

Theodore Warnock

Serving At: Special Projects for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

Location: United States of America, North America

Home Country: United States of America, North America

Spouse: Carla Warnock



Theodore (Ted) R. Warnock is a missionary with the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church serving as Missionary for Special Projects for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). In addition to administrative and promotional tasks, Ted generally travels to Africa several times a year on various UMCOR assignments.

Prior to this assignment, Ted and wife Carla served as Coordinators of the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Program in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. **"In January 1995 I heard about a mission trip to a place called Haiti. I did not know where it was, but knew I had to go,"** Ted shares of his call to mission. **"Three months later I was in Port-au-Prince working side by side with 16 fellow VIM team members and an equal number of Haitians - architects, masons, and laborers."**

Success Story: With all the challenges in the world, and nearly 15 years of service, there are many success stories that need to be shared. As often as possible these stories and updates are posted on their personal web-page. To list one success story over another is a very difficult task. Ted wants to share them all.

- Repairing an electronic microscope that enabled people blinded with cataracts to see.
- Helping to find and return an Electro-Larynx Device to enable a local pastor to talk again.
- Helping VIM teams to reach into rural countries to build schools and clinics.
- Guiding mules loaded with school bags (packed at Sager Brown) up mountains to remote schools.
- Training people to build and manufacture blocks and subsequently build structures that resulted in an agricultural training center, an orphanage, a library, pastors homes and more.
- Working with our greater UMC partners as Interim Director at UMCOR Sager Brown during our initial response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- Helping to facilitate a free medical clinic in New Orleans.
- Working with the Methodist Church of Southern Africa to develop a humanitarian response to civil and natural disasters.
- Listening for hours as internally displaced people share their life's challenges.
- Becoming a catalyst for the creation of Stop Hunger Now - South Africa that is now producing over 2,000,000 meals annually in their own country.
- Facilitating and leading health board capacity development training that now encompasses over 12 countries.
- Arriving at one of our remote hospitals (accessible by air only) and being humbled by the creativity that our missionary doctors are doing to save the lives of pre-mature children.
- Being part of a team of dedicated persons that every day enhances or enable life to continue.

Ted's initial work with UMCOR was supervising land mine removal in various African countries. **"The success of land mine removal is a little different to explain. How do you know how many lives you have saved, or how many legs were not blown away because we (as the United Methodist Church) had the courage and commitment to go to Mozambique and put our financial resources to work?"**

To put this into perspective, Ted tells of an interview with a humanitarian de-miner that had his leg blown off below the knee while removing mines. The de-miner, since married and with a child was asked, **"Do you feel your work was important?"** His reply, **"Yes. Where my injury occurred there is now a school where children have the opportunity to succeed, and I did something good to help my country."** When you see the smiles of children dancing in a schoolyard that was once a minefield, you "just know" we are where we must be.

After serving as an aircraft maintenance specialist in the U.S. Air Force for four years, Ted obtained an Associate's degree in Aircraft Maintenance from the Community College of the Air Force and a B.A. in Human Resources Management from the New School of Social Research.

Ted worked as Business Manager and Board Secretary for the Montrose Area School District in Pennsylvania while earning an M.B.A. with a concentration in health care administration from Marywood University in 1985. Since then, Ted has worked as a Vice President of Human Resources for Casket Shells, Inc.; Marketing Representative for Blue Cross of Northeastern PA; and Marketing Manager for Geisinger Health Plan and Health America. Prior to his commissioning as a GBGM missionary, Ted worked for nine years at a Legal Administrator for O'Malley and Harris, P.C., a law firm in Scranton, PA.

Ted and Carla have two adult daughters, Cassandra and Ashley. The couple's son-in-law, Sam, was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2011. Two grandsons, Chad and Noah, keep them busy. The Warnocks are members of the Courthouse Community United Methodist Church in the Virginia Annual Conference.

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