

## **North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church Mission Team Report - 2010**

We, the United Methodist of the North Carolina Conference, have truly lived out our vision of making disciples for the transformation of the world and being disciples who transform the world. Moving in God's Spirit, both within the bounds of the Conference and beyond, you have served the needs of God's people in an incredible array of outreach and love.

Although it is an impossible task to fully capture this holistic story of outreach, risk-taking ministry, and radical hospitality, we can name a portion of our collective journey.

Perhaps the movement of our connected body that most captured the collective energy of disciples in action responding to those whom Jesus calls "the least of these" was your response to the devastation of the Haiti earthquake. Even as we grieved the loss of our beloved brother and friend, Rev. Dr. Sam Dixon, a previous Director of Missions for the NC Conference, we moved to respond to the suffering of brothers and sisters in Haiti. The Mission Team quickly formulated a plan for Conference response and the Cabinet immediately set it in action. Congregations across the Conference began collecting medical supplies, food, and hygiene kits. Through the leadership of Horne Memorial UMC and the Raleigh District Mission Team, a massive effort was launched to get desperately needed medical supplies and equipment into Haiti. Working in partnership with international relief ministries such as Stop Hunger Now and Compassionate Alliance, congregations in the North Carolina Conference moved hundreds of tons of relief to Haiti, through an almost destroyed Haitian infrastructure. And responding to the long-term rebuilding effort, mission teams began their work alongside Haitian brothers and sisters, truly living out our mandate to be in ministry with the poor. The NC Conference will continue this work in connection with UMCOR, responding to the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of our neighbors as we carry on the work of our brother Sam and express the love of our risen Savior.

Through our Mission Seed Fund ministry, local congregations birthed over 40 new ministries across the Conference engaged in such diverse activities as afterschool ministries for high-risk children, beginning a Sunday evening worshipping community in space rented from a bar, reaching out to community Hispanic/Latino children through music, food ministries, community prayer-walk ministries, prison after-care ministries, and so many more. Congregations are being revitalized and neighbors are being invited into life with Jesus.

This is the story of Outreach of the United Methodist people of the NC Conference. This is making and being disciples in Jesus Christ and transforming the world into the place God intends it to be, "... on earth as it is in heaven."