

## From the Director

Frank Yang



Frank

New things are happening!

When we look to our typical news outlets to learn what's new in the world, it can feel disheartening: countless affected by a global virus that continues to mutate into diabolical variants, Afghans suffering under the ruthless Taliban, Haitians enduring yet another devastating natural disaster.... So much of what's new makes us feel helpless!

How should we respond?

First, as we face the despondent realities of living in a broken world, allow them to point us toward God. The prophet Habakkuk faced this when God told him, "Look... and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told" (1:5). And that unbelievable news—destruction befalling Judah through the despicable Babylonians—probably made Habakkuk fall off his chair.

What did Habakkuk choose to do in response? He pressed into his Lord even more, bringing his emotions and confusion to him through passionate prayer, intentional listening, and allowing God to shape his perspective and response.

May we do the same as we face new events of tragedy and disaster.

Second, let us rejoice at the positive new ways God's Kingdom is pushing forward around the world.

- Highly unreached Northern Thais are hearing about the Gospel through the United Brethren team there.
- UB missionaries in Macau are reaching out to their community in new ways.
- New UB missionary families have moved to Sierra Leone to serve in Mattru Hospital.
- And as we look toward the new year, we

are cautiously hopeful for the reemergence of short-term mission trips again.

What new thing is God doing in your life? What new things are you seeing him do around the world? No matter what we face, may we say like Habakkuk, "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior" (3:18).

## A New Home!

On August 7, Ruth Rivera and the McCammon family—John, Amber, and children Sadie, Hunter, and Silas—arrived at Mattru Hospital in Sierra Leone.

Preparing for overseas mission work in Sierra Leone takes a while. It starts with a nudging from the Holy Spirit through a growing conviction or a conversation. Then comes a step of faith—a phone call or an email. That's only the beginning. Confirming the call involves a weeks-long trip to Sierra Leone, followed by a long application with references.

Over time, prospective missionaries build



### Worldview Online

A webpage at [UBGlobal.org/worldview](https://UBGlobal.org/worldview) expands on the information in this newsletter and provides updated information since it went to press. The QR code below will also take you there. 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. Enjoy!

their support team and go through formal and informal training. They do the physical work of preparing to move—selling or giving away a house, a car, and other belongings. They buy plane tickets, get vaccinations, and decide which anti-malarial medication they will take. They say their goodbyes.

Finally, after two years of preparation, these new UB missionaries are in place, doing what God called them to do. The McCammons wrote in their first newsletter from Mattru, "Our feet are on the ground," and quoted from Psalm 40:1, "He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along." The ground under their feet is now home, and their new work is adapting to culture and language as they love and serve.

A few highlights from Ruth and the McCammons' first months have been:

- A warm welcome from old and new friends.
- Starting Krio language lessons.
- The arrival of personal effects and hospital supplies in a large shipment.

Ruth Rivera (front) and the McCammon family pause for a selfie during the trip.

• The opening of a temporary dental clinic where Dr. Rivera is seeing patients.

Pray for them as they do the important work of learning culture and language in their new home while working alongside Sierra Leoneans so that Matru Hospital will be a place of physical, emotional, and spiritual healing for the community.

## More Newness than the Nuñez Family

Ministering in Thailand can be challenging. Stay-at-home orders abound, there is some political unrest, people are uncertain with Covid....But, in spite of that, here is some good news from Thailand, where challenges have not stopped us.

When we published the fall 2020 *Worldview*, the only persons working at the new Good Soil Community Center (GSCC) were Brian and Rachel Glunt and our first Thai staff member, John. The Glunt family had just returned to Thailand after a three-month furlough in the States when the pandemic hit. They chose to remain in Thailand.

Julie Hui and Lai Au Yeung, original members of the team, had completed their service and returned to Hong Kong. Milton and Erika Pacheco were stuck in the Americas with restricted travel. Hannah Barrett returned to the States in the spring of 2020. So for a long time, it was just the Glunts.

Today, the GSCC team looks much different. Two more Thai staff members, Faa and SomYing, now work with us. The Pachecos were finally allowed back in Thailand in August 2021 (and found an apartment with air conditioning!). A volunteer named Jason helps twice a week with GSCC programming. And we are preparing others to join the team in 2022 and 2023! What growth!

### The Nuñez Family

Alex and Cristina Nuñez, along with their three sons, were commissioned to be missionaries to the Northern Thai by the Honduras National Conference this past



The Nuñez family

spring. Both have served as teachers for the United Brethren Bethel School in La Ceiba, Honduras. Currently, they are working to learn English and more about missionary life through a study called *Vamos*.

Consider partnering with the Nuñez family through prayer and financial support ([info@ub.org](mailto:info@ub.org)). We hope to have this family on the field early in 2023.



The Glunt family with baby Amelia Grace

### Amelia Grace

Not only has the GSCC staff grown in numbers. So has the Glunt family! Baby Amelia Grace was born on June 30, 2021, at 9:30 am (Thai time). Brian, Rachel, and the entire family have been adjusting nicely to her arrival. Her dad shares that the main change they are experiencing is to once again remember the rhythm of child-rearing practices for a newborn. She is a blessing!

### Chloe Makley

Chloe Makley is a recent high school graduate who has felt a strong call to missionary work. She lives in Lake Odessa,

Mich., and has family ties to the Kilpatrick UB church in Woodland, Mich.

Chloe has been accepted for a one-year internship at the GSCC in 2022. She plans to study in Thailand, while also serving and teaching the children and young people who attend our programs. We are excited to see where God is leading Chloe!



We are so thankful for all of you who pray for, encourage, and financially support our work in Thailand. It's truly a global effort of the UB Church. Contact Steve Fish ([sfish@ub.org](mailto:sfish@ub.org)) and find out how you and your church can become a valued partner in this growing ministry.

## A New Tagline

Did you notice the new tagline on the UB Global logo on the front and back pages? This simple phrase, "Better Missions Together," encapsulates a vision of what UB Global intends to be. Yes, we're approaching 200 years in global missions, but we're always seeking to learn and improve to better serve you, the UB Body. Here are some ways we aim to do that.

1. We have some incredible churches in North America. We intend to connect with them and resource them in even better ways.

2. We know that international UBs around the world are impacting their neighborhoods and nations. We intend to better learn from and work with them.

3. We recognize that international projects can be tricky, and our dollars and efforts can have negative systemic unintended consequences. We intend to offer better ways to give and go toward missions.

4. We've learned quite a bit over the centuries in missions. We intend to offer opportunities for learning some of the better ways to engage in missions.

5. We value our short- and long-term teams. We intend to become even better in sending out missionaries and mission teams.

6. There are billions around the world who belong to people groups in which less than 1% are Christians. As we prayerfully open up new mission fields, we intend to better position ourselves to join what God is doing in some of the most spiritually dark places around the world.

Ultimately, we know that we are better together as his global church! Will you join us toward better missions together?



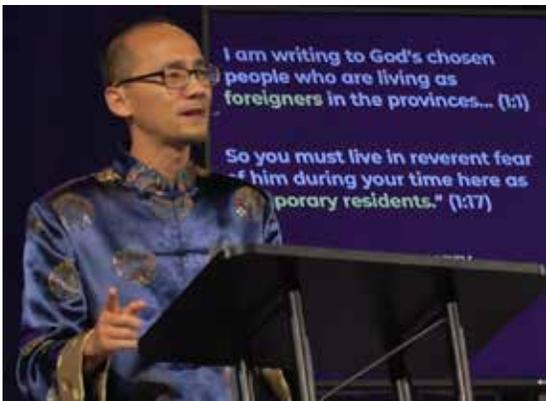
Hannah Barrett (seated, center) has served in Thailand for the past 3 years. Teaching in an international Christian school, she impacted the lives of dozens of Thai and expat students. UB Global celebrated her service and prayed for her as she steps into the new path God creates for her.



Frank Yang (left) prays during a commissioning service for Ruth Rivera and the McCammon family. He is joined by other UB Global staff and friends and family members of the missionaries.

# National Conference 2021

Here are glimpses of the many ways UB Global participated in this summer's US National Conference in Fort Wayne, Ind.



Frank Yang was the keynote speaker during the second night of the conference.



Angela Vincenti, administrative assistant of UB Global, chats at the UB Global booth with Kevin and Mona Bergdall, from Rockford, Ill.



The UB Global Escape Room, with a TSA theme, was very popular. Around 150 people went through the room in small groups, having fun and, in the process, learning more about UB missions. Associate Director David Kline (right) was the tough-minded TSA officer.



## Caring for Missionaries in Stress-filled Times

The pandemic inflicted numerous pressures on society, businesses, churches, and families. Our overseas missionaries experienced many of the same things—interrupted plans, movement restrictions, etc.—but with added layers of complexity. Here are some ways you can encourage your missionaries.

**Respond.** Many of us receive prayer letters from missionaries. But do we take the time to write back? Missionaries sometimes feel like they send prayer letters into a void. Even a short note by email or a Facebook comment encourages them and assures them that people back home are paying attention.

**Reach Out.** We've all become pretty comfortable with Zoom this last year. Why not offer a time for your missionary to share a 30-minute update with your group, and then pray for them? If gathering a group isn't possible during a time that works for your missionary, one person could interview them via Zoom and then share the recording with the group later. Be creative!

**Pray.** As you pray for your church and community, pray those same prayers for our folks serving overseas.

## A New Welcome

Christian and community groups across the US are joining to welcome Afghan allies. At least one team is forming through The Well, a UB church in Huntington, Ind. A five-person team will work with Home for Refugees to offer friendship and help to a family for a year as they settle in the US.

Might God be calling your community

to show tangible Christian love to refugees from Afghanistan? Contact the UB Global office to find out more.

## News from Macau

Short-term teams have been a blessing to the churches of Macau. This past year, with the travel restrictions in place, missionaries Jennifer Blandin and Jenaya Bonner knew such teams wouldn't be possible. Therefore, members of Living Stone Church on the Macau peninsula of Taipa planned a five-day camp, but it was cut short by Covid after the third day.

During the first two days, activities centered around science, technology, engineering and mathematics, a program that Macau parents value for their kids to join. Then, before the camp was cut short, they held a scavenger hunt with people from the church, an English group, and a local tutoring center. This mingling of people from different places and age groups was a blessing and made meaningful memories. The mothers of the kids involved decided to give back by providing snacks.

Many of the church members might have felt that they couldn't work with kids of these ages before the camp, but through the various activities, opportunities arose to not only get to know each other, but to interact in meaningful ways. Way to go Living Stone, Jen, and Jenaya!



At the camp held by Living Stone Church.

## Amazing VBS Results!

Wow, your response to the 2021 VBS Project blew us out of the water! UB Global had a goal of \$5,000, and our goal was more than doubled.

This year's project raised money to help buy three vehicles for our mission fields. The first car was purchased for Mattru Hospital to help get people and supplies to the hospital. The second vehicle was for the McCammon family, who arrived in Sierra Leone in early August; this will serve as a family car that will withstand the rough roads in Sierra Leone, and can be used for transporting short-term mission teams. The third car will be used by the Glunt family in Thailand.

A number of UB churches used the UB Global video, prayer bookmarks, and other tools for their missions emphasis during VBS. We were humbled by a little boy who brought in his whole piggy bank to give to this project. A family at Living Grace UB church in Fort Wayne, Ind., set up a lemonade stand and raised \$140 in one evening!

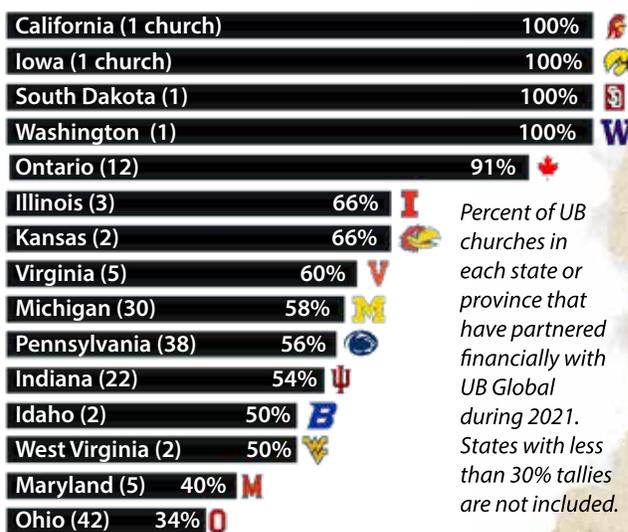
Thank you all so much for those who participated in this project to drive missions forward!

## Giving By State/Province

Sometimes analytics are fun...at least, for us nerdy types who work in administrative roles! Here is a way to view how UB churches are investing in UB Global missions.

We tracked how many UB churches in each US state or province have contributed to UB Global so far in 2021. (This does not represent individual donors from churches.)

How is your state/province represented? Could your church improve the percentage by investing in a UB Global ministry by the end of 2021? Look for the final 2021 tally in the spring 2022 Worldview.



Percent of UB churches in each state or province that have partnered financially with UB Global during 2021. States with less than 30% tallies are not included.



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