

# THE WARNOCKS' ESCAPADES

Our Home Page: <http://home.bellsouth.net/p/PWP-trwcjwhome>

Missionary Newsletter

Ted's Advance # 13030Z

Ted's E-mail: [missionsted@bellsouth.net](mailto:missionsted@bellsouth.net)

December 2005

Carla's Advance # 13031Z

Carla's E-mail: [carlanursemgr@bellsouth.net](mailto:carlanursemgr@bellsouth.net)

## Christmas Greetings



Advent means an arrival that has been awaited, especially the arrival of something momentous. There were a number of what I consider to be "advents" in 2005. Many were blessed events and some were not. As a world, we awaited and rightly feared the arrival and destruction of a number of hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and other fierce storms. People around the world have and are still waiting to learn the status of missing family and friends. The long awaited free elections in a number of countries have taken place. We await resolution of conflict in the Sudan. We await our troops coming home safely from various posts around the world. As a family, we have personally waited for the birth of our second grandchild.

Waiting patiently is so very hard. In 1982 Mr. Fred Roger's wrote a great song: "*Let's Think of Something To Do*"

*Let's think of something to do while we're waiting  
While we're waiting for something new to do.  
Let's try to think up a song while we're waiting  
That's liberating and will be true to you.  
Let's think of something to do while we're waiting  
While we're waiting 'til something's through.  
You know it's really all right;  
In fact, it's downright quite bright  
To think of something to do  
That's specific for you.  
Let's think of something to do while we're waiting.*

As a Christian, I am blessed that I no longer await the momentous blessing of salvation and forgiveness through Christ. However, while I wait for so many other things, I will take Mr. Roger's advice and spend the time actively waiting, doing, living, singing, and serving a living and loving God! How liberating! I wish this same liberation for you.

**Announcement:** Theodore "Noah", grandson number two, was born 15 December. He is a healthily, hungry, thumb sucking little guy. Papa Ted is proud to have a namesake! His big brother Chad, now 22 months old, seems to be very willing to fulfill his special role.

## UMCOR Land Mine Program

**This year**, the successes of our efforts paid off in Mozambique. After years of extremely successful humanitarian demining, the Country's Department of Demining has determined that future-demining efforts will be focused based upon social and economic consideration. With millions of square meters cleared as a direct result of our efforts, children are attending schools, families are returning to their homes, young adults are being trained to become welders, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, and nurses. The new Mozambican Demining Program builds on our success. However, it is a program best suited to be performed by commercial organizations and not generally supported by the GBGM or UMCOR.



The Mozambique specially trained **Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs)** have been retrained and are now in **Afghanistan** where they are assisting in the removal of mines in this newly emerging democracy



**Since July** we have focused our humanitarian demining on another struggling democracy – **Angola**. Once a Portuguese controlled country, the struggle for their independence left countless personnel mines around wells, roadways, railroads, in fields, schools, and churches. With our success in Mozambique, the United Methodist Church in Angola and the Angolan Government have contacted us to determine how we could partner with other organizations to create a viable, visible, and credible entity that would use Angolan people to clear their own land.



**Mississippi City United Methodist Church, MS** over 500 pictures and hundreds of miles. The results of this visit provided for greater response efforts to this area, provided for relief supplies to be sent to places in need, and established a basis for response teams to assist local churches working through the Mississippi United Methodist Annual Conference.

**In August**, I received a call to visit the Gulf Coast of Mississippi to complete an initial needs assessment of the damage following Hurricane Katrina. A member of our church, David Mobley, traveled with me, and provided invaluable assistance by transporting us up and down roads, finding clinics, distribution centers, abandoned churches, destroyed churches, homes, and businesses. We recorded the damage that corresponded to



**Seashore United Methodist, MS**



**Crushed homes, no power, MS**



**Gulfport Relief Center, MS**



**Moldy walls removed, MS**

Since October I have continued to assist with the Hurricane relief efforts by serving as Interim Executive Director at our UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, LA. From this 44,000 square foot facility, United Methodist relief efforts have and continues to provide significant assistance to hurricane relief from Western Alabama to Eastern Texas. And, while serving the hurricane relief efforts, UMCOR has sent thousands of school bags and health kits, clothing, blankets, and other relief items to overseas countries such as Sudan, Afghanistan, and Haiti.



**9<sup>th</sup> Ward, New Orleans, LA**

Let me share a few quotes and stories that seem to capture our hurricane relief efforts through the generosity of Methodists across the United States. "I am sorry about what happened to your town. Don't worry, everything will be okay. I hope this card makes you feel better! You are in my thoughts. Love, Westbrook Elementary, Brookville, Ohio, First Grade students. This note was part of a shipment of supplies to be sent to New Orleans.

Thank you so much for everything. We really are blessed to have such wonderful people like you. God bless you all" And, I am a volunteer at Bastrop evacuee center (LA). We do so appreciate all you are doing to help our evacuees. They are so grateful. May God Bless you."



And then there were the special gifts. Early in the relief efforts a visit was made to Sager Brown and it was determined that we needed an enclosed trailer. Two weeks later, a refurbished, freshly painted trailer, with UMCOR painted on its sides, was donated by the Salado, UMC of Salado, TX. The trailer, along with other trucks continues to be a part of our shipment of relief supplies.

**Associated Press Article - October 2005**

REDKEY, Ind. -- A church congregation plans to sell their vacant former church on eBay to raise money for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Bidding on the former North Meridian United Methodist Church started at \$1, and when the sale was complete, over 40,000 had been raised. Church members recently voted to sell the old 7,000-square-foot church, furnishings and parking lot on the online auction site. They will donate the proceeds to hurricane relief through the United Methodist Committee on Relief. "I don't think many people have tried something like this," Reverend Davis said. "But we just thought this is the way to go."

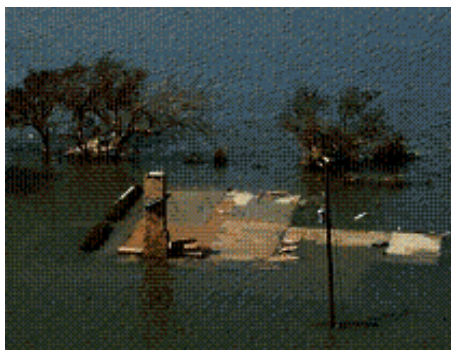


**United Methodist Church, RedKey, IN**

Quoting from Hebrew, the verb "Amos", "means to carry". This was the Biblical basis for the naming of a truck to be delivered to UMCOR Sager Brown. Through an appeal by the Herndon United Methodist Church (Herndon, VA), AMOS was delivered in November 2005, full of supplies, and made its first delivery the next day.



After Katrina, Hurricane Rita hurricane ensured that 100% of Louisiana's population was impacted and in need of relief. Also along its path, Eastern Texas saw significant flooding and damage similar to that of Katrina. These areas quickly became a part of our relief efforts. See selected photos of the damage from Rita along the Texas Coast.



Our country and our world continues to face the results of this year's natural disasters that will take years to recover from. UMCOR's response is an evolving one beginning with early assessments, then supplying water, health kits, and food to relief centers. Soon, the demand for mops, heavy brooms, and flood buckets followed. Then, pressure washers and shop vacuum cleaners were requested, as were rakes, shovels and other tools to gut and prepare usable homes for repair. At UMCOR Sager Brown, the generosity of Methodists across the United States continues as a response to the changing conditions of this and other disasters. Soon, we expect that true recovery efforts will begin. Until then, we will respond to children and families, still evacuees from their homes, by providing support to relief centers still opening to meet the continuing need.

**The Missionary Wellness Program** continues to provide health support to the missionaries serving around the world. I have the best mission assignment as the nurse to the missionaries! Serving in this program since August 2001 I am have now begun to see some missionaries for the second time. Though, I may only see these amazing people once every three years, it is like being reunited with a dear friend.

In 2005, 102 missionaries, including their children, had comprehensive medical evaluations provided to them. A few serious problems were identified and appropriate care instituted. One missionary died in a motor vehicle accident. Several have faced and battled cancers, others have had surgery with full recovery. Generally, our missionaries are healthy people. However, like the rest of the world's population, they are developing the health issues related to aging, weight gain, hypertension, diabetes, and joint pains. This past year a number of missionaries have concentrated on losing excess weight, increasing exercise, and lowering cholesterol. One of my most important roles as the Wellness nurse is to encourage missionaries to care for themselves. One cannot serve others to the best of their ability if they themselves are unhealthy.

**Carla's Parish Nursing Program** continues to be an important goal. I have completed my Pastoral Counseling course and have started the course Ministry to Families. In this educational process, I have developed a study for women at our church. It is called "Triumphant Through Menopause" and will be offered to women aged 35 - 55 in 2006.