



MARY AND MARTHA MAIL CIRCLE UMW

Christ United Methodist Church - Mobile, Alabama

MAY 2014

Our Regional Missionaries

The Regional Missionary Initiative was created as a result of requests for leadership and organizational development from Methodist and United Methodist women around the world. These dedicated women work in local areas to assist women, children and youth to work in solidarity with each other on specific issues. Regional Missionaries build relationships with Methodist, United Methodist, ecumenical and grassroots programs that focus on issues of health (particularly primary health care and HIV/AIDS), gender equality and elimination of violence among women, and support for the uprooted and marginalized. Currently seven Regional Missionaries serve within the four regions plus one retired Regional Missionary serving as a consultant to the initiative.

All programs and network connections carried out by Regional Missionaries reflect the needs and priorities of their own region, covering:

- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Asia
- Latin America
- The Caribbean

Women in the region shape Regional Missionaries' work. Each missionary assists the women and youth they work with in developing projects and programs that meet their expressed needs and priority issues. Regional Missionaries implement their work with women, children and youth primarily through:

- Training programs
- Workshops
- Strategic planning
- Network development

Regional Missionaries are a part of United Methodist Women's International Ministries focus on women, children and youth. Continual outreach to work with ecumenical partners, especially in the development of resources and networks is a vital part of their work plans.

History of the Regional Missionary Initiative

The Regional Missionary Initiative was launched in 2000 after a period of consultations with women leaders around the world. Methodist and United Methodist Women from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean requested support for leadership and organizational development and training. Their aim was to assist women, children and youth to focus on leadership, organizational growth and mission response to critical issues.



Serna Samuel serves in the Caribbean
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Finda Quiwa serves in Africa
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Catherine Akale is based in Cameroon
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Hikari Chang is assigned to Japan
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Emma Cantor serves in Asia and the Pacific
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Grace Musuka works in Central Africa
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Selections From the Prayer Calendar
+ *Mary and Martha Birthdays*

- May 1 Shirley Townsend-Jones (CCW)
May 2 India: Motorcycles and bicycles for pastors
May 3 Gail Davis (D)
May 4 Hattie B. Cooper Center, Roxbury, MA
May 5 Harriett Olson (S)
May 6 Jacques Kambol (MI)
May 7 Governor Mays (CCW)

Kim Pratt

- May 8 Carla Warnock (M)
May 9 Cheryl Robinson (D)
May 10 Judith M. Siddiqi (S)
May 11 Ellen Hoover (M)
May 12 Laurina Gibbs (S)
May 13 Kathleen K. Masters (S)
May 14 Kristen Brown (M)
May 15 Saradamanidevi Boopathi (S)
May 16 Hikari Chang (RM)
May 17 Wesley House Center, Meridian, MS
May 18 Nora Marker (D)
May 19 Angelia Moorer (S)
May 20 Nandona Chikomb (M)
May 21 John Elmore (M)
May 22 Jeanne Smith (D)
May 23 Mongolia: Learning Center for Children
May 24 Robin Minick (D)
May 25 InterServ, St. Joseph, MO
May 26 Nepal: Community Development
May 27 Joanne Finley (D)
May 28 Donna Pewo (CCW)
May 29 UMW Ubuntu Journeys
May 30 Philippines: Holistic Empowerment
May 31 Spofford Home, Kansas City, MO

SATURDAY, MAY 31 - 9:30 am to 2 pm

United Methodist Women Christ United Methodist Church will host a Mission Study to learn more about *The Roma of Europe*. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall (Building F) to discover just how we can show God's love to these persecuted and poverty-stricken people who were among the victims of horror during the years of the Holocaust and who are, indeed, demeaned and victimized by many today.

Bring a salad or dessert to share and become more aware of the realities of *The Roma of Europe*.

Contact Joyce Genz at 251.259.1675 or jgenz@comcast.net for more information.



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Grace Musuka is a United Methodist Women's Regional Missionary serving the work and leadership of United Methodist Women organizations in Central Africa. Grace engages in leadership training for women in Cameroon, the Democratic

Republic of Congo, Malawi, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, where she is based in the city of Harare. The program's objective is to empower women as peace builders, healers, and economic developers in their communities, and as leaders in their churches. Many of the areas served by regional missionaries are recovering from the trauma and devastation of warfare. This work also promotes ecumenical collaboration.

Born in Mutoko, Zimbabwe, Grace is a member of the Chisipiti United Methodist Church in Harare. She holds a certificate from Nyadire Teacher's College in Mutoko and a Bachelor of Arts degree in home economics and biology from Drury University, Springfield, Missouri. She began her professional career as a primary school teacher, and has worked for many years as a lecturer through the Zimbabwean ministry of higher education. She joined the staff of the United Methodist Church in Zimbabwe as women's work coordinator in 1998.

She is one of six sisters born into a family with deep United Methodist roots in Zimbabwe. Her father was a United Methodist pastor and evangelist, although she was raised primarily by her mother, who worked for more than 20 years in clinics at mission stations. It was an environment of prayer and strong faith. Grace and her sisters helped with the growing the family's food, her mother leading the way into the fields in early morning. "We worked together in the field and after an hour or so we would go home for breakfast and get ready for school. Our mother taught us by example."

One of her dreams was realized when she was able to study in Missouri; a door opened through United Methodist connections.

Grace says that her faith journey has been shaped by "family prayers, quiet times, reciting and memorizing Bible verses and reading the Bible, participating in community work, singing in the church choir, and teaching Sunday school." She believes that "through Christ all things are possible."

She and her husband, Peter Gonda Musuka, have two adult children, Tafadzwa Issac and Munyaradzi, and they continue the strong emphasis on family worship and prayer.

Grace is committed to helping people grow through their experience in Christ. She says: "It is good reason to praise the Lord when people find their sorrow turned to joy, illiteracy turned to literacy, insufficiency turned to sufficiency, and hopelessness turned to hope in a Christian environment."

At Assembly 2014, Grace led the workshop, *Young Women's Access to Education Globally*.

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The Rev. Serna E. Samuel is a United Methodist Women's Regional Missionary, working with Women and Youth in English- and French-speaking areas of the Caribbean. Commissioned in October 2009, she is working to upgrade organizational development and the infrastructure of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas (MCCA), relating to ministries with women and youth. The work is collaborative and ecumenical, and deals with such specifics as HIV/AIDS, violence against women, and youth opportunities.



"My view is that my service to God lies in my service to my brothers and sisters," says Serna, who was born in the nation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, where her ministry is based.

Serna grew up in the Methodist Church in St. Vincent. She attended Teachers College there and the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, where she studied education and counseling. She was a teacher for 25 years and was ordained in 2007; she holds her clergy credentials through the South Caribbean District of the MCCA.

Inculcated with strong Christian values and regular church attendance as a child, Serna grew into a strong relationship with Jesus Christ. Hearing the call to ministry, "I answered in the affirmative," she says. "Christ calls us daily to serve him and to serve our brothers to sisters... It is my firm belief that my life should be one of service to others."

Her work as a regional missionary entails the development of a coalition of churches and faith-based organizations to address a range of social and economic challenges.

Serna lead the Assembly 2014 workshop, *Creating Culturally Diverse Worship*.

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Finda Quiwa is a United Methodist Women's Regional Missionary serving United Methodist Youth and Young Women throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. She is based in Freetown, Sierra Leone, her home country. The struggle of her early years helped Finda form her spiritual life and grow in her faith. She also looked into other people's lives and "charged myself to take up the challenge in helping other people who were in the same struggle."



Finda attended Fourah Bay College at the University of Sierra Leone and earned her Bachelor of Social Sciences in Accounting. She received certification in management and administration from the Graduate School of Management in London through the Ghana campus. Finda completed studies in design, management and evaluation of community-based HIV/AIDS programs through Global Health Action. She has attended numerous seminars in Europe, Africa and the United States addressing issues surrounding justice.

Spending two months in Hong Kong, SAR, P.R. of China, working with migrant workers from the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal and Sri Lanka, Finda saw how vulnerable they were to injustices of sexism, racism and other inhuman treatment. Working with women enabled her to see how women are suffering in that part of the world, "all in the name of survival. I returned home with the conviction and commitment to do my best in making sure women and children get a better place in Africa."

Finda lead the Assembly 2014 workshop, *Linking Service With Justice Advocacy in Your Community*.



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Dr. Catherine Mudime Akale is a United Methodist Women's Regional Missionary assigned to International Ministries with Women, Children and Youth. The base for ministry with United Methodist Women in Africa is in Yaounde, Cameroon, where she has served since July 2001.

Catherine's area of interest and specialty is how gender issues are reflected in institutional structures and decision-making processes that are translated into policy and action: leadership development through education and training; women's participation in church and society and gender issues; prison ministry at the Yaounde Central Prisons; resource person for 2010 World Day of Prayer Liturgy; World Day of Prayer Cameroon National Committee.

In an African context of wide socio-economic and political inequalities, Catherine focuses on women's leadership roles within church structures through and analysis of a range of constraints that inhibit women's skills development and managerial efficiency and limits their capacity to exercise leadership in promoting women's empowerment

economically and in decision-making. She then designs and carries out made-to-measure training to reduce these barriers. Catherine empowers United Methodist women by emphasizing self-reliance translated into skills-building and action in all needs and aspects of women's lives.

Catherine is one of 23 children from a polygamous but Christian family. According to her, they were not poorer than their immediate neighbors but on hindsight, the available resources were so very thinly spread in their large house-hold that what she remembers is the perpetual hunger that plagued them.

Catherine is the holder of a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Sussex, a Masters Degree in Gender and Development from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, and a Ph.D. in Political Sociology from the Oxford Brookes University. She hopes to turn her thesis titled: "Gendered Politics and the Secondary Status of Female Bureaucrats in Cameroonian Governing Institutions," into book form one day.

Catherine was co-leader the Assembly 2014 workshop, *Young Women's Access to Education Globally*.



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The Rev. Hikari Kokai Chang is a United Methodist Women's Regional Missionary serving as administrative and program director of the Wesley Foundation in Tokyo, Japan.

Regional missionaries are placed and supported by United Methodist Women.

The Wesley Foundation is an independent organization engaged in activities of public benefit in Japan. It has strong ties to United Methodist Women and the General Board of Global Ministries. Rev. Chang was appointed in 2012 to lead the foundation toward official recognition as a public benefit entity under Japanese law. The foundation has a building with facilities for promoting educational and social activities in partnership with churches and other nongovernmental organizations.

Hikari Kokai Chang was born in Japan and retains Japanese citizenship, although she is a member of the New York Annual Conference. She has served pastorates in Wakefield, Massachusetts, and Armonk and Oceanside, New York. She holds both Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Divinity degrees from the Tokyo Union Theological Seminary, and a Master of Sacred Theology degree from the Boston University School of Theology. At Boston, she specialized in pastoral care and counseling.

Born into the family of a pastor of the United Church of Christ in Japan (Kyodan), she was deeply nourished in faith by her parents and members of the congregations her father served. Interested in relations between religion and culture in Japan, she enrolled in the Tokyo Union Seminary and in the course of her study felt called to the ordained clergy. She was commissioned as a Kyodan local pastor.

Feeling the need for more training, she enrolled in Boston University in 1986, there meeting the man she would marry, the Rev. Hak-Soon Chang, a native of South Korea. She became an elder in the New England Annual Conference in 2003 and later transferred to New York. Local church ministry, she says, made her increasingly appreciative of the diversity of cultures as God's rich blessing.

She understands mission as "sharing God's love in the world" and believes each Christian is called to mission. "Throughout my life," Hikari says, "I have experienced God's unmistakable presence and amazing works in many different cultures. So I embrace these experiences and stories as a gift from God as I serve in mission."

Hikari Kokai was the leader of Assembly 2014 workshop, *Communicating Across Generations*.



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Emma Cantor is a United Methodist Women's Regional Missionary with Women, Children and Youth, assigned to the East Asia/Pacific region to facilitate gender training and leadership development.

A native of the Cagayan Valley, Philippines, Emma earned a BA degree in Christian education from Harris Memorial College and an MA in women and religion from St. Scholastica's College/Institute. She completed further studies in feminist theology through St. Scholastica's Office of Formation and Religious Studies.

Following completion of her BA degree, Emma administered documentation for the library of the Institute of Religion and Culture in Quezon City, Philippines. She then became program coordinator of the women's desk for the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP). Most recently, she was executive secretary for the Board of Women's Work in Manila.

Growing up in a poor family with 10 brothers and sisters, Emma says she learned values of "communal living, sharing in the midst of poverty, listening, being honest, kind and sensitive to the needs of others" and the "value of perseverance to pursue an education." She adds, "The church played a deep role in my development." From her work in ecumenical organizations, she says she became aware of "social issues and struggles of different sectors of the Filipino people and the Philippine society as a whole." She also learned about the suffering of women in various settings, including victims of prostitution and other forms of trafficking.

Emma was co-leader of Assembly 2014 workshop, *Migration Is a Global Concern*.

Service Projects 2014

Your involvement with service projects will be published here as you report them to us

- Gift to Mission in memory of Elizabeth Olson.
- Gift to Open Door Ministries - display cases
- Gift to Crossroads - meals at McKemie Place

and shared with CUMW treasurer, combined with others from CUMC and throughout the organization.

This publication is the monthly virtual meeting of the Mary & Martha Mail Circle, United Methodist Women at Christ United Methodist Church, Mobile, Alabama. Our Circle is just like each of the other Circles of Christ UMW with the exception that we do not have monthly meetings other than by this "virtual" program, devotion, prayer calendar/concerns, and Response moments. We make annual pledges to mission and participate in the projects of CUMW in all ways possible. We attend General Meetings as we are able. We constantly keep each other and each woman of UMW in our prayers.

Questions? Contact: Circle Coordinator, Vera Moore - 888-248-1680 or email - vmoore4474@gmail.com