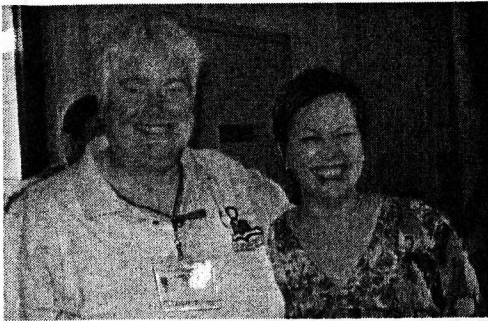


# Our Missionaries



Krista Givens and Laura Miller at the Missionary Luncheon at Annual Conference.



## An Excerpt from Elma Jocson's E-Musing

There has been a steady stream of Ivorian refugees brought here for medical care but thankfully only one old woman who is a direct war casualty. She was running away from the fighting when a big branch fell and hit her right thigh breaking her femur.

Well I would like to tell you of a 26 year old Ivorian man who had a chronic ulcer on his right leg. Iric has been brought to different bush doctors, clinics and hospitals in his country. But the progress he had was from an ulcer of the right leg to swollen leg; to black, dry gangrene of the right foot; to weeping, foul smelling right lower extremity. They got to the border and was brought here by an NGO (Non Government Organization). By the time i got him my only option was to do an AKA (above knee amputation). I did just that after meeting with the mother and the patient. Iric's mom comes to our chapel service every morning. The first few days she was requesting prayers for strength and guidance. Then later on she praised God for Iric's recovery. She even brings other patient's relatives to the chapel service, giving witness to God's faithfulness and encouraging others to trust in Him. Iric remains in good spirits and keeps a happy outlook. After 3 months, he will be ready for prosthesis fitting. Lets pray that something will be available at the right time.

War is always devastating. Continue praying for Ivory Coast, and the Arab countries especially Libya. My heart broke when i heard over BBC short wave a Libyan man who recounted their ordeal. Imagine running towards an ambulance hoping to get medical help, only to find that the ambulance carried armed men with orders to kill. Please Lord intervene quickly for all the oppressed.

## An Excerpt from an Interview with Krista

**Question:** How did you decide you had a calling to serve in the mission field?

**Response:**

In the summer of 1997, I travelled to Sacramento to visit my folks. They picked me up from the airport and as we were driving home, we witnessed a horrific car accident. A pickup truck ran the red light and collided with an ambulance on its way to an emergency. With lights flashing and sirens blaring, the ambulance crashed into the truck and sent it flying through the air with its underbelly on fire.

As it landed, glass and panic went flying and hundreds of people ran from their shopping and from their lunches to help. People pulled the ambulance workers and the truck driver from the burning vehicles and started CPR. I got out of the car, shocked by the sight, and stood helplessly on the curb and watched.

In that moment I heard the voice of God say, "If you were a minister, you could do something." Whether that was comforting family members, calming nerves, assisting folks to pass from this life to the next. . . I felt if I was equipped, I could help.

And thus, I was called, in smoke and flames, in blaring sirens and flashing lights, God called me into His service and in service to His people.

When I was called to ministry, I was really called to mission work. My call from God was to "go and be" the hands and feet of God in far-away lands. I have always expressed a desire to work in Africa, but when I applied to the GBGM, they (and God) had other plans for me.

The full interview with Krista and the full letter from Elma are both available on the website: [www.umcrc.us](http://www.umcrc.us)