

Commentary: Make no mistake, evil is always on the move

By Stephen Doyal
Pastor, Norwood UMC

A friend sent me a wonderfully uncouth computer "game" this past week. It has the likeness of Osama Bin Laden traipsing across my computer screen in various activities, such as pushing a shopping cart full of weapons. At the click of a mouse, I can dispatch Osama with a cruise missile, a cannon ball, or (my favorite) dropping an anvil on his head.

As I gleefully took out my frustrations on this animated terrorist, reali-

ty set back in. Whenever I blew up the little guy or squished him, two would pop up into his place. No matter how fast I clicked, I could not eliminate them all. Soon my screen was littered with the relentless images.

One of the most chilling stories in the Bible is Jesus' confrontation with the Gerasene demoniac. Jesus asks the unclean spirit, "What is your name?" The reply is, "My name is Legion, for we are many."

Evil is cunning. Evil loves fear and chaos. Evil wears many faces and loves to catch us off guard. One of Evil's favorite devices is to get us to unwittingly "defect" by becoming filled with hatred, vengeance, prejudice and pride rather than with the fruits of the Holy Spirit such as love, joy,

peace and kindness. Then we become like a dog gnawing on its own tail, and Evil can slink back into its hole, chuckling.

When we engage The Enemy, it is not fun, nor is it a game. The stakes are high. As any soldier will tell you, know your enemy, his tactics and tendencies. Only then can you begin to anticipate the next move. Our faith tells us the ultimate victory is already ours through Jesus, but one of Evil's most distinguishing characteristics is relentlessness. Make no mistake, Evil is always on the move, and this is an ongoing battle. *We are many*, the demon says.

We often hear the word "resolve" spoken these days. I hope this resolution lasts longer than those we made in January. We cannot afford half-heartedness in the face of evil. Prepare to go the distance whenever and wherever evil crops up. For the deceiver is always waiting for an opportune time.

Reprinted with permission, "Normeth Weekly." Norwood UMC is located in the Knoxville District.

Financing available to churches

NEW YORK (UMNS) — The United Methodist Development Fund (UMDF) is making available \$30 million for loans to United Methodist churches and church-related institutions seeking financing to construct new buildings or improve existing ones.

The 40-year-old fund is a ministry of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

During the past six months, UMDF has received large infusions of money for investments from individuals and church agencies, including the General Council on Finance and Administration, according to Bishop Jonathan Keaton, fund president. This enabled the fund's board of directors to end a six-month moratorium on loans.

The investments, which pay interest every six months, form the pool of money used to finance loans for renovation, construction and property purchase. The interest rate for new loans is 8.5 percent for a 15-year term.

During the past two years, UMDF has financed more than \$81 million in loans, the highest number in its history. The

unprecedented number of loans granted is an indication of its "vigorous health and ongoing commitment to assisting churches and institutions" that need space to grow, said the Rev. Sam Dixon, staff executive for the fund.

Dixon explained that community-based mission institutions, which provide vital services like day care and after-school programs, sometimes are not attractive applicants to conventional lenders because of the nature of their ministry and financial undergirding. They, along with churches housed in older structures or buildings with inadequate space, are ideal candidates for construction financing through UMDF, he said.

For loan information or applications, contact the Board of Global Ministries' Office of Loan Administration at (212) 870-3865.

The fund's Web site, <http://gbgm?umc.org/units/evgrowth/umdf.html>, also contains information, interest rates and stories from churches that have improved their facilities with the help of UMDF loans.

Crosson is director of public relations for the Board of Global Ministries.

Services *Continued from front page.*

up," which means churches can print the file on their printers, then copy the pages (front and back) on standard letter-size paper. These pages may be cut in half to produce two copies from each sheet of paper.

Each Tuesday beginning Oct. 24, a new edition of *The Sunday Call* will be available online at www.holston.org. There is no cost to any Holston Conference church, Slimp said.

Beginning Monday, Nov. 5, Holston members will also have access to a new web version of the newspaper, *The Call Online*. The development of the online newspaper is part of the conference's strategy to publish the print version independently, provid-

ing expanded coverage of local news.

Future issues of this print version of *The Call* will no longer carry *The United Methodist Review*. However, readers will still receive national news in this publication via the United Methodist News Service and Religion News Service. (To subscribe to *The United Methodist Review*, visit www.umd.org or call 1-800-947-0207 x186.)

Holston members can look forward to visiting www.holston.org every other Monday beginning Nov. 5 for *The Call Online*. For more information about these new services, contact Holston Webmaster Donna Hankins at donnahankins@holston.org or (865) 690-4080.

FLOOD UPDATE

News from Holston sites damaged by flooding in July and August 2001:

From Kenny Fields, Disaster Response Coordinator, Tazewell District:

Oct. 8, 2001 — "We currently have eight homes in Bishop, Va., that we are working in at this time. Five of those are progressing very well; they are about 50 to 75 percent complete. We hope to have the families moved back into these homes by Thanksgiving if we get enough help. There is great need to move the families in because of health concerns, problems with temporary housing, etc."

"In terms of help, we could use skilled and unskilled workers. Unskilled people can help with painting, picking up debris and cleaning. We need skilled workers for basic carpentry repairs: flooring, plumbing, electrical, drywall, roofing, etc."

Contact Fields at (540) 979-1443.

From Martee Buchanan, Wesley Foundation Director, Radford University:

Sept. 25, 2001 — "Even though the events of 9/11 were in our hearts and prayers, the students were not in a position to pitch in and do anything to help the victims. Reaching out to someone else seemed to be a good way to satisfy the need to be of service. So instead of sitting home watching the newscasts, 15 of our students went to help flood victims in Bishop, Va."

"The older lady in the picture is Lucille. She is the first of the flood victims to be moved back into her home. To culminate the work of many others, the college students assembled some of her furniture, washed windows, vacuumed, and basically put the finishing touches on her home. This was a real privilege for all of us."

Coming soon: Volunteers come to the aid of flood-ravaged Ebenezer UMC in the Johnson City District.



"Lucille"

In Memoriam

Sammie Lynn Puett

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Sammie Lynn Puett, 65, was struck by a car and killed on Oct. 11, 2001, in Arlington, Texas, while attending a national meeting of her sorority, Delta Delta Delta. She was a current member of The Legacy of Commitment Steering Committee and chairperson of the Knoxville District pensions campaign. She was immediate past president of the Holston Conference Foundation and former president of Asbury Centers. Puett was a member of Fountain City UMC, Knoxville.

She is survived by her husband, Eugene Puett. Funeral services were held Oct. 15 at Fountain City UMC with the Rev. P.L. Rowlett officiating. Graveside services were conducted Oct. 16 at Greenwood Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Fountain City UMC Programs, including the Edith Scandlyn Special Music Fund, or to the charitable organization of your choice.

Exchange

CHURCH HILL, Tenn. — Church Hill First UMC seeks a **part-time nursery worker** and **part-time youth director**. For job descriptions, call (423) 357-5564 or send resume to: P.O. Box 307, Church Hill, TN 37642.

JONESBOROUGH, Tenn. — Jonesborough UMC seeks an **organist**. Send resume with references to: Dr. Sharon Nelson Rush, P.O. Box 115, Jonesborough, TN 37659.

What's Your Size?

The Call uses the following symbols to identify articles about small, medium or large churches:

- Churches with average 85 or fewer in principle weekly worship service(s)
- Average 86 to 225 in worship service(s)
- Average 226 or more in worship service(s)

New Igniting Ministry resource

United Methodist Communications recently introduced Toolkit 1-2-3, an annual subscription service from Igniting Ministry. Toolkit 1-2-3 keeps congregations up to date with three annual issues of the latest Igniting Ministry resources, practical ideas and advertising materials.

A 12-month subscription includes three issues a year. Timed to arrive before Igniting Ministry's three national TV advertising "flights" (Lent, back-to-school, Advent), each issue of Toolkit 1-2-3 includes an easy, three-step plan to welcoming, inviting and discipling newcomers.

Churches that have already purchased an Igniting Ministry planning kit receive an introductory discount when subscribing to Toolkit 1-2-3 (\$64.95 for three issues a year, instead of the regular price of \$74.95). For more information or to subscribe call (877) 281-6535 or visit www.ignitingministry.org.



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