

"Think Globally, Act Locally"



The Closet

~Peg McCracken

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It's been a full year since THE CLOSET opened. In that year we have distributed: **463 pkgs. of toilet tissue, 99 pkgs. of diapers, 302 bottles of dish detergent 401 boxes or bottles of laundry detergent , 288 bottles of shampoo and/or conditioner, 410 bars or bottles of hand soap, 320 bottles of hand sanitizer or deodorant , 265 tubes of toothpaste, 318 toothbrushes, 165 pkgs. of razors, 362 boxes of facial tissues, 187 pkgs. of sanitary napkins**

We are seeing more new faces in the last few months which leads us to think conditions are worsening in Knox County. Our current need is for dish detergent and shampoo. We were wiped out last week and aren't sure when our next order will be in. We thought we had a large supply of afghans, scarves, winter hats and blankets, but that went out quickly last week. We appreciate all the donations that have come in. Thank you very much.

Gay Street United Methodist Women Support Local Missions

Local Missions that our UMW support

- *Community Assistance Fund *Interchurch Social Services
- *New Directions *Children's Connection (formerly Big Brothers/Sisters
- *Hospice *Early Childhood Education (providing Preschool Scholarship Aid)
- *Appalachia Seed Project *Rummage Sale *The Closet
- *Hot Meal folks are given coupons for a free bag of clothes from our Rummage/Bake Sale *Occasional other special needs upon request

We faithfully support local and global mission outreach.

UMW Executive Committee

- Catherine Seward
co-leader, 392-3496
- Carolyn Allar
co-leader, 507-9825
- Linny McNeill
co-leader, 397-3686
- Marietta Van Fossen
Secretary, 397-1133
- Angie Richards
Treasurer, 392-7904
- Norma Siekkinen
Ast. Treas., 397-4386
- Virginia Kline, Program
Resource, 397-5422



Invitation

All Women are invited to join the United Methodist Women Luncheon

Wednesday, December 1 in the church Fellowship Hall 11:30 a.m.

Glora Wysner Circle will provide the covered dishes.

Executive Board meeting before the luncheon at 10:00 a.m. in the downstairs parlor (Contemporary Classroom).

UMW Fall Luncheon Eye-Opening Program on Sudan

~Linny McNeill

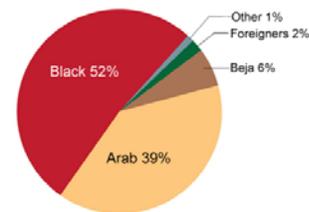
The UMW Fall Luncheon met in the church fellowship hall Wednesday, October 6 with the table decorated beautifully for Fall by Carolyn Allar. Debbie Baker returned and spoke on the upcoming Fall Retreat to be held, November 20 in Bellville, Ohio at Tempel Hills Campgrounds.

After a wonderful covered dish luncheon brought by the UMW members, Trish Rankin delivered the program: "The Lost Boys of Sudan." First, she asked us in pairs to tie each others wrists together with cord for hardships encountered while doing tasks. We were to write on note cards the problems the Sudanese had to endure. Trish showed slides of Sudan depicting multiple issues they deal with.



Sudan is the largest one of the most geographically diverse countries in Africa (about the size of the United States east of the Mississippi River). Mountain ranges divide the deserts of the north from the swamps and rain forests of the south, and the River Nile separates the country from east to west. It is also ethnically diverse, with mainly Muslim and Arabic speaking north at odds with the Christian and animist in the south.

Two million people were killed in North-South civil war and conflict continues in the western region of Darfur (one of the worst nightmares in recent history). Two million more people have been driven out of their homes. Decades of fighting have left Sudan's infrastructure in tatters. The political system is extremely corrupt, as is much of the government, and there is widespread vote-rigging and intimidation.



In 1964, mission schools were closed by the Islamic leader. After battles, burnt out homes and villages displaced many forcing them to walk one hundred miles for water. Food is scarce because not as many crops have been produced in the last decade. What agriculture they have left is maize, peanuts, sorghum, cotton, and sesame. Also exported is oil, livestock and hides and gum Arabic.

Women are very dependent, so when their husbands, fathers and sons are killed, they are devastated with famine and drought.



Margaret Dure (right) pumps water from a well constructed by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in the Southern Sudanese town of Yei. Photo by Paul Jeffrey.

At the close of the program, Trish tossed rubber "stumbling blocks" to each table for us to write on each square a problem they deal with in Sudan. Answers included: different cultures, tribal clashes, country clashes, fighting over oil and agricultural resources, natural disasters - famine and drought, fear, oppression, slavery, religious differences, corrupt rulers, no family life, corrupt military power, broken peace treaties, AIDS, child trafficking, stolen children for workers and more.

It is sobering material, and many of our North American churches support what they can through the Council of Churches.

~pictures and graphs are taken from the UMW website—The Beauty & Courage of Sudan—Fast Facts

Highlights & Happenings in the Glora Wysner Circle

~Janet Jennings



Hostess: Emily Gordon

The Glora Wysner circle met at the home of Emily Gordon on Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 13, with seventeen present.

Trish gave a glowing report on the Oct. 8-9 East Ohio Conference UMW meeting at Church of the Saviour in Cleveland. She and Marge Winkle thoroughly enjoyed it. It was extra significant for Marge since she had been married in that sanctuary. Three or four dozen women came on Friday night, and on Saturday there were about 180 in attendance. The Three Rivers District was represented by Trish, Marge, and our District



Alta Smith

Superintendent Jim Humphrey, and we hope to have more next time when it will be in Akron.

Trish announced that the deadline for letting the district know what books from the reading list we have read is February 1, 2011. The person to tell is Virginia Kline. Readers will be recognized and asked to stand at the spring district UMW meeting. Everyone is encouraged to check the library in the Varsity Room for books and remember to follow through on reporting.

Carol Topping put in a plug for the 2010 Fall Women's Retreat Friday, November 19 and Saturday, November 20. It will be led by Carol and Debbie Baker and held at Temple Hills in Bellville, Ohio. The theme is Thanks Living. The cost is \$70 for both days and \$50 for Saturday only. Scholarships and transportation are available. Both our pastors plan to attend, and it will be an opportunity for fellowship, faith, and fun!

One of our circle members, Emily Gordon, has commissioned the Piece Corps to work on a quilt. The profit from this project will go toward the cost of replacement of the church roof.

Continued on page 4

The September rummage/bake sale was successful (\$1,197.84) both in money raised and the number of volunteers who helped.



Elsie Spurgeon



Trish & Carol leading song



Shirley Workman, Marna Burwell, Marcia Needham, and Kathleen Breneman

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~pis by Janet Jennings

Glora Wysner Circle—continued from page 3

Trish Rankin presented a program on children at risk, particularly girls. She enlisted the help of Carol Topping who read the Legend of the Sand Dollar about how a person walking along an ocean saves beached and dying sand dollars by tossing them one at a time back into the water, a seemingly hopeless task. She compared it to saving children one by one. Her centerpiece featured a bowl to represent the ocean and several shells scattered on the carpet to represent children at risk. During the program, various participants, including Helen Connell, Marcia Needham, Alta Smith, Bonnie Magaw and Maurine Scott, “rescued” a shell and tossed it into the “ocean” as they read about places like Camp Possible where children with handicapping conditions can feel normal and Bright Future, a place for sexually abused children.



Program focal point



Marna Burwell, Marcia Needham, Bonnie Magaw and Maurine Scott

It was sobering to hear that 12 million children live in poverty, more than there were 25 years ago.

Trish and others shared personal stories of harmful school bullying. She listed some signs to watch for that indicate a child is being bullied. We were startled to learn that Ohio ranks 5th in human trafficking for prostitution. Some of the reasons are our state’s proximity to Canada, our interstate highway system, and our invisible and hard-to-track migrant worker population. Of course we knew, but heard confirmation of the devastating effects of lack of education and poverty on children. To emphasize that there is nothing new about the problem, Trish pointed out that the Cain and Abel story in Genesis is about sibling rivalry and murder, Moses would certainly be considered an infant at risk, and Joseph was sold into slavery by his own brothers. Trish ended the program with a meaningful group litany and prayer. If any other circles are in need of a good program, we can certainly recommend this one!



Helen Connell, Elsie Spurgeon, Carol Topping and Iada Burris



~pis by Janet Jennings

Linn McNeill & Helen Connell

UMCOR Plans Food Project for Sudan by Linda Bloom*

October 22, 2010—The food shortage in South Sudan is so severe that more than half of the residents in two counties say they regularly skip meals. Armed with information from an August survey, the United Methodist Committee on Relief is planning an ambitious food-security project to assist the people there “so they have a broader food basket,” says Thomas Dwyer, who leads UMCOR’s nongovernmental unit.

The launch date of the three-year project is January — the same month when voters decide whether South Sudan should become independent from the current government of Sudan. Political unrest related to the Jan. 9 referendum could cause delays, he acknowledged. Focused on Mugwo Payam in Yei County and Kenyi Payam in Lainya County, the project is designed to improve the production of cassava crops and help establish fish farms. UMCOR directors approved \$262,740 toward the project during their October board meeting. The agency is in negotiations with the European Union delegation to the Republic of the Sudan for additional funding through its Food Security, Rural Development and Economics Section, Dwyer said.

The agency’s research found that while the majority of residents in both payams, or geographic locations, produce cassava, few have the proper tools to maximize their yields. Meat consumption is low and alternative food sources are few, but there is an interest in fish farms, which would provide another source of protein. The goal, Dwyer explained, is to promote something “that’s viable, given the local needs, but brings in some innovations.” One of the biggest components of the project will be agricultural training, allowing residents to establish techniques that are sustainable year after year.

Presence Since 2005

The United Methodist Church now has 17 official congregations in South Sudan. UMCOR began working in Sudan in early 2005, assisting displaced people living in camps in South Darfur with programs that grew to include education, agriculture and water, sanitation and hygiene. Programs in South Sudan have focused on reintegration of the population after years of war through water and sanitation programs and school reconstruction. With its partners — including Ginghamburg Church, a United Methodist congregation in Tipp City, Ohio — UMCOR has provided emergency supplies to nearly 80,000 displaced people, school uniforms and supplies to 16,000 students and improved water and sanitation to about 90,000.

Ginghamburg — which has raised nearly \$5 million for its Sudan mission work — and the denomination’s Holston Annual (regional) Conference, which has a covenant with United Methodists in East Africa — are the two U.S. United Methodist bodies most active in Sudan.

Holston, which has some 900 churches in Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia, initially committed \$627,000 for clean water, medical care, pastoral training, education, supplies and leadership development in Yei and has raised other funds since then, including more than \$150,000 in a 2010 annual conference offering. The 2005 Sudan peace agreement — which ended more than 20 years of civil war between the government in the predominantly Muslim north and the predominantly Christian south — gave South Sudan the right to hold January’s referendum on independence.

On Oct. 13, Church World Service, a partner of The United Methodist Church, hosted a luncheon in New York for a visiting delegation of Sudanese church leaders seeking the support of other Christians for a peaceful referendum vote. Attempts to interfere with the balloting could result in chaos and renewed fighting between the north and south, the delegation said.

Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul of the Episcopal Church of Sudan noted that both Christians and Muslims in South Sudan have suffered under the central government and want the freedom to choose whether to remain part of the state of Sudan or become independent. The Rev. John Nuessle, an executive with the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, said the agency’s mission staff is working with UMCOR to monitor a situation that “potentially could be very dangerous.” “We are very concerned for the Sudanese people,” he added.

Support Sudan Emergency, UMCOR Advance #184385

~from the UMCOR website



More than half of the residents of South Sudan go without regular meals. The United Methodist Committee on Relief has approved a food-security project to assist the Sudanese people.

Courtesy Holston Conference of the UMC/UMNS

Gay Street United Methodist Women Newsletter



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Witness Of Women

Deadline for the next issue is:
November 18

10

Dates

18

Nov. 1-2 Piece Corps/UMW book bag workdays

Nov. 10 - 9:30 a.m. Dorcas Circle at church ,Joan
Neighbarger program

Nov. 10- 1:30 p.m. Glora Wysner circle at Bonnie
Magaw's home with Kathleen Breneman giving the
program.

Nov. 18 WOW deadline

Dec. 1 UMW luncheon & circle meetings

Dec. 8? Cheer Baskets?

EVERYBODY READ A BOOK IN JANUARY!

Feb. 1 Deadline for turning in titles of books read

Sewing Hope

Helen Connell, representing the Piece
Corps, invites everyone to two special
UMCOR book bag workdays at the church:

Monday, Nov. 1 from 4:00 to 8:00 and
Tuesday, Nov. 2 from 10:00-2:00.

The goal is 40 completed bags. Over the past
five years, under the leadership of Maurine
and Jack Scott, over 10,000 book bags have
been donated to UMCOR. At least another
1,000 are in Scotts' basement, cut out and
bagged, and ready for sewers throughout
East Ohio.

