



Pastor Krista Givens Missionary in Germany

From Krista's June 2011
Newsletter

How We are Changing the World

May 14 & 15 was a weekend of mission for thousands of United Methodist. According to the *Rethink Church* website, "in 15 countries, United Methodist reached out to their neighbors through more than 2,000 projects" (1) These projects included efforts to clean up playgrounds, raise money for mission projects, offer childcare or food vouchers for single mothers and with the youth department of the Hamburg district of the German Methodist Church and spread the joy of Jesus Christ to others, with the help of balloons and red clown noses. Over 2,000 mission projects in one weekend: by all accounts, the program was a tremendous success!

As I reflected on our activity and looked at the map on the *Rethink Church* website, I noted that the "global event" did not look so global when viewed with pins denoting each Change the World (CTW) activity or project registered.

Obviously the majority of the CTW activities happened in the United States with only a sparse offering from Europe, Asia and Africa. This map lead us to believe that there are only a handful of United Methodist outside the United States. But that is not true.

In 2008 total United Methodist Church membership was estimated at 11.4 million, with about 7.9 in the U.S. and 3.5 million overseas.

(2) Significantly about 20% of the conference delegates were from Africa, with Filipinos and Europeans making up another 10%. By 2012 it has been estimated that Africans will make up at least 30% of the delegates at General Conference, and it is also possible that 40% of the delegates will be from outside the U.S.

So why doesn't the map reflect the growth of the United Methodism outside the U.S.? Perhaps the Change the World program was not communicated to those outside the United States? Perhaps the relationship between the US church and those of us 'In the field' is not yet well-established; Perhaps the language difference

present challenges that are too great, too daunting, too much.

Hamburgs' International United Methodist Church is a partnership between the United Methodist Church in the USA and the evangelish Methodistische Kirche in Germany. We are a bridge between those in the USA wanting to support international church work and us international Christians in need of a church community. Our mission is in developing relationships; reaching out to those who are need in our community and throughout the world; reaching out to one another in our church family; reaching out to other Methodists in Germany and in our extended Methodist family. We are an example of how we as a human family can interact in a multicultural, multi-lingual, truly diverse community. We are a bridge between those pinned areas on the map and those that remained un-pinned. May we continue to be an example of the Kingdom of God that is possible here on earth.

Krsita Givens



Rancho International Ministries

Dear United Methodist Church
We are within days of leaving
Ridgecrest for a summer in Africa.

however, it is impossible to leave without a Thank You behalf of RIM, Peter and Grace and the people of Zimbabwe for your generous gift. Please know your gift was given to the very poor of Zimbabwe within the cities of Harare and Bulawayo. RIM is a volunteer organization, and none of your gift was taken for overhead operations - it all went to food, basic household items, and school supplies. It is heartwarming to stand with your congregation giving to the poor. It is personally gratifying to have you meet our dear friends who co-labor with us in Zimbabwe. Together in the name of Jesus Christ, we are making a difference in Zimbabwe and the world.

Blessings to you all,
Daryl and Jennifer Silberberg.
Ridgecrest Area
RIM Mission Directors