

# The Monthly Update

June 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This edition of the Monthly Update contains information that will be addressed at our annual conference meetings for the Methodist Church around the world. Although most of these events are held in the United States, what will happen in those outside of this nation will be of paramount importance.

In the May Update we had discussed the importance of amendments that would separate our denomination here in the United States from our overseas church. At that time, we believed this to possibly be one of the most important issues in our United Methodist Church. We still believe that to be the case. As we had done in last month's letter, we would ask you again to please do all in your power to inform yourselves and others as to the reality of these amendments – and pray that they will be defeated.

You should have already received in the mail a copy of our latest book *On the Brink* that speaks to the issues that we are facing in our denomination. It addresses the subject of homosexuality in three ways – from an individual perspective, a denominational perspective, and a societal perspective. The individual perspective speaks to the nature of this practice in people's lives and the possibility of transformation. The denominational perspective examines how it is affecting us in our United Methodist Church and the consequences if we do not address it. Finally, it is examined from a societal perspective, tactics used, and the impact that this practice will have in our country.

May I ask one other favor of you? Please continue to pray for our country. It was founded on a belief in God – the God of the Bible. Our country is built on the Judeo-Christian heritage and adherence to its beliefs. During the past months we have had statements made by those in positions of national leadership that were minimizing that reality. We have other things happening on a national level that should give us cause for concern.

Finally, by now you should have also received the latest edition of *The Christian Methodist Newsletter*. It is significantly different from the ones we have published in the past – yet it is similar in addressing some of the “hard” issues that we dare not ignore. You will also see that it still is forthright in going to the heart of the issues and speaking the truth that needs to be brought to light. This is what we believe God has called us to.

Finally – as we have asked you to pray for this great country of ours – I ask that you would continue praying for our church and for the annual conference meetings this month in which so many important issues will be debated.

In His service,

Allen O. Morris,  
Executive Director

## June 2009 Update

### Bits and Pieces from across the United Methodist Church

*"For whatever reason when the more conservative element went underground they lost the freedom to lead at a national level. Until the current leadership retires, steps down, or moves on it will be difficult to be on the same level -- after all we are second class citizens. No matter what, we cannot give up and we must continue to become more and more vocal...."*

– Edd Denton [*Pacific Northwest Annual Conference*]

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#### **The Good Stuff. Ed Freeman.**

You're a 19 year old kid. You're critically wounded, and dying in the jungle in the Ia Drang Valley, 11-14-1965, LZ X-ray, Vietnam. Your infantry unit is outnumbered 8 - 1, and the enemy fire is so intense, from 100 or 200 yards away, that your own Infantry Commander has ordered the MediVac helicopters to stop coming in.

You're lying there, listening to the enemy machine guns, and you know you're not getting out. Your family is 1/2 way around the world, 12,000 miles away, and you'll never see them again. As the world starts to fade in and out, you know this is the day. Then, over the machine gun noise, you faintly hear that sound of a helicopter, and you look up to see an un-armed Huey, but it doesn't seem real, because no Medi-Vac markings are on it...

Ed Freeman is coming for you. He's not Medi-Vac, so it's not his job, but he's flying his Huey down into the machine gun fire, after the Medi-Vacs were ordered not to come.

He's coming anyway. And he drops it in, and sits there in the machine gun fire, as they load 2 or 3 of you on board.

Then he flies you up and out through the gunfire, to the Doctors and Nurses.

And, he kept coming back.... 13 more times..... And took about 30 of you and your buddies out, who would never have gotten out.

Medal of Honor Recipient, Ed Freeman, died at the age of 80, in Boise, ID .....

May God rest his soul.....

I bet you didn't hear about this hero's passing, but we sure were told a whole bunch about some Hip-Hop coward beating the "stuff" out of his "girlfriend."

– Received from W.E. Saunders

#### **Of Interest**

##### **+ Here Come the Atheists**

The news is out. Atheism is on the rise. Or is it? Sift through some of the following reports, surveys, or observations to help make an informed opinion.

Three books by atheists in the past several years hit the bestseller lists: *The God Delusion* by Richard Dawkins (2006); *Breaking the Spell* by Daniel C. Dennett (2006); *God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything* by Christopher Hitchens (2007).

Rodney Stark, in *What Americans Really Believe*, in a chapter entitled, "Atheism: The Godless Revolution That Never Happened," reports that despite the efforts of two of the largest countries in the world—China and the Soviet Union—to promote an official atheism among its people in the mid-20th century, despite the best sellers on atheism, despite the claims for many years by academic types from secular universities that advanced societies would not long tolerate religion, the number of atheists, at least in America, has remained steady at 4% from 1944 to 2007 (various studies). To come up with this figure Stark argues that 67% of those who claim no religion still hold some belief in God.

Stark's claims, based on Baylor's Institute of Studies of Religion studies, are challenged by Dr. Gregory S. Paul of the Council for Secular Humanism, who in a lengthy article makes a point that Stark only counted "convinced" atheists as atheists, but when moderate atheists, agnostics, and "spiritual but non-religious" persons and other basic non-theists are considered, the more accurate figure of non-believers is 21%. In 2008 13% of respondents told Gallup pollsters they had significant doubts about the existence of God. Paul quotes Harris Interactive, another polling group, which concludes that the number of atheists and agnostics has now reached 60 million in America, a 30-fold increase since the 1950s. Paul comments, furthermore, that Protestants are now a minority in America, the first time since the early settlers at Jamestown. Paul further argues that the rest of the First World is moving rapidly away from religion with atheists and agnostics in all of the following countries registering 40% or more of the population: Japan, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Holland, Belgium, France, Germany, and Spain (Japan with the highest figure of 65%).

...In another recent study (see *Christian Century*, 4-5-09) conducted by the American Religious Identification Survey, from 54,000 respondents, the number of Americans who identify themselves as "Christians" dropped from 86% in 1990 to 79% in 2008. During the same period the number of persons reporting "none" on religious identification, which is assumed to be atheists, agnostics, and secularists, rose from 8.2% to 15%. Of those identifying as "Christian" 45% of the total considered themselves "evangelical," including 39% of the mainliners and 18% of the Catholics.

Meanwhile in Great Britain, the atheist-theist battle is being fought with bus ads. This started when a group of atheists plastered the sides of 800 buses across the country as well as 1,000 posters in London's underground trains with messages like "There's probably no

God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life." The bus ad generated so much attention the atheists have announced they intend to carry their campaign to Spain, Italy, Canada, and Australia. In response, the Trinitarian Bible Society (which normally limits its witness to distributing Bibles) countered with a bus ad campaign of its own. Their campaign, which cost the equivalent of \$51,300 (US), featured Bible verses on 183 buses as well as information about how to obtain a free copy of the Bible.

But British atheists were not satisfied with just bus ads. They have made available "certificates of de-baptism" for persons who wish to renounce their baptisms (and presumably any last ties to Christian faith) and more than 100,000 Brits have downloaded the certificates. While the news stories have not discussed the theological implications of "certificates of de-baptism," it might make for an interesting discussion as to whether baptisms, once done, can be un-done. And who declares it so? The Church? The government? Parents? God (which wouldn't make sense if there is no God)?

In another confusing survey a United Nations report, according to the UK newspaper The Times, indicates that two-thirds of Brits claim no religious affiliation. This contrasts with the United Kingdom National Census of 2001 which said that 72% of Great Britain's population is Christian.

### Conclusions.

The Bible, and Christian tradition generally, does not present the problem of faith as an issue between theists and atheists, but rather between those who are "in Christ" and those "outside Christ." It is the Christian (at least the evangelical) understanding that all sorts of unconverted persons are all around us. They may even be baptized, or church members, as well as adherents of other religions, or vague theists who follow their own made-up religion. As far as their standing with God they are no better off than atheists, whether "convinced," "moderate," "uncertain," or agnostics, humanists, or secularists. So the real question is: is the number of those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior growing or declining?

Our task as Christians is, on the one hand, to defend the faith, which may be in debating atheism or other forms of unbelief, but more importantly, to lift up and witness to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, whom to know is life eternal. And that, of course, is one of the main reasons why The Confessing Movement is in existence.

– By Dr. Riley Case; *The Confessing Movement*

+ **Bilingualism** “For a couple of hundred years, foreigners have been flocking to the shores of this most welcoming of nations. They would bring along their art and music along with their cuisine, but they adapted their ways in order that their children and their children’s children would acclimate and be full-fledged Americans... But somewhere along the way, there was a sea change. Now we have that oddest of strange creatures known as the dual citizen and we have millions of people living here who apparently have no particular loyalty to this country and are being encouraged to retain their own language and their old ways. ‘Press one for Spanish, two for English’ has become commonplace. Teenagers who have never even set foot in Mexico, Salvador and Guatemala, demonstrate in our streets while carrying foreign flags, and we’re all supposed to respect them or be labeled as bigots and xenophobes. American citizens who are being taxed to death to support illegal aliens are called racists if they object to footing the bill for health care and education for millions of freeloading ingrates who insist they’re only reclaiming land that is rightfully theirs. On top of all that, our kids are being brainwashed in their schools into accepting that the only truly evil society on the face of the earth isn’t North Korea, Iran, China or Syria, but their own...[T]olerance is the greatest of all virtues, but only so long as it’s not tolerance of anything American.”

– Burt Prelutsky; as reported by the *The American Family Association, Pastors and Leaders updates; January 21, 2008*

+ **Bilingualism #2** Someone uttered the following sentiment:

“In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person’s becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American...There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn’t an American at all.

We have room for but one flag, the American flag...We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language...and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people.”

Do you know who it was? President Theodore Roosevelt – in 1907.

– Taken from the book *Just Thinking....as quoted on page 89*

+ **Faith And Family: Hypocrites Abound**

“Sen. Chuck Grassley, ranking member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, recently inquired of several large ministries around the country asking about lavish expenditures. “Evangelists” Joyce Meyer, Paula White, Benny Hinn, Bishop Eddie Long, Creflo Dollar and Kenneth Copeland are all under the congressional microscope. While we certainly understand the reason for Grassley’s inquiry into the highly-questionable expenditures of these tax-exempt “ministries,” such as Meyers’ \$23,000 “commode with a marble top,” we find it ironic, to say the least, that the inquiry comes from the Senate, where lavish lifestyles set the standard for the rich and famous, and gross extra-constitutional appropriation of taxpayer revenue is the custom. At least the folks who support televangelists do so voluntarily...” – PatriotPost

## **Abortion, Assisted Suicide, Euthanasia & Other Life Issues.**

### **+ *Reasons Women Choose to Have Abortions***

- 25% Wanted to postpone pregnancy
- 21% Said they could not afford a child
- 14% Said it would interfere with their career plans
- 12% Said they were too young to have a child
- 10% Said it would disrupt their education
- 8% Said they didn't want more children
- 3% Said it was a risk to their health
- By age 45, 43% of women in America will have had at least one abortion
- 18% of the 1.2 million abortions performed in America each year are performed on Evangelical Christians
- 50% of adult Americans say abortion is a 'major problem' in America
- 67% of America's 'born again' Christians consider it a major problem
- 94% of America's 'evangelical' Christians consider it a major problem
- 52% of America's Catholics consider abortion to be a major problem
- 56% of America's Protestants consider abortion to be a major problem
- 80% of America's 'born again' Republicans are most concerned about abortion
- 58% of America's 'born again' Democrats are most concerned about abortion

### **+ *What The Bible Says About Life***

"Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves." Psalm 100:3

"Thus saith the LORD, they redeemer, and He that formed thee from the womb; I am the LORD that maketh all things." Isaiah 44:24

"But now, O LORD, thou art our Father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we are all the work of thy hand." Isaiah 64:8

"Before I formed thee in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you..." Jeremiah 1:5

"And God spoke all these words, saying...thou shalt not kill." Exodus 20:1,13

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." Deuteronomy 30:19

– *The American Family Association, AFA Pastors and Leaders*

## **Homosexuality.**

### **+ *Joe Whittemore: 'Enough is enough'***

Former North Georgia Conference Lay Leader Joe Whittemore had sent a strongly-worded letter to the Wesleyan Christian Advocate, decrying actions of United Methodist clergy who have disobeyed official church teaching by conducting homosexual "weddings." The UM Book of Discipline explicitly prohibits United Methodist clergy from "conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies." Mr. Whittemore, who served as a delegate to the 2008 General Conference, also criticized official UM news organs for giving relatively little attention to the very public acts of disobedience.

His letter as it appeared in the Wesleyan Christian Advocate (a publication in the North Georgia Conference):

Dear Editor:

Many United Methodists have been watching the latest attempts by clergy in the Western and Northeastern Jurisdiction to continue their long-standing campaign of defiance of church law in matters dealing with sexuality.

Why has the church media been so silent about this matter?

This is the most compelling current threat to the unity of the United Methodist Church. This is not just the 800-pound gorilla in the room, it is the Titanic in motion. It is heartbreaking for many of us in the church to see such contempt for the mutual covenants we United Methodists have made with one another through the duly constituted provisions of the Book of Discipline.

We spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to bring 992 delegates from around the world to a table for debate, discussion and decision. After "holy conferencing" we leave General Conference with legislation supported by the majority. In parts of the church some clergy begin immediately scheming on how to break our polity.

In order to be accepted into the ordained ministry, all clergy have pledged and promised to uphold the Book of Discipline. In my view it is morally corrupt and intellectually dishonest for any clergy person to promise to uphold the

law of the church in order to secure salary, compensation and benefits, and then purposefully disobey the polity of that church.

There is no ambiguity here. The situation is crystal clear. This is not about honest attempt to change the polity. We have ordained clergy who are purposefully disregarding and actively defying the decisions of our Church after the debate and vote. It is time for us to stand up to say, "Enough is enough – either live by your promises and commitments to the church or find another source of income."

Is there any wonder why conferences cannot retain and attract new and growing membership with this type personal dishonesty in leadership? Who among us would desire to be led by folks who do not keep their word? Truly prophetic voices do not take church money under false pretenses and abuse church finances.

– Joe Whittimore

Thinking more about this: There are two pieces of General Conference 2008 legislation to which Mr. Whittimore refers – the first retaining the Book of Discipline's prohibition against UM clergy conducting homosexual-union ceremonies (§341.6), and the second retaining Discipline language that makes conducting such a ceremony a chargeable offense (§2702.1). The first piece of legislation was approved by the Ministry and Higher Education Committee (59%-41%), and then was approved 568-312 (65%-35%) on the Conference floor – without debate – on April 30, 2008. The second piece of legislation was approved 38-9 (81%-19%) in the General Conference's Judicial Administration Committee. On the Conference floor, this legislation was not voted on as a stand-alone item, but was approved as part of a group of 10 legislative items that had all emerged from committee with lopsided votes. Some delegates made motions to "lift" certain items from the group so that those items would be debated separately. However, no attempt was made to lift the homosexual-marriage item. Together, the 10 items passed on May 2, 2008 by a vote of 508-323 (61%-39%).

Note: Joe Whittimore served as the North Georgia Conference lay leader from 2000-2004, and as chair of the Southeastern Jurisdiction's Committee on the Episcopacy from 2004-2008. Lyn Powell, North Georgia's lay leader from 2004-2008, has observed that Mr. Whittimore's "strong feelings [are] born of detailed involvement in these issues." In a letter published in the Oct. 3, 2008 Wesleyan Christian Advocate, she noted that Mr. Whittimore "has volunteered uncountable hours to the work of the General Church and has influenced [UM] church law arguably as much as any lay person in recent church history."

Letter written in agreement with Joe:

Many of us in the North Georgia Conference support Mr. Whittimore, and Mrs. Lyn Powell, in the lack of UM news organs not presenting the issues and topics that are vital to our worldwide Church. Most informed Methodists are appalled at the lack of obedience to the polity of our Church, with blatant acts of disregard for standards in all administrative areas of the Church, Boards, Committees, etc.

We expect accountability for all leaders, whether they are Clergy or Laity – and also expect, where such disregard is evident, that appropriate measures are taken to correct these egregious actions.

Enough is enough, and the time for other actions are now required.

Sincerely,

Roger Waters

<http://methodistthinker.com/2008/09/03/joe-whittimore-enough-is-enough/>

**The United Methodist Church. African UM leader on amendments: 'We should have been consulted'**

[Note: Some of this information is addressed in *The Christian Methodist Newsletter* but it is covered in more detail here.]

Jerry P. Kulah, superintendent of the United Methodist Church's Monrovia District in Liberia, is urging defeat of a series of constitutional amendments aimed at restructuring the denomination. If passed, the amendments likely would result in the structural segregation of United Methodists in Africa, Asia, and Europe from United Methodists in the U.S. The amendments, proposed by the Task Force on the Global Nature of the Church, were approved by last year's General Conference. To be enacted, an amendment to the UM Constitution must be ratified by two-thirds of the aggregate "voting members" from all the Annual Conferences. Members may debate amendments, but cannot alter them.

In a video posted to YouTube on May 7, Mr. Kulah said the amendments were written without an appropriate level of consultation with African leaders or with "grassroots" Methodists from across the denomination. (The URL for this video is on the Concerned Methodists' website.) "We should have been consulted on this matter," he said. Mr. Kulah noted that "most United Methodists in Africa are not [even] aware" of the proposed amendments, much less have an understanding of the changes that could result if the amendments are passed. For that matter, he is "not sure that [most] United Methodists in America are [aware] either."

All 135 UM Conferences (67 Annual Conferences in the U.S. and 73 Conferences in Africa, Asia, and Europe) have begun voting on 23 amendments relating to the structure of the denomination. Those votes will take place over the next few months.

In the video, the Monrovia District Superintendent said he was open to a well-considered proposal for restructuring the UMC at some time in the future, but noted that “many of us who are leaders of the church in Africa do not favor passing these amendments right now.” In a December 2008 address to a session of the West Africa Central Conference (meeting in Paynesville, Liberia), Jerry Kulah offered an extended critique of the current restructuring proposal. He expressed concern that it could “create division and segregation within the global community of believers called the United Methodists.”

Excerpts from his address are below.

At the most recent General Conference, some leaders of the United Methodist Church in America proposed an amendment to the Constitution of the UMC for the creation of “Regional Conferences.”... [Related amendments call for renaming the] Central Conferences [as] Regional Conference....[It is said] that we need to change our name from Central Conference to Regional Conference because this name has had a racial overtone in the U.S.A. It is also alleged to have had a racial overtone outside of the U.S.A., including Africa, since it was the white missionaries who established Central Conferences here, thereby creating a paternalistic relationship between the Church in America and the Church in Africa....

While this argument, on the surface, looks appealing and unifying, there is a serious problem with it. In the first place, the African Central Conferences are not the ones putting forth this proposal.... The African Church is not complaining for bearing the name “Central Conference.”... Besides, ever since the Church transitioned from missionary leadership to African leadership several decades ago, the African Central Conferences became African institutions: self-governing, self-sustaining, self-theologizing, and largely self-supporting.... Our Central Conferences, just like any American Jurisdictional Conference, enjoy the same representation commensurate with its membership – have the same authority, same responsibility....

[Some have argued that ultimately there should be a Regional Conference just for America, saying,] “We need to create the possibility of a regional Conference in the U.S.A. to deal with cultural issues and other questions that do not concern the rest of the world.”... Certainly, this proposal, as it stands, has the propensity to create division and segregation within the global community of believers called the United Methodists.... If this [idea of creating a] Regional Conference [in the U.S.A.]...is pursued and sustained, we are most likely to have a fractured church. In addition, we might not have a common [Book of] Discipline and a unified way of doing the business of the United Methodist Church. Regional Conferences doing their own things could keep going their separate ways until new denominations eventually evolve.... The pursuit of Regional Conferences is not likely to enhance our unity but to divide us....

[Another argument for restructuring the UMC] surrounds the financial sustainability of the boards and agencies of the General Church. As the financial situation currently stands, it is a fact that almost all of the money to run the agencies comes from the United States. Therefore the unpublicized but vehement argument amongst some of the leaders of our American Methodist church is: “Let the people who pay the money make the decisions about church structure.” Based upon information we often gather from various UMC web sites, African Central Conferences are not alone in their struggle to become financially self-sustaining. The Western Jurisdiction [in the U.S.] is also being subsidized by other jurisdictions, particularly the Southeast[ern] Jurisdiction. When one therefore uses this argument against the African Church, it has the tendency to be prejudicial and racist because the same argument is not being raised [in regard] to the Western Jurisdiction.

Besides, our financial challenges are not due to rapid loss in membership, as [is the case in] the Western Jurisdiction, but [stem from] civil crises, wars, diseases, coupled with institutionalized corruption of some African leaders that affects every institution, including the Church. However, in my opinion, this argument should serve as a wake-up call to all African Central Conferences to face up to the reality of becoming more and more financially sustainable....

Leaders from the American UMC cannot plan for us in isolation and tell us what is best for us. The period of colonization and paternalism is over for the people and Church in Africa. Any decision regarding the future of the Church must involve leaders of the Church in Africa – from its conception stage to the time it becomes a finished product. In this way, such a decision would be understood, owned by the people, and sustained by them....

The...missionaries who came to us in Africa...a hundred years ago brought to us a biblical faith. Our [African] delegates going to General Conference are going there with a biblical perspective.

Because of our biblical perspective and continued growth, the liberals within the Church see their African brothers and sisters as threat to the control of the Church – just as about 140 years ago, white Methodists in America saw black people as a threat to the control of the Church. Certainly, this divisive spirit should not be encouraged amongst brothers and sisters who claim allegiance to Jesus Christ....

As I end this presentation, I wish to call to mind a concern raised by John Wesley five years to his demise. He had entertained the fear that, the people called Methodists would “not cease to exist” across the globe but that they would “exist as a mere sect,” having the form of godliness but having no power to live for Christ. And that would certainly be the case unless they held to the “faith, doctrine, and discipline with which they first set out.”

I am afraid that the current trend within global Methodism, wherein some are calling for segregation within the Church in the name of Regional Conferences, might well be confirming Wesley’s fear.

Let us recommit ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to an undivided commitment to the supremacy of the Holy Bible as our final authority for faith and practice. We must ensure that after our labor on earth is done, we shall leave behind positive legacies that future generations would build upon.

– Posting by Joseph; The Methodist Thinker website; May 12, 2009.

<http://methodistthinker.com/2009/05/12/african-um-leader-on-amendments-we-should-have-been-consulted/>

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*An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. – American folk saying*

### **Global Outlook**

*Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass...*

*It's about learning to dance in the rain.*

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### **Liberia.**

#### **+ *United Methodists in Liberia take aim at poverty***

Monrovia, Liberia (UMNS)—The recent dedication of a clinic, church and school by The United Methodist Church in Liberia helps enhance the country’s development and respond to the denomination’s effort to eliminate poverty. “I am not just dedicating these buildings, but I am also presenting all United Methodists to God for renewed commitment to the spiritual, moral as well as the material growth and development of our Church and Nation,” Bishop John Innis told United Methodists, government officials and community residents at a Jan. 24 dedication ceremony. The United Methodist Council of Bishop’s Hope for the Children of Africa Initiative sponsors the John Wesley United Methodist Church School and the district building in Margibi County, Liberia. The U.S. Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference constructed the district parsonage and the clinic is one of 11 projects in the conference sponsored by The United Methodist Church in Norway. – *UMNS Daily*

*Digest, April, 2009*

+ ***Liberian tackles malaria prevention with passion*** Allen Zomonway tackles the problems of malaria and other community health needs with passion. As the project manager for the Child Survival Project at Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Liberia, Zomonway is committed to helping improve community health through malaria education and other life-saving programs. Through the outreach of the immunization program, he teaches malaria prevention to the surrounding communities. "People are clearly much more knowledgeable. They can even tell you that it's the female mosquito that causes all the trouble." – *UMNS Daily Digest, April 15, 2009*

**Sudan.** NEW YORK (UMNS)—As journalists who travel the world, Chris Herlinger and Paul Jeffrey know that once you finish telling a story, you have to move on to the next one. But the complex and compelling crisis that enfolds the people of Darfur keeps drawing them back. “The trouble with Darfur is it’s the one country you can’t move on from – the tragedy there is so great,” explains Jeffrey, a photojournalist and missionary with the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. The result is “Where Mercy Fails: Darfur’s Struggle to Survive,” a book about the situation in Sudan, with more than 70 pages of Jeffrey’s photographs and a text by Herlinger, a writer for Church World Service, Ecumenical News International and Religion News Service. The publisher is Seabury Books of New York.

– *UMNS Daily Digest, April 8, 2009*

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*Thoughts become things... choose the good ones!*