



WISHING YOU
A BLESSED
CHRISTMAS

I am bringing you good news
of great joy for all people;
to you is born this day
in the city of David
a Savior, who is
the Messiah, the Lord.
— Luke 2:10-11

“Write the vision clearly on the tablets, that one may read it on the run.” – Habakkuk

THE VISION

The Newspaper
of the New York
Annual Conference
of The United
Methodist Church

December 2014

MISSIONARIES IN COVENANT

Mongolia Work Targets Children, Detention Center

Note: Sun Lae Kim, missionary with the Board of Global Ministries, serves with the United Methodist Mission in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Her ministry is supported by the Greater New Jersey, New York, and North Georgia conferences.

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

Greetings in our Lord's name Jesus Christ!

The chill wind hitting our faces let us know that summer is long gone and winter is right around the corner. We suspect we may not get as much as snow as previous years since we had a lot of rain during the summer.

The mission work here continues only because of your continuous and consistent prayers and financial support. Praise and thank God for all of you for your partnership in Christ. We are especially thankful for your continuous financial support in your own difficult economic circumstances. The



Sun Lae Kim



Children are attending kindergarten and Vacation Bible School programs thanks to the Mongolia mission.

Mongolian economy and inflation have had a huge negative impact on the quality of life here. Inflation has made it almost impossible for average citizens to meet their daily necessary needs. As such, Mongolians are doing manual labor during the summer as a second job just to put food on the table for the family and to save money for the harsh winter since employment is scarce during winter. The majority of Mongolians feel that life is unfair since the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. Only small number of people can afford to enjoy a vacation during summer.

In the midst of these difficult economic situations, we see God faithfully enabling us to do His work in extending the kingdom of God. During the summer, the Chingeltei Church's

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Bishop Lyght Urges Prayer For Justice

Dear Pilgrim Disciple,

In this Advent Season I greet you in the precious name of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Psalmist said: *Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me* (Psalm 23:4).

On this 5th day of December in the aftermath of grand jury decisions, first in Ferguson and now in Staten Island, I am mindful of the pain and the anguish of the families of Michael Brown and Eric Garner and the reality that many Americans stand in solidarity with them. In both instances, an African American man lost his life at the hands of a police officer. In both cases, a grand jury declined to indict the police officer involved in the particular incident that led to the death of an unarmed person. People of faith are left asking the question: Is there no justice in Ferguson or in Staten Island?

The Prophet Jeremiah mourned for his people. He asked the question: “Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?” (Jeremiah 8:22). The Negro Spiritual

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1/8 Stewardship & Finance Webinar

Start the year with a webinar focused on the new member of the stewardship team, finance committee, or church council—those who are looking to get started on the right foot. If your work in the church deals with people's giving, you know the importance of that responsibility. Bathe your work in prayer. Remember, you are not alone; there are places to find help! As you enter the New Year, reflect on these ideas that could make your job the best one in the church! To register for the 7:30 p.m. webinar, go to: www.gbod.org/resources/stewardship-finance-getting-it-right-at-the-starting-line1. Presenter: Ken Sloane, Director, Stewardship, ksloane@gbod.org

Jan–March 2015 LIW Lay Servant Classes

The Long Island West District is offering youth, beginner, and advanced courses at multiple locations in early 2015. Classes will meet from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on January 24 and 31, February 7 and 28, and March 14. A mandatory orientation session will be held January 10. Locations include the UMC of Floral Park, St. Mark's UMC in Brooklyn, and Primera Iglesia Metodista Unida de Corona (Spanish language). A beginner's class in Akan will be offered at St. Mark's. A closing worship celebration and fellowship is planned for March 28. Registration fees, which include all texts and printed materials, are \$15 for youth, and \$25 for beginners, certified and advanced courses. Register by December 19 at www.nyac.com/eventdetail/480606.

2/28 Volunteers in Mission Training

Workshop for mission volunteers at the Conference Center, 20 Soundview Ave, White Plains, N.Y. Please bring \$10 payment for your background check. To register, go to <https://ny-reg.brtapp.com/2015VIMTraining>

4/13–17 Clergy and Spouse Clinic

Twice a year, New York Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn opens its doors to 12 clergy and/or spouses for a four-day clinic in which major diagnostic tests and consultations are made available. To apply for the next clinic, download a brochure and registration form at www.nyac.com/eventdetail/198565, or contact Rev. Elizabeth Braddon at elizabeth.braddon@gmail.com, indicating your interest. Registration is very limited, so do not delay.



"It's A New Day" with interim Bishop Jane Allen Middleton and featuring the NYAC's Director of Congregational Development and Revitalization, Rev. Dr. Derrick-Lewis Noble, at the Villa Roma Resort and Conference Center, Callicoon, N.Y. Event begins with check-in at 2 p.m. Tuesday and concludes with lunch on Thursday. Free childcare is available. Register before January 6 for the early-bird price of \$575 double/\$355 single occupancy. For more information and to register, go to: www.nyac.com/eventdetail/441703.

4/11&18 Metropolitan Lay Servant School

Christ Church UMC will host the annual lay servant school on two Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The basic course will be offered in English; advanced courses in English, Korean and Spanish. The \$40 fee includes the required text, and breakfast and lunch both days. Christ Church is at 524 Park Avenue in Manhattan. Registration deadline is February 28; details can be found at: www.nyac.com/eventdetail/561619.

4/29 Boundaries & Sexual Ethics Training

Long Island East District Superintendent Adrienne Brewington will lead this training, which is mandatory for all clergy, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the NYAC Learning Center, 20 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, N.Y. Contact Brewington at RevyBrew@aol.com for additional details.



The **Vision**

The News of the New York Conference of the United Methodist Church

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REPENT—RECONCILE—RESTORE

United Methodist Call to Covenant Community

In light of recent decisions by grand juries in Missouri and New York, as well as concern of ongoing police violence in some communities, the General Board of Church and Society issues the following statement:

Christians are called to witness to the reconciling love of God in Jesus Christ. United Methodists must be an example of social change by creating spaces of honest, faithful dialogue across differences and divides. We call on United Methodists to continue to seek racial reconciliation, to recognize and affirm the sacredness of all people. Further, we acknowledge the pain and death that black men and their families are suffering.

The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church affirm “those in rightful authority who serve the public, and we support their efforts to afford justice and equal opportunity for all people” (§164F “Civil Obedience & Civil Disobedience,” *Book of Discipline*).

Advocate

Recognizing the broken, wounded nature of our social systems, we urge United Methodists to advocate for the following in their communities, states and at the national level.

- Evaluate law enforcement practices and legal procedures.
- Advocate for training of police forces that fosters public trust.
- Eliminate militarization of local law enforcement agencies.
- Urge local law enforcement officials to take steps to establish meaningful relationships in



Members of the Church of The Village gather to respond to the lack of indictments in the cases of Michael Brown and Eric Garner.

the community.

- Advocate for the establishment of independent citizen-review boards when deadly force is used by law enforcement against unarmed individuals. Such boards can help ensure transparency and trust between the government and the governed.
- Establish economic and social systems that ensure the welfare of all citizens by providing racial justice and equity. Accordingly, support the living wage, tax reform and educational policies that reduce racial inequalities.
- Work unceasingly for justice through prayer and strong non-violent direct action against injustice and institutional racism.

Retributive to restorative

Ultimately, we must change justice systems from retributive to restorative. A restorative

system seeks the well being of the whole community rather than retribution through punishment. Restorative justice, as our Social Principles emphasize, “seeks to repair the damage, right the wrong, and bring healing to all involved, including the victim, the offender, the families, and the community” (§164H “Criminal & Restorative Justice”).

We confess to the transforming love and witness of Jesus Christ, that we are no longer subject necessarily to that cruel tyrant, violence. Rather, the Church as an agent of healing and systemic change is called to pursue communities of peace, reconciliation and well being for all.

—Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe
General Secretary

General Board of Church & Society
The United Methodist Church

Bishop Lyght Urges Prayer for Peace, Justice

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contends “there is a balm in Gilead!”

There has been a genuine effort to reduce the divide between the police and the community in New York City and in other communities. It perhaps boils down to a matter of trust. Trust is a matter of mutuality; citizens must trust the police and at the same time, the police must trust the community for which they have policing responsibility. Mutual trust can emerge out of our efforts to foster better police and community relationships. Our local United Methodist churches can play a crucial role in such an effort to foster better police and community relationships.

First, where we have a congregation present, we (pastor and laity) should establish and

nurture a working relationship with the precinct captain or the local police chief. This can be done in concert with our ecumenical partners in the neighborhood.

Second, let’s extend an opportunity for the local police representatives to come to our church to foster better police and community relationships. There must be an ongoing conversation with the police if there is any possibility for developing better relationships.

Third, let’s be sure that we teach our children how to relate to the police who are themselves a part of the community. Such a relationship should be characterized by respect, courteousness and friendship.

Fourth, our congregations must raise prophetic voices in the community and speak

on behalf of the poor, the disadvantaged, and minority people who have no voice in the halls of city government, the halls of our schools, or the courts of our neighborhood. Our voice should be manifested in the prayers of the people, in the pastor’s sermons, and in the dialog of our Bible studies.

If we are to have more effective police and community relationships, there are some things that can be done by police departments. First, police officers should not spend all of their time in a car. They need to spend some of their time walking among the people whom they serve, getting to know their names. This helps to build trust. Second, police departments can improve their training programs for new police officers as

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MISSIONARIES IN COVENANT

Mongolia Work Targets Children, Families

Continued from page 1

young men formed a discipleship class to share the Gospel. We are encouraged and hopeful as we see this type of movement with the young Mongolians.

Here are the latest on various ministries:

Chingeltei Church: The church operated a three-week long summer Vacation Bible School with volunteers from the Young Men's Group for the very first time this year. The participants were not from our church, but children playing out on the street as their parents were away at work. The program consisted of praise and prayer and Bible Study in morning, and in afternoon, learning English and playing musical instruments, like drums and keyboard; and playing games and sports. The parents as well as children were pleased with the program. We were very thankful for young teacher volunteers and their hard work. Due to requests for more VBS programs, we wound up doing it again.

The church also had a three-week discipleship program for youth group that met three days a week. The women's group visited the Khonkhor Church area to share the Gospel on the street and to pray for the people during summer. It was encouraging to see these women joyfully come back to church and gather to pray. The church had one-on-one discipleship training for the adults.

Bread Mission (homeless/street people ministry): Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support for this ministry. This ministry has extended from Chingeltei Church to Damba Church, as well as Damba village. We are praying and planning to extend this ministry to Khohkhor Church in the near future.

On Sundays, the homeless come to the church to attend worship, pray, sing praise songs and eat food. They get their water bottles filled, too. We opened our church to them as we remember Matthew 10:42: "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

Detention Ministry: Many things were difficult, but we were able to resume our ministry. We visit there on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and then on

Sundays for a 3 p.m. worship service. We share the Gospel with confidence that God will open their hearts to receive the Holy Spirit. We also offer counseling, group Bible study, and family life programs.

Kindergarten Ministry (4–6 years old): Kindergarten normally breaks for the summer recess at the end of May, but the church decided to continue to the ministry until June 20, to help out the working parents. We were unable to receive certification because the kindergarten facility is not an independent facility but part of the church facility. We began this ministry on September 1, 2013, and had to turn away many children because we did not have any more rooms. In the past, the families only paid registration fee, but starting this September there will be a monthly tuition of \$16.60 for each child. We are praying that children's parents will

***On Sundays,
the homeless come
to the church
to attend worship,
pray, sing praise
songs and eat food.
They get their water
bottles filled, too.***

come to know Jesus, too. We are praying about running this ministry in a separate facility so that we may be certified.

Damba Church: Narangerel continues to lead this ministry and runs the before and after school programs. The school program not only helps children with their homework, but teaches them more advanced subjects when they are ready and able, and the Bible and praise songs. The ministry had to be cut from five-days a week to three because of budget hardships.

One woman of NNKUMW helped us to do it continually after their visit to this site in April 2014. We are thankful for God's faithfulness and support.

Khonkhor Church: Munkhnaraa, who is in his third year at the Methodist Theological Seminary, leads this ministry. The church operated a month-long Vacation Bible School during summer. A short-term mission team from a Korean Church helped with VBS as well shared the Gospel with the town people. The team also put up basketball hoops and installed outdoor toilets. We were glad to see children and adults play basketball together.

Zuruhol Church: We started to look for a facility to worship since we had a lot of difficulties gathering at home. Children would come to church for VBS, but not come to the houses for the worship. As such, we decided to look for a building to have worship.

Prayer Requests:

- Awakening for God in Mongolia.
- Revival at Chingeltei Church. Growth of disciples. The lay people's volunteer service with churches.
- Sharing of Gospel with the parents of kindergarten children.
- The transformation of people who are in the detention center.
- Before and after school program at Damba Church.
- Khonkhor church's registration. Munkhnaraa's health and her parents' salvation.
- Munkhnaraa's successful completion of the Seminary education and his commitment to do God's work.
- Zuruhol house church's need for a building.

May God continue to do His work in our lives to build up the kingdom!

In the Christ's love,
Sun Lae Kim

To read about the work of other missionaries supported by the NYAC and Volunteers in Missions teams, go to: www.nyac.com/mission, and click on "Mission Stories."

FROM PUTNAM TO QUEENS:

Bethel Expands Home Health Care Services

Earlier this year, Bethel Homes and Services began providing home care in Putnam, Bronx, Manhattan and Queens (in addition to Westchester), through its Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA).

“It’s been an exciting year for us as our CHHA has increased the number of people we help each day. We are long-time advocates of providing community-based services to help seniors remain independent. In fact, we have been offering home care and adult day care programs for almost 30 years,” said Beth Goldstein, Bethel’s chief executive officer.

“We are delighted that we can give our seniors the best of both worlds—the comfort and peace of mind of living in their own homes and professional, nursing services to keep them healthy,” she added.

While Bethel has been providing short-term and long-term home care to Westchester residents of all ages since 1986, licensure as a CHHA has allowed Bethel to expand into southern and northern regions to reach even more people in need of assistance.

CHHA services include skilled nursing and assessment, care upon discharge from a hospital or nursing home, physical, occupational and speech therapies, as well



Theodosia Green, 101, is greeted by great-great-granddaughter, Zakiyah, in her Peekskill home. Green has been a client of Bethel’s Home Care program for more than 20 years.

as social services coordination. The CHHA provides these services for a determined length of time, based upon need.

“With more than 900,000 seniors over the age of 65 in Westchester and Putnam counties, Manhattan, Bronx and Queens, Bethel’s CHHA is a valuable resource for this aging

population,” said Julieta Müller, program administrator.

“There is a great demand for home care services as more seniors choose to live at home or with their families who work during the day.” Müller said that the number of non-senior home care patients is on the rise, too, as her staff responds to a growing number of referrals from agencies throughout the region.

In addition to the CHHA, Bethel also offers a licensed home care services agency that began in 2008 and works in conjunction with the CHHA.

“Bethel has been serving the community for more than 100 years,” said Goldstein, “. . . adding the CHHA this past year is representative of Bethel’s mission to always embrace new opportunities that will help our seniors and the community at large.”

Bethel Homes and Services is the only not-for-profit healthcare organization in Northern Westchester County that provides a full continuum of care in Croton-on-Hudson and Ossining. These services include: Home Care; Adult Day Services; Independent Senior Living Apartments; an Assisted Senior Living Residence; two Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers; Respite and Hospice Care.

Holiday Emotions Not Always Joyful Ones

BY JIM STINSON

Consultant of Older Adult Ministry

The holiday season is about over. For many that is a statement that is said with relief; for others it is said with a sense of wishing it could last a little longer.

What should be a time for joy and celebration can actually be a time of sadness and relived loss. I’ve noticed in the last 50

plus years of pastoral ministry that the holiday seasons—which in my years of innocence were a pure delight—increasingly come and go with mixed feelings, not always with pure delight.

I’ve performed funerals and memorial services for far too many people during this season of joy, as well as throughout the year, to have it be otherwise. And like all people who’ve reached a certain age, I’ve experienced enough personal loss and sorrow to know it should not

be otherwise. I have come to expect dealing with, and understanding, people who say,

“I hate Christmas and New Year’s Eve. It’s family time and most of my family is no longer alive.”

“Memories take over, and many of them are sad.”

“I get through them, but I don’t enjoy them.”

“I use a lot of energy pretending I am happy to my family and friends.”

I have learned that “have a happy holiday” can be a trite and meaningless statement to people who are still grieving and reliving losses.

The good news is that you and I can do something with and for people in such a state. We can help create an environment in which sadness and joy coexist; in which painful memories can be transformed into memories that bring life, rather than death. This, by the way, is true not only at holiday times but also at all times throughout the year. As those who care for and about someone in these circumstances,

especially older people, we can make a difference. So, a few simple rules:

- Recognize the sadness and loss—allow it to be talked about without judgment. Never use statements such as: “Oh, Mom you just have to move on.” “Don’t be so depressed.” “Do something to change your attitude.”
- Bring up the memories that cause pain—doing so is healing in itself. It says you understand. It signals that you are willing to engage the feelings.
- Find ways to smile as the memories are shared—smiles suggest that grief and loss are only possible because the cause for those feelings were once a cause for joy and life. Memories can be a gateway to recovering those feelings.
- Above all, respect the person enough to “sit tight” and be a healing presence, being the sounding board she/he might need to process their emotions.



Salia Mourned as Ebola Hero

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (UMNS)—The death of Dr. Martin Salia—the United Methodist Kissy Hospital surgeon who died of Ebola after he was airlifted to the U.S. for treatment—was mourned as an “irreparable loss” by colleagues, church officials, family members, and government officials.

“Sierra Leone has lost a hero, it has lost an asset. This is an irreparable loss,” Dr. M’Baimba Baryoh, a former tutor and colleague of Salia, said in a tribute at the memorial and thanksgiving service at Brown Memorial United Methodist Church. The church is on the grounds of the hospital where the 44-year-old was the medical director and the only surgeon.

Many hospital staff that attended the service on December 2 had just left the 21-day mandatory quarantine period for possible Ebola exposure after Salia tested positive for the deadly virus. Hospital staff crowded the pews wearing T-shirts bearing the photo of the late surgeon and wept bitterly during the service. No staff members have shown any symptoms of Ebola.

Salia died November 17 at Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha after being airlifted from an Ebola treatment center in Sierra Leone. More than 6,000 people have died from Ebola in West Africa.

In his sermon, Sierra Leone United

Methodist Bishop John K. Yambasu said Salia was a man “who lived each day as though that was his last day; a man who embodied Jesus’ admonition to work while it is day.”

Yambasu said Salia began part-time at Kissy in 2011, proving himself a committed, dedicated professional surgeon who was more interested in the health of his patients than in the money he received from them.

Later, he was hired as a full-time surgeon and chief medical officer for Kissy Hospital.

The staff sang a dirge titled “Oh, happy days when Dr. Martin Salia was with us,” as one person solemnly read out what the late surgeon meant to them.

The reader spoke of how Salia was determined to move the hospital to a first-class hospital in Sierra Leone and how he sacrificed so that others could live.



Dr. Martin Salia

A line in a second song in Mende (the language of Salia’s tribe) would roughly translate into English as “It was sorrowful when our doctor departed...”

The Centers for Disease Control is providing training for the Kissy Hospital staff as they prepare to resume normal work next week.

The Great Plains and Baltimore-Washington Conferences are collecting funds to help Dr. Martin Salia’s family pay medical and transportation expenses. To donate, go to: <https://gp-reg.brtapp.com/drsalia>.

Bishop Urges Prayer for Peace, Justice

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well as for veteran officers. Such programs need to include diversity training, sensitivity training, cultural awareness training, negotiation skills, leadership skills and listening skills.

Third, it is essential for police officers to be good listeners. Police officers must be able to think on their feet. Some people call this mother wit or common sense. Common sense might dictate that in a particular situation the better tactic would be to de-escalate a nonviolent confrontation rather than to confront and further escalate the situation. Fourth, police departments must be sensitive to people’s needs regardless of their station in life, recognizing

that there might be significant distrust present because of previous neighborhood experiences with the police.

In conclusion, there is a *balm* that can help lead us to a different place in terms of police and community relations in New York City in particular and in the United States in general. I invite all New York Annual Conference United Methodists to engage in a renewed season of prayer for peace and justice. Let us continue to support the peaceful, nonviolent protests. Let us raise our voices and proclaim the name of Jesus who is the prince of peace!

Your Partner in Ministry,
Ernest S. Lyght

OBITUARY

Rev. Dr. John W. Bardsley Jr.

Reverend Dr. John Wallace Bardsley, Jr., a native of Appalachia, Va., died November 9. He had graduated from Appalachia High School, received a master’s degree in divinity from Drew University School of Theology, and a doctorate in religion from Geneva-St. Albans Theological College. He also completed additional graduate study at Drew.

John and Sara Jo Greever Bardsley were married for 60 years before her death on April 28, 2013.

His journey in ordained ministry began with a license to preach, followed by ordination as a deacon (1952) in the Holston Conference. He received elder’s orders after transfer to the New York East Conference. In 1989, Bardsley returned to the Holston Conference and served several churches before and after retirement in 1994.

Bardsley’s 35-year appointment history in the NYE and NY conferences includes Grace UMC in St. Albans, Queens (1954); Smithtown (1960); and Huntington (1983).

The recipient of many awards and honors, he published articles and books including, “John Wesley and Articles of Religion” with Bishop Nolan B. Harmon. When Dr. Bardsley left the Smithtown church after 23 years, a lengthy tribute was written by the publisher and editor of *The Smithtown Messenger*, with this introduction, “Pastor Bardsley has been doing more in Smithtown than preaching and ministering to his congregation. He has been tending to the needs, the soul, and the spirit of the entire community. He has done it well.”

He is survived by a daughter, Donna Bardsley of Kingsport, Tenn.; and son, John Bardsley, his wife Gina, and their son, Alexander of Anchorage, Alaska; and a nephew and nieces; and his “Long Island son,” Rev. Robert Leibold of Amityville, N.Y.

A memorial service was held November 17 at First Broad Street UMC in Kingston, Tenn.

Memorial donations may be sent to: The Sara Jo and John Bardsley Scholarship Fund of Tennessee Wesleyan College, 204 East College Street, Athens, TN 37303; The Endowment Fund of First Broad Street UMC, 100 East Church Circle, Kingsport, TN 37660; or Appalachia UMC, 527 W Main St., Appalachia, VA 24216.



\$2.5M Donated On Giving Tuesday

United Methodists once again responded with extravagant generosity on UMC #GivingTuesday. On December 2 more than \$2.5 million was donated online through The Advance to support mission and ministries around the world.

The denomination's General Board of Global Ministries matched the first \$1 million in gifts to help build excitement and leverage donations.

More than 770 projects and missionaries received more 8,700 gifts through UMC #GivingTuesday. The response was global with donors from 25 countries giving generously. The Advance is the designated giving channel of the United Methodist Church.

Noting that donors can partner with Advance projects and missionaries throughout the year, Thomas Kemper, who leads Global Ministries, said, "Having one day when United Methodists from around the world are united around giving shows the strength of the denomination's connection, while strengthening the impact of the gifts to each ministry."

He continued, "Every gift made through The Advance this season makes a difference in the lives of the people they touch."

The projects and missionaries supported through The Advance were key to the success of UMC #GivingTuesday. According to the head of The Advance, Ellen Knudsen, "The relationships our projects have with churches and individuals generated excitement for supporting specific ministries."

While there was a cap on how much of each gift was matched by Global Ministries, so that as many organizations as possible received some of the matching funds, Knudsen said that projects were also encouraged to work with faithful donors to develop their own matches.

"Many of them found unique ways to connect through their networks, building on toolkits we created for them. These messages gained momentum and were shared electronically around the world through the grassroots," she said.

This is the second year that The Advance participated in UMC #GivingTuesday, part of a larger international movement that provides an alternative to the shopping traditions following Thanksgiving—Black Friday, Local Business Saturday and Cyber Monday. Last year's effort raised \$6.5 million for ministry programs.

VIM Trips Set for 2015

Dates have been set for the 2015 Volunteers in Mission trips and several others are in the works for 2016. The places, dates and leaders are listed below. To register for any of the missions, go to: www.nyac.com/volunteersinmission

- **Antigua:** (Youth Ambassadors) February 14–22
- **Antigua:** April 25–May 4, Gordon Edwards
- **Antigua:** October 31–November 9, Gordon Edwards
- **Bolivia:** June 25–July 10, Chris Freeman
- **Cambodia:** July, Paul Moon and Joseph Ewoodzie
- **Jamaica:** June 16–23, John Machledt
- **Ecuador:** June 25–July 7, Oscar Destruge

The Youth Ambassadors trip is already full, as is the June mission to Jamaica.

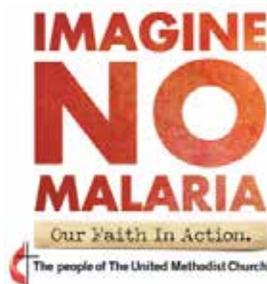
Tentative destinations for 2016 include Colombia, Costa Rica and Ghana; Annette Griffith will lead a team to Mozambique, and Wendy and Tom Vencuss to Haiti.

Malaria Takes No Holiday

Take advantage of this opportunity to make your holiday giving part of the fight to eradicate malaria in Africa.

With your purchase of an alternative-giving card you can honor family and friends by making a donation to the Imagine No Malaria Initiative. Send these cards across the country or tuck them under the Christmas tree. All of your donation will go to the INM campaign as part of the NYAC's \$1.2 million pledge. One of two cards you can purchase is pictured above.

Cards are available for purchase in bulk or individually at many levels of giving. Purchase cards in bulk to send to family and friends with your own personal message. Or, we will mail individual cards for you. You provide the recipient's mailing address, level of giving, and your special message, and we'll send the cards for you. Buy cards at www.nyac.com/inm.



Linden Hill Challenge Met

The directors at Linden Hill Cemetery in Ridgewood, N.Y., challenged the conference to raise \$50,000 that they would match dollar for dollar – and you've met that challenge! A big thank-you to Linden Hill and to all the churches and individuals for your generous donations.