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A Conversation with Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble

(Dr. Arthur McClanahan, Director of Communications, spoke with Bishop Trimble just prior to his arrival in Iowa, on September 1, 2008.)

Bishop Trimble, welcome to Iowa.

Thank you.

How does it feel to be, a month and a half after the announcement, of being elected one of the newest Bishops of the United Methodist Church?

On the one hand it is a bit overwhelming but my wife and I have just been excited about moving to Iowa and meeting the folks from Iowa and being engaged in the great ministry that's been taking place over the last 8 years which Bishop Palmer's provided leadership for.

You're coming out of a local church setting most recently, but you've been in Annual Conference leadership and General Conference leadership over the years. Tell us a little bit about that.

I consider myself a pastor at heart and will continue to be that as a General Superintendent of the Church as a Bishop in the Church. I have had great experiences with General Boards and Agencies, most recently the General Board of Church and Society for 8 years as a Board member, and a local church pastor in both the Northern Illinois conference and for the last 20 years, the East Ohio Conference. Seven years as a District Superintendent in a diverse District in what is now called the North Coast District. So I've had an opportunity to be a pastor to pastors. I've had an opportunity to work closely with Lay persons and I've also had an opportunity to travel to Africa on behalf of the United Methodist Church and to see the exciting growth that's taking place in that part of the world.

As September 2008 rolls around, you'll move from Ohio to Des Moines and you'll begin this new ministry of general superintendency. As you look ahead to the immediate future, what are some of the hopes and dreams that you have for your ministry as the Bishop of the Iowa Conference?

I've already been reminded that I don't walk this journey alone. Even before my arrival in Iowa, I have been affirmed by folks from Iowa who said "Bishop Trimble we are not only prepared not only to assist you but to be in prayer for you and your family during this period of transition." I'm excited about the opportunities to engage with church growth opportunities. I'm excited about the opportunity to continue to be an encourager to those persons as we recover from the damage of the floods. There's much work that still needs to be done relative to that challenge before the

Annual Conference. I'm excited about the opportunity to work with District Superintendents, Field Outreach Ministers and the kind of talented, committed staff and volunteers by the 100's who are engaged in ministry in the Iowa Annual Conference. I'm looking forward although it's quite a few months away – to my first Annual Conference experience.

Tell us a little bit about your family, if you would.

I love talking about family. I often have to be interrupted at some point. I'm married. My wife and I met in college. Racelder Grandberry Trimble. Some people call her Ray. We've been married 29 years, so it will be 30 years next May. We have 3 young adult children. Our oldest, Cameron, is 26 and he just moved to Washington, D.C. Our daughter, Candiace is 23 - she is a Registered Nurse and works in a psychiatric hospital in Hampton Virginia and our youngest child is Julius Thomas, he's a junior at Howard University. He's a business major and is an officer in the school of business at Howard University. Right now at home it's just my wife and myself. Over the holidays we typically get together with family, both Thanksgiving and Christmas time and are all reunited at that point.

What question haven't we asked that you would have liked to been asked?

I think a question that I have not been asked that I would like to have been asked would probably be what do I like to do for fun? And I think you will resonate with this – I'm a long time Cubs fan, so moving to Des Moines and moving to Iowa allows me to reconnect – at least in a closer way, with my passion for baseball. I like sports – it doesn't have to be professional sports - High School sports, College sports – I'm more of a fan than anything else. I wasn't much of a big athlete. I was the sixth man on my church basketball team, so that's my claim to fame, but I have a son who played baseball up until he finished High School, so I'm a big sports fan and I enjoy theater, and movies and my wife and I are looking forward to exploring those opportunities as we move to Iowa.

Bishop Trimble, it's a privilege to begin to know you, it's a privilege to say we will be in ministry together and we pray God's blessings in these last days of transition and in the first days of your ministry with us as the Bishop of the Iowa Annual Conference.

Thank you very much. I have a mission statement that I bring with me to Iowa and that is to encourage all people with the love of Jesus Christ to rise to their highest potential and you'll hear that and the lay and clergy of the Iowa Annual Conference will hear Bishop Trimble say that on more than one occasion. That I come as one who has benefited from encouragement and one who comes to encourage in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Amen.

Iowa Training Addresses Spiritual and Emotional Care for Flood Survivors

by Susan J. Meister (UMCOR)

While the energies of many United Methodists in the Midwest are focusing on cleaning up water-soaked homes, others recognize that recovery from the devastating flooding in the summer of 2008 will mean more than mucking out and rebuilding. Survivors of disasters will also face unique emotional and spiritual challenges that unfold in the months of the recovery.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief and the Iowa Annual Conference are helping clergy and lay leadership begin to address the spiritual and emotional needs of their communities with a basic training, Calming After the Storm, held in three locations in the eastern part of the state on August 6, 7, and 8. Nearly 70 leaders listened to the practical suggestions presented by UMCOR consultant Mary Gaudreau.

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**The Iowa Conference Edition
of the United Methodist Reporter**

September 26, 2008
Volume 155|Number 21

The Iowa Conference edition is a ministry of the Communications Ministry Team of the Iowa Annual Conference.

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**The mission of the Iowa Annual
Conference is: Making Disciples of
Jesus Christ, Developing Leaders and
Transforming the World.**

**The mission of the Communications
Ministry Team is to provide and facilitate
an engaging, effective and empowering
communications ministry by informing,
engaging and empowering.**

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Next Issues: Sept 26, Oct 10, 31

Opinions are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect official United Methodist positions. News, opinions and editorials in Section Be (the United Methodist Reporter) are those of UMR Communications in Dallas, TX.

The Iowa Conference Edition is published every other week.

The United Methodist Reporter (USPS 954-500) is published weekly by UMR Communications, 1221 Profit Drive, Dallas, Texas 75247-3919. Periodicals postage paid at Dallas, Texas and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to The United Methodist Reporter. PO Box 660275, Dallas, Texas 75266-0275.

Off To Africa

On August 17, Carolyn Carter, a 26 year old science teacher from Wilton, took one more step toward her goal of becoming a mission volunteer in Nigeria. She went under the auspices of the General Board of Global Ministries Individual Volunteer program and will be working with the Iowa Nigeria Partnership. She wrote, "I will be a missionary in Africa teaching science!!! I am so excited about the possibilities that exist for the future of this adventure. My Christian faith and teaching science are two things that I am most passionate about in my life and I'm super excited to get to combine them in a year of volunteered service."

Carolyn participated in a North Central Jurisdiction Mission Discovery trip to Liberia in 2002 and to Puerto Rico in 2004 as well as work trips with her local church. She will work with the science teachers at the Junior Secondary School (JSS) in Jalingo, Nigeria where the state-of-the-art science building is located. This construction was overseen by retired science teacher Ronald Wilmot of Akron three years ago.

Carolyn will live at the UMC Guesthouse with Bishop Arthur Kulah and his family. Each morning she will be picked up and transported, along with other JSS teachers, to Mile Six which is the location of JSS. Plans are for her to stay in Jalingo for a year.

On August 13 she wrote, "I have been contemplating about what is important enough to include in the 3 large bags and 2 carry-ons that I am able to bring with me for a year." She will be accompanied to Nigeria by Beverly Nolte and Jim Richardson, who are going to assess unmet work needs left by the death of Ronald Wilmot in June.

Follow Carolyn with your prayers as she says good-bye to her Iowa family and friends and says hello to new friends in Nigeria. Her blog is: [Nigerian adventure- carolyn.blogspot.com](http://Nigerianadventure-carolyn.blogspot.com)

Amanda Huntrods' Story

Amanda pictured with Misty

by Raeann Thomas (Booneville United Methodist Church) Church

A bright red door greets anyone who visits the Booneville United Methodist Church. Beyond the door a visitor is greeted by friendly faces, adults and youth, and quite possibly a dog – or at the very least a photo of a dog on the bulletin board. Why, one might ask, would dogs

permeate the environment of our beloved church? There's a simple explanation. Our youth are incredible young people. What touches their lives touches the lives of all of us who belong to our wonderful church family. Amanda Huntrods' story demonstrates the love, support, and faith that uphold our congregation.

Amanda is a 17 year old young lady who will soon begin her senior year in high school. She participates in sports, music, drama, the state 4-H council, and her local youth program at our church. Amanda is one busy young lady! Amanda has worked very hard to achieve success in all areas of her life. The one that stands out in the mind of many is her devotion to Misty, her German Shepherd. Amanda and Misty began their teamwork 7 and a half years ago as they began their training in the 4-H Dog Project. Through the years this team spent countless hours working together in both obedience and agility activities. The lessons learned in her faith development, Amanda easily applied to all facets of her life. The love, patience, guidance, and compassion she has learned in faith are evident to anyone who has had the privilege of watching her train Misty to be a top competitor. As the years passed, Amanda and Misty grew up. They grew up in terms of their faith, in their skills, and in the hearts of our church family. The love and trust between the two was a testament to a life well lived. The awards and honors for Misty's performance continued to accrue.

The most accomplished accolade was not the one presented at a show – for it was the love you could see between the young woman and her dog. It was infectious in our church. Amanda and Misty were an integral part of the routine and rhythm of our church family.

Life's road is often filled with twists and turns that test our faith, our strength, and our courage. On July 4th of this year, with absolutely no warning, Misty was diagnosed with a form of aggressive cancer. There was no chance to save her. Amanda's faith and the love of our church family provided the foundation for her to rebuild her world. A mere 9 days later the Madison County Fair's Dog Show was scheduled. Misty's presence would certainly be missed – not only in the heart of her owner and their family but of the other competitors, the members of our church, and those whose lives had been touched. Ribbons were sported throughout the show arena by competitors, parents, and even dogs in competition. The ribbons were a tribute to Misty. The Dog Show program read "Misty recently lost her battle with a very aggressive form of cancer. She competed with all her heart and loved to show off her talents. Misty will long be remembered not only by Amanda Huntrods' and the Huntrods' family but everyone who knew her. Thank you Misty for all your unconditional love to 4-H and every heart you touched."

Members of our church were in the audience when Amanda stepped back into that show ring. The love and support for her was evident everywhere you looked. Amanda and Misty were an awesome team. As faith teaches us – we must carry on. On July 13th, Amanda brought Diesel, her other dog, back into the show ring. She showed a tremendous courage that could only be developed with love, support, and a faith that upholds all. Through it all, our family at the Booneville United Methodist Church have stood beside Amanda. They shared with her the joy, sorrow, and faith to go on. It is an incredible church, with incredible people, and an incredible faith.



Leadership Institute at Church of the Resurrection Set for October 2-3, 2008

Leadership Institute is a gathering of more than 1600 United Methodist clergy and lay leaders who come together to learn from one another and from the staff and leadership of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection. Here are some of the highlights of this year's Leadership Institute. To Learn more and register go to www.cor.org/institute08

Ten Great Ideas...Ten Leadership Principles-During the General Sessions Pastor Adam will unpack ten of Resurrection's newest ideas of the last twelve months. If you are looking for new ideas that will increase giving, increase the number of people involved in missions, move your members to a more active devotional life, sermon series that will increase attendance and more, you will not want to miss this year's Institute.

Keynote Speaker Jim Wallis, Chief Executive Officer at Sojourners and a bestselling author, public theologian, speaker, preacher, and international commentator on religion and public life, faith and politics.

Contemporary Worship Institute featuring Church of the Resurrection's Contemporary Worship Team, a concert on Tuesday evening and keynote and breakout sessions on Wednesday with artist and composer Paul Baloche, and a session with the Midnight Oil creative team on Thursday.

Post-Institute sessions - Jim Wallis will lead a public forum Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon, Reverend Adam Hamilton will lead an in-depth preaching workshop or you can serve in the community and experience FaithWork live!



Tales From Africa

ISSAC

While at the Eye Centre at Zing, Jo Hunerdosse and Mary Rinaldi of Cedar Rapids worked with Jacob, a small statured young man with a quiet manner. His English was pretty good and he was alert and eager to learn new things whether it was a chance to practice his English or learn more about sterile and surgical techniques. He had attended school to be a surgical scrub technician.

He was the surgical assistant for Dr. Avar, the only Nigerian eye surgeon for 500 kilometers. Jacob had opportunity to learn and to work in clean, steady, safe and predictable working conditions. He receives a regular salary paid by the United Methodist Church of Nigeria and the Christian Blind Mission.

As we visited with Jacob, we learned he was married and had an infant son. We were curious about the baby and the birth so we asked questions but he seemed to not know much information about the subject. Babies are not usually named at birth, partly because the infant death rate is so high and partly because the tradition is to wait up to a year before naming babies. The mother and baby live with her parents from before the birth until the baby is "two moons" old. Then they will come to join the father in his family's compound.

On Sunday afternoon Isaac appeared at our door and invited us to go meet his son. We walked nearly a mile to a village where we were introduced to his son. His wife did not speak English or at least said nothing to us. We held this precious baby and took pictures which brought huge smiles to everyone who had gathered to watch the two "batures (foreigners)". Being a gentleman, Isaac walked us back to the hospital compound. We were thrilled to be honored by Isaac and to be taken to his village to meet his baby!

EYE CAMP

This "Eye camp" was designed by Dr. Gideon Avar to provide 50 free cataract surgeries at the Eye Centre in Zing. This Centre is sponsored by the UMC in Nigeria with Dr. Avar, the only eye surgeon for approximately 500 kilometers. The camp was to start on June 18 and end on June 25. People came to the clinic, along with many family members, and waited their turn to be seen. Waiting could mean hours or days and in some cases people waited, left and returned several days later. All patients were first screened by Mary Rinaldi or Jo Hunerdosse (of Cedar Rapids) with the help of an interpreter. Some people simply wanted eye drops for eye irritation ("something is biting my eyes"), some wanted reading glasses, and many had cataracts. Dr. Avar made the decision for who would be scheduled for surgery. The eye was marked and a number placed on the face. People waited their turn whether it was the next day or in three days. About 500 people were seen in the clinic and 107 surgeries were performed, 74 of which were cataracts.

The next largest category was glaucoma surgery, a sight preserving procedure. The number of patients seen and work done required that everyone work 12 hours days starting at 6:30 AM. Dr. Avar and his staff were exhausted by the end as were we all. He was extremely pleased with the experience and was busy thinking on how to improve the process for next year! For us it was a thrill to assist with this successful surgical program to bring "Sight to the Blind."

PASTOR FOLLOWS IN FAMILY MISSIONARY FOOTSTEPS

For Rev. Laurice Streyffeler, retired pastor serving the Akron UMC, the trip to Nigeria was to understand the work being done by his parishioner, Ron Wilmot, and to walk in the footsteps of his second cousin, Rev. Arthur Faust. When asked to preach at Bambur First UMC, Laurice learned that his cousin, Arthur Faust, had at one time served that church as a missionary back in the 1920s. It was here that Rev. Faust planted the seed of the Gospel. The morning Laurice preached there were 400 persons in attendance with 8 choirs singing during the three hour service. "How remarkable!" says Rev. Streyffeler.

Thirty-eight gallons of paint and four days later, Laurice Streyffeler, assisted by Emmanuel Samuel and Sunday Danladi (teachers at the Junior Secondary School-JSS) had painted a three room classroom building and the multi-purpose building in time for JSS's graduation on July 12.

MEDICAL FUN(D) RAISING

I was fortunate to travel again to rural Nigeria to help do medical mission work. Once you travel to Africa and meet the people of Nigeria, you not only gain a better understanding of the world outside of Iowa but you gain friendships and memories that will last forever.

So many exciting things happened this past trip but one particular thing that makes me jump for joy was the money that we were able to make for the UMC Rural Health Program. Each day, one or two of the Iowa mission team members would accompany the 5 rural health workers to a different remote village to see and treat patients. The villagers received word that we, the Americans, were coming with American medicines to see and treat them. During our trip we saw anywhere from 50 to 110 patients each day. The patients were charged 50 Naira (35 cents) to see us and 100 Naira (80 cents) for a 2 week supply of medication. At the end of our stay, Lazarus, the RHP director said that we made enough money to provide a months salary for the whole entire health program staff of about 40 people. It was predicted that the health program would take in enough money from the American medications that we had left to provide a few more months salary for the staff. Before we had arrived, the workers had not been paid in over 6 months due to high operating costs. The six medical people from Iowa improved the lives of many people in a short amount of time.

God was able to use us not only as an instrument of medical knowledge and a source of improving the lives of Nigerians but as instruments of compassion, hope and love.

- Jimmy Lierow

A SIGHT TO BEHOLD

I saw quite a sight – because of having no well in her village, a woman had walked about a mile to a water source—a stream. Here she was down squatting in the stream bed with a big pan on her head and taking a little scoop and scooping up water and putting it in the pan on her head. No way could I have done it.

- Linda Rowe

TREKKING TO THE CLINIC

To get to Kassa Clinic, a dispensary in the bush, one takes the cow path of a road that crosses the Kassa River where our vehicle/truck got stuck. Unloading our medical supplies, we slung on our backpacks, carried the supplies in our arms and walked through the waist high water to the other side where a man on a motorcycle offered me a ride to the clinic. Here we saw patients for four hours and one of the health workers gave me a motorcycle ride back to the river. Now the river was just above my knees. The truck wouldn't start so I was offered a motorcycle ride back to Zing which I accepted. Along the way we saw a woman lying on the ground so we asked if there had been an accident. I noticed the husband's watery eyes and he was holding a lifeless infant in his arms. How sad! Upon arrival back at our "home" and with people hearing about all the travel problems of the day they were afraid I would be upset. Not! It was truly an adventure. I loved it but it was a good look at the struggles of living in a Nigerian village!

- Anne Hartman

MY "BUCKET LIST"

Each morning as we walked to work at the Bishop Rueben Job Library at Bambur, we were joined by children who held our hands and sang to us. This building sits atop a small hill overlooking the African savanna. At the market we purchased plastic chairs so we could sit on the porch and enjoy this beautiful panoramic view. This whole trip and experience is part of my "list".

- Kelly Fischbach



"taxis" waiting to get people around



From the Bishop

Julius Calvin Trimble



Before making decisions, I have embraced the practice of beginning with prayer, followed by thought and then action. The decision to offer myself as a candidate for Bishop began with a family meeting. My wife Racelder and three young adult children gathered at Panera Bread for a time of prayer and thoughtful conversation around a myriad of decisions facing our family.

I have offered to our three children, and countless others, what I believe to be a profoundly practical and simple spiritual discipline of prayer followed by thinking, then action. Many Christians are guilty of acting hastily without thinking through the decisions we make. If we are honest about our shortcomings, we must admit that many of our actions, attitudes and decisions are shaped without pausing for a time of prayer.

Jesus is our great example for the spiritual discipline of prayer. In Matthew the sixth chapter beginning in verse five, Jesus teaches about prayer with an expectation believers will pray. Three times before he shares the "Lord's Prayer", Jesus says "When you pray".

The expectation of prayer as our only expression of faith is never implied. However, whatever we do apart from prayer will bear meager results. You will hear your new bishop say on frequent occasions, "Little prayer, little power; much prayer, much power; no prayer, no power".

When asked in July what might I do first on my arrival in Iowa, my answer was "pray". Getting to know people, supporting flood damage recovery, strengthening our churches as we make disciples of Jesus is all exciting and at the same time daunting. Now living in Iowa, I arise each morning giving God praise for another day of living. I then spend time in prayer remembering the words of Jesus, "When you pray, Bishop".

I am unapologetically Christian and unashamedly United Methodist. As I begin my journey with the good people of the Iowa Annual Conference, I begin seeking to live out my mission statement as a servant leader among you.

"To encourage all people with the love of Jesus to rise to their highest potential".

Be encouraged,

Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble



Justice For Our Neighbors Welcomes New Attorney

Trina Scott-Zour is the new attorney for the Justice For Our Neighbors program.

The last two months have brought change and challenge to Iowa Justice For Our Neighbors. Both Alison Brown, the Nebraska Justice For Our Neighbors attorney who was providing services to our Sioux City JFON Site, and Rose Mraz, our full-time Iowa JFON attorney resigned in July to pursue other career goals. The Iowa JFON Board considered the high number of open immigration cases the attorneys had been carrying at our four Iowa JFON Sites and decided to expand our staff to two full-time attorneys. One attorney will serve Central and Western Iowa with a JFON Office in Des Moines. The other will serve Eastern Iowa from the current JFON Office in Cedar Rapids.

One attorney has been hired. After we posted the job description, Trina Scott-Zour sent her resume, and when we talked to her, she told us that Justice For Our Neighbors sounded like the reason she had gone to law school four years ago - to serve low-income immigrants in their immigration process. Ms. Scott-Zour is highly qualified, and we are happy to say

that she will be coming to Iowa the last week of August. Her office will be in Des Moines, and she will be serving the Des Moines JFON Site and another JFON Site in Northwest Iowa. The Northwest Iowa Site is now located in Sioux City, but conversations are being held for a possible move to Storm Lake.

An interview is scheduled with a promising candidate for the second attorney position. This attorney will be located in the current JFON Office in Cedar Rapids, and also will serve the Columbus Junction JFON Site.

Monthly JFON legal clinics will be resumed in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids in August. At these August clinics, Ms Scott-Zour and our National JFON attorney, Panraevee Vong-jaroenrat will offer advice and counsel to the clients. People will have the opportunity to discuss their cases with the attorneys. However, because it will take some time to become acquainted with current open cases, Ms Scott-Zour will not be taking new clients this month. Advice and Counsel Clinics will be held in Columbus Junction and either Sioux City or Storm Lake in September. The two new attorneys will begin taking new clients as soon as possible while maintaining legal accountability to our clients with current open cases.

According to JFON contact Doris Knight, "It will be very good to be back in business."

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Emotional and Spiritual Care Needed for the Long Term

"It's been amazing to see people move forward (from this disaster)," said Mary Fraser, director of the Office of Pastoral Care and Counseling, who brought Gaudreau to Iowa to lead the three workshops. "This kind of trauma always brings people to the core of their faith and we've seen a real grandeur of faith!"

But Fraser appreciates that dealing with the losses and devastation will take a long time. The Calming workshop is the first of several events she hopes to hold over 1000 days to "help along the way."

"One of the key things to remember is that there is a pattern of emotional response after an event," explained Gaudreau. "There's a quick dip of shock, a short-lived resurgence of confidence, then a long descent toward depression when it becomes evident recovery isn't going to come quickly."

"Everyone moves along the path at a different rate," she continued. "Just seeing the chart and helping people see where they are can be

tremendously helpful to survivors."

"We are seeing that this crisis has caused many to revisit the flood of 1993," Fraser added. "We know we're in this for the long haul."

Clergy Appreciate Value of Workshop Information

Beth Straw is pastor of St. James UMC, a church in Cedar Rapids that experienced extensive damage due to flooding. Many families from St. James and the surrounding community were deeply affected. After the waters receded, the church was an early site for distribution of bottled water, flood buckets, cookies and meals.

"I believe that most of the neighborhood knew that St. James had been flooded and so we were able to practice 'incarnational' theology of truly being with people in their time of need," Straw said. "I am interested in Spiritual and Emotional Care training so that I can connect families with these much-needed resources. I hope we can be a 'go-to' place for counseling resources, much as we were for material resources in the early days."

Brian K. Milford, District Superintendent, was appreciative of insights from the training. "This

event was a timely and appropriate reminder of disaster response theories, tools and teachings that will help in our on-going recovery, including proactive approaches for self-care," he said.

UMCOR Offers Wide Range of Resources

Upon invitation from annual conferences, and in cooperation with conference leadership, UMCOR stands ready to offer expert assistance and training, supplies, and grants to help in the emergency and rebuilding phases after a disaster. In response to the summer 2008 flooding, an emergency grant has been given to the Iowa Conference, flood buckets have been distributed throughout the affected areas, and representatives from both UMCOR and UMMVIM (United Methodist Volunteers in Mission) are working cooperatively to set up short-term clean-up crews and long-term recovery operations with local churches and their communities.

Gaudreau is one of nine highly trained and experienced staff and consultants who are working with the disasters in the Midwest and around the country. Gaudreau is an ordained deacon in the Oklahoma Conference and a

licensed professional counselor. She chairs the NVOAD (National Volunteer Organizations) Emotional and Spiritual Care Committee and works with Church World Service and other denominational groups to write standards for proper care for survivors. She is a frequent speaker on these topics at national disaster response meetings.

