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Summer 2011

A collection of military medals and ribbons is displayed at the top of the cover. On the left, two gold medals are visible. In the center and right, several colorful ribbons in red, green, and gold are arranged. A silver star-shaped medal is partially visible on the right side.

UMM MEN

The magazine of United Methodist Men



A letter from the General Secretary

During my life, the greatest turmoil and division took place between the mid 1960s and the mid 1970s. We had lost a president, a presidential candidate and a civil rights leader to violence. We were involved in the most divisive war since the Civil War. There were peace-filled protests against our involvement in Vietnam/Southeast Asia, and some that were more dramatic. The country was “a house divided” on a multitude of issues.

Several articles in this issue deal with that time and those divisions.

I grew up outside of Washington, DC. My father was a mechanical engineer for the Navy Department. Due to his skill set, he had a special notation on his identification card that had the location he was to report to if an attack on the U.S. was eminent. I remember sitting at the dining room table with a map as our family selected a town in West Virginia where we would meet if we got separated during this potential evacuation.

While in college, I wrote letters and participated in worship-filled protests against the war. A few members of the local UM church I attended branded me a Communist for my attendance at rallies held in the campus chapel.

When I graduated from college I had a great “life plan” that ran perfect for two complete days. On Tuesday after graduation, I receive an “invitation” to report to

Richmond, Va., for my induction physical. To make a long story shorter, it was clear that I was going to be drafted, so I enlisted. I was offered a commission three times, but chose to remain an enlisted man as all the offers were in combat arms which did not match my belief system. I am a Vietnam-era veteran, and did receive some awards for my work, teaching and training folks who worked in psychiatric and drug units.

I must admit I feel strange when all the vets are asked to stand during different events, since I was not exactly a willing participant.

I am pleased that times have changed. Unless I had to, I rarely traveled in uniform, as it was not respected by some. Today, I see folks seated in first class give their seats to persons in uniform. Although we may not all agree on our current military involvement, there

is honor and appreciation for those who serve.

These articles will help us remember a time of great conflict and discord and ways there was triumph then and today.

I pray for a time of peace and for respectful speech as we struggle with new issues.

May God bless us on our journey together.

Gilbert C. Hanke



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



contents

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UM Men

Summer 2011

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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.



Vietnam – yesterday and today

I was chaplain of Rhode Island College during the Vietnam War.

As was true of most college campuses from 1965 to 1971, the college community was fractured into those who wanted to withdraw U.S. troops from the quagmire and those who favored the conflict. Some called for the massive bombing of Hanoi and portions of Cambodia.

I stood with those calling for troop withdrawal as I chaired the Peace and Freedom Party of Rhode Island and led on-campus teach-ins. I also took a busload of students and faculty members to join the 500,000-member 1969 Moratorium March on Washington D.C. where Pete Seeger led us in singing “Give Peace a Chance.” Those of us in the peace movement supported troops on the front lines, but we did not support the politicians who sent them there.

Those who favored the war considered me spineless, unpatriotic and anti-American. Even my parents were disappointed in their son for what they considered actions that supported the enemy.

While I had no problem linking the teachings of Jesus with opposition to the war, in truth I was not a pacifist. I would have supported U.S. action in World War II.

While I wanted to serve as pastor to the entire college community, there was no way people supporting the war would accept me as a spiritual counselor. I lamented the fact that some supporters of the war quit attending our worship services. However, I warmly welcomed previously unchurched members of the peace movement who joined our services.

Time has healed most of the wounds from that difficult chapter. College faculty members and former students from both sides of the former divide are now close friends and the divisive chapter in our lives has been forgotten or forgiven.

While this nation still has a few scars from that turbulent era, for a large percentage of our citizens Vietnam is only a chapter in history books. Few people know or care about where anyone once stood on that war.

However, memories of the war are still vivid for those who fought in Vietnam. They do not find it as easy to forgive and forget. Some of them carry life-time remembrances in the form of lost limbs, lost friends, and hearing and vision losses.

Our nation today is divided along different lines, but still divided.

How much we need to seek God’s forgiveness for the past, reconciliation in the present, and guidance for the future.

Rich Peck

TWO TOURS OF VIETNAM

by Donald Mundy

At age 18, Don Mundy enlisted in the Marines and served as a M-60 machine gunner during the Vietnam War.

Forty years later, the Rev. Don Mundy again visited Vietnam to meet with men who had been both allies and enemies and are now leaders of the United Methodist Church in Vietnam.

As anyone near my age knows, the Vietnam War resulted from a series of political and military decisions that many now see as unnecessary. The decisions caused America to become unnecessarily involved in Southeast Asia, but when the nation became involved so did I.

My first trip there followed my 1967 enlistment in the Marines. I was 18 years old, just out of high school. I was trained as an M-60 machine gunner and sent to Vietnam.

I participated in a number of military operations in what was then called the demilitarized zone (DMZ), which split the country in half; north and south.



Don Mundy stands in the empty Ashau Village in 1968

I was part of a weapons platoon assigned to a combat squad of “grunts” or riflemen. Ask anyone from Echo 2/3, Third Platoon, and they will tell you that we never had to go looking for action; if it wasn’t right in front of us, it was just around the next bend in the trail.

I was trained to take the lives of my enemies as often and quickly as possible.

News about a former battleground

I had not given Vietnam much thought over the past 40 years, but the name of that country surfaced during a June, 2008, breakfast when the Rev. Joseph Bishman introduced himself as my new district superintendent.

Joseph told me about believers coming to Christ in Vietnam, and — as John Wesley — “I felt my heart was strangely warmed.”

A second tour of Vietnam

Forty years later, with a lot of life’s experiences behind me, I decided to join Bishman on a second trip to Vietnam.

This time, I had a new mission to save — not destroy — as many lives as possible.

In 1967, if you did not wear a Marine uniform, you were not one of us.

In 1968, if you could not speak American English, you were not one of us.



Weighing 130 pounds, Don Mundy stands outside his base prior to leaving for Con Tien in northern Vietnam.

In 1968, if you didn't originally live in one of the American states, you were a part of the problem and not a part of the solution.

Forty years later, I finally understood that God's Holy Spirit is with all men and with persons who speak any language.

People in the United States might just be a part of the problem and they might be in need of a solution.

New battle gear

In 2008, I went to Vietnam with faith that there was healing going on inside veterans from the "American" war. I also went with the faith that I wouldn't dig up something from my past and with faith that there was something that I needed to witness for myself — although I was not sure what it might be.

I was again as a member of a squad, but this time I was equipped with tools to bring people's spirits back to life in Jesus Christ. Isn't it amazing what God can do?



Tran Ngai, a scientist and former Viet Cong officer, is now a United Methodist pastor

Just like me

My second day in Vietnam, I met two men who were about my age. Both were in a class training to become licensed local pastors, and both wanted to be friends with me and with retired Marine Master Sergeant Gerry Burman, a member of our American team.

All four of us had seen action in the

"American War."

One of them had been with the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), an ally. The other had been with the Viet Cong, the enemy.



Both of them were just like me.

God put former allies and former enemies together in a single place to become wonderfully involved as brothers in Christ — a gift none of us could have anticipated.

The Rev Don Mundy with Nguyen Tat Vang in Ho Chi Minh City during pastors' training.

Change in seconds

In a matter of seconds, the four of us realized what was before us — four men with memories of the Vietnam War. That war not only divided people of different cultures and languages, it also divided people in the United States.

Split seconds can change lives. Because of the love of Christ, I could see the same faith in the eyes of my former enemy.

No matter where — no matter what the past — when men come together in the name of Jesus, lives are changed. Two men from America and two from Vietnam chose reconciliation.

That afternoon in downtown Ho Chi Minh City; we realized that all men are made new in Christ. No matter what the issue and no matter where that man is from, if Christ is present, there is love,

hope and reconciliation between men from half way around the world. We shook hands and then — embraced.

Later that afternoon, we met with nine other men from Vietnam who had been in the war on one side or the other. Former enemies and allies all became members of the same unit.

In the evening, we visited the home of a gentleman who had been an officer with the Viet Cong. His widowed mother-in-law lived with him. As she invited us to sit in their living room, we saw a larger-than-life picture of her deceased husband hanging over the family shrine. He had been a fully decorated Viet Cong general. Through our interpreter she told us that she was proud of her husband, but that she was also proud of us because of our faith. She knew that we had been Marines who had fought against her husband, but she left all that behind.



During my two weeks in Vietnam, I taught classes for 100 men and women who were eager to serve their towns and villages as local pastors. They wanted to bring the “good news” of Jesus to their families, friends and neighbors. It was like watching the church reported in the Book of Acts coming back to life.

A visit to Hanoi

During the tour, I visited downtown Hanoi, a place that I never imagined that I would ever want or be able to see.

There is a beautiful city park with a small lake that is circled by the traffic

that comes from all across the country to the center of their government.

I couldn't believe I was really standing in the center of what was once the home of my enemy. No one stared at me. All the people — young and old — were very friendly. It wasn't close to the nightmare that I had envisioned 40 years earlier.

I am still proud of my 1967-68 tour of duty in Vietnam. I made some close friends during those months of heavy combat, and my country awarded me a number of medals for doing what I had been trained to do. I am very proud of the decorations. Nothing will ever diminish the value they have to me.



Vu Quang Tuan is superintendent of more than 40 United Methodist churches in the Hanoi area.

A new decoration

I picked up a new decoration on this second tour of Vietnam. It has just as much value to me as those first ones. The first ones were for accomplishing my mission as a Marine.

The new reward is for the mission that Jesus has for all believers. “Love the Lord your God, love your neighbor and go and make disciples.”



The day before I left with my squad from my second tour of Vietnam, my new friends presented me with a 16-inch wood frame with the cross and flame and an outline of Vietnam. The United Methodist symbol is not yet a symbol of all the people, but it is important to those in my new unit.

The plaque now hangs in my home office and it reminds me that when one has faith in Christ, there are no military, political, race or language barriers to separate us.


If given the opportunity, I would love to go back to Vietnam and take other veterans with me. There are places to see and people to meet.

Old ideas, wrong ideas and bad memories disappear when you see the faces of those who have a faith in



The Rev. Don Mundy worships with families in Ho Chi Minh City.

Jesus — a faith that might be a little stronger than your own. It is amazing.

Go there! 

The Rev. Donald Mundy is pastor of New Harmony UMC in Williamsburg, Ohio.

HUMOR

100 points to get into Heaven

Herman die. St. Peter meets him at the pearly gates.

"Here's how it works," said St. Peter. "You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done, and I give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in."

"Okay" Herman says, "I attended church every Sunday."

"That's good," says St. Peter, "That's worth two points."

"Two points?" says surprised Herman. "Well, I gave 10 percent of all my earnings to the church."

"Well, let's see," answers Peter, "that's worth another 2 points. Did you do anything else?"

"Two points? Golly. How about this: I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans."

"Fantastic, that's certainly worth a point," responds Peter.

"Hmmm...," mulls Herman. "I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart."

"That's wonderful," says St. Peter, "that's worth three points!"

"THREE POINTS!!" exclaims Herman. "At this rate the only way I get into heaven is by the grace of God!"

"Come on in!"

Redemptive Remembrance

A Vietnam veteran relives his training as a pilot of an A6 Intruder capable of carrying three nuclear weapons

by Larry Malone



Larry Malone, a 24-year-old Navy pilot, stands before his A-6 Intruder bomber

Imagine more killing power than all the wars in human history combined in the hands of one 24-year-old.

Memories — friend or foe?
Nightmares or healing balm?
I have my answer. It depends on me.

Sometimes the weight of memory can become the gravity of guilt. With God's help however, remembrance can become a powerful means of healing.

The outcome for me depends upon what I bring to God, and what I keep for myself.

Wounded by war

My Christian life began in my 30s as a man wounded by war. The first wound I brought to God involved my role in the Vietnam War as a Navy bomber pilot, flying the A-6 Intruder aircraft. Years later, anger and distress in my life caused me to seek help. My counselor asked, "Under what conditions does your personal moral code justify taking the life of others?" I found three, but my conclusion was that none of my conditions were met. I had blood on my hands.

Please understand—this is personal. I am expressing my 1982, pre-Christian personal morality. I do not project my personal convictions onto others and their roles. My war wounds brought me to my knees, and to God. For me, the business of killing ultimately had to be reckoned with God. That is what I did. God forgave me, and years later, I forgave myself. I thank God.

God's Words for me

God's Word played a vital role in redeeming my memories. My scriptural biography began in the 1980s through a devotional, *Could You Not Tarry One Hour?* by Larry Lea. This drove me deeply into the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6: 9-13) and the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18) as my core daily devotional experience. These became my master life verses.

A team of redemptive agents were at work in my life: God's forgiveness, God's Word, and prayer. When my prayer life was centered, God began to give me special scriptures to hold close. My first life verse was, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). God seemed to be saying, "Be quiet and come close." This began my inner journey; my private life with God. Over many years, God gave me more life verses.

A dream of Mark 61

Recently I had a dream, followed by several conscious spiritual prompts to go to Mark 61. There is no Mark 61. I tried Mark 6:1, and other attempts but nothing registered with my spirit. Then I remembered; Mark 61 is the nuclear weapon I was trained to deliver with the A-6 Intruder bomber.

Why would God want me to remember that? Maybe current news helped to wake up the memories.

Japan had recently suffered a massive catastrophe resulting from 9.0 earthquake and tsunami. Several nuclear power plants were severely damaged, and Japan is dealing with its second exposure to nuclear radiation since the atomic bombing in 1945.

I searched the Internet for "Mark 61," and there it was; declassified for the world to see. In 1972, when I was sent to the Vietnam War, the Cold War was still on. Our strategic defense employed land and sea-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, and strategic bombers. The Navy's nuclear weapons aircraft was the A-6 Intruder.

MAD

Fiction does not get any stranger than the Cold War's MAD (Mutual Assured Destruction) rationale. We made flight plans for attack on enemy targets in nuclear war. Our targets were specific. The mission of delivering nuclear weapons from an aircraft is ultimately a personal matter; but it never was personal. It couldn't be. It's unthinkable; unimaginable. Still, God has prompted me to think and imagine it with you.

Let's start with the biggest bombs we carried in Vietnam; the 2,000 pounders which contained one ton of high energy explosives. These bombs were used to crater runways, hit hardened targets and destroy ship hulls from underwater. The concussion from the exploding ordnance would rock the aircraft violently after delivery.

One million tons of explosives

The Mark 61 is a "variable yield" nuclear weapon whose power was "preset" for specific target criteria and fallout considerations. The smallest yield was equivalent to the two atomic bombs dropped in Japan in 1945 - 13 and 20 kilotons. The largest yield

was 340 kilotons, or 10 times the total Japanese payload. The A-6 was equipped to deliver three Mark 61s, with the total yield of more than one megaton.

Imagine one million tons of high energy explosives; one million 2,000-pound bombs—one aircraft, one pilot, one bombardier, one mission—just one. Possibly more killing power than all wars in human history combined in the hands of one 24-year-old.

I don't know why my memory was triggered to remember the Mark 61. I need time with God on this. Am I accountable for what I was trained, able, and maybe willing to do? I just don't know.

How does a wound become sacred?

How does remembrance become redemptive? How does a wound become sacred? The answer is found in God's mystery and love. This mystery is endlessly understandable. The very best mystery teachers are experiences that leave words far behind; words like "God is nowhere" mysteriously become "God is now here."

How can God's mystery and love be experienced? In quantum physics, there are particles that cannot be seen; only their trail can be observed. So it is with God in you. There are secret ways and sacred means to God, mostly accessed through the mystical dimension of faith.

Contemplative spirituality is the atrophied art of inner experience that Western Christianity and digital living have blown by and blown off. God invites us to an inward place that is scary quiet; deep calls to deep. Waiting for you there is the ultimate gift that must be discovered and unwrapped in the presence of the Giver.

Beloved

Beloved is one of life's very best things. Words cannot get near it. God is pure and abundant love. To know God is

to know God's love. Knowing God is the same as becoming beloved. In human relationships, deep and intimate love is best developed one-on-one. So it is with God. Nothing replaces quiet, devoted time with God.


I used to think knowing more about something would eventually allow me to know it. I no longer believe this is true about God. The hard evidence is reported daily by millions of faithful, churchgoers who know much about the Bible, God's principles (rules) and church (religion). We dance close; but not close enough.

Lap time with God

No amount of study or works or corporate worship can savor the God who envelopes your soul. We become beloved by spending lap-time with God. Being loved by God grows our yearning to study, serve and worship God.

The world and the human heart are the domain of both peace and chaos. Can we "pass the peace" we have not consumed? When — with wounded hearts — we say, "Peace be with you," they know we don't really know the Prince of Peace.

Our memories become sacred when we allow God to use them for holy and redemptive purposes. **You** can experience the transforming power of God's love as your wounds heal into sacred scars. God's redemptive love is evidenced by your sacred scars pointing others toward Jehovah Rophe—the God who heals.

"Be still, and know that I am God." Be quiet in a manner only you know how, for longer than you plan, sooner than later. 



Larry Malone is a former staff executive with the General Commission on UM Men and a former Navy pilot during the Vietnam War.

Church in Vietnam seeks official recognition

*A UMNS Report by Elliott Wright**

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam —
The UMC is continuing efforts to become a legally recognized religious organization in Vietnam.

In late 2010, the church's mission received permission from the Vietnamese government to hold a national meeting. That is the first step toward receiving a certificate for religious activities, according to the Revs. Ut To and Karen Vo-To, leaders of the church in Vietnam.

"This is truly a historic moment for the UM mission in Vietnam," said West Ohio Bishop Bruce R. Ough, president of the General Board of Global Ministries.

"Ten years ago, there was very limited UM presence in Vietnam. Today, we are on the verge of being able to openly engage in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," said Ough.



Alex Griffin and The Rev. Ut To pose in front of motorcycles they are riding and then presenting as gifts to local pastors in Vietnam. The Rev. Ut To is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries assigned to Southeast Asia . Alex Griffin is the son of The Rev. Wade Giffin from Hilliard, Ohio. A UMNS photo courtesy of the West Ohio Conference



Vietnamese United Methodists welcome visitors from Ohio. A UMNS photo courtesy of the West Ohio Annual Conference

In April, 2010, Ough led a delegation to meet with the Vietnamese government Committee for Religious Affairs. The trip came immediately after the April 18 dedication of a new UM Mission Center in Ho Chi Minh City.

Purchased in July 2009, the mission center serves both as headquarters and as a space for pastoral and lay training. Having the tangible presence that a building affords is a necessary step in gaining full legal recognition as a religion in Vietnam.


There are now 12,000 United Methodists in 200 churches and fellowships in Vietnam.

With a population of about 85 million, Vietnam is seen as a mission field filled with potential. Most of the population was born after the 1975 end of the war.

"The Vietnamese officials indicated that they had a good understanding of UM work in Vietnam," said the Rev. Jong Sung Kim, a Global Ministries staffer. "They appreciated the fact that the denomination includes not only

church development, but also focuses on improvement of the quality of the lives of people.”

Ough notes that efforts are also under way to obtain a permit for the UM Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to operate in Vietnam. “While in Hanoi, we met with the government committee that governs all the non-governmental organizations operating in the country and submitted UMCOR’s application,” he said. “We were assured that the permit would soon be granted.”

The West Ohio Annual Conference has a covenant relationship with the mission in Vietnam and contributed \$465,000 – including \$295,000 from the Shawnee District — toward the purchase and equipping of the 7,800 square-foot mission center. The international mission arm of the UMC gave an additional \$110,000. 

Wright is a Delaware-based freelance writer.

Thirty Vietnamese pastors complete course on UM doctrine

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam — Since there is no UM approved seminary in Vietnam, 30 UM pastors attended a July 2010 session at the new UM Center led by United Theological School President Wendy Deichmann Edwards.

The pastors traveled from as far away as the Mekong Delta, five or six hours away, to take a course in UM doctrine at the center in Ho Chi Minh City.

The class was one of a sequence of courses Vietnamese students hope to take from the Dayton, Ohio-based school in order to complete the requirements for ordination.

A Doctor of Ministry Peer Group is also being planned for Vietnamese students who complete masters degrees in neighboring countries.

The UMC is growing rapidly in Vietnam under the leadership of these

gifted pastors. Both the UMC and the Vietnamese government require an accredited theological education for the pastors serving the 200 recently planted churches.

UM missionaries Dr. Ut Van To and Rev. Karen Van To founded Wesley Theological College, which is expected to meet this need in the future.

Meanwhile, the Van Tos, the General Board of Global Ministries, Bishop Larry Goodpaster and Bishop Bruce Ough have invited United Theological Seminary to serve as the UM approved degree-granting institution for the first group of Vietnamese candidates for ordination.

In 2008, General Conference asked UM related theological schools in the United States to focus greater attention upon international theological education. 

Hanke assesses needs of tornado survivors

MOULTON, Ala. --

Two days after April 27 tornadoes roared through Lawrence County, Gil Hanke, general secretary of the General Commission on UM Men and an also UMCOR-trained early responder, was asked by county officials to assess equipment needs in the town of Moulton.

"We visited about 30 families. The equipment they needed most was a backhoe, a backward

loader, and a dump truck: There was nothing salvageable," Hanke reported.

"I met a man who survived in the one small section of his house that was left standing, a closet," Hanke said. "When I asked him how he was, he said, 'My sinuses are bothering me a bit.' I thought it strange he should say that, but he said, 'No matter how much I lost, I didn't lose as much as my neighbors, who lost their 11-year-old girl.'"



A family in Moulton, Ala., survived an April tornado by hiding in a hallway next to their laundry room. An 11-year-old neighbor girl was killed in the same storm.

Six men commissioned as men's ministry specialists

NASHVILLE, Tenn. —


Six men were commissioned as men's ministry specialists during the March meeting of the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men.

Mark Lubbock, Baton Rouge, La., and Joseph Silvas, Hurst, Texas, were present for the commissioning service. Steve Lathrop, Aiken, S.C.; John Gaither Eutaville, S.C.; Charlie Gray, Fuquay Varina, N.C.; Ronald Cramer, Jefferson, Ohio, were commissioned in absentia.

Following extensive training, these

men now join with 16 previously certified specialists to help churches expand their ministries to men.

After engaging in classroom training, interactive web-based education and after making a commitment to ongoing spiritual growth, these specialists now offer training, resources and programs to enable congregations to reach men outside their faith communities and to help men grow spiritually.

These specialists do not replace district or conference leaders; they are resource partners with and for them. 



Nine of the 22 men's ministry specialists attended the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men at the March meeting in Nashville. Left to right: Jim Boesch, Hilliard, Ohio; Joe Kelley, Francisville, La.; Ron Sarver, Lafayette, La.; Mark Lubbock, Baton Rouge, La.; Gil Hanke, Nashville; Dick Strachan; Neil Brown, Spruce Pine, N.C., and Joseph Silvas. George Houle, Wichita, Kans., was present at the meeting, but was not available for the photo.

How to create movement in a UM Men organization

by Gil Hanke

My oldest brother, a skilled physics teacher, could do a better job of describing this, but I will give it a shot. Newton developed three laws of motion. His first and third have some meaning for us as we explore moving this men's ministry from a stationary fixture into a dynamic movement. Newton's rules:

Every object in a state of uniform motion tends to remain in that state of motion unless an external force is applied to it.

For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

The first law describes inertia, objects in motion tend to stay in motion; objects at rest tend to stay at rest. "At rest" seems to describe many of the men's ministry groups and many congregations in our great church.

While some churches are booming, growing, seeking ways to intentionally serve their community, others are at rest.

Resting is good; we need rest every night; we need time off from work to rest and reset our goals and get recharged up. But there comes a time for action; there comes a time for doing. We don't act so we can rest; we rest so we can act.

If your church has a UM Men unit that meets, has fellowship and does some great work within the church that is wonderful. If that unit touches 25 percent of the men that attend your church, then most would say that it is successful. If we want to reach the other 75 percent of the men in the church, as well as a percentage of the men that are outside the church, what do we do? First, don't throw away what is working for the 25 percent of the guys that are involved. Yes, that UM Men unit may want to change some, add some new areas of focus, but

don't abandon them.

A study of men in leadership in the UMC found that most are lonely and need some other males with whom they can relate. So, what do we do to widen our view of men's ministry to every man in your church and community? It takes action; in fact it takes repeated action to get us going in the right direction (Newton's third law). So what are some steps to start this action?

Don't do it alone, get assistance from the pastor and have two or three other guys helping you. I would begin this process by asking the pastor for his or her vision for the men of your church and community. Then talk to the other guys on this team and pray daily.

Ask guys that come to church monthly, what they would want to see in an experience that would help them with their daily walk. Ask women whose husbands and or sons do not attend church, what would bring the rest of the family into a relationship with this church and with Jesus Christ. Ask the men that live in the 5 blocks around the church how the church could minister to them.


Do it. Nike is right, you can plan, study, research, ask, reformulate, write vision statements and mottos, or design a logo. Or you can just do it! That planning-and-preparation mode can easily turn into an at-rest mode. Action and reaction get us moving.

What about the opposite nature of Newton's law? That is good, too. Let's say you decide to begin a Bible study every week. There is action for those guys who want that and there is a reaction from the guys who do want something, but not a Bible study. If embraced, the reaction could start participation in a Habitat house, or a garden that grows fresh

vegetables for a homeless shelter, or the adoption of the Scout troop, or forming a group of guys that fly fish or getting involved in prison ministry.

Doing something allows you to offer to the 75% of the guys in the church and the community a place to fit in. Some will say, "Yes, that is what I want" while other will say, "I don't want that, but I do want..." It is a win/win. But we have to act. Action is a movement, and I

want in all our churches a movement of men actively following Christ.

What is your action plan for the men's ministry at your church? How can I help? 



Gil Hanke is the general secretary of the General Commission on UM Men

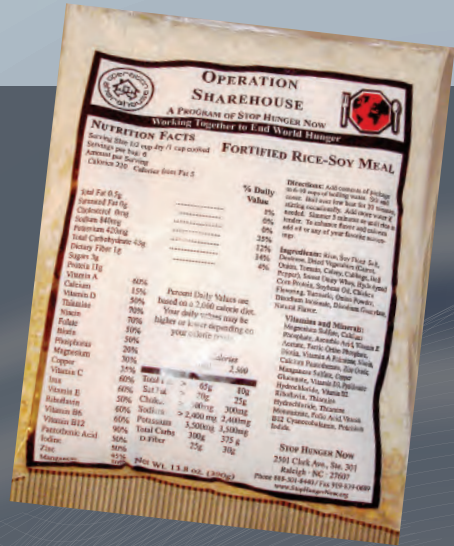
UM Men to sponsor a Stop Hunger Now packaging event in South Africa

NASHVILLE, Tenn. —

The National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men agreed to raise \$10,000 to support a Stop Hunger Now packaging event during the 2011 World Methodist Conference in Durban, South Africa.

The August 4-8 conference is conducted by the World Methodist Council, a world communion which brings together representatives of churches with 75 million members. Every five years, representatives of Wesleyan denominations gather for inspiration, witnessing to Jesus Christ, and fellowship. The event also provides an opportunity for the total Wesleyan family to speak to current issues.


Conference participants will gather under the theme "Jesus Christ - for the Healing of the Nations," and they will experience African culture, hospitality and worship.



During the event, denominational representatives will place rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and 21 vitamins to be delivered to the host nation.

The group hopes to package 4 million meals over the five-day period. Total cost of the packaging event will be \$1 million.

"Every six seconds a child dies from hunger," said Larry Malone, president of the men's affiliate of the World's Methodist Council and former staff executive with the Commission on UM Men. "The packaging of 4 million meals will go a long way to reducing that figure."

To support the event, visit www.StopHungerNow.org/durban 

Eight years later — a second meeting

by Michael Bremer

KENDALL, Mich. —

It was a long day for Del Bassett, but at least it is Saturday night and not another Sunday morning away from his home church.

He'd missed a lot of Sunday mornings at the Kendall UMC over the last couple of years. His role as the president of the West Michigan Conference UM Men had afforded him the opportunity to visit scores of churches and make many friends, but he missed his own church and sitting in the pew next to his wife of 46 years. Added to that, was the fact that the congregation he knew and loved was getting smaller — they needed him, too.

An eight-year-old memory

On a Saturday night eight years earlier, Del was 75 miles from home.

It was beginning to get dark this blustery, winter day when Del pulled into the parking lot of a restaurant in Jackson, Mich.

Several of the men from a local UM church would be meeting him to discuss chartering their men's group.

Their meeting went well and Del was happy to hear them say that they would most likely get chartered. As he put his coat on, there was a light tap on his shoulder.

Del turned to find someone with an obvious concern.

Edward Mohr had been considering the ordained ministry for quite some time but had failed to hear a definitive answer to his prayers.

"What should I be looking or listening for?" he asked Del. "When will I know?"

"My goodness," Del replied, "if you're going through all this, He's already called you! I believe you've waited long enough."

With handshakes and hugs (Del's a hugger — just so you know), Del headed for home.

What had been a little squall had turned into a full-fledged blinding snowstorm. His loving bride, Rena, would be up and waiting.

Two tortuous hours later, Del was back in Kendall.

A 2010 meeting with a new pastor

It's now July, 2010. Del is no longer conference president of UM Men. Time and travel has taken its toll on his 77 year-old body. He is, however, trying to stay active as president of the Kalamazoo District of UM Men, an energy-draining and thankless task.


It's a bright sunny Sunday morning and members of Kendall UMC are coming to church to meet their newly appointed pastor.

The Rev. Edward Mohr, the new pastor, immediately recognizes Del as he walks up the steps to the front door.

Both men quickly recall the 2002 snowy evening in Jackson when Del told Ed he didn't need to wait any longer before entering the ordained ministry.

The men share a bear hug.

The seed that God planted — and Del watered — had grown into a marvelous addition to the roll call of UM clergy.

The moral of this story for those of us in ministry to men is never — never — never — let discouragement get the best of you. You are making a difference! 



Michael Bremer is president of West Michigan Conference UM Men.



ORANGE COUNTY, Texas —
Men build mobile medical clinic
 UM Men of Orange County built a medical mobile clinic for use in Haiti and other troubled areas around the globe.

“It all goes hand in hand. Helping people and sharing your skills.” said Jim Malcom, project manager.

The \$15,000 clinic was sent to Houston. From there it will be transported to areas that need it the most.



MCCAMEY, Texas —
Men study Bad Boys of the Bible
 Men of First UMC in McCamey are studying *Bad Boys of the Bible*, a book by Barbara Essex. They are examining the lives of Cain, Abraham, Moses, Samson, Saul, David, Judas and Pontius Pilate.

DENTON, N.C. —
Brothers achieve Eagle rank



Brothers Jacob and Josh Kirkus achieved the rank of Eagle. Their parents, Cindy and Terry Kirkus, stand next to the new Eagles. Scoutmaster Sam Foust (far left) and Paul Mitchell, troop treasurer (far right), join in the celebration.

PEACHTREE CITY, Ga. —

Men sell fertilizer, lime and pine straw

For the last 32 years, some 100 men of Peachtree City UMC have conducted an annual sale of fertilizer, lime and pine straw to help various charities and ministries. Last year, the group sold more than 300 bags of fertilizer, 300 bags of lime and 3,500 bales of pine straw to more than 600 customers.

The products are purchased wholesale in semi truckloads and are competitively priced. Delivery is free. A Boy Scout troop will spread the pine straw for 50 cents per bale.

NACOGDOCHES, Texas —

Church marks 21 years of service

Perritte Memorial UMC has sponsored a Cub Scout pack for 21 years, and the congregation has chartered a Boy Scout troop for the past 18 years. Ray Stoner and John Yarbrough have contributed 21 years of service to scouting at the church.



Carl Hanke, top executive for the East Texas Area Council, and son of Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the Commission on UM Men, presents quality-unit ribbons to Perritte Scout Committee Chairman David Welch. Charter certificates for the pack and troop were presented to Phillip McDaniel, charter representative for the church.

CARY, N.C. —

Men contribute over \$7,000 to mission projects and scholarships

Men of First UMC in Cary raised \$5,996 for a variety of mission projects, \$403 for family assistance, and \$1,000 for a scholarship to North Carolina Wesleyan College; that totals a whopping \$7,399. In addition, the men sponsored a "Marriage Prayer Challenge" hosted by David Delk, president of Man in the Mirror. They hosted a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, an Easter Sunrise breakfast, and a veterans' dinner. In addition, the men took youth from the Methodist Home for Children to a Duke football game; collected flood buckets and sent six people to D'Iberville, Miss., for Katrina relief.

ARLINGTON, Tenn. —

Scouts 'adopt' children

Thirteen Scouts in units chartered by Arlington UMC received Programs of Religious Activities for Youth (PRAY) awards on Scout Sunday.



Michael McCarthy presents a God-and-Life pin to Aaron Little, a Scout who had been writing to him while he was deployed to Iraq. McCarthy returned from his tour of duty just in time to honor Little on Scout Sunday at Arlington UMC.

Scouts prepared bags filled with snacks and juice boxes for the Tennessee Baptist

Children's Home. Members of the God and Church class taught by Teresa Rector also sponsored pizza parties, big-brother mentoring, and off-site trips to Christian concerts.

Arlington UMC received a Shepherd Church Charter for hosting 100 Cub Scouts, 38 Boy Scouts and 55 Girl Scouts. The pack and troops also received Bishop's Awards for Excellence in Scouting.

LEWISVILLE, Texas —

Cub Scouts participate in 'Scouting for Food' drive

Cub Scouts in Pack 233, chartered by First UMC of Lewisville, participated in an annual Scouting for Food effort to benefit the food pantry of the Christian Community Action. Scouts also collected clothing, shoes, and toys for a cottage at Keller, Texas-based Christ's Haven for Children.

Two Scouts completed the God and Family award and five Scouts completed the God and Me award. The pack received a Bishop's Award for Excellence.

FENWICK ISLAND, Del. —

Men build wheel chair ramp

UM Men of St. Matthews By-The-Sea have engaged in a variety of social-service projects, the largest being the construction of a 70-foot wheel-chair ramp.

The men also renovated a room in the Samaritan Thrift Shop and repaired the air-conditioning system. In addition to Bible study, the active group also sponsors an annual Shorebird baseball game, a cruise down the Choptank River, and a Christmas dinner for their wives.

ANCHORAGE, Alaska —

Scouts build seats for hand-driven carts

Scouts in a Troop 210 chartered by St. John UMC in Anchorage built seats for 50 hand-driven carts for persons with handicapping conditions. With support from UM Men, Scouts gave 100 volunteer hours to build parts for PET (personal energy

transportation) units.

The church also sponsors classes for PRAY awards and received a Bishop's Award of Excellence.



hand-driven carts to be distributed by PET, based in Tampa, Fla.

TAMPA, Fla. —

Church hosts second oldest Girl Scout troop

Hyde Park UMC sponsors the second oldest Girl Scout Troop in America.

Troop 1 was founded in 1913 by Jessamine Link, one year after the first Girl Scout troop was founded in Savannah, Ga., by Juliette Gordon Low.

A plaque on church property notes this history.

The church has also sponsored Boy Scout Troop 22 for 90 years. Since its 1921 creation, 153 Scouts have earned the rank of Eagle.

The troop participates in the annual Scouting for Food program, cleans up after the city-wide annual Gasparilla Parade, and helps with a weekly Hyde Park homeless ministry.



Members of Boy Scout Troop celebrate Scout Sunday at Hyde Park UMC in Tampa, Fla.

WINCHESTER, Va. —

UM Men raise funds for food banks

UM Men of Greenwood UMC raised \$550 and collected 230 food items for a food bank through the Souper Bowl of Caring.

ROME, Ga.—

Scout leader carves cross for church

Ed Edmondson, 85, carved a processional cross for First UMC in Rome as part of the 101st birthday of Boy



Scouts of America. He fell in love with carving when he earned his wood carving merit badge as a young Boy Scout, and the tradition continues.

Edmondson serves the church as charter representative of Cub

Scout and Boy Scout troops 113.

Ben Harrison made a stand for the cross.

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—

Troop collects over 25,000 pounds of food

Troop 118 of St. Stephen UMC collected a whopping 25,156 pounds of food during a "Scouting for Food" drive. Their goal was for each Scout to collect his body weight in food. The troop exceeded that goal.

"I weigh 145 pounds and I brought in 705 pounds of food," said Matt Anderson, 18, the senior patrol leader. Eighty-seven others also surpassed their goals. The food was donated to Loaves & Fishes, an agency that provides food for underserved people in the Charlotte area.

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.—

Energy-efficient windows installed

UM Men for First UMC in Albuquerque replaced 76 crank-type windows with energy-efficient windows. Monies received from recycling the old metal frames were used to fund additional projects.

The men also traveled to Boys' and Girls' ranches where they donated \$400 along with cases of apples and oranges. The men pledged to give \$50 a month to aid the 26 boys and girls at the ranches.

BRYAN, Texas —

Men build 300 hand-driven carts

Men of First UMC in Bryan built 300 hand-driven PET (personal energy transportation) carts and sent 280 of them to three nations.

Don Montgomery, construction inspector, quotes PET founder Mel West: "It is just, not right that fellow human beings are forced to crawl on the ground all because of a landmine or a disease that is not their fault."

"We started with the intent of making only the wooden parts for a shop in Luling, Texas," said Montgomery. "We visited them and they gave us the patterns for the wood parts. After we had 10 sets ready we went back to Luling and the folks there asked us to take over and move their shop because of their health related needs."

After prayer, the gift of a free warehouse, the donation of two trucks and four men from moving company, and support of local service clubs, the men moved the PET-production shop from Luling to Bryan.

"We began to gain volunteers and very generous donors," said Montgomery. "Last year we had a budget of more

than \$80,000. This is in every way a group effort from not only our UM Men's group but also from other service groups, many individuals and even a couple of grants. We have had several groups come down for 'hands-on mission trips' and work in the place we fondly refer to as 'the PET Shop'."



Men of Bryan UMC load PET carts for Haiti.

ALPHARETTA, Ga. —

Pastor offers a men-only study

In 2009, Dr. Don Martin, pastor of Alpharetta UMC decided to offer a Thursday morning Bible Study for men only. The study focused on "the simple teaching of Jesus" and he promised to be done by 8 a.m. His Sunday morning invitation ended with "A sausage biscuit and cup of coffee is waiting for you. Sorry ladies, you can't come!"

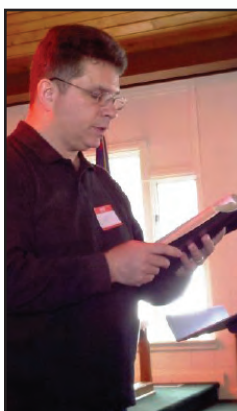
Expecting 20 men, 75 men showed up on the first day. Eighteen months later, more than 170 men come out for straight-talk, mixed with humor, prayer, and fellowship.

The Thursday morning Bible study has also provided a new entry point to the church, as men invite neighbors and colleagues who, in turn, bring their families to church. A recent visitor to the church remarked, "I really felt a connection with Dr. Martin, and so I asked my wife if she wanted to attend church this Christmas Eve. That's how we began coming."

TOMS RIVER, N.J. —

Tell your story, says pastor

"Have your story ready and don't be afraid to tell it." That was the advice offered by the Rev. Larry Potts, chairman of the Greater New Jersey Conference Board of Discipleship. He spoke at a gathering of Northern Shore District UM Men at St. Andrew UMC in Toms River. After breakfast and worship the men broke into groups studying discipling, scouting and Amachi. They also received an offering for the Society of St. Andrews.



The Rev. Larry Potts, pastor of Pitman UMC and chair of the Greater New Jersey Conference Board of Discipleship, speaks to a district gathering of UM Men on discipling men.

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—

Scouts engage in several hunger-relief efforts

Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts in troops sponsored by St. Andrew's UMC participated in collections for a food bank, a Stop Hunger Now church-wide effort, and a Thanksgiving food collection.

The church received a Shepherd Church Charter Recognition for its support of two Daisy Girl Scout troops, one Girl Scout junior troop, a Cub Scout pack and a Boy Scout troop.

OAK RIDGE, Tenn.—

Scouts receive PRAY and Bishop's Awards

Twenty-two members of Cub Scout Pack 328 of First UMC in Oak Ridge completed the God-and-Me and God-and-Family religious emblem programs sponsored by Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY).

Sponsored by Trinity Men of First UMC, the pack also received the Bishop's Award of Excellence during a Scout Sunday service.



The Scouts also provided backpacks filled with kid-friendly food for elementary-aged children to take home after school or on the weekends.

Scouts also placed 1,500 labels on bags distributed along a Christmas parade route. The labels asked for food donations for the hungry and advertised a Christmas Eve service at First UMC.

Pack 328 and Venturing Crew 129 were formed following a 2006 Bishop's Dinner for Scouting.

In 2010, First Church Scouts Grace Prazniak and Alex McLean received Good Samaritan Awards for outreach missions.

FORT SCOTT, Kan.—

Church provides soup and dessert

Once a month members of First UMC provide free soup and dessert to anyone wandering by. Walk in the door and you will be greeted with the smell of hearty soup and the sounds of joyful conversation among friends.

Howard Kivett, a leader of the men's group and host of a Friday lunch, said the goal of the lunch is to get the community together; it has been running for more than 20 years.

While lunch is free, donations to missions are accepted.

ALBION, Mich.—

Men cook for flowers

Some 500 people attended a "Men-Who-Cook" meal at First UMC in Albion.

"It was great. Let's see, I had Cajun shrimp, chocolate cake, collard greens, salad — I can't think," said Cora McSmith of Albion. "The only thing missing was Alka Seltzer. I will be fine. I don't need any."

About 100 men brought food and served it to a steady stream of people who started to line up 30 minutes before the 12:30 p.m. opening.

Monies from the meal support an effort by Citizens to Beautify Albion to plant flowers along the city streets. The \$3,000 raised by the meal and other donations will pay for nearly 29,000 flowers which volunteers planted.

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. —

Pancake crew raises fund for Eagle project

Men of Blackman UMC hosted a March pancake supper to raise funds for an Eagle Scout project that will improve the church playground. UM Men also provided funds for the Blackman Emergency Response Team and a food ministry.

OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST, Ark.—

Scout troop douses wildfire

Last February, members of Troop 12 from Pulaski Heights UMC in Little Rock, turned firefighters.

Scoutmaster Barry Bray says on a Saturday afternoon nine Scouts were hiking in the forest when they noticed smoke rising up a hillside.

Bray says it appeared the fire might be too large for the Scouts and adults to extinguish, but without hesitation the young men gathered brush tops and buckets of water from a nearby creek, and began working to get the fire under control.

Within an hour the blaze was out.



Photo courtesy of KATV, Channel 7, Little Rock

EARLVILLE, III. —

Men take farming to a new level

Earlville UMC has chartered a unit of UM Men for 54 years. The men have rebuilt the church from the basement to the roof along with renewing the parking lot. For most of those 54 years; the men rented farm land; first from a local business and now from a member of the congregation. Seed, chemicals, planting and harvesting are donated by farmers in the congregation. Farm products are donated to the church's food pantry and a community food bank; profits support the church and various mission projects.

"They're an amazing bunch of guys who are extremely devoted and committed to their church," said Pastor Cheri Stewart. Carl Finkle is president of UM Men.



UM Men of Earlville UMC bring out the heavy equipment at harvest time.



Men remove and replace the chimney of Earlville UMC.

MULBERRY GROVE, III. —

Scouts participate in Bible reading marathon

The Lewis and Clark Council of the Boy Scouts organized a Bible reading marathon and each participant received a BSA Centennial Bible through the GCUMM and the National Association of Scouting Ministries.



Blake Harnetiaux, a member of a Cub Scout Pack sponsored by Mulberry Grove UMC, reads Bible passages to his father, David

BLACKSTONE, Va.—

Scouts receive Bibles at encampment

Annually almost 1,000 youth and leaders attend the Virginia UM Men's Scouting Fellowship at the UM Conference Center in Blackstone, Va.

Bob 'Chase, a scouting ministry specialist from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, presented the Scouts with New Testaments.



Scouts attending the 23rd annual Virginia UM Scouting Ministries Encampment show the New Testaments given to them by the Scouting Ministry Committee and UM Men of Virginia Conference.

FLINT, Mich.—

Tough times—tougher men, says mayor

Flint Mayor Dayne Walling addressed some 100 men at an annual UM Men District Brotherhood Breakfast at Bethel UMC.

"These are tough times for us," Walling said. "But I think we're tougher than these times we're in." Walling spoke about his faith and touched on many of the same points he addressed in his State of the City speech.

"Bethel has done this for many years," said Jim Walker, UM Men's district president.

DOTHAN, Ala.—

Scout collects jeans to insulate Habitat House

For his Eagle Scout project, Dalton Stacks, a member of a troop chartered by First UMC, collected thousands of blue jeans to use as insulation in a Habitat House.



Bonded Logic, an Arizona company, uses denim scraps to make insulation. Denim is processed and broken down to its natural cotton fibers. It's baled and treated to provide fire-, mold- and mildew-resistant insulation.

"You don't have to wear a mask with it; you don't have to wear gloves with it — it's user friendly," said Sabrina Kirkland, a Habitat executive. "There are a lot of ways to do green building, and this is one of them."

A member of the football team and the National Honor Society, Dalton has been nominated to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point.

THOMASVILLE, Ga.—

Girl Scouts work in prayer garden

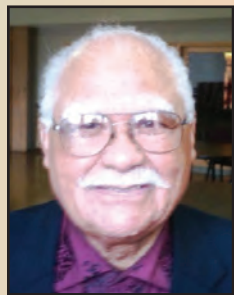
A Girl Scout troop related to Avalon UMC received a Bishop's Award of Excellence for taking care of the church's prayer garden.

The girls planted and cared for flowers, collected food and jackets for a shelter, and served in the kitchen. They also donated food to Haiti and prepared shoe-box Christmas packages for children in Mexico.

AURORA, Colo.—

District president presents five life-time memberships

Bob Phillips, president of the Stout Hearted Men of the Metropolitan District, presented life-time memberships in UM Men to five residents of the Denver area.



Bob Phillips

These are the folks that made my job easy this year," said Phillips who also serves as vice-president of Rocky Mountain Conference UM Men. "They are also salesmen. Their product is Jesus Christ."

Persons receiving the awards included

James Turner, the Rev. Kay Palmer Marsh, and Bill Cherrington of Westminster, Colo., Edward Battle, Denver; and Randy Hilton, Arvada.

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn.—

Cub Scouts raise over \$1,000 for Angel Tree and food pantry

Cub Scout Pack 50 received the Bishop's Award of Excellence for raising over \$1,000 for the Angel Tree of Collierville UMC and a food pantry. Eight Cub Scouts received "God and Me" awards from the Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY), and they also helped

UM Men with their annual pancake breakfasts.

BATON ROUGE, La.—

Men raise \$10,000 for a Cambodian mission

Six years ago, Joe Kelley visited men of St. Andrews UMC and asked them to charter. They did. This year, Kelley asked President Mike Grace for a report on the organization.

Grace says the group raised \$10,000 for a Cambodian mission. They also provided financial support for the HOPE ministries while working in the food pantry and providing preventative maintenance in the church.

They also supported "The Open Air Ministry" for the homeless in downtown Baton Rouge by preparing meals and bringing "Manna Bags" for 100 people. They also collected bicycles that were repaired and given to the homeless. In addition, the men continue to support the Kairos Prison Ministries at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, provide funds for the Methodist Children Home, give to a camp for children whose parents are incarcerated, and help Boy Scouts earn their Eagle rank.

Kelley, the national president of prayer advocates, asked St. Andrews men to invite other churches to charter UM Men units and to support the Upper Room Prayer Center.

An IRS audit

humor

Pastor Johnson answers the phone.

"Hello, is this the Rev. Pat Johnson?"

"It is."

"This is the IRS. Is Jake Harrington a member of your congregation?"

"He is"

"Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?"

"He will."



Nurture civility in kids

Some political commentators have called for a return to more civil discourse.

The absence of civility is a valid concern — there's a need for more courtesy and respect in our actions and our speech.

Civil behavior shows respect for others and regard for their opinions and feelings. It allows one to discuss issues and even disagree without being malicious toward another person or group of people.

In short, civility is an outward expression of the value one places on other people. The greater value you place on individuals, the more civil your actions towards them. Looking at much of the behavior in the culture around us, we can all see a need for more civility — in children and adults. What was once thought of as "common courtesy" isn't so common any more.

Children develop their values early on, and parents — especially fathers — have a significant role in teaching their children values. Our research shows that intentionally sharing and modeling one's values is a key characteristic of an effective father. So, Dad, how can you nurture civility in your kids — and other children in your sphere of influence?

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Praise it when you see it. When your child selflessly shovels snow for a neighbor or lets his sister have what she wants first, make

a big deal out of recognizing him for it. Praise him. Reward him. Encourage him to keep doing it.

2. Plan activities with your children so they can experience the joy of helping others. Always ask who around you needs help and how your family can assist. Pursue thought patterns and habits that plan and perform intentional acts of kindness for others, so it soon becomes natural for your kids to see a need (or even anticipate a need) and take action to help. In daily conversations, encourage them to think about how others may see things, and talk through ways to address conflicts in a positive way, without getting angry or causing hurt feelings.
3. Hold them accountable. Your children need to know that Dad has high expectations for them, and he's going to confront them about inappropriate actions. It isn't the most enjoyable part of being a father, but correcting our children, in love, is important.
4. Demonstrate civility yourself. Are you respectful, considerate, well-mannered, under control, and able to deal gracefully with people who disagree with you? Do you hold the door open for the person entering a restaurant behind you? How do you behave behind the wheel in a traffic jam? Watching

you may be the most powerful way your children will soak in and embrace these values.

Action points

Be willing to set an example of humility for your family members. When you are insensitive or off track, have the courage to admit your mistakes and seek their forgiveness.

Insist that your kids pick up after themselves at home and in public. Return a grocery cart to where it belongs. Pick up their trash at a sports event.

Challenge your child to befriend kids at school who have special needs or who may not be popular.

Have your children practice meeting someone new. Teach them to shake hands firmly, look the person in the eye, use his/her name, and speak respectfully.

Volunteer with your children to serve at a senior care facility. [UVA Men](#)

These articles are adapted from postings by the National Center for Fathering (www.fathers.com)

The magic of dads

Dads have a magical power that can shape the future of their children.

They can plant ideas in their minds that will actually come true. That's magic.

It's sad when fathers use this magical power in negative ways: When a dad says, "Son, I'm not sure you're cut out for this." Or, "You're probably not gifted that way." The dad may be speaking truth. But he's also creating a self-fulfilling prophecy that just about guarantees failure in his own child.

Use your magical power for good. Tell your kids they can reach their dreams. They can do whatever they set their minds to. Point out skills and gifts you notice in them, and then cast a vision of how that gift could turn into a life calling and help them make a difference in the world. [UVA Men](#)



Wesley's diet, exercise tips promote health

By Susan Hogan

UMNS photo illustration by Kathleen Barry

CHICAGO (UMNS) —

Three years ago, Cecille Corsilles-Sy organized a health fair at her church. Volunteers showed up bearing plates of cookies and brownies.

"They didn't see the contradiction," laughed Corsilles-Sy, a member of Beacon UMC in Seattle.

The next year, Corsilles-Sy sent out a list of acceptable foods to bring. Fatty, artery-clogging treats were out. High fiber, diabetic-friendly foods were in.

Without knowing it, Corsilles-Sy was following in the footsteps of Methodism founder John Wesley. He said good health requires a strict diet and regular exercise.

"Nothing conduces more to health than abstinence and food with due labor," Wesley wrote in his 1747 book, *Primitive Physick: or An Easy and Natural Method of Curing Most Disease*.

Corsilles-Sy said she wasn't aware of Wesley's views on health, but likes what she's learning.

"Our congregation is mostly Filipino," she said. "When people come to this country, their diets change. They become obese. The health issues are enormous."

"Primitive Physick" was a best-seller in Wesley's day. He first published it anonymously.

"It sold more books than anything that he ever wrote," said Randy Maddox, a John Wesley specialist who teaches at Duke University in Durham, N.C.

4 a.m. wakeup call

Among Wesley's advice: Eat a light supper at least two or three hours before bed. Oprah could not have said it better.

Wesley's counsel to scholars also may seem relevant to couch potatoes, computer addicts and people who work in cubicles.

"Those who read or write much, should learn to do it standing; otherwise it will impair their health," Wesley said.

Other Wesley diet and exercise tips include:

- Drink lots of water; it's the healthiest of all drinks.
- Avoid coffee and tea; they elevate anxiety.
- Exercise, preferably walking, is necessary for good health.
- Cold baths promote circulation.
- Exercise on an empty stomach.
- Go to bed at 9 p.m. and rise at 4 a.m. or 5 a.m.

It's the perfect place to stress wellness, she says. "The Bible says our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit."

Low-fat church potlucks

Some people's "temples" are in need of an overhaul. Despite these members' best efforts, church fellowship hours and potlucks are often their undoing.

"That's starting to change as society as a whole becomes more health conscious," Hamilton noted. "A good doctor's scale in the church bathroom will do wonders."

For three years, she and her husband led a health group that met weekly at their church. At first, they experimented with "health recipes" that called for soy. At church potlucks, they made sure there were healthy alternatives to the usual fare. These included low-fat vegetarian chili and fresh fruit. Eventually, the group started exercising together. They walked, pitched horseshoes and tried line dancing.

"We never mastered the line dancing," Hamilton laughed.

Wellness programs cropping up across the UMC are reinforcing the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

One example is a new pilot project being launched in Kansas: "The Clergy Wellness Program." Thirty-two UM pastors are expected to participate. They'll attend a two-day retreat and draw up a health plan with the advice of a physician, nutritionist, spiritual counselor, financial advisor and "wellness coach."

The program stresses that physical health and spiritual health go hand in hand.

Wesley said as much. That's why he advocated forgoing certain foods: "All pickled or smoked or salted food, and all high-seasoned, is unwholesome," he wrote.

Hogan is a freelance writer based in Chicago.

Lose weight, stretch to strengthen lower back

by Bryant Stamford

A protruding midsection and tight hamstring muscles can set you up for a lower-back problem. Here's how to keep your lower back healthy and happy by reducing your waistline and becoming more flexible.

Body-fat reduction

Body fat is stored in two ways. Fat stored beneath the skin and above the layer of muscle is called subcutaneous fat. Women tend to have considerably more of this than men, which makes women much softer.

Fat stored beneath the muscle layer is called visceral fat, and a prime site is the abdominal region. Men tend to have more of this type of fat.

Visceral fat destroys health in many ways, including making the body insulin-resistant, leading to a buildup of sugar in the bloodstream. It also expands the midsection out front, heaping stress on the lower back muscles.

Imagine holding a broom by the tip of the handle and straight out in front of you. Now hang a 1-pound weight on the far end. It's one pound, but it will feel very heavy because of the leverage involved. Similarly, adding fat above the belt buckle stresses the lower back muscles because of the leverage involved and the constant struggle to hold the body upright.

The good news about visceral fat is that it easily can be dislodged from storage and used as fuel. If you do the right things with your diet and get lots of exercise, you can reduce your waistline rather quickly.

Exercise

Exercises to increase the strength of abdominal muscles help stabilize the lower back. But be careful. Sit-ups and leg lifts stress the lower back and are best avoided. Crunches (half sit-ups) are ideal, and isometric contractions can help. Simply flex your abdominal muscles hard, as if someone were going to punch you in the stomach. Hold for 10 seconds and repeat three times.

There are many lower-back exercises, but they can be dangerous and do more harm than good unless your back is healthy and you are very careful.

A good one is the bent-legged deadlift. Stand over a barbell or dumbbells, bend at the knees and arch your back, keeping your chin up and looking above eye level. Grasp the weight on the floor, elbows straight, and simply stand up, then lower and repeat.

By bending the knees, the stress is spread over the legs and lower back, strengthening it without overstretching it.



Flexibility

Most folks are familiar with the toe touch as a good hamstring exercise. It is, but it's also very stressful on the lower back.

A much better option is done lying on your back, the bed or the floor. Bend your right leg, wrap your fingers around your leg just above the knee, and pull the knee toward your chest, taking it as far as it will go.

Now, still pulling the knee toward your chest, gradually straighten your knee, pointing your toes toward the ceiling.

As you straighten your leg, you'll feel an intense stretch. Go as far as you comfortably can, hold two seconds, then bend your knee and return to the starting position. Repeat 10 times or more, then switch to the other leg.

I've seen this exercise give many folks instant relief in their lower back.

Dr. Stamford is professor and chairman of the department of exercise science at Hanover College. This article first appeared in the Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky., and is reprinted with permission

How to avoid identity theft

Don't give personal information on the phone, through the mail, or over the Internet unless you initiated the contact. Identity thieves may pose as representatives of banks, Internet service providers, and even government agencies to get you to reveal your Social Security number, mother's maiden name, financial account numbers, and other identifying information.

Legitimate organizations have the information they need and will not ask for it.

Be sure that you do not throw away anything that someone could use to assume your identity. Shred important papers with your name and/or address — that includes credit card receipts and preapproved credit applications.

Make sure no one can watch you enter your pin number at an ATM machine

Do not put checks in the mail at your home mailbox. If possible, get a post office box or a locked mailbox.

When you are asked for identification by schools or employers, ask to use an alternative to your Social Security number. If your health insurance uses your Social Security number ask if



that number can be changed.

Cancel unused credit cards.

Put passwords on all accounts and do not use your mother's maiden name.

Do not carry your Social Security card with you and don't put that number on checks.

Don't carry a checkbook. Pay by cash or credit card.

Don't put your credit card number on the Internet unless it is encrypted on a secured site.

Monitor all bank statements and credit card reports.

Review your credit report at least annually and report any mistakes in writing.

Make a list of all your credit card account numbers and bank account numbers and keep them in a safe place. (Do not keep it on the hard drive of your computer if you are connected to the Internet.)

If you are a victim of identity theft

If you are a victim of identity theft, take the following **four steps** as soon as possible, and keep a record with the details of your conversations and copies of all correspondence.

1. Place a fraud alert on your credit reports, and review your credit reports.

Fraud alerts can help prevent an identity thief from opening any more accounts in your name. Contact the toll-free fraud number of any of the three consumer reporting companies below to place a fraud alert on your credit report. You only need to contact one of the three companies to place an alert. The company you call is required to contact the other two, which will place an alert on their versions of your report, too. If you do not receive a confirmation from a company, you should contact that company directly to place a fraud alert.

TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289; www.transunion.com; Fraud Victim Assistance Division, P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92834-6790

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285; www.equifax.com; P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

Experian: 1-888-397-3742; www.experian.com; P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013

Once you place the fraud alert in your file, you're entitled to order one free copy of your credit report from each of the three consumer reporting companies, and, if you ask, only the last four digits of your Social Security number will appear on your credit reports. Once you get your credit reports, review them carefully. Look for inquiries from companies you haven't contacted, accounts you didn't open, and debts on your accounts that you can't explain. Check to see your Social Security number, address, name or initials, and employers are correct. If you find fraudulent or inaccurate information, get it removed. When you correct your credit report, use an

Identity Theft Report with a cover letter explaining your request, to get the fastest and most complete results.

Continue to check your credit reports periodically.

2. Close the accounts that you know, or believe, have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.

Call and speak with someone in the security or fraud department of each company. Follow up in writing, and include copies (not originals) of supporting documents. It's important to notify credit card companies and banks in writing. Send your letters by certified mail, return receipt requested, so you can document what the company received and when. Keep a file of your correspondence and enclosures.

When you open new accounts, use new personal identification numbers and passwords. Avoid using easily available information like your mother's maiden name, your birth date, the last four digits of your Social Security number or your phone number, or a series of consecutive numbers.

If the identity thief has made charges or debits on your accounts, or has fraudulently opened accounts, ask the company for the forms to dispute those transactions:

3. File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.

You can file a complaint with the FTC using the on line complaint form (<https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/>) or call the FTC's Identity Theft Hotline, toll-free: 1-877-438-4338; or write

Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. Be sure to call the hotline to update your complaint if you have any additional information or problems.

By sharing your identity theft complaint with the FTC, you will provide important information that can help law enforcement officials across the nation track down identity thieves and stop them. The FTC can refer victims' complaints to other government agencies and companies for further action, as well as investigate companies for violations of laws the agency enforces.

Additionally, you can provide a printed copy of your online complaint form to the police to incorporate into their police report. The printed FTC ID Theft Complaint, in conjunction with the police report, can constitute an Identity Theft Report and entitle you to certain protections. This Identity Theft Report can be used to

(1) permanently block fraudulent information from appearing on your credit report;

(2) ensure that debts do not reappear on your credit report;

(3) prevent a company from continuing to collect debts that result from identity theft; and

(4) place an extended fraud alert on your credit report.

4. File a report with your local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place.

Call your local police department and tell them that you

want to file a report about your identity theft. Ask them if you can file the report in person. If you cannot, ask if you can file a report over the Internet or by telephone.

If the police are reluctant to take your report, ask to file a "Miscellaneous Incident" report, or try another jurisdiction, like your state police. You also can check with your state Attorney General's office to find out if state law requires the police to take reports for identity theft. Check the Blue Pages of your telephone directory for the phone number.

When you go to your local police department to file your report, bring a printed copy of your FTC ID Theft Complaint form, your cover letter, and your supporting documentation. The cover letter explains why a police report and an ID Theft Complaint are important to victims.

Ask the officer to attach or incorporate the ID Theft Complaint into their police report. Tell them that you need a copy of the Identity Theft Report (the police report with your ID Theft Complaint attached or incorporated) to dispute the fraudulent accounts and debts created by the identity thief. In some jurisdictions the officer will not be able to give you a copy of the official police report, but should be able to sign your complaint and write the police report number in the "Law Enforcement Report" section.

This article is based on an on-line article by Crown Financial Ministries (<http://crown.org/>) and a posting by the Federal Trade Commission (<http://www.ftc.gov/>)

Wichita event features two bishops and outstanding preachers

WICHITA, Kan. —

An awesome lineup of speakers, a presentation by a former prison inmate, a potato drop, outstanding singing, and fellowship with men throughout the South Central Jurisdictions will be featured at a July 29-31 conference at First UMC in Wichita.

Persons in other areas of the country are invited to participate in the event through a webcast.

Bishop Scott Jones



Bishop Scott Jones

Kansas Area Bishop Scott Jones, a graduate of the University of Kansas (B.A.), Perkins School of Theology (Th.M.), and Southern Methodist University (Ph.D.), will open the three-day event on Friday evening. After serving churches in Texas and teaching at Perkins, he was elected to the episcopacy in 2004.

The Rev. Todd Guinn

On Saturday morning, the Rev. Todd Guinn, a staff member of First UMC in Wichita, will address the assembly. A graduate of Southwestern College (B.A.), the no-holds-barred pastor has a contagious passion for sharing Christ in an inspiring and engaging manner.

The rest of the morning and early afternoon will be busy with a potato drop, and prison- and men's-ministry sessions.



The Rev. Kevass Harding

The Rev. Dr. Kevass J. Harding

The Rev. Dr. Kevass J. Harding, pastor of Dellrose UMC in Wichita, will be the late afternoon speaker.

Harding is a graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso (B.S.) and Phillips Theological Seminary (M.Div.) and United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio (D.Min.). In 1998, Harding was appointed to the 25-member Dellrose UMC. The church has now grown to over 650 members.

Bishop Robert Hayes

On Saturday evening the assembly will gather around the Communion table with Oklahoma Area Bishop Robert Hayes as the celebrant and speaker.



Bishop Robert Hayes

A graduate of Huston-Tillotson College, Perkins School of Theology (Th.M.) and Drew University in Madison, N.J. (D.Min.), Hayes was elected to the episcopacy in 2004 while serving as treasurer

of the Texas Annual Conference. Previously, he served as a local church pastor for 25 years and a district superintendent for seven years.

Marvin W. Hood



The Rev. Marvin Hood

Marvin W. Hood, pastor and founder of Newgate Fellowship in Spring, Texas, will lead a session on prison ministry. After serving time in prison, Hood graduated from Sam Houston State University, and he now attends seminary at Perkins School of Theology.

Newgate Fellowship seeks reconciliation and restoration for persons impacted by crime, isolation, and broken-life experiences.

Roger Cooper

Music will be provided by Roger Cooper, one of the best old-time fiddlers and guitar players in America. Raised in Kentucky, home of fiddle music, his CD, "Going Back to Old Kentucky," elevates him from the category of a technical wonder into a fully rounded musician.

Register

To register for the event or to download a brochure, visit www.tcumm.org. Click on the SCJ Gathering. You may also register for the webcast at the site.

United Methodist Men by the Numbers

- 8** Number of conferences in which UM men are teaching DISCIPLE Bible Study in state prisons
- 27** Number of certified men's ministry specialists
- 29** Number of annual conferences that increased the number of chartered organizations from 2009 to 2010.
- 40** Number of "big brothers" matched with boys who have at least one parent in prison through efforts by the Commission on UM Men
- 50%** Percent of un-churched families from the community who come to scouting programs at UM churches
- 52** Number of annual conferences that increased the number of EMS members in 2010
- 112** Number of Scouting Ministry Specialists
- 78%** Percentage of General Commission on UM Men funds raised by UM Men for national and international ministries. Only 22 percent comes from World Service apportioned funds.
- 1,000** Number of volunteers that serve the Upper Room Prayer Line in 300 groups around the world
- 8,000** Number of e-mails received each month by the Upper Room Prayer Line

\$11,500

Amount of money raised by prayer advocates and UM Men groups for the Upper Room Prayer Line in 2010

\$17,500

Amount of money collected for Nothing But Nets by UM Boy Scouts attending the national jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia

266,014

Number of calls in 2010 to the Upper Room Prayer Line

371,499

Number of Scouts in troops and packs sponsored by 6,700 UM churches

443,000

Number of Strength for Service books distributed by the General Commission on UM Men

1,920,000

Servings of fresh surplus food provided by UM Men through Meals for Millions of the Society of St. Andrew in 2010

8,400,000

Servings of fresh produce provided to the hungry through the Society of St. Andrew Potato Project by UM Men in 2010

\$14,121,321

Amount of money raised by UM Men groups for missions in 2009

United Methodist Men Expand Ministries

NASHVILLE, Tenn. —

UM Men will expand their ministries to include DISCIPLE Bible Study in prisons, packaging events for Stop Hunger Now, training webinars and new resources.

The National Association of Conference Presidents, meeting March 3-6 in Nashville, also agreed to continue support for the Meals for Millions program of the Society of St. Andrew. Wade Mays, an executive with the society, reported that UM Men contributed \$168,196 to Meals for Millions in 2010.

UM Men prayer advocates held separate sessions to discuss ways in which they could support the Upper Room Prayer Line.

Attendees contributed \$10,925 for the telephone ministry and expect to raise that total to \$15,000. The prayer line received 266,014 calls in 2010 in addition to some 8,000 monthly e-mail messages.

During the four day event, the men also participated in the commissioning of six new men's ministry specialists who will join with 16 other previously commissioned men to help neighboring churches expand their ministries.

In other sessions, the men:

- passed a General Conference resolution to support clergy women
- passed a General Conference resolution urging churches to expand their ministries beyond the group that meets for fellowship, prayer and study
- learned that 430,000 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Country*, an updated and expanded World War II book of daily devotions, have been distributed; most of the books were given to service men and women
- learned there are now 113 scouting ministry specialists helping churches understand scouting and other youth-serving agencies as a way of reaching unchurched families and ministering to the communities
- learned that 5,000 Back Packing New Testaments will be given to Boy Scouts attending Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico
- received invitations to join a South Central Jurisdictional conference July 29-31 at First UMC in Wichita, Kans.



Conference presidents of UM Men and conference prayer advocates gather outside the Upper Room Chapel during their March 3-6 meeting in Nashville.

Men invited to create life-long reminders

NASHVILLE, Tenn. —

UM men are invited to purchase life-long reminders of those they love or wish to recognize on engraved pavers on the walkway in front of the Nashville office of the General Commission on UM Men.

Purchase of the pavers will not only honor a loved one, it will also support the ministries of the commission.

People who reserve spaces prior to March 2012 will be guaranteed first-choice locations. The pavers will be installed soon after the March 1-4, 2012, meeting of the National Association of Conference Presidents. People may still order pavers after that date, but they will not be guaranteed premium locations.

Engraved pavers come in two sizes: 8" x 8" (\$500) and 4" x 8" (\$200).

One hundred percent of the donation is tax deductible.

To order an engraved paver, go online (<http://www.gcum.org/support/>). Click on "Make



Sample paver

a Donation or Payment". Scroll to the bottom of the page under "Payments" and enter the dollar amount. On the right side, enter the information to be put on the brick. Please start with BRICK then the two lines for the engraving: Mr. and Mrs. John Doe, Somewhere, STATE.



Engraved pavers will vastly improve the front walkway of the Nashville office of the General Commission on UM Men.

Become a phone volunteer or form a Covenant Prayer Partner group

NASHVILLE, Tenn. —

Each day, hundreds of people request prayer by calling the Living Prayer Center (toll-free: 1-800-251-2468), a service supported by UM Men.

The prayer line — available everyday from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. — requires the assistance of some 200 groups of volunteers.

If you are not involved in this ministry, it's time to change that status.

Incoming calls may be directed to your home or church phone number. Even a commitment of two hours a week can make a major difference.

When you receive calls, make notes of the specific needs before praying with the caller. Share that information with one of the Covenant Prayer Groups who will continue to pray for the caller.

It's also easy for your unit of UM Men to start a Covenant Prayer Group, Commit to meet once a week and complete a study of the *Workbook of Living Prayer* by Maxie Dunnam. After this study and a recommendation from your pastor, your group will be chartered as an Upper Room Covenant Prayer Group, which will then receive prayer requests by e-mail.

For more information, call 1-877-899-2780, ext. 7215.

New grant enables commission to recruit additional mentors for children of incarcerated parents

NASHVILLE —

A \$7,300 grant from the Human Relations Day offering will enable the General Commission on UM Men to continue an effort to recruit adults to serve as mentors of children of incarcerated parents through the Amachi program of Big Brothers – Big Sisters.

In 2010, the commission led facilitation meetings in 12 annual conferences; the sessions led 41 adults to serve as mentors through Amachi. Those conferences continue to recruit persons who are willing to spend at least one hour a week with these children.

“Amachi” is a Nigerian Ibo word that means “Who knows but what God has brought us through this child.” The program was created by the Rev. Dr. Wilson Goode, former mayor of Philadelphia, following a visit to a prison where he found a grandfather, father and son in prison at the same time.

The Human Relations Day grant, awarded by the General Board of Church and Society, will enable the commission to introduce or expand the Amachi program in Denver, San Diego, Phoenix, Kansas City, Atlanta, and Oklahoma City or Tulsa.

The need

A study by the Tennessee Department of Corrections found that there is a 50-70 percent chance that a child will follow his/her incarcerated parents into a life of crime. Over 18,000 children under the age of 18 in Tennessee were touched by the incarceration of a parent.

The Tennessee study found that the introduction of an adult mentor for just one hour a week significantly reduced negative

behavior. School grades improved and the child’s self image was enhanced.

In another study, authorized by Big Brothers Big Sisters, researchers examined the lives of 1,000 10-16-year-olds who applied for mentors. More than 60 percent of them were boys; more than half were members of minority groups, mostly African American.

Over 80 percent came from impoverished families; approximately 40 percent were from homes with a history of drug or alcohol abuse, and almost all were being raised by a single parent. Half of these young people were matched with a mentor, while the rest stayed on the waiting list.

Eighteen months later, the differences between the two groups were surprising. Weekly meetings with a mentor for a year:

- Reduced first-time drug use by almost half
- Reduced first-time alcohol use by a third
- Cut school absenteeism by half
- Improved parental and peer relationships
- Gave the youth confidence in doing their school work.

Expectations

Amachi mentors meet weekly with a child who has been carefully matched with them; they often live and worship in the same neighborhoods as the children. Mentors agree to make one visit every week or every other week for at least one hour. Volunteers are expected to continue for at least one year.

Larry Coppock, project coordinator, has served as a big brother to Calvin, a 14-year-old whose father has been incarcerated. He invites Calvin into his home and has taken him to various sporting events, including a

football camp. He also took Calvin to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. The experiences have enriched both of their lives.

Coppock helped establish Amachi coordinators in the Texas, Louisiana, Detroit, Holston, California-Pacific, Rio Grande, Memphis, Baltimore-Washington, Kentucky, Memphis, North Texas and Tennessee Annual Conferences.

Men who wish to become Amachi volunteers do not have to be in a conference where there is an Amachi coordinator. Contact Coppock for information (LCoppock@gcumm.org).



Larry Coppock, coordinator of the Amachi program for the General Commission on UM Men, hangs onto a hand railing to avoid being pushed into a YMCA pool by his little brother, Calvin. Coppock arranged for swimming lessons for Calvin and his two brothers at the Springfield, Tenn., YMCA.

Quarter campaign nets \$3,600 for missions

NASHVILLE, Tenn. —

When 24 men agreed to save a quarter a day, people who need Bibles, earthquake victims in Haiti, and hungry people in America received gifts totaling \$3,600.

In March, 2010, Wayne Custer, president of the Northeastern Jurisdiction of UM Men, challenged conference presidents to put a quarter a day away for the next 365 days.

One year later, Custer found 24 conference presidents had accepted his challenge. They each brought in \$91.25, giving a total amount of \$2,190.

Contributors then agreed to provide \$480 of that total for *Faith Sharing New Testaments* to be given to friends and strangers.

A total of \$960 was set aside to purchase building material for Haiti — an amount matched by the UM Committee on Relief — bringing the total to \$1,920.

The remaining \$750 was allocated for Meals for Millions, a feeding ministry of the Society of St. Andrews. The timing of that gift couldn't have been better as it was given prior to an April 30 deadline for an additional \$450 from the Feinstein Foundation, bringing the

total amount to feed the hungry to \$1,200.

When you add all amounts and matching grants, the quarter-a-day campaign netted \$3,600 for New Testaments, building materials in Haiti and meals for the hungry.

“God has truly blessed us,” said Custer. He hopes to double the number of participants in the quarter-a-day effort over the next 12 months.

“Local units of UM Men might consider using the same painless-giving plan to raise funds for local and national missions,” said Custer.



UM Men honored for increasing number of chartered groups

NASHVILLE, Tenn. —

Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, expressed gratitude to annual conferences that increased the number of chartered men's organizations over the past year.

"In the midst of all the news centering on the decline in the UMC," said Hanke, "we are seeing real growth in men's ministry and in scouting ministry."

Hanke presented Bibles to presidents of conferences that increased the number of EMS members (Every Man Shares – Evangelism Mission and Spiritual Life) and presidents that increased the number of chartered groups over the past year.

Hanke gave certificates of appreciation to presidents of UM Men in 17 annual conferences that paid 100 percent of their general church apportionments. The presidents presented the certificates to their bishops during annual conference sessions.

Conferences that increased the number of chartered groups:

Virginia – 16 new charters

Mississippi 14 new charters

Alabama-West Florida – 12 new charters

Other conferences (in order of their increases):

West Virginia, Northern Illinois, Eastern Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Holston, Tennessee, Rocky Mountain, West Michigan, East Ohio, New England, Central Texas, Oklahoma,

South Carolina, Minnesota, West Ohio, New York, Baltimore-Washington, Wisconsin, Central Pennsylvania, Peninsula-Delaware, Kansas West, Yellowstone, Desert Southwest, Illinois Great Rivers, North Carolina, and California- Pacific.

Conferences that increased the number of EMS members

Baltimore-Washington – 54 new members

Louisiana – 48 new members

Detroit – 40 new members



Representatives of conferences that increased the number of EMS members receive Bibles from Gil Hanke, top staff executive of United Methodist Men. Left to right: Donald Beard, Mississippi; Steve Nailor, Northern Illinois; David Martin, Indiana; Gard Wayt, Louisiana; Norman Johnson, North Georgia; Jim Green, Virginia; John Croft, Alabama-West Florida; Darwin Hebron, Baltimore Washington; Tom Starnes, North Carolina, and James Walker, Detroit. Not pictured: Clarence Littlefield, Southwest Texas.

UM Men give \$168,000 to Meals for Millions

NASHVILLE, Tenn. —

UM Men gave \$168,196 to Meals for Millions in 2010.

The mission project was begun by the UM Men in 1989 to raise funds for the Society of St. Andrew potato and produce projects.

Wade Mays, an executive with the society, told the National Association of Conference Presidents, meeting March 3-6 in Nashville, that they had increased their 2010 giving by some \$4,000, the first increase in several years.

Mays presented two awards, to annual conference representatives:

West Virginia Conference increased its giving by the highest percentage, by leaping from \$4,684 in 2009 to \$17,195 in 2010.

“We just found the right two guys to lead the effort,” said Wayne Custer, president of the Northeastern Jurisdiction of UM Men and a resident of the state.

The award for the highest amount given to Meals for Millions went to Detroit Annual Conference with a gift of \$20,741.

“I worked on a staff at a large church for seven years,” said Mays, “but I had not done one thing to help the poor in America. I had led a mission trip to Mexico and gone on a trip to Kazakhstan, but I had not turned my nose to those here. I think we need to do both.

“There are 49 million people who are what the US Department of Agriculture calls ‘food insecure,’” said Mays. “These are the ones who have to choose between paying for heating oil and buying food.”

Mays told the men that 50 percent of the food produced in our country goes to waste. The Society of St Andrew wants to end farm food waste. The agency wants perfectly edible food that is left behind on American farms to go to hungry neighbors.”

Top ten conferences giving to Meals for Millions:

Detroit	\$20,741
West Virginia	\$17,195
Virginia	\$16,818
Northern Illinois	\$14,933
Indiana	\$10,423
Baltimore/Washington	\$9,898
Central Pennsylvania	\$7,857
North Carolina	\$7,857
Missouri	\$6,145
West Ohio	\$4,908

Meals for Millions is an Advance Special mission project of the United Methodist Church # 982225-8.



Wade Mays (right), development associate for the Society of St. Andrews, presents a plaque to Wayne Custer, president of Northeastern Jurisdiction of UM Men representing the West Virginia Annual Conference. The conference received the award for the largest percentage increase in giving to Meals for Millions

UM Men encouraged to become ‘challenge disciples’

A challenge disciple promises to:

1. **PRAY** for the Society of St. Andrew and for Hunger Relief Advocates (HRA).
2. **GLEAN** with a HRA or with the Society of St. Andrew
3. **DONATE** \$25 twice a year when you receive spring and fall calls from the society.

HRA sponsors are similar to challenge disciples, except they donate \$50 or more twice a year and they receive certificates. Through these annual contributions, each sponsor provides enough fresh produce to feed a family of four for a year.

Register at www.endhunger.org

Awards

John Hopkins

Bishop inducted into John Wesley Society

NORTH CANTON, Ohio —

A graduate of Indiana University and Yale Divinity School, Bishop John Hopkins was elected to the episcopacy in 1996 while serving as pastor of the Methodist Temple in Evansville, Ind. In 2004, after serving the Minnesota Area for eight years, he was assigned to the Ohio East Area.



Bishop Hopkins serves as chair of the Connectional Table, a group that provides a forum for the understanding and implementing the vision, mission, and ministries of the global church. He also serves on the executive committee of the Council of Bishops, and he is a member of the UM Publishing House board. Previously, he served on the General Council on Ministries.

Bishop Hopkins was instrumental in the formation of Operation Classroom in Sierra Leone and Liberia. He developed a video study course for this mission project in 1990.

He was inducted into the Society of John Wesley in 2011.

Mazie Jackson Few

Woman gives eight years of service to UM Men

EAST POINT, Ga. —

Men of First Mallalieu UMC presented Mazie Jackson Few with a life member award for eight years of service to UM Men.

“She has never said, ‘no’ when asked to support the mission of the church in

conjunction with UM Men,” said Larry Few, president of UM Men. “Her hard work and dedication is proven through the beautiful programs and receptions UM Men and the church family have enjoyed.”

Tony Caminiti

Men honor organizer of softball tournament

FAIRHOPE, Ala. —

UM Men of the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference presented a James Award to Tony Caminiti, organizer and sponsor of a softball tournament that raised over \$22,000 for the UM Children’s Home during its 10-year existence.

Caminiti was honored by his local unit, the annual conference, the Southeastern Jurisdiction and the UM Children’s Home. The James Award was created by the jurisdiction to honor church members who are “doers of the word and not hearers only...” (James 1:22)



John Croft (right) presents the James Award to Tony Caminiti during a meeting at Fairhope UMC.

Mike Bailey

Former president leads men to give over \$7,000

CARY, N.C. —

UM Men of First UMC honored Mike Bailey, former president of the unit, for 20 years of service.

“Our UM Men’s ministry is very active and growing because of men like Mike Bailey,” said the Rev. William Green, a pastor of the church and a men’s ministry specialist.

“The past three years of Mike’s leadership have demonstrated the difference a man can make. Mike served on mission teams to Mississippi, participated in an Appalachia Service Project, took children to ball games, and reached out to the Hispanic population in Cary.”

Under Mike’s leadership, the men’s organization contributed over \$7,000 to various mission projects, a discretionary fund for family assistance, and scholarships. Bailey received a life membership in UM Men.

Lloyd Dunn

Church honors carpenter and pancake cook

PARK HILLS, Mo —

Fifty years ago, Lloyd Dunn and his father encouraged men of Taylor Avenue Methodist Church to host a pancake supper. Fifty years later—following the merger of Taylor Avenue with Elvins UMC to form First UMC of Park Hills—Pancake Day is still an annual event. Dunn, a former president of UM Men, still serves as a leader of the event.

In addition, Dunn serves as chairman of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, and he is the resident carpenter.

“There is not a project that takes place that Lloyd isn’t instrumental in the development and completion,” said John Clark, president of Park Hills UM Men.

“Lloyd is always the first one there on Sunday and usually the last one to leave making sure things are taken care of and helping in any way that he can.”

The men presented Dunn with a life membership.

Robert Scarborough, William Smith and Clayton Easter

South Carolina honors three UM Men leaders

COLUMBIA, S.C. —

During their spring retreat, UM Men of South Carolina Conference presented life memberships to two past presidents and the retiring prayer advocate.

Robert Scarborough, president from 2008-2010, and William C. (Bill) Smith, president from 2004-2008, were honored by L.W. Smith, conference president (1998-2004) and current president of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of UM Men. Smith received the same honor in 2004.



L.W. Smith (left) presents awards to Robert Scarborough, Clayton Easter, and Bill Smith.

Clayton Easter retired as the conference prayer advocate at the end of 2010 after serving in that post for seven years. He received the award from Dale Sherrin, president, and Robert Scarborough, immediate past president. They said Easter “brought a sense of dedication and devotion to prayer ministry unequalled in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.”

**Scott Vann, Rick Molder and
Waymon Hickman**

Tennessee church presents three awards
COLUMBIA, Tenn. —

UM Men of First UMC in Columbia presented three different awards to three different persons.

Scott Vann received a Good Samaritan Award for helping others.

Rick Molder, a behind-the-scenes volunteer, was honored with a Cross and Flame Award.

Waymon Hickman received the highest award as the men inducted him into the John Wesley Society.

The men raised \$1,000 for mission work through the UM Men Foundation in order to present the award to Hickman. He joins fellow church member Joe Lancaster as a member of the society.

Julius Johnson was recognized as the commissioner of agriculture for the State of Tennessee and chairman of the Middle Tennessee Boy Scout Council.

Conley Carter

Men honor former president
HIAWASSEE, Ga. —

Men of Hiawassee UMC honored their former president, Conley Carter, with a life membership in UM Men. “Conley is totally qualified for this award and honor,” said UM Men President Van Anderson. “His continued commitment to his church and Lord is beyond measure, and we are happy to thank him for his many years of service to others.”

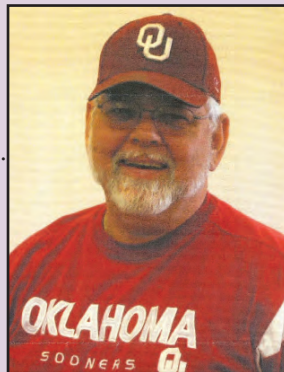
Tom Hrubik

**Former Air Force Sergeant inducted into
John Wesley Society**
DEL CITY, Okla. —

Tom Hrubik, a retired master sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, was inducted into the John Wesley Society by men of Sunny Lane UMC. The former president

of UM Men also chaired the Sunny Lane Endowment Fund Committee. He serves as sound technician for the worship committee, sings solos, and plays the cornet in the church orchestra.

The men raised \$1,000 for mission work conducted by the UM Men Foundation in order to present him with the award.



Leslie Greer

Former sheriff honored at age 99
TEXARKANA, Ark. —

Men of Christ UMC honored Leslie Greer, 99, former sheriff of Miller County, with a life membership in UM Men.

“He served last year as our program chairman and did an outstanding job,” said the Rev. David Kassos, pastor of Christ UMC. “He knows everyone and everyone loves and respects him. He is an inspiration to our church.”

Greer has published two books on his life experiences, and he donates all proceeds to the children’s playground fund.

“I wish I could have done more,” said Greer.

“Any ten of us wish we could combine our service and be able to match what he has done,” said Kassos.

The church originally hoped to have a community party for his 100th birthday in May, but because of his declining health, the men decided to give the award in March.

Merle H. Doud
Thirty-year president of UM Men
honored with life membership

WATERFORD, N.Y. —

Waterford UMC honored Merle H. Doud with a life membership for serving as president of the church's UM Men organization since 1981.



A retired General Electric chemist and a veteran, Doud has also served the church as a Sunday school teacher, leader of the youth fellowship, church treasurer, chairman of the Board of Trustees, and lay leader. He also served as a district lay leader.

He served the Waterford community as deputy mayor and is currently historian of the Village of Waterford.

Dr. Pamela Ford
District honors superintendent
with life membership

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. —

Men of the State College District presented a life membership in UM Men to the Rev. Dr. Pamela Ford following six years of service as superintendent.



“She has served in many ways during the 35 years since her ordination as deacon in 1975,” said Bishop Jane Allen Middleton. “She leaves a strong legacy and will continue to serve God and the church in faithful ways in retirement.”

The Rev. John Moore
BRANDON Miss. —

The Rev. John Moore, pastor of Crossgates UMC, has been preaching since the age of 20. Never mind how old he is now. Suffice it to say, his years of practice have made him a fairly good preacher. John enjoys reading mystery novels, working crossword puzzles, playing double-bogey golf, and fishing with his four grandchildren: Julia, Sadie, Cash, and Emma.

He is married to the former Nancy Osman, professor emeritus of Delta State University in choral music studies. In his fifth year with Crossgates, Moore thinks “We’ve only just begun.”

The men presented him with a lifetime membership in UM Men.



Nancy Moore, presents a lifetime membership pin to her husband, John.

In Memoriam

Dr. Elmer Laverne Hixson

AUSTIN, Texas —

Dr. Elmer Laverne Hixson, 86, former president of Southwest Texas UM Men, died February 10, 2011.

He was born in Arlington, Calif. He moved to Austin under the U.S. Navy V12 Program at the University of Texas where he met his wife, Betty.

After active service, Elmer and Betty returned to Austin where he pursued his B.S. in 1945. He received a master's degree in 1946 and a Ph.D. in 1960.

Hixson was a member of the electrical engineering faculty at the University of Texas for 37 years. He became a professor emeritus in 1997, but he continued to teach graduate students and perform research in acoustical engineering until his health failed in 2010.

He served as president of the men's group at St. Johns UMC in Austin and as president of the Austin District UM Men, prior to being elected conference president.

Beyond his devotion to UM Men, Hixson's other passion was running. He started running at the age of 40. He ran 14 marathons and scores of half marathons. Until October 2009, he ran between 3 and 6 miles every weekday at lunch. Thirty years ago, he and some of his colleagues started the annual 10-mile Taco Trot on the day before Thanksgiving.

The Rev. Dale Leonard Swain

PLANO, Texas —

The Rev. Dale Leonard Swain, 80, a UMC pastor in the North Texas Conference, died January 18, 2011.

He was born in Akron, Ohio in 1930.



He most recently served as the minister with senior adults at First UMC, Plano.

"Dale was very active in UM Men activities at our church," said Jim Cozart, president of UM Men at the Plano church.

"We will all remember Dale for his deep faith in Christ, love for people, energy, commitment to ministry and the way in which he seemed to wear purple every day."

He received his undergraduate degree from West Texas State University and his Bachelor of Divinity Degree from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University.

He served in the United States Air Force during the Korean conflict.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Neill Swain, daughters, Cindie Moon, Wilma Williams, son, Shawn Swain, eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

James Harrison Gibbs

RICHMOND, Va. —

Jim Gibbs, 77, an Eagle Scout and former scouting director for the Virginia Annual Conference, died March 11 in Richmond.

"Jim was an enthusiastic servant leader who used scouting as an outreach ministry to local churches," said Larry Coppock, national scouting leader for the General Commission on UM Men. "He will be missed."

Gibbs graduated from Virginia Tech in 1955 and was an active member of the alumni association and the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity. He was also an active member of Prospect UMC.

A. J. Coon

GENESEE TOWNSHIP, Mich. —

A. J. Coon, 92, former president of Flint District UM Men and editor of the district newsletter, died Jan. 7.

A World War II veteran, he spent 30 years as a Boy Scout leader, and he was active for 35 years with Dort-Oak Park Neighborhood House. He also participated in many mission

trips to the Red Bird Missionary Conference. His garage was used as a collection area for Red Bird and he transported the goods to that Appalachia ministry.

He married Mary Howard in 1937 and she preceded him in death in 1995. The couple raised 18 children and they are survived by 45 grandchildren 83, great grandchildren and 25 great-great grandchildren.

“He is now with His Lord and will be remembered by all those with whom he worked and served over many years,” said Richard Taylor, past president of Detroit Conference UM Men.



Don Glegg

PARK HILLS, Mo. —

Don Glegg, 83, former chair of the Administrative Board of First UMC and a leader of UM Men, died Feb. 27.

Glegg had not been attending church very often when he suffered a heart attack in 1973. He was told he had three severely blocked arteries. Surgeons could not operate and his chances of survival were not good. Glegg promised God that if he survived, he would return to church.

He survived, kept his promise to God, and finally had an operation nine years later. Since then he has had seven major surgeries. “Each time Don went into the surgery with absolute faith that God would provide and has always given God all of the glory and the praise,” said John Clark, president of Park Hills UM Men.

Over the past 30 years, Glegg held many positions in the church and served as chair of the Administrative Council in 1990 when Taylor Avenue Church and Elvins UMC consolidated to form First UMC of Park Hills.

The men’s group presented Glegg, 83, with a life membership prior to his death.

The Rev. Brady Forman

BAKER, La. —

The Rev. Brady Forman, 84, a retired clergy member of Louisiana Conference, died April 4, 2011.

A US Navy veteran of World War II, he attended Centenary College and Louisiana State University, and he graduated from Candler School of Theology.

During his 40 years of service in the conference he was the organizing pastor of Memorial UMC in Bastrop and director of the Wesley Foundation at Southeastern Louisiana University.

“When I met Brady he was moving at full throttle even though he was retired,” said the Rev. Mark Lubbock, a deployed staff member of the Commission on UM Men.

“In Brady I discovered a Holy Spirit-filled man who loved Jesus Christ. In spite of serious health issues, Brady pressed onward — always onward.”

Brady served as a mentor to Lubbock when he decided to become a UM pastor. “He had the ability to look into my heart and see what was needed,” said Lubbock. “In offering wisdom Brady gave it frankly in his soft focused way. He had the boldness that a mentor needs undergirded by a truly loving spirit.”

George Bolinger

SHEBYVILLE, Ill. --

George Bolinger, 82 former president of UM Men of the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference, died April 4, 2011.

He served as president of the Administrative Board of First UMC, and he worked with the food pantry. He and his wife, Nonie, taught the 3rd and 4th grade Sunday school class and led the high school class and youth group.

He was lay leader of the former Central Illinois Conference and the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, and he was elected as a delegate to several General Conferences.

His son, Jim, currently serves as president of UM Men of the Great Rivers Conference. He also survived by two other sons, three daughters, 14 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Scout troop energizes Hawaiian church

KA NE'OHE, Hawaii—

Previously unchurched families are joining Kahalu'u UMC as the result of their son's participation in Boy Scout Troop 117 or Cub Scout Pack 117.

"Not only have several families from the Scout units joined the church, the activity of the youth have revitalized other areas, including service projects, music and youth leadership in worship," said Elwin Spray, district scouting coordinator and a scouting ministry specialist. "All of the clichés about advantages for youth involvement through church sponsorship of scouting are true."

For 30 years, the church has provided meeting space for the scouts and storage space for tents and the regatta/pinewood derby tracks. "The church has also provided leaders to serve on various unit committees," said, Spray, who chairs the Administrative



Elwin Spray, scouting coordinator of the Honolulu District has been a lay member of the California-Pacific Annual Conference for 10 years. The Silver Beaver Award winner was certified as a scouting ministry specialist in 2010.

Council, and he has served as charter organization representative of the troop for 25 years. "The pastor, the Rev. Robert Nakata, participates in Courts of Honor and Blue and Gold events."

Some 40 to 50 young people from rural and suburban parts of the Island of Oahu participate in twice a month Scout meetings, attend numerous



Scouts pound mochi, a traditional New Year's food.

scouting adventures and help with service projects.

Spray leads Scout Sunday events at the 75-member church. "This year we were honored to have our bishop, the Rev. Mary Ann Swenson, present to participate with the youth recognition and fellowship following," said Spray. Boy Scouts led a responsive reading of the Scout Oath and Law; they told about scouting events, and Cubs recited the Law of the Pack.

"The important thing to focus on is making sure that our youth have the opportunity to participate in programs that will enable them to grow in leadership and faith," said Spray.

"As a district scouting coordinator, I have sent Scout Sunday date reminders to ministers and been involved with UMM Men of the district," Spray added. "Last year, our unit leaders and other Scouts were recognized on the floor of the State Legislature to mark the 100th anniversary of scouting in America."

Scouting Ministry Specialists

Scouting ministry specialists are volunteers who want to help neighboring churches establish or

Editor: Larry Coppock

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lcoppock@gcumm.org

expand youth-serving ministries. They provide information about training events, recognition awards and Scout Sunday. They provide area churches with information about other youth serving agencies.



Bishop Mary Ann Swenson presents camperships to members of Scout Troop 117 chartered by Kahalu'u UMC. The presentation was part of Scout Sunday 2011 at the Ka'ne'ohe, Hawaii, church.

Volunteers must receive Safe Sanctuary training or be registered leaders with the BSA, and they are encouraged to participate in ongoing training experiences.

For information write lsayles@gcumm.org

Marine wounded by IED in Afghanistan supported by Boy Scouts

ARLINGTON, Tenn. —

Boy Scout Troop 452 of Arlington UMC has been writing and sending personal notes, calling cards, and care packages to Marine units in Afghanistan.

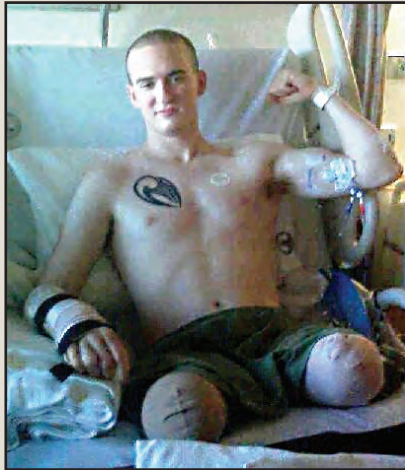
Jake Romo, 22, one of the Marines receiving care packages, was on a Feb. 11 patrol when he stepped on a pressure-triggered IED. The explosion broke his right hand and took both his legs in an instant.

"When I hit the ground, my first thought was, who got hit?" said Romo. "Then I looked at my legs and I realized it was me. I screamed in terror; then I screamed again meaning 'Why me?' I screamed a third time meaning, 'Please God, fix it!'. Then I heard my mother's words in the back of my mind (in her voice even) 'Don't say, 'Why?' Say, 'What now?'"

A corpsman pulled Romo from the crater and he was evacuated by a helicopter to a nearby hospital.

Twelve surgeries later, he was transferred

from a Bethesda (Md.) Naval Hospital to Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton in California where he was stationed prior to his deployment to Afghanistan. There he will continue his recovery and await the birth of his second child in May before returning to his home in Tennessee. "I will heal. I will take care of and maybe grow my family," said Romo. "I will run. I will relearn how to fight. I will strive to have a career with law enforcement. I will go back to school and increase my standard of living.



Jake Romo prepares for a medflight from the Bethesda (Md.) Naval Hospital to Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton where he was stationed before deploying to Afghanistan.

"What now? I will carry on."

Teresa Rector, program coordinator for Collierville UMC and chaplain of Troop 452 chartered by Arlington UMC, says volunteers from Arlington and Collierville churches have already stepped forward to build a handicap ramp and widen

the doorways of Romo's Germantown, Tenn., home. She says Jake's stepdad, Stephen, gave her Support-Our-Troops bracelets for the troop. She gave Stephen a copy of Strength for Service to God and Country to give to Jake.

To hear Jake's testimony, visit http://jacobromo.com/?page_id=15

Scouting Awards

Joe O'Sullivan receives Cross and Flame Award

TAMPA, Fla. —

Joe O'Sullivan, a member of Wesley Memorial UMC, received a Cross and Flame Award from the pastor, the Rev. Clark Edwards.



Joe O'Sullivan, troop and pack representative to Wesley Memorial Church and a recipient of the Cross and Flame Award, is joined by Sonia Ancrile, the mother of Gary Ancrile, the youngest Scout to receive a Good Samaritan Award.

Twenty-year Scout leader honored

PORT NECHES, Texas —

Earl 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.



Jeffery, a retired school administrator, chaired the church's buildings and grounds committee.

Scoutmaster receives Silver Beaver Award

ROCKY MOUNT, N.C. —

Adam Ipock, scoutmaster of Troop 752 chartered by St. Paul UMC of Rocky Mount, received a Silver Beaver Award on Scout Sunday.



He began his adult scouting experience when his older son joined Cub Scouts. Since then he has served as district commissioner, district vice-chair, charter-organization representative and troop committee

chair. He currently serves on the Camp Charles Committee, and he is scoutmaster for Troop 752, chair of Pack 752 Committee, and adviser for Crew 752.

In 2008, he secured donations to cover the cost of installing Internet service at the East Carolina Council Scout Reservation. In 2010, he also worked with the professional staff to rework the East Carolina Council website and calendar.

He is the recipient of the District Award of Merit, the Dr. George Hemingway Jr. Award, and the Cross and Flame Award.

Adam and his wife, Cathy, have two sons, Nick age 17 and Chris age 13.

Kurt Chenoweth receives Cross and Flame Award

MITCHELL, S.D. —

UM Men of First UMC presented Kurt Chenoweth with a Cross and Flame Award.

He has served as a den leader, cubmaster,



Kurt Chenoweth wears the Cross and Flame medal and displays his framed certificate. He is joined by wife, Nicole; daughter, Ashley; and son, Andrew, an Eagle Scout.

assistant scoutmaster, merit badge counselor and charter-organization representative. He also served an assistant scoutmaster for the Sioux Council contingent to the national jamboree.

Four-star award winner receives Good Samaritan Award

GENESEO, Ill. —

Alex Moore, an Eagle Scout who completed all four levels of the PRAY Award series (God and Me, God and Family, God and Church, and God and Life), received a Good Samaritan Award from UM Men.

“You start with God and Me when you’re little—in Cub Scouts or Tiger Scouts,” said Moore, 17. “There’s a certain time frame you have to complete each one.”



Very few Scouts complete each segment of the God and Country program.

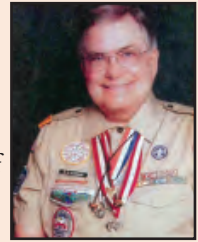
“The award shows Alex’s tremendous commitment to citizenship and the ideals of scouting,” said the Rev. Dr. Chris Ritter pastor of First UMC in Geneseo.

Moore currently serves as the church’s youth representative for the UM Imagine No Malaria campaign to rid Africa of the disease by 2015.

Don Flanders is all silver

FORT SMITH, Ark. —

Don Flanders, an Eagle Scout since 1941 and the first Arkansan to receive the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award in 1970, received a Silver Torch for a lifetime of service to scouting.



The Silver Torch is awarded to leaders who have served scouting beyond their own annual conference. Flanders served seven national jamborees and four world jamborees. He also served on the staff at the Philmont Scout Ranch Volunteer Training Center.

He earlier received the Silver Buffalo, Silver Beaver and Silver Antelope Awards from the BSA.

He has also presented awards, including a Distinguished Eagle Scout Award to Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton.

The face of scouting in Byron

BYRON, Mich. —

“Sherwin, Dawn and Robert Kittle represent the face of the Boy Scout program in the Byron community,” said the Rev. Michael Mayo-Moyle, pastor of First UMC.

Sherwin serves as the advancement chair for the Shiawassee District and charter-organization representative to the church. He also teaches an adult Sunday school class and is a strong advocate for God and Country Awards offered by Program of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY).

Robert is a cubmaster and district chairman of Cub Scout camping and training.

Dawn serves as trainer for the Cub Scout pack and works at summer day camps. She also chairs the Christian Education Committee and is involved in the prayer shawl ministry and UM Women.

Mayo-Moyle presented Cross and Flame Awards to the three leaders.

He also presented a Good Samaritan Award to Mitchell Lawrence, a patrol leader for the

Boy Scout troop who serves soup suppers, helps raise mission funds, and assists with Vacation Bible School. He is also involved in a puppet ministry.

Sherwin, Dawn and Robert Kittle proudly wear their Cross and Flame Awards presented by their pastor, the Rev. Michael Mayo-Moyle.



No one remembers when he wasn't the Scout leader

ODESSA, Fla. —

“Bill Athey has been active as a leader in scouting longer than anyone in our church office can remember,” said the Rev. Tim Haas, pastor of Keystone UMC. Haas notes that many parents get involved in scouting when their children are involved, but once their young people leave scouting so do the parents. “But, Bill has stayed involved and dedicated to the meaningful task of being an adult leader with excellence and devotion to his position even though he has no boys of his own in scouting,” said Haas.

The church presented Athey with a Torch Award.

Tim Fisher receives Cross and flame Award

FLORENCE, S.C. —Tim Fisher followed in his father’s footsteps to become the leader of a Cub Scout pack and a Boy Scout troop chartered by Central UMC in Florence.

As a Scout, Fisher attended world Scout jamborees in Norway and Japan. He also served as a counselor at a local Boy Scout camp.

As an adult, he served as a cubmaster and as the Scout coordinator for Central’s Church Family Ministries Team. He established the annual Cub Scout trip to Florida to see

manatees. He was instrumental in the building a Scout hut, and he established a scouting scholarship fund.

Already a recipient of many scouting awards, Central UMC presented him with a Cross and Flame Award.



Tim Fisher makes balloon hats for a Cub Scout pack. He also hides \$150 in change in the sawdust for kids to find.

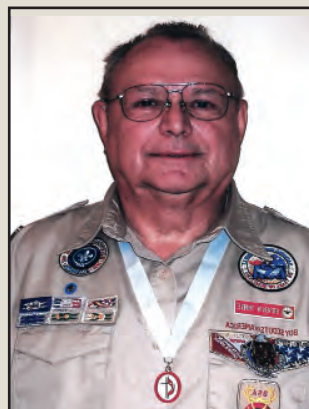
UM church honors United Church of Christ pastor

SEBRING, Fla. —

St. John UMC honored the Rev. Steven W. Trimble with a Cross and Flame Award for his dedication to Boy Scouts.

A retired United Church of Christ pastor, Trimble served the Scouts and youth for over 32 years. An Eagle Scout, he earned the God and Country Award as a youth, and as an adult, he earned the Silver Award in Exploring.

He currently serves as assistant commissioner for the Calusa District of the Gulf Ridge Council and works with a troop sponsored by St. John UMC. He also serves the church as a worship leader, and the retired pastor is active in UM Men.



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