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## INITIATIVES OF HOPE

# BRAZIL

Separated by oceans...

United by faith.

# CAMBODIA

# MOZAMBIQUE



“... and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” – Romans 5: 5

**A**ll day long, God is working for good in the world! Through Initiatives of Hope, congregations of the Virginia Conference are invited to join the work God is doing in Brazil, Cambodia and Mozambique. In partnership with our brothers and sisters in those countries, we can help offer hope to the many who may feel hopeless.

## INITIATIVES OF HOPE...

- focuses the missional priorities of the Virginia Conference.
- partners with the Methodist Church of Brazil, the Methodist Mission in Cambodia and The United Methodist Church in Mozambique.
- shares God’s love.
- makes disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- builds relationships with God’s people in other cultures.
- shares our abundance.
- learns from those who struggle to have enough.
- empowers others to be in mission.
- enables congregations to move from maintenance to mission.

## MISSION:

**Initiatives of Hope** challenges the Virginia Conference to cultivate a mutuality of mission with the Mozambique United Methodist Church, the Brazil Methodist Church and the Methodist Mission of Cambodia, such that awareness of the other is heightened, sustainability is sought, understanding of the ministry context is deepened, and relationships flourish. As partners in God’s mission, we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



let the little children come to me

# BRAZIL

mark 10:14



Shade and Fresh Water centers provide care, protection and life skills for at-risk "street children" and medical boat clinics provide healthcare to people in settlements along the Amazon River.

love God, love all

# MOZAMBIQUE

mark 12:30-31



The three part focus of our mission partnership with the United Methodist churches of Mozambique: 1) on-dialogue with ministry leaders to share ideas, encouragement, and planning; 2) financial resourcing of some of their ministry programs and their training of lay and clergy church leaders; and 3) the coordination of teams from Virginia Conference churches who travel to Mozambique for a variety of shared ministry tasks, including hands-on ministry to the very young and very old, training of lay and clergy church leaders, networking, medical practice and training, and construction and repair of ministry facilities.

expanding the kingdom

# CAMBODIA

isaiah 54:2



The Methodist Mission in Cambodia is moving to enlarge its tent just as Isaiah directs! After decades of war, genocide and suffering the country is healing and growing and the church is offering the transforming love of Jesus Christ to rebuild trust and hope. Initiatives of Hope is partnering with this young church by sending Volunteer in Mission Teams and financial support.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ☀ **Pray** for hope!
- ☀ **Plan** an Advent or Lenten focus around IOH.
- ☀ **Sponsor** mission teams through United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) to Brazil, Cambodia or Mozambique.
- ☀ **Go** on a UMVIM mission trip.
- ☀ **Give** financially to the Annual Conference offering for IOH or to Advance Special projects related to our partner ministries in Brazil, Cambodia and Mozambique.
- ☀ **Invite** an Initiatives of Hope speaker to your church.
- ☀ **Study** the partner countries.

☀ **Use** resources from the conference website ([www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)) to plan...

- a church mission meal,
- mission moments for worship,
- an IOH focus in worship for several consecutive Sundays,
- children's mission activities,
- Vacation Bible School...

...with an emphasis on Brazil, Cambodia and Mozambique.

- ☀ **Host** a Brazilian, Cambodian or Mozambican missionary.
- ☀ **Review** and use the IOH information available from the Conference Mission website (includes a general overview, worship resources, promotional materials and other ways to partner).