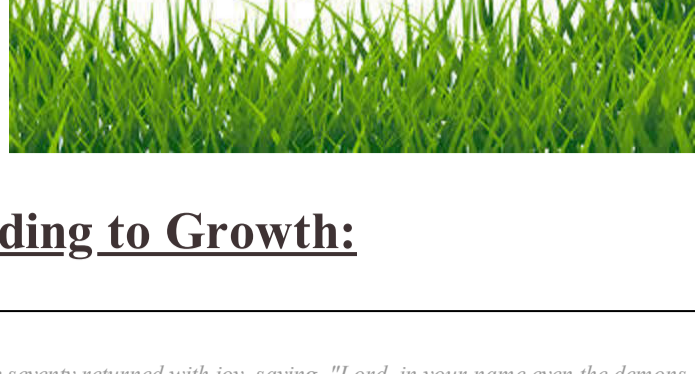




The Servant's Journey

August 2017 Issue



Tending to Growth:

"The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' He said to them..."Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:17, 20

During the summer it seems like my lawn grows faster than I can keep up with it. I love being out with the mower and the trimmers. But between mission trips and vacations and family reunions and VBS's the growth can sometimes get out of hand.

Often I hear folks report back from a mission experience saying (somewhat guiltily) that "I went expecting to give something to people who had nothing, but I ended up receiving far more than I gave."

Let me suggest that this is part of what God has planned for us in mission. Mission is for serving others AND for our own spiritual growth. That may seem self-centered - the opposite of what we intend in mission - but it is also humiliating in the best sense of the word. It brings us back down to earth. It makes us more vulnerable. It teaches us that we are in need of love and healing as much as anyone else. It teaches us that God uses what is weak and lowly in the world to guide those who are strong and in control. It teaches us that we truly need each other in order for the reign of God to be present.

Like my lawn, if that growth remains untended, it can get choked out by the weeds of life. It can start to grow in unhealthy directions. How are you tending the growth in yourself and your mission team? Is your mission experience changing the way you look at ministry in your community? Is it changing the way you read the Bible? Is it deepening your prayer life? Is it challenging who you see as your neighbor?

Tend to the growth and rejoice!
-- Tom



Join us to **Sound the Alarm** and save lives today.

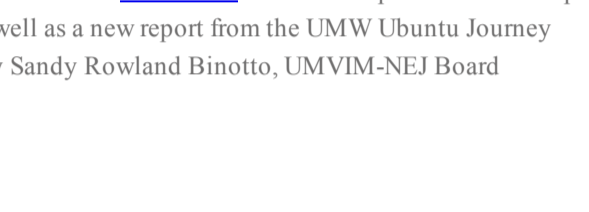
Sound the Alarm

The people of the United Methodist Church are very generous with their money as well as their time. As such, our national partner, the American Red Cross, has reached out to UMCOR to ask for our support as they seek to recruit volunteers for their campaign to install smoke detectors in over 100 cities.

Since this is a mitigation activity that aligns closely with UMCOR's Connecting Neighbors: Ready Congregations Module 1, UMC Conferences may find this an opportunity to highlight the need for fire safety while linking the information also to disaster preparedness in other areas of your work.

More information about the program can be at <https://www.redcross.org/sound-the-alarm>

-- from Cathy Earl, UMCOR



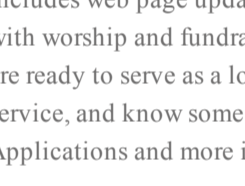
UMVIM Mission Team Reports

Occasionally we highlight reports from mission teams on the UMVIM-NEJ website. [Click here](#) to read the report from "El Grupo de Bob" as well as a new report from the UMW Ubuntu Journey Team led by Sandy Rowland Binotto, UMVIM-NEJ Board President.

Books and Computers Available

There is a small Catholic School in Allentown, PA that has 5 cabinets full of textbooks (grade 2 - 8) that have been used one or two years and are now "out of date!" They are in great condition and the head teacher does not want to throw them out! If you would like them, contact [Deacon Greg Ellis](#), Eastern PA UMVIM Coordinator, for more details.

Mariner's Bethel UMC in Ocean View, DE was given dozens of desktop computers in good working condition this Spring and is looking for a place to donate them. For more information, contact [Pastor Woody Wilson](#).



Global Ministries / Mission Volunteers Update

Ecuador

Where has your faith journey taken you? We have an opportunity with the Evangelical United Methodist Church in Ecuador for a volunteer who is ready to combine their interests and talents in service to others! This opportunity includes web page updates as well as projects with women and children; help with worship and fundraising; views of city streets and Andean mountains. If you are ready to serve as a long-term volunteer (at least 3 months), can fund your own service, and know some Spanish, consider becoming a Mission Volunteer! Applications and more information can be found at www.missionvolunteers.org.

Mission Volunteer Trainings

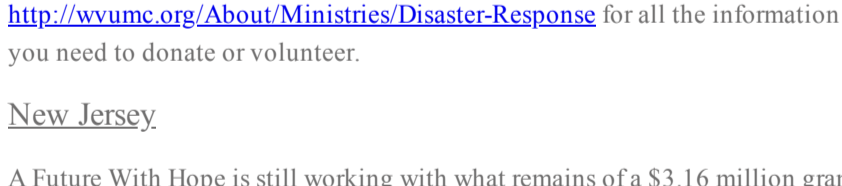
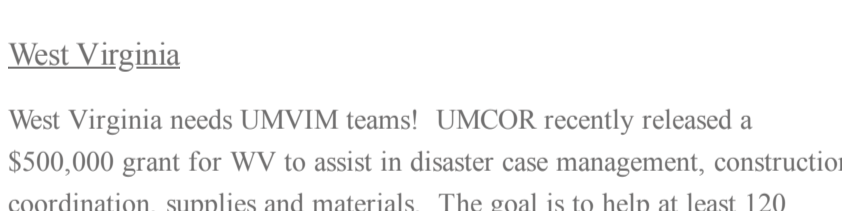
Two Mission Volunteer trainings are scheduled for the remainder of 2017. Go to umcmision.org to apply:

September 13-16, 2017 [registration is now closed for this training]
Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center
501 William Law Rd.
Windsor, NY 13865
Binghamton Regional Airport (BGM) is located approximately 30 miles away.

November 8-11, 2017
Mount Sequoyah
150 N Skyline Drive
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701
Nearest airport - Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport (XNA)

Disaster/Mission Academies

Both the South Central and Southeastern Jurisdictions have upcoming Academies. If you missed the opportunity to attend in the NEJ, you can arrange to join our brothers and sisters in the south this Fall. The next Academy in the NEJ is scheduled for April 11-14, 2018



U.S. Disaster Response Update

--In the Northeast

West Virginia

West Virginia needs UMVIM teams! UMCOR recently released a \$500,000 grant for WV to assist in disaster case management, construction coordination, supplies and materials. The goal is to help at least 120 families in the next two years. Go to <http://www.umc.org/About/Ministries/Disaster-Response> for all the information you need to donate or volunteer.

New Jersey

A Future With Hope is still working with what remains of a \$3.16 million grant from UMCOR to continue recovery from the 2012 Hurricane Sandy. There are many homes in Atlantic County that are still in need of volunteer teams. In many cases these are people who were swindled by contractors in the immediate aftermath of the storm and have now recovered their funds. The more teams, the further the grant money stretches and the more families we can help! [Register here](#) or join one of our [existing teams](#).

New York

The [NYAC Sandy Recovery](#) ministry is still looking for Done in a Day teams to complete projects in Connecticut and in Brooklyn/Queens. If you are interested please contact Gina Grubbs, Volunteer Coordinator at sandyrecovery@nyac-umc.com, or Tom Vencus at tvencus@nyac.com. There is also a great need for rental assistance / mortgage assistance for those still displaced from their homes.

Connellsville, Pennsylvania

The Connellsville Flood Recovery Center still has active cases that they are working with in the aftermath of flooding in late August last year. Many of those homes will need volunteer assistance to do repair and rebuild work. Housing and hospitality for teams wishing to serve for multiple days up to one week is available though one day teams have been the most common practice. Volunteers can register online at <https://connellsvillevolunteers.org/2016/09/08/how-to-volunteer/> or email volunteer@wpaumc.org. We expect to be scheduling volunteers September 2017.

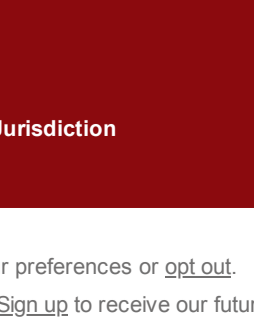
--Outside the Jurisdiction

[CLICK HERE](#) to see full details of ongoing long-term recovery needs around the United States, including active recoveries in:

- NORTH CAROLINA
- SOUTH CAROLINA
- LOUISIANA
- CENTRAL TEXAS
- VIRGINIA
- FLORIDA
- SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS
- MISSISSIPPI

Did You Know?

Global Ministries can help you put together a Mission Celebration at your church, in your district, or your annual conference complete with speakers and workshop leaders from the agency. A planning guide and access to the full resources of Global Ministries are available [here](#). This could be just the catalyst you need for mission in your area!



Miss an Issue?

Each issue of The Servant's Journey will be archived at http://umvimne.org/news_events/newsletters.html. Go back and see what you missed!

Donate Through the Advance #982760

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- From the Coordinator
- Sound the Alarm
- Mission Team Reports
- Global Ministries Update
- Upcoming Academies
- UMCOR Update
- Did You Know?: Mission Celebrations
- Current Team Openings
- Training Calendar
- Recommended Reading / Viewing



Current Team Openings

- August - Lycoming County, PA
- August 16-20, Pennsylvania
- August 18-26, Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference
- September 2-10, South Dakota
- September 5-16, Israel/Palestine
- September 10-18, Portugal
- September 17-23, North Carolina
- Sept 21-Oct 1, Paraguay
- September 22-28, Nicaragua
- October 6-15, Mexico
- January 4-14, Costa Rica
- March 3-9, Cuba (Young Adult Mission Discovery)

Upcoming Trainings

Western PA

September 19 -- ERT Training, West Washington UMC, Washington, PA
[New England](#)

September 30 -- ERT Training, North Andover, MA

Upper New York

New York

Susquehanna

October 7 -- ERT Training, Tyrone, PA
November 4 -- ERT Training, Kingston, PA

Eastern PA

Greater New Jersey

Peninsula-Delaware

Baltimore-Washington

West Virginia

Recommended Reading / Watching

- [Cross Cultural Partnership: Navigating the Complexities of Money and Mission](#), by Mary Lederleitner
- [Mission Journey: A Handbook for Volunteers](#)
- [What it Means to be a Mission Worker in Today's Worldwide Church](#), by Thomas Kemper
- [A Nazareth Manifesto: Being With God](#), by Samuel Wells
- [Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions](#), by Steve Corbett and Brian Fickert
- [Toxic Charity](#), by Robert Lupton
- [Traveler's Guide to Personal Security](#) by Sam Rosenberg
- [UM & Global blog](#)
- [Restore Video Study at Ministry.WITH.org](#)

