



Volunteers In Mission

Sharing the love of Christ in ways that make a Christian Difference

Oklahoma Volunteers In Mission
Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church
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Mission is the work of each local church—as a partner of the Holy Spirit in God’s mission. This mission encompasses the healing of God’s world and all within it. Volunteers In Mission thus seeks to support the local church in ministering to the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of all people, as well as the renewal of their environment. VIM operates in partnership with the local church, advocating and facilitating the church’s ministry

What VIM does and does not do

Does

Works closely with our mission sites to ensure we hear and understand their needs and prepare our teams accordingly

Trains and properly prepares team leaders to ensure the success of each team’s mission and the safety of its members

Facilitates upon request, very aspect of a team’s mission, including transportation, housing, meals, and insurance

Supports

each team from formation to completion, including any emergency that might arise while on a mission

Offers

- its help, where asked, in the task of hosting missions and receiving teams.
- an extensive list of ministries, churches and programs that ask VIM teams to assist in their mission work.

Does not

- tell churches, in Oklahoma or anywhere else, what to do in fulfilling God’s call to mission.
(We work with each church to give expression to that congregation’s call to participate in God’s mission)
- work in other countries without an invitation from the Methodist entity in that country, or other Christian mission if there is no Methodist presence there.
- determine the content (or tasks) of the mission.
(The inviting church or entity invites us to participate in what it determines to be the needs of its people.)

Our Purpose

The purpose of Oklahoma Volunteers In Mission is to share the love of Christ in ways that make a Christian difference.

Our Task

The task of Oklahoma Volunteers In Mission is to share our abilities in partnership with our team members and those who host our teams. As servants, we participate in accomplishing particular goals set up and in cooperation with our hosts – in their time and in their way.

Oversight and Mission Development

Training

Keep strengthening our Team Leader, Mission Site, and Disaster Response training.

Team Preparation and Reflection

Enhance the mission experience by:

- ensuring that each team is properly prepared to engage the culture and the people among whom they will minister,
- facilitating meaningful interpretation of the mission while in the field and upon return,
- promoting post-mission reflection and on-going engagement in local church expressions of mission.

Why don't we just send the money?

Ours is an incarnational faith that believes presence and relationship are important. We are transformed through relationships – as are those to whom we go in service. This is what builds God's kingdom. Mission experiences through VIM help us live out the essence of our faith as partners of God's mission to our world.

The projects we support through VIM would not receive the same level of support if it was just about sending money.

There is so much need in our own communities and within the USA. Why don't we do more at home?

God's mission is never limited by geography. We are called to witness and serve in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. So, VIM offers opportunities to respond in all places. In numbers of volunteers, VIM does, in fact, do most of its work near home. If people feel that their specific call is to work within their own communities, there is much to do – and VIM can connect people and churches to numerous local projects.

Why should I book my mission through the VIM office? There seems to be so much paperwork and costs charged...

With years of experience in sending thousands of missionaries on hundreds of missions, VIM has developed proven procedures and techniques for this ministry. Thus, teams are assured their experience will be safe, meaningful and effective. The paperwork, while admittedly not the fun part of a mission, is a vital part of protecting each team member – and the church – while on mission, as well as ensuring proper

accountability for all monies received and spent. The costs for using the office are minimal: about \$100 per mission. Much of the overhead of the office is largely met through the generous support of conference apportionments. This is your ministry!

What happens if we have an emergency or travel problem while on a mission?

VIM will provide your team leader with a detailed plan of what to do when problems arise, including and especially health and travel issues. We have a comprehensive insurance plan that provides for emergency evacuation from anywhere in the world. We also have 24-hour emergency contact with our travel agent if there are any problems with your flights. Your team leader will also be provided a comprehensive list of work, home and cell numbers of the VIM staff.

How long does it take to plan and prepare for a mission?

An international mission takes the longest – and it is ideal to begin planning at least a year in advance. However, we do not recommend trying to do it in less than 6 months, especially if it is a new VIM site and/or country to which your team is going. For local and national missions, we can work to develop the details of a mission within a shorter time frame, but it still takes a full 6 months to get the team recruited, to inform and educate the congregation(s) of your team, and to raise the funds for the mission project. There is enormous benefit to including all the members of the congregation in the planning, forming, fund-raising, and sending forth of what quickly becomes "their" mission team!

To fulfill its role in support of the ministry of the local church, VIM will pursue the following goals, seeking to:

- **build strategic partnerships between churches in the Oklahoma Annual Conference and churches and communities around the state, the nation, and the world;**
- **express mission as a mutual exchange in which our teams will intentionally seek both to give and to receive;**
- **help team participants to return to their local churches more aware and better equipped to serve effectively in God's mission where they live.**



God sends thousands of people into short-term mission in Oklahoma and around the world each year. Team Leaders are well-trained laity and clergy who recruit and direct teams for mission. Successful completion of OK VIM Team Leader Training is required for persons to be entrusted with this responsibility. Team Leaders usually qualify for full scholarship on missions they lead.

Team Leader Training

\$50 per person includes:

- **Team Leader Training Manual**
- **Presentation CDs**
- **Lunch and snacks**

Training Schedule

8:30 a.m..... Registration
9 a.m. Presentation begins
4:30 p.m.Presentation ends

For more information contact Kristin Terrell-Wilkes:
(405)530-2029; E-mail: kterrell-wilkes@okumc.org.

On-line registration available at <http://www.okvim.org> click on "About VIM" then on "VIM training" in the left-hand column.

VIM Team Leader Training Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ / _____

E-mail: _____

Church of Membership: _____

List any special dietary/medical needs that should be taken into consideration during the day of the training:

Visit <http://www.okvim.org> Web site VIM Training link for upcoming Team Leader Training dates:
List the date and location for the training you are registering.

Date: _____ Location: _____

Team Leader Training

\$50 per person Make checks payable to OK VIM

Mail check and registration form to: Volunteers In Mission, 1501 N .W. 24th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73106

WHAT TO EXPECT

The mission site you select is an opportunity for you to serve Jesus Christ and be personally involved in fulfilling a real and great need. You will be one of dozens of volunteer teams to serve at various sites. Count on having a great experience with fellow missionaries and the local people while enjoying the fellowship of the wonderful family of God.

SITE SELECTION PROCESS

The VIM office will help you make your mission become a reality.

First, give prayerful thought to generally what type of mission you wish to go on. In doing this you might want to consider your God-given gifts. A mission may reflect a combination of two or more types of mission work.

Second, decide on specific dates, or multiple choices of dates, for which your team members will be available to go. Then determine approximately how many team members you will be taking. Throughout this process, feel assured that the site where God wants to send you will emerge.

With that information in hand, contact the VIM office. The staff may already have a “best match” mission site to offer your team, or the search process may be necessary. Those sites of interest will be contacted by the VIM staff for availability and additional information about the site and mission.

Once a site is selected, VIM will work with the team leader to make the necessary arrangements for travel, lodging, insurance and other needs of the team. An infrastructure will be provided for the organization of the team and preparation for the mission. This includes ensuring that the team leader is

properly trained and qualified to assume responsibility for the team. Throughout the preparation process and the duration of the mission, the VIM office will be available as backup to the team leader.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

Skills are optional; willing hands are necessary. There will be work for every person, of any age, who is willing to participate.

All God's people

Youth Groups
United Methodist Women
United Methodist Men
Singles Groups
Sunday School Classes
Families
United Methodist Churches
Other denominations
“Keenagers” – persons 60 years of age and older
and
Groups

Whose members feel they can truly make a difference through personal service in mission.

TEAM FEES AND EXPENSES

Fees are subject to change; confirm pricing with the VIM Office.

The **team registration fee** is required to reserve mission dates and initiate processing. The amount of the fee is \$25 for all teams.

The **team administration fee**, based on the formulas below is due when your number of team members is established:

For a mission of 3 or more days:

\$75 for a team up to 15 members. Add \$5 for each additional member.

For a mission of 1 or 2 days:

\$20 for a team up to 15 members for each day. Add \$2 for each additional member.

Insurance coverage required for each member is included with team registration and administration fees for national teams. International missions – insurance is \$2.50 per person, per day.

Airline arrangements for teams flying into Oklahoma, when made by VIM, are subject to a flat fee of \$50 per team.

Materials to be used requires funding from the volunteer teams. Each team must budget \$25–\$50 per team member, per work day, for materials.

Volunteers always pay their own way. This can include food, lodging, transportation and other expenses, including tools and safety apparel.

Oklahoma Missions

Team lodging, when arranged by VIM at local churches, is only \$5 per team member, per night. Bring your own bedroll.

Team Meals. The church kitchen and fellowship hall may be used by the team for meal preparation and serving, as well as meetings, worship and recreation. Teams that prepare their own meals should budget approximately \$5–\$7 per person, per day for groceries.



Mission Opportunities Oklahoma



OKVIM provides teams with a wide variety of short-term mission opportunities throughout the state. On this page you will find a sampling of the types of projects that are available throughout the year. For more information or to schedule your next team mission, call us at (405)530-2029 or visit our Web site at <http://www.okvim.org>

LOCAL CHURCH-RELATED MISSIONS

Throughout the year, Oklahoma VIM works with the local churches of the Oklahoma Conference to determine the unmet needs of their physical facilities in which VIM assistance may be utilized. This may include churches, parsonages, fellowship halls, youth centers, campus ministry centers, and other projects, both refurbishment and new construction. Volunteers frequently can perform up to 90% of construction tasks. When volunteer labor is utilized, it can result in savings up to 45% of the normal construction costs, making possible many projects that otherwise could not have been afforded.

OPERATION I-CARE, OKLAHOMA CITY

Various Types of inner-city/urban ministry mission opportunities are available. Some of the options include: (1) neighborhood restoration; (2) working in food banks or pantries; (3) repairing homes of the physically or economically disadvantaged; and (4) ministering in shelters for homeless.

The summer months are the focus for this special ministry; however, VIM provides year-round team scheduling, including during school breaks and holiday seasons. Teams typically arrive on Sunday afternoon and work Monday through Friday before heading home on Saturday.

OKLAHOMA INDIAN MISSIONARY CONFERENCE (OIMC) (see page 10 for more details)

OIMC was organized and established in 1844 to serve “distinctly Indian congregations” in Oklahoma. The boundaries have since been extended to include four churches in Kansas and one in Dallas, Texas. Today there are 89 congregations.

Many of the congregations are very small and include less than 50 members, frequently located “at the end of the road” in very rural areas. Others are small churches located in small cities and towns, while a few larger churches may be found in bigger cities. Many of the churches are historic, having been around since the tribes were forcibly removed from their homelands beginning in the early 1840s.

Most of the work will be new construction or repairs for congregations that could not afford to contract the work nor do it on their own. Many sites are in beautiful rural settings. Most churches prefer to conduct their own Bible schools, but occasionally they ask for assistance from outside their congregation. Presently, there are no medical mission opportunities in OIMC.

UNITED METHODIST CIRCLE OF CARE

Since 1917, Circle of Care has been helping people make better choices, live happier lives, and find hope and promise in their tomorrows by ministering to children, youth, and families in Oklahoma through residential and foster care.

Year-round construction, renovation and repair opportunities are available at the Boy's Ranch in Gore, Children's Home in Tahlequah, and Francis E Willard Ministry Center in Tulsa.

CAMPS AND RETREAT MINISTRY SITES

Year-round mission opportunities of all types and sizes are available at the conference's three camp and retreat sites—Camp Egan in Tahlequah, Canyon Camp in Hinton, and Cross Point Camp in Kingston.

OKLAHOMA DISASTER RESPONSE

When a disaster occurs in Oklahoma, Volunteers in Mission works with local churches and responds by sending teams to assist in the recovery efforts. Tasks often include cleanup, carpentry, roofing and rebuilding homes. All skills levels are needed for these projects.

Oklahoma

Focus Mission Sites Oklahoma

This year teams will continue to have many of the mission opportunities that are well known in the Oklahoma Conference.

Circle of Care

Skyline Urban Ministries

Operation-I-Care

Cookson Hills Center

Oklahoma UMC Camps

Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

and more!

In addition, in order to meet the ever-growing mission needs of our Conference ministries, we will be focusing on some new, exciting and rewarding mission opportunities.

MUSTARD SEED DEVELOPMENT

Mustard Seed Development is a faith based community development organization serving one of the most underprivileged areas of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma.

Their mission is “to share God’s joy, hope, healing, and desire for justice” with the people who live in the 73114 zip code area. They believe they will accomplish this mission God has given them through neighborhood involvement, community organization, local leadership development and personal service in an effort to promote family well-being and stability, affordable housing and revitalization, and economic security over the next 20 years, but they need YOU to serve along side of them to make this call of God a reality!

–Service, Outreach, Repair, Construction

REBUILDING TOGETHER

Rebuilding Together, OKC

is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which enables seniors to stay in their homes and allows them to age in place—independent, safe, warm and dry. Formerly called “Christmas in April,” Rebuilding Together, And now they have expanded their capacity to help homeowners throughout the year. In addition to the traditional Saturday

workday in April, any project that cannot wait is taken care of as soon as possible. This year-round program prevents accidents, increases mobility and completes repairs.

–Construction

OKVIM DISASTER RESPONSE— Aiding Long Term Recovery

District and Conference—

After our Disaster Early Response Teams (ERT) respond and make an area “safe, sanitary, secure, and functional” there is a gap between their work and the arrival of our regular VIM Teams.

R-TEAMS fill that gap. Also, there are times the **need** does not require our longer term teams, but just a group of teams who are able to come to serve and help those in need to “Recover, Repair and Restore” their lives as soon as possible. These types of VIM teams are great opportunities to introduce people to the wonderful blessing of mission!

OKVIM BARNRAISN MISSION MINISTRY

(see page 9 for more details)

–Aiding District and Conference Needs

**Serving in mission to
those in need right in our own**

backyard. Throughout the year, OK VIM works with the local churches of



the Conference to determine the needs of their physical facilities.

There are two levels of this area of the OK VIM ministry.

“Neighbor-to-Neighbor”

Teams—work on approved projects involving the general maintenance and repair of existing conference facilities which have need and request our assistance.

“Ground-up” Teams—work on projects involving **new** construction including parsonages, fellowship halls, new additions and new church starts.

Many of these churches would not be able to get this much-needed work done if it was not for the great volunteers of OK VIM. (*These projects must have district and conference approval before OK VIM can assist.*)

Also, skilled and experienced trades people are needed for consulting on many projects. Call to find out how you can help with this very important area of serving our church.

–Construction and Service

Oklahoma



“Making a Christian Difference” Right in your own backyard and in your community!



HELP FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH AND COMMUNITIES

District Projects

Frequently Asked Questions

Where do we begin to become a **BarnRaisN** Mission Project Site? Request a **BarnRaisN** Mission Project information packet.

What assistance is available from OKVIM? Project planning, budget preparation, linking needs with resources.

What are the basic requirements of our church as a host? Provide volunteers to welcome the team, water the team, perhaps even work with the team. Interact with your brothers and sisters in Christ. The team will provide its own food unless you have indicated to us that you would like to cook for them.

For more information about being considered as a **BarnRaisN** mission site, see the “Contact Us” section at the end of this book.

Why become a BarnRaisN Mission Site?

Every week in our office we receive calls from churches looking for help with small projects that are beyond the scope of their abilities and/or resources—and just as often we receive calls from churches looking for ways to be active in local Mission. Since Volunteers In Mission has not made provision for these in the past but has existed to connect resources and needs, **BarnRaisN** seems to be the natural next step in ministry. As a connectional church we are all a part of each other, and our churches belong to all of us. In the spirit of the barn raisings of our American past, where neighbors pitched in to help neighbors, establishing a **BarnRaisN** Mission Site enables us to work together as the body of Christ.

Types of BarnRaisN Projects

General maintenance and repair of existing facilities churches, parsonages and community projects—painting, siding, wheelchair ramps, roofing, etc.

New construction

Churches, parsonages, or a fellowship hall (*Requires local church, district and annual conference approval*)

How to become a BarnRaisN Mission Site

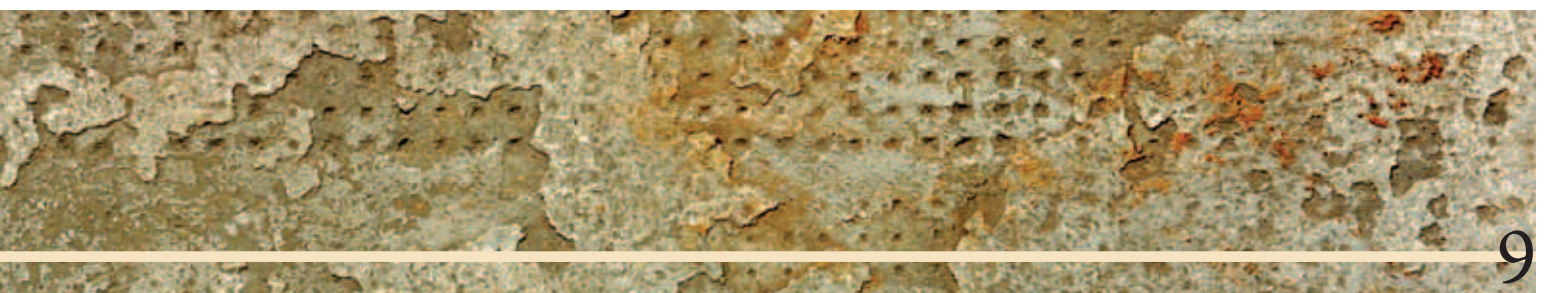
- **Your local church or VIM coordinator should give the VIM office a call to request information on becoming a BarnRaisN Mission Site.**
- **Your local church missions committee fills out and submits the BarnRaisN Mission Site Inquiry Form.**
- **OKVIM meets with the local church.**
- **OKVIM requests local church to complete a BarnRaisN Mission Site Detailed Information Form.**
- **If necessary, OKVIM and Construction Mission Site Consultant (CMSC) meet with local church.**
- **Local church submits application to OKVIM for approval.**
- **OKVIM approves application or recommends alternatives.**

Some points to ponder

- A **BarnRaisN** mission project will benefit your church by:
- **Getting much needed work done on your church properties.**
 - **Connecting the Local Church with the needs of its community.**
 - **Raising mission awareness.**
 - **Giving opportunity for one to three day mission experiences closer to home.**
 - **Enhancing the church's presence in the community and the conference.**
 - **Growing your church spiritually.**

How to help ensure the project's success

1. Identify support sources, including the local church and the greater community, for the project and for hosting mission teams.
2. Identify proper funding for your project.
3. Identify qualified individuals and entities who will help with project specifications, building plans and goals.
4. Plan ahead! Give your church members time to be available on the date(s) you have chosen.
5. Prepare! Work with the OKVIM office to prepare a budget, know what tools and materials you will need, and get the information you need in time to enjoy the day.
6. Pray! God is waiting to answer the prayers of those who are willing to do His work.



Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

About the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

The OIMC was organized and established in 1844 at Riley's Chapel near Tahlequah, in the Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory. The Indian Mission was established to serve "distinctly Indian congregations" in Oklahoma. The boundaries have since been extended to include four churches in Kansas and one in Dallas, Texas.

Today there are 89 congregations in the OIMC. The two United Methodist Annual Conferences in the state—OIMC and the Oklahoma Conference—operate as sister conferences and share the same bishop.

Many of the congregations are very small and include less than 50 members, frequently located "at the end of the road" in very rural areas. Others are small churches located in small cities and towns, while a few larger churches may be found in bigger cities. Many of the churches are historic, having been around since the tribes were forcibly removed from their homelands beginning in the early 1840s. Several OIMC churches are older than any other United Methodist churches in the state. Some Native American churches served as springboards for Oklahoma Conference churches.

In many instances, the small rural churches may have been built on parcels of land donated from family land allotments or from the tribes. In Oklahoma, rather than establishing reservations, land was allotted by the U.S. Government to individual families to build homes and raise crops. Allotments to the families of a given tribe were usually made in the same area, thus establishing the still present concentrations of certain tribes in various parts of the state, often designated as tribal nations, such as the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Headquarters for 37 federally recognized tribes are scattered across Oklahoma.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The OIMC mission site you select is an opportunity for you to serve Jesus Christ and be personally involved in fulfilling a real and great need. Yours will be one of dozens of volunteer teams to serve at various Native American sites in Oklahoma. Count on having a great experience with fellow missionaries and the local people while enjoying the fellowship of the wonderful family of God.

Most of the work will be new construction or repairs for OIMC congregations that could not afford to contract the work nor do it on their own. Many sites are in beautiful rural settings. Most OIMC churches prefer to conduct their own Bible

schools, but occasionally they ask for assistance from outside their congregation. Presently, there are no medical mission opportunities in OIMC.



Frequently Asked Questions

How many reservations does Oklahoma have?

Oklahoma is not a reservation state. When Native Americans were removed to what is now Oklahoma, the government gave individual families allotments. Although there are tribal areas, they are not reservations areas like one would find in Arizona, North Dakota or other states.

How do your churches worship?

Our OIMC United Methodist churches are much like other United Methodist churches. The style of worship is the same, and we use United Methodist resources like the hymnal, etc. Some tribes have customs in their churches that are unique to their tribe. Most churches will also sing their tribal songs, and some more rural churches will conduct their entire service in their language. But for the most part, the services are conducted in English.

Why are there separate churches for Native Americans?

OIMC churches are historic in the sense that they were the first Methodists in the state. Soon, other people came to

OIMC



Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

Oklahoma and began their own churches, often taking over what the Native Americans had already started. It is important for Native Americans to worship with their own people, sing their own songs and retain what God has given them as Native people.

How many tribes are in Oklahoma?

There are 37 federally recognized tribes in the state. To be federally recognized, the tribe must have its own history and its

own language. There are also non-federally recognized tribes in the state.

How many languages are among the tribes?

Each tribe has its own language and culture. There are some tribes that are very similar and come from the same roots and are able to understand each other's language. Most tribes in Oklahoma originate from all over the country.

The OIMC mission site is an opportunity for you to serve Jesus Christ and be personally involved in fulfilling a real and great need, while learning about the wonderful heritage of our Native American Christian brothers and sisters.

2010 Potential Focus Sites

New Hope UMC

New Parsonage Project
Location: Dewey, Oklahoma
—New parsonage home project

Springtown UMC

New Fellowship Hall Project
Location: Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

D.D. Etchieson UMC

New Church Project
Location: Tahlequah, Oklahoma
New church building
—activity and fellowship hall as first phase

Wichita Indian UMC

Church and Parsonage Project
Location: Wichita, Kansas
Parsonage and church repair
—painting, cement work, replace windows and doors

Fife Memorial UMC

Church Repair Project
Location: Tulsa, Oklahoma
Church repair
—needs new privacy fence and painting

Thlopthlocco/Springfield UMC

Church Repair Project
Location: Wetumka, Oklahoma
Church repair
—needs painting and new doors and windows

Tohwalí UMC

Church Repair Project
Location: Broken Bow, Oklahoma
Church repair
—Interior needs mudding and taping, painting and exterior work

Northern District Parsonage

Parsonage Repair Project
Location: Jenks, Oklahoma
Parsonage repair
—new garage door, window and door, new roof, exterior work and flooring

Grant Chapel UMC

Church Repair Project
Location: Norman, Oklahoma
Church repair
—porch work, painting, concrete and new doors

Conference Office

Office Repair Project
Location: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
—painting inside and outside



Moving beyond mission opportunities in Oklahoma, but short of going out to other nations, numerous mission opportunities abound throughout the United States. Across our country there are needs to be met where you may share the love of Jesus Christ in ways that make a Christian difference.

Varied types of missions are available for those who wish to offer personal service in places and with people whose culture may be different from your own. The work will also be interesting and diverse such as:

- **Construction**
- **Home and facility repairs**
- **Bible school**
- **Inner city ministry**
- **Other skills, such as sewing, gardening or artistry**

Mission Schedules

Teams typically plan their missions to arrive on Sunday afternoon and work Monday through Friday before heading home on Saturday. However, other schedules may be arranged.



Many of the sites offer year-round mission opportunities; others may be seasonal. The Oklahoma VIM office, which schedules teams throughout the year, will be able to advise of conditions and site availability in areas of interest.

Mission Lodging

Lodging is usually arranged by the VIM staff and the local site team. Different sites will have various sleeping accommodations. At some sites, teams will prepare their own meals, while at others the meals are provided.

Mission Travel

When needed, the VIM office can arrange group airfare for a team for a flat fee of \$50.

Site Selection Process

The vastness of the U.S.A. and the lack of familiarity with what mission opportunities are available can be a bit overwhelming at times. A course of action offered through the VIM office can help you make your mission in another state become a reality.

First, give prayerful thought about generally what type of mission you wish to go on. In doing this you might want to consider your God-given gifts. A mission may reflect a combination of two or more types of mission work.

Second, consider in what general areas of the United States you wish to serve. This may be determined somewhat by distance and travel time.

Third, decide on specific dates, or multiple choices of dates, your team members will be available to go. Then determine approximately how many team members you will be taking. Throughout this process, feel assured that the site where God wants to send you will emerge.

Fourth, with that information in hand, contact the VIM office. The staff may already have a “best match” mission site to offer your team, or the search process may be necessary. Those sites of interest will be contacted by the VIM staff, for availability and additional information about the site and mission.

Fifth, once a site is selected, VIM can work with the team leader to make the necessary arrangements for travel, lodging,



insurance and other needs of the team. An infrastructure will be provided for the organization of the team and preparation for the mission. This includes ensuring that the team leader is properly trained and qualified to assume responsibility for the team. Throughout the preparation process and the duration of the mission, the VIM office will be available as backup to the team leader.

OK VIM has expanded its mission coordinating expertise to cover the entire USA, meeting vital physical and spiritual

needs of very deserving people. This enables the missionaries who contact us a wider choice of places to serve in mission.

Our goal is to establish new mission sites and develop new relationships for sending teams to each of the six UM Jurisdictions. These sites promise wonderful opportunities for those ready to share the love of Christ through mission outreach. Most national missions we are forming are new territories for us and we are in need of adventurous teams who are willing to forge new mission ground!

Join us in this exciting time, teaming up with us and go to some of the focus sites listed below or one of the hundreds of other sites that are listed on the national UMVIM Web site, <http://gbgm-umc.org/vim/umvimmap.htm>. For further information, check the OK VIM Web site: <http://www.okvim.org>

North Central Jurisdiction

Indiana

Lakeshore Area Regional Recovery of Indiana (<http://www.larri.info>). Recovery from 2008 flooding in Northwest Indiana. —Construction

Michigan

Detroit God's Country Cooperative Parish —located in Newberry, Michigan in the Upper Peninsula. Yard work, painting, building renovations, home repair for rural families in need. Accommodations provided in churches and local homes or camping in state parks on Lake Superior. —Construction

South Dakota

Mission, Tree of Life Ministry (<http://www.treeoflifefirstnewsletters.org>) Repair homes on the Rosebud, Crow Creek, and Lower Brule reservations. Some new construction, VBS and other ministries. — Max 70 —Construction, MBS and Service

Wisconsin, Sullivan

The Christian Disciple Farm (<http://www.disciplefarm.com>). Week long summer VBS and day camp for special needs children and their families. An outreach of Pleasant Valley UMC, located in Southern Wisconsin, halfway between Milwaukee and Madison. —Service and MBS

Northeastern Jurisdiction

New York, New York City

Youth Service Opportunities Project, (YSOP)—Friends Meeting House in Manhattan located at 15 Rutherford Place, between 15th and 16th Streets, one block east of Third Ave. This mission opportunity engages students in hands-on service to people in need. They serve under the guidance of adults committed to volunteer service. The mission team is geared to spend a weekend or week helping people who are poor, hungry and homeless in New York City. —Senior High/college/adults —Service

South Central Jurisdiction

Gulf States

Hurricane Victims—After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike hit the Gulf Coast thousands of volunteers have served, but literally thousands of victims are still living in temporary housing. The Gulf Coast residents in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas need your help to recover from the most devastating hurricanes in recent history in our country. —Construction and Service

Louisiana, Dulac

The Dulac Louisiana Community was one of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike's many victims. The Dulac Community Center is a non-profit organization that provides social service programs and emergency relief referrals to low-income

families in lower Terrebonne Parish. It is a mission project of the GBGM and the Louisiana Annual Conference. Mission teams of all ages will serve the Houma Indians, a very low income Native American Community. The goal is to improve the quality of life for residents through education, empowerment and enhancing living conditions in their homes. An important part of the ministry is interpreting the culture of the Houmas people to volunteers —RV parking and hookups. —Construction, Service, MBS

Texas, Border Missions

The Methodist Border Friendship Commission represents and supports the work of the UM and Methodist Churches along the border between Brownsville/ Matamoras on up to the border to Del Rio/ Ciudad Acuna. Many mission opportunities are available on either side of the border. Projects include mission service projects, Good Neighbor Settlement House, Disaster Relief Projects, gleaning and volunteering in the Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley and other church, housing rehab and building projects —Construction, Service, MBS

New Mexico, Albuquerque

New Mexico, Shiprock, Casa Esperanza— provides a convenient and affordable home away from home for out-of-town cancer patients and their family members while the patient undergoes treatment

Continued

at an Albuquerque, NM health facility. Volunteers will help with cleaning, organizing, yard work, basic office work. Stay on site, or at local hotels or area churches. Own transportation. multi-generational families welcome.
—Housing (<15 people)
—Service

Arkansas, Fayetteville

Mt. Sequoyah, an historic conference and retreat facility, provides thousands of United Methodists and other denominations of faith a place for leadership training, spiritual renewal and revival. The campus is in need of hearts and hands to renovate the historic buildings, as well as regular maintenance and beautification of the grounds. The needs include all types of unskilled and skilled labor. There is always a great need for skilled labor. (<http://www.mountsequoyah.org>)
—A, CA, Families, Individuals,
—Construction and Service

Four Corners

Native American Ministry

Provides mission opportunities each year to reach churches on the Navajo Indian Reservation. It is the largest in the U.S. spanning New Mexico, Arizona and Utah. One of the goals of this ministry is to strengthen and encourage the Navajo people and to be a vehicle by which the Navajos can relate to people of the dominant culture and those in the dominate culture can relate to the Navajos on the reservation. The opportunities for all ages include construction projects and Mission Bible Schools.
—Max 25 —Construction, and MBS

Hurricane Rebuilding, Multiple sites Southeastern Jurisdiction

Louisiana/Mississippi/Texas

Ivan, Arlen, Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike, these life-changing storms have dramatically altered the way our government and the whole country deal with disaster. The damage and destruction to the Gulf Coast of the US is projected to take years to repair.

The cost of these storms on people's properties is great, but the emotional toll is far greater than many of us will ever know. Many people were in the path of more than one of these storms. Some still had tarps on their homes covering the previous storm's damage as the next storm arrived. It is estimated the people of these conferences will need volunteer help for the next 10 years.

—Age groups and size vary with sites
—Construction

Kentucky, Beverly

Red Bird Missionary Conference is one of three missionary conferences in the United States. It is located in the Southeastern Kentucky and is the most comprehensive mission effort of The United Methodist Church in the United States in terms of its outreach and services. A missionary conference serves in an area where local resources cannot meet the needs; therefore, support of the whole church is necessary. The mission of the Red Bird Missionary Conference of The United Methodist Church is to minister to the spiritual, physical, educational, and economic needs of people and to equip them to fulfill their God-given potential.

—Construction, Service, MBS

Mississippi, Philadelphia,

Choctaw Indian Mission —When the Choctaw Nation was uprooted by government decree and driven to Oklahoma on the "Trail of Tears," a remnant stayed behind and hid. The descendants of that remnant make up the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. The Choctaw have a strong sense of the customs and traditions that have sustained and defined them as a people. They strive to maintain cultural continuity within a constantly changing society.

—Construction

Western Jurisdiction

Montana, Heart Butte, Blackfeet

Parish The people of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation offer a tremendous amount of wisdom, knowledge and

humor. The Blackfeet hope to create a "Cross-Cultural" experience while you are in mission with them. You will be immersed in culture, learning and sharing while serving in mission. The Blackfeet people believe the most important thing groups can do is take the time to sit down and get to know on another. The mission needs of the Blackfeet Parish are home and church repair and maintenance and Mission Bible Schools.

—Max 40 —Construction, MBS

Colorado

San Luis Valley Christian Community Service Project (CCSP) San Luis Valley CO, Repair/renovate homes and community buildings. Includes plastering, painting, roofing, small additions, weatherization, stuccoing, adobe repair. Rebuild and help people restart their lives.

— Jr/Sr High Youth/Adults, Families,
Max: 30 — Construction

Alaska

Variety of sites Missionary Conference— This is a wonderful opportunity to combine a dream of visiting beautiful Alaska with serving effectively our wonderful God by participating as a team member of a mission that will help many churches in this missionary conference.

—Age groups and size vary with sites
—Construction, and MBS



By serving on a VIM international mission team, you can expect to make a Christian difference with your life by touching lives with the love of Jesus Christ. You will have the privilege of working, living, sharing fellowship and worship with the local people and your team members. You can expect a great welcome and to be deeply appreciated by the people you serve.

Mission tasks, which vary by site, include the following:

- **Construction**
- **Mission Bible School**
- **Medical**
- **Education and Teaching**
- **HIV/AIDS Outreach**
- **Computer Literacy**
- **Animal Vaccinations**

Site Selection Process

The vastness of the world and the lack of familiarity with what mission opportunities are available can be a bit overwhelming at times. A course of action offered through the VIM office can help you make your mission in another country become a reality.

First, give prayerful thought about generally what type of mission you wish to go on. In doing this you might want to consider your God-given gifts. A mission may reflect a combination of two or more types of mission work.

Second, consider in what general areas of the world you wish to serve.

Third, decide on specific dates, or multiple choices of dates, your team members will be available to go. Then determine approximately how many team members you will be taking. Throughout this process, feel assured that the site where God want to send you will emerge.

Fourth, with that information in hand, contact the VIM office. The staff may already have a "best match" mission site to offer your team, or the search process may be necessary. Those sites of interest will be contacted by the VIM staff, for availability and additional information about the site and mission.

Fifth, once a site is selected, VIM will work with the team leader to make the necessary arrangements for travel, lodging, insurance and other needs of the team. An

infrastructure will be provided for the organization of the team and preparation for the mission. This includes ensuring that the team leader is properly trained and qualified to assume responsibility for the team. Throughout the preparation process and the duration of the mission, the VIM office will be available as backup to the team leader.

Passport Requirements

A passport is required for entrance into virtually every country served by VIM; therefore, team members should apply for one immediately if they do not already have one. The U.S. State Department (<http://www.state.gov>) recommends allowing at least six weeks for processing of passports. Cost is \$97 for adults at least 16 years old and \$82 for youth under 16. Expedited service is available for an additional \$60 charge.

Note: *Team members who possess a passport that will expire within six months of their mission departure date—or whose passports have less than two blank pages remaining—will need to renew their passports before departure.*



Insurance

Many insurance plans for churches and individuals do not provide coverage outside the U.S., its territories or possessions, including Puerto Rico. In addition to your own personal insurance, VIM arranges for and requires for each missionary, coverage that does extend sufficiently beyond the U.S. borders, for each day of the mission, from home departures to return. Its low cost is included with the team mission fees.

Inoculation

Team leaders, with the assistance of the VIM staff, will check the U.S. State Department Web site (<http://www.state.gov>) and obtain a list of inoculations (if any) required for entry into specific countries. In addition, team members are always

encouraged to check with their physicians for any additional inoculations he/she may recommend. A tetanus shot is also recommended for team members engaged in construction activities.

Clothing And Packing Recommendations

Team leaders will provide members with a detailed travel checklist prior to departure.

Vim Policy

The policy of VIM is to refrain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, gambling and vulgarity while on the mission from the time you leave until you return home.

Every day, missionaries ask our office where we serve in the world. This list of countries is to give you an idea of places we have served in the past or are working to establish relationships to serve in the future. All locations, except China, accept construction teams. Missions are being added throughout the year, so visit our Web site frequently at <http://www.okvim.org> ♥ = Medical Teams Accepted

North America

Mexico

Length of Mission: 4-9 days
Approximate Cost: \$350-850

Park in Rio Bravo
Methodist Churches and Schools in Rio Bravo, Reynosa and Nuevo Progreso
Casitas in Rio Bravo Area
Medical Teams Rio Bravo Area ♥
Sierra Linda Methodist Church Camp
Monterrey and Saltillo
Puebla
Pitorreal ♥

South America

Length of Mission: 11-14 days
Approximate Cost: \$1,800-2,000

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Guyana
Peru
Paraguay
Uruguay

Caribbean Islands

Length of Mission: 7-14 days
Approximate Cost: \$1,200-1,500

Bahamas
Cuba
Jamaica
Puerto Rico

Africa

Length of Mission: 14-17 days
Approximate Cost: \$3,000 - \$3,500

Ghana
Kenya ♥
Liberia
South Africa
Tanzania ♥

Europe

Length of Mission: 11-14 days
Approximate Cost: \$1,800-2,200

Czech Republic
Estonia
Hungary
Ireland
Latvia
Poland
Russia
Slovakia
Ukraine

Asia

Length of Mission: 14-17 days
Approximate Cost: \$2,500-3,500

China
India ♥
Mongolia
Palestine/Israel
Cambodia
Vietnam

Central America

Length of Mission: 7-10 days
Approximate Cost: \$1,200-1,500

Belize ♥
Colombia
Costa Rica
El Salvador
Guatemala ♥
Honduras ♥
Nicaragua ♥
Panama ♥

...AND any other country in the world in which we are asked to partner with a Methodist entity.



Focus Mission Sites International Manos Juntas Mexico

In ceremonies last year, administration of the ministry was formally transferred from Oklahoma Conference VIM to the Eastern Conference of The Mexico Methodist Church. VIM teams and individual volunteers are continuing the work, which now is directed by Mexican officials and staff.

Manos Juntas Mexico ministry is providing hope for the hard-working people of Rio Bravo.

Here are several ways you can “make a Christian difference” in this ministry.

MJM Health Center

The MJM health center is open all week for patient care and makes over 12,000 patient contacts each year. The Center also provides space and assistance for community health programs that are initiated by the government, such as vaccinations and emergency relief.

Another way the people benefit is through patient education. How to live healthier lives is the goal of the center.

The medical program is coordinated by a full-time physician, who is a part of an on-site staff. He is supported in his work by U.S. and Mexico doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists and other non-medical individuals who volunteer to come and share their skills.

The dollars that are given to the ministry help to provide medicines, services and equipment.

Medical Program (ways to help)

- You can help by becoming a sponsor of patient costs or by supporting the staff compensation.
- Form or join a medical team to serve

Construction Program

The construction program is headed by a full-time civil engineer, who is on site as part of the MJM staff. Local masons, called maestros, lead the mission team, who provide the labor.

One great challenge of the construction ministry is



maintaining a fleet of operational vehicles, equipment and tools.

The dollars that are given to the ministry provide construction materials, maintain vehicles, purchase equipment and tools that keep the ministry vital.

Construction (ways to help)

- You can help by sponsoring the compensation of the full-time on-site construction staff.
- Form or join a construction team to serve
- Encourage your church, Sunday school class, UMM or other group in your congregation to sponsor the purchase of a new heavy duty work vehicle.

Education

The goal of the education program at MJM is to help families with scholarship funding.

The dollars that are given to the ministry helps to provide tuition, school supplies, backpacks and uniforms so the children can attend school.

Tuition is \$250 per student per school year for elementary and junior high students and \$450 for senior high students.

Education Program (ways to help)

- You can help through your donations for the educational program (used to purchase backpacks, supplies or fund scholarships).
- If you choose your team may purchase school supplies (bought in bulk) and bring them with you. Contact the MJM office for a detailed list of items and instructions.

See the “Contact section” at the end of this booklet for more information.

Is God calling you?

Have you ever wanted to spend more time in mission than the usual 1-2 weeks, but didn't feel you were called as a full-time General Board of Global Ministries missionary? The Individual Volunteers program may be just what you have been waiting for! The United Methodist Church and Oklahoma Volunteers In Mission, in partnership with churches and institutions in the USA and other countries, has identified opportunities for singles or married couples to volunteer in many parts of the world.

Living in a different culture presents challenges that require certain attributes:

- Maturity
- Interpersonal relationship skills
- Cross-Cultural skills
- Physical and emotional health
- An active prayer life
- Interracial experience
- A great sense of humor

If you have these attributes, you are ready to be an Individual Volunteer!

Other Information

The program requires that volunteers:

- Be prepared to serve for 2 months or longer with host communities.
- Complete the application forms and attend a training /orientation weekend prior to service.
- Be in prayer about your calling.

Volunteers will be greatly rewarded by:

- Finding joy in making new friends and relationships with people of other cultures
- Growing in your faith and learning more about God's wonderful, beautiful world and God's people who inhabit it!

If you are interested in this program:

- See who to call for more information in the "Contact section" at the end of this booklet.
- Look over the opportunities listed on the Individual Volunteer's Web page <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mv/programs/individualvolunteer/>
- Prepare to attend one of the training / orientation weekends.

2010 Scheduled Training /Orientation Weekends

August 12-15 Tahlequah, Oklahoma

October 7-10New York City, New York



A UMNS photo courtesy of Jeff and Kara Oliver. Photo #090418.

Individual
Volunteers



VIM Staff

Type of Information

Rev. Jeremy Basset, *Director*

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Disaster Response
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Lori Foster, *Coordinator*

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Individual Volunteers program
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Kristin Terrell-Wilkes, *Coordinator*

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