

THINK ON THESE THINGS

From Joyce Webster, COORDINATOR OF LAY MINISTRIES

(This is the third in a series of articles based on the book, "Major United Methodist Beliefs", written by Mack B. Stokes. Following are statements from the book. There is a study guide included in the book. The book is published by Abingdon Press.)

UNITED METHODISM IS BALANCED CHRISTIANITY

Balanced View of Conversion and Education

"This balance of United Methodism is seen in our emphasis on both *conversion* and *education*. Some people make the new birth everything. If we are not hurled suddenly into the Kingdom, they imagine that we cannot get there at all. They stress enthusiasm, feeling, and crucial decision. But they neglect the gradual processes of learning what it means to be a Christian.

The new birth (conversion) has a momentous place in life. When we see ourselves as we really are, we see the need of making an absolute commitment of our whole being to Christ. We need to be born of the Spirit.

On the other hand, our deep concern for *education* is seen in the vast amounts of talent and money we put into the literature of our Sunday school programs. We United Methodists deplore the present-day ignorance of the Bible. We are determined to give people throughout the world every chance to know that great Book. This is education.

This profound interest in an educated people is seen in the many colleges and universities that were founded and are operating under the support and inspiration of The United Methodist Church. We seek increasingly effective ways of communicating God's living Word in the contemporary world. We desire to influence the thinking of people at all stages and on all levels of education."

Information Concerning United Methodist Colleges and Universities in Kansas

And Offerings Supporting Scholarships and Loans

The World Communion Sunday offering, the last Sunday in October, and United Methodist Student Day offering, the last Sunday in November, both go toward scholarships and loans for college students.

Each annual conference receives 10 percent of the donations given within their conference for United Methodist Student Day. Scholarships are then awarded to United Methodist

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ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

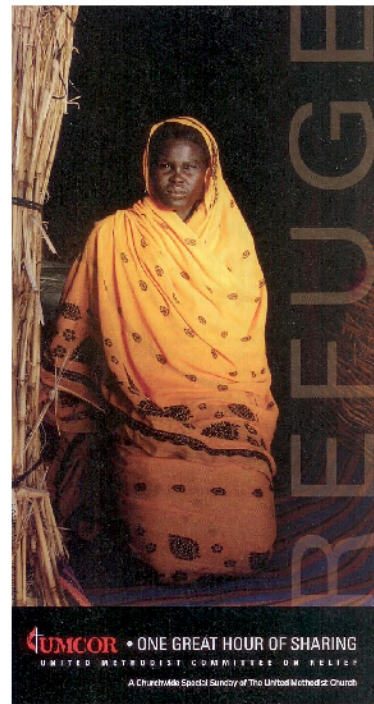
Sunday, March 22, 2009

Did you know that by observing One Great Hour of Sharing, you help the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) keep its promise that 100% of all designated gifts go to specific causes? It's true! One Great Hour of Sharing is coming up on March 22nd and your gifts celebrating this special cause make the local and international work of UMCOR possible.

*Caring for Cuba

The needs in Cuba were extensive after three devastating hurricanes ravaged the island nation. People who were already vulnerable lost what little they had.

UMCOR, through the General Board of global Ministries, was no longer licensed to work there after the US government refused to renew the organization's license to work in Cuba. However, after retaining legal support, Global Ministries was granted a license to implement up to \$1.1 million in humanitarian response through UMCOR before Oct. 2009.



The license allows UMCOR to assist in rebuilding homes and churches, providing food aid, preparing for long term recovery and training communities for disaster preparedness.

UMCOR receives no world service funds and One Great Hour of Sharing covers UMCOR's administrative and overhead costs that allow this kind of quality work to continue.

Your help is critical! Working in more than 80 countries, including the U.S., UMCOR continues to be there and be hope for millions of people, often the poorest in society, who suffer as a result of natural catastrophes, conflicts or wars.

Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation of all of UMCOR's work by covering the costs of doing business. This means that all gifts designated to specific programs can go 100% to that program because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered. Please give generously.