

CONTINUING TESTAMENT
EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME
CHANGING LIVES

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



December 17, 2013

Greetings of Grace and Peace,

We are writing with news to let you know the *Calendar of Prayer* will be discontinued beginning January 2014. The *Calendar of Prayer* has been a significant source of inspiration for UCC churches for decades, so this change will be difficult for some. Change is hard. But we also recognize that there are other exciting, emerging methods for sharing stories that utilize many platforms and reach broader audiences, while better utilizing resources.

The *Calendar of Prayer* began in the 1930's and appeared first in the Annual Report of The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, a Wider Church Ministries predecessor body. It started as a list of dates with missionary names and mailing addresses. In 1989 the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries turned the list into a year-round calendar with stories about missionaries, local congregations, conferences, schools, partners, and the national and Global settings of the church.

In the United Church of Christ we continue this great tradition of prayer, storytelling, reflection, and learning online. Outlined below are some of the resources available to you individually and to your congregation.

The *Global Ministries Update* (globalministries.org/signup/) is emailed to subscribers each week and comes to your inbox with a story from a missionary, a prayer focus, news about global mission, and advocacy alerts.

Mission Moments (ucc.org/stewardship/mission-moments) are stories written weekly for congregations to use as Sunday bulletin inserts. We hope you will encourage your congregation to feature these. They include mission stories about conferences, associations, partners, and the national and global settings of the church.

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The *Stillspeaking Daily Devotional* (ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/daily-devotional/) is written by UCC pastors and offers a reflection and prayer which is enjoyed by over fifty thousand subscribers each day. Please sign-up to receive these inspiring daily emails.

We hope you will join us in this new way as we continue to read, pray and reflect.

As a transition we have enclosed a Global Ministries calendar and invite you to join us each Sunday in prayer for these partners and missionaries around the world.

Advent blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Bennett Guess".

Rev. Dr. J. Bennett Guess

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Moos".

Rev. Dr. James Moos