



**United
Methodist
Women**
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

A Book Review by Mary Ross



The True Cost of Low Prices, The Violence of Globalization by Vincent A. Gallagher falls under the United Methodist Women Reading Program category for Social Action. This book is a difficult book to read since it details the high cost of human suffering and injustice

workers pay in order for we consumers to purchase goods at low prices. The author details the workings of international financial institutions, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, World Trade Organization, and how they contribute to the growing inequity and injustice of less developed nations and thus poor persons. Some of the chapters included in this book on global injustice: awakening to the hidden violence, neocolonialism, how the poor suffer, keeping unfair structures (systems) in place, the politics of food, and violence against Latino Workers in El Salvador and the United States. Mr. Gallagher relates the history of the theology of liberation and the role it has played in transforming societies and the systems of violence and injustice, particularly as it relates to structures which are oppressive, political, sexual, social, economic, and religious. The Church's role is to assist the oppressed in confronting injustices and liberating the oppressed. The book ends with a chapter on Awakening to the Reality of Suffering which discusses the reality of consumerism, competition, and materialism and the role these play in values and consumerism. The author reminds us of Jesus' teachings and how these relate to justice. There is a whole section on Fair Trade products and what the principles of Fair Trade involve. The last chapter is —How Can We Respond and this leaves the reader with many actions we may take. So although this is a hard subject to study, there is hope that we are able to make a difference.

Mary Ross

UMW Mission Coordinator for Social Action,
Long Beach District

The Ridgecrest Reporter

Purpose of the United Methodist Women

The organized Unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of Women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

From the President

Greetings beloved sisters! I am excited about UMW this summer. I will be traveling to the School of Christian Mission and learning about our newest studies on Haiti and Restorative Justice. I have heard the buzz about the Restorative Justice program and am very eager to learn about it.

This summer is an "off time" for two of our circles, 3M and Sister's Act. They will both resume in September. However, in August we will be visited by our Pasadena District Leadership Team in their North End Trip. They are doing a program again for us on Saturday that should be in Independence but I believe it will be relocated to Bishop. So, plan to join us as we travel up to Bishop for the day and enjoy worship with the Pasadena District Team and have lunch with them. This program will energize us for the Fall; I am sure.

We have been asked to raise \$2 per member to support the Methodist Hospital. This is one of the programs that UMW supports globally (it just happens to be quite close to us!). Please try to support the program and give \$2 to our treasurer, Shirley Kidner, so that we can enhance our pledge this way.

—Laura Lei Miller, President

Calendar of Events

July 22-24	School of Christian Mission
July 27	Friendship Circle
August 10	Ice Cream Social
August 27	North End Trip—Program
August 28	North End Trip—Worship