

Thailand

After years of work, the Good Soil Community Center opened last November in Chiang Rai, Thailand. Finally, the UB Global team would be able to launch the full classes and other ministries they had long envisioned for that community.

Brian and Rachel Glunt and children came to America on furlough last fall, and returned to Thailand in early January. Then Milton and Erika Pacheco left for their furlough, part of which would occur in the US, part in their homeland of Honduras. They would return in May. Then the team would be fully in place for full programming at the Good Soil center.

Then the coronavirus hit.

Thailand was the first country outside of China to confirm a case of the coronavirus. That happened on January 13, and the country quickly took strong action. As of the end of August 2020, there have been just 58 Covid-19 deaths in Thailand, out of a population of nearly 70 million. They are mentioned alongside New Zealand and Taiwan as among the most effective countries in dealing with the pandemic.

Here is how it has affected the various members of the team in Chiang Rai.

The Pachecos

Milton and Erika traveled to Honduras in December to spend the holidays in their home country. In February they came to the States to begin visiting UB churches and supporters. They were scheduled in 1-3 places every week through mid-April. But they made it to just one church, Otterbein UB in Greencastle, Pa. Then lockdowns descended everywhere and churches stopped holding in-person services.

The Pachecos were quarantined at the mission house. They preferred being home in Honduras, since there was nothing they could do in Indiana, but there were no flights. But around the middle of April, they were able to catch a one-time flight out of Houston for Honduras. They had to self-quarantine in Honduras for two weeks, but at least they were home.

They were supposed to return to Thailand in May, but it wasn't possible. Thailand has imposed stringent requirements and administrative challenges regarding foreigners entering the country. They may be in Honduras a while.



Erika and Milton

Worldview Online

A webpage at UBGlobal.org/worldview expands on the information in this newsletter and provides updated information since it went to press. That page includes videos, information about staff and projects mentioned in the newsletter, and other information.

The QR code below will take you there. To use the QR code: Turn on the camera of your smartphone and point it at the code (don't press the button to take a picture). Once your camera focuses on the code, it will ask if you'd like to go to the webpage.



Paula

Paula has been a student at the university in Chiang Rai, using that context to reach Thai classmates with the Gospel. When the university shut down, most students went home, but she continued living in the dorm with a handful of other persons. She has been creating ways to reach Thai friends online.

When the semester ended, Paula began working more in the Good Soil Center, and has been helping with Chinese-language classes. Paula is now back in college classes, which have resumed in person.

Hannah Barrett

Hannah Barrett teaches at Chiang Rai International Christian School. In the spring, she returned to her home in Ohio and finished the second semester by teaching online. She



Paula



Hannah



Brian Glunt leading a class at the Good Soil Community Center.



Brian and Rachel Glunt and children.

has signed up for a third year at CRICS, and hopes to return to Thailand in November. The school has been very flexible; she will teach online until she goes back. (The school-age Glunt children attend CRICS.)

The Glunts

Since March, the Glunts and Paula have been the only UB Global staff in Thailand. The Glunts could have come back to the US, but decided to stay in Chiang Rai. They have been holding their own. They had to teach their kids at home for the last part of the semester, but their children are now back at school. Thailand has gone for long periods of time without new Covid cases. Life is returning to normal. Even theaters are open.

The city of Chiang Rai reopened this spring, but Thai schools remained online only. The Good Soil Community Center has always been intended to serve the local community. With Covid, it became a safe and comfortable air-conditioned place with wifi where kids could come to do their schoolwork. Kids signed up, and could stay for much of the day. In July, they started doing classes again—English, Chinese, and arts and crafts.

In April, Brian Glunt announced the hiring of our first Thai staff. Jonathan (left), who graduated last year from a local college, was hired as office administrator. He had previously worked at CRICS. Jonathan wrote: "I am so excited to have the opportunity of joining GSCC because I will have a chance to visit people and share with them the Good

News, be a part of programs like teaching music, and have time to develop my English skills. Hopefully, I will help GSCC grow and become known in the community, but most important is to invite them to know Jesus our only true God."

When praying for the Good Soil team, please include Jonathan, as he will play a key role in many aspects of the center.



Jonathan

Sierra Leone

The staff of Matru Hospital have continued their mission of bringing healing to the community throughout the Covid-19 crisis. A bush perimeter wall was installed around the hospital, and a separate treatment area was put in place. We are thankful that Covid patients have come and healed during their time at the hospital.

Missionary staff are still waiting to return. Dr. Richard and Cathy Toupin are watching and praying for the time when a quarantine in Freetown will not be required. Dr. Jon and Heleen Yoder hope to make a visit in early 2021.

Meanwhile, new candidates are preparing. John and Amber McCammon are traveling to churches and growing their support team as they share their journey and vision. Ruth Rivera Mejia, from Honduras, has completed the Kairos missions class, and plans to travel to the U.S. this fall, and hopefully to Sierra Leone for a short trip. Her dentistry skills will be much appreciated!

We are thankful for the many who gave towards the generator for the solar grid! Despite churches not meeting in person, over \$22,280 was raised. The generator will both contribute to the life of the solar grid and increase the revenue from community sales to support staff salaries.

Scan the QR code on page 1 to view a video about the Easter offering.



Perimeter fence

A Month in Quarantine

Hong Kong and Macau are both peninsulas off of the Chinese mainland. People have been accustomed to going freely between the two cities. In 2018, a 34-mile bridge opened between the cities.

But now, if you decide to go shopping in the neighboring city, it'll cost you a month in quarantine.

For instance, persons going from Macau to Hong Kong must spend two weeks in quarantine before entering the city. Then, upon returning to Macau, they must spend another two weeks in quarantine before being allowed back into Macau.

The same applies to crossing the border from Macau into the city of Zuhai.

Jana

Jana teaches at a 2000-student school in China. They were able to finish the school year, though they went into the summer holidays to compensate for time spent in lockdown. They held in-person classes for several months without having new cases of coronavirus in the schools.

When Covid first hit, the government imposed tight restrictions on movement. In her housing development, Jana had to check in and out with the security guard at the door, and could only go out once or twice a day to shop. It was a lonely time, with few social opportunities. But now that things are opening up again, she's able to meet up with people. She has a good group of Chinese friends, so if she can't go to Macau or the States, she's okay.

Today, China is in its new normal, and things are fairly open. Jana says if teachers go out of town, they need to quarantine for a period of time before they can resume teaching. She says Covid has created opportunities for spiritual and heart-to-heart conversations. A number of people have been talking to her about mental health and depression. Pray for the people God has put in Jana's life, that they will be open to spiritual things; and pray that Jana will have wisdom as she shares the Gospel and responds to their questions and needs.

Jana usually spends her summers back in the States with her family. But this year, with restrictions on overseas travel and uncertainties about being able to re-enter the country, she chose to remain in China. She doesn't even go to Macau, because it would require a two-week quarantine going each way.

UB Global had planned a trip to China this summer, but it was cancelled because of Covid and the accompanying quarantine requirements.

Macau

As of September 1, Macau had had just 46 Covid cases, all of which recovered. There have been no Covid-related deaths. This is commendable in a densely-populated city of half a million people. They took early and strong action, even shutting down the city's life-blood casino industry, and they remain vigilant. But life is returning to normal. Stores, restaurants, and parks have reopened. With tourists still being kept out, local people are being encouraged to visit the tourist places, like hotels, casinos, and shopping areas. Persons entering the city from outside must do a two-week quarantine at a hotel

at their own expense. There are hotels at the airport and the borders for this purpose.

The only real movement across the border is with China, where people have jobs or attend school. Travel to Hong Kong is more restricted. It should also be noted that Macau has not been affected by the turmoil in Hong Kong. They've not had protests.

We have two churches in Macau. Living Water, the first UB church in Macau, is led entirely by Chinese people. Each Sunday may be different for them. They sometimes do online worship, sometimes encourage members to visit other churches, and at the end of July combined with Living Stone church for a joint service. Living Water has been undergoing remodeling, but it should be finished in September.

The other church, Living Stone, is the church attended by the two UB Global staff in Macau, Jennifer Blandin and Jenaya Bonner. They have modified their services to enable worship at home and at the building. Since May, attendance at the building has gradually increased as people feel more comfortable coming in person.

Jenaya Bonner teaches in a private tu-



From the top: Jana, Jennifer, and Jenaya.

Experience Sierra Leone

Because of the pandemic, all UB Global trips scheduled for 2020 were cancelled. However, we came up with a different way people can visit our mission fields. We created virtual trips, which we call Experience.

Experience Sierra Leone, our first virtual trip, began with a small group of people who met online once a week for five weeks, starting at the beginning of August. This led up to the five-day dive September 4-8, for which we were joined by many more people. We experienced God in a unique way as we listened on our own to daily scripture and song from our Sierra Leonean brothers and sisters both overseas and in the US, including honorary Sierra Leonean Dr. Ron Baker!

We joined Mattru hospital staff for devotions, went on a virtual tour of Mattru, and learned from interviews. We had fun with a little cooking and a movie set in Uganda. We had the privilege of seeing God at work in another culture and hearing his voice in our lives in new ways. And we made some new friends from across the denomination!

Experience Thailand: October 7 – November 14

Sign up now for this next Experience. Watch for Experience Macau in early 2021!
(Use the QR code on the front page to view a video about Experience.)

toring center; her boss and coworkers are not Christians. All elementary schools were closed for a long period of time, and tutoring centers began filling the gaps. Kindergartens haven't yet resumed in-person classes. Jenaya's teaching load increased as they played catch-up after the lockdown.

India

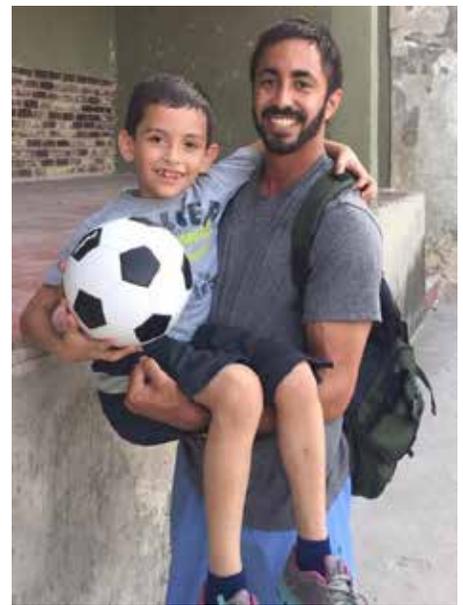
New Covid cases are increasing rapidly in India. In some places, streets are blockaded to prevent people from traveling around town. Many government offices are shut down because of Covid. Day laborers are especially impacted by this.

Miriam, UB Global staff in India, returned to the States in late August to spend time with her family. She has three sons living in the US.

Chris Wimer: Ecuador

Chris Wimer is a UB Global staff beginning his fourth year with Alliance Academy International in Quito, Ecuador. He went there in 2016 as an elementary physical education teacher, but was recently promoted to assistant principal of the elementary section of Alliance Academy. This gives him increased responsibilities, and means he won't do as much coaching.

Chris's home church is Jerusalem Chapel UB in Churchville, Va. His parents work for the US State Department in Beirut, Lebanon (not far from the recent explosion), so he didn't really have a "home" to return to. When the pandemic hit, Chris decided to stay in Ecuador in his 400-square-foot apartment. The country has been on extreme lockdown for some time now, with restricted movement. August found him frantically



Chris Wimer and a young Ecuadorian friend.

preparing for the new year, which will at least start out online.

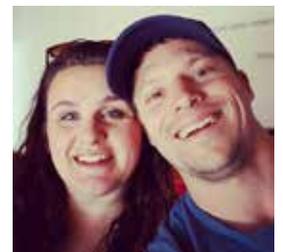
As for prayer requests, Chris mentions his learning curve as he begins his new position, the transitioning of a new director for the Academy, and safety concerns amidst the pandemic. He also says, "In the coming months, I am hoping to escape to the mountains, volcanoes, and waterfalls as mini retreats to spend some quiet time with the Lord."

South Africa: Nichie and Chris Stonall

Nichie and Chris are expecting! Baby girl Stonall is due in December!

Nichie serves in South Africa with Impact Africa. Amidst the pandemic, the Impact Baby Rescue Team in Johannesburg has been hard at work counseling and encouraging women and families who have found themselves in a state of desperation. Nichie writes:

"Due to the state of the economy in South Africa, and the lockdown that has been placed on us due to Covid-19, many South Africans have found themselves without jobs.



Chris and Nichie

"This has hit hardest those already living in poverty. As a result, our team has counseled many mothers and families that are desperate and more than anything need hope and encouragement. We've met several mothers who believe that their only option is to place their babies for adoption. Our team has been able to provide these moms

with baby packs, encouragement, and prayer. We continue to follow up with these moms and be available to any woman or family who may need our services.”

Nichie and Chris had planned to travel to the US this spring to visit churches and supporters and increase her support team. With Covid travel restrictions, those plans were put on pause. Plan B is travel in the summer of 2021.

Pray for Nichie, Chris, and baby girl! They still need new individual and church supporters to join their support team.

Beirut: Blast Aftermath

On August 4, we were all horrified by the huge ammonium nitrate explosion at the port in Beirut, Lebanon. It caused devastation across the city.

For several years, we have partnered with Youth for Christ Lebanon, which has an exciting ministry among refugees in Beirut. Maher El Hajj, the national director of YFC Lebanon, attended our US National Conference in July 2019 in Bowling Green, Ohio. In workshops and during an evening service,



L-r: John, MENA Regional Director; Maher El Hajj; Scott, Operations Director.

he told of his work in Beirut.

The day after the explosion, Maher wrote, “We are all shaking. Lebanon is already passing through a really rough economic crisis with Covid, and now this explosion. It has really killed our morale.” We’re grateful to God that the YFC staff remained safe, though some of their homes and buildings sustained damage.

YFC sprang into action. They have been reaching out to families in their programs and neighborhoods to offer help as the city picks up the pieces.

Will You?

Have you considered including your lo-

Honduras

The virus has been rough on Honduras—massive unemployment, and many people begging on the streets. Movement remains severely restricted; the average citizens can go out once every two weeks.

The UB churches of Honduras have risen to the occasion to take food and daily necessities to people in need.

Milton and Erika Pacheco, unable to return to Thailand at this time, have been helping package and deliver these items.

Right: Erika Pacheco helping to package relief supplies



cal church and UB Global in your will? By doing so, you will build a spiritual legacy that benefits your community and brings the good news of the Gospel to some of the least reached places in the world.

Here’s an example.

The UB initiative in Thailand is important because less than 1% of ethnic Thais are Christian. Our work there includes UBs from many countries, has led to creation of the Good Soil Community Center, and impacts many local Thai families. All of this was possible because a UB family included UB Global in their will.

Their generosity funded necessary research trips to the region in the very beginning. Through these trips, God led us to local Thais and long-term missionaries who helped us realize the most critical Kingdom needs and the best way to begin. Even today, those relationships continue to be an important part of the UB work in Thailand.

Be a part of making Kingdom history! If you’d like to explore this further, contact us.

Andrew & Janessa

Andrew and Janessa, Huntington University graduates, joined the UB Global team in 2016. They have been teaching in China while sharing God’s love. They sensed, last October, that God was leading them in a different direction. They just didn’t know what that meant.

While traveling with family on winter holiday, they left China on January 24 shortly before everything began shutting down. Due to Covid, they were forced to return to Illinois, thinking they would return to China after a few months and resume teaching.

But that obviously didn’t happen. Sadly, they never got to say goodbye to their friends in person or personally pack up their home.

For the present time, Andrew is teaching ESL in



Andrew & Janessa

a local college. Pray for Andrew and Janessa as they seek God’s “next steps” for their lives, and as they heal from a very difficult ending to their time in China.

Medium Term Missions

It may be crazy to think about going overseas to serve these days, but this may be God’s perfect timing! Two international UB fields need your help. If health is a concern, those fields have great medical care and their Covid rates are a tiny fraction of what we have in the United States.

This may be just right for students taking a gap year, retirees, or people in life transition. For more information, use the QR code or go to ubglobal.org/worldview.



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