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### Above, Through, In: Our Deep Connection

## Global Ministries News Archives

### Making a Difference in 2011: Redesigning the Global Ministries Website

by **Ibrahim Dabo**

A memorable experience crossed my path while on the train home from work December 10, 2010. I was seated opposite a little boy (probably around four years old), his younger brother, mother, and father. I gazed at the boy in admiration at how he clutched a candy cane in his mouth, enjoying its succulence. Suddenly, his world fell apart when the candy cane fell on the floor, and his father persuaded him not to pick up and continue sucking it. He screamed bitterly and burst into tears.

I remembered I had a sealed candy stocking, which I got earlier in the day from the General Board of Global Ministries Christmas party. By chance, the stocking held three candy canes and some chocolate-flavored candy, all of which I handed to the boy, putting a smile on his face.

"Oh! Look at what he gave to you," the boy's father told him before turning toward me with a look of astonishment and gratitude, saying, "That was so very nice of you. Thank you very much."

I was deeply touched by the reaction of the boy and his family, and this experience reminded me that the small things we sometimes do make a monumental difference in the lives of others. We may not always realize the impact of our generosity on others, but my experience with the little boy and his family attests that the legacy of giving and serving should continue.

It also made me reflect on the famous John Wesley quote on kindness: "Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can."

The story means a lot to the Webteam as we embark on a remarkable journey going into 2011. I will lead my team to developing a new **Global Ministries** and **UMCOR** (United Methodist Committee on Relief) website. The website will later expand to cover different languages, as we strengthen ties with all the constituents of this global mission agency. Global Ministries has personnel, projects, and mission partners in 136 countries. UMCOR provides relief, rehabilitation, and health services in 80 countries. Partner arrangements make possible this broad scope.

We will bring aboard some of the best technologies that drive a global (and multilingual) website today. There will be a high level of interactivity and a wealth of available resources for constituents. Global Ministries missionaries will be able to better showcase their good work and itineration; Youth and Young Adults (US-2s, Mission Interns, Global Justice Volunteers, Summer Interns) and Volunteers in Mission will better connect with one another to share and build relationships.

This milestone will enable Global Ministries to reach out to many more people around the world through the website, bringing hope and inspiration to those who desperately need it. It will also provide better avenues for those wanting to donate to projects and missionaries through **The Advance**, or to share testimonies of how their lives have been transformed through the work of Global Ministries.

Among many other projects on our radar, the Webteam will play a pivotal role in the agency's vision for "Ministry with the Poor," one of the four areas of focus of The United Methodist Church. In 2011, we will launch an interagency website focusing on this area.

Thomas Kemper, chief executive of Global Ministries, said in an interview that a major role of the mission agency is to "enable and facilitate mission wherever it is already happening." Through the use of technology and our website, we will play a significant role in achieving this goal.

"In this day and age we are called to tell the story of Jesus' love and embrace all the technologies that are available to us to lift up his name all around the world. The World Wide Web enables us to tell that story not only to The United Methodist Church, but to the secular world as well," said Larry Hygh, Jr., director of communications.

Please show the Webteam how the website can better serve you by filling out the surveys below, available in Portuguese, Spanish, Korean, and English.

- **Português**
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*Ibrahim Dabo is the Webteam leader of Global Ministries in New York City.*

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Ibrahim Dabo, Web Team Leader  
Image by: courtesy Ibrahim Dabo  
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