



# Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

C.W.U. Newsletter February, 2010 No. 7

## March Celebration WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Sunday, March 7, 2010

*Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God*

Prepared by the World Day of Prayer  
Committee of Cameroon and  
WDP USA Committee

3:00 p.m. Worship Service  
Refreshments to follow

First Baptist Church  
518 North Franklin Ave. Madison 53705  
(one block south of University Avenue)  
Nursery Provided for Infants & Preschoolers

CWU will celebrate World Day of Prayer on Sunday, March 7th, at 3:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Madison, 518 North Franklin Avenue--one block south of University Avenue.

This ecumenical celebration will be a family event. Men, women and children will be coming together to pray, to learn, to sing and to celebrate. First Baptist will provide nursery care for infants and preschoolers.

We will be joining with Christians from 170 countries in celebrating this annual Day of Prayer. The women of Cameroon prepared this year's service with the joyous theme: Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God.

We have invited members of the Cameroonian community in Madison to join us and look forward to their participation. We hope all of our churches will send many representatives to this significant ecumenical event.

---Beverly Davison, Celebrations

## February Forum

Dale Heights Presbyterian Church welcomed CWU with tables decorated in red to honor the GO RED FOR WOMEN campaign of the American Heart Association. After a time of fellowship, the Rev. Bayley greeted us on behalf of Dale Height's pastor. His description of the many groups that share use of their building, from the Korean church to the school programs to the boy scouts, showed a church actively involved with the Madison community.

Beverly Davison invited us to spread the word that World Day of Prayer will have a family orientation and encouraged everyone to invite families, children, men, to attend on Sunday, March 7, 3 p.m., at First Baptist Church, 518 N. Franklin Avenue, Madison 53705. She has invited Madison's Cameroon community to join us in a joyful service, with refreshments after the worship service. Of the 45 people who attended Friday, a number of them were men, so we are well on the way to getting a diverse group in March.

The Rev. Dr. Carmen Porco spoke to us on Ambassadors for Christ: Utilizing Education to Reduce Poverty. He is CEO of American Baptist Housing in Wisconsin, two of whose six housing projects are in Madison. The education component of this ministry has made an enormous difference in the lives of the people who live there. Dr. Porco built large community learning centers that provide everything from day care, head-start, and K-12 programs to adult education, job training. Results in helping high school students illustrate the success of these centers; before they had the centers, the young people had a 41% drop-out rate and a 37% referral rate.

Last year, no drop-outs, and all high school graduates went on to higher education, except for one who joined the military.

The revolutionary part of the learning centers was that the people who lived there helped design the programs and even helped plan the architecture of the buildings. They are also the employees of the projects, including the centers. The system transformation was to allow the people themselves to assume responsibility for their own destiny. Guided by Jesus' revolutionary concept in Matthew 25, that "when you have done it to the least of these, you have done it unto me" turns traditional assistance on its head. To see the poor as the ambassadors for Christ changes the way you do programs, ultimately leading to their success.

Carmen thanked a lady who once lived at Northport for pointing him in the right direction: to allow people in the community to develop their own leadership, to put resource centers on the property where people live, and to hire the residents for resulting jobs.

One of his biggest concerns is that we pull the religious community together to work together to influence the body politic in ways in which they deal with the poor. Emphasis on affordable housing doesn't reach the problem. The extremely low-income people in his apartments don't qualify for "affordable housing." Much of what Madison does with troubled areas is to simply move poor people somewhere else. The church used to be a voice of influence, but now interests are more splintered. He urged us to look beyond handing out crumbs to the poor.

We are at an interesting crossroads. There are more people hungry for spirituality. How do we turn this into rivers of action? How do we encourage left and right to exercise good ethics and find common goodness? How do we pull religious groups together to focus on economic justice?

He complimented CWU for what it (and we) strive for and work toward. He gave us much to think about: to be open to the ministry that the poor provide to us.

## **Ecumenical Action**

Susan Becker announced that the Human Trafficking program at Sequoia Library attracted 50 people. Other libraries are interested, and we should all check with our branch libraries to interest them in

having a like program. Susan has materials available that deal with trafficking--how to recognize signs of trafficking, what to do, where to go for information, to rescue and restore.

Susan has a DVD, *The Fields of Mudan*, that looks at the impact of the sex industry on children and young girls. First Baptist Church gave it as a gift for the use of all CWU members who wish to borrow it to use in their programs.

She also provided materials for Go Red For Women Day from the American Heart Association that stress good life style, good nutrition, exercise.

The Washington Office of CWU urges action on child health care and supporting the bill forgiving the international debt of Haiti.  
From Shirley Robbins

## **New Cord Builder for Bashford United Methodist Church**

(replacing Jayne Sprecher)

Crystal Batterley-Qualmann, 118 North St. (04),  
244-0313

If any readers notice other changes needed, or corrections or additions to any part of the Directory, please notify Shirley Robbins of the Enabling Services committee.

## **Announcements**

### **Holy Heart Banquet**

Shirley Alexander invited all to attend St. Paul AME church's Holy Heart Banquet on Saturday, February 13, with refreshments at 6 p.m., dinner and entertainment at 7. Tickets are \$25, and she encourages reservations. Church number: 242-9728 Shirley's number, 271-1754

### **New Form for Fair Share & Donor Contributions**

You'll notice the new Fair Share and Donor form at the back of this newsletter. We welcome contributions from both churches and individuals. One of the benefits of contributing is receiving our newsletter, which comes out 10 times a year to inform you of CWU events and opportunities for Christian service. Thank you for your support.

## E-Mail to Ann Sowaske Re Haiti

Dear Ann,

Today, the US government listened to your call for justice for Haiti and took action. Congratulations on all your hard work.

This morning, the US Treasury announced its support for Haiti's debt cancellation and grants, not loans. "Today, we are voicing our support for what Haiti needs and deserves - comprehensive multilateral debt relief," said Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner. We couldn't agree more.

In the days following the devastating earthquake on January 12th, Jubilee USA Network helped lead efforts by US civil society to achieve debt cancellation of the \$709 million Haiti owes to the international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund and the Inter-American Development Bank. Your calls to the White House, letters to the editor, and now thousands of petitions have shown our leaders that Haiti's debt cancellation is critical.

Last week, over 80 US faith, labor, and human rights organizations sent a letter urging Secretary Geithner to negotiate Haiti's debt cancellation. This message was echoed in another letter sent yesterday by 94 Members of the House of Representatives - Members you called and emailed. Legislative momentum also continues to build in both bodies of Congress.

This weekend we are sending your petitions to the Arctic Circle in Canada, where the G7 finance ministers are meeting to discuss Haiti relief, among other things. The Treasury committed to using its leadership here to make sure that the ministers support debt cancellation for Haiti.

As the country begins to rebuild, debt cancellation without harmful conditions and an assurance that Haiti won't get back into debt are critical and important steps in the right direction.

In the coming days, we'll be watching closely to see how the Treasury and the G7 will fulfill this commitment. To stay updated, make sure you check out [www.jubileeusa.org/haiti](http://www.jubileeusa.org/haiti) and follow our blog "Blog the Debt" at [jubileeusa.typepad.org](http://jubileeusa.typepad.org).

Thank you again,  
Melinda St. Louis, Deputy Director, Jubilee USA

## Church Women United Update

*"Resolved: that Church Women United resolve to educate about the Convention on the Rights of the Child and advocate its ratification by the Senate of the United States."*

CWU Resolution 2008

HAITI AND THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD HAITI:

The CRC in Action!

The impact of the CRC in other countries over the last 20 years has been substantial. The recent headlines that hit the newsstands about the alleged kidnapping case in Haiti by 10 Americans, provides even stronger evidence of the significance of the CRC, especially in times of disaster. Such examples illustrate the power the CRC has to protect children. It is not just a written document of ideals, but an immediate tool that serves to safeguard the rights of all children. Since its adoption into law, internationally and by Haiti, the protective articles in the CRC and the articles that highlight the importance of the family have led the international community to not only change and strengthen laws within countries, but they have provided important developments of internationally agreed upon standards and guidelines for the protection of children who are in disasters and conflict, especially those who have become separated and unaccompanied.

Twenty years ago there were little if no standards at all. In times of disasters children were often intentionally and unintentionally removed from their communities due to child trafficking, and unfortunately, out of acts of charity with the hopes of providing the child with a better life. With the universal acceptance of the CRC, responding to the vulnerability of children during a disaster is no longer seen as an act of charity, but rather as a legal responsibility to uphold and protect their rights.

Today, the CRC has strengthened legislation in many countries.

- It protects first and foremost a child's right to grow and thrive within their own culture, traditions, and community. (Articles 5, 8, 20)
- It secures the child's right to live and be cared for by his/her own parents (Articles 3, 5, 9, 18) and to grow up in a family environment when the parents are absent. (Article 20)

- It emphasizes that only as a last resort and if it is in the best interest of the child should a child be placed in alternative care arrangements as institutions/orphanages. (Article 20)
- It explicitly states that no child should be considered for inter-country adoption unless all avenues have been exhausted (Article 21(b))
- And, that the appropriate State authorities have deemed it acceptable and in the best Interest of the child that an intercountry adoption takes place. (Article 21(a))
- Furthermore, to assist States who are struggling because of a disaster, the CRC calls on the international community to provide the necessary resources to help trace parents, or other members of the family in order to obtain information necessary for reunification. (Article 22)

These important articles within the CRC helped Haiti pass specific legislation that would protect children in times of crisis especially where children become more vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation.

Haitian laws requiring legal documentation to cross borders with children helped protect the children that these 10 Americans attempted to remove from Haiti. (Article 11) The training by the police and border guards to know and be on alert to issues of trafficking of children was also crucial in the implementation of the CRC within Haiti.

Furthermore, not only did Haitian authorities on the ground call for the protection of children, but international relief agencies, issued numerous statements about the protection of separated and unaccompanied children. Save the Children, the lead agency on the ground coordinating child protection, issued a statement on January 21st indicating that the removal of children is not in the best interest of children during times of disaster.

<http://www.savethechildren.org/newsroom/2010/haiti-adoption-statement.html>

The US State Department, also following the guidelines and principles set forth by the international working groups on Separated/ Un accompanied children, issued a statement on their website about inter-country adoption in times of disaster:

[http://adoption.state.gov/news/children\\_affected\\_by\\_natural\\_disasters\\_conflict.html](http://adoption.state.gov/news/children_affected_by_natural_disasters_conflict.html)

Many other agencies have also followed suit universally demonstrating the significance of the rights set forth in the CRC to protect separated/ unaccompanied children in times of disaster.

This recent event highlights yet another example of the importance and efficacy of the CRC.

While this case comes before the courts, and as Haiti seeks the United States assistance in prosecuting these 10 individuals, the U.S.'s ratification of the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, will certainly be a vehicle for the U.S. to demonstrate the value of the CRC. This practical use of the Optional Protocol could prove to be a great asset to Haiti and a commendable choice by the United States that could further strengthen the support for ratification of the CRC.

Patricia Burkhardt  
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## **Ecumenical Choir**

It is time to get started again. Bethany United Methodist Church at 3910 Mineral Point Road has agreed to let us use their 3rd floor choir room for our practices again without charge. I am ever so grateful. Our practice and sing dates are as follows:  
Practices: February 12, February 26, March 12, March 26, April 9, and April 23, 2010.

We will practice from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 P.M. on each of these dates.

We will sing on: Sunday March 7, 2010 at 3:00 P.M. for World Day of Prayer at the First Baptist Church; May 7, 2010 at 11:00 A.M. for May Friendship Day. I look forward to seeing you and any friends you might invite to join our choir on these dates.

--- Jenny Armstrong