

Monthly Update

August 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This edition of the August Monthly Update will be very different from ones that you have received in the past. While we offer some information on actions within our United Methodist Church, they will be related to what we see happening in the United States. At this time we face two challenges: the rioting and the “pandemic.” I wanted to address the first to provide perspective, and the second to provide whatever you may glean from it for further understanding – but also for personal medical information.

It is so hard to believe that Portland, Oregon – the site of the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church (GC2016) is undergoing all of this turbulence. When I was there four years ago and would travel from where I was staying to the convention center hosting GC2016, it was by light rail (streetcar); my journey took me into downtown Portland giving me a good view of the city along the way. I remembered it as being a clean, pleasant, beautiful city. It is the same with Chicago when I had attended a conference there. To know there is this level of violence in both cities is disappointing, as that in the other cities as well. We need to understand the sources of this violence, and the groups fomenting it, are connected to and guided by Marxist ideology.

The second has to do with the “pandemic” of Covid19 (the “Chinese Virus”). We need to compare statistics of this with those of SAARS in 2005, H1N1 (Swine Flu) in 2009, and more recently the seasonal flu (more lethal). Yesterday I saw a video presentation by several medical doctors in front of the Supreme Court on a remedy that can be used to combat this disease. It comports with what I have learned from other medical doctors and their successes as well.

“No one has to die.” These words were uttered by one of those doctors who was passionate in her experience and in the success of her treatment. Dr. Stella Immanuel, a black lady born in Cameroon and educated in Nigeria, has used hydroxychloroquine in combination at times with azithromycin and zinc sulfate to treat people. In the hundreds of people she has doctored over the space of 30+ years, she has never lost a patient in using this medicine. She and her staff take it on a regular basis to protect themselves from possible infection from their patients. She recommends it be made available as a preventative (and cure) to everyone in our country who wants it.

Thank you for partnering with us through your gifts and your prayers. In the Bible we are told to “pray for the peace of Jerusalem” (Psalm 122:6); we should “pray for our country” for the same reasons. If we maintain our homes in a free, safe, and Christian nation, we can have the freedom to better serve the Lord and tell others about the priceless gift of salvation available through him and about the Bible as being God’s Word – the best possible guide through life. We should also pray in the spirit of 2 Chronicles 7:14, lifting up our corporate and individual sins to the Lord in a spirit of repentance. We ask that you also “go on the offense” against these attacks on our country: pray a “Psalm 91 hedge of protection” around the United States “against all enemies, foreign and domestic, visible and hidden – and then turn their evil deeds back on themselves” as I do in my own prayer. I know this sounds strident – but I suggest that we are under serious attack by very real enemies at home and abroad (China, Russia, Iran, Hezbollah – and others). We need to do all we can as individual citizens, but also to go to the throne of the God who created the universe and can do anything; He can bring about amazing things and sees all aspects of what we are up against. Please pray – and stand with us at this time.

In His service,

Allen O. Morris,
Executive Director

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August 2020 Update

Bits and Pieces from across the United Methodist Church

This is the time for the Church to be the Church. ~ Dr. John MacArthur

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Note: Even though we have received some of the Annual Conference Reports, we shall differ them to a later Update.

The Good Stuff

+ ***What would my Mom think of that?*** In a race, athlete Abel Mutai representing Kenya, was just a few feet from the finish line, but he was confused with the signage & stopped thinking he had completed the race. The Spanish athlete, Ivan Fernandez was right behind him & realizing what was happening, he started shouting at the Kenyan for him to continue running; but Mutai didn't know Spanish didn't understand. Then the Spanish pushed him to victory. A journalist asked Ivan, "Why did you do that?" Ivan replied, "My dream is that someday we can have a kind of community life".

The journalist insisted "But why did you let the Kenyan win?" Ivan replied, "I didn't let him win, he was going to win".

The journalist insisted again, "But you could have won!" Ivan looked at him and replied, "But what would be the merit of my victory? What would be the honour of that medal? What would my Mom think of that?"

Values are transmitted from generation to generation.

What values are we teaching our children? Let us not teach our kids the wrong ways & means to WIN.

– From multiple sources. #Ethics #Honesty

+ ***Young African leaders unite for COVID-19 campaign.***

HARARE, Zimbabwe – Young adults from the African continent have launched a COVID-19 prevention campaign in children's homes, universities, health facilities, markets and other public places. United Methodist Discipleship Ministries provided money for the project, which has reached eight countries.

– Eveline Chikwanah reports; as reported in United Methodist News Service (UMNS) Daily Digest, Jul 24, 2020

+ ***Clean water efforts aid villagers during pandemic.***

BLANTYRE, Malawi – Through water, sanitation and hygiene training and the drilling of boreholes, more people in remote communities in Malawi and Zimbabwe have access to clean water, which has been especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic. – Chenayi Kumuterera & Francis Nkhoma; as reported in UM News Daily Digest, Jul 24, 2020

+ ***Filipino pastor aims to bring stranded workers home.***

MANILA, Philippines – United Methodists joined a prayer rally to seek repatriation of Filipino overseas workers stranded in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, due to COVID-19. The Reverend Villailon has an online ministry with some of those stranded, including a United Methodist who is holding onto his faith despite food scarcity and fears of contracting the virus. [Note: This pandemic presents special problems for "Third World country" workers who are in other countries. Often, they are left out of the "support network" of the country in which they work, can become destitute, and in need of very practical help to sustain life, even. Saudi Arabia employs people from all over the world. The Reverend Villailon's ministry is one that provides essential help to people to return to a life-sustaining environment. – AOM]

– Gladys Mangiduyos; as reported in UM News Daily Digest, Jul 24, 2020

+ ***Kenyan pastors take worship door to door.***

BUSIA, Kenya – Kenya’s ban on large faith gatherings to slow the spread of the coronavirus is not preventing church leaders from spreading the Gospel. Rather than livestreaming services, rural church leaders are hitting the road to equip members with the tools they need to fellowship at home during the pandemic.

– Gad Maiga; as reported in UM News Daily Digest, Jul 24, 2020

+ ***A better quality solution?*** I had spent an hour in the bank with my dad, as he had to transfer some money. I couldn’t resist myself & asked... “Dad, why don’t we activate your internet banking?” “Why would I do that?” He asked... “Well, then you won’t have to spend an hour here for things like transfer. You can even do your shopping online. Everything will be so easy!” I was so excited about initiating him into the world of Net banking... But he asked “If I do that, I won’t have to step out of the house?” “Yes, yes!” I said. I told him how even groceries can be delivered at door now and how Amazon delivers everything! His answer left me tongue-tied.

He said, “Since I entered this bank today, I have met four of my friends, I have chatted a while with the staff who know me very well by now. You know I am alone...this is the company that I need. I like to get ready and come to the bank. I have enough time, it is the physical touch that I crave. Two years back I got sick. The store owner from whom I buy fruits, came to see me and sat by my bedside and cried. When your Mom fell down a few days back while on her morning walk. Our local grocer saw her and immediately got his car to rush her home as he knows where I live. Would I have that “human touch” if everything became online? Why would I want everything delivered to me and force me to interact with just my computer? I like to know the person that I’m dealing with and not just the “seller”. It creates bonds of relationships. Does Amazon deliver all this as well?”

Technology isn’t life... Spend time with people .. Not with devices.

– Writer: Unknown

Of Interest.

+ It is with a note of sadness that we share that The Reverend Dr. Gilbert Beeson, former Minister of Counseling at Camp Ground UMC, passed away at his home on July 9, in Hickory North Carolina. He was a faithful minister. – AOM

+ ***Black Lives Matter is Marx.*** What is “Black Lives Matter” the group? Many ask this. Here is the answer. – AOM

If fans flipped on their TVs hoping for an escape from the madness of 2020, the return of major league baseball wasn’t it. Americans who tuned in to Friday’s season openers, desperate for a return to something normal, were forced to witness another protest: the players’. In some ballparks, like the Washington Nationals, the politically-charged messaging was everywhere -- from the Black Lives Matter “unity” ribbons to the “BLM” stenciled on the back of the pitchers’ mound. But when the entire league is kneeling, it only takes one player to stand out. And for the Giants’ Sam Coonrod, there was never any question. “I’m just a Christian,” he said after the game. “I don’t think I’m better than anybody,” he tried to explain. “I chose not to kneel. I feel if I did kneel, I’d be a hypocrite. I don’t want to be a hypocrite.” Unlike a lot of Americans, Sam knows that there’s a lot more to the Black Lives Matter organization than the slogan. “[I] just can’t get on board with a couple things I’ve read about Black Lives Matter. How they lean towards Marxism and ... they said some negative things about the nuclear family.” At the end of the day, Sam explained, he doesn’t mean any “ill will.” But it’s time, he would argue, for our country to realize what’s really behind the hashtag.

Ordinary people in this nation, well-meaning Christians even, want to believe that Black Lives Matter is just a crusade for racial justice. That it’s a peaceful group, if not a passionate one, fighting for civil rights. They buy into the sentiment, not realizing that what they’re really adopting in those three words is a violent revolution with one goal: annihilating America. This isn’t the stuff of posters and wristbands. These are extremists with a profoundly chilling vision. And they’ll be the first ones to tell you so. Co-founder Patrisse Cullors has been surprisingly open about the group’s real agenda for years. “We are trained Marxists,” she warned. “We are super-versed on ideological theories.” During a candid interview in 2015, Cullors explained that BLM has “really clear direction as to where we want to take this movement. I don’t believe it’s going to fizzle out,” she said, somewhat prophetically. “It just gets stronger...” And violence is just one way they intend to be heard. “If

this country doesn't give us what we want," Greater New York Black Lives Matter President Hawk Newsome warned, "then we will burn down this system and replace it." But it might surprise the majority of Americans to know that "what they want" isn't an end to police brutality or racism. It's an end to freedom, speech, religion, and true equality. "All you shopkeepers putting signs in your stores, you schoolteachers programming your students to lock arms, you men and women of the cloth preaching about unity, you civic leaders urging community action... [beware]," Brent Bozell writes. To the Christian leaders, anxious to show their sympathy, "While you're sermonizing about the need to show support for their movement, BLM leaders are sermonizing about destroying yours."

How many Christians plaster "Black Lives Matter" across their social media pages not realizing that they're supporting a group that wants to abolish the nuclear family? Or that the movement they're identifying with justifies cop killings, prostitution, anti-Semitism, anarchy, and the suppression of speech and religion? Too many people have been taken in by this whitewashed version of the BLM movement in the aftermath of George Floyd's death, not realizing the dangerous agenda lurking beneath. That's a mistake, The Family Research Council's Ken Blackwell argued on "Washington Watch." "This is about the Left advancing a strategy to fundamentally change our country. And to effect this change, they first want to destroy it. They want to make sure that there is no positive interpretation of our historical narrative that includes anything that makes us uniquely American."

There are a lot of good people in this country who think by embracing this cause and repeating its mantra that they're somehow ascribing value to the lives of African Americans. Far from it. "Black lives don't matter to Black Lives Matter," Ken insists. "It cares about promoting a toxic ideology." And the church -- and more broadly, the nation -- need to wake up to that reality. This is a crusade so menacing, Dan McLaughlin points out, that even Democratic leaders "warned their own party privately in 2015 against associating with the group."

Of course, Americans are terrified that if they don't embrace Black Lives Matter, they'll be labeled as bigots and racists. The extremists are counting on that fear to give them cover as they march, unchallenged, through our cities. But if Christians and other citizens care about this great nation, they need to take a page out of Sam Coonrod's book and find their voice. Because if we actually follow this revolution to its conclusion, Mike Gonzalez and Andrew Olivastro warn, black lives -- and all lives -- would be harmed. "Theirs is a blueprint for misery, not justice. It must be rejected."

[Note: Antifa is another openly Marxist group working to undermine our country. It is good to understand this. – AOM]

– Tony Perkins, President, The Family Research Council (FRC), Washington, DC.

What has been the reaction of various entities of the United Methodist Church? "Dismantle racist systems" UMW board says. Six divinity school deans and seminary presidents released a joint statement on the state of our national leadership (i.e., President Trump). [They were taken to task by Professor Joshua Mitchell of Georgetown University who systematically dismantled their arguments. It is disappointing when seminary presidents, some supported by UM apportionment money, advocate politically. Different UM entities have expressed solidarity with BLM.

Follow up. To offer my perspectives on how I deal with Covid-19 virus on a personal level: I have heard from several medical doctors and medical personnel from New York to Florida to California on the efficacy of hydroxychloroquine, azithromycin, and zinc sulfate; very good results have been attained by this "cocktail" – and this is what I would try to get if I contracted it. To maximize my immune system against this virus, on a daily basis I try to walk in the sunshine for 30 minutes, take 100 mg. of zinc, a multiple vitamin, Vitamin D3 complex, and Vitamin C at 4 times the recommended dose. When outside, I never wear a mask (which is of disputed efficacy) but breathe in the fresh air (since sunlight has been shown to be effective in killing the virus). The whole area of "social distancing" and "masks" is highly political – as demonstrated by Dr. Anthony Fauci sitting beside his wife and another person at a ball game – not wearing his mask.

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Tolerance is a virtue for those who have no convictions. ~ G. K. Chesterton