



Universidad Bíblica Latinoamericana

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22 April 2010

NEWSLETTER

Development Office

Editorial

Correction: In our March issue I incorrectly stated that one of our founders, Susan Strachan, was an "Irish Anglican Missionary", in fact she was an "Irish Methodist Missionary".

The UBL has been publishing, on a semi-annual basis, *FACES*, which is a more personal glimpse into the lives of those featured. It is for this reason that this month our Newsletter focuses on an experience of Violeta Rocha, President of UBL. Look for *FACES* either in your mailbox or via email in May. I will be back with our June 2010 issue.

Que Dios les Bendiga,
Becky Harrell, Missionary (UMC 15141Z)
General Board of Global Ministries
The United Methodist Church



Haiti...

Island of Hope

by Violeta Rocha, President of the UBL (as translated by Ruth Mooney)

The relationship of the Latin American Biblical University (UBL) in Haiti through the Oscar Arnulfo Romero Bible School and the Haitian Ecumenical Bible Network has been one of the most fruitful relationships of our satellite school (the ISEBIT) in the Dominican Republic. The enthusiastic commitment of Father Aníbal Zilli, a Claretian priest, and Marta Boiocchi, a Claretian lay person, has made possible the biblical formation of Haitian men and women, principally Catholics, but also some Protestants.

My teaching experience October 2009, after an intensive week of Bible instructions in the Dominican Republic, (continued...)

Haiti: Island of Hope ...Continued



was enriched with a week in Puerto Príncipe, where I offered the course *New Testament I* to 7 students registered for our Biblical Sciences program.

The experience was refreshing, as I watched how Martha, Anibal, and Neuza (a Brazilian nun), taught a Bible course for a group of some 70 people gathered in an open-air classroom under the leaves of the *parra* that generously offered a shelter from the Caribbean sun. The huge sheets of newsprint, markers, chalk and board, cords hung with creatively designed Bible texts prepared by Marta Boiocchi all served as powerful teaching tools, together with songs, Bible readings in Creole, creative movement and abundant enthusiasm.

With my group of 7 students (6 men and one young woman) we moved from one space to another, as the electricity went on and off, seeking cool air. In the middle of one classroom lesson the lights went out, yet we continued discussing the Gospels in the dark, until the generator was turned on and we could again see one another's eyes. As night fell, we moved to the patio, to the fresh air, for small group work

Haiti: Island of Hope...Continued

. The course was given in Spanish and French, with the discussions in Creole. Academic flexibility, to open space for an authentic encounter with one another, speaking slowly and clearly, listening carefully to the questions and the proposals for a re-reading of the Bible!

The Bible continues to be a starting point and at the same time a place of arrival for women and men who with their own lives are interpreters, questioners, enlighteners and creators of pedagogical processes from which we teachers continue to learn. To study the Bible in Haiti is not a surrealist picture, because the poverty and marginalization, as well as the courage and gracefulness of these people is not surrealistic; it is reality. The biblical work will continue to be a space for human encounter with ourselves, with others and of course with God and our realities.

Intemperies 99

A Pierre Tournier 1

Más allá de las viñas naufragadas
más allá de las casas reventadas
y de los sueños esfumados,
más allá de los ojos que todo lo perdieron,
más allá de las vidas que la lluvia humilló,
en la herida más viva del espíritu
la cicatriz va haciendo su obra de ternura:
los inocentes pájaros aprenden a cantar
de nuevo en el silencio de las gentes.

Lézignan-Corbières, noviembre 1999 1
http://www.elcultural.es/version_papel/LETRAS/26504/Versos_de_Rene_Depestre_y_otros_poetas_haitianos

Individual Volunteers-in- Mission



June-July 2010

Madeline Hart-Anderson,
Presbyterian Church,
Library

July 2010

UMC Pastor Mark Terwillger
and family

Sabbatical Housing Available



Seeking a one-month or longer sabbatical? The UBL apartments are fully furnished and rent for \$300 dollars per month. Limited space is available at certain times of the academic year. Apartments are located within walking distance of the university. Those interested in Spanish lessons during their sabbatical will find Mesoamerica nearby as well. For more information, contact Becky Harrell at becky.dap@gmail.com

*Interested in the formation
of Pastors and Laity in
Latin America?*

*Your Gift to this Mission
can be made...*

**Through your local
Presbyterian Church**



And note: E344202

Or donate online at

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or



**United Methodist Church
be sure to note:**



Advance #10247B

Scholarships

Or

**Advance #09139A General
Programs**

donate online at http://secure.gbmg-umc.org/donations/advance/donate_select_project.cfm

Work/Study Teams



May 8-15 2010

Primetimers of The UMC
(U.S.)

June 26-July 3 2010

Louisiana Conference UMC
VIM Team

July 10-17 2010

Louisiana Conference UMC
VIM Team

July 30 – Aug 8 2010

FUMC Lewisville, Texas
VIM Team

September 9-15 2010

University of Hannover-
Germany
Study Group

2011

Feb 11-19 2011

Rose City Park UMC- Oregon
VIM Team

March 19-26 2011

Marshall University
Study Group

March 2011

Waltman Work Team Oregon

June 2011

Jarrett Workteam-Illinois

2011 (Month undecided)

Louisiana Conference UMC
&
Williston UMC-South
Carolina

**Opportunities available at
UBL**

Contact us at

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