

Concerned Methodists

June 2019 Update

Bits and Pieces from across the United Methodist Church

God is not done with the people called Methodists and (we) are looking for ways to create and participate in a future that we anticipate will be one of spiritual and numerical growth. ~ The Rev. Nita Crump, South Georgia Conference

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The Good Stuff

+ **West Ohio Conference Grandma ministers to prisoners.**

WORTHINGTON, Ohio – Betty Wiechert estimates she has baked and delivered more than 2,100 cookies to the inmates at Noble Correctional Center in Caldwell in the past 12 years. And at 99, “Grandma Betty” is still at it. Her new project will provide mentors to inmates at the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville.

~ Kay Panovec, United Methodist News Service (UMNS) UM News Daily Digest; April 11, 2019.

+ Funny thing about memories that crop up at certain times of the year. At Easter, I am suddenly transported back to Mt. Gilead Baptist Church as a young girl. I’m standing on the front steps wearing the beautiful dress my mom had made for me just for this occasion. I even wore white gloves and felt like a princess. We were not a wealthy family and my Dad died when I was 7. My mother worked hard to give us 5 a decent upbringing. But, there were times when she would splurge on something special like having a dress made for each of us girls. Oh, I know Easter means a whole lot more than having a new outfit. She taught me that too. Her prayers carried me to where I am now. She was the first to teach me as a new Christian the incredible truths of the Scriptures. I would leave college every weekend and return home just to sit with Mama as she joyfully opened up the Good Book to me. Now, I go back to Mt. Gilead each summer when we’re stateside to visit her, my dad, and my brother’s grave. As I look upon her tombstone, I think of how the next time I see her, we will both be gazing upon the Word Incarnate and we will know him by the scars in his hands.

~ Dana Adams, missionary to Haiti; from her post, Apr 20, 2019.

Of Interest. Denomination launches new website for leaders.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – United Methodist Communications has launched a leadership-focused website ResourceUMC.org. The site was developed as a centralized portal to equip United Methodist leaders across the globe with helpful information, tools and multilingual assets. This eliminates the need to bookmark multiple denominational websites.

– UM News Daily Digest; Apr 09, 2019.

Abortion, Assisted Suicide, Euthanasia & Other Life Issues. [Late post.] *Happy Mother’s Day!*

This week, on the occasion of the birth of his son Archie, Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex beamed as he celebrated the mother of his first-born child. During the birth announcement, the Prince spoke truth for all time, “How any woman does what they do is beyond comprehension, but we’re both absolutely thrilled!”

Moms giving birth may at times seem beyond comprehension because it is so miraculous, astonishing, and marvelous. And on this Mother’s Day weekend, we at National Right to Life celebrate not just the Duchess of Sussex, but we recognize the importance of amazing moms everywhere.

And National Right to Life celebrates all moms! Foster moms, adoptive moms, step-moms, single moms and birth moms – all those women who selflessly love, nurture, teach, and care for their children.

We also recognize that there are too many women, who this weekend will mourn the loss of a child. Especially those who have come to regret the decision to have had an abortion deeply. They are forever in our hearts and prayers.

We at NRLC continue our daily fight so that fewer and fewer women feel the emptiness of spirit that abortion brings.

If you can, hug your mom for us this weekend – thank her for all that she has done – but mostly, thank her for choosing life!

– National Right to Life, Washington, DC

<nrlc@nrlc.org>

(UM) Bishops.

+ ***Bishops affirm work on US structure.*** [Note: I am highly suspicious of this – as I am of our Council of Bishops. A similar measure was pushed at GC2008 in Ft. Worth that would have changed the “balance of power” in our worldwide UM connection and paved the way to homosexual normalization in the UMC. This is a very bad idea. – AOM]

Chicago – The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church approved a motion to work with the Connectional Table (CT) on proposed legislation for General Conference 2020 to create a regional structure similar to that of a central conference for churches in the United States. The proposed legislation, developed this quadrennium by the CT’s U.S. Contextual Ministries Advisory Group, puts forth a two-stage process for creating the regional conference:

Stage I creates a Committee on U.S. Matters, an interim legislative committee that will handle U.S.-specific issues until the final regional conference is established; and Stage II establishes the U.S. regional conference, which will adopt a structure and function similar to a central conference.

“We are pleased that we have received the official support of the Council of Bishops, as well as others, as we continue to work on what we see as a critical need for the church,” says Judi Kenaston, convener of the CT’s U.S. Contextual Ministries group. “As the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters completes their work on a General Book of Discipline, we see this proposal giving the churches in the United States a way to do the adaptable work that will be required and which is already being done in the Central Conferences.” The advisory group’s work aims to reduce the time and effort spent at General Conference on legal, contextual and financial matters that are of little or no significance to the Church outside the U.S. The proposed regional conference would work on adaptable portions of the proposed General Book of Discipline, and it is not intended to address legislation concerning human sexuality.

– Emily Clemons, Director of Communications; May 15, 2019.

+ ***Unite the church.*** Bishop Daniel Wandabula of the East Africa Episcopal Area called on communicators to “unite the church (rather) than perpetuate divisions” while speaking at the United Methodist Radio Network annual meeting, April 25-27, in Kampala, Uganda. Radio can help unite divided church, bishop says.

– By Linda Bloom and The Rev. Taurai Emmanuel Maforo, UMNS; May 16, 2019. Bloom is an assistant news editor for UMNS in New York.

+ ***Bishops seek special offering for migrants.*** With more people on the move globally than ever before, the Council of Bishops is urging extra support for The United Methodist Church’s work with migrants. The kind of support bishops have in mind will require approval from General Conference and other church decision-makers.

[Note: This combined with what I have learned about subtle efforts to help “immigrants” with “legal issues” I cannot help but wonder if this is designed to facilitate illegal aliens’ entry into our country – which is at the breaking point. – AOM]

– Heather Hahn, as reported in UM News Weekly Digest; May 17, 2019.

+ ***Bishops move toward Episcopal Church accord.*** At a meeting that saw questions about United Methodist unity, bishops had no debate about asking the 2020 General Conference to approve closer ties with The Episcopal Church.

[Note: This is curious given that denomination's embrace of homosexual normalization. This is a bad idea. – AOM]

– Heather Hahn, as reported in UM News Weekly Digest; May 17, 2019.

(UM) General Board of Church and Society (GBCS).

+ ***Church and Society Board wants to revise Social Principles.***

WASHINGTON – The board of directors of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society voted to recommend a major revision of the Social Principles to the 2020 General Conference.

[Note: One can be assured that these “revisions” will advance homosexual normalization. This is a bad idea. – AOM]

– UM News Weekly Digest; May 03, 2019.

+ ***Social justice agency suggests trimming its board.***

WASHINGTON – Directors of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society are asking the 2020 General Conference, the denomination's top legislative body, to consider reducing the size of the agency's board of directors while increasing international representation. [Note: We think that is a good idea – but not necessarily increasing international representation. This is a problematic board and needs to be reduced in its size and function. – AOM]

– UM News Daily Digest; May 06, 2019.

+ ***Pro-LGBT Clergy Rally at United Methodist Building for Equality Act.*** The Interfaith Equality Coalition sponsored a prayer vigil at the United Methodist Building in Washington, DC on May 14 in support of the Equality Act (H.R. 5), pending before the House of Representatives. The top legislative priority of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, it would add sexual orientation and gender identity to federal anti-discrimination categories, as well as expand the scope of civil rights law beyond commercial transactions to cover much of the private world as well. [Note: The UM GBCS allowed this rally at the UM Building (and using the “good name” of the UMC) to support a bill pushing homosexual acceptance. – AOM]

– By Rick Plasterer, Facebook post; May 16, 2019.

(UM) General Conference 2020 (GC2020):

+ ***GC2020 marshals and pages sought.*** Applications are now open for United Methodists to serve as marshals and pages during GC2020, which will meet May 5-15, 2020, in Minneapolis.

– Commission on General Conference; UM News Daily Digest – May 15, 2019

+ ***Church future focus of annual conferences.*** Resolutions dealing with sexuality, environmental stewardship and the slogan of The United Methodist Church are among topics facing clergy and lay members at the denomination's 2019 annual conferences. The church's regional governing bodies meet in the spring and summer in the U.S. Some conferences in Africa, Europe and the Philippines have already met, others won't meet until as late as December. Many resolutions before U.S. annual conferences respond in some way to the 2019 General Conference, which passed legislation that strengthens the denomination's bans on “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy and same-sex marriage. The conferences also will ordain, commission and license new clergy, as well as recognize retirees. And conference members will be looking to the future of the denomination when they elect delegates to the 2020 General Conference. “I would say the mood is one of hopeful anticipation,” said the Rev. Nita Crump, director of connectional ministries for the South Georgia Conference, which meets June 2-5 in Columbus, Georgia. Crump said immediately after the special General Conference, Bishop Lawson Bryan encouraged the conference to care for people rather than focus on plans.

Two resolutions about the denomination's slogan demonstrate the divide over sexuality. In the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, the Rev. Jimmy Montgomery suggests adding "Open Bibles" to the beginning of the "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" slogan. "I feel that as a church, part of the problems we have is we have open hearts and open minds without considering what the Bible says about open hearts and open minds," said Montgomery, pastor of Cochranville United Methodist Church in Cochranville, Pennsylvania. Montgomery said when it comes to John Wesley's quadrilateral of Scripture, tradition, reason and experience, he believes reason, experience and tradition have superseded Scripture. Montgomery said that explains why the church is "in the mess that we're in" regarding sexuality. [He is in error. – AOM] Conversely, a resolution proposed in the Arkansas Conference would disavow the "Open Hearts" slogan, calling it unearned because of the passage of the Traditional Plan. "The motto of The United Methodist Church ... is incompatible with the beliefs of some (United) Methodists as demonstrated by the continued exclusion of our LGBTQIA+ siblings from equal participation in our denomination," reads the resolution signed by 12 pastors and lay delegates.

At least six conferences – East Ohio, Wisconsin, Greater New Jersey, Iowa, South Carolina, and California-Pacific – will consider resolutions that rebuke passage of the Traditional Plan. "We created a team to look at ways of moving forward in ministry together in a way that we are welcoming to the LGBTQ community," said the Rev. Hector A. Burgos, director of connectional ministries of the Greater New Jersey Conference. "We'll be hearing from them ... and perhaps have something to recommend. That's going to be something very important for our conference as we seek clarity as to how to move forward in the midst of disagreements and the fact that the global church is trying to figure out the outcomes of General Conference. Burgos added that the Greater New Jersey Conference has "never let this issue be at the center of who we are and what we do."

Other resolutions that stem from the sexuality issue include:

- + A resolution in the North Alabama Conference to apologize to LGBTQ people who were hurt by the 2019 General Conference.
- + One in Wisconsin to create a conference-wide dialogue program to seek understanding on sexual matters.
- + A resolution for Eastern Pennsylvania to declare itself a "One Church Plan" conference.
- + A resolution calling on the Peninsula-Delaware Conference to "pray and worship with, live as people of faith alongside, accept as equal partners in God's spirit and encourage LGBTQA persons to live authentically to their true selves."
- + The three German annual conferences will consider the first report of a roundtable formed to search for ways to preserve unity amid different views about homosexuality. The group was created after the executive committee of the church in Germany said the German church would not impose the stricter penalties laid out in the Traditional Plan. In the report from their first meeting, the roundtable asked members of the three annual conferences to "refrain from making quick decisions that could make it very difficult for various groups and conferences to communicate."
- + A statement from the Southwest Philippines Conference that members are "continuing our commitment to be in solidarity to all of those who give themselves in the service of church and society without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, age, gender, disability, status, economic condition, sexual orientation, gender identity or religious affiliation."
- + The Baltimore-Washington Conference will consider a resolution to affiliate with the Western Jurisdiction. Baltimore-Washington is in the Northeastern Jurisdiction. "Right now, the Western Jurisdiction is the only jurisdiction and group that has said, 'We are not going to honor the decision of General Conference,'" said the Rev. Deb Scott, pastor of Lovely Lane United Methodist Church in Baltimore. Scott said the Western Jurisdiction members made a plea for others to join them after the special General Conference in operating under the One Church Plan, despite the fact that it failed and the Traditional Plan passed. The One Church Plan, which would have left questions of same-sex weddings up to individual clergy and congregations and questions of gay ordination up to individual conferences, failed by a vote of 436-386. "They said, in essence, that they would be operating under the One Church Plan, which says people in local churches can make their own decisions based on (their) own context," Scott said. The Baltimore-Washington Conference will consider at

least five more resolutions that center on resisting the Traditional Plan. “I don’t know that this is the role of our annual conference, but you don’t know until you start having the conversation,” Scott said. “It’s a way to ensure that a conversation would be had, that things weren’t just kind of swept aside. I think we’re dealing with the heart and soul of who we are as United Methodists.”

+ Some resolutions support the 2019 General Conference action. The Rev. William Payne submitted a resolution asking the Florida Conference to “continue to affirm and support the guidance of the 2016 Book of Discipline on homosexuality, including the full enforcement of its current statements on human sexuality, ordination and marriage.” Payne, who teaches at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio, said the resolution is his attempt to keep Methodism on the right track – a position on LGBTQ people he said is based primarily on Scripture. Ashland is one of the denomination’s approved non-United Methodist seminaries. “We want to have an opportunity to discuss this,” he said. “(Liberals) should acknowledge that they are going off in a different direction, and if you don’t want to come with us, you should go in your direction. We shouldn’t have to be a cart being pulled in two different directions. That just destroys the cart.”

In Africa, resolutions have not been filed yet for conferences that meet late in the year. However, conferences in the East Congo Episcopal Area are focused on getting a \$1 per month contribution from all members of the church, while measures to promote health – especially of women and children – were declared a priority in Sierra Leone.

In Eastern Europe, the Bulgaria-Romania Provisional Conference decided to put a special focus on daycare centers for children and youth whose time in orphanages come to an end or who need to deal with the transition towards an independent life as people of legal age.

The Serbia-Macedonia Provisional Conference decided to organize its various diaconal services as an independent legal entity within the church in order to continue as an instrument of love and hope for the poor.

Climate change is also on the minds of United Methodists, with at least three conferences – Iowa, North Alabama and Florida – set to consider resolutions aimed at promoting conservation. In the Florida Conference, a resolution calls for minimizing the use of single-use plastics, plastic straws, plastic bags and polystyrene foam. A resolution before the North Alabama Conference “rejects all attempts to theologize the science of climate change away.” “Too many, I believe, are willing to throw our global siblings under the bus when it comes to addressing issues that are pressing in Africa and Asia, whose populations are most vulnerable to destructive climate change,” said the Rev. Dave Barnhart, pastor at Saint Junia United Methodist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, and author of the resolution. “If we are truly sincere that we are a global denomination, we had better start acting like it. It boggles my mind that scientists tell us we have 10 years to mitigate the worst effects of climate change, and that more than a million species may soon go extinct, but that the issue our church is fixated on is the legitimacy of someone’s love for another human being.”

– By Jim Patterson, Nashville, Tenn.; UM News Daily Digest; May 15, 2019.

(UM) Judicial Council.

+ *Summary of bishops’ response to Judicial Council Ruling on the Special Session.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Council of Bishops expresses its deep gratitude to the Judicial Council for its careful review of the actions of the 2019 General Conference. The Judicial Council’s decisions are clear and sound, and they give helpful guidance to the Church.

In Decision 1378, the Judicial Council ruled that the constitutional parts of the Traditional Plan enacted by the General Conference were severable from those parts that it ruled were unconstitutional. The parts of the Traditional Plan that were declared unconstitutional during the General Conference were held again to be unconstitutional.

In Decision 1379, the Judicial Council ruled that the disaffiliation petition passed by the General Conference is constitutional and clarified that the annual conference must approve a local church’s decision to disaffiliate with the denomination in addition to the other requirements set forth in the new legislation.

These are some of the important rulings:

1. The question of local churches exiting from the denomination is one that is determined by votes in the local church and at the annual conference. This retains the value of our connection.
2. The practice of certifying Board of Ordained Ministry members on whether they would follow the Book of Discipline in its entirety, including on matters of human sexuality/LGBTQ identity, was found unconstitutional. Current language around sexuality and restrictions on same-sex weddings and ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals was not in question and is retained.
3. Accountability for bishops continues to be lodged in the jurisdictional college or central conference.
4. Exiting churches must pay their fair share of pension liability. Exiting clergy retain their pension but it is converted to limit further liability to the conference.
5. Seven petitions in the Traditional Plan were found to be unconstitutional, consistent with two previous Judicial Council decisions, and eight petitions were found to be constitutional.

Both this and the ruling allowing church disaffiliation “are clear and sound and they give helpful guidance to the Church.”

Our polity disperses authority to lay and clergy delegates to General Conferences in writing legislation and to the Judicial Council in interpreting the constitutionality of that legislation. Bishops are in the role of providing spiritual and administrative leadership (emphasis added), which is to say, putting in practice the discernments of these two bodies. While additional questions may arise as the new church laws take effect January 1, 2020 (except in Central Conferences), today’s decisions provide a path for local churches and annual conferences to move forward. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we pray that we will fulfill the law through our love for one another (Galatians 5. 14).

– Ken Carter, President, Council of Bishops, The United Methodist Church, as reported by UMNS; April 26, 2019.

+ ***Court rulings escalate talk of church split.*** What in the Traditional Plan is constitutional? The Judicial Council, The United Methodist Church’s top court, ruled that the following changes in the Traditional Plan can take effect.

- A more specific definition of “self-avowed practicing homosexual,” to say it includes people “living in a same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union or is a person who publicly states she or he is a practicing homosexual.”
- A ban on bishops consecrating gay bishops elected by a jurisdictional or central conference.
- Prohibitions on the recommendation or approval of clergy candidates who do not meet clergy qualifications, including those related to homosexuality. The prohibitions also now require bishops to rule any unqualified candidate out of order even if approved by the clergy session.
- A minimum penalty for clergy found guilty of performing a same-sex wedding – one year’s suspension without pay for the first offense and loss of credentials for the second.
- Requirements that bishops only dismiss a complaint against clergy if it has “no basis in law or fact” and that they share those reasons with the complainant.
- The requirement those filing a complaint be involved in any agreement to resolve the case without a church trial.
- The right of the church to appeal church trial findings “based on egregious errors of church law or administration.”

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Rulings by The United Methodist Church’s top court on General Conference 2019 action have some church members celebrating and some planning exit strategies. Whatever happens next, it’s clear significant changes are coming to the 12.5-million-member denomination that just celebrated its 51st anniversary and remains deeply divided over the role of LGBTQ people in the church. The Judicial Council ruled that parts of the Traditional Plan are in line with the denomination’s constitution and struck down other parts. The result is that

a good portion of the plan that strengthens enforcement of church bans on same-sex marriage and “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy will be added to the Book of Discipline, the denomination’s policy book.

The church court, modifying an earlier decision, also upheld legislation that in effect suspends the denomination’s centuries-old trust clause and opens the way for congregations under certain conditions to leave with their property. The Judicial Council stressed that annual conference approval is among those conditions. The church-disaffiliation legislation takes effect immediately. The constitutional parts of the Traditional Plan will take effect on Jan. 1, 2020, in the United States, and 12 months after the 2020 General Conference in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. “This is a significant step forward in restoring the accountability of our covenant,” said the Rev. Thomas Lambrecht, one of the primary authors of the Traditional Plan. “This clear ruling should help moderates and progressives realize that the decision of General Conference is not going to be changed in the near future,” Lambrecht said.

Among those thinking about next steps is the Rev. Tim Bruster, senior pastor of First United Methodist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. He is the General Conference delegate who made the motion for the Judicial Council review of the Traditional Plan, and had filed a brief urging the court to void the entire plan. He said for many in his congregation, the Traditional Plan’s punitive measures are intolerable. He is among the church leaders who plan to discuss the denomination’s future at a May 20-22 meeting in Kansas. “There are many people who are moderates and progressives who are trying to find a way forward,” he said. “I think for the vast majority of us, we don’t just want to disaffiliate. We have to have somewhere to go...In any case, it appears our differences are irreconcilable.”

The Rev. Alex da Silva Souto, an openly queer pastor, is a leader of UMForward, which is working on a fresh Methodist expression. That group will meet May 17-18 in Minneapolis.

The full implications for the denomination’s global connection remain unknown. The Rev. Jerry P. Kulah, who leads the unofficial advocacy group Africa Initiative that championed the Traditional Plan, said he supports the disaffiliation for United Methodist churches and conferences that won’t abide by General Conference. “The results of General Conference 2019 have given me much hope for a brighter future of the global United Methodist Church,” said Kulah, who was also a General Conference delegate from Liberia. Betty Katiyo, a delegate from the Zimbabwe West Conference, said she also expects great days ahead. “God is in charge, and both the Scriptures and the Book of Discipline have been upheld,” she said. “We now need to focus on applying the court’s rulings as stated so that the denomination will focus on its mission as outlined.”

Audun Westad, a delegate from the Norway Conference, doesn’t see any reason to celebrate. He said the new enforcement mechanisms, specifically those aimed at clergy who officiate at same-sex unions, appear to violate labor laws in Norway. “The Traditional Plan is really bad publicity,” he added. “We now belong to a denomination that is in opposition with the majority of the population when it comes to inclusiveness of LGBTQ people.” David Field, a United Methodist in Switzerland, said even if some form of institutional division is inevitable, “we will be able to continue working together in mission.”

Still, there are United Methodists who at least for now plan to stay and resist the Traditional Plan. Reconciling Ministries Network, an unofficial advocacy group that supports full equality of LGBTQ individuals, plans to resist actions taken by the 2019 General Conference, show up at the 2020 assembly and remain open to new possibilities for the church. The group represents 1,013 reconciling communities and 40,837 individuals. “We believe there is still a place for LGBTQ Christians in the church. Indeed, the church needs LGBTQ Christians,” said Jan Lawrence, the group’s executive director. Some of the denomination’s experience is playing out in the confirmation class at First United Methodist Church in Omaha, Nebraska. On Sunday, the eight students who had completed their confirmation studies announced they were delaying their confirmation service, which would mark them officially becoming church members. They said they want to see how their local church, whose pastor supports LGBTQ equality, responds to General Conference. “But until then, we will continue to stand up against unjust actions that the denomination is taking,” the students said in a letter to the congregation. [Note: It is not surprising to learn of this reaction from the students at FUMC in Omaha. Some years ago, we in Concerned Methodists had become involved in opposing the efforts of Jimmy Creech to normalize homosexual acceptance there. It would behoove these students – and others across our

connection – to learn what the Bible has to say about this practice; the stakes are too high for continued ignorance in this area. – AOM]

– By Heather Hahn, UMNS; April 29, 2019

+ **Opinion: Two decisions, one a danger.**

DALLAS (UMNS) – The former president of the United Methodist Judicial Council analyzes the court’s rulings on the Traditional Plan legislation and the disaffiliation legislation. The Rev. William B. Lawrence finds one ruling helpful, the other so “densely written that it may actually obscure the dangers hidden in it.”

[Note: I am not sure I agree. – AOM]

– UM News Daily Digest; May 06, 2019.

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When life leaves us blind, love keeps us kind. ~ Chester Bennington

Global Outlook

Call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. – Jeremiah 29:12

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Haiti. [Note: In response to rioting in Haiti. I e-mailed some missionary friends that I was praying for them. – AOM]

“Thank you, Allen. We appreciate those prayers. The churches are full & our people are leaning into God. They truly amaze me. They have every reason to give up, yet they press in closer to Him. They make it...hard for us to complain.”

Every Christian has to partake of what was the essence of the Incarnation, he must bring the thing down into flesh-and-blood actualities and work it out through the finger-tips. We flag when there is no vision, no uplift, but just the common round, the trivial task...Ask God to keep the eyes of your spirit open to the Risen Christ, and it will be impossible for drudgery to damp you.

– Oswald Chambers

– From Pritt and Dana Adams, missionaries to Haiti; Mach 26, 2019.

West Africa. Disaster Relief. Isabel João and Maria Lidia António salvage what they can of their corn crop, which was killed before it matured when their field was flooded by Cyclone Idai in Buzi, Mozambique. “Hunger is the number one problem now,” Joao said. After the cyclone, faith abides. – By Linda Bloom, UMNS; May 16, 2019.

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Tough times are good to tell you who you are and who God is.