

MISSION PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES OOLTEWAH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2007

The Global Outreach (GO) Ministry of Ooltewah United Methodist Church (OUMC) is modeled after the call of Christ in which He declared that we shall be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the very ends of the earth. Acts 1:8 What follows are opportunities for every member of OUMC to be involved in mission and ministry following the example of Christ as we answer God's question: "Will You Go With Me?" across the street and around the world.

JERUSALEM (Local Missions)

1. Share and Care.

Provides assistance, typically on a one-time basis, to those in immediate need. Serves members of the local community as well as transients with food vouchers, gasoline vouchers, payment of utilities, and similar emergency relief.

2. Angel Food.

Dedicated volunteers work one Saturday morning each month to distribute pre-ordered boxes of food to members of the congregation and local community. Angel Food is a non-profit organization providing boxes of food at discounted prices with a varied menu each month.

3. Small Construction and Repair Team.

Under the leadership of the OUMC Men's organization, groups of men and women perform small construction and repair projects for church members and people of our local community on an as-needed basis.

4. Sing for Joy.

This small group of dedicated volunteers sings at local nursing homes once each month on Sunday afternoon. Anyone is welcome to join this uplifting team as they engage in a wonderful and joyful ministry.

5. Samaritan Center.

Ecumenical ministry that seeks to address spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of people in our community. Ministries include a food bank, thrift store, and job counseling. Many in our church have worked in various areas of this ministry, and we also provide direct financial support. See www.thesamaritancenter.net.

6. Bethlehem Center.

South Chattanooga inner-city ministry whose mission is: "We are God's people, called to a Christian ministry of promoting, restoring and sustaining wholeness in individuals and families through service, leadership, advocacy, and empowerment in south Chattanooga, inner city Chattanooga, and the greater Chattanooga area." Programs include after-school and summer Literacy Academy, economic development, financial and credit counseling, spiritual enrichment, credit union, mass choir, and community outreach. The Director of "The Beth" is Rev. Lurone Jennings, a United Methodist Pastor. We support this ministry financially, and also with service projects. See www.thebeth.org.

7. Union Gospel Mission.

Our church has contributed financially to the work of this ministry, and, primarily through the work of the Prodigal Sunday School Class we have also served at the Mission by working in its meals program. See www.theuniongospelmission.org.

8. Room in the Inn.

Primarily through the work and leadership of the OUMC Unit of the United Methodist Women, our church has contributed both financially and by donating clothing and other personal items to this ministry that provides a haven to abused women and children. Representatives of this ministry have spoken at UMW gatherings. See www.roomintheinn.com.

9. The Community Kitchen.

We have consistently given financial support to this ministry located in Chattanooga, and groups from our church have occasionally worked at the Community Kitchen. See www.community-kitchen.org.

10. Chattanooga Food Bank.

Mission: "To gather and share grocery products with neighbors in need." We have supported this ministry financially, and some from our church have worked at the Food Bank organizing and sorting food to better facilitate distribution. See www.chattfoodbank.org.

JUDEA (Regional and National Missions)

1. Jubilee Project Inc.

Our church has recently begun to partner with Jubilee Project in Hancock County, Tennessee. The United Methodist Church began Jubilee Project in 1991. The vision is to assist in the empowerment of people in Hancock County (especially those with the greatest needs) through enhancement of self-worth, abilities and opportunities. This

area has the lowest income in Tennessee, and less than half the National average. The Jubilee Project reaches out to the community through numerous Ministry Programs: Small Business Program, Clinch-Powell Community Kitchens, Appalachian Spring Cooperative, Jubilee Youth Center, and Clinch Appalachian Artisans Cooperative. Our church is providing financial support to Randy Hildebrant, who is a Church and Community Worker for the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church serving as Director of Youth Ministries for the Jubilee Project in Sneedville, TN. We are excited about this new relationship and look forward to sending STM teams to work with Randy and others at Jubilee Project. See www.jubileeproject.holston.org.

2. UMCOR—United Methodist Committee on Relief.

OUMC has supported many UMCOR projects to provide relief across the United States as well as around the world. Our most recent involvement has been in sending hurricane relief teams as well as supplies to aid in the cleanup and recovery after Hurricane Katrina.

SAMARIA (Cross-cultural and marginalized)

1. Angel Tree.

An aspect of prison ministries in which we minister to families, particularly children, of persons who are incarcerated. This ministry involves providing Christmas gifts and a Christmas party to those families. See www.pfm.org.

2. Miracle Lake.

Eight-week residential training center program in Etowah, Tennessee catering to men who have expressed a desire to leave drug and alcohol abuse, and associated crime. The program involves Bible study, work therapy, worship, individual counseling, and group therapy. Richard Smith and Ronnie Shelton of Miracle Lake serve as full-time chaplains at Brushy Mountain and Riverbend Prisons, and also minister at other prisons, county jails, hospitals, and other institutions. Our work at Miracle Lake has primarily involved financial support, construction, landscaping, and the like. See www.byhisgrace.cc/miraclelake.org.

ENDS OF THE EARTH (International Missions)

1. India.

We support the ministry of Hope for Today (HFT) located in the area of Hyderabad, India. We have a “covenant relationship” with the directors of HFT, Peter and Esther Pereira, who are frequent visitors to OUMC. This ministry includes boys and girls homes, slum schools, slum nutrition ministry, medical camps, church planting, pastor training, leadership training, vocational training (teaching women to sew), women’s and children’s ministry (including VBS). Recent additional ministry has

involved Tsunami relief work in south India. Our ministry with Hope for Today has included seven short-term mission (STM) trips, and financial support for various aspects of the ministry. We take a STM trip to work with Hope for Today approximately once per year, and preliminary planning has already begun for our 2007 trip, tentatively scheduled for late November/early December. In addition to his work as a director of Hope For Today, Peter is President of the South Asia region (India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan) for the International Leadership Institute (ILI), an organization that provides training in leadership and evangelism to “leaders of leaders” around the world, focusing on those areas where the people have never heard the Gospel. See www.themissionsociety.org and www.iliteam.org.

2. Ecuador.

We support the ministry of Tim and Daina Datwyler, also frequent visitors to OUMC. Ecuador is a new field for the Datwylers after serving five years in Mexico. Several mission teams from OUMC worked with the Datwylers in their Mexico ministry. We entered into a “covenant relationship” with the Datwylers during their Mexico ministry and will continue to work with them in Ecuador. Their new ministry will involve working with the newly formed Evangelical Methodist Church in community development. Other areas of ministry will be training local pastors, teaching English, community development, and agriculture development. They also will be coordinating short-term mission trips involved in construction, medical/dental, VBS, and agriculture projects. A STM will be going to work with the Datwylers in July of 2007. See www.themissionsociety.org.

3. Mexico.

We support the ministry of the Florencio and Maria Guzman in Monterey, Mexico. Our work with the Guzmans supports the children’s feeding program at Amilpa. We are also involved in construction projects at Amilpa and Emiliano Zapata. We have sent five short-term mission teams to the area and continue to send general financial support for the ministry of Florencio and Maria. See www.themissionsociety.org.

4. The Muslim World.

We support the ministry of Alan and Beth Barrett who work with missionaries in predominantly Muslim countries. Our support has focused on financial and prayer aspects, and we have strived to remain close to this ministry. Alan has participated in several mission emphasis events at OUMC. Due to the sensitivity of this ministry and for security reasons we do not speak openly about the details of this work. Although we have not yet sent a STM team to work with Alan or the ministries he supports, we have heard that Alan is developing plans to take one or more teams into Asia where work is being done among Muslims. We await with eager anticipation the possibility that our congregation would participate in such a trip. See www.frontiers.org and www.themissionsociety.org.

5. Japan.

We support the ministry of Neal and Mari Hicks, missionaries to Japan. Our support has focused on financial and prayer aspects, and we have strived to remain close to Neal and Mari and their ministry, who have participated in at least two mission emphasis events at OUMC. Due to the very high cost, and significant logistical difficulties involved, we have not taken a STM team to Japan. See www.themissionsociety.org.

6. Africa.

Our church has recently begun to support the work of Billy and Joanna Coppedge in Arua in northwestern Uganda near the Sudan and Congo borders. Billy and Joanna serve under the auspices of World Gospel Mission, and are currently preparing to assume this missionary assignment by, among other things, learning Swahili in Kampala, Uganda. We are already exploring the possibility of sending a STM to work with them once they are settled into their work in Arua. See www.wgm.org.

7. Vietnam.

We support the work of Children of Peace International (COPI), financially and through direct involvement in STM work. We look forward to exploring expanded opportunities to be in ministry with COPI and its director, Binh Rybacki. See www.childrenofpeace.org.

8. Baltic Mission Center/Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary Scholarship.

Each year our church contributes \$1500.00 to the KUUM Scholarship Fund of the Baltic Mission Center in Estonia for training in evangelism and world mission and ministry. See www.worldmethodist.org/baltic.htm.

9. Holston Conference Projects.

Every year the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church sponsors and promotes several international mission outreach projects, and we participate regularly in these efforts. For example, over the years we have prepared and provided to the Conference thousands of “mission kits” including kitchen items, school supplies, food, medical and first aid equipment and supplies, and the like. These projects are typically organized at the small group level, involving especially our adult Sunday School classes. In addition to this “in-kind” support, our congregation has consistently given generously to the annual Conference international ministry and mission initiative. In 2004, we were very excited that this initiative was the ministry and mission of Hope for Today in India. As a part of that emphasis, five OUMC members, led by our Pastor, led a Conference STM trip to visit and share in the ministries of HFT. Our church also contributes financially to numerous Holston Conference mission projects throughout the year. Beginning in 2007, our church will become significantly involved in the Holston Conference’s recent initiative to be in ministry to the children of the Darfur region of southern Sudan called “Hope for the Children of Sudan.” See www.holston.org.