Discipleship Resources, International

Making basic United Methodist resources available, affordable, and appropriate (language and context) to the churches in the central conferences.

A Quarterly Newsletter Issue No. 3 - August 2012

Growing Number of Resources Available

The DRI network of United Methodist publishing teams is growing. It is growing in number of teams, but it is also growing in quantity of resources available for every team to access for use, adaptation, or translation in your country.

When the publishing team in the Philippines, Discipleship Resources: Philippines, began developing a Christian formation curriculum for use in United Methodist schools across the country, they asked to see what Liberia had done. Because one year earlier, the Liberian publishing team’s first priority was to reprint Bible Class books for Grades 1 - 9 that had been destroyed and lost during years of Civil War.

The Liberian team published thousands of Bible Class books for 125 schools across the country.

And their progress inspired the Philippine team to build their own Bible material. United Methodist publishing teams around the world can - and are - helping one another.

A broader example is Christian Faith Sharing, a Methodist catechism and guide for sharing Christian faith.

When the Malawi publishing team started in 2009, the team prioritized the need for a United Methodist catechism. They found what they were looking for, as well as guidelines for leading persons to Christ, in the front and back material of the Faith Sharing New Testament, which is published by World Methodist Evangelism (WME). WME gave them permission to use both. So Malawi published them together under the title, Christian Faith Sharing.

When Zimbabwe team started up in January 2010, they found they had similar needs. They heard about what Malawi had done with Christian Faith Sharing and asked Malawi to share the electronic file (already formatted and print-ready), which they gladly did. So Zimbabwe was able to publish it without starting from scratch, which saved them money and time.

Then when the Philippines started their team in 2010, having a
similar need, they heard about how Malawi and Zimbabwe had addressed it. Instead of asking teams in Zimbabwe or Malawi to send the file, the Philippine team just downloaded it from the DRI resource portal, www.drint.org where we store the files developed by Dischipleship Resources (GBOD) and DRI-related publishing teams.

These resources come from contributions of other publishing teams, and from 35-40 previously published United Methodist resources from Discipleship Resources of GBOD.

The number of electronic resources available to each team grows each month, as publishing teams grow and develop the most important resources for their areas. Teams can now communicate with DRI staff about their needs and the resources may already be available. And permission is already granted for proper use.

“God is doing a new thing” among you, through the DRI network of publishing teams. This is the United Methodist Connection at work!

Malawi Publications Team

*In each newsletter we will highlight a different publishing team. We can learn from one another’s trials and successes.*

The Malawi Publications team began in 2009, with a committed group of clergy and lay people meeting weekly to identify the most critical needs of this new and growing Provisional Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Now, nearly four years later, the team has produced necessary church supplies like, Baptism Certificates and tithe cards. And they published the first hymn book for the Malawi UMC.

Next, they struggled to find a way to meet the many needs of the church - Bible study, communication to pastors and clergy, and evangelism. In 2010 they published their first quarterly newsletter that meets all of these needs in one small, low cost publication.

Two years later they celebrate the success of this publication - they have met the deadlines for each quarter, received new members because of pastors sharing the newsletter in their communities, use the articles on Christian education and faithful living in Sunday School and UMW meetings, and communicate information and inspiration from the conference superintendent and other leaders.

One of the biggest challenges in Malawi is financial support of this important ministry. The newsletter is vital, but it is distributed for free. The hymn books and *Christian Faith Sharing* raise money, but the small membership of the church cannot buy enough resources to fund a self-sustaining publishing system.

The leadership of the team is always seeking greater capacity building, seeking new skilled members for the team, meeting quarterly, and thinking creatively to meet this and other challenges.

Please be in prayer for your brothers and sisters in Christ in Malawi.

We are united in our vision of creating a culture of reading and writing in the United Methodist Church around the world.
On 28 October more than 20 United Methodist publishing team members from around the world will gather in Nairobi for this one-of-a-kind training event.

Two team members from each publishing team in Africa and the Philippines, and a delegation from our partners at Africa Upper Room Ministries will have the opportunity to increase their knowledge, receive new ideas and be inspired by our collaboration together.

At the close of the week, Discipleship Resources: International will be a cohesive organization of brothers and sisters in Christ committed to creating a culture of reading and writing throughout the United Methodist connection, and the ability to provide the necessary resources from their local contexts.

Three of our own team leaders will be leading a workshop, Building a Church-Based Publishing Team. Rev. Steve Bryant (GBOD), Rev. Phillip Musharu (Zimbabwe), and Earlie Pasion (Philippines) will teach global participants how local churches can create publishing teams to build capacity and expand ministry outreach. These leaders will share how teams are built, launched, equipped and sustained.

Please be in prayer for participants and leaders of this important event. Pray that God will begin preparing the hearts and minds of LittWorld 2012 participants so that everyone arrives ready to learn, grow, share and encourage one another.

Pray that participants, through the Holy Spirit, experience a sense of unity in purpose and vision.

Know that your work and ministry are part of a global publishing effort to provide Christian resources to clergy and laity around the world that are available, affordable and appropriate.
Distribution Centers: Africa

All resources are available electronically at www.drint.org.

Hard copies of books may be ordered from any of these distribution centers.

**Africa Upper Room Ministries**  
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**Discipleship Resources: Africa**  
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**Discipleship Resources: Liberia**  
*Bookshop at the LAC Campus*  
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## Contacts

### Publishing Teams

Eight DRI publishing teams are now in place, plus one contributing partner*, producing numerous additional resources to meet local needs in UM churches and schools, in official and indigenous languages. For more information on local team resources and publishing plans, contact the team publishing leaders or contact DRI/GBOD:

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