chuck was not only the father of two sons and a daughter, through love and counseling, over a dozen children called him 'Dad,'" says Donnie Ellis, president of St. Paul's UM Men. The men's organization presented him with a life membership.

### Jack Edward Saunders

TAMPA, Fla. —

**J**ack Edward Saunders, 66, a leader in United Methodist scouting ministries, died Dec. 10, 2010.

A member of Wesley Memorial UMC in Tampa, he served as a Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Cubmaster, District Chairman, and he was the course director of the Gulf Ridge Council Wood Badge. He was also a staff member of the 100th Anniversary of Scouting in Chelmsford, England.

"Jack was always positive and upbeat and a man that knew how to get the job done," said Karl H. Tramer, a Scout leader. "He will be missed."

Jack served as a captain in the U.S. Army with tours in Germany and Vietnam. He was employed by GTE Data Services/Verizon for 25 years.

Jack was predeceased by his parents, Jack and Florence Saunders. He is survived by his wife, LaVerne; son, Ryan and daughter-in-law, Lilia; daughter, Laura Prevatte and son-in-law, Shane; and granddaughter, Shelby.

"He was a great man," said Paul Karstendiek, a scouting ministry specialist.



## Former fire fighter becomes 100<sup>th</sup> scouting ministry specialist

SHAMONG, N.J. —

**J**ames D. Smith, a former fire fighter, now disabled, became the 100<sup>th</sup> scouting ministry specialist in December, 2010.



The president of UM Men of Indian Mills UMC in Shamong, N.J., Smith is a certified lay speaker and father of seven children and grandfather of two.

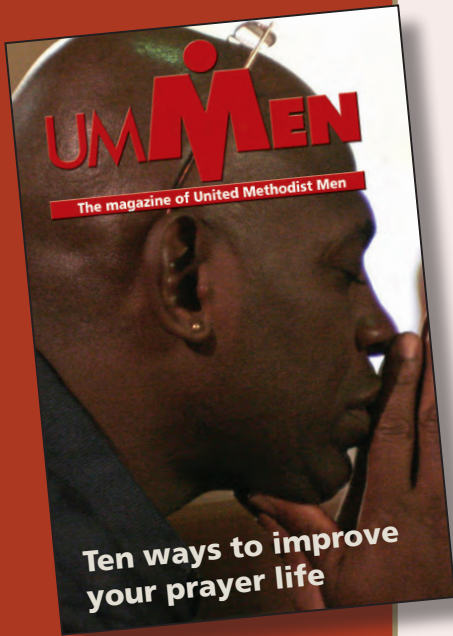
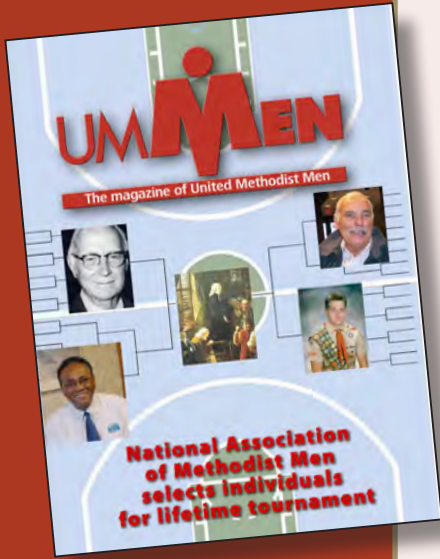
Smith says he was in a Boy Scout troop chartered by Tabernacle (N.J.) Methodist Church while growing up. He and his wife, Karen, transferred their memberships to Indian Mills UMC in 2006.

Smith has been involved in emergency services for 22 years, 15 as a firefighter. He became disabled in 2004.

He credits his pastor, the Rev. Jack Orr as "the one that helped me believe in me."

James completed his Youth Protection Training in November and became certified in December.

"Attaining the goal of 100 scouting ministry specialists in 2010 puts us far ahead of the commission goal of recruiting and training 100 specialist by General Conference 2012," said Larry Coppock, national scouting director and staff member of the General Commission on UM Men. "However, we always hoped we could reach that goal in the same year we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of scouting in America."



# Give copies of UM Men magazine to other men in your church

Only \$10 a year per subscription when 10 or more copies are delivered to a single address.

Save \$15 over the individual subscription price of \$25.

*Send check or money order to:*

*UM Men*

*Subscription Fulfillment*

*P.O. Box 440515*

*Nashville, TN 37244-0515*

*866-297-4312*



**Please share with all of the men of the church.**



General Commission on  
United Methodist Men  
P.O. Box 340006  
Nashville, TN 37203-0006

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Nashville, TN  
Permit 3452