

Easter Missions Offering: Missionary Care

Jeff Bleijerveld, UB Global executive director

Good missionary care doesn't begin once there's a need. It begins the very first time we meet a person interested in missionary service. We spend time with them one on one, as well as with their family and home church, so that we can clearly assess their strengths and shore up their weaknesses.

When there is need for intervention for those serving overseas, we're there as well. Sometimes it might mean an extra visit to the field, or even bringing someone home for a period of time for counseling and recovery. We do this because we believe our missionaries are simply too valuable to lose.

Your gifts this Easter will increase our ability to care for those God has called into missionary service while also mentoring and preparing the next wave of missionaries serving with UB Global.

Thailand | Exciting Ministry Progress

Frank Y (right), UB Global associate director



God shows up in some amazing ways!

The building we purchased for our ministry center in Chiang Rai, Thailand, had sat empty for several years. We found considerable rot, mold, and other problems. Rather than try to renovate the building, as we originally planned, we decided to tear it down and build something entirely new. We made plans to begin construction on a new building in early 2018.

However, during the last six months we have run into some administrative hurdles. As a result, we haven't seen much progress.

Thailand is one of my responsibilities with UB Global. I traveled there during January. On the first day, missionary Brian

Glunt and I met with a long-term missionary couple to seek advice. Along the way, one of their comments was that we should connect with a man named Scott.

The next day, in a meeting with a separate family in a totally different context, he said the same thing. (Duly noted!) The third day was Sunday. On that day, Brian attended his usual church and noticed a new couple in the back. Brian introduced himself and the man said, "Hi! I'm Scott."

It took a while to pick Brian's jaw off the floor, but long story short, Scott facilitated several meetings with key people during my trip. There has been exciting momentum ever since. God is truly Lord!

Construction began in mid-March for the new United Brethren building. Once completed, it will be a community center through which the team can reach out to the local community.

Even without a building, the team has been creatively engaging with their neighbors near the center: Christmas caroling and

The Thailand team (L-r): Lai, Julie, Paula, Milton and Erika Pacheco, and the Glunt family: Lucy, Lily, Rachel, Brian, and son Curtis.



The Longest Bridge in the World?

Jenaya Bonner

The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge (HZMB) was finished in November and, after inspections, should be open to traffic in July 2018. Its 34-mile span across the Pearl River Delta will give it the title of "World's Longest Sea Bridge." It has been a long time in the making, but I know many friends who look forward to having an alternative to taking the ferry to Hong Kong.

Though the HZMB is a literal bridge, I recently taught my English students about figuratively building bridges. This is an apt description of what we do in Macau. We teach, plan, meet, play, learn, and live in order to build bridges culturally and spiritually. Our purpose is to meet people where they are and show them that God desires to connect with them.

This has been quite a year at the university English Table on Thursday nights. We typically have questions and get-to-know-you activities with the large group, and then break up into small groups.

Every group dynamic is different, but my group of 9-10 students consistently shows up. We have had conversations about everything from culture to health to dating to what we believe.

One student admitted she doesn't know what she believes. But through her connection with English Table volunteers and an opportunity in the States last summer, she has been asking questions and even attending a baptism class with her friend to learn more. She said she doesn't feel ready to take that step, but clearly God is working in her life.

Would you pray with us as we see how God is building a bridge to her heart and as we continue to make connections with each of the students?

gift giving, teaching art, and more.

Erika Pacheco started learning to paint, and other team members joined her. They taught it to the teenage son of a local shop owner, and realized this could be something they might offer to the local community from the ministry center.

Milton and Erika Pacheco participate in a local Thai church. As part of their language and cultural acquisition work, they joined others from the church to visit and pray with patients in local hospitals.

One Buddhist woman, who had cancer, said she wanted to know more about Jesus. Other visits followed. In early March, this woman put her faith in Christ. The Pachecos were delighted to have been part of her faith journey.

Please pray for the Spirit to prepare the way for the Gospel to go out in that community, bringing many Thai people to know their true King. Also, ask the Lord to meet the financial needs of Milton and Erika, UB missionaries from Honduras who are part of our Thailand team.

If you have interest in reaching the unreached people group of ethnic Thais, please contact UB Global.

India | Miriam Prabhakar Retirement

After 42 years of fruitful ministry with UB Global in India, Miriam Prabhakar will be moving into semi-retirement. She will reduce her workload, but will continue supervising the ministries in Andhra Pradesh—the Beautiful Family, Project Compassion, Home-Based Care, and church ministries.

Miriam will continue living in India, but will spend more time visiting with her children and grandchildren in the United States. UB Global will be contacting those who contribute to her personal support to discuss any changes. Until then, we ask that you continue your support.



China | Mental Health Concerns

Recently, it seems like God is bringing people with mental health and special needs to the UB team in China. They include a teacher suffering from severe depression, a principal whose autistic son just committed suicide, and a teacher whose teenager has severe anxiety.

We don't know how God is leading, but please pray that the team would find the right resources, would have the wisdom to respond in compassion and truth, and that the Lord would bring abundance to lives that are hurting.

Giving 2017

Prior to the end of 2017, we requested your help in getting some of our staff over the financial finish line. You came through in a big way. At the end of the year, your gifts to our overseas workers' support totaled \$499,546. Some of our 23 staff will need additional monthly supporters in order to meet their budgets for 2018, but we are thrilled that we finished 2017 by meeting 92% of the total missionary needs.

You also helped us raise \$471,000 for projects. These included ministries like the Water and Solar Projects at the Matru Hospital in Sierra Leone, the Leprosy and AIDS ministries in India, and the Community Center project in Chiang Rai, Thailand. In addition, we were able to obtain grant funding from two foundations.

And finally, you helped us raise \$398,187 to fund the activities of our UB Global Team, which include our 20/20 Vision, mobilization, missionary care, training events, conferences, church visits, salaries, administrative expenses, and travel to see our missionary staff and national partners working in nearly 20 countries.

Thank you for helping us reach 95% of our budgeted needs.

UB Global | Leaving a Financial Legacy

A bequest is a gift of stocks, bonds, or any other assets to beneficiaries through a will. Beneficiaries may be people, or charities such as UB Global. What you choose to do with your estate is a final reflection of your life and faith.

A bequest to UB Global shows your confidence that God will continue to use the United Brethren to spread the good news of the Gospel for years to come.

Mattru Hospital Highlights

Michelle Harris (right), UB Global associate director



Solar

Solar panels are up, and for the first time ever, Mattru UBC Hospital has power 24 hours a day.

This means no more costly generator repairs, or running out to find fuel for a late-night emergency surgery. It means lights and fans and equipment working with the flip of a switch. Thank you to all who supported the solar project!

The next step is to connect some businesses and households in the community. The regulatory process and logistics have been challenging, but we have government approval for a tariff, and poles have been installed along the road. The money made from the community connections will cover the cost of maintenance and replacement of the batteries every 5-7 years. Please pray for the logistics of this important step in the solar project.

X-Ray Machine

After over 20 years, the hospital x-ray de-

partment has been re-established with both a digital x-ray and ultrasound machine. Jon and Heleen Yoder led this project through their contacts in the Netherlands and the US. With two Dutch foundations and individual donors in the Netherlands and the US, the needed \$26,000 was raised within just three months.

The project paid not only for the machines, but transport, customs fees, refurbishing of the x-ray room, a computer for viewing the x-rays, and staff training. The hospital's x-ray technician, Mr. Jombla, has served in other capacities over the years. He is thrilled to be back working in his area of training and expertise.

Visits During January and February

January. A team from Engineers Without Borders put in latrines for the administration and outpatient areas. They also led a Vision Planning process for the hospital, gathering hospital personnel, leadership, and the community to work towards a five-year strategic plan.

February. A medical team led by Ron Baker served at the hospital for ten days. In addition to many surgeries and procedures, they assisted with an outreach clinic in the village of Gambia, where they saw more than 50 patients and showed the Jesus Film in the Mende language. Pamela McKee, nurse practitioner at the hospital, has had a vision for outreach and is excited about this first step. Pray for follow-up and continued ministry in the surrounding area.

Three of us passed the medical team on the road (literally). I was joined by Jim Bolich, pastor of Prince Street Church in Shipensburg, Pa., and a member of his congregation, Dod Kiama. We went to assist with the business side of the hospital and the solar/water projects. Dod worked with hospi-



Alieu Gbondo, anesthetist, with the new equipment.

tal finance personnel and assisted with two days of financial and management training.

April and May will be Busy!

- Two interns from the Netherlands will come to serve for six weeks.
- A medical student from the United Kingdom will come for a month.
- Richard and Cathy Toupin (medical doctor and nurse and former missionaries at Mattru) will also serve in April and May.
- Hannah Wyatt, from College Park UB church in Huntington, Ind., will travel with Michelle Harris and provide much-needed training on the x-ray and ultrasound machines. A retreat with the missionary team will take place during their time as well.

So, please join us in praying for the hospital staff, our team, and the visitors this spring. Pray for unity and love for one another and for continued progress in the overall health of business systems at the hospital and solar and water projects.

The new x-ray machine



The UB Global PrayerMate feed is up and running.

What, you ask, is PrayerMate? PrayerMate is a free app for iOS and Android, designed to help you pray more faithfully and more widely. It's been shortlisted for the Christian New Media Awards several times. The app brings all your prayer points together, whether it's your personal prayer points for friends and family, or an organization like UB Global.

For instructions on how to install PrayerMate and find the UB Global feed, go to: ubglobal.org/prayermate



Lebanese, Armenian, Palestinian, Iraqi, and Syrian youth at the Youth for Christ reconciliation center in Beirut, Lebanon.

Lebanon | Among Refugees

Jeff Bleijerveld

In early March, associate director David Kline and I visited Lebanon. We were joined by Mrs. Ines Bowers, a retired teacher from Brown Corners UB church in Clare, Mich. Ines taught English in the refugee camps for six weeks during the summer of 2016.



We visited with Youth for Christ–Lebanon (YFC) and learned more about the his-

tory in the region, the nature of ministry in a multi-confessional context, and how YFC has labored to reach all youth, whether Lebanese, Syrian, Armenian, Palestinian, Shiite, Sunni, Jewish, or Christian.

It's important to keep in mind that Lebanon has received various waves of refugees over the years, the most recent being some two million Syrians. In fact, there are two refugees for every three Lebanese. That the Lebanese have permitted Syrians to seek refuge in their country is beyond all rational thought, because from 1990 – 2015, the Syrians were Lebanon's occupiers and oppressors following Lebanon's tumultuous civil war from 1975-1990. In our present global context, this is perhaps the very best representation of the Good Samaritan.

We visited with YFC staff, participated in club ministries, visited with Syrian refugee families, observed and participated in their soccer ministry, and visited a school for refugee children. We also joined a group of volunteers to fill 309 sacks with a one-month supply of food for refugee families.

Already, College Park UB church in Huntington, Ind., has agreed to partner with YFC-Lebanon, and will be sending a short-term team to serve among Syrian refugees this summer during Ramadan.

YFC-Lebanon has invited UB Global to send workers to serve as part of a multi-national team. We believe this is an opportunity to reach new unreached peoples at a strategic moment in time.

If you have a heart for youth ministry and would be interested in serving in an international context, please contact UB Global.

Follow us on Facebook

Would you like to stay up-to-date on the mission activities of UB Global, our international partners, and other local UB churches? Then look up our Facebook page and become a follower. If you already have, perhaps you'd like to become a UB Global promoter by sharing our posts with your friends.

facebook.com/ubglobalministries

Join the Conversation | Online Discussions

The UB Global Team has begun hosting online conversations for persons considering missionary service, or simply seeking to deepen their understanding of cross-cultural ministry.

We'll cover different topics during each hour-long conversation such as: missional living, calling, evangelism, disciple multiplication, leadership development, simple church models, worldview, and raising a family overseas.

Email us at info@ub.org to receive information on how to join us.

Missionaries Needing Support

Milton and Erika Pacheco. The Pachecos, serving in Thailand, need \$26,065 in 2018 to meet their budget.

The churches of Honduras Conference, which sent the Pachecos, are sacrificially giving toward their support. However, the average salary in Honduras is only \$1,000 a year. Is God calling you to be a part of sending the first Honduran UB missionaries overseas?

Andrew and Janessa M. This couple, serving in a creative access country, need \$613 per month for the remainder of their term.

APRIL 14
Ontario

APRIL 21
Michigan

IGNITE

IGNITE | Michigan and Ontario

IGNITE is a one-day mission event that informs, inspires, and leads to the integration of missional principles in our lives and communities. Those who attend these regional events are pastors, local church mission team members, supporters, and those considering missionary service.

IGNITE events are held on Saturdays from 9 am – 3 pm. Our next IGNITE events are:

April 14, 2018: Stanley Park UB, 9 Dreger Ave., Kitchener ON N2A 2A4.

April 21, 2018: HomeFront Church, 6265 8th Ave., Grandville MI 49418.

Learn more at: ubglobal.org/ignite



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