

Wider  
Church  
Ministries

Dear Friend of Wider Church Ministries:

As I thought about writing to ask you to make a generous contribution to our UCC Wider Church Ministries Annual Appeal, many of this year's headlines came to mind:

- Cyclone in Myanmar
- Floods in the Midwest
- Ongoing globalization debate
- HIV and AIDS reaching pandemic status
- Dramatic increase in numbers of persons living in extreme poverty
- Cracks in the very foundation of the US and global financial infrastructure
- China earthquake and aftershocks
- Hurricanes hit the Caribbean and US
- World food crisis

So much was written and said about people losing hope and wanting justice.

Then I attended three back-to-back events in Cleveland Oct 2-5: **Missionworks**, the **FOCUS Reunion**, and a training session for **Ministry and Mission Interpreters**.

We heard missionaries tell moving and inspiring stories about the life they share with our mission partners, and we heard others tell how their lives were changed by mission trips. As I heard those powerful stories witness to what happens when we share God's love, I realized how the mood of the headlines contrasts so starkly with the work we've been doing for nearly 200 years:

We serve a God who's been global since "day one".

We bring hope where there has been no hope, and justice where there has been no justice.

**Your gift to the Wider Church Ministries Annual Appeal** will help us continue to share God's love. We work with local mission partners around the world (churches, institutions such as schools and hospitals, and councils of churches) as they:

- train local church leaders,
- provide education services,
- support health programs including prevention of and education about HIV and AIDS,
- teach agricultural improvements,
- deliver clean water,
- assist small business development through micro-credit loans,
- welcome refugees who have fled violence and persecution, and
- join us in "sharing persons in mission" as volunteers or mission personnel.

We invite you, as a friend of UCC Wider Church Ministries, to become a donor to the Annual Appeal. Your gift will put you in the good company of hundreds of generous people who make direct gifts to Wider Church Ministries.

Margaret Mead once wrote, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Thank you, as a citizen of God's world, for taking a few moments to consider how you can help change the world through your gift to UCC Wider Church Ministries.

May God's grace and peace continue to bless you,

**Cally Rogers-Witte**  
Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries  
Co-Executive, Global Ministries

e-mail: [RogersC@ucc.org](mailto:RogersC@ucc.org)  
Phone: 216-736-3201



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God is still speaking,