

# Global Mission Moment

## Climate Challenges

*For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. **II Corinthians 1: 5***

There are a few "commodities" and "luxuries" our family had in Chicago which we no longer have, relatively speaking, here in El Quiche, Guatemala. For example, having access to potable water is not only a national problem, but for our area has been a years-long problem. The water truck drives down our street as early as 6 am every day of the week honking the horn and selling water. We buy our water this way. It is then stored in cisterns where the already murky water gets even murkier. Some days I wish I could submerge myself in Lake Michigan to bathe - and to be honest, I have never been interested in Lake Michigan, but now I miss it!

Having access to potable water is not only a social problem but also an environmental one. There have been mild droughts each of the recent years, but in the past year throughout most of Guatemala and much of Central America, there was no rainfall whatsoever. Now the government has officially announced a severe drought. The drought destroyed most of next year's subsistence maize (corn) crops, and the cost of maize has increased astronomically. Not only is there a lack of food for the upcoming year, but this has created a serious economic hardship for most families. While historically, many rural residents have been internally displaced, or uprooted from their communities due to colonialism, the 36 year old armed conflict and the recent mining business, now many are being displaced due to grave environmental changes. Yet there is something impressive about an organization like Guatemalan Cultural Action (ACG) which has a staff so committed and dedicated to improving the lives of each person in the community, even while living with their own economic hardships.

Pray with me, giving thanks to God for the Guatemalan Cultural Action (ACG). May God bless you and your family in everything you do to support me and my family and the ACG. I humbly ask for your continued prayers.

**Gloria Vicente** serves through Global Ministries with Guatemalan Culture Action (ACG) as a youth and communication worker.

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## Mission Moment—No Bounds

**June 6, 2010**

### Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 5)

**C**lose your eyes. Imagine a church that spans boundaries. Now open your eyes... and see Iglesia sin Fronteras/Church without Borders UCC, serving people from both sides of the Ciudad Juárez-El Paso border. Strengthen the Church is helping this new church start!

The UCC's Southwest Conference has had Hispanic congregations, including Iglesia La Trinidad UCC in El Paso, Texas, since its founding. Lay people from La Trinidad have been crossing to the Juárez site to do social service work.

Las Iglesias Cristianas Congregacionales de Mexico, concentrated on Mexico's Pacific coast, have a strong sense of mission to their brothers and sisters in Mexico's north. Members of Iglesia Congregacional de Mazatlan have made the 20-hour bus ride to minister to people attracted from the interior of Mexico by jobs in the border plants around Juárez. To the Spanish-speaking community of Ciudad Juárez and El Paso, the two cities on either side of the border have always been one; and it is in this spirit that this new church is being established.

Christ expects us to feed the hungry and heal the sick. Work guided by Pastor Raúl Blanco Valdez is meeting those expectations: diabetes testing, reading classes, health education, vision and dental clinics. Women are learning income-generating handcrafts, youth are helped with drug problems, and children are offered English and computer classes. The congregation worships in a sanctuary constructed by volunteer work groups from across the UCC.

Our vision is that this church will provide a strong Protestant witness to lower- and middle-income people attracted to the economy of the Mexico/USA border. We expect this partnership to bless communities where God's love knows no bounds.

#### Series 1

**I Kings 17:8-16 [17-24]  
Galatians 1:11-24  
Luke 7:11-17  
Psalm 146**

#### Series 2

**I Kings 17:17-24  
Galatians 1:11-24  
Luke 7:11-17  
Psalm 30**

## June 7, 2010

**B**ethany UCC, Seattle, WA is located in one of the most diverse multicultural neighborhoods in the country. Member, Gwilym Tso tells this story: "Bethany has a house in the neighborhood. We were contacted by an immigrant rights organization for help. Together with community partners, we quickly repaired the house, gathered furniture, clothing, and household items. "Martha" and her girls moved in. They have become wonderful partners with our church community. We witnessed them come out of their fearful shells into vibrant, joyful, relaxed individuals. Through them, the Bethany community was encouraged to share our own varied immigration histories. Our journey together has taken many twists and turns and is ongoing, but we are grateful for all that we have learned."

### Series 1

**Job 22:1-20**  
**Galatians 2:1-10**  
**Psalms 68:1-10, 19-20**

### Series 2

**Genesis 22:-14**  
**Galatians 2:1-10**  
**Psalms 68:1-10, 19-20**

## June 8, 2010

**D**r. Pauline E. King's vision was quite clear: All children should be given the best possible opportunity to succeed in life. To that end, she founded the Mudhiyor Balar Kudumba Grama Pannai (MBKG) Family Village Farm in 1969 to provide family life in India for many destitute orphans, semi-orphaned children, deserted/widowed women and the aged. A strong Global Ministries partner today through the Child Sponsorship Program, the farm thrives due to the selfless efforts of King, who died at age 82 in 2000. "Mummy," as she was affectionately known, served at the Christian Medical College and Hospital in Vellore, India from 1954 till 1997 in various capacities and initiated many new programs including M.Sc. Nursing, receiving the national Award for Best Nurse in 1980.

### Series 1

**Job 24:9-25**  
**Galatians 2:11-14**  
**Psalms 68:1-10, 19-20**

### Series 2

**Judges 11:29-40**  
**Galatians 2:11-14**  
**Psalms 68:1-10, 19-20**

## June 9, 2010

**M**ontebello Plymouth UCC in Montebello, CA began as a mission to Japanese immigrants in 1913, the church was a sanctuary for people with different languages and traditions. With the start of World War II church families were thrown into a time of relocation and exile, spending the war years in the Rohwer Relocation Camp in Arkansas. After the war, they returned, and the church gradually reorganized and grew. In 1975 the congregation decided to sponsor a Vietnamese family. The church worked out the tasks that needed to be done—raising funds, finding employment, providing household furnishings, encouraging visits and outings.

### Series 1

**Job 31:16-23**  
**Luke 8:40-56**  
**Psalms 68:1-10, 19-20**

### Series 2

**Jeremiah 8:14-22**  
**Luke 8:40-56**  
**Psalms 68:1-10, 19-20**

## June 10, 2010

**W**hen the Trans and their daughter fled Saigon in 1975, they became separated from their two sons. The Trans new life began in Montebello, California, in October 1975. They lived with Rev. Ken Iha for several months and attended Montebello Plymouth UCC church services regularly. Uc Tran spoke several languages and was a military trained officer in Washington D.C. soon found employment. His wife, Tien was an excellent cook having owned her own restaurant in Vietnam. Their daughter Phoung (Jenn) did well in school and went on to college, graduating with a business degree. Jenn is now a senior business analyst at California State University. They were reunited with their son, Thai who inherited his mother's love of cooking and is now a chef.

### Series 1

**I Kings 20:1-22**  
**James 4:1-7**  
**Psalms 5:1-8**

### Series 2

**II Samuel 13:23-39**  
**James 4:1-7**  
**Psalms 32**

## June 11, 2010

**"F**or almost 17 years, Little River, VA UCC has continued to play a very important role in all main events and changes in my life. My hope is in every embracing hug of friends after each church service; in the curious eyes of my kindergartener daughter; in the genuine belief and trust in people; and most of all in the amazing love and care of God. The Little River UCC witnessed and was directly involved in all my major life milestones: my U.S. citizenship, marriage, the birth of my daughter, Sophia. All these happened with my relatives still overseas. I am a family-oriented person, so the church becomes my family."

Irina Karapetyan Melusky

### Series 1

**I Kings 20:23-34**  
**Romans 11:1-10**  
**Psalms 5:1-8**

### Series 2

**II Samuels 15:1-12**  
**Romans 11:1-10**  
**Psalms 32**

## June 12, 2010

**"O**n July 26, 2009 it was thirteen years since we came to the US. When we first came, it was hard to understand the language and culture, but with the help of the Pleasant Hill UCC, Pleasant Hill, TN we fit in quickly. Within a few years we learned most of the language and got used to the culture. We actually never felt like refugees. We were just regular people looking for a new, peaceful home. Just saying thank you to the United Church of Christ isn't enough; no words can describe how grateful we are."

### Series 1

**I Kings 20:35-43**  
**Luke 5:17-26**  
**Psalms 5:1-8**

### Series 2

**II Samuel 18:28, 19:8**  
**Luke 5:17-26**  
**Psalms 32**

**June 18, 2010**

**C**arter Cassion tells of his inspiration: "When I first connected with the Rhode Island Conference's Mission Evangelique Baptiste Bethesda (MEBB) in Haiti, I was about 17 years old with minimal spoken English. I learned English so that I could have an opportunity to start translating for the mission. I grew up in a very poor family and my parents could not help with my education. I met people from this mission and they were willing to provide my tuition for high school and college for my degree in computer science at a university in Haiti.

**Series 1**

**Job 6:14-30**  
**Galatians 3:15-22**  
**Psalms 42 and 43**

**Series 2**

**Isaiah 57:1-13**  
**Galatians 3:15-22**  
**Psalms 22:19-28**

**June 19, 2010**

**M**ardelle Bourdon/Pond, member of Pleasant Hill Community UCC in Pleasant Hill, TN relates, for about two years, I was on the committee to prepare for and welcome a refugee family. This was a highlight of my experience as a church member. The Mijatovics are from Serbia. They came with goals and skills that would be useful anywhere and they quickly found work in nearby Crossville. Today, both husband and wife are employed in management positions. The children are engaged in activities at school and at Cumberland County Playhouse. With good reason, we are greatly proud of these neighbors.

**Series 1**

**Proverbs 11:3-13**  
**Matthew 9:27-34**  
**Psalms 42-43**

**Series 2**

**Isaiah 59:1-8**  
**Matthew 9:27-34**  
**Psalms 22:19-28**

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**Mission Moment—Named and Sent**

**June 13, 2010**

**Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 6)**

**M**atthew's account of Jesus' ministry is thrilling. We read story after story of amazing transformations. A leper's sores disappear! A paralyzed man walks! A girl rises from her death bed! A mute person gains voice! These astonishing encounters are accented with stories of spiritual healing.

People heard a marvelous word of hope in Jesus' simple invitation, "Follow me." Crowds formed in town after town to hear Jesus teach about a new way to live. Seeing the people's eagerness, he empowered his disciples to extend this ministry.

Healing and telling, telling and healing... the heart of ministry is the same today as it was then. People still experience spiritual and physical pain. We still are eager for messages of hope, love and faith. In 2010, the 53rd anniversary year of the United Church of Christ, the faithful are still called to serve. Astonished, we receive the gift of grace to continue the ministry of Jesus. Just as Jesus brought the disciples from the sidelines to the forefront, so do we come together with the holy purpose of bringing God's healing to the world. Time and time again, people are transformed by the power of the one great story.

In the United Church of Christ, we are bound together by covenant in the shared purpose of God's mission. No person, no congregation, no Conference, no national ministry body, no seminary, no council, not any of us stands alone. Together, we are named and sent.

**Series 1**

**I Kings 21:1-10 [11-14] 15-21a**  
**Luke 7:36, 8:3**  
**Galatians 2:15-21**  
**Psalms 5:1-8**

**Series 2**

**II Samuel 11:26, 12:10, 13-15**  
**Psalms 32**  
**Galatians 2:15-21**  
**Luke 7:36, 8:3**

## June 14, 2010

"We had no knowledge what lay ahead of us when we came to the United States in 2001. Leaving everything behind, we got used to a fearful life in a refugee camp. Upon our arrival at the Buffalo airport we had a warm welcome from members of St. Peter's UCC of West Seneca, NY. Our fear dissolved; hope revived. Since that day, St. Peter's has been a strong support giving us hope and a new life. Two of our children have graduated from high school and I have graduated from nursing school with as a CMA (Certified Medication Aide). In all these celebrations, St. Peter's church was there as a family."

Phebian Abdulai

### Series 1

Genesis 31:17-35  
Galatians 3:1-9  
Psalm 83

### Series 2

II Chronicles 29:1-19  
Galatians 3:1-9  
Psalm 130

## June 15, 2010

Did you know that, on the average, only 11 cents of every dollar spent on coffee makes its way back to the coffee grower? The injustice of that system prompted the UCC Jubilee Justice Task Force to visit fair trade and free trade coffee farmers in Chiapas, Mexico. After meeting with coffee growers and leaders of co-operatives, the group came away realizing that fair trade and co-operatives do make a difference. They experienced a people who are learning to stand together, allowing small growers to keep their land. Schools are sprouting up, new agricultural methods are being tried – all aimed at preserving the dignity and livelihood of the community.

John and Han Will, two of the 18 who visited Chiapas.

You can visit the UCC Coffee Project from the UCC website [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org). For those congregations who already serve Equal Exchange coffee, cool beans!

### Series 1

II Samuel 19:31-43  
Galatians 3:10-14  
Psalms 83

### Series 2

II Chronicles 30:1-12  
Galatians 3:10-14  
Psalms 130

## June 16, 2010

Nativity UCC in Buffalo NY sponsored a Laotian widow and her with four children in 1981. Then the congregation sponsored nine more families from Ethiopia, Laos, Iran, Liberia, Serbia, and Somalia. Their present family, Ali Kadhum, Emaam Saad, and daughter Noor, arrived in May, 2008 from Iraq. They had no family in the US and weren't sure who would meet them.

### Series 1

Malachi 3:5-12  
Mark 2:1-12  
Psalms 83

### Series 2

II Chronicles 30:13-27  
Mark 2:1-12  
Psalms 130

## June 17, 2010

Tired from their long journey, they were delighted to see a big group of church members with a banner saying "Welcome!" While keeping their Muslim faith, they enjoy coming to Nativity's worship services and find the two faiths have much in common. They are now helping an Iraqi family who has just arrived in Buffalo. They believe that when you are given much, you should give back. God is still speaking through voices from different countries and religions.

### Series 1

Genesis 24:1-21  
Romans 2:17-29  
Psalm 42 and 43

### Series 2

Isaiah 56:9-12  
Romans 2:17-29  
Psalm 22:19-28

## June 25, 2010—53rd Anniversary of the UCC

The symbol of the United Church of Christ comprises a crown, cross and orb enclosed within a double oval bearing the name of the church and the prayer of Jesus, "That they may all be one" (John 17:21). It is based on an ancient Christian symbol called the "Cross of Victory" or the "Cross Triumphant." The crown symbolizes the sovereignty of Christ. The cross recalls the suffering of Christ—his arms outstretched on the wood of the cross—for the salvation of humanity. The orb, divided into three parts, reminds us of Jesus' command to be his "witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The verse from Scripture reflects our historic commitment to the restoration of unity among the separated churches of Jesus Christ.

## June 26, 2010

### Series 1

**II Kings 1:1-12**  
**Galatians 4:8-20**  
**Psalms 77:1-2, 11-20.**

### Series 2

**II Kings 1:1-16**  
**Galatians 4:8-20**  
**Psalms 16**

In nearly 400 cities in 48 states across eight countries, ordinary people picked up the mantle to call for an end to the genocide in Darfur. The mantle, in this case, was brightly painted tents for the Tents of Hope campaign – a movement that began in Petaluma, California with UCC minister Dr. Tim Nonn. A three day rally in November of 2008 on the National Mall in Washington saw thousands come together for "Gathering of the Tents" – a closing ceremony where brightly colored tents were displayed with messages of peace, calls to action and global solidarity. Derek Duncan, Associate for Global Advocacy and Education with Global Ministries, hopes that church groups don't stop their advocacy for peace. There are other regions, like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where millions have been killed and innocent civilians are fleeing for safety. In Darfur and Congo, the only thing that may end the violence is a global community of compassionate advocates.

### Series 1

**II Kings 1:13-18; 2:3-5**  
**Luke 9:21-27**  
**Psalms 77:1-2, 11-20**

### Series 2

**Deuteronomy 32:15-27, 39-43**  
**Luke 9:21-27**  
**Psalms 16**

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## Mission Moment—In God's Presence

June 20, 2010

## Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 7)

In June 2008, Scott Nicholson of University Congregational UCC in Missoula, Mont., experienced first hand the herbicide spraying of crops in Colombia, part of the U.S.-financed war on drugs. The planes spray the crops in hopes of eradicating the coca crops (the raw material used to produce cocaine). Nicholson reported that the planes flew directly overhead, each escorted by machine-gun toting helicopters. A few days later, he visited farms that had been fumigated in Arauquita, Colombia. One couple, Luis Alfonso and Amilia, and their four children live in a small, dirt-floor home next to their fields of corn and yucca (cassava). They don't plant coca, but their farm was one of those fumigated. That summer, the crops withered and did not produce a harvest. The family borrowed money to plant the crops and was unable to repay the loan. They are just one of many families who have lost the ability to support themselves due to the indiscriminate crop spraying. Although the policy of massive aerial fumigation has failed to reduce the coca cultivation in Colombia, regular rounds of spraying continue. For example, although nearly 60,000 acres were fumigated during five rounds of spraying in 2007, the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime reported that the amount of coca detected at the end of the year was 5,300 acres – the largest since 2001. The spraying also has generated substantial income for several U.S. corporations that provide the planes, helicopters and herbicides. Citizens' groups in Arauca, Colombia have called on their government to halt aerial spraying. Farmers have offered to manually remove the coca in exchange for assistance with alternative crops that would enable them to provide for their families. Many UCC members and congregations are working to stop human rights violations in Colombia, including the aerial spraying of crops.

*Global Ministries missionary Michael Joseph serves in Colombia with the Restoration, Life and Peace Commission of the Council of Evangelical Churches (CEDECOL). He provides pastoral critical presence to church leaders and lay people who are living in life-threatening situations.*

### Series 1

**I Kings 19: 1-4 [5-7] 8-15a**  
**Luke 8:26-39**  
**Galatians 3:23-39**  
**Psalms 42 and 43**

### Series 2

**Isaiah 65:1-9**  
**Galatians 3:23-29**  
**Luke 8:26-39**  
**Psalms 22:19-28**

## June 21, 2010

**R**ebekah Cypert didn't quite know what to expect while visiting China on a Global Ministry People-to-People pilgrimage. The number of skyscrapers and the friendliness of the people in places like Shanghi were among the surprises for her but what amazed her perhaps the most was her experience at a worship service at Gospel Church. "I immediately noticed all of the people scurrying out of their cars, mopeds, and bicycles eager to get there and this spirit of eagerness continued to be felt during the worship service," Rebekah said. "This was the second service of the day and every seat was occupied." This sharing, eager spirit was also felt later during a visit to a local YMCA/YWCA where the mission is to help children, people with autism and migrant workers who come to Shanghi for employment but are brought up short by the high cost of living. Everywhere, it seemed, Rebekah was faced with God's loving presence.

### Series 1

**II Kings 9:1-13**  
**I Corinthians 1:18-31**  
**Psalms 59**

### Series 2

**Job 18:1-21**  
**I Corinthians 1:18-31**  
**Psalms 64**

## June 22, 2010

**I**n 1999, Rev. La Verne Gill came to be the first female and African-American pastor of Webster UCC, Dexter, MI. Rev Gill went on a UCC mission trip to a Sanzule refugee camp in Ghana. When she came back, she inspired some members of our church to go to Ghana, too. When they got there, they saw so many refugees from war, children and families nearly forgotten by the world, in a far corner of the small country of Ghana.

The group returned to their congregation with a strong will to do something to make a difference. Now they have their own refugee ministry. They return to Ghana every year. At first, it was a mission trip. Now it is a spiritual journey and a renewal of faith for them. The congregation says, "We are now pilgrims to Ghana."

### Series 1

**II Kings 9:14-26**  
**Ephesians 2:11-22**  
**Psalms 59**

### Series 2

**Job 19:1-22**  
**Ephesians 2:11-22**  
**Psalms 64**

## June 23, 2010

**G**ail Schneider reviews the history of her church: "Originally, a small flock of German immigrant farmers established the German Evangelical Church, Des Peres in November 1838. We became Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church and now Parkway UCC. Along with these name changes we have also come into a deeper sense of identity and purpose. We are strongly connected with the United Church of Christ and are proud to be an open and affirming congregation. Our senses are always open to the Spirit as we deepen and widen our mission and ministry."

### Series 1

**II Kings 9:14-26**  
**Ephesians 2:-22**  
**Psalms 59**

### Series 2

**II Kings 9:30-37**  
**Luke 9:37-43a**  
**Psalms 64**

## June 24, 2010

**T**wo years ago, Massachusetts Conference Minister and President the Rev. Jim Antal sounded a trumpet signaling UCC churches' commitment to the green movement. The "trumpets" were actually church bells – and Rev. Antal invited local churches to ring their bells 350 times "to inspire communities to make the necessary changes in our behavior so that our grandchildren will enjoy the Eden into which we were born." Why 350 times? That's the number of parts per million of carbon in the atmosphere that is sustainable on a long-term basis. Churches across the Conference took up the cause, responding by reusing, reducing and recycling. Dennis Union Church was one of three congregations nationally to receive the EPA's Energy star award after a building renovation lowered their energy consumption by upgrading lighting, plumbing and heating systems. Rev. Chris Ney of West Gloucester Trinitarian Congregational Church said, "stewardship is about how we use all the resources at our disposal for the benefit of our community and future generations."

### Series 1

**I Kings 22:29-40**  
**II Corinthians 13:5-10**  
**Psalms 77:1-2, 11-20**

### Series 2

**Leviticus 9:22 – 10:11**  
**II Corinthians 13:5-10**  
**Psalms 16**

## July 2, 2010

**F**ran Stiles tells of her church experience at Mountain Rise, UCC in Fairport NY: "A visit from our pastor thirty years ago significantly changed my life. The plight of the "boat people" filled the news, and our church was asked to sponsor a family of Laotian refugees. "Would you lead this effort?" he asked after I supported the idea. I was hooked and have been involved with refugee resettlement ever since.

In May of 1980, with bunches of lilacs in hand, we awaited the arrival of our family at the airport. We had rented and furnished a two-story house, a big leap of faith! The Rafichanh family from Laos finally appeared. They spoke no English. What had we taken on?! Of the six children in the family, five were girls. Samly, the oldest, was 16 and was thrust into high school, and all the children were placed into an appropriate grade and enrolled in English as a Second Language classes. Samly is now a wife and mother, a computer software engineer, and is completing a doctoral degree.

## July 3, 2010

### Series 1

**II King 4:18-31**  
**II Corinthians 8:1-7**  
**Psalms 30**

### Series 2

**Jeremiah 51:47-58**  
**II Corinthians 8:1-7**  
**Psalms 66:1-9**

**G**race Immanuel is a small inner-city church on the near east side of downtown Louisville, KY. Our church became involved with refugee ministries in 1999, when the crisis in Kosovo displaced many Albanian Muslims. We partnered with Salem UCC (Louisville) that year to welcome Fexhrije Gashi and her two daughters Florentina (5) and Venera (3). Since that first experience, the congregation has sponsored four "lost boys" from Sudan, a family from Liberia, Meskhetian Turks from Russia, ethnic Karen from Myanmar, and Sunni Muslims from Iraq. Twenty-three people have thus found a new home in Louisville through the church's ministry, twelve of them children and teens.

We find refugee sponsorship to be a peace-making activity. It has not escaped our notice that we have sponsored Muslims fleeing from Christians, as well as Christians fleeing from Muslims. We have learned that tyranny wears many masks and that any time people are made to flee it is an opportunity to recognize Christ's presence in the oppressed.

### Series 1

**II Kings 4:32-37**  
**Luke 9:1-6**  
**Psalms 30**

### Series 2

**Zechariah 14:10-21**  
**Luke 9:1-6**  
**Psalms 66:1-9**

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## Mission Moment—Five for Five

June 27, 2010

### Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 8)

**W**hat is your church's batting average?

We're not talking about the summer softball league, because this average has nothing to do with hits, walks, or strikeouts. It's about wider church giving.

There are five annual ways your church can give to advance the Conference, national, and international dimensions of God's mission:

- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Strengthen the Church
- Neighbors in Need
- The Christmas Fund
- Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support

If your church contributes to all four Special Mission Offerings and also contributes to Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support, then your church is batting five for five.

Going five for five in church giving isn't as rare as you may think. Since 2001, the number of United Church of Christ congregations that batted five for five in giving has grown from 700 to more than 1,000.

Is your church one of those?

Find out about your church's batting average. If it's not five for five, see what you can do to improve it.

### Series 1

**II Kings 2:1-2, 6-14**  
**Galatians 5:1, 13-25**  
**Luke 9:51-62**  
**Psalms 77:1-2, 11-20**

### Series 2

**I Kings 19:15-16, 19-21**  
**Galatians 5:1, 13-25**  
**Luke 9:51-62**  
**Psalms 16**

## June 28, 2010

The tornadoes and flooding in Spring 2008 brought devastation to many homes, churches, farms, and businesses throughout the Midwestern United States. Salem UCC in Westphalia, IN has a long tradition of helping its community and contributing to the UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing offering. So when the homes of two Salem UCC families suffered severe damage from flooding, the Rev. Ken D. Kramer, interim pastor, showed up at their doors with a check from OGHS to help with repairs. Homeowners Wendell and Delores Anderson are long-time OGHS donors. "This is the first time we are recipients," said Wendell. "It is sometimes harder to receive than to give. Thank you so much." Homeowners Linda and Earl Meek greeted Kramer's arrival with, "Oh, Thank God! Thank God!" Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing help people across the United States and around the world to rebuild their lives after disasters.

### Series 1

II Kings 2:15-22  
I John 2:7-11  
Psalm 75

### Series 2

Genesis 24:34-41, 50-67  
I John 2:7-11  
Psalm 140

## June 29, 2010

Three-quarters of the population in Ecuador lives in poverty. But Blanca is mentioned as a special individual by the Ecumenical Foundation for Integral Development, Training and Education (FEDICE). The program coordinates educational, health, agriculture and community development projects for the indigenous. With considerable support from Global Ministries, FEDICE plays a key role in developing water systems, agricultural projects and animal husbandry programs.

Blanca, 30 and single, joined her brother to start a sheep project with \$3,000, thanks to FEDICE. Since then, FEDICE has helped them create an informal credit union; they now have more than \$40,000. Blanca went on to direct a day-care center, and later studied at the Biblical University of Costa Rica.

FEDICE also has begun to work in a creative way with those who are physically challenged. Participants in the program produce handicrafts displayed at national fairs and exhibits.

### Series 1

II Kings 3:4-20  
Ephesians 5:6-20  
Psalm 75

### Series 2

Jeremiah 3:15-18  
Ephesians 5:6-20  
Psalm 140

A Calendar of Prayer for the Mission of the United Church of Christ

## June 30, 2010

Global Ministries maintains a strong link through the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) and the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA). The NCCCK mission is to facilitate uniting the Christian Church in Kenya by promoting fellowship, building member capacities and enhancing a sustainable society. Primary in its long-term vision is continued work with the Kenyan government to curb violence that has rocked the country in recent years.

PCEA – headquartered in Nairobi and founded by missionaries from Scotland – has played a pioneering role in education and medical work. It founded the first hospital in the country and now maintains three hospitals and several health centers; two schools for deaf children; a home for the elderly; and a home for destitute children. It sponsors 700 schools and operates projects comprising HIV/AIDS control programs, and relief efforts for refugees.

### Series 1

II Kings 4:1-7  
Matthew 10:16-25  
Psalm 75

### Series 2

Jeremiah 23:16-22  
Matthew 10:16-25  
Psalm 140

## July 1, 2010

Mardelle Bourden-Pond and Bob and Sue Hill are members of Shabbona UCC in Shabbona IL. Their hearts went out to help Hmongs who had fled Vietnam during the war. They were assigned the Xiongs, an extended family of mother, her six children and a grandchild. With no language to welcome them, we bowed and smiled and gestured our promises of friendship and care. Did we make the right decision to sponsor the Xiongs? Yes, we did. They taught us so much about courage and sacrifice. They have used their new home in America to triumph over challenges and become hard-working successful citizens. We are proud.

### Series 1

II Kings 4:8-17  
Romans 7:14-25  
Psalm 30

### Series 2

II Kings 21:1-15  
Romans 7:14-25  
Psalm 66:1-9

A Calendar of Prayer for the Mission of the United Church of Christ