



# NORTH EAST DISTRICT

## "The Shofar"



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[www.northeastdistrictumw.org](http://www.northeastdistrictumw.org)

Volume 4 - Number 1 - JANUARY 2019 **PART 2**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019.** Time to renew or subscribe to delivery of a paper copy of the "SHOFAR. We "thank you" for helping us stay within our budget. **Send \$8.00 check to NORTH EAST DISTRICT UMW and YOUR mailing address to: Jan Stanko, 620 Madison St. APT 3, Brillion, WI 54110**

**NOTE:** Unit Presidents will receive a paper copies of the JANUARY 2019 SHOFAR. APRIL, JULY & OCTOBER will be e-mailed to Presidents, Secretaries & Treasurers unless subscribed. Shofars will be posted on Conference website.

### PART 2:

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"Catch the Vision" and all registration forms:

[www.wisconsinumw.org](http://www.wisconsinumw.org)

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**REMINDER:** Issues of the North East District "SHOFAR" are available at:

[www.wisconsinumw.org](http://www.wisconsinumw.org)

(click on Communications)

## **Assembly 2018, the Power of Bold** by Connie Meyer, UMW President, Sheboygan St. Luke

The Power of Bold, Assembly 2018 in Columbus, Ohio was an unforgettable experience.

Alisha Gordon, UMW executive for spiritual growth started us out Friday morning with a bang when she opened the Assembly with the words “We assemble because we must. We gather and collect and congregate and convene. We meet, and we rally. We construct, and we build, because we must. Because women, children and youth are depending on us.”

The Theme for the Assembly was the Power of Bold. Throughout the event an interpretive dance team and spoken word artist reintroduced us to the story of Mary, mother of Jesus. We were reminded that Mary made bold decisions throughout her life and that Mary as an unwed teenage mother exemplifies what it means to be bold. This 21<sup>st</sup> Century telling of Mary's story featured an orange haired, tap dancing angel sent by God to tell Mary that she was the chosen one.

The three days of Assembly were spent in community gatherings where we heard speakers like Nobel Laureate Laymah Bowee, founder and president of Bowee Peace Foundation. Bowee won the Nobel Peace Prize for her role in leading a women's peace movement that brought an end to the second Liberian Civil War. Bowee advised us to “put faith in action, because Jesus was an action person!”

Civil Rights lawyer, Marian Wright Edelman is the Founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund. She learned as a child that it was her Christian duty to “help others and to try to make the world a better place”. With that goal in mind she has dedicated her life to advocate for children's rights. I was moved when she said that “every child needs early education, and a fair start and that United Methodist Women could end poverty. She and Michelle Alexander, author of the *New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the age of Colorblindness* addressed issues like mass criminalization and the cradle to prison pipeline; poverty and deportation. She reminded us that and again I quote “A criminal record today authorizes precisely the forms of discrimination we left behind—discrimination in employment, housing, education, public benefits. Alexander challenged us by saying “ending mass incarceration is a women's issue that's hurting everyone because women are left to care for those left behind.

When we weren't in community gatherings we were attending pre-selected workshops, town hall sessions and table talks. I attended the workshop Meeting in the Middle: How to Connect with Young Women Through Communication. Rosie Farmer, the workshop facilitator is a communications coordinator for the Missouri Annual Conference. Farmer's talk focused on communicating electronically, the most effective ways to reach millennials and Gen Xers. She talked about communicating via Twitter, Facebook and Snapchat because Gen Xers and Millennials grew up in the digital age.

My second workshop, Making Women Economically Secure was hosted by Carol Burnett, executive director of Moore Community House in Mississippi. She shared some shocking statistics on poverty including the fact that 1 in 3 Mississippi children live in poverty. She noted that women make less than men and are concentrated in minimum wage jobs. Gender inequity prevents women from working their way to economic security. Childcare is expensive and can cost 25% of a single mom's wages. Moore Community House, Early Head Start in Biloxi, Mississippi provides high-quality childcare and job training in non-traditional industries that pay a living wage for moms. When supported these programs, job training, child care, parenting classes can break the cycle of poverty.

Our closing ceremony on Sunday morning featured our President Harriett Jane Olson. Olson said that we are Mary with a 3 point action plan:

- Understand United Methodist Women are leaders and “do more than bring the cookies”
- Invite new voices
- Recommit to mobilize for justice

She said “Now is not the time to rest, we must use our own bold action to say yes to God.”

“Sacred Space of Community, Life Together, Faith in Community” by: Rev. Dr. Barbara Cook  
Northeast District UMW Day of Celebration, September 22, 2018 Ripon: Emanuel UMC

- I. With a partner, discuss: “What makes a Christian church distinct from every other kind of community?”  
Make as long a list of distinctive features as you can.
- II. Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Response in *Life Together*
  - a. A Christian church has just one distinctive feature: Christ is its head—its creator and leader. This makes a Christian community, a church, a divine and not a human reality.
  - b. In groups of 3, discuss: How have you become a “whole person through Jesus Christ” (part of the UMW purpose), and not in some other way? How has Christ made you whole?
- III. Introduction to *Life Together*
  - a. Audience for the work: a group of young pastors living together in a clandestine seminary of the German Confessing Church during the Nazis rise to power. The theology of Christian community and practices to sustain it which the book describes held this group together and gave them strength to resist the regime. (=STRENGTH in this view of the church; evidence they had found power to “become whole persons in Jesus Christ”).
  - b. Background: birth of the Confessing Church in Germany
    - i. 1555—Peace of Augsburg: ended Catholic/Protestant wars in Germany after the Reformation. Settlement said whatever religion the prince of a region had was the established religion of that region. (Catholic princes had Catholic state church; Lutheran princes had Lutheran state church. People were what their prince was.) Theory: you can’t have peace in a society unless everyone has the same religion
    - ii. The prince, and later the state, through taxes, provided financial and institutional support to the church. This system was in place until after World War I.
    - iii. Weimar Republic (1918-1933)
      1. Adolf Hoffmann, a secular socialist, was appointed Minister of Education and Worship. Wanted to (1) end government subsidies for the church (2) confiscate church property (3) abolish theology as a subject at universities (4) ban school prayer (5) get rid of compulsory religious instruction in schools.
      2. Both Catholics and Protestants object to Hoffmann’s proposals. Compromise with secular parties running the Weimar Republic: No more state churches, but churches retained payments from the government for services they provided (like hospitals and orphanages) and the government collected church fees from taxpayers who were registered as parishioners and distributed them back to the governing boards of the churches. Church government was transferred from the state to church councils elected by church synods.
    - iii. Nazi Era (1933-1945)
      1. German Christian Movement developed in the German Protestant church late in the Weimar Republic (1931). Many of these Protestants voted for the Nazis in 1932 & 1933 because they liked the idea of strong central authority and re-establishing the bond between “throne and altar”/church and state. They were sympathetic to the Nazi goal of folding all Protestant churches into a single, nationalist, Aryan *Reichskirk*=state church.
      2. Bonhoeffer was one of the Protestant theologians who objected to the Nazis on moral grounds. Said Nazi claim to total control over a person took away the sovereignty of God, who is the only One with a right to total control over a person.
      3. 1933: German Christians won 70-80% of all seats in presbyteries and synods except 4 regional churches. These leaders then elected Hitler’s man Ludwig Müller to be bishop of the new Reichskirk. Müller urged the new church to adopt the “Aryan Paragraph”—a line proposed for the church constitution saying only Aryans could be members of the church; this would cast out any members or clergy of Jewish descent.
      4. Confessing Church formed in resistance to the Aryan Paragraph, saying it changed the meaning of baptism which makes no distinction of races (converted Jews and their descendants were as Christian as anyone else.) May 1934: opponents of Reichskirk met in Barmen and drafted Barmen Declaration (written mostly by Karl Barth). It said the church was not an organ of the state and the concept of state control over the church was
    - iv. doctrinally false. The church answers only to God. The Barmen Declaration became the foundation of the Confessing Church of which Bonhoeffer was a part.

Bonhoeffer during the Nazi Era

1. 1933 (yr. German Christians folded the majority of Protestant churches into the Third Reich)—at age 27: denounced, on the radio, the German desire for a strong leader and said such a leader would become a mis-leader. He accepted a call to be pastor of 2 German-speaking congregations in London
2. 1935—at age 29: received call from the Confessing Church to take charge of a secret seminary in Finkenwalde. There he shared a common life with 25 young confessing Church pastors; the seminary was closed by the Gestapo in 1937, and the young pastors were arrested. This is where he wrote *Life Together*, first published in 1938, and *The Cost of Discipleship*, first published in England and the U.S. after the war in 1949. These two works summarize what Bonhoeffer thinks it means to “experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ”.
3. The strength of Bonhoeffer’s conviction and the power of his life with Christ was clear in his actions both just before and during the war. From his sister’s husband Hans von Dohnanyi, he learned of a plot to assassinate Hitler—a plot he did not resist, though he was deeply sympathetic to pacifism (he was contemplating going to India to study with Gandhi when he got the call to run the Confessing Church seminary in Finkenwalde). His encounter with the evil of Hitler and the Third Reich persuaded him that to withdraw from political and military resistance would be inexcusable cowardice. He joined the German Resistance as an undercover agent in German Intelligence—a position obtained for him by Dohnanyi. He was arrested and imprisoned in 1943 after a failed attempt on Hitler’s life (Dohnanyi got a bomb on Hitler’s plane that didn’t go off). He remained imprisoned until he was hanged at Flossenburg on April 9, 1945, just 2 wks. before the Allies liberated the prison.

IV. Practices at Finkenwalde: Psalms

- a. PRAISE OF GOD: “Jesus Christ prays through the Psalter in his congregation. His congregation prays, too, the individual prays. But here he prays, in so far as Christ prays within him, not in his own name, but in the Name of Jesus Christ” (*Life Together*, p. 46).
- b. Chant Psalm 1 (Psalm for this Sunday) together.

V. Practices at Finkenwalde: Reading the Scriptures

- a. CONSECUTIVE READING OF SCRIPTURE (1 OT chapter, ½ NT chapter morning and evening): “The listening fellowship...participates in the very events that occurred on this earth for the salvation of the world, and in doing so receives salvation in Jesus Christ” (*Life Together*, p. 53).
- b. Read Proverbs 31; Mark 9:30-50.
- c. “The consecutive reading of the Scriptures need not mean that brief Bible passages are lost. They may find their place as texts for the week or as daily verses at the beginning of devotions or for other occasions” (*Life Together*, p. 57). *Lectio Divina* on Mark 9:30-37.

VI. Practices at Finkenwalde: Unison Singing

- a. “Christians sing when they are together...because in singing together it is possible for them to speak and pray the same Word at the same time; in other words, because here they can unite in the Word” (*Life Together*, p. 59).
- b. Unison singing of “Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

VII. Practices at Finkenwalde: Praying Together

- a. “Where Christians want to live together under the Word of God they may and they should pray together to God in their own words” (*Life Together*, p. 62).
- b. In groups of three, name your group’s THANKSGIVINGS, PETITIONS (personal needs, needs of the world), and INTERCESSIONS (needs of other specific people). Have one person offer the thanksgivings to God in her own words, another person the petitions, and the third the intercessions.

VIII. Communion: “The fellowship of the Lord’s Supper is the superlative fulfillment of Christian fellowship. As the members of the congregation are united in body and blood at the table of the Lord so will they be together in eternity” (*Life Together*, p. 122).

## *Lectio Divina: A Means to Communion with God*

### Exercise: Mark 9:30-37

- *Lectio:* as you read the passage, direct your attention to the FEELINGS it engenders in you. Identify and note the feeling or feelings you have that is/are most interesting to you. Read the passage a second time, directing your attention to IMAGINING yourself in the scene. Imagine that you are an observer. Use all your senses to “flesh out” the story. What sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and sensations (touches) can you identify? Identify your observations that are most interesting to you and make note of them.
- *Meditatio:* Read the passage again silently. Ask yourself and record your answers to the following questions to help you think about the IDEAS in this passage: (1) Why do you think this passage was written and included in Scripture? (2) What does it tell us about God, about human beings, and about our relationship with God? (3) Do you think there is any difference in what this passage had to say to the first hearers and what it has to say to us today? Why or why not?
- *Oratio:* Find a comfortable position, close your eyes and take a few deep breaths to prepare to PRAY over this passage. Empty your mind of other thoughts as you read the passage one more time. Try to focus your attention on God and listen. If an impression or thought comes to you, acknowledge it, then refocus your attention on God. If you find day-to-day thoughts intruding, gently let them go, and focus again on the passage. Set a timer for ten minutes. As you come back from the time of prayer, open your eyes and stretch. Record any impressions or thoughts that emerged from your prayer. If no thought or impression came to you regarding the passage, simply record what thoughts and impressions did fill your prayer time.
- *Contemplatio:* With the passage in front of you, ask yourself and record your answers to the basic questions of *Lectio Divina* as you APPLY the message to your life today: (1) What is this passage saying to me today? (2) What is this passage asking of me today?

### **Mark 9:30-37**

30. They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have anyone know it;
31. For he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise.”
32. But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to ask him.
33. And they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?”
34. But they were silent; for on the way they had discussed with one another who was the greatest.
35. And he sat down and called the twelve; and he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”
36. And he took a child, and put him in the midst of them; and taking him in his arms, he said to them,
37. “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

## Conference Membership Nurture and Outreach

Census  
2018

UNIT PRESIDENTS: Have you received your instructions yet for Census 2018? I forwarded them to District Presidents and Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinators. They are to distribute them to you for data collection and entry online. This year we have a **form to use for collecting the data** prior to going online and entering your information. You can read the instructions and find the form in our November online “*CATCH THE VISION*” beginning on page 16. The link is [http://www.wisconsinmw.org/uploads/5/8/9/0/5890559/nov\\_2018\\_ctv.pdf](http://www.wisconsinmw.org/uploads/5/8/9/0/5890559/nov_2018_ctv.pdf) A link to the database is included in the instructions as well as a video which explains the process. You can also access the database from the homepage of our National United Methodist Women’s website: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>  
**The database is open now and will close March 30, 2019.**

If you have questions or don’t have personal computer access please contact me, your district officer sister, district president or district membership nurture and outreach coordinator for help. Contact information for our national office is available in the instructions as well.

Sue Plasterer,  
Conference Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator  
[seplasterer@charter.net](mailto:seplasterer@charter.net)  
1-608-274-0275

myUMW:  
Add your info,  
& get your  
membership  
card

Want to become a United Methodist Women member? Go to <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/> Click on the light blue icon with the text “myUMW: Add your info, & get your membership card.” You will learn what it means to be a member and by entering your information online you will be able to print your membership “card.” You will only need to enter your information one time. If you print your “card” on regular printer paper you may want to have it laminated so it will stand up to wear and tear. Your “card” will be valid for as long as you are a member of United Methodist Women! Come join us as we put faith, hope and love into action for women, youth and children here and around the world.



# RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP—THEN AND NOW

## Join United Methodist Women at Mission u 2019!

Take a deep dive into the Gospel of Mark, the topic of money,  
and the inspiring story of women organized for mission.



### THIS YEAR, OUR STUDIES ARE:

**Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship**  
by Janet Wolf (Additional studies on Mark for children and youth also available.)

**Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission** by Ellen Blue

**What About Our Money? A Faith Response** by Susan K. Taylor

Be inspired. Be challenged. Respond to God's call.  
Continue the powerful legacy of compassionate service  
and passionate advocacy.

All are welcome!

**Location:** Hotel Mead and Conference Center

451 E Grand Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494

**Date:** July 22, 2019 - July 25, 2019



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Wisconsin Conference Mission u

July 22 – 25, 2019

Hotel Mead Convention Center - Wisconsin Rapids, WI

## Adult Registration Form

4-Day registration begins at 8:15am with Singing and Gathering starting at 9:15 on Monday, July 22, 2019

Register for the event						(Page 1 of 2)
Name						
Address, City, State, Zip						
Home Phone		Cell Phone		Email		
District ( <i>Circle one</i> )	North West	North Central	North East	South West	South East	
<b>Class Choice</b>		<i>Circle up to two classes</i>				
Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship		Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission		What About Our Money? A Faith Response		
<b>Payment</b> <u>Registration is transferable, but not refundable</u>			Early Bird Registration Until June 1, 2019		Regular Registration Until July 1, 2019	
Four Day Session (Includes food and sharing a room with another)			<b>\$350</b>		<b>\$425</b>	
Additional lodging on Sunday night, includes breakfast (Sharing a room with another)			<b>\$70</b>		<b>\$70</b>	
Four Day Session (includes food and private room)			<b>\$465</b>		<b>\$540</b>	
Additional lodging on Sunday night, includes breakfast (Private room)			<b>\$115</b>		<b>\$115</b>	
Commuter Rate <i>~No Hotel Stay~</i> (Includes lunch & supper on Monday, 3 meals on Tuesday and Wednesday, and breakfast on Thursday)			<b>\$205</b>		<b>\$250</b>	
<b>Roommate</b>					<b>Total</b>	
<b>Special dietary needs</b>						
Send Registration to: Marilyn Eyster 122 East Cox Road Edgerton, WI 53534			608-868-3585 marilyn.eyster@gmail.com		Make checks payable to: Mission u	

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Early Bird Registration rate ends June 1, 2019 ~ Registration ends July 1, 2019 no late registrations accepted





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Name		(Page 2 of 2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Attending Mission u for the first time <i>(Check here if this is your first time to Mission u)</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Requesting a Scholarship <i>(Check here to find out about Conference scholarships for Mission u)</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Requesting a new Clergy Scholarship		
<input type="checkbox"/> Requesting a CEU (for Clergy)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Requesting a Lay Servant/Lay Speaker Credit		
<input type="checkbox"/> Requesting a scholarship stipend to help offset the cost of child care up to \$25/day for the first (5) requests with registration (Please contact registrar for information.)		
<b>Book Order</b> Check here to order your study books for pick up at Mission u Program Resources. <u>Books are \$10 each to be paid when picked up, do not include in registration fees.</u> <b>OR</b> Order your books ahead and get them delivered to your home <a href="http://www.umwmissionresources.org">www.umwmissionresources.org</a> or call 800-305-9857		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship, by Janet Wolf</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission, by Ellen Blue</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>What About Our Money? A Faith Response, by Susan K. Taylor</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Photo Release</b> Photos will be taken at Mission u and could be used in material to promote this event. I permit my photo to be used by Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women to help share United Methodist Women with others.		
Name (Print)		
Sign	Date	
<b>Emergency Contact</b>		
Name		Relationship
Best phone number(s) to contact them:		
Is this person at Mission u?		

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Wisconsin Conference Mission u

July 22 – 25, 2019

Hotel Mead Convention Center - Wisconsin Rapids, WI

## Limitless Registration Form

<b>Register for the event</b>				(Page 1 of 2)
Name				Age
Address, City, State, Zip				
Home Phone	Cell Phone		Email	
District <i>(Circle one)</i>	North Central	North East	South West	South East
North West				

**Class Choice** The teen group class will study: Who do you say that I am? Meeting Jesus Through the Eyes of Mark

*Select one morning class from below for your Mission u class*

*(Circle one class)*  What About Our Money? A Faith Response  Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission

<b>Payment</b> <u>Registration is transferable, but not refundable</u>	Early Bird Registration Until June 1, 2019	Regular Registration Until July 1, 2019	
Four Day Session (Includes food and sharing lodging with other teens)	<b>\$350</b>	<b>\$425</b>	
Additional lodging on Sunday night, includes breakfast (Teen must be accompanied by an adult at this time.)	<b>\$70</b>	<b>\$70</b>	
		<b>Total</b>	

**Special dietary needs** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  Attending Mission u for the first time *(Check here if this is your first time to Mission u)*

\_\_\_\_\_  Request a Scholarship *(Check here to request a Conference Scholarship for Mission u)*

*Also ask your local UMW unit or Church about scholarships that they may have.*

**Early Bird Registration rate ends June 1, 2019 ~ Regular Registration ends July 1, 2019**

no late registrations accepted

Send Registration to: Marilyn Eyster 122 East Cox Road Edgerton, WI 53534	608-868-3585 marilyn.eyster@gmail.com	Make checks payable to: Mission u
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Wisconsin Conference Mission u

July 22 – 25, 2019

Hotel Mead Convention Center - Wisconsin Rapids, WI

## Limitless Registration Form

Name

(Page 2 of 2)

### Book Order

Check here to order your study books for pick up at Mission u Program Resources.  
Books are \$10 each to be paid when picked up, do not include in registration fees.

OR

Order your books ahead and get them delivered to your home  
www.umwmissionresources.org or call 800-305-9857

Book for the Youth Study “Who do you say that I am? Meeting Jesus Through the Eyes of Mark” will be provided by the UMW Limitless Team and be waiting for you at Mission u.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission, by Ellen Blue**

\_\_\_\_\_ **What About Our Money? A Faith Response, by Susan K. Taylor**

### Photo Release

Photos will be taken at Mission u and could be used in material to promote this event.

I permit my (or my child’s) photo to be used by Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women to help share United Methodist Women with others. If you are under 18 years old, please have your parent/ guardian sign this section.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of young woman if under 18 years old*

Name (Print) <i>(of parent if young woman is under 18 years old)</i>		
Signature <i>(of parent if young woman is under 18 years old)</i>		Date
<b>Emergency Contact</b>		
Name	Relationship	
Best phone number(s) to contact them:		
Is this person at Mission u?		

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Wisconsin Conference Mission u

Friday July 26, 2019

Hotel Mead Convention Center - Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Registration begins at 8:00 am with a small sideboard breakfast, singing and gathering at 9:00 sending forth approx. 3:00 pm

## Overview Day Registration Form

### Register for the event

Name			(Page 1 of 2)
Address, City, State, Zip			

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Email

District

North West

North Central

North East

South West

South East

(Circle one)

Payment	<u>Registration is transferable, but not refundable</u>	Early Bird Registration Until June 1, 2019	Regular Registration Until July 1, 2019
		Overview Day	
Additional lodging on Thursday night, includes breakfast (Sharing a room with another.)		\$70	
Additional lodging on Thursday night, includes breakfast (Private Room)		\$115	
		<b>Total</b>	

Special dietary needs \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Attending Mission u for the first time (Check here if this is your first time to Mission u)

\_\_\_\_\_ Child care needed ages \_\_\_\_\_ please provide a sack lunch for each child

Scholarships - Ask your local UMW unit or Church about scholarships that they may have.

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(Page 2 of 2)

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Name	Relationship	
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Is this person at Mission u?		

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NORTH EAST DISTRICT SHOFAR

C/O: JAN STANKO

620 Madison St. APT 3

BRILLION, WI 54110