



Hope UMC
Haiti Emergency Offering
January 17, 24, and 31.
Please give prayerfully.

Gifts to support UMCOR's Haiti Relief efforts can be made to
Haiti Emergency, UMCOR Advance #418325.

<http://secure.gbmg-umc.org/donations/umcor/donate.cfm?code=418325&div=4>

Checks can be mailed directly to
UMCOR PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087
(Memo: "Advance #418325 Haiti Emergency")

Checks payable to **HOPE UMC** can be put in the
church's offering plate. (Memo: "Haiti Emergency")
Our combined offering will be forwarded to UMCOR
through the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

100% of gifts made to this Advance
will go to help the people of Haiti.

UMCOR Sager Brown is coordinating a shipment of health kits to
provide individuals with basic necessities. Instructions for
assembling and shipping health kits are available at
<http://new.gbmg-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/health-kit/>.

Please pray for all of the people affected by the earthquake in Haiti.
Thank you for your faithful support for all of God's children.

UMCOR. Be There. Be Hope.

UMCOR's mission is to alleviate human suffering—whether caused by war,
conflict, or natural disaster—with open minds and hearts to all people.



UMCOR Responds to the Earthquake in Haiti

January 13, 2010 - A major earthquake hit Port-au-Prince, Haiti yesterday, causing widespread destruction. Millions of people are affected and thousands are feared dead. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has close ties with the Methodist Church in Haiti and is responding to the devastating earthquake with funding, material resources and prayers.

UMCOR executive, Melissa Crutchfield says, "We are working with our partners on the ground to provide immediate relief to the people in Haiti. UMCOR has worked in Haiti for many years. We anticipate that there will be years of rebuilding needed and are prepared to work with the people to help them through that process."

Working with partners, Action by Churches Together, Church World Service, Global Medic and the Methodist Church, UMCOR is channeling its resources to respond effectively to the people most in need.

In a statement to Global Ministries staff, the General Secretary said, "Events such as these can challenge both our faith and sense of security. As a church we know that the heart of our ministry is continuing and extending Jesus Christ's ministry of outreaching love."

Staff and Volunteers in Haiti

Volunteers from at least six different United Methodist annual (regional) conferences are in Haiti on mission trips. An email from two Kansas East volunteers reports they are safe in the guest house and, "We have a bunch of refugees in the front had have been giving first aid to those who were hurt, but we cannot get them anywhere at this time. There will be many deaths but it happened right before dark so rescue efforts are hampered. Some phone service and no police or UN radios working."

Volunteers in Mission (VIM) executive, Clint Rabb, consultant, Jim Gulley and Sam Dixon, the top executive for UMCOR are in Haiti. Says

UMCOR executive, Tom Hazelwood, "We have conflicting reports that say they were in a car on the way to the airport and another that they were in the Montana Hotel. We don't have any absolute confirmation at this time and have not heard from them, but will be sure to communicate any news. Please continue praying."

How to Help

There will be a great need for volunteers to help rebuild once the initial crisis has settled. At this time, it is not safe or possible for volunteers to go to Haiti. In order to frame a response that is consistent with the churches' needs, people wishing to volunteer should contact their jurisdictional VIM coordinator to determine when and how to appropriately respond.



United Methodist Relief Executive Dies Before Rescue from Hotel Ruins in Haiti

New York, NY, Jan. 16, 2010 - The Rev. Dr. Sam Dixon, head of the humanitarian relief agency of The United Methodist Church, died before he could be rescued from the rubble of a hotel destroyed by the earthquake that hit Haiti on January 12.

The executive officer of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) was part of a group of mission and relief specialists trapped by the collapse of the Hotel Montana. Other persons in the group of five, including two more from the General Board of Global Ministries, were rescued and were back in the US by the morning of January 16. The group was pinned down for more than 55 hours.

Dixon was reportedly alive in the hotel ruins on the morning of January 15. Confirmation of his death before rescue was conveyed to Global Ministries through several sources, including eyewitnesses from a Methodist guest house in Port-au-Prince, where Dixon and his colleagues had been staying. Frequent press reports throughout the day on January 15 asserting his safety were incorrect.

He and the Rev. Clint Rabb, head of the United Methodist office of mission volunteers, and the Rev. James Gulley, a former missionary and now consultant to UMCOR, were at the hotel for meetings with representatives of other organizations, making plans to improve medical services in Haiti.

"Sam Dixon was a tireless servant of the church of Jesus Christ on behalf of all of us," said Bishop Joel N. Martinez, interim general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries. "His death is an incalculable loss to Global Ministries, UMCOR and our worldwide ministry of relief to God's most vulnerable children. Our directors and staff extend their condolences to Sam's wife, Cindy, their children, and their wider circle of friends and colleagues."

Bishop Janice Huie of Texas, president of UMCOR, said that Dixon "was an extremely gifted minister of the Gospel. He lived his life following the commandments of Jesus to feed the hungry, care for the sick, and love the least of these - all over the world. Jesus is holding him dear, and we are in prayer for his family."

Dixon was a native of North Carolina where he served for 24 years as a pastor. He came to the General Board of Global Ministries in 1998 to serve as director of field operations of the non-governmental agency (NGO) section of UMCOR. He then became head of the United Methodist Development Fund and moved up to head the unit on Evangelization and Church Growth. Dixon was tapped to head UMCOR in 2007.

He was officially a deputy general secretary of Global Ministries assigned to UMCOR, where he oversaw programs of emergency relief, long-term disaster recovery, economic development, health services, and peace-building.

Dixon was educated at the University of North Carolina and the Chicago Theological Seminary. He was a member of the North Carolina Annual (regional) Conference of his church. He and his wife have four children.