

Digest?

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The Call

Digest

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8 Holston groups receive Change for Children grants for children's ministry.

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Holston saves 121,238 lives from malaria

God can do anything, you know -- far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! -- Ephesians 3:20, "The Message"

By Andy Ferguson and LeRae Edwards

We have just reached a wild, new high. As of Sept. 15, Holston Conference has saved 121,238 lives through Imagine No Malaria. That's a total of \$1,212,380 given from generous Holston hearts out of love for the people of Africa.

Thank you, Holston. Thank you for saving lives, for giving sacrificially, and for having a God-sized imagination. You met this health crisis the way that Jesus would. We thank you, and so does our Bishop Mary Virginia "Dindy" Taylor:

"I want to thank you each and every church and individual who baked, biked, walked, sung, crafted, prayed and sacrificed," she said, "so that our brothers and sisters in Africa might be free from the fear and pain of malaria."

Together, we have far surpassed our goal of saving 100,000 lives in one year. Imagine No Malaria marked the largest Annual Conference offering in Holston Conference history. This summer's offering was nearly seven times the largest Annual Conference offering prior to 2013.

In all, 740 churches -- 83 percent of all Holston churches -- gave to save lives through Imagine No Malaria. As a connectional church we worked together to make history and to end death and suffering from malaria, \$10 and one life at a time.

Yet, we are part of an effort that is even larger than our own. The United Methodist Church's goal is to raise \$75 million to eradicate malaria by the end of 2015. To date, Imagine No Malaria has raised an astonishing \$53 million.

We're not finished with this herculean effort. In June, the Holston Annual Conference voted to extend the campaign until Dec. 31, 2013, so that more lives may be spared through the generous United Methodists of southwest Virginia, east Tennessee, and north Georgia.



At their annual meeting, United Methodist Women helped push Holston past the \$1.2 million mark for Imagine No Malaria.

As recently as Sept. 14, the Holston United Methodist Women saved 1,408 lives with an offering of \$14,086 for Imagine No Malaria. The Cleveland District and Morristown District devoted their district conference offerings to fight the killer disease. Youth from across the conference are still working to save lives through the Youth Service Fund, and Change for Children has committed half its 2013 offering to the global health campaign.

How far can we go? It will be exciting to see! Bishop Taylor reminds us that God can do far more than we can ever imagine:

"Thank you for dreaming big dreams of what is possible when the people of God work together to change the world." ■

The Rev. Andy Ferguson is chair of Holston's Imagine No Malaria Ministry Team. LeRae Collins is coordinator. For more information, contact Collins at leraecollins@holston.org or (865) 690-4080. To give to Imagine No Malaria, make your check to your local church with "Imagine No Malaria #683" on the memo line.

Change for Children: 8 groups receive \$16,920 in grants for children's ministry

Seven local churches and one community center were recipients in the most recent round of Change for Children grants, the Holston Conference Children's Ministry Team recently announced.

Checks totaling \$16,920 have been mailed to the following children's ministry groups:

- **Anderson Street UMC** (Abingdon District) -- \$1,970
- **Bethlehem Center** (Chattanooga District) -- \$2,500
- **Brooks Memorial UMC** (Chattanooga District) -- \$2,500
- **Bearden UMC** (Knoxville District) -- \$1,500
- **Central UMC** (Knoxville District) -- \$2,500
- **Carpenters UMC** (Maryville District) -- \$950
- **Russellville UMC** (Morristown District) -- \$2,500
- **Jordan's Chapel UMC** (Wytheville District) -- \$2,500

Change for Children funds are collected by Holston churches throughout the year and used to support children's ministries, according to Gaye King, associate director of connectional ministries. "The grant guidelines call for all of the ministries to support new and existing ministries with economically disadvantaged children and their families."

Holston churches have given a total \$32,618 to Change for Children in 2013. Half is designated for ministries within Holston; the other half is designated for children's ministry in Africa. For the last two years, the Africa portion has been directed to Imagine No Malaria, King said.

Change for Children grants are awarded twice annually, with application deadlines on Feb. 15 and April 15.



Change for Children offerings are collected and celebrated each June at Holston Annual Conference in Lake Junaluska, N.C.

"For those who would like to apply for funds in 2014, we request that they read the guidelines carefully, and that they make sure all necessary information and required signatures are provided by the grant deadline," King said. ■

To give to Change for Children, write a check to your local church with "Change for Children" on the memo line, or contact Gaye King at (865) 690-4080 for more information.

HOLSTON CALENDAR

World Communion Sunday/ Oct. 6: One of six Special Sundays in the United Methodist Church, World Communion Sunday calls the church to reach out to all people and model diversity through a special offering. The offering benefits World Communion Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program, and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program. Write a check to your local church with "World Communion Sunday" on the memo line or give online at UMCgiving.org.

Clergy Gathering/ Oct. 14-15: Holston pastors will have their annual meeting with Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, Oct. 14 at Central United Methodist Church in Lenoir City, Tenn., or Oct. 15 at Elizabeth Chapel United Methodist Church in Bluff City, Tenn. For more information, contact Sue Weber at (865) 690-4080.

Cherokee Woodcutting Work Camp/ Nov. 9-15: First Broad Street United Methodist Church's firewood ministry. For more information, contact Susie Pederson at (423) 224-1531. ■

The Call is the news source for Holston Conference. • The Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church includes 897 churches in east Tennessee, southwest Virginia, and north Georgia. • Our resident bishop is Mary Virginia Taylor. • Our executive assistant is the Rev. Carol Wilson. • Our office address is P.O. Box 850, 217 South Rankin Road, Alcoa, TN 37701. • (865) 690-4080 • www.Holston.org • thecall@holston.org or info@holston.org • [Facebook.Holston.org](https://www.facebook.com/Holston.org) • [Twitter @TheCall_Holston](https://twitter.com/TheCall_Holston) • Free e-news: thecalltwo.holston.org