

Digest?

It's the short, print version of our regular e-news. For a free subscription, visit thecalltwo.holston.org.

The Call

Digest

Back page

South Sudan now faces a deadly battle with malaria. Holston Conference aims to save 100,000 lives.

September 19, 2012

www.holston.org

Please help collect more 'cleaning buckets'

After Isaac, supplies needed for future disaster response

Churches are asked to begin collecting "cleaning buckets" to replenish the buckets sent last week to help victims of Hurricane Isaac.

Holston workers loaded more than 350 "cleaning buckets" from the conference stockpile in response to a recent plea from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Since Isaac hit in late August, UMCOR has been distributing buckets from Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, La., to storm-affected regions of Mississippi and Louisiana.

Now that Holston has depleted part of its stockpile to help Isaac survivors, additional "cleaning buckets" are needed to prepare for future disaster responses.

The Holston Conference office will soon announce drop-



Holston workers load "cleaning buckets" from the conference stockpile in Marion, Va.

off locations for new buckets collected by churches. Contact the Connectional Ministries Office at (866) 690-4080, watch *Holston.org*, or call your district office for more details.

"Cleaning buckets" include items such as liquid laundry detergent, air freshener, insect repellent spray, and scrub brushes in five-gallon buckets. Instructions for assembling buckets are available at <http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies> or by calling your district office.

Church members may also make financial donations to aid UMCOR in disaster response. Write a check to your local church with "UMCOR Advance #901670"

on the memo line and place it in the offering plate. Text "RESPONSE" to 80888 to give an immediate donation. ■

Bishop at welcome service: 'Real faith is more than words'

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. -- Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor was welcomed as resident bishop of the Holston Conference during a celebration service attended by about 450 at Concord United Methodist Church on Sunday, Sept. 9.

Taylor spoke of her own history as she expressed hope for Holston's future and a passion for reaching young persons.

"When I was ordained a deacon at Central United Methodist Church in Knoxville in 1974, my friends, there was no way I could ever have imagined that 38 years later I would be standing here in Concord Church as the bishop of the Holston Conference," she said.

"Whatever I have accomplished or will do for the sake of the kingdom of God is because of the nurturing, love, encouragement and support of persons like who you all, with whom I have had the privilege to make this journey."

Taylor referred to John 21, when Jesus asks Peter three times, "Do you love me?" The question was more about action than words, she said.

"Talk is cheap and talk is easy, so please don't misunderstand

that our words are very important," Taylor said. "But real faith, real faith has got to be more than just words. There was something that Jesus wanted Peter to do."

The church's ministry with young people is "critical" and should include placing young people in church leadership, she said. But that doesn't mean older people can "get a pass."

"He never quits calling us to be his disciples. He never says, 'OK, it's time for you to retire now.' It's for all of us. It's for all of us, but we have to encourage the younger leaders to come on as well."

Taylor also spoke of hospitality and inclusion as key interests in her leadership.

"I pledge before this congregation -- which represents the churches across this Annual Conference -- I pledge that it is my priority for every one of our churches to be places where people meet, know, serve, and share Jesus Christ." ■



Bishop Taylor

Emerging S. Sudan now faces malaria battle

UMNS Report

By Grace Nakajje

Lilly Paya, 7, is ill with malaria in the village of Ligitoro in the Yei District of South Sudan, where malaria drugs are scarce and money to buy the drugs even more scarce. The Paya family are members of Ligitoro United Methodist Church.

Watching South Sudan become the newest country in the world was the most exciting event in the history of many people who live in a region that suffered during the 50 years of struggle for freedom. Organizations, including The United Methodist Church, are participating in transforming the new nation.

South Sudan is supported by the Holston Annual (regional) Conference in the United States through its work with the East Africa Episcopal Area. South Sudan has one district with 18 churches. The membership is 1,680.

Yet in Yei District, the joy of independence seems to dwindle because of a severe malaria outbreak. Heavy rains, bushes, stag-

nant waters and decomposing waste provide breeding areas for mosquitoes.

Every 60 seconds, malaria claims a life in Africa. Millions of lives are needlessly lost each year. Imagine No Malaria is an extraordinary effort of the people of The United Methodist Church, putting faith into action to end preventable deaths by malaria in Africa, especially the death of a child or a mother. Achieving this goal requires an integrated strategy against the disease.

A few houses away, 7-year-old Lilly Paya lay helpless with malaria. With no strength even to speak, her eyes gazed dimly as sores covered most of her lips. She had been in bed for three days because of the infection. Her mother, Besta Awate Faustino, sat beside the bed and called her name, but the child only looked at her without blinking.

The Rev. Fred Dearing, the South Sudan district superintendent who visited the family, expressed regret. The family



Lilly Paya, 7, is ill with malaria in S. Sudan, where malaria drugs are scarce and money to buy the drugs even more scarce. UMNS photo

belongs to Ligitoro United Methodist Church.

“As a church, we are looking at putting in place preventive measures such as health trainings and networking within the churches to reach out to communities and reduce the rates,” Dearing said.

There are no immediate plans to establish health centers but instead to strengthen the national delivery systems “where we shall do training of trainers on school screening, and distribution of health kits,” Dearing said.

He said that the church in Yei is in need of Volunteers in Mission with special skills in education, pastoral care, health care, agriculture and finance to work with doctors and health board members.

South Sudan has few public hospitals, and the nearest in Lilly’s village of Ligitoro is five miles on a poor road. The committee of the health board includes United Methodist medical missionaries sponsored by the Mission Society, Dr. Lynn and Sharon Fogelman.

Other church programs include the training of traditional birth attendants, sanitation education, nutrition, personal hygiene, construction of latrines and hand wash stations.

“We also encourage mobile clinics to reach out to distant communities. Like now we have a visiting team from Holston Conference, which will be identifying areas of need and go back to their churches in America to share the story and mobilize for funds,” Dearing said. ■

IMAGINE NO MALARIA

Holston Conference has set a June 2013 goal to save 100,000 lives in Africa by providing bed nets to prevent the deadly bites of mosquitoes. Help save lives by giving a donation of \$10 per life. Write a check to your local church with “International Advance #3021190” on the memo line, or call LeRae Collins at (865) 690-4080 for other life-saving suggestions. ■