March 16, 2010

**The UMCOR Hotline**

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**HAITI: EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE UPDATE**

**UMCOR Hosts Haiti Health Meeting**

UMCOR Health invited a dozen longtime partners in the field of health in Haiti to a meeting at UMCOR’s New York City headquarters to begin to address the need for a long-term health strategy in post-earthquake Haiti.

The meeting on March 11 came just two months after the massive earthquake that killed 230,000 Haitians and left more than a million homeless.

Participants recommended, among other things, the development of a comprehensive, integrated health strategy in which the represented agencies, US-based Methodist hospitals, United Methodist volunteers and UMCOR would participate.

**UMCOR Helps Medical Evacuees**

UMCOR’s Refugee Ministry Office is responding to requests to assist Haitian medical evacuees in Atlanta, Georgia, and Miami, Florida, through its Church World Service (CWS) refugee resettlement partners.

CWS in Miami and Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta (RRISA) have received nearly 100 medical evacuees and their accompanying caretakers since the January 12 earthquake in Haiti.

The two agencies are responsible for providing case management and for arranging housing, transportation and other essential services for the evacuees during their stay for treatment of their injuries.

UMCOR is providing funds to RRISA to cover housing costs for 30 cases and is ready to provide assistance as needed to support additional evacuees in Atlanta, those being served by CWS’ Miami office, and agencies serving Haitian medical evacuees in other cities.

Gifts to support UMCOR’s Haiti relief and recovery work can be made online by visiting [www.umcorhaiti.org](http://www.umcorhaiti.org). One hundred percent of gifts made to this advance will help the people of Haiti.

More information about UMCOR’s Haiti relief efforts can be found in the weekly update.
UMCOR Sends Assessment Team

During Holy Week, UMCOR will send a team from its New York City headquarters to assess damages and needs in Chile since the February 27 earthquake.

UMCOR Assistant General Secretary Rev. Tom Hazelwood and Mission Relationships Executive Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean Rev. Edgar Avitia will visit the hardest hit areas in Santiago, Talca and Concepción from March 29 to April 3.

Methodist Church of Chile Bishop Mario Martínez Tapia and Juan Salazar Fernández, who represents the church on the Interecclesiastic Emergency Committee, will lead the team.

Chilean American Chamber of Commerce of the South Responds

When the earthquake struck Chile, killing hundreds and impacting millions, the Chilean American Chamber of Commerce of the South (CACS), based in Atlanta, Georgia, wanted to help. So they invited their members and constituents to give to relief efforts through UMCOR.

“Everyone would like 100 percent of every dollar they give to go to their charitable cause,” said CACS accountant David Duke. “UMCOR is unique in that it can make that promise.”

As a life-long United Methodist, Duke informed the CACS board that UMCOR had provided disaster-response training in Chile last year, sent funds to the country immediately after the earthquake, and was ready to respond with its partners on the ground there.

CACS has added a button on the homepage of its website that allows its members and constituents to make an online, tax-deductible donation to Chile relief through UMCOR.

You can be there, be hope for the people in Chile, too, through your financial support to Chile Emergency Advance #3021178.

US: FLOODS RETURN TO DAKOTAS

Under the banner, “Let Us Rebuild,” the Dakotas Annual Conference is preparing for imminent spring flooding.

Floods are a major threat each spring in the northern Great Plains, the product of saturated and frozen ground, snowmelt, rain and flat terrain.

After record flooding in North and South Dakotas last year, UMCOR provided training for the Dakotas Annual Conference to help prepare to meet the floods in 2010.

Forecasts in some areas along the Red River and James River in North Dakota indicate that flooding could reach the 2009 record levels that provoked more than $150 million in damages.

Your support for UMCOR’s US Disaster Response will help provide relief for those affected by the rising river waters. Please give to US Disaster Response, UMCOR Advance #901670.

SUDAN: TENNESSEE CHURCH HOSTS SUDAN MEETING

“Amazing Grace,” the Sudan Summit of the Holston Conference, gathered more than 100 people at First Broad Street United Methodist Church in Kingsport, TN, for two days of workshops and plenary sessions to explore ways they can continue to be in mission with the people of southern Sudan. The Holston Conference partners with UMCOR to build schools and wells in southern Sudan.

UMCOR opened the first office in Sudan five years ago, following 20 years of conflict in the country. UMCOR executives Thomas Dwyer and Alberta McKnight outlined the needs of the
4 million displaced people in the country and the integrated approach to building infrastructure and addressing needs like education, water and sanitation.

UMCOR Health executive Shannon Trilli met with medical volunteers to discuss long-range strategies to support the health needs of southern Sudan. She challenged the group to develop exit strategies so that the time spent volunteering creates sustainable change in the communities in which they work.

You can support this work by giving to Sudan Emergency, UMCOR Advance 184385.

**DR CONGO: VULNERABLE CHILDREN RECEIVE CARE**

Asha and Kosey, two young siblings (though these are not their real names) were orphaned in their native Democratic Republic of Congo when their parents were killed in that country’s ongoing civil war. A stranger compassionately brought them to the local United Methodist pastor, who sent them to Child Action Initiative, where they are now being cared for and raised.

Child Action Initiative, supported by a United Methodist Global AIDS Fund grant through UMCOR Health, offers children like Asha and Kosey, orphans of war or AIDS, a community of hope and a place of refuge.

The program serves some 50 children, who receive nutritious meals, spiritual and emotional counseling, tuition support and all the equipment they need to go to school.

You can support projects like this one by giving to the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, UMCOR Advance #982345, or support Child Action Initiative directly by giving to UMCOR Advance #3021036.

UMCOR provides emergency relief in many areas of the world. To find out more about UMCOR's ministries, please visit umcor.org. You can donate to any project by placing a contribution in the offering plate at a local United Methodist church; by sending a check to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068; or by calling 1-800-554-8583, where credit card donations are accepted. You can also give online by clicking on any of the "Give Now" links. UMCOR is exempt from tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States and qualifies for the maximum charitable contribution deduction by donors.

And, please pray for those who are hungry, displaced, sick or in poverty because of these and other natural and human-made disasters, and for the workers who minister to them.

**BE SURE TO RECEIVE OUR HOTLINE EMAILS. MAKE UMCOR YOUR BUDDY!** Some Internet Service Providers like AOL, Yahoo!, Hotmail, and Juno use email filtering software that allows you to add email addresses to a "buddy," "trusted," "safe," or approved list. Please add umcor@gbgm-umc.org to your list so that our messages don't end up in "junk mail" or the "trash."