



Priority Needs International

Bulgaria

1. Veliko Turnovo - Rev. Bedros Altunian, Superintendent of the UMC in Bulgaria has requested teams to continue the work started at Veliko Turnovo in 2005 by teams from Wichita, KS. The church needs a roof and other repair. Additional opportunities exist with other local Methodist churches, as well as with the local orphanage.

Chile

1. The Mapuche Indians of Chile need a medical team to conduct a clinic in the underdeveloped area of Temuco Province. It would be best for a team leader to go visit for a few days to line everything up before a team goes. The conditions will be ruggedly challenging but well worth the effort.

For more information or contact information for these two opportunities call Rev. Nick Elliot at UMVIM, SEJ at 404-377-7424.

Costa Rica

1. Nueva Canaan Methodist Church - Puntarenas: a new church sanctuary is being built and teams are needed now. Bishop Palomo of the Iglesia Evangelica Metodista de Costa Rica affirms this as a priority need and teams are needed now.

The needs as listed by the Bishop:

The projects that we are considering needs our particular attention in this moment are the following:

1. Remodeling of the Church.
2. Construction of the Sunday Classrooms.
3. Reinforcement of the walls.
4. Construction of a multi service building.
5. Remodeling of the parsonage.
6. Aid to buy a vehicle.

France

1. The secularization of French society has resulted in a profound need for Christian volunteers. The active Christian community in France is small and the presence of UMVIM volunteers is a powerful affirmation to French Christians that they are not alone.

Entrepierres - <http://www.pierresvivantes.org/>

Entrepierres is a center in southeastern France that provides rest, counseling, debriefing and spiritual retreats for pastors and missionaries.

Small, four person skilled teams are sought to assist in increasing the accommodation space for missionary families for rest and counseling. Also needed is creation of space for a small library, a prayer/counseling room and storage space.

Guatemala

1. The Highland Support Project has openings on teams to villages, Xiabaj and Xolja, impacted by Hurricane Stan and the subsequent mud slides. Click to read about dates and additional information about these teams.

Hurricane Stan caused massive flooding and mudslides. Damage was severe and whole villages were destroyed. Teams are requested for long term recovery by Guatemala VIM. More info at http://www.guatemalavim.org/storm_relief.htm

For help in scheduling teams, contact sejinfo@umvim.org

Please give generously to UMCOR Advance #501300, Central America Emergency, to help this region recover.

Grenada

1. Rev. Cato of Grenada has asked us to share that disaster recovery teams continue to be needed on the island of Grenada after the devastation of Hurricane Ivan.

Rebuilding and/or major repairing of churches, Manses, church schools, and church halls needed following over 90% major damage or destruction of island properties due to Hurricane Ivan. Most members of the seven local churches experienced damage to their homes and churches and schools owned by the Methodist church incurred major damage or complete devastation.

Haiti

1. Heavy rains during the storm Hanna flooded the community repeatedly washing tons of rock and mud down the mountain into the community. Homes were damaged, several people died and since this community is accessible only by sea they have had no assistance to repair or recover. The people are exhausted and heavy rains continue to make life difficult. Oct. 10th very high winds blew the top from their only cistern and now they have no water except from Picmy by boat. We visited the locality a week ago and no government officials have accessed damage or needs and the director said they have offered no assistance. The project would best be addressed by persons trained in disaster response and recovery rather than traditional VIM teams. GBGM Volunteers will coordinate all team efforts, procure materials for the teams and arrange transportation, food and lodging (which will be primitive but safe.) Work will consist of moving rock and debris, rebuilding some simple homes and mudding out some buildings. Engineering assessment and suggestions regarding diversion of the water coming from the mountain are needed. The community is using rock to build a retaining wall that needs to be enlarged. For more information about this project, contact sjelagonave@yahoo.com.

Kenya

1. The Nairobi Synod of Kenya Methodist Church is in need of a work team to help finish the Kikuyu Church. The construction is finished but they need the doors and windows installed. The project would require a small team to work for 5 or 6 days and the cost of material would be about \$5,000 USD.

Mexico

1. Filipinas, Veracruz

URGENT NEED to repair hurricane damage to church. Parsonage construction, multi-purpose room needs roof. (50 members).

2. Guanajuato - Colegio "Juarez"

Founded in 1886, shortly after the first Methodist church in the city, assistance is needed both with renovation and reconstruction, as well as funding for property taxes to return the facility to the Methodist Church of Mexico. The school has not been used as a Christian school for some time, and the church would like to restore title and renovate the school for outreach.

3. Hurricane Emily caused severe damage on the northern coast of México. VIM Coordinator, Willie Berman, has requested help in the relief and recovery effort. The work consists of building homes for those whose homes were destroyed. These will be of cement and block construction with a tin roof. Materials can be on site before team arrival and a local maestro will oversee the work.

They are working at a fishing village 2 hours South from the border with McAllen, TX. Teams are building cinder block houses of 16'x20' for \$1700. Needed are teams of at least 8 people and 3 or 4 working days.

Medical teams are also welcome. Bible schools, work with children and sewing classes also requested. Housing for teams is available, varying from dorms to bedrolls on church floors.

For more information, contact:

VIM Coordinator – Mexico – Willie Berman wberman@prodigy.net.mx 956-648-8712

UMVIM Coordinator – SW Texas – Susan Hellums shellums@mcfirst.com 956-648-8509

Pakistan

1. The massive earthquake centered in Pakistan toppled innumerable buildings and took tens of thousands of lives. UMCOR is working through partner agencies, International Blue Crescent (IBC) and Action by Churches Together member agency Church World Service (CWS) in Pakistan to respond to this disaster. These agencies are also preparing long-term response plans to assist families long after the initial emergency has passed.

There is tremendous need in the earthquake-affected areas. Your gifts to UMCOR Advance #232000, Pakistan Earthquake, will help the healing continue.

St. Thomas/Virgin Islands

1. Are there any UMVIM antique specialists who have always looked for a project to suit their skills? Read on...

New and urgent request from the President of the Leeward Islands District Conference, MCCA, Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool.
Christ Church Methodist Rehabilitation

Help is sought for interior and exterior renovations and upgrades to a historic Gothic inspired sanctuary, built in 1910. The sanctuary is listed on the Virgin Islands Registry of Historic Buildings, and can become eligible for listing on the US Department of the Interior National Register of Historic Places if the proper guidelines are followed in the restoration process.

Teams are sought for refinishing work on (1) the interior roof system (an ornate wood truss system), along with the lectern, pulpit, altar and wainscoting and (2) remove paint and resurface interior masonry walls.

The Ysis (pronounced Isis) Architectural Group, a Virgin Islands firm, has agreed to donate its services for project management in order to see this restoration completed.