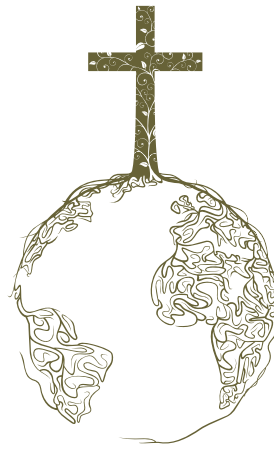


Connecting the World
Through Mission
Partnerships





The purpose of BRIDGES is to organize United Methodist Churches and agencies in the North Georgia Conference to work together to make a difference around the world. BRIDGES is an international ministry sharing the love of Jesus Christ in partnership with other conferences and their local churches. BRIDGES will seek personal and community transformation by developing the ministries of the local church, implementing sustainable projects and avoiding dysfunctional and dependent relationships.

Local congregations can pursue international mission opportunities through the United Methodist Church. BRIDGES is a new conference initiative that utilizes our connection of churches. Whether you are part of a large membership church or small membership church, you can help make a difference for the body of Christ.



The image of a bridge accents the gift of our connection. This model for international mission is rooted in our United Methodist connectional system that works together to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and to bring healing and wholeness to a broken world. Each year, our conference will roll out a new BRIDGE.





Uganda is our first BRIDGE, and we have made a 5 to 7 year commitment to the United Methodist Churches and schools in Uganda.

In February of 2010, Bishop Mike Watson led a group of clergy and laity to Uganda to explore a partnership with our Ugandan brothers and sisters in Christ. They returned from that trip inspired by their work and convicted of our need to support these great people. We want to provide hope as we seek to link North Georgia and the Ugandan faith communities.

There are three focus areas for this BRIDGE to Uganda: Education, Construction projects, and Economic sustainability. We believe these focus areas will help build sustainability for the United Methodist Church in Uganda.

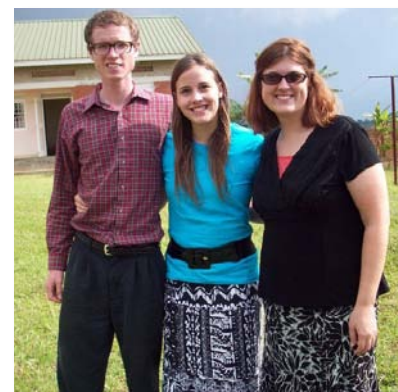
In the Spring of 2011, our churches fundraised more than \$35,000 for a security wall at the Humble Place United Methodist School in Mukono, Uganda. Bob Kisubi, the Director of Communications of the East Africa Annual Conference, reports that without a security wall these children are endangered. He says,

In the recent past a number of child abuse cases have been reported in the community including abductions, sex abuse and outright killings. The community in the neighborhood has a practice of walking, and sometimes riding, through the school premises unrestricted, which in any compromise the security of these children and property of the school.



The school management considered the situation and found it appropriate to construct a perimeter wall and erect some wire fencing as a means of restricting unauthorized access to the school premises and promote security of both property and the people, especially the resident children.

We are thankful that this new perimeter wall provides the children with a safer environment.



The Uganda BRIDGE Summer Internship Program offers participants the opportunity to live, learn and serve alongside Ugandan church and community leaders. Different tracks have been crafted to offer interns tailored experiences. During the Summer of 2011, three interns spent 10 weeks living and serving in Mukono, Uganda. Our Church Ministry intern conducted Bible studies for women's and student groups, and even preached her very first sermons for Ugandan and Congolese congregations. Our Christian Education intern taught early elementary classes and coached volleyball at HUMBLE United Methodist School, gaining perspective on educational administration in a transitioning country. Our Agriculture and Theology intern helped HUMBLE School to launch new farming techniques and initiatives that will improve its ability to feed its students and better utilize its land resources. All three visited with local churches across the country, accompanied Bishop Wandabula on a pilgrimage to Rwanda, and gained a life-altering perspective on our global church family.

The Boy Scout Troop 370 out of St. James United Methodist Church in Atlanta has developed a five year partnership with the Boy Scouts Troop at Humble United Methodist School. The two scouting troops met in Uganda in January 2011 for camping, service and travelling. In the summer of 2011, scouts from Humble School visited the St. James Troop in Atlanta for camping and other scouting activities.



Bishop Daniel Wandabula of East Africa informed the Uganda BRIDGE team that their number one need is a missionary to East Africa. God provided. Jennifer Hansen, member of St. Mark United Methodist Church in Atlanta, has accepted the call to serve for a three-year term in the area of leadership education.



The churches of the North Georgia Conference packaged over 285,000 meals in 2011 through the international food relief program, Stop Hunger Now. The meals will be shipped to Humble United Methodist School. This project provides balanced and nutritional meals to the students who so often go without food.

Contact: Rev. Will Zant - will.zant@ngumc.net for more information about the Uganda BRIDGE





El Salvador is our second BRIDGE, and we are working directly with their local churches and are expanding new ones over the next 7 years.

In April of 2011, Bishop Mike Watson and a North Georgia delegation traveled to El Salvador. Inspired by their many energetic young adults and enthusiasm for missions, we felt inspired to partner with their heroic outreach to help them build new churches.

The Methodist Medical Clinic is a health program that the Methodist Church of El Salvador has been developing since 2006. Over the last 5 years, more than 100,000 people have received medical attention at a minimal cost and have been provided with necessary medicines totally free of charge. This program continues to function with the support that is received by its headquarters in the city of Ahuachapan, where the highest cost of medical care is \$3. If the patient cannot pay immediately, then he or she receives the medical attention completely free. With this income, the costs of running the clinic are covered, and the Clinic can also afford to provide free medical attention in various impoverished communities in Ahuachapan. Among the principal necessities for the clinic is the purchase of medicine in the country, because not all the medicines received are donated. Donations of medicine and economic resources, as well as volunteer work in the



clinics always welcome.

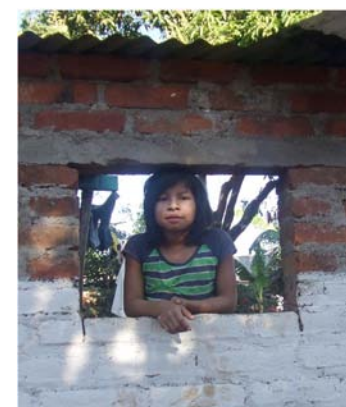


One of the biggest challenges is that the El Salvador churches are located in marginal zones where many impoverished people live. This represents a great opportunity to do ministry with those most in need. However, it is also a true challenge for churches because they are not able



to generate sufficient economic resources to pay the salaries of the pastors in these local churches. They are currently paying some of them, but not all. The minimum salary in El Salvador is \$229/month. This is a very low income for a family in El Salvador, where the cost of living for a family between 4-5 members is approximately \$400/month. However, this income represents an opportunity for the pastors to be able to care for their families, at the very least with food.

As the church develops and expands, the need arises to open new ministries and missions in different towns and cities in El Salvador. Currently they are renting locations to houses development projects within these communities. This is a very difficult task, because of the time needed to generate the financial resources prior to work beginning. At this point, it takes at least 2 to 3 years to raise the need funds to rent a location for the activities of the church. The most convenient thing would be to start with a plot of land on which they could construct a church. However, the property in El Salvador is very costly and it would be nearly impossible for our churches to have the ability to buy land where a church could be established. Once the congregation



has a property, we can say that we have a Methodist church in that location and our brothers and sisters, little by little, can construct the church building. Potential properties range in cost from between \$10,000 - \$80,000.

Contact: Rev. Stephen Soulen at: stephen.soulen@ngumc.net for more information about the El Salvador BRIDGE





The Bahamas is our third BRIDGE. Our Youth members from North Georgia have been working with the Bahamas Methodist Habitat for several years. We want to continue to expand this BRIDGE to new people, new churches and more church mission groups. All ages are welcome.

Bahamas Methodist Habitat (BMH) is an outreach ministry for the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church that offers disaster relief and emergency home repair assistance for low-income families after a catastrophe. Through our volunteer network, the goal is to improve the living conditions for families in need while sharing and receiving the love of Christ. This outreach program hopes to motivate and inspire volunteers and locals alike in ways to get involved in their communities.



Bahamas Habitat acts as a network of support for donations, fund raising, volunteer recruitment, project management and promotion of their mission work for the BMH.

The organization is currently working on the development of numerous ongoing and new projects including volunteers for disaster relief, the deployment of volunteer dental teams in the Bahamas, the acquisition of aircraft for BMH for use in the mission field, semiannual Fly-In & Help Out events along with promotions, fundraising and other support activities.



Bahamas Habitat is making an impact for the missions in this country. There are over 700 islands in the country and virtually all of the out islands have needs the mission wishes to try and address. This Aircraft outreach program is essential for moving between islands quickly and easily whereas by boat or airliner it is difficult, costly and time consuming.



With aviation as a cornerstone of Bahamas Habitat's focus, there is the potential of making a very unique and profound impact upon this mission work there. Their vision is to build a sustainable aviation wing with aircraft that will serve the transportation needs for the mission. It will provide hurricane relief, support missionary pilot training in collaboration with aviation universities and flying missionary non-profit groups, with an overall goal of helping to solve the challenges involved in the unique logistics of moving volunteers and supplies between the islands and from the U.S.

The Habitat's newly proposed Dental Program has gained strong support from the Bahamian government, to provide volunteer dental teams, equipment and supplies to the Country's most rural areas.



Volunteers provide screenings, exams, dental education and services in the field, at schools and at government clinics throughout the country. Dentist, dental hygienists, pilots and related volunteers are deployed for 4 different one week-long missions. The Flying Dentists volunteer organization helps facilitate the transportation of team members and supplies. This mission continues to grow and gain support by improving the health of the people touched by those serving God.

Contact: Rev. Sam Halverson at: sam.halverson@ngumc.net for more information about the Bahamas BRIDGE



Ways to Get Involved With A BRIDGE

Each of these BRIDGE missions needs your help and support. If you'd like to get involved, here are several different ways to participate.



For safety for interns, sponsorships for the students and Humble School and for the East Africa Annual Conference as they reach new people for Christ.

Each Spring, our conference sponsors an open mission trip to Uganda. On these twelve day trips, volunteers will help with constructing projects and programs with the children throughout churches in Uganda. Cost is approximately \$2,500. You may contact Rev. Will Zant (will.zant@ngumc.net) for more information.

\$25 - The children at Humble United Methodist School in Mukono, Uganda need two new dormitories. Currently, many of the girls and boys are sleeping in classroom space. New dormitories will provide a better sleeping arrangement and open up room for new students. For \$25, you can sponsor a brick for the construction of these dormitories. Total cost for these dormitories is estimated at \$110,000.

\$100 - Children at Humble United Methodist church need your help. For \$100, you can help sponsor a vulnerable child to attend school for one month of the school year. Your giving will provide food, medical expenses, transportation, books and lodging for the children.

\$250 - Each summer, we plan to send interns from North Georgia United Methodist churches to Uganda to help their local churches and serve at Humble School. Your giving will help defray the cost of airfare, food and lodging. The total cost to send an intern is \$4,000.



For the pastors who work so hard for the Kingdom with very few resources and for the medical teams working to provide medical assistance to their neighbors.

Individuals and groups are always welcome to go to El Salvador on North Georgia Conference trips or can organize their own with the assistance of the BRIDGES program. Approximate cost is \$1,200. You may contact Rev. Stephen Soulen (stephen.soulen@ngumc.net) for more information.

- Provide health care for a family for a month: \$25.
- Sponsor a computer or printer for the internet café: \$100.
- Support the salary of a pastor for a month: \$200.
- Support the purchase of church property: \$500.



For the staff and volunteers of Bahamas Methodist Habitat and the work they are doing year round to improve the lives of their neighbors.

Youth between 16 and 18 (having finished 10th - 12th grade this June) are invited to participate in a North Georgia Conference Summer Mission Trip to Eleuthera, the Bahamas from June 2nd - 9th 2012.

Participants will stay at the Bahamas Methodist Habitat, a disaster relief and emergency home repair outreach ministry of the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church through which volunteers work together to repair and build homes for low-income families in the Bahamas. Come enjoy your island neighbors and discover how God can use you in some remarkable and amazing ways in another culture and country.

Cost for the trip is \$1,000, which includes airfare, transportation, food and lodging once we arrive at the camp, site leaders, and supplies for the work you will do. A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required upon registration. You may register at: www.ngumc.org/youthmission.

One adult must also attend for every five youth a church sends. We encourage groups of all ages to support this BRIDGE.

If you or your church would like to plan your own mission trip to the Bahamas, please contact Rev. Sam Halverson for more information.

To help a youth in our conference go during the summer. Donations of any size are welcome.

Your gifts to missions like these help us spread the word and love of God to those in need. If you're unsure of where your donation would be best served, you can simply make a contribution of any amount to our general mission fund and we'll make sure it is placed where it's needed most.

Checks can be made out to _____ Be sure to note on your checks
Memo line which BRIDGE your donation should be directed towards.

Mail to: North Georgia Conference
Attention: Bruce Cooper
4511 Jones Bridge Circle
Norcross, Georgia 30092

Thank you for your generosity.





North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church
4511 Jones Bridge Circle • Norcross, GA 30092
678-533-1399 • www.ngumc.org