

## Jeff Bleijerveld Concludes 12 Years with UB Global

Jeff Bleijerveld is stepping down after 12 years as executive director of UB Global. He submitted his resignation to the UB Global board on April 28, with May 31 being his last day. He said



that he and his wife, Charlene, have recently sensed God moving them away from this role.

On March 3, 2008, Jeff was appointed director of what was then called Global Ministries. At that point, he had been an ordained minister in the Missionary Church for 23 years, had pastored two churches in Ontario, had served eight years as a missionary in Spain, and since 2001 had been assistant director of World Partners USA, the Missionary Church's international arm.

He says that although he came from outside of United Brethren circles, "From the very start, I was made to feel a part of the United Brethren in Christ."

UB Global is the joint missions agency of the UB churches in the United States and Canada. Mark Wallace, chairperson of the UB Global board, wrote, "Jeff has served UB Global well for the past 12 years, and we wish to honor and celebrate the work that has been accomplished."

Under Jeff's leadership, UB Global continued to expand its worldwide ministry. They walked alongside Sierra Leone Conference during the Ebola epidemic, and then launched a major initiative to put Mattru Hospital on solid footing. UB Global worked with Hong Kong Conference to assemble an international team to begin work in Thailand among the largely unreached

ethnic Thai Buddhists, partnered with Huntington University to launch the Institute for TESOL Studies, and worked with the Honduras Conference to develop a missions focus and send their first missionaries.

We added two mission districts—in Liberia (2011) and France (2018)—and the Haiti and Liberia mission districts are in the process of becoming national conferences. We launched partnerships in Turkey and Lebanon. And many new missionaries joined the UB Global family.

Jeff came to UB Global with a strong philosophical foundation regarding mission work. This came through in various policies and practices—regarding missionary recruitment and support, fundraising, our relationships with international UB countries, UB Global board operations, and other areas.

Bishop Todd Fetters wrote, "Naturally, we are saddened by Jeff's decision. He has always been a valiant champion for global missions. And to us at the UB National Office, he has been far more than a colleague—he is our friend and true brother in Christ."

Please pray for Jeff and Charlene as they undergo this transition in their lives, and pray for the UB Global board as they seek God's will during this transition.

## Frank Yang Appointed as Acting Director

The UB Global board appointed Frank Yang as acting director of UB Global from June 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020. Frank has served as an associate director of UB Global since 2011. His niche on the UB Global team has focused around being the point person for work in two fields, supervising overseas staff, and engaging with domestic churches. Frank and his wife are members of Emmanuel UB church in Fort Wayne, Ind., and have two children.



## Easter Missions Project

Progress at the Mattru UBC Hospital, a remote 60-bed hospital in Sierra Leone, West Africa, has been taking place on a number of fronts.

What kicked-off much of the recent progress was the installation of a solar electric grid with sufficient capacity to power the hospital, nearby households, and businesses in the community. The system includes an extensive battery back-up, so lights are on at the hospital until 9:30 each night.

The availability of electric power also led to the development of a water purification/packaging business, which along with the sale of power to the community, provides \$1000 to \$2000 per month to help pay staff salaries and hospital expenses, and pay into a savings account that will fund the replacement of the solar grid's components as they wear out.

However, one essential piece of equipment has been lacking: a back-up generator. There have been various generators over the years, and the one currently on site is vastly inadequate for our needs. You see, the solar grid only powers the batteries to a full charge when the weather is sunny. During the rainy season, which lasts about six months, the batteries do not get a full charge. This limits the amount of power available and depletes

the overall health and lifespan of the batteries.

This year's Easter Offering was designated for buying a back-up generator. Our goal was to raise \$25,000 to purchase a 100 Kva diesel generator.

UB Global received some funds during the pandemic. However, many people and churches have not had the opportunity. So, we are leaving the project open. Your gifts will cover buying, shipping, and installing the generator. This will ensure that batteries continue to function optimally, that the system remains in service, and that we can continue to bring healing and hope to this Muslim-majority region of the country.



## New Missionaries: John and Amber McCammon

John and Amber McCammon and their children, Sadie and Hunter, live in Huntington, Ind. John grew up in Indiana and Pennsylvania as his dad, Stan McCammon, worked in business and pastored a number of churches. His family served in Sierra Leone for 16 months and left in April 1992 as the civil war broke out. John has a craftsman background, having completed the Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen Apprenticeship Program, and has wide experience in tile work and construction. He has worked for the Huntington street department and is currently the supervisor over the landfill.

Amber grew up in Huntington County and is a Certified Nurse Assistant. She has worked in various settings, including a hospital and a nursing home. She currently works in home settings with clients with

disabilities through Pathfinders Services. Amber and John both have a deep faith and hearts to serve.

John has always felt that he was to return to Africa, and John and Amber have felt this call for years, but the timing was never right. In May of 2019, they felt the call strongly and decided to actively start knocking on doors. After a discussion with Jeff Bleijerveld and Michelle Harris of UB Global, they began to actively pursue opportunities. They came to the 2019 US National Conference, raised support for a short-term trip, and spent a month in Mattru in the fall of 2019. During their time in Mattru, they showed flexibility and leadership. John submitted to hospital leadership in the projects that he had worked on, and showed both a love for people and creativity in leadership in getting tasks done together. Amber worked with the ministry with children with disabilities, as well as with nurses and organization projects.

The family returned with a vision for what God has for them to do and a strong desire to return. John will work on general operations of the physical plant at the hospital. The solar power system, building and maintenance projects, and organization of ongoing projects will be John's focus. Amber will work with a ministry with children with disabilities called Nyandengoh, and with hospital and guesthouse organization. They will serve as hosts for the medical and work teams.

Because of Covid-19, their departure for Mattru is unknown. They are gathering their Missionary Support Team and will lean on them as we discern together timing for training, support raising, and travel.

## New Missionary: Ruth Rivera

Ruth Rivera, a sister in Christ from La Ceiba, Honduras, has been accepted for missionary service in partnership with the the UB conference in Honduras. Ruth came to Christ at age nine at a camp for young people. In her family she was taught to love and fear God, and she has been able to see and experience the presence of God through her family.

Ruth serves the church with her whole heart and has worked in children's ministry, praise ministry, and evangelism. Her undergraduate degree is in science, and she obtained her Doctor of Dentistry in 2016.



Ruth worked with the Honduran IFES movement (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students) from 2013-2018, during which time she mentored students, visited churches, and served with her dental skills on medical missions teams. She has served on many medical teams in rural areas of Honduras with UB people from the US.

During the past year, Ruth has been seeking her next place of service. She has been approved by the Honduras Conference and UB Global to serve as a medical missionary in Mattru. There are no dentists in the Bonthe District of Sierra Leone. When we sent dentists with two teams in 2019, lines formed in the morning and dentists worked non-stop. In Sierra Leone, dental care has an impact that is life-changing, and sometimes life-saving.

Milton and Erika Pacheco, Honduran missionaries to Thailand, are working with Ruth on preparation. We are waiting for a time when Ruth can visit Mattru Hospital for a month to do dentistry and confirm God's leading to serve there. We plan for her to travel with Richard and Cathy Toupin. The initial plan was for this trip to occur in June, with time in the US for fundraising and preparation, but Covid-19 has put plans on hold for now.

## Three Years in Mattru with the Yoders

In January, Dr. Jon and Heleen Yoder completed three years of service in Sierra Leone, bringing physical, emotional, and spiritual healing to many at Mattru Hospital and the surrounding community. Their presence was the result of a partnership forged between UB Global and the Yoders' mission agency, the Eastern Mennonite Mission. This partnership proved once again that we are truly one body, and that together we can accomplish more than we can on our own.

Through their love and persistence, God opened doors that had remained closed. The Nyandengoh special needs program brought into the light children who symbolized shame, but today shine as examples of God's grace and mercy. Another new ministry serves persons who have been victims of gender-based violence.

They mentored medical personnel and trained others to carry on new ministries, so that long after the Yoders have left Mattru Hospital, the ministries they initiated will continue to be a blessing and reap a bountiful harvest.

With the help of their donors and sup-

porters, various projects have been completed, including renovations to the maternity ward, the acquisition of an x-ray machine, and the addition of a radiology laboratory. New procedures for medical and financial reports were developed, and their professionalism in all they did became contagious. But most of all, they will be remembered as people of peace who walked humbly and showed mercy to all whom the Lord brought across their path or to their door.

To send them a note of gratitude, you can email them at [jonyoder57@gmail.com](mailto:jonyoder57@gmail.com)



Dr. Richard and Cathy Toupin in New York.

## Richard and Cathy Toupin From Africa to New York

Dr. Richard and Cathy Toupin began the year working at Matru Hospital in Sierra Leone. They flew out on March 21, taking one of the last flights before the government closed the airports, and returned to their home in Auburn, Ind.

Last September, the Toupins attended a Samaritan's Purse conference during which they signed up to be part of a Disaster Assistance Response Team. In April, after only a couple weeks back from Sierra Leone, they received a call that they were needed. A few days later, on Good Friday, they left for New York City to work at a Samaritan's Purse field hospital.

They spent 23 days there, working 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. They wrote, "We felt strengthened every day for the work. We were privileged to take part in the care of patients and see many of them released from the hospital. Our hearts were often heavy for the hardships that most of our patients went through. We were thankful that we could share Christ's love with them and pray with and for them."

The Toupins will continue serving with

UB Global at Matru Hospital for three months at a time, with six-week breaks in between. They hope to return to Sierra Leone in June, depending on travel realities.

As of May 12, Sierra Leone has reported over 340 Covid-19 cases and 19 deaths.

## Covid-19 and Our Team in Thailand

Thailand was the first country outside of China to confirm a case of Covid-19. It was reported on January 13: a 61-year-old woman from Wuhan who came to Thailand with a tour group. We currently have a team of four family units in Chiang Rai.

The *Brian and Rachel Glunt family* decided to stay in Chiang Rai. Said Brian, "We've been hunkering down, doing e-learning, and focusing on some administrative aspects for the team." The Good Soil Community Center opened last fall, but they halted all programs.

*Milton and Erika Pacheco* went to Honduras in December, and spent time with their home church. At the end of February they came to the States to visit supporting churches and donors, and were scheduled in 2-3 places every week until the middle of April. They met with a few churches in Pennsylvania, and then things shut down. They found themselves stuck at the UB Global mission house in Huntington. But then they heard about a one-time flight out of Houston on April 15 for Hondurans wanting to return to their country. They secured tickets, and are now riding out the pandemic at home.

Last fall *Paula*, from an undisclosed country, enrolled in a Chiang Rai university as a way to reach Thai young people with the Gospel. When Thailand closed all universities, she remained as the only person in her dorm. With the dining hall closed, she stocks up on food in her room. She is finding ways to connect with her Thai friends online.

*Hannah Barrett* was in her second year teaching at Chiang Rai International Christian School, which some of the Glunt children attend. When



The Glunt family.



The Pachecos



Paula



Hannah

the city mandated that schools close until mid-April, Hannah decided to return to her family in Ohio. The school subsequently decided to close for the rest of the year. She has been teaching remotely from Ohio.

## Jennifer and Jenaya: Riding it Out in Macau

UB Global missionaries Jennifer Blandin and Jenaya Bonner have remained in Macau during the pandemic. Jennifer had been through the SARS epidemic, and both had been through the H1N1 epidemic, so quarantines and lockdowns were nothing new.

Macau had its first confirmed case of Covid-19 on January 22, and the city got very serious very fast. Despite being the world's most densely-populated city, being the world's gambling capital (far bigger than Las Vegas), and attracting a reported 100,000 visitors every day from China alone—despite all of that, by May 11 Macau had had just 45 confirmed cases of Covid-19 and no deaths.

"Macau has done a stellar job of locking down their borders," said David Kline, a UB Global associate director and former missionary in Macau. "Macau has been a place people are watching to see how to do it right."

The two UB churches in Macau met on February 2, but didn't meet again until March. As businesses reopened, they gave members the option to worship at church, if they felt comfortable doing so.

On April 1, Jennifer and Jenaya spoke about their experiences in Macau. Here are some tidbits.

**Jenaya:** Early on, everybody was afraid. But the government shut things down quickly, and we didn't have a lot of coronavirus patients.

**Jennifer:** My hands are raw from washing them so much. About 99% of people wear face masks in public; if you don't wear a mask, people look at you weird. There was also a sense of fear of people who looked different from everyone else. I encountered that a few times — "Oh, you're a foreigner." Because Macau is so densely populated and we live so close together, it's difficult to distance yourself from everyone else—and practically impossible to do that when you go outside.

**Jenaya:** A lot of businesses reopened after three weeks or so, but some are still closed. Theaters and other public places haven't reopened. Kids have been able to go outside with their parents, with caution.



Jennifer (left) and Jenaya

**Jennifer:** I am grateful I only have one person in my home. Some families may have 3-7 people living in a very small space. During the city-wide lockdown, public parks were also closed, so there was no place for kids to run off energy. I've appreciated at least being able to go outside.

Anyone who comes into Macau must be quarantined for 14 days. They use hotels for that, but they aren't locking us down like they did earlier. As of now, most people returning to Macau are students who were studying overseas, along with some foreign workers.

**Jenaya:** In my English center, we've been back to English classes for about five weeks. We have about half the number of students we had before, and since classrooms are small, we're trying to reduce by half the number of students in a class. We use hand sanitizer as they come and leave, we sanitize everything they use, their temperature is taken, we wear masks, everyone stays a meter apart.

**Jennifer:** In February, the casinos were shut down for two weeks. They are open now, but the borders are still closed. The casinos are like ghost towns, because only local people are there.

**Jenaya:** I don't want the time to be wasted. I want to sit and listen to what God is saying. To continue to listen to what God is doing.

**Jennifer:** One thing is becoming a prayer of mine: whatever God is doing through this, whatever he is trying to shake free, I pray that we will embrace it.

## Elsewhere on the Covid-19 Front

• On Good Friday, the UB Global staff led United Brethren from around the world in a *Day of Fasting & Prayer* against Covid-19. At 10 a.m., 23 people joined for a prayer time on Zoom. At 8 p.m., 12 accounts, some with multiple participants, engaged in a second Zoom prayer time. Altogether, 42 family units signed up to pray for a 20-minute slot on Good Friday. They included UBs from Canada, Costa Rica, Honduras, and the US.

• *Nichie Parish Stonall* is a UB Global missionary serving in South Africa with Impact Africa. She is in charge of a baby rescue center in Johannesburg. Nichie was intending to come to the States during April. However, South Africa went on lockdown, and she couldn't have visited US churches anyway. So, she decided to stay put in South Africa with her husband, Chris.

• *Harold and MaryAnn Hancock*, serving in Jamaica at Regent College of the Carib-

## Churches That Gave the Most to UB Global During 2019\*

Overall Giving	
Emmanuel Community (Fort Wayne, Ind.)	\$79,723
King Street (Chambersburg, Pa.)	\$31,083
Mainstreet (Walbridge, Ohio)	\$27,092
Salem (Chambersburg, Pa.)	\$19,046
Sunfield (Sunfield, Mich.)	\$18,813
Parkwood Gardens (Guelph, Ont.)	\$15,667
Eden (Mason, Mich.)	\$14,667
College Park (Huntington, Ind.)	\$14,635
Jerusalem Chapel (Churchville, Va.)	\$12,060
Heart O' The Lakes (Brooklyn, Mich.)	\$11,920

  

Highest Giving Churches per Capita	
Kilburn Avenue (Rockford, Ill.)	\$210
Pleasant Valley (Lake Odessa, Mich.)	\$181
Mount Zion (Wayne, Ohio)	\$178
Sunfield (Sunfield, Mich.)	\$175
Grace (Sherkston, Ont.)	\$120
Roseville (Roseville, Ont.)	\$113
Corunna (Corunna, Ind.)	\$106
Bethany House of the Lord (Cumberland, Md.)	\$104
Milltown (Milltown, S. D.)	\$102
Crellin (Crellin, Md.)	\$98

\*Total giving to projects, missionaries, and the UB Global Team.

bean, finished their term when the virus hit. They returned to their home in Michigan.

• *Chris Wimer*, a UB Global missionary teaching at a Christian academy in Quito, Ecuador, is remaining in Ecuador.

Number or Donors	Monthly Gift (Total)	Cumulative Total
1	\$500 (\$6000)	\$6000
5	\$250 (\$3000)	\$15,000
20	\$100 (\$1200)	\$24,000
50	\$50 (\$600)	\$30,000
100	\$25 (\$300)	\$30,000
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$105,000</b>

## New Support for the UB Global Team

The UB Global Team is seeking to raise an additional \$105,000 to support our operations budget in 2020. Since we began this campaign, we have raised \$9570 in one-time gifts and another \$9090 in pledged gifts. These pledged gifts make up 10 of the 176 individuals or churches needed to provide a monthly gift to address this shortfall.

The chart above shows the levels of monthly support and number of donors needed to reach our goal. If we can secure funding at each of these levels, the need will be met. To pledge your support in 2020, contact us:

Phone: 1-888-622-3019

Email: [info@ub.org](mailto:info@ub.org)

## UB Global: Leaving a Financial Legacy

Did you know that you can donate stocks, part of a business, or even land to UB Global? By doing so, you can save significant taxes for you and your estate while helping spread the Good News to some of the hardest places in the world. What's in your hand? Contact us for more information.

## Follow us on Facebook

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