

UB Global



Frank Yang
Director of
UB Global

Our 2021 national conference theme is intrinsically intertwined with missions. Jesus famously commanded his people to make disciples of all nations in Matthew 28. No nation has been able to stop his command over the centuries. Nor has any natural disaster. Indeed, despite the bane of a global pandemic, God's Kingdom continues to expand powerfully around the world through the courageous and faithful efforts of United Brethren. It is an honor for the UB Global team to partner with you toward better missions together. These are some of the ways we have been doing that.

Serving UBs in the US and Canada

UB Global's highest priority is to serve UB churches in North America and help them engage more effectively in missions. We have a multi-year plan to equip UB churches and individuals with missions tools and resources, and support them in making disciples in neighborhoods and nations. Here is a sampling of what's available now.

Monthly Video Updates

Each month, we create a short video called "That Missions Update." Some churches play them on Sunday mornings to keep the congregation informed about what God is doing around the world. Individuals and churches enjoy watching them to stay up-to-date on UB missions. (ubglobal.org/media)

Seven-Lesson Small Group Missions Curriculum

Within a few months, we'll be sharing about a great missions curriculum along with accompanying videos. They're ideal for small groups and Sunday schools. Through seven lessons, participants will explore how to engage in missions locally and abroad in the 21st century.

Missions Speaking

We drove tens of thousands of miles to various churches in the US and Canada during 2019 and 2020, and shared virtually and in person with dozens of congregations and groups. We spoke on Sunday mornings, to youth groups, and even to children's Sunday school classes. It's a privilege to be among fellow UBs in North America.

Quarterly Missions Leader Calls

Most churches have a missions team, and these teams usually have a leader. On a quarterly basis, we host virtual calls for these local church missions leaders. These 45-minute sessions teach, connect, and network UBs so that their churches can be more effectively engaged in missions. In 2022, we hope to connect in person as well.

Missions Consultations

We work alongside a church's leadership team to develop a personalized missions strategy. When bringing in outside consultants to lead these, such engagement often costs four to five figures. We provide it for free to UB churches as a way to serve our constituents. Over the past years, we've walked with 12 churches through our Missional DNA process.

In the coming years, we will develop even more ways to equip and serve UB churches in their missions efforts. We'll share the latest with you through our communications channels:

Electronically: Facebook, Instagram, Community Church Builder emails to pastors and mission leaders.
In print: Worldview (semi-annual publication).





Sending UBs Into the Nations

Although Covid has significantly impacted travel, UBs still courageously and creatively go into their neighborhoods and nations to make disciples.

New Long-term Missionaries

The Lord of the Harvest raised up two family units to serve at Mattru Hospital in Sierra Leone. Both are close to raising the amount needed to go, and they hope to depart in August 2021.

Dr. Ruth Rivera. Ruth is a dentist from La Ceiba, Honduras. Ever since her college days, she has been involved in missions. When Ruth heard there are literally no dentists in the Bonthe District of Sierra Leone, God planted the desire to serve in this life-saving way. In October 2020, she spent six weeks at Mattru Hospital, bringing smiles to people in dental chairs and the community. During this time, the Spirit confirmed his calling for her to serve in Mattru. She is committed to an initial term of three years. (ubglobal.org/rivera)

John and Amber McCammon family. John spent some of his childhood years in Sierra Leone as a missionary kid when his father, Stan McCammon, and the rest of the family served there. For years, John and Amber were open to missionary service as an option for their family. In 2019, they responded to the Lord's leading and initiated conversations with UB Global. To clarify God's calling, they spent four weeks that fall serving at Mattru Hospital along with their kids (Sadie and Hunter). This year, the McCammons, who live in Huntington, Ind., wrapped up their jobs, attended training, sold their home and many of their possessions, and even welcomed baby Silas to their family.

When in Sierra Leone, John will apply his extensive construction and trades experiences to the physical operations of the hospital (solar, building, etc.). Amber, a certified nurse assistant, will work with the hospital and a local ministry to children with disabilities. They are committed to an initial term of three years. (ubglobal.org/mccammon)

New Long-term Opportunities

We are praying for God to raise up his people for these overseas roles:

- Macau: education, evangelism, discipleship.
- Sierra Leone: various medical and hospital administration positions.
- Thailand: short-term trip coordinator, TESOL, community development, youth and children's ministry.

Caring for UB Missionaries

Missionary care is critical to supporting missionaries toward long-term service. Covid made it impossible for us to visit missionaries, so we employ technology to stay connected. However, virtual calls cannot replace in-person encouragement. So join us in praying for the spiritual and mental health of our missionaries, who face extra pressures and stresses ministering during a global pandemic.

We've been refining a team model of caring for long-term missionaries called the Missionary Support Team (MST). It enables more believers to use their gifts to support our missionaries in their mission. We can assist interested UB churches to develop MSTs for missionaries sent from their midst.

Short-term Mission Trips

Nearly ten trips (2-3 weeks in length) were cancelled due to the pandemic. However, two teams completed their work and returned before North America shut down in early 2020. In late January 2020, Dr. Ron Baker led a medical and dental team of ten persons to Mattru Hospital; the two dentists averaged 20 patients a day. In late February, a team of 14 persons from six UB churches served in Thailand.

Pending government regulations in 2022, we are aiming for 3-4 trips to Thailand, some medical teams who could serve at Mattru Hospital in Sierra Leone, and even a domestic cross-cultural trip. Short-term mission trips, when done well, are an important way to advance missions overseas while building deep bonds among participants from various churches.

Virtual Mission trips

Covid inspired us to successfully engage interested UBs in virtual short-term mission trips in 2020 and



2021. Participants “went on” four trips to locations such as Macau, Sierra Leone, and Thailand. They grew in cross-cultural acumen, experienced what God is doing around the world, learned language basics, cooked ethnic foods, and even taught local people online. Some participants appreciated being able to experience what God is doing in countries to which they may never be able to travel, while others were inspired to join a future team in person. These virtual trips, called “Experience,” will continue for the years to come.

Medium-term Missions

Over the past two years, Dawn Chesterman from College Park Church (Huntington, Ind.) and Lisa Mitchinson from Mill Crossing UB church (Cambridge, Ontario) served in Thailand for 4-6 weeks at a time. Richard and Cathy Toupin, from Auburn, Ind., made multiple six-week trips to Sierra Leone.

While not new, this approach is an effective component of global missions. Medium-term missions is ideal for retirees, gap-year students, and believers with flexible work schedules. By spending four weeks to 12 months in a location, believers can develop deeper relationships with locals and provide greater assistance to long-term missionaries. Some participants intentionally go on multiple trips to the same location to further multiply their effectiveness and impact. Sierra Leone and Thailand have need of believers who are interested in medium-term missions.

Partnering

We are better when making disciples together. Here are some ways UB Global is engaging in partnership with churches and organizations.

Missions Organizations

UB Global regularly connects with missions organizations of all sizes. We learn and grow from each other as we share our experiences and challenges. We can then pass this learning on to our UB constituents.

Huntington University

We appreciate opportunities to partner with Huntington University. Over the past two years, we sent J-term and Spring Break teams around the world, and provided TESOL students with virtual practicum opportunities.

Financial Partnership

We are essentially funded by individuals and churches who directly give to UB Global. We appreciate new churches and donors who give directly to the UB Global Team fund, which helps support the various services the Huntington team provides. We look forward to achieving long-term financial sustainability as this trend continues.

We'd like to recognize the top churches who supported UB Global missionaries, the UB Global Team, and/or projects over 2019 and 2020. These are listed according to top overall giving.

1. Emmanuel (Fort Wayne, Ind.).
2. Mainstreet (Walbridge, Ohio).
3. King Street (Chambersburg, Pa.).
4. Sunfield (Sunfield, Mich.).
5. Otterbein (Greencastle, Pa.).
6. Salem (Chambersburg, Pa.).
7. Parkwood Gardens (Guelph, Ontario).
8. First UB Church (New Castle, Pa.).
9. Jerusalem Chapel (Churchville, Va.).
10. College Park (Huntington, Ind.).



International Updates

Following are selected updates from our international conferences and mission districts.

Central America

A number of Central American countries were affected by natural disasters, especially UB churches in Honduras. Covid made it difficult for day-laborers to find work, and the combination of two devastating hurricanes in 2020 swept away homes and even lives. United Brethren in North America generously gave toward relief efforts.

In 2016, the Honduran UB churches sent out Milton and Erika Pacheco as their first overseas missionaries. The Pachecos returned to Honduras for their regularly scheduled home ministry assignment at the end of 2019, and Covid caused them to be “stuck” home for over a year. During this time, they worked with their national church leaders to provide emergency relief to various communities affected by Covid and the hurricanes. Additionally, they developed a team to share the global missions vision with Honduran Christians around the country. They will return to Thailand in August 2021.

Over the past year, the Honduras conference not only sent Dr. Ruth Rivera to Sierra Leone, but also commissioned the Nunez family in 2021 as the second family to make disciples in Thailand.

France

Two churches on the outskirts of Paris, Alfortville and Crétiel, initially joined the France Mission District. Bishop Todd Fetters and UB Global director Jeff Bleijerveld traveled to France in early November 2019, along with Bob Bruce, who teaches United Brethren history. They met with leadership teams from both churches to give an overview of our beliefs, distinctives, history, and worldwide ministries. In a joint Sunday service the next day, each congregation received a certificate of membership in the denomination. Rev. Oliam Richard, who founded the Alfortville church in the 1980s when he lived in France, participated in the service. In July 2020, internal leadership decisions led Crétiel to withdraw as a UB church.

Haiti

Haiti became our newest national conference as of their August 9-11, 2019, meeting. They had been a mission district since 2000, when a group of churches under the supervision of Rev. Oliam Richard affiliated with us. With the guidance of our United Brethren in Canada, the Haiti churches are now a self-governing and self-supporting national church. Rev. Richard has now retired. Rev. Jean Louis Supreme, who has a long history with the United Brethren, was elected as their new leader.

Hong Kong

UBs in Hong Kong have been a critical partner in Thailand’s UB work in Chiang Rai since day one. Once a year (pre-Covid), they would send short-term teams to assist in work in the UB community center. Hong Kong churches also generously gave toward the building and operations of the Thailand ministry.

Sadly, the Hong Kong protests in 2019–2020 affected unity within UB churches and families. Covid shut down much of this metropolis during the pandemic’s worst months. In total, there have been 11,834 cases and 210 deaths from 2020 to the end of May 2021.

Jamaica and General Conference

In 2021, Jamaica celebrated its 75th UB annual conference. Praise the Lord for his faithfulness over these years!

Normally, international UB leaders and delegates gather every three years for General Conference—a time of meetings, encouragement, and prayer. Jamaica was going to host the event March 15-18, 2020, at Regent College of the Caribbean, but Covid cancelled it. This message was sent out on March 10, 2020: “In light of concerns regarding the coronavirus and the declining number of travelers able to attend our General Conference, we regret to inform you that we will not proceed with our General Conference as planned. We have decided that we will postpone the conference until March 13-18, 2021. It will still take place in Jamaica.”

The 2021 event was again cancelled. We pray we will be able to hold General Conference in 2022.



Sierra Leone

We are thankful that Covid has not been rampant in Sierra Leone as some experts initially feared. In total, there have been 4,121 reported cases and 79 reported deaths. However, similar to Central America, Covid restrictions greatly impacted people's lives, especially during 2020.

Dr. Jon and Heleen Yoder, who began serving at Mattru Hospital in 2015, concluded their long-term service in February 2020. They were on loan from Eastern Mennonite Mission. The Yoders still serve through short-term mission trips. Though there has not been long-term missionary staff at Mattru Hospital since then, short-term teams continue to make a difference, especially Dr. Richard and Cathy Toupin. They served at Mattru Hospital 1990-1992, prior to the civil war in Sierra Leone, and on numerous occasions as short-term workers since the end of the war in 2002. They have returned as UB Global staff to serve for a period of weeks at Mattru, with breaks in the US.

In March 2020, the Rotary Club in Huntington, Ind., contributed \$11,300 to pay for the electric meters being installed throughout Mattru, so the hospital can charge customers for electricity provided from its solar array and fund hospital expenses. On June 2, 2021, they presented a check for \$12,000 to help fund a vehicle.

A number of other charitable organizations have given toward various critical medical and infrastructure projects in Mattru, including Lehigh Valley Rotary, Engineers Without Borders, and Southwest Medical.

Pioneering Among the Least Reached

We are grateful that the church is strong in many parts of the world and in most locations where there are UB churches. Yet over 40% of the world are a part of Unreached People Groups (defined as less than 2% Evangelical, and less than 5% any Christian). Many of these people do not personally know a Christian. This is why UB Global remains committed to pioneering and mobilizing others toward this great Gospel need.

Asia

There is active UB work in a location where Christians are not welcomed. Our missionary there remained throughout the pandemic. There were unique challenges during this time, but she continues to impact many locals. A UB couple there completed their term of service in 2020 and returned to the United States.

We sent an exploratory team to investigate possible ministries among one of the least reached people groups in the world, where there are less than 300 Christians in total around the world among a million of their own people. Unfortunately, Covid hampered our second effort. We are praying that 2022 may again open up these doors. We are also asking for the Lord to send workers to join a future short-term mission team.

UB Global has active work in another Asian location where Christians are not welcomed. Our missionary there returned to the US in 2020 for cancer treatments while her local coworkers have continued ministry there.

Macau

Jennifer Blandin and Jenaya Bonner decided to stay in Macau, which became a model for dealing with Covid. In total, this city of half a million had 50 cases and no deaths as of May 2021. Jen Blandin led the Living Stone Church through trying Covid times, including losing a long-term leader to cancer. Jenaya continues to serve in education and minister in the local church.

Thailand

The UB work among the Northern Thai people group (less than half a percent Christian) in Chiang Rai is a joint effort among UBs in Honduras, Hong Kong, and North America.

The Good Soil Community Center (GSCC) was dedicated on November 10, 2019. Superintendent Kin Keung Yiu and other UB members from Hong Kong Conference, which was a significant funding partner in the building project, came early to help prepare the new building for its grand opening, and then participated in the ceremony.

We purchased the property in 2016, and in 2018 tore down the existing building and began constructing a new building. The Center enables the UB team to serve the local community and develop deeper friendships with local ethnic Thais in a variety of ways. Brian and Rachel Glunt have been holding classes and outreach through the GSCC. Local Thai staff have tremendously amplified our programming, home visits, and outreach efforts. Toward the end of 2020, we applied for and received a special grant which will further accelerate ministry there.

Brian and Rachel Glunt and their four children came home in April 2019 for their first furlough, and



returned to Thailand in September. They chose to remain in Thailand throughout the pandemic.

Hannah Barrett began teaching at Chiang Rai International Christian School in August 2018. She will complete her service in Thailand by summer 2021. Another missionary from a closed country reaches out to university students in Chiang Rai.

Covid hampered GSCC programming through occasional lock-downs. This country of 67 million, a population larger than California and Texas combined, had 132,213 cases and 806 deaths as of the end of May 2021.

UB Global Staff

Full Support Staff

These UB missionaries serve on UB mission fields for 2-3 years at a time. They work as employees of UB Global. Several cannot be identified in print.

- *Jennifer Blandin*, in Macau since 1996. She is from Mainstreet UB church in Walbridge, Ohio.
- *Jenaya Bonner*, in Macau since 2010. She is from Emmanuel UB church in Fort Wayne, Ind.
- *Brian and Rachel Glunt* family, in Thailand since 2016. They are from Emmanuel UB church in Fort Wayne, Ind.
- *John and Amber McCammon* family, preparing to locate to Sierra Leone in 2021. They attend First Church of the Nazarene in Huntington, Ind.
- *Ruth Rivera*, preparing to locate in Sierra Leone during 2021. She is from the Honduras Conference.
- Undisclosed, in Thailand.
- Undisclosed, in Asia.
- Undisclosed, in Asia.

Jump Start / Non-Traditional Staff

During 2019-2021, these UB missionaries served on UB mission fields for a few months to one year at a time.

- *Hannah Barrett*, at Chiang Rai International School in Thailand since 2018. She is from Shiloh Christian Union Church in Delta, Ohio. In 2020, when the city mandated that schools close until mid-April, Hannah decided to return to her family in Ohio. The school subsequently decided to close down in-person teaching at the school for the rest of the year. Hannah returned to Thailand at the turn of 2021.
- *Harold and MaryAnn Hancock*, at Regent College of the Caribbean in Jamaica since 2012. They are from New Hope UB church in Camden, Mich. They were just finishing up their stint when the virus hit, and they returned to Michigan.
- *Richard and Cathy Toupin*, at Mattru Hospital in Sierra Leone, with service going back as far as 1990. The Toupins started the year serving a couple months at Mattru Hospital. With the country closing its borders, they left a little sooner than planned, and returned to their home in Auburn, Ind. They returned for six weeks in November 2020 and again in 2021.

Sojourn Staff

These UB missionaries are legally UB Global staff, but are seconded to serve with another mission organization.

- *Nicole "Nichie" and Chris Stonall* and daughter, serving with Impact Africa in Johannesburg, South Africa. Nichie is from McCallum UB church in Delton, Mich. She and Chris, a native of South Africa, were married in July 2019, and in December 2020 welcomed their first child, Adelaide.
- *Christopher Wimer*, serving with Alliance Academy International in Quito, Ecuador. He is from Jerusalem Chapel UB church in Churchville, Va.

Endorsed Staff

These UBs served as missionaries with other organizations around the world during the past two years.

- *Ron and Brenda Anderson*, European Christian Mission (Spain).



- *Rigo and Chrysti Andino*, Commission to Every Nation (Honduras).
- *Brian and Cathy Birdsall*, Cru (New York).
- *Sarah Bonner*, One Mission Society (Indiana).
- *Fraser and Sherry Churchill*, Operation Mobilization (Ontario).
- *Jaime Clore*, SEND International (Spain).
- *Sean and Kathy Coffey*, Churches in Mission (Pennsylvania).
- *Dave and Cathie Datema*, Frontier Ventures (California).
- *Arek and Donna Delik*, Operation Mobilization (Poland).
- *Abigail Farmer*, Wycliffe Bible Translators (Texas).
- *Scott and Noel Hardaway*, Finisterre Vision (Papua New Guinea).
- *Jessica Holloper*, One Mission Society (Indiana).
- *Seth and Becca Mallay*, ABWE (Togo).
- *Jim and Heidi Olinger*, Nicaragua Christian Education Foundation (Illinois).
- *Roger and Marilyn Reeck*, Wycliffe Bible Translators (Honduras).
- *Joe and Natalie Reed*, Church Resource Ministries (Massachusetts).
- *David and Teresa Roberts*, Cornerstone Foundation (Honduras).
- *Kurt and Bekah Siegel*, Resourcing Christian Education International (Russia).
- *Roger and Mary Lou Skinner*, One Mission Society (Indiana).
- *Dave and Becky Spencer*, JAARS (North Carolina).
- *Steve and Amanda Taylor*, Africa Inland Mission (Kenya).
- *Rick and Diane Tyler*, Christian Missions Resource Centre (Ontario).
- *Doug and Ruth Weber*, Sonset Solutions (Indiana).
- Undisclosed. A family serving a sensitive people group (Canada).
- Undisclosed. A family serving in a closed country.
- Undisclosed. A family serving in Asia in a sensitive place.
- Undisclosed. An individual serving in a sensitive place.

Past UB Global Missionaries who have Passed on to Heaven

These former UB missionaries have passed away since the 2019 US National Conference.

Evan Towne, 94 (August 26, 2019). Evan was a UB missionary in Sierra Leone 1953-1956 and 1964-1967, and served in the pastorate in several states.

Rhonda Mudge, 53 (October 15, 2019). Rhonda was among our early missionaries in Macau, serving 1992-1993. She married UB minister Michael Mudge in 1994, and served alongside him for the next 25 years in pastoral ministry, most recently at Bethany House of the Lord in Cumberland, Md. She passed away after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Kyle W. McQuillen, 83 (March 16, 2020). Kyle McQuillen grew up in the United Methodist Church, in which he served as a pastor and a missionary in Nigeria. While pastoring a UMC church in Shippensburg, Pa., he became friends with the local United Brethren pastor, Rev. C. Ray Miller, who was also chairperson of the UB Board of Missions. That relationship led to McQuillen agreeing to serve as a UB missionary in Sierra Leone 1983-1985 to oversee the nationalization of our work there. He subsequently became an associate director of Missions at the United Brethren national office, 1987-1989, followed by four years as senior pastor of College Park UB church in Huntington, Ind. In 1993, he was elected Director of Missions and served in that role until 2001. That was a time of unprecedented international expansion for the United Brethren church, as we added work in Thailand, Costa Rica, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Haiti.

June Brown, 89 (June 4, 2020). June Brown served 35 years as a UB missionary in Sierra Leone, starting in 1957. She taught the first six years at Centennial Secondary School in Mattru, and the next 29 years at Bumpe High School. When the conference was nationalized in 1985, she also took on the role of Director of Missionary Affairs. She concluded her missionary career abruptly in 1992, when all missionaries were evacuated from the country after a military coup. She took the opportunity to retire from missionary service, and returned to her hometown of Chambersburg, Pa. A memorial service was held December 12, 2020, at her home church, King Street UB in Chambersburg.

Lamar Crumbley, 87 (January 24, 2021). Lamar Crumbley passed away in Canton, Ga. Lamar and Karen became involved with the UB work in Honduras in 1974, leading a series of short-term teams from their Baptist church in Florida in the aftermath of Hurricane Fifi and in the years following. Field Superintendent



Archie Cameron finally invited them to join the work fulltime. They sold their business and, in 1978, settled in La Ceiba. The Crumbleys served in Honduras over a 15-year period, and also served a short-term stint in Macau in 2003. Karen passed away April 2, 2019, at age 82.

Russell Birdsall, 93 (February 3, 2021). Russ and Nellie Birdsall served 11 years as missionaries in Sierra Leone, 1957-1968. He then served eight years as Dean of Students at Huntington University, followed by two years as Director of Church Relations. In 1979 he began ten years as pastor of New Hope UB church in Huntington, Ind., and then served three years as fulltime superintendent of Central Conference. Between 1994 and 2006, Russ and Nellie served seven times in Macau as short-term missionaries, always going at their own expense. They taught in the English Language Program, conducted Bible studies, and provided pastoral care for the other missionaries.

UB Global Home Office

UB Global's Huntington office supports all of the above UB missionary efforts. There has been some turnover during the past year.

Jeff Bleijerveld became Executive Director in 2008 and served for 12 years. He concluded his leadership of UB Global on May 31, 2020. *Frank Yang*, an Associate Director since 2011, took on the position of Acting Director on June 1, 2020. He was appointed Executive Director as of January 1, 2021.

Steve Fish became an Associate Director in February 2021. He had been on the pastoral staff of Emmanuel Community Church in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Michelle Harris has been an Associate Director since July 2016. She and her husband, Scott, are members of Anchor UB church in Fort Wayne, Ind.

David Kline, a UB missionary in Macau 2004-2013, has been an Associate Director since May 2014.

Jana Gass served as Administrative Assistant for nearly eight years. She concluded her service in December 2020. *Angela Vincenti*, from Emmanuel Community Church (Fort Wayne, Ind.), took on this position in January 2021. Her husband, Mark, is part of the pastoral staff at Emmanuel.

Concluding Remarks

The above list of names is part of UB Global, but it is not the whole. UB Global is more than our missionaries and the Huntington office. UB Global is complete only when you—the UB church—join in too. Our Lord has established the United Brethren denomination for his purposes around the world. What will be our role in pushing forward his Kingdom in the 21st century together as a denomination?

We cannot do it alone, not as individuals nor as an organization. We are more impactful when we serve as a whole. How is he calling us, the UB church, toward better missions together?

Our team's highest priority is to empower and mobilize the church in North America. So let us know how we can serve you (info@ub.org). Let us join together to make disciples in every corner of the world.