

Department of Missions

Kyle W. McQuillen, Jr., director

For eight years I have been privileged to serve the Church as the Director of Missions. During these two quadrenniums I have witnessed the growth of the church across ethnic and cultural lines, and in countries divided by oceans and continents. I praise God for what he has done to grow his church and to spread the gospel throughout the many countries in which we have been involved as a denomination. For this report, I want to highlight some of those growth patterns as well as to pay tribute to a number of people who have made this possible.

In the past eight years we have added to the denomination work in Thailand, Myanmar, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, and Haiti. We have explored possible new fields including Belize, Cuba, Guatemala, and Cambodia. Cross-cultural work has begun in many cities across the United States and Canada, including El Paso, Dallas, Phoenix, Miami, Orlando, Ft. Lauderdale, Chicago.

Let me share in more detail what has been happening across the world in United Brethren missions.

Central America

The work of God continues to move forward in Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and El Salvador. We had good conferences in January, and in the reports which were presented at each annual conference we saw significant growth continuing on each of our Central American fields.

Honduras

Honduras continues to add to its numbers preaching points and new churches. We have 66 churches now

and 10 established preaching points.

One of the most significant additions to the Honduran conference is the purchase of a lovely campground about twenty minutes outside of La Ceiba, on the road to Tocoa. The campground was used for a day outing for the annual conference, and already is being prepared for groups to use in the coming months. Work teams have already been at the campground to begin improvements and more teams are scheduled for this year.

Theological education by extension has been initiated in a new area of ministry, in the Copan region of Honduras, in the west, bordering Guatemala.

Rev. Francisco Raudales, who was elected superintendent of Honduras Conference in January 1997, was re-elected as superintendent and will be among the four delegates to the General Conference in June. Additional delegates are Rev. Samuel Torres, Mr. Oswald Zavala, and Miss Damaris Canales. Honduras continues to supervise the work in El Salvador, and representatives of the El Salvador churches, including superintendent Walter Recinos, attended Honduras Annual Conference in January 2001.

Nicaragua

Nicaragua continues to grow; we now have 32 churches and/or preaching points in Nicaragua. We have been privileged, through the International Construction Fund, to build twenty new church buildings across the conference.

Just recently, Jeff Degan of the Monticello UB church (Spencerville, Ohio) led a work team which completed work on a structure at Quebrada Honda, near Masaya. Also, another church building construction has started

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near Managua, made possible through the generous gift of Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Bomer of Walbridge, Ohio. It is gratifying to see the places of worship that now dot the countryside between Managua and Masaya with the names “Los Hermanos Unidos en Cristo” (Church of the United Brethren in Christ) identifying each structure.

Rev. Juan Pavon Pavon and Domingo Velasquez will represent Nicaragua Conference at General Conference.

Costa Rica

Supervision for Costa Rica is under the leadership of Nicaragua Conference. We have two church buildings in San Jose and one preaching point. The congregations continue to grow, and

both churches are now looking for additional space.

El Salvador

In 1999, six churches in El Salvador affiliated with us. Oversight is provided primarily by Honduras Conference.

Guatemala

At the annual conference session in Nicaragua, the devotional speaker was a young man from Guatemala City who has been a friend of the leadership of Nicaragua for some time. He now pastors a church of about 160 people, the name of which is “Los Hermanos Unidos en Cristo.” So, without “officially” being present in Guatemala, we have a United Brethren church there

Focus of the Department

At the end of the last quadrennium, the Missions Commission adopted new policies which have been the foundational statements upon which our ministry and outreach has been built.

Missions Commission Mission Statement

based on Matthew 28:16-21, Luke 4:16-21, Acts 1:8

“The purpose of the Missions Commission of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ is to grow and multiply churches through worship, evangelism, discipleship and social concern by actively seeking and winning the lost.”

The Scope of Our Work

- United Brethren initiated, designed, and staffed works in a non-North American setting.
- United Brethren staff support to other agencies ministering in a non-North American setting.
- United Brethren initiated, designed, and staffed works in a North American cross-cultural setting.

Mission Objectives

All mission involvement will be evaluated and prioritized in light of these objectives.

- We affirm the need of mission education and training for United Brethren young people.
- We affirm that the Missions Commission needs to be strengthening existing outreaches, starting new outreaches only in partnership with existing United Brethren works.
- We affirm supporting partial support ministries that fulfill the mission statement. We will encourage individuals interested in serving on a mission field by directing them to an agency which would best utilize the interests or talent of the individual. We would become part of that individual’s support team through the partial support program.
- We affirm that outreach should invest in people above infrastructure, emphasizing leadership development, the development and purposeful pursuit of mutual long-term goals, and sharing of resources.

under the supervision of Nicaragua.

The Caribbean

Jamaica

Jamaica celebrated its 50th Annual Conference in March 2001 with a wonderful conference and a glorious Sunday celebration attended by upwards of 2000 people. There were 13 guests from Indiana and Ontario, in addition to Rev. and Mrs. Herbert Cherry and Dr. and Mrs. Kent Maxwell, both teaching at the Jamaica Bible College. Also in attendance were Connie Cherry and Joyce Thornton, formerly of Winebrenner Seminary. A number of Jamaicans now living in the USA, Canada, and England returned to celebrate the 50th anniversary. A very special guest was Rev. James B. O'Sullivan, founder of the work in Jamaica.

As the statistics will show, there was, again, significant growth in Jamaica in every category of statistics. With the admission of Eltham Park, near Spanish Town, we now have 26 churches in Jamaica. The Rev. Lloyd Spencer continues for another year as General Superintendent. The Rev. Winston Smith was elected as "General Superintendent Elect," and will understudy with Rev. Spencer during the next twelve months.

Rev. Spencer and his sister, Miss Annette Spencer, will represent Jamaica at the General Conference.

Haiti

In late February 2001, I traveled to Haiti to officiate at the inaugural service of our new work in that country. Following an exploratory trip by Bishop Ray Seilhamer and me last August, we have continued in dialogue with Rev. Richard Oliam, superintendent of a number of Haitian churches. While living in Paris, France, Rev. Oliam became acquainted with the United Brethren church through the denominational web site, and he inquired about our interest in assuming supervision of the churches under his leadership. In April 2001, Rev. Oliam took up residence in Port au Prince.

At the inaugural service on February

24, we had eight pastors and several lay leaders from churches across Haiti who have made a commitment to become a part of the United Brethren in Christ denomination. We have 17 churches, many of them in the western part of the country, who have registered with the U.B.C. church.

There are an additional 12-15 churches under the leadership of our pastors of the Southeast Conference, in the Orlando, Fla., area. These churches are closer to Port au Prince and in the central and northern part of Haiti.

One of our challenges will be to bring together under one umbrella the churches associated with Rev. Oliam and those associated with our stateside pastors.

Pastor Oliam is in the process of completing official registration of our denomination in Haiti. The country is poor (the poorest in the western hemisphere) and the needs are great. Several of the churches are high in the mountains of western Haiti, and travel to these places is extremely difficult.

While in Haiti, I took a day and traveled north to Cape Haitian for a surprise visit to Aldean and Ellen Saufley, who appreciated very much my visit with them. They were busy preparing to move into the brand new structure that will house the radio station of the OMS International ministry.

Africa

Sierra Leone

Because of the continuing problems in Sierra Leone over the past several years, it has not been possible to visit the conference there. My last visit to Sierra Leone was in September 1996. I will conclude my term of office in August without having returned to the country where Mar Louise and I served as missionaries over a period of 20 years, first with the United Methodist Church and later, in the 1980s, with the United Brethren church.

Representing Sierra Leone at General Conference will be Revs. Joe Bob Amara and Sorrie Kamada, and laypersons Agatha Daramy and S.K. Foyoh. Each is seeking to obtain a visitor's visa to the

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Narsapur Christian Hospital

Out patient attendance	93,646
Patients admitted to the hospital	7,134
Surgical procedures	1,745
Labor room deliveries	2,554
Various lab tests completed	53,382
HIV tests completed (Positive)	6,650 70

USA. Because no US embassy operates in Freetown at the moment, it will be necessary for these delegates to travel to Gambia to seek a visa for entry into the United States.

Our conference in Sierra Leone reports that we now have 49 churches, 35 preaching points and 8,068 members.

Asia

India

Richard and Miriam Prabakhar returned to India in late August 2000 to resume their multi-faceted work in that country. They still live in Narsapur, giving direction and oversight to the various ministries. The Prabakhars have been an important part of the Narsapur Christian Hospital for many years.

There are 14 doctors, 14 staff in administration, 186 nursing staff and assistants, 67 maintenance staff, and various pharmacists, lab technicians, and radiographers. These all contribute to a wonderful Christian outreach in Narsapur. Other ministries include:

- The Prabhakars report that 82,500 *Bible correspondence courses* have been mailed out, and 43,000 have been completed. Additionally, 4,300 courses have been mailed to children, of which 2,600 have been completed.

- Under the “*Beautiful Family*” program of Bethesda Leprosy Hospital, 105 students are enrolled, sponsored by individuals, church groups, youth groups, and WMF societies. Each sponsor donates \$20 per month for the child.

- *The Mission English Medium School* now has a staff of 23 and a student enrollment of 352 offering excellent education in English.

- The *church planting* work now consists of 8 churches and 25 preaching

points, with a total of 425 adult members. There have been, in the past year, 49 Hindu converts, many of whom have already received baptism.

Hong Kong

Hong Kong continues a steady ministry. Despite the fact that there has not been significant growth in the number of churches within Hong Kong, it is gratifying to see the way in which this small conference has reached out across Asia in “missionary enterprise.” We have work in Macau, Thailand, and Myanmar because of the vision of the Hong Kong Conference. Recently the leadership of Hong Kong made a visit to Cambodia with the intention of expanding into that country. “Mainland” China is also on the “vision map” of the Hong Kong Conference.

Rev. Peter Lee, conference superintendent, and Mr. K. K. Chan will represent Hong Kong Conference at General Conference. Rev. Mark Choi will attend as an observer. Mark is the missions director for the Hong Kong conference as well as a pastor of one of our churches there.

In 1997, a major transition occurred when control of Hong Kong was transferred from Great Britain to China. Thus far, our work has not been affected by this change.

Macau

During this quadrennium, Luke Fetters concluded his service as field superintendent in Macau, and accepted a position at Huntington College. Jana Hoobler was initially named interim superintendent, and later designated as field superintendent. She spearheaded our expansion onto the island of Taipa, which is part of Macau. The English Language Program at Living Water Church, where our Macau ministry began, was discontinued at the end of 2000; the church there is self-governing and healthy. A new English Language Program opened on Taipa in February 2001. The missionary staff moved its offices to Taipa.

Jana Hoobler, Jennifer Blandin, and Paul Coy served as missionaries in Macau throughout the quadrennium. Jana has been a missionary there since

1992, Paul arrived in 1995, and Jennifer arrived in 1996. In May 2001, Paul concluded his third term in Macau, and plans to enter seminary in the United States. Other fulltime missionaries who served during part of the quadrennium are Stacey Provencher and the Rhett Butler family.

Linda Burns taught at the Macau Christian Academy from 1994-2000, serving as a volunteer with our Macau ministry. A number of other persons have served short terms in Macau as volunteers. They include Russ and Nellie Birdsall, Wilbur and Mossie Sites, Eleanore Datema, Jayne Mote, Milan and Margaret Maybee, Byrdena Shuneman, and Heather Boyer.

In December 1999, Portugal handed over control of Macau to China.

Thailand

Hong Kong Conference continues providing oversight of our work in the mountains of northern Thailand among the Akha people. This work began in 1994 with a school and a church. This quadrennium, it expanded to include a second church and school in another village.

Myanmar

Hong Kong Conference also oversees our work in Myanmar, which began in 1998 when a couple with ties to Hong Kong began ministering in the capital of Yangon (formerly Rangoon). They are considered partial-support missionaries serving with Operation Mobilization.

Ethnic Ministries

Latin American Ministries

The Hispanic work in Mexico and the USA has been supervised by Rev. Denis Casco, director of Latin American Ministries. Denis reported to the Missions Commission that LAM, in the year 2000, had an overall increase of 25%. He says, "We finished the year with forty churches, ten districts, preaching points, thirty-seven leaders and pastors in good standing, 772 new converts and/or baptisms, and 3,161 official members, with an average of 3,492 people in Sunday worship service."

During 2000 there was an opportunity to start a church in Miami, a city with 56% Latino population. Denis also reported government figures that put

Quadrennial Statistics

	12/31/92	12/31/00	Mexico 12/31/00
Local Churches	132	186	22
Elders	61	802	
Licentiatees	36	n/a	
Adult & Youth Membership	10,969	17,811	3,939
<i>Total Net Increase, 1992-2000</i>		6,842	3,939
New Converts	1,459	1,739	777
Baptisms	594	1,078	366
Total Funds Distributed (\$US)	\$412,734	\$733,777	
A.M. Average Worship Attendance	6,295	13,298	2,157
<i>Net Increase</i>		7,003	2,157
S.S. Average Attendance	5,686	9,242	
<i>Net Increase, 1992-2000</i>		3,556	

The figures above do not include:

- *ethnic ministries in the United States and Canada.*
- *statistics for Haiti, which was organized in early 2001.*

Statistics for Mexico are listed separately and in addition to the other countries, since it is considered part of Latin American Ministries.

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the Latino population in the USA at 30 million, among which are 18 million from Mexico. Denis has also been overseeing the construction of churches in Mexico, among which are El Puente (near Zacapu), Jesus Marias, Queretaro, and San Luis de La Paz.

Other Ethnic Ministries

In addition to the Hispanic work, covered in the report by Denis Casco, it should be noted that we now have cross cultural work in the following areas:

- Chinese churches in Manhattan and the Queens.
- A Jamaican church in the Bronx (Mid-Atlantic Conference).
- Jamaican preaching points in the Bronx and Brooklyn.
- Two African churches in New Jersey (Mid-Atlantic Conference).
- An African church in Philadelphia (Mid-Atlantic Conference).
- An African church in Boston (Mid-Atlantic Conference).
- A Multi-cultural church in Allentown, Pa. (Mid-Atlantic Conference).
- A Haitian church in Philadelphia (Mid-Atlantic Conference).
- Haitian churches in Orlando and Bradenton (Southeast Conference).
- A Jamaican church in Fort Lauderdale (Southeast Conference).
- A Hispanic church in Goshen, Ind. (Michindoh Conference).
- A Hispanic church still in the planning stages in Columbus, Ohio (Central Conference).
- Three Hispanic churches in California Conference (not part of Latin American Ministries).

The Chinese church in Toronto, Ontario, pastored for many years by Rev. Isaac Hor, is probably going to close in the very near future. The members of that church will most likely be assimilated into other Chinese congregations in the Toronto area.

At the April 2001 meeting of the Missions Commission, the following motion was passed:

That we recommend, and pass on to the Executive Leadership Team, that all ethnic or cross cultural churches located in the bounds of an annual conference be placed under the respective conference for supervision, accountability, and member-

ship (when that church meets the qualifications for membership in the annual conference).

Missionaries

Categories of Missionaries

During the past quadrennium, the Missions Commission redefined the categories of missionaries who serve Christ and the Church. The Missions Commission recognizes and appoints four categories of missionary:

1. *Full support missionaries* are appointed by the Missions Commission to serve in United Brethren staffed works. Full support missionaries are employed by the Missions Commission. Clergy missionaries are employees for income tax reporting and self-employed for Social Security reporting.

2. *Partial support missionaries* are appointed by the Missions Commission to serve under other mission-sending organizations. A partial support missionary meets the following criteria:

- Is a current member of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ (in case of couples, one must be a member).

- Is working with an international mission sending organization approved by the Missions Commission of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ as a partially supported missionary.

- Has been approved by the Missions Commission of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ as a partially supported missionary.

3. *Endorsed missionaries* are persons who have applied for partial support but for whom funding is not presently available. They shall have the same criteria applied as partial support missionaries (above), and will receive partial support funding if and when those funds become available.

4. *Volunteer missionaries* are appointed by the Missions Commission to serve in United Brethren staffed works without receiving financial remuneration. Volunteers are not employees of the Missions Commission. Volunteer missionaries sign an agreement specifying the conditions of their service.

Funding Policies

During this past quadrennium, we

began to implement a new policy in the ways missionaries are funded. Prior to the beginning of 1997, missionaries who were accepted and appointed by the Board of Missions, or Missions Commission were fully supported by the general budget. No missionary was required to raise support for his/her own missionary appointment.

However, beginning January 1, 1997, first term missionaries have been required to raise 50% of their support package (salary, benefits, transportation, etc.). This is matched with 50% from the General Fund of the Missions Department. For second and succeeding terms, missionaries are required to raise 75% of their support package, and 25% will be provided from the General Fund of the Missions Department.

The Missions Commission has been working in partnership with the partial support missionary to promote the work of his/her ministry within the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. The partial support missionary works with the church to raise funds to support his/her ministry. Support for partial support missionaries is set at \$3,000 for single missionaries and \$5,000 for married couples. Partial support missionaries are responsible to raise 50% of this support in United Brethren Churches. The Missions Commission, through its General Fund, matches gifts received toward the partial support of missionaries' support until the full "partial support" level is reached.

Only gifts given directly to the Missions Commission are eligible for matching funds. Gifts sent directly to the partial support missionary or his/her sending agency are not eligible. Any gifts received in excess of the 50% partial support level are sent on to the missionary's sending agency. In the past, from the budget of the Missions Department, an annual amount of \$1,200 was provided to approved partial support single missionaries and \$1,600 for couples or families.

Note: While the Commission has continued to add new persons to its partial support missionary roster, there are a number of persons wishing to be considered as partial support missionar-

ies, but for whom support from the General Fund is not yet available. As funds do become available, new persons will be added to this already expanding list of personnel who represent Christ and the Church of the United Brethren in Christ around the world.

Other Matters

Statistics

We have had a significant increase in our international statistics which indicate considerable growth in several of our countries. Adult membership is up by 3,000 in international fields. Worship attendance saw a growth this past year of 2,886. The Department of Missions disbursed a total of \$864,307 to all fields and cross cultural ministries, including \$578,937 in regular funding, \$154,710 in restricted funds, and \$130,600 in International Construction.

For a "bird's eye view" of the growth of the church, internationally, over the past two quadrenniums, look at the chart on page 23-5.

New Constitutions

Jamaica, Honduras, and Nicaragua have been working on their new constitutions to be presented to the General Conference in June. These were adopted by the respective conferences in January and March. The constitutions of Hong Kong, Sierra Leone, Canada, and the USA will also be presented to the General Conference for ratification and adoption.

Grants and Disaster Relief

The Merillat Foundation has made it possible for us to move into Mexico, with a special grant several years ago given for that purpose. Though that grant is now exhausted, the Missions Commission has continued the work in Mexico as a budget item.

The Merillat Foundation also provided the Missions Department with \$400,000 designated for construction on our international fields. The International Construction Fund enabled us to erect or improve dozens of churches and parsonages on our international fields.

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The Merillat Foundation also made it possible, for a period of three years, to provide an additional staffperson in the area of Development. That person was Doug Johnson, who served from 1997-2000. Doug concluded his work in November 2000, and is now pursuing a seminary education.

Disasters and emergencies across the world have always been responded to generously by United Brethren people. Over \$300,000 was raised and distributed over the past eight years to meet needs in Sierra Leone arising from war and rebel activity. Over \$180,000 was raised after the devastating storm of Hurricane Mitch, enabling us to aid in reconstruction in Central America.

Appreciation

I would like to express deep appreciation to a brother who recently went to be with the Lord. Robert Arnold, of Decatur, Ind., although not a United Brethren by membership, gave generously to a fund set up in his name, the interest of which has provided thousands of Bibles the world over. Robert was always keen on getting God's word out to people and took joy in knowing that his gifts provided the scriptures in many different languages. That fund continues, incidentally, the interest of which continues to provide scriptures across the world.

I want to express my deep appreciation for the privilege of having served

the Church of the United Brethren in Christ as Director of Mission, over the past eight years. It has been a joy and pleasure to work with Bishop Ray A. Seilhamer, Paul Hirschy, Marda Hoffman, and Steve Dennie as a part of the General Church staff. I also have enjoyed working with Donna Holloper and the Missions Staff. I appreciate what the support staff of Headquarters has added to our work and ministry in the Missions Department.

Though retired or elsewhere employed, my interest in United Brethren Missions will continue. I will continue to pray for and support the work at home and on the international fields, regardless of where I am or what I will be doing.

Allow me to close with the words of Paul to the church at Philippi:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I (will) remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I (will) always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Parentheses mine).

Philippians 1:1-6

*Yours in Christ's service,
Kyle W. McQuillen, Jr.
Director of Missions*

General Fund Receipts and Disbursements

4-Year Financial Comparison

Receipts	1997	1998	1999	2000
General fund	210,805	201,312	228,488	232,845
WMF	234,058	252,911	207,685	236,951
Benevolence	36,467	36,505	36,486	36,137
Sunday School for Missions	11,619	11,976	10,375	8,589
Self Denial	60,124	65,707	70,346	84,299
Faith Promise	26,176	24,103	27,469	26,198
Investment Income	35,175	14,302	36,673	7,313
Salary Support	136,334	141,390	140,984	103,168
Memorials	22,112	15,156	10,301	2,559
Bequests	0	0	128,875	0
Development Staff Funding	0	59,014	32,413	15,251
Other	9,717	18,532	3,009	11,644
Cross Cultural Ministries	83,293	61,691	66,364	66,499
Gospel for Mexico	0	20,658	12,887	14,864
Africa	5,562	5,316	5,762	5,939
Hong Kong	2,081	1,775	1,450	1,860
Macau	110,130	115,784	77,236	64,912
Honduras	10,896	11,905	15,060	33,928
India	39,459	45,823	57,623	68,586
Jamaica	5,457	6,934	8,658	9,763
Nicaragua	2,919	2,847	550	1,915
Costa Rica	0	1,710	938	3,656
El Salvador	0	0	1,050	1,100
Total Receipts	1,042,384	1,115,351	1,180,682	1,037,976
Disbursements				
Administrative	277,206	306,648	339,592	339,152
General Missions	33,984	52,351	48,087	54,219
Other Mission Salary Support	188,643	191,596	198,731	155,051
Africa	70,851	71,007	77,231	58,020
Honduras	50,771	49,283	62,144	103,772
Hong Kong	30,300	29,300	29,300	29,386
Macau	172,785	136,381	81,407	77,425
India	43,658	57,055	49,016	63,835
Jamaica	47,540	48,343	46,614	52,216
Nicaragua	21,088	24,828	29,750	35,001
El Salvador	0	0	3,510	6,000
Costa Rica	1,245	1,580	1,800	6,000
Belize	0	0	0	3,312
Cross Cultural Ministries	141,472	137,700	146,313	147,706
Gospel for Mexico	14,922	20,658	16,757	14,864
Total Disbursements	1,094,465	1,126,730	1,130,252	1,145,959

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Statement of Financial Position, 1997–2000

	1/1/1997 Net Assets	Add Receipts	Less Expense	12/31/2000 Net Assets
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund & Missionary Support Fund	162,878	4,736,216	-4,725,777	173,317
Restricted Funds				
Designated Funds	120,821	1,481,997	-1,194,113	408,705
Annuity and Loan Fund	-10,028	66,724	-86,105	-29,409
Trust Agreements Fund	7,775	24,053	-21,810	10,018
McCray Memorial Fund	209,798	44,036	-150,970	102,864
National Pastors Retirement	118,592	51,181	-17,172	152,601
Honduras Fund	0	109,558	-1,000	108,558
Totals	609,836	6,513,765	-6,196,947	926,654