

THE WARNOCKS' ESCAPADES

Our Home Page: <http://home.comcast.net/~twcwmissions>

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As the world has watches the suffering in Haiti and we mourn the loss of Sam Dixon, UMCOR and Clint Rabb, Mission Volunteers, we have heard from many of you. We thank you for your concern.

Our relationship with Haiti began in 1995 as volunteers in mission (VIM), then we served in Haiti full-time 1999 through January 2001, and since then we have returned several times as VIMers. Our hearts are very heavy for the country of Haiti and its people. We, like so many of you, want to pack our bags and go help whoever and wherever we can. Our deep desire to go back to Haiti must be shelved as we carry out the missions to which we are assigned. For now, Ted will continue with his role providing UMC Health Board training in Africa and other UMCOR Health-related mission assignments. I continue as the Missionary Health Ministry Wellness nurse/coordinator.

We first met Sam Dixon, his wife, and youngest daughter in Haiti in 2000. Sam had left his church pastorate to serve the larger church within the General Board of Global Ministries. But, Sam had promised to take his church's youth group on a mission trip. We put together a mission experience in Petit Goave, Haiti. We had a great week with them. A few years ago, when Sam took over the leadership of UMCOR, Ted began reporting to him directly. Sam's death under the concrete and rebar of the Hotel Montana was tragic and hurtful. Sam's life demonstrated to us the value and reach of United Methodists for and with those in need around the world.

People are asking us which organization they should donate to and why UMCOR is not listed among the Haiti relief organizations. We respond that each person should donate to the organization that they choose. But they need to understand that UMCOR is a unique disaster response organization. It participates as a partner of the immediate response "team" providing resources such as financial, personal health kits, cleaning buckets, and specialized, trained people. When all the press is gone and the immediate emergency is seemingly over, UMCOR remains for the long haul to help rebuild. We picture UMCOR using your donated dollars, VIMers, and local workers to rebuild and support medical clinics, hospitals, schools, and churches. One of Ted's UMCOR projects is the artificial limb program currently in Sierra Leone, West Africa. As we watch doctors tell of how they have had to remove feet, legs, hands, and arms to save the person, we can see how this program centered in Africa, may be an inspiration for Haiti to adopt a similar program.