

## Mission—More than a Trip



Article by Rev. Dr. Tom Vencuss  
Coordinator of Mission Ministry

“It is also our mandate – to be present with, to be among the hurting, the vulnerable, the marginalized...– and by our presence witness, in word and action, to the grace, love and power of God in the midst.”

Many believe that one of the keys to personal, local church, and denominational spiritual growth and development is an engagement in hands-on mission. This is biblical, Wesleyan-Methodist, and attested to by the personal witness of so many. It is also our mandate – to be present with, to be among the hurting, the vulnerable, the marginalized, wherever they may be – and by our presence witness, in word and action, to the grace, love and power of God in the midst of that situation. The gospel of Luke chapters 9 and 10 record Jesus sending out his disciples to “heal the sick, cleanse diseases, exercise power over evil spirits, and preach the Kingdom of God;” In other words, to be among the hurting. Equally important is the response and experience of the disciples, as Luke reports, “Then the seventy returned with joy – Even the demons were subject to us in your name!” Such is the power of mission. To change lives.

The Connecticut District has had a long history of mission engagement. “Mountains of Hope for Haiti” began out of several Connecticut Churches in 2002. The Furcy clinic in Haiti was built by funds provided by CT Churches in 2004. After his visit to Haiti, Rev. George Englehardt, then District Superintendent, challenged each of his churches to provide \$200 to cover a week of medical care at the Clinic. Enough funds were received to provide two years’ worth of care! Fifteen years later the Clinic continues to offer basic health care to the many living in the mountain communities around Furcy.

Connecticut churches played an important role in the development of the NYAC Disaster Response ministry and supported effort during the Katrina recovery, Sandy, and other disaster-related events. UMARMY Northeast originated in the Connecticut District. A Connecticut District team went to Puerto Rico at the end of January, and another is scheduled for the end of June. In addition, a number of individual churches continue to provide support to local, domestic, and international missions.

“The Connecticut District had a long history of mission engagement.”

It is our hope to continue, and build upon this history and commitment!

### What can you do?

Sponsor one of the training events offered by the Conference:

- Early Response Team training
- Equipping Communities for Mission
- Developing Care Teams (including Disaster Emotional and Spiritual Care)
- Abundant Health - Hulapalooza
- Volunteers in Mission Team Leader training

Sponsor an UMVIM team – domestic or international

Sponsor a team member on a domestic or international team

Sponsor a youth for UMARMY

Sponsor a youth for this year’s Youth Ambassador team to Ecuador

Hold a local “Done in a Day” project

Invite a mission speaker for Sunday worship or a mission event

Remember, that the NYAC Missions office is there to assist and resource local churches in their development of mission outreach and opportunities. Contact Tom Vencuss (tvencuuss@nyac.com) or go to the NYAC website (nyac.com/mission) for more information.