

FOUNDATION

FORUM

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SUMMER 2006

LIVING WATERS WELL MINISTRY YEI, SUDAN



Water supply in Yei, Sudan

ONE YEAR AGO, ANITA HENDERLIGHT, THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S Ministries for the Holston Conference read a book, *They Poured Fire On Us From The Sky*. The book is about war and suffering in southern Sudan. Little did she realize that within the year she would be part of a Holston Conference delegation sent by Bishop James Swanson to see first-hand the hopeful people and opportunities for service in Yei, Sudan.

Rev. Fred Dearing (Kingsport District Superintendent), Rev. Tom Seay (Bearden UMC), and Anita Henderlight visited Yei, Sudan on April 18-20, 2006. Their trip exposed them to orphaned children, hunger, thirst, and conditions most of us cannot imagine. While dreading what they would find in Sudan, Anita, Tom, and Fred each returned changed people. They were touched deeply by the very faithful hope-filled Christians they met who were thrilled by the visitors from Holston. The strong and faithful people of Yei have seen others come and go with anticipated help that never quite showed up as promised. Yet they welcomed Anita, Tom and Fred seeking no handout, but a hand up to

be self-sufficient. Children grabbed their hands and walked with them singing with smiling faces.

The group from Holston saw the burned out huts and met children and youth searching for any surviving family. The only thing they have to eat comes from aid provided from humanitarian agencies. Their water comes from a single spring that looks more like a mud puddle. Yet there were children and adults with smiles on their faces and hope in their hearts. The eleven pastors who serve the surviving 10 of 23 churches (not buildings, but people) are not paid. These ministers generate their only income by making bricks and clearing minefields. They teach and preach in open thatched huts, yet they



Anita Henderlight, Director of Children's Ministries with Sudan children

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From left to right: Tom Seay, Anita Henderlight, and Fred Dearing and pastors in Yei, Sudan

have a vision of a peaceful new Sudan where all God's children are nurtured and live not in fear, but in hope. They look to the day when children have clean water to drink, nourishing food to eat, roofs over their heads and book and supplies to support their education.

Unlike some others in the past, the Holston Conference will be returning. Tom Seay will be returning with a mission team in March 2007. They will provide therapy for children, training for teachers, training for preachers and make benches for the children to sit on in school. Most of all they will show that Holston cares. The Extended Cabinet is payroll deducting gifts from their

pay to support salaries for Sudan's remaining clergy and other Holston pastors will be adding to this effort. The Holston Conference Foundation through THE THOMAS WILSON FUND has committed to pay to dig a well this summer and is hoping to attract enough donations to dig a second well by year end. Several VBS's, churches and individuals have inquired about joining in this effort. Gifts of all sizes are appreciated. Each well will cost an estimated \$6,500-\$9,000 to complete, but will provide much more than just water.

Like a Phoenix rising from the ashes, southern Sudan is rebuilding and the Holy Spirit and our Holston Conference are going to be part of the hope...one dipper at a time.



Rev. Fred Dearing talks about Jesus and shares a message of hope from the people of the Holston Conference

HOW CAN YOU HELP??



- Checks may be made payable and mailed to:
THE HOLSTON CONFERENCE FOUNDATION
9919 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, TN 37922
Please note "Well Ministry - Sudan" on your check.
- VBS and other groups might adopt this project for their mission offering. Pictures and educational materials are available to share to help tell the story.
- Pray for peace and for the mission team going to Sudan in March 2007.

FOUNDATION FLASHES

- ♦ On April 25, the Foundation's Investment Committee and full Board met at Trinity United Methodist Church in Greeneville, Tennessee. President, **Brad Bower**, welcomed new board members **John Bailes** (Cokesbury UMC, Knoxville); **Roger Leonard** (State Street UMC, Bristol); **Martha Rector** (First Broad Street UMC, Kingsport); and **Kevin Proffitt** (First Maryville UMC).
- ♦ On April 30, Roger delivered the message at two services at Luminary United Methodist Church in Kingston, Tennessee. Thanks to **Rev. Jay Ferguson** and **Mike McNeely** for this opportunity to talk about "Planning for Tomorrow".
- ♦ On May 10, Roger met with trustees at Central United Methodist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee about investing funds from the sale of their parsonage and about how to best handle investments and distributions from five other designated funds. Thanks to **Don Akers**, **A.C. Wilson**, **Edwin Hoskins**, and all the trustees for their stewardship sense and attention to details.
- ♦ On May 17, Roger met with leaders at Telford United Methodist Church, who are interested in establishing a general endowment program to support future ministries of the church and perhaps a scholarship endowment for youth. Thanks to **Rev. Kenneth Lytton** and especially **Yvette Slagle** for their enthusiasm and vision.
- ♦ On May 21, Roger preached at Auburn United Methodist Church in Riner, Virginia on "Planning for Tomorrow". I regret that **Charlie Kempfer**, who invited me months ago, was hospitalized and unable to attend and I certainly pray for his quick recovery.
- ♦ On May 21, Roger met with trustees at Independence United Methodist Church to talk about long-term investment and distribution options for several permanent funds received and held by the church. This church has been blessed by members who have included the church in their wills. They are considering several options to assist their stewardship and use of those gifts. Thanks to **Robby Wingate** and **Rev. Barry Sarver** for the opportunity to work with the church.
- ♦ On June 8, Roger met with the Endowment Committee at Fountain City United Methodist Church to talk about investment performance, investment options, distribution options and programs that might assist the church in attracting additional gifts through bequests and other estate plans. Special thanks to **Mary Francis Tucker** and **Rev. Jim Whedbee** for this opportunity to explore the possibilities.

Securing Future Ministries

Over the past several weeks, the Foundation has been involved with several individuals who are in the process of planning their estates and are investigating options to create endowments to provide ongoing support for specific ministries and churches. One individual is using retirement assets to fund a trust for his wife, which will ultimately

benefit his church, Holston Home for Children, and pensions for retired ministers. A retired school teacher is creating a permanent fund for Wesley House Community Center. A minister and his wife are creating an endowment in the Foundation through their will, but deferring the decision on its ultimate use until later. These folks

are "getting their affairs in order". We are quite pleased to be available to assist them in weighing their options and assisting them in funding and shaping future ministries. Call us if we might help you confidentially explore your options to make a lasting difference. These services are free for the asking.

MARGARET LOVING GRANTS AWARDED FOR SENIOR PROGRAMMING

While we do not always hear of glowing success from recipients of our Loving Grants, we wanted to share some quotes we recently received. We think Mrs. Loving would be pleased to know her legacy is making a lasting difference in the Holston Conference...

...We are very appreciative of the support that South Bristol UMC has received from the Foundation and the Loving Trust. It has made several programs possible that might otherwise have been financially impossible. Our attendance has increased dramatically. The Foundation was certainly part of that success.

Rev. Charles D. Ledger
South Bristol UMC

...This funding is very much needed for the continued existence of our program and will enable us to continue our ministry in the community to the older adults and their caregivers we serve, enabling them to remain in their homes with their families for as long as possible by providing daytime care, companionship and supervision.

Diane Wright
CADES Program
Concord UMC

...We feel very fortunate to have received this grant and to be able to provide a much needed service to our community.

Beth Scruggs
Hiwassee College

...Thank you for the grant for the "Keenagers on the Road" project. Twenty-five of our Keenagers, ages 65-80, went to Gatlinburg. They were so appreciative.

Erna Tipps
Luminary UMC



**HARRY & MARGARET
GRIZZELL LOVING**

MARGARET GRIZZELL LOVING of Bristol, Tennessee, died in 1995, but her legacy will positively impact youth and senior adults across the Holston Conference forever. We are honored to steward her Fund and implement her vision to assist young people and seniors.

Our Foundation is ready and eager to help you explore and steward your vision for a better world and a stronger church as well. This year our Grants Committee reviewed applications totaling \$178,000 and were able to award grants totaling \$48,850. Call on us anytime!

2006 GRANTS AWARDED

Aldersgate UMC	\$ 250	Bring in speakers monthly on Finance, Legal Issues, Assisted Living, Insurance, etc.
Church Street UMC - Kay Care Ctr.	\$1,000	Alzheimer's program for elderly at the adult day care center.
Central UMC	\$1,000	Provide fellowship, education and activities to the elderly once a month.
Concord UMC - CADES Program	\$7,000	Provide daytime care, companionship, assistance and structured activities to the elderly.
Dublin UMC	\$4,000	Provide a "Resting Place" for adults 1-2 days a month with a hot meal and activities.
Emory, Smyth Chapel, Meadowview & Yellow Springs UMC	\$3,000	Cluster Parish Nurse Program.
Hiwassee College	\$5,000	Training workshops which will lead to a certificate program in Personal Care Giving through a partnership between Hiwassee College, area United Methodist Churches and the Senior Citizens Center of Monroe County.
Holston Conference	\$6,000	Conference Older Adult Ministries provided to each of the twelve districts.
Holston Conference Foundation	\$2,500	<i>Personal Information Record</i> booklets.
Luminary UMC	\$3,000	Health Fair for mature adults who don't have access to tests or screenings.
Loudon UMC	\$3,000	Parish Nursing Program - (challenge grant).
State Street UMC	\$ 600	Senior Trip to view religious art.
South Bristol UMC	\$1,500	"Let Them Hear" hearing system for elderly to have more involvement in services.
South Bristol UMC	\$1,500	"The Gospel for the Shut-Ins" - purchase equipment to provide sermons for shut-ins.
Trentville UMC	\$2,000	Soup ministry for the elderly in assisted living facilities and the shut-ins.
Trinity UMC—Greeneville	\$3,500	Listen & Read Program - provide large print books & sound recordings in the church library.
Wesley House Community Center	\$5,000	W.I.S.E. Program - Nutrition, medical, mental health needs and wellness for seniors.

From the Director's Chair



BISHOP JAMES E. Swanson, Sr. recently provided a devotion to Conference staff based on JOHN 4:7-14 and then asked us the question: "What will you do to quench your thirst and the thirst of others." Soon thereafter, I saw the pictures that Tom, Anita, and Fred took in Sudan. The picture of the mud hole really hit me hard and I knew immediately there was an opportunity for the Foundation to "quench the thirst of others".



From left to right: Cliff Amos, Director of Gift Planning and Roger Redding, Executive Director

Conference Foundation is now the 12th largest of all conference foundations in terms of assets managed (this is up from 16th last year). This report also shows that in terms of expenses, we are quite efficient with expenses of \$1.63 per conference member against the national average expense of \$3.61 per conference member. Across the board the report shows that our Foundation operates more efficiently and is expanding more rapidly than our peers. God has blessed us to be a blessing.

The Foundation has in hand most of the \$7,500 needed to dig a well in Yei as soon as possible and hopes to raise additional funds to provide a second well by year end. Being able to immediately help is possible only because our Foundation has been blessed by others.

Speaking of blessings, our board was delighted to receive a report from the National Association of United Methodist Church Foundations (NAUMF), which shows that the Holston

The Foundation is also spreading its wings. We are very pleased that Cliff Amos and Bill Kilday joined our Foundation team on July 1. Cliff will serve as our Director of Gift Planning and Bill will be working part-time serving the Conference and Foundation as Director of Stewardship and Church Relations. You will be hearing more about this in the weeks and months to come!

— Roger Redding
Executive Director

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE UPDATE



At the end of May, THE BALANCED GROWTH FUND (BGF) held \$40,159,178 and continues to be the investment vehicle of choice for most endowments and designated accounts placed with the Foundation. The BGF is up 2.44% YTD through the end of May, exceeding the expected benchmark return of 1.68%. The trailing 12-month return is 8.56%, above the benchmark of 5.44%. The average annual return since May 31, 1990 is 7.94%. Updates will be posted on our website www.holston.org/foundation as soon as they are available for the June quarter.

With continued rising short-term interest rates, bond funds continue to suffer in their total return. THE INTERMEDIATE INCOME FUND actually lost .04% YTD through the end of May. The current yield to maturity on this fund is 4.8%. The average annual total return since inception on 12/31/2000 is 4.67%.

In the short-term arena, THE SHORT-TERM INCOME FUND had a 1.4% YTD total return through May and a trailing 12-month total return of 2.98%. The current yield to maturity of this fund is 3.7%. Rising short-term interest rates have added a very positive outlook to our MONEY MARKET FUND, which has a current yield of 4.71%.



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...

MATTHEW 25:35

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HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOUNDATION, INC.

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