

GA-1510

**DIVISION OF OVERSEAS MINISTRIES
GLOBAL MINISTRIES**

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The Division of Overseas Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ continue to share in a common witness in mission through Global Ministries. The vision of Global Ministries is that all of God's people and creation share in God's abundant life. The mission is to receive and share the Good News of Jesus Christ by joining with global and local partners to work for justice, reconciliation and peace. Global Ministries is grounded in five core values, which include the following: **presence** – manifesting God's love by living in intentional, committed relationships; **mutuality** – walking in hope with others in God's mission; **community** – building interdependence and unity among all God's children; **justice** – living out God's radical love by confronting powers that deny the fullness of life and the integrity of creation; and **peace** – embodying reconciling relationships with God, humanity and creation. Global Ministries is in the third year of a strategic plan, which encompasses the following directions: nurturing community, working for peace with justice, sharing the story and developing resources. These strategic directions enable the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) "to share the Good News of Jesus Christ from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth". This report will provide an update of the various ways in which the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ participate in God's mission in the world.

Global Ministries continues to participate in a ministry of presence and accompaniment. A total of 125 missionaries served in 45 countries in 2014, which included 43 fully supported missionaries. The number of fully supported missionaries has been on the decline in recent years due to the increase in expenses related to missionary support and the decline in revenue. Global Ministries had over 160 missionaries serving in 1996 compared to 43 in 2014. Global Ministries continues to receive more requests from partner churches for missionaries, as well, as more inquiries from Disciples and United Church of Christ members who are willing to serve than it has the capacity to respond to due to financial constraints. Therefore, in 2013 Global Ministries initiated a personalized fund raising model for the support of missionaries. This model allows for the identification of a missionary candidate who will work with his/her region, family, and friends to raise the funds for his/her appointment. There have been three successful appointments made as of this date: Kim and Eric Free, members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon are serving as missionaries in Mozambique and Ann Gregory, a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Upper Midwest is serving as a missionary with the Church of Christ in Thailand. Paul Turner, a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Pacific Southwest is a

candidate to serve with the Disciples of Christ Community in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Global Ministries has nearly 300 overseas partner churches and church agencies located in over 70 countries. As a way to engage more thoroughly with a specific partner, Global Ministries has launched a regional/country initiative. The first initiative was related to the Congo and was launched at the 2013 General Assembly. This initiative enabled the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ to respond to the Resolution of 2011 which called for reflection and advocacy on issues confronting our partner church and church agencies in the Congo. The Disciples of Christ have been engaged in the Congo since 1899. The Congo Initiative involved a Bible study curriculum, health care focus, micro-credit programs, educational opportunities for women and girls, and people-to-people exchanges. It gave the members of both denominations an opportunity to understand the issues and priorities of the Disciples of Christ Community in the Congo and the Church of Christ in the Congo. The initiative concluded December 31, 2014, however Global Ministries' deep engagement with sisters and brothers in the Congo continues into the future. Hopefully, this initiative has sparked a renewed commitment to this historical partnership.

The next initiative will be launched at the 2015 General Synod and General Assembly and it will relate to the Middle East. The Global Ministries' Middle East Initiative will allow both the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ to focus on the region for an extended time. Through highlighting aspects of mission and partnership, the initiative will offer an opportunity for the church to become familiar with the range of denominational partners in the region and the issues they face and the context in which they face them. Both denominations will be able to draw on various resources and tools so that greater familiarity with the Middle East is possible, including the long legacy of Christian presence in the region.

Leadership Development

Sixteen young adults served as global mission interns in 2013. The Global Mission Intern Program is designed for young adults between the ages of 21 and 30, who have completed their basic college degree, but have little or no professional experience. It provides an opportunity for young adults to experience the global church and to discern their future, which sometimes results in a call to the ministry or to other vocations. The young adults often become leaders in some aspect of the life of the church.

College of Mission Intern Program

Charissa Ramey, a 3rd year seminarian at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis served as a College of Mission Intern. She updated partner information on the Global Ministries' web site related to Latin America and Africa and worked with the Global Mission churches. Nathan Robert Kibler, a 2nd year seminarian at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis served as a College of Mission Intern. He updated partner information on the Global Ministries' web site related to East Asia and the Pacific and worked on the REACH Curriculum. Chris Nkamba Ndjunga, a 3rd year

student at Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, St. Louis, Missouri served as a College of Mission Intern. He worked on the Congo Initiative.

Anti-Racism Training

The Division of Overseas Ministries Board of Directors completed 2 sections of anti-racism training led by Crossroads staff.

Personnel

Sandra Gourdet retired after serving 42 years on December 31, 2014. Sandra worked as a Fraternal Worker (Global Mission Intern) in 1972 with the Community of the Church of Christ in Zaire. She served in Mbandaka as an English teacher. From 1975 to 1979, she was assigned to the Disciples of Christ Community of the Church of Christ in Zaire as a teacher. She taught from 1981-1988 at Bolenge. She served from 1993 – 1997 in administration and teaching with the United Church in Zimbabwe. In October, 1997, she was appointed to the Zimbabwe Synod of the United Church of Christ in Southern Africa, where she served as a women's worker, AIDS Orphan Coordinator and as a local pastor. In 1999, she was appointed to the Zimbabwe Synod of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa where she served as a consultant in education and women's development programs. Her last missionary assignment was with the National Council of Spiritual Churches in Haiti. She began her service as the Area Executive for the Africa Office in July of 2005 and concluded her service on December 31, 2014.

Nancy Pickell concluded her service with the Division of Overseas Ministries after serving as treasurer for over 13 years. She served with the Christian Church Foundation for 11 years as Assistant Vice President of Investments and Permanent Funds.

Angel Rivera-Agosto began his service as the Area Executive for Latin America and the Caribbean on September 1, 2014. Angel served five years as the Executive Secretary for the Puerto Rico Council of Churches, with mission and evangelism as his primary focus. He and his wife, Joanne previously served as Global Ministries missionaries to the Latin American Council of Churches.

LaMarco Cable was selected to serve as Area Executive for the Africa Office. His work experience includes serving as Deputy Director of Organizing for Bread for the World; Global Ministries' program associate for advocacy related to Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean; and Interim Mission Personnel Executive for Global Ministries. In addition, he served as a local pastor. LaMarco began his service on October 1, 2014 with French language training.

Lonna Owens is serving as treasurer for both DOM and the Disciples Home Mission. She has served as treasurer for the Disciples Home Mission for 25 years. She officially began her combined ministry on January 1, 2015.

In Memoriam

Patricia (Pat) Sanborn died October 10, 2014. Pat served for over 39 years as the administrative assistant in the Africa Office. She worked with the following Africa Area Executives: Robert Nelson, Dan Hoffman, Howard and Darlene Goodrich (interims), Goba Bonganjalo and Sandra Gourdet. She had a tremendous knowledge of the partners in Africa, as well as, love and respect for the people.

FINANCE

Nancy J. Pickell, Finance Executive

The Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) revenue for 2014 is estimated to be over \$6 million. This would be nearly \$1 million less than in 2013 based on this estimate. It is too early to really know the actual revenue for the year or to be able to share the significant fluctuations in revenue but as of this report the figures and projections are showing a decline in revenue.

Of the total revenue, some is designated for special programs, projects, endowment contributions and capital and new church funding. Approximately 25% is from Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ as part of the funding of our joint work together as Global Ministries. The balance of the revenue comes from Disciples Mission Fund (DMF), investments of DOM, United Christian Missionary Society (UCMS) endowment distributions, Christian Church Foundation (CCF) permanent fund distributions, operating fund gifts and miscellaneous income.

The DOM Endowment assets are invested with the CCF in the Beasley Growth Fund and the Campbell Multi-Strategy Fund. Annually DOM takes a draw, which is 5% of the average prior 20-quarter rolling market value of the total investment. This draw is used to support operations and designated spending based on the restriction of the endowment. In 2014, this draw was \$604,712 (*compared to \$618,793 in 2013*).

An independent audit is performed annually of the financial records and accounting systems of DOM. A complete audit will be provided for the Yearbook upon completion of the audit and report to the audit committee of the board. The audit committee will address any material internal control weaknesses found during the audit and suggested improvements to internal controls in the management letter to the board. In the past 14 years there has been no material internal control weaknesses found to report.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Jane Sullivan-Davis, Executive

David Owen and Tom Morse, Program Associates

Special Giving and Ministry with Donors

In 2014 the Global Ministries Resource Development Office continued to engage members, churches, and all expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ to connect in global mission through their special giving for

the work of Global Ministries. The priorities for special giving categories for both direct and planned gifts were the following:

- 1st Priority: Unrestricted Gifts
- 2nd Priority: Gifts for Missionary and Long-Term Volunteer Support, including gifts for new missionary appointments
- 3rd Priority: Restricted Gifts for donor-specified partner programs or theme-based designations

In 2014, Global Ministries received special gifts, unrestricted and restricted, through the offices of the Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) in Indianapolis and Wider Church Ministries (WCM) in Cleveland. In addition, both DOM and WCM received new gifts to existing DOM and WCM endowment funds, bequests, and planned gift residuals.

In 2014, one new DOM endowment fund was established. The ***Morse Family Endowment*** was established with the Division of Overseas Ministries at the request of former mission personnel to China, Tom and Lynnea Morse, in order to provide resources for missionary support and for the overall work of Global Ministries.

Promotion, Appeals, and Special Campaigns

In April 2014, the Global Ministries Spring Appeal went out to approximately all constituent households that had not opted out of mailings, including Disciple and UCC constituents. The Indianapolis Year-End Appeal was mailed to constituent households that are not UCC in November (the unified Annual Appeal from the UCC national setting went to UCC constituents as part of a joint national UCC appeal).

Resource Development continued working with other Global Ministries staff in the development and implementation of new fundraising approaches for mission personnel support. In 2014, three cases were worked on, with two departing for their appointments during the year:

- Kim and Erik Free, members of First Christian Church Portland Oregon, departed for a four-year term of service with the United Church of Christ of Mozambique in March 2014.
- Anne Gregory, Disciple pastor from the Upper Midwest Region, departed for a three-year term of service with the United Church of Christ of Thailand in December 2014.
- In October 2014 fundraising efforts began to support Paul Turner, member of Abundant Life Christian Church Los Angeles, California for a four-year term of service with the Community of Disciples of Christ in the Congo (CDCC).

In 2014 the Global Ministries Office of Resource Development coordinated special giving promotions throughout the year through its Special Projects, Alternative Christmas, Congo Initiative special projects, and donor events hosted by individuals, board members and former missionaries.

Resource Development staff worked with fundraising efforts initiated by constituents, and visited individual donors and donor congregations/regions, sometimes in the company of one of the Global Ministries Co-Executives, persons in mission, or home-based staff colleagues.

AFRICA

Sandra R. Gourdet, Area Executive

It has been a privilege and genuine honor to serve as the Africa Executive in Global Ministries for more than nine years. It has afforded me the opportunity to experience first-hand the many examples of congregations in transformation, the establishment of new churches, leadership development and how our brothers and sisters cope with the many injustices that are often the legacy of colonial rule and domination. Our brothers and sisters across the continent of Africa faced many challenges during the year, but many of the difficulties were seen as opportunities for growth and a renewed commitment to their witness and their faith in the midst of troubling times. Across the board, there was visible evidence of increased leadership development, the establishment of new congregations, the transformation of congregations to serve the needs of the community and renewed efforts to stand for justice and peace. As churches in America, we were privileged to be invited on the journey to reaffirm our own commitment to the wholeness of one church.

The year 2014 saw many of our global partners serving the needs of the community and standing for justice and peace. It is important to highlight the work in Ghana where the Council of Churches has played a monumental role in exposing the injustices of child trafficking while providing assistance for families as children are reintegrated into society. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church has created not only a safe haven for street children but also educational opportunities for many of them. The lives of young teen mothers have been transformed through the skills' training offered to them by the church. The lives of many around the country have been transformed through the environmental ministries promoted by the church, especially the tree-planting program and reforestation.

In Lesotho, health care and education remain priorities for the church as it provides a holistic ministry to its many members. Providing clean water to remote communities will always be a challenge as well as an opportunity for church partners in Mozambique. Along with this goal, agricultural projects that provide food, employment and sustainability are key elements in transforming communities. In spite of the perpetual instability in Zimbabwe, the church has worked hard to maintain its emphasis on leadership development, agricultural projects and theological studies.

Perhaps one of the greatest challenges that confronted our partners in 2014 in West Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa) and Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) was the deadly disease Ebola. The way that the church and religious organizations reached out to families infected and affected was phenomenal. In Sierra Leone, where the death toll topped the 6000 mark, the church played a major role in

both preventive and curative care. In both Congos, the church sent teams to the tropical equatorial forest to help contain the disease in one area to prevent it spreading throughout the country.

In Swaziland, the church is actively involved in community care points where food and assistance are provided to low-income or no-income communities. Even more pleasing has been the participation of the youth in the development of the church. The goal articulated for a Youth Conference organized by the youth leadership of the Kukhany'Okusha Zion Church held the latter half of the year was to equip young leaders for the ministry and development of the church faced with challenging issues. The church has excelled in providing leadership development opportunities for the youth through the trilateral agreement with the TEEC in South Africa, Global Ministries and Kukhany'Okusha Zion Church.

The Organization for African Instituted Churches (OAIC) based in Kenya saw theological education in the African Independent Churches as transformational and necessary for its member churches. Theological education has always been done through mentorship and apprenticeship and has many times not been documented. With new challenges facing the AICs, a need for an appropriate theological curriculum that can recover, articulate and document their theology based on their context, mission and identity have been an essential part of the organization's work. The OAIC also placed a lot of emphasis on training women. This focused on training on health issues that included HIV/AIDS and cancer, leadership, the role of women as stewards, communication and crisis management in the family, the role of the mother as a doctor in the family and the role of women in the church.

Given a world that craves peace and justice, the role of the Programme for Christian and Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA) has been a balm in the midst of many contentious situations on the continent. Committed to Christian constructive relations with Muslims for sustainable peace in society and peaceful co-existence between Christians and Muslims towards the holistic-development of the human family and the environment, PROCMURA spoke out against Boko Haram's kidnapping of over 200 girls in Nigeria earlier this year. The organization continues to work with its partners in Nigeria to give support as needed in the country and to promote peace.

Many of our African partners excel in establishing new congregations, which are necessary as the number of members increase. 2014 has been no different. In Angola, building and rebuilding church temples to accommodate new members remains a priority. In the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), the church leadership traveled to rural areas to ordain new ministers, open a health care center that has been named in honor of Mrs. Pat Sanborn and encourage refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo who have established themselves in the country. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa), 138 new members were baptized in December in the Mbandaka, of which twenty four traveled by canoe to the site where the baptism ceremony was being held.

The Congo Initiative which expanded a period of eighteen months and concluded in December 2014 is a microcosm of what we do as a church. It allowed us to work in companionship with our partners in Congo and congregations in the USA on transformational ministry, leadership development, meeting the needs of communities and standing for justice and peace. Some of the highlights were exchange visits, insight into how the war and scramble for mineral resources has impacted the lives of the people, accompaniment with women who have been used as weapons of war, supporting health care, agricultural and water programs, scholarships to encourage leadership development and many other aspects of ministry. As we move from the Congo to the Middle East in 2015, it is clear that the work in the Congo will continue although the specific initiative has ended.

Our partners across the continent have appreciated the partnership with Global Ministries and received our missionaries and global mission interns. Although our numbers have fallen since 2013, we still have twelve committed individuals serving in six countries as missionaries, global mission interns and long-term volunteers.

The year was challenging and often there were times when it seemed as if there were not enough hours in a day to do the work, but God was completely faithful and will continue to be so as a new era of leadership begins in the Africa Office in 2015.

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Xiaoling Zhu, Area Executive

The Pacific

The churches in the Pacific came together this summer in the spirit of Wansolwara (Pidgin English for One Salt Water – a terminology now commonly used in the Pacific to define the oneness of the people of the Pacific who share the same Pacific ocean). During the Regional Ecumenical Program meeting in Nadi, Fiji, the General Secretaries of churches in the Pacific affirmed their oneness through ecumenical support and helping each other not only ecclesiastically, but also politically, socially, and economically. The church has found ways it can contribute to the wellbeing of the Pacific citizens, irrespective of culture, race, denomination, or religion. Wansolwara is not only about the affirmation of having the one-salt-water as a common factor that binds them together, but also the affirmation of oneness through the image of God. It is the affirmation of oneness through creation. Taking into consideration the amount of ethnic tension that has transpired in the Pacific in the last twenty years, the church is continuing to work to find theological common ground.

China

Thirty-four children at the Elim Orphanage, Xuchang, Henan welcomed their new school year. The orphanage couldn't have a full house of seventy children because of the lack of funding. Since the surrounding wells are polluted, they dug a 30 meter and a 160 meter well for water, but both were still polluted. With the support of Week of Compassion and Global Ministries, a 700-meter well was dug. Safe drinking water, as a result, will be provided to 100,000 people in the surrounding area thanks to this well,

and the income is to be added to the orphanage's self-support. It is a long term sustainable project and was appropriately named the Elim Orphanage Living Water Project.

The "3 Change 1 Demolish" policy (change old residential areas, change old industrial areas, change villages in the mist of the city, and demolish buildings violating building codes) is carried out throughout China. In Zhejiang Province, this government action affected religious places. In the last several months, one church and many oversized crosses were torn down in Zhejiang Province. The China Christian Council (CCC) presented a statement that challenged the actions in Zhejiang Province. It is still unclear who gave the order other than a provincial leader. The Asia Pacific Forum, which includes all U.S. mainline denomination representatives, had a conference call on August 19th and issued a letter to the China Christian Council to share concerns and prayers.

The book *Far, Far Away in Remote Eastern Tibet, The Story of Dr. Albert Shelton and His Colleagues from the Disciples of Christ (1903-1950)*, stories about missionaries, was published in June 2014. It included more than 467 old photos and stories about our missionaries who served in Tibet 110 years ago. Authors Aidong Zhao and Xiaoling Zhu were invited to give a special presentation: *Across Ethnic, Cultural, and Religious Barriers: The American Doctor Albert Shelton in Eastern Tibet, 1903—1922* at the first Sino-US Young Scholars Conference, in Xian, China, during the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and China on September 6-7, 2014. Former President Jimmy Carter gave the opening speech at the celebration.

During World War II, the Japanese army killed 300,000 people in Nanjing, China in six weeks starting on December 13, 1937. Disciples had six missionaries in Nanjing at the time: Searle Miner Bates, Lewis S. C. Smythe, Minnie Vautrin, James McCallum, Richard Freeman Brady and Grace Bauer, who stayed in Nanjing during at great risk to their own lives. They joined the International Safety Zone Committee, providing medical and other services, and saved more than 250,000 people. The China Center TV Station (CCTV) video crews came to interview missionary families, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Historical Society and church leaders. A five-part documentary *Nanjing Memory 1937* was shown nationwide in December 2014 in China.

Hong Kong

Occupy Central with Love and Peace (OCLP) was a civil disobedience campaign launched in Hong Kong. In the course of the 2014 Hong Kong electoral reform, OCLP tried to pressure the PRC Government into granting an electoral system which "satisfies the international standards in relation to universal suffrage" in Hong Kong. OCLP announced the commencement of Occupy Central on September 28th, in the midst of the heated week-long class boycott organized by Hong Kong Federation of Students (HKFS) and Scholars. The student strikes developed into a wave of demonstrations, which led to civil disobedience and an occupy movement of unprecedented scale. The protests gradually developed into a non-centralized occupy movement spreading to

several areas of Hong Kong through December 15, 2014. Public opinion on the student movement was divided into two opposite groups. The divisions have deeply infiltrated into the whole society, as well as every family unit, and the healing could take many years.

The Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCAs, a partner of CGMB located in Hong Kong, has been engaged in various environmental programs for quite a long time. The APAY Resource Group on Climate Change (RGCC) is comprised, of members who have a special interest in climate change and actively involve themselves in studying the aspect of lobbying and advocacy on climate change, sharing resources and information in this aspect and support the APAY in taking possible steps in this area. The RGCC is engaged in monitoring the developments in the Climate Change Negotiation process, and follows the activities of various UN and other international organizations working in this field. The YMCA members, especially the youth, act as a resource group sharing information and ideas on the recent trends of climate change; take effective steps to disseminate information to the various YMCAs involved in various programs to combat climate change; and support YMCA initiatives at regional, national and local levels to mitigate the suffering from climate change and reduce carbon emissions.

Taiwan

From April 22nd thru April 25th, over 650 representatives from different Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) presbyteries and local churches convened together at Tainan's Chang Jung Girls' Senior High School, to discuss and evaluate various proposals within the annual meeting of PCT's 59th General Assembly. The major theme of this annual meeting was: Stretch Deep, the Roots of Gospel in Country and Tribe! Live out of the Faith of Church and Become the Sign of Hope! 2015 will be the sixtieth memorial anniversary of the indigenous mission, so many indigenous images and flavor permeated the program of this annual meeting agenda, including the opening ceremony, morning prayers, indigenous ministry workshops, and a celebration evening of indigenous culture. The PCT is preparing for the celebration of its 150th anniversary in 2015.

Japan

The Empowerment of Immigrant Women in Fukushima operated by the Empowerment of Immigrant Women Affiliated Network (EIWAN) and the National Christian Conference for Promotion of a Basic Law for Foreign Residents (GAIKIKYO) is supported by Global Ministries and One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). The goal is to utilize achievements of network gains through past activities to carry out activities in cooperation with local community residents to offer support and education for immigrant women in Fukushima, where the nuclear disaster took place with 9,117 foreign residents, and to help them become financially independent and gain problem-solving ability. The Japanese government has not provided services to the approximately 2 million foreigners who live in Japan. This program aims to offer immigrant women, who tend to be excluded from foreign resident support, proper advice and accompanying support to help them learn concrete steps to solve existing problems. Many workshops were provided, such as

self-care, heritage language education, disaster prevention and multicultural cooperation. At the same time, the Fukushima Forum was established.

Article 9, seen as the core of the post-war "Peace Constitution," rules that the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and cease from using the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes. Prime Minister Abe wanted to repeal Article 9 and expand its military power. China and South Korea are against this. The National Christian Council in Japan held the 4th Interfaith International Conference on Article 9 from Dec. 1-5, 2014.

Philippines

On November 8, 2013, Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan), the strongest ever recorded in history hit the central Philippines. With a maximum sustained wind of 235 kph and gustiness of 275 kph, it ravaged the island of Leyte and Samar, the northern part of Cebu, Panay and Palawan before it exited towards the West Philippine Sea. Tacloban City in Leyte experienced the heaviest brunt of the disaster--the strong wind that caused a gargantuan storm surge obliterated the entire urban center. A couple of months after Typhoon Yolanda devastated the Visayas and Southern Luzon, the number of fatalities in its wake continued to climb, reaching 5,818 with 1,759 missing, in the latest update issued by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) in January 2014. The economic cost is likewise appalling — according to the report, the damage caused by Yolanda \$660 million, 580,481 houses were destroyed, and 587,625 were damaged. Zach Wolgemuth (OGHS), Vy Nguyen (WOC) and Xiaoling Zhu visited the disaster areas, and together with the UCCP staff worked on a rehabilitation plan to help people in the disaster communities. Global Ministries, OGHS and WOC provided fishing boats and rice seeds for people in those areas to have community self-supporting industries as well as rebuilding their homes.

South and North Korea

The 8.15 (August 15th) Joint Prayer Worship for Peace and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula was held at the Bong Su Church in Pyongyang with the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK) and the Korean Christian Federation (KCF).

The project began with the proposal of the Declaration on Peace and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula at the World Council of Churches (WCC) Busan Assembly, and then the process for action agreed upon at the Bossey, Switzerland International Consultation on Justice, Peace, and Reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula on June 17-19, 2014. The NCCCK led a delegation of 19 people from member denominations and affiliate organizations who participated in the program in Pyongyang from August 13-16, 2014. Both sides stated, "We should not forget that we are one people and one blood even if we are divided by foreign powers. Jesus said there will be blessings for those who work for making peace in the Sermon on the Mount. So we Christians, who have a calling for peace and unification, should reject all machinations of war which conspire with foreign powers, and we should rise up for the peace and reunification of this country. Carrying out the 6.15 Declaration and the 10.4 Declaration is the way toward peace and the way that our people might live. This joint meeting beseeches God, so that the peace and reunification would be realized immediately in this country. "

On December 22, 2014, approximately 60 police officers seized Mintongsun Peace Church in Kimpo, South Korea, and searched the whole church compound, including the sanctuary and the day care center. The search lasted for more than 10 hours during which the police took down the cross and dismantled the altar. For the past decade, the church senior pastor Rev. Lee Jeok has devoted himself to the peace mission in the Mintongsun area. In solidarity with local people and civil societies he has actively participated in the peace movement opposing reconstruction of the Aegibong tower that has provoked conflicts between North and South Korea. On January 30th, five police officers, including the commissioner of the SMPA, visited NCCK headquarters and made an official apology for the intrusion into the church. Global Ministries works closely with NCCK for justice, peace and reunification in the Korea Peninsula.

In Memoriam

Dr. Janice Engsberg, 66, died on August 22, 2014. Dr. Engsberg went to China in 1988 and taught at the School of Journalism and Communication, Xiamen University in Xiamen, China until 2006 when she was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. She was honored as one of two National Model Foreign Experts annually in China in 1990s. Her colleagues and students loved her so much they created a web site called "We Love Ying Jan 英健," (http://blog.sina.com.cn/we_lovejan) after she left China. During her last stage of illness, Xiamen Teachers Foundation donated \$20,000 for her medical treatment. Dr. Engsberg once worked for UCC National Office and was one of CGMB's excellent mission personnel.

Alden Ewart Matthews, 93, died on October 8, 2014. Mr. Matthews, born in Chicago the son of missionary parents moved to China in infancy and grew up speaking Mandarin Chinese and later mastered Japanese. He became a missionary and worked as a pastor and an administrator for the United Church of Christ in Japan for over four decades. Mr. Matthews was the author of his 2007 autobiography, *My Three Worlds*, chronicling his life in China and Japan.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Angel L. Rivera-Agosto, Area Executive

The year 2014 has been one of transition in the Latin America and the Caribbean Office. Felix Ortiz concluded his ministry with the Global Ministries July 31, 2014. He served 5 years with the Disciples of Christ in Paraguay; 10 years as a program consultant for the Disciples of Christ Development Committee in Haiti; four years as a regional representative of Church World Service in the Caribbean and Mesoamerica and 11 years as Area Executive for the region. Angel L. Rivera-Agosto, a former missionary with Global Ministries began his service as the Area Executive for Latin American and the Caribbean on September 2, 2014.

The new area executive has entered this ministry by contacting Partners and missionaries all around the *Abya-Yala* (*the Great Motherland*, *kuna* indigenous people's referral to the whole Latin American continent) to acknowledge the challenges, dreams

and hopes of the people and the ways of practicing the core values of Global Ministries, which include; mutuality, accompaniment and solidarity. The input received from different parts of the continent show that the present Latin American situation is one of crisis, understood, in one part, as a menace to the well-being of the countries and its peoples, but, in the other part, as signs of opportunity growing up from progressive governments, organized civil society and a renewed conscience in partner churches, ecumenical organizations and people of good will to build a “renewed creation” from between what Francis Fukuyama have dared to say “the end of history” of humanity.

The year 2014 brought new challenges on violence and peacebuilding In **Colombia**, as the attention remains focused on the ongoing peace talks between the government and the FARC (the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia), Colombia's largest guerrilla group. Global Ministries' partner, the Peace Commission of the Evangelical Council of Colombia has been providing pastoral care, advocacy and accompaniment to victims, families and children in the midst of the conflict. Also, they provide support to the Historical Memory and Political Advocacy Program, an initiative designed to preserve the history of the civil war and to analyze its root causes. In addition, they are providing theological education and accompaniment/support to the work of the Christian Women's Network for Life and Peace (Red de Mujeres Cristianas por la Vida y Paz). These efforts do not come without consequences. The end of 2014 and the beginning of 2015 brought to the attention of the church death threats of at least four Presbyterian pastors and some other community leaders by paramilitary groups. Even so, churches and partners continue deeply committed into reaching peace with justice in Colombia.

In **Mexico**, the Theological Community of Mexico has been responding to violence and working on peace building in response to the Ayotzinapa crisis, which occurred in Guerrero, Mexico. On September, 2014, the world was shocked by the sudden disappearance of 43 students from the Ayotzinapa Normal School near Tuxtla, Guerrero in Mexico. The students were protesting unjust education reforms and seeking to secure scholarships and student aid. The majority of these students come from very poor and marginalized areas of Mexico. The Dean of the Theological Community and the Area Executive interviewed relatives, friends of the disappeared students, as well as fellow church ministers and social activists related to this crisis. The interviews confirmed that the Ayotzinapa tragedy raised issues of constant violations of human rights in Mexico, primarily against women and students. Praying for peace with justice and expressing our solidarity is our expression of accompaniment in this particular moment. As part of the attention to Ayotzinapa Crisis, the Theological Community of Mexico organized a panel where representatives from several Christian organizations reflected on the root causes of the crisis and proposed alternatives for the witness and accompaniment of the churches at the international level. From the discussions shared on that panel and from the interviews with the families and friends of the disappeared, the LAC Office has produced three videos to be used for education and advocacy within our churches in the United States as a way to deepen the solidarity with this cause.

La Mesa Conjunta (the Joint Table) in **San Luis Potosí, Mexico**, has changed almost all of its leadership in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Mexico, the

Confraternity of Evangelical Churches (Disciples of Christ) in Mexico and the Congregational Church of Mexico. Rev. Leobardo Flores was elected as new Chairman of the Table and Rev. Lisania Sustaita is the new Education and Formation Coordinator. Global Ministries' long term volunteers working in Mesa Conjunta, Doug Smith and Kate Moyer, have been leading workshops under the auspices of the Mesa in individual churches at the ICDC seminary (SEBA) and during the Mesa Summer Education Program at the CICE seminary grounds (Centro de Estudios Teologicos). They have been visiting churches of the three organizations lifting up the historic relationship between the churches in the two countries and celebrating the expansion of the Obra Hispana in the U.S. and the ministries of the Mexican churches. They assisted Rev. Sustaita in assessing current training opportunities and developing new options for clergy and lay leadership development for the three "organizations" of the Mesa and helping the Mesa to develop a training program for U.S. church leaders in the language and culture of Mexico. The program offers intensive Spanish instruction and multiple opportunities to practice use of the language and learn about the lives of churches and church members with housing provided in the CICE headquarters city of San Luis Potosi.

There is also a change in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in **Puerto Rico**. Three of our partners elected new authorities. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico elected a new General Pastor after a year of consultation. Rev. Miguel Antonio Morales became the sixth General Pastor of the church, since its new church design, in 1984. Since 1995, Reverend Morales has been the Pastor of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Buena Vista, Bayamón. Secondly, the Puerto Rico Council of Churches (PRCC) named its Interim Executive Secretary after the resignation of Rev. Angel L. Rivera-Agosto. Rev. Héctor Soto-Vélez was elected by the PRCC Board of Directors by unanimous vote. Reverend Soto is an experienced Methodist pastor, who previously served in the PRCC as its President for 6 years. The Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico elected its first woman President since its foundation in 1919. Dr. Doris García-Rivera came from the mission field, working for the Baptist International Ministries in Costa Rica and Mexico for the last 20 years. A scholar in Old Testament and Missiology, Dr. García brings experience in education among indigenous communities and peasants in Latin America and will give a refreshed perspective to theological education in Puerto Rico. In a time of deep social crisis, characterized by high crime rate, unemployment and social violence, churches and ecumenical institutions in Puerto Rico face enormous challenges to witness the fullness of life and peace with justice within its society.

The South-to-South Exchange, in the context of the Congo Initiative, was an opportunity to develop a dialogue between the churches in **Haiti** and the Community of the Disciples of Christ in the Congo (CDCC). Rev. Patrick Villier, as president of the Haitian Council of Churches, CONASPEH, along with four of CONASPEH's bishops, reflected with two leaders of the CDCC, Rev. Eliki Bonanga and Rev. Clement Mputu, president and vice-president respectively. They reflected together on the scope and dynamics of the partnership between both ministries as well as an update of what is needed in Haiti regarding the pending projects such as the trade school for youth and adults.

CONASPEH's new trade school is scheduled to start in the first semester of 2015. It will teach carpentry, electrical, plumbing, welding, and computer programming. Also in **Haiti**, Polycarpe Joseph, Ecumenical Foundation for Peace and Justice's Executive Director, reported the plan for the House of Hope Orphanage, that will result in doubling the capability of housing. They already provide lodging for a hundred and fifty street children and they are hoping to house three hundred women and children.

Proyecto Caminante continues its service with children who are at risk of being drawn into prostitution as a result of the culture associated with the tourist economy in the **Dominican Republic**. Caminante seeks to help develop the self-esteem of these children by teaching Christian values through education and recreational activities. Also, Caminante works closely with the families, churches, and the community to raise awareness regarding the complexity of this problem. Henry Brewer-Calvert, a Global Ministries intern assists Caminante in its after-school program and hosting international mission pilgrimages to the country. Andrew Davis, a short-term volunteer completed his service as a videographer and producer of video materials to communicate the ministry of Caminante in Dominican Republic.

In **Chile**, after the earthquake in 2010, the Pentecostal Church of Chile, along with Global Ministries' missionary Elena Huegel, continue their efforts developing and sharing a very valuable work about conflict transformation, trauma healing and resilience development work at the Shalom Center and especially in the recovery efforts afterwards. They organized Mediación (a mediation, conflict transformation, peacebuilding, and trauma healing program for youth in two areas of the Maule Region of Chile) as a preventive response to the possibility of adolescents "acting in" with violence toward themselves or "acting out" with violence toward others after the collective trauma of the earthquake and the tsunami.

It is crucial to continue assuming a deep-rooted challenge of being "*the church as the horizon of God's love*," as Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero described it so clearly. The Uruguayan writer, Eduardo Galeano, would describe horizons on a very brief but profound reflection: "*Utopia is on the horizon. I move two steps closer; it moves two steps further away. I walk another ten steps and the horizon runs ten steps further away. As much as I may walk, I'll never reach it. So what's the point of utopia? The point is this: to keep walking.*" The goal is to walk to horizons, resist oppression, celebrate life, and have faith in the One who told us "*I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*" Matthew 28:20b.

MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE

Peter Makari, Area Executive

"You have power; we have dreams." A member of an Egyptian delegation visiting Washington, DC in October offered this powerful statement, a clear reminder of the United States' position in the world. The context was an Egyptian-American Dialogue Initiative, co-sponsored and organized by the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS) and Global Ministries. CEOSS is one of our Egyptian partners, a

community development organization actively promoting interfaith and intercultural relations. The Dialogue Initiative brought together Egyptians and Americans representing religious, non-governmental, and governmental organizations, as well as journalists and other opinion-makers, and included Christians and Muslims from both countries. The statement made by an Egyptian Muslim woman journalist reminded us that power dynamics are never equal. As representatives of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. Julia Brown Karimu and Peter Makari recognized this inequality, and affirmed our church's determination to listen always to partners, and to engage in mutual relationships, working to restore human dignity to people no matter their circumstance. This dialogue initiative strove to break down stereotypes of race and religion, promoting reconciliation between nations and people, through direct contact and frank conversation. We know that, at the end of the week-long encounter, power dynamics remain fraught with national agendas, political interests, and ideological biases, but through the Church and communities of faith, other types of relationships can be forged that are stronger and more enduring.

One way that such pro-reconciliation relationships become manifest through the mission of God in the church is through advocacy. As a result of decades, even centuries, of engagement in the world, we know what our partners are saying about particular issues, and are able to amplify those voices in the halls of power. Advocacy on Middle East issues has continued to be robust. In 2014, issues that Global Ministries has provided a voice of presence and peace with justice were Israel/Palestine, Iran, Iraq, and Syria. The roots of our faith are in Bethlehem, and from there, Israel/Palestine and beyond. Today, the struggle for Palestinian sovereignty rights, statehood, and an end to the occupation continues. Throughout 2014, Global Ministries has helped to bring the voice of Palestinian Christians and partners to the forefront, including participating in a letter calling for a cease-fire during the Gaza war, and encouraging members of our churches to contact their elected representatives in Washington, DC with a monthly "3rd Thursday Middle East Action Alert," an ecumenical initiative raising a particular aspect of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for advocacy on a regular basis. Early in the year, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), with its Global Ministries partner the United Church of Christ, joined 60 organizations in urging the US not to impose new sanctions on Iran, knowing the impact sanctions have had on the people of that country, and skeptical of the impact they have had on the actual target. The letter "warn[s] that Senate passage of new Iran sanctions would critically endanger the possibility of a diplomatic resolution to the nuclear standoff with Iran, increasing the likelihood of a nuclear armed Iran and an unnecessary and costly war." Those nuclear negotiations continue, and prayers are offered for successful outcomes. Iran's neighbor, Iraq, reemerged in the national debate as well. Global Ministries joined a letter urging the Administration to consider means other than military intervention to counter the impact of the Islamic State group (also known as ISIS), and also participated in a multi-religious coalition condemning the attacks on Christians and other communities by ISIS there.

In Syria, the situation has only continued to deteriorate. According to the United Nations, more than 12 million Syrians are in need of humanitarian assistance. That is more than half of the population. More than 3 million have fled seeking refuge in

neighboring countries and elsewhere, and over 7 million are internally displaced. The Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins participated in January in an urgent and special meeting of Christian leaders from Syria and around the world organized by the World Council of Churches. That delegation issued an “urgent call to action for a just peace in Syria.” The statement was delivered to the Geneva II talks on Syria via the then-United Nations Special Envoy for Syria, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi. Also in January, a letter to President Obama from 17 Christian churches and organizations, including Global Ministries urged the United States and all parties “to prioritize peace over their own geopolitical agendas; to stop supplying weapons to any armed actor; to press for a cease-fire; to support civil society organizations committed to peace; and to work vigorously towards a political solution.” Global Ministries has supported the humanitarian efforts of several partners in the Middle East, including Syria itself, Lebanon, and Jordan, to address the vital needs of victims of the conflict in Syria and, more recently, as it has spread (back) to Iraq. Special funds from the Week of Compassion and the Division of Overseas Ministries have made a humble contribution to the effort to try to promote wholeness in a very fragmented region.

In addition, Global Mission Interns (GMIs) have been assigned to work with partners in Jordan and Lebanon in their response to the humanitarian crisis. This program, which supports leadership development, global engagement with the church by young adults, and ministries of presence with partners, boasted the placement of several outstanding GMIs with partners in the Middle East and Europe in 2014—seven to be exact—from Hungary to Armenia, Lebanon to Jordan and to Israel/Palestine, and Morocco. Such a presence can be a reconciling witness through the Church. And visitors from partners to the US can have a similar impact on members of our churches here. The Quadrennial Assembly was blessed by the presence of guests from the Middle East and Europe, as Nora Carmi offered a reflective and personal Bible study, drawing on her context as a Palestinian Christian, and spoke about her work with Kairos Palestine; and Szabina Sztojka, a young Roma woman from Hungary helped to get beyond popular images of the Roma (Gypsy) people, through an interactive presentation about the work of the Reformed Church in Hungary.

In September and October, the Middle East and Europe office led and facilitated a Global Ministries trip to the Middle East. The delegation spent two weeks in the region to meet with partners, learn about the context of their work and witness, and experience the realities in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel/Palestine. It was also an opportunity to express a visible presence of solidarity with partners as they respond to emergency situations in the region, including the Gaza war and the ongoing Syrian crisis. The delegation was led by the Rev. Julia Brown Karimu, Co-Executive for Global Ministries and President of the Division of Overseas Ministries, and included DOM/Global Ministries Board members Stephanie Crowder and Phyllis Hallman as well as Global Ministries staff. The visit exposed the delegation to the day-to-day reality in the region, as well as the issues that underlie those realities. The visit culminated with the participation of the delegation in a major international conference organized by our partner, the YWCA of Palestine entitled, “Women’s Freedom, Peace, and Dignity in Palestine: UN Security Council Resolution 1325 for Accountability.” Such a visit of

solidarity and presence nurtures deep relationships that help to reconcile the world, and helped us to anticipate the launch its next area focus, the Middle East Initiative, at General Assembly.

“You have power; we have dreams.” In the mission of God, and through the church, we all have dreams, and we can help to realize the dreams of people everywhere through presence, mutuality, community, justice, and peace.

SOUTHERN ASIA

Deenabandhu Manchala, Area Executive

Deenabandhu Manchala began his service as the Area Executive for Southern Asia on May 1, 2014. He worked previously with the World Council of Churches where he served as the co-coordinator of the Just and Inclusive Communities Program. He has spent the last five months understanding the nature, content and various tasks involved in the position, in addition to exploring new possibilities of engagement.

Global Ministries work in Southern Asia is as vast and varied as the region itself. It involves sustaining relationships with some churches which have historical connections, administering endowments, facilitating conversations on sale or management of properties and institutions as well as initiating and nurturing partnerships for justice and peace with a variety of partners in nine countries - **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, East Timor, Laos, Thailand, and Indonesia**. Its engagement has not only been diaconal in the traditional sense but also transformative, catalytic and enabling communities and people. Rural health, providing educational opportunities to children from marginalized communities, theological education, and emergency relief and rehabilitation, have been the major areas of engagement. Besides administering scholarships as part of its vocation of human resource development, the Southern Asia office has also been engaged via the work of the mission personnel in India, Laos, Thailand, Indonesia, India and East Timor.

The Church of South India launched a campaign in October 2014 with the theme, “Assure my future!” that invited its dioceses to take seriously the moral challenge of protecting the lives and rights of girl children. In the remote places in the south central Timor region, **the Gereja Masehi Injili di Timor (GMIT)** is also involved in a similar program of equipping young girls who are forced to drop out of schools for lack of formal educational opportunities, with skills in tailoring and housekeeping as they migrate to far away urban centers and to other countries. In the South Indian city of Vellore, Pravaham, a community college equips young girls from single parent, rural Dalit families, with training in nursing care and computer skills to be able to make a living. In Vavuniya, Sri Lanka, **the Church of the American Ceylon Mission** runs a home for girls who have lost their parents and families during the prolonged war that ravaged the North eastern regions of Sri Lanka. In **Akhonpur, Bangladesh**, collectives of poor rural women are transforming their own lives and of their community through over a hundred micro-credit finance projects facilitated by the Churches Commission for Development in Bangladesh.

In a socio-cultural context where girls and women are seen and treated as liabilities and objects, and also terminated as fetuses or allowed to die as babies, Global Ministries' partners are not only striving to affirm and safeguard their dignity and rights but are also enhancing their capacities to transform their families and communities. Similar efforts are also being made to confront and overcome caste-based discrimination – a structurally and culturally embedded form of injustice that violates and deprives millions of people of their basic necessities on the basis of their descent, human trafficking, especially of children, and the displacement of Indigenous people for extractive industries and big dams.

In an extremely complex socio-economic and geo-political context which is also the home for some of the world's wealthiest as well as for millions of the poorest, the witness of the Asian churches cannot merely remain diaconal in the traditional sense of binding the wounds. It involves empowering the disempowered as well as confronting the powerful so that God's gifts of life with dignity and in peace may be a reality for all. Insisting on and initiating processes for advocacy for justice and against the life-denying forces that are deeply embedded in the cultures of many Asian societies and even churches, is where the Southern Asia office will direct its energies during the coming years. This seems necessary particularly in view of the implications of the forthcoming ASEAN and the increasing collaboration among South Asian nations for economic growth (SAARC - Indian Subcontinent). The ideological orientations of these two political entities point towards the danger of increased exploitation and abuse of human beings and nature – a moral challenge that the churches simply cannot afford to ignore. The recent travels of the Area Executive to India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia and East Timor have been helpful in reorienting existing partnerships with churches and institutions with a view to identify new possibilities for pursuing partnerships in these directions.

The content and patterns of Global Ministries' engagement in the future will be more concerted, focused and effective in pursuing its core values – healing and transforming presence, mutual learning and accompaniment, building just and inclusive communities, and working together for the goals of justice and peace, especially to the poor. Churches in the Southern Asia region are minority communities, often fragmented, and mostly in hostile contexts and with limited public space to make any significant difference. Some of our partner churches and organizations also have multiple overseas partners. Some in India and Indonesia are also affluent and resourceful. With most partners in such situations, Global Ministries, as a partner from outside, must be aware of its own limitations and explore ways in which its critical presence can make a difference, nurture a spirit of partnership among churches for justice and peace, and attempt those that can be done in partnership with others.

MISSION PERSONNEL

Catherine Nichols, Executive

Lorna Hernandez, Coordinator, People-to-People Program

Mission Personnel

As a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, the Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries participates in a ministry which attempts to break the divide among God's children by partnering with overseas partner churches in the sending and receiving of missionaries. The exchange of people and their gifts unites people across geographical, racial, gender, and economic barriers. Other important aspects of this ministry include the presence of missionaries in congregations as they share the ministries of the partner churches and the people to people pilgrimages, which offer individuals and congregations opportunities to cross boundaries and share the love of God as they receive the love of God from those they encounter.

Through the Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, missionaries are participating in ministries of Critical Presence in 45 countries around the world. They are engaged in a variety of ministries such as theological education, leadership development, community and development work, human rights, health ministries, children's ministries, and pastoral ministries.

A total of 125 missionaries served in 45 countries in 2014, which included 43 fully-supported missionaries, 16 global mission interns, 26 long-term volunteers, and 40 associates. In addition, 35 individuals served as short-term volunteers.

Thirteen persons, including 3 re-appointees, were appointed to church and/or church-related institutions around the world. Terms varied from fully supported to long-term volunteer staff. This distribution by area of total appointments was Africa 5; East Asia and the Pacific 1; Europe 0; Latin America and the Caribbean 4; Middle East 2; Southern Asia 1.

Four new global mission interns were supported by Week of Compassion funds. They are: Nathaniel Bailey, Jordan; Henry Brewer-Calvert, Dominican Republic; Lauren Kabat, Peru; and Tyler Reeve, Morocco. Five new long-term volunteers (one year and longer) were appointed in 2014: Andrew Sheraton-Cooper, Lesotho; Scott Couper, South Africa; and Santos Par Vasquez, Guatemala; Linda James, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Alex Bartis, Costa Rica.

There were 33 short-term volunteers (two weeks to eleven months) appointed in 2014 who served in 2014 or will serve in 2015. A list of names and term dates are available upon request.

The overseas associate category is a recognition normally given to members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ who are serving outside of the United States and Canada with a church, ecumenical institution or project that involves a ministry that is in accordance with the mission principles of the Common Global Ministries Board. There were four new associate appointments in 2014: Rosalind Gnatt, Germany; George Dunwood, Morocco; Robert Jackson, Qatar; Gail Matheson, Turkey. One person concluded his term: Skip Dangers, Laos.

Seven individuals completed their service with the Common Global Ministries Board in the category of regular appointees: Loletta Barrett, Namibia; Xuyen Dangers, Laos; Tim Donaghy and Laura Jean Torgerson, Nicaragua; Tom and Kelly Gilson, Lesotho; and Tim Rose, Guadeloupe and Martinique.

Four Global Mission Interns completed their service in 2014: Julianna Nitz, Sri Lanka, Ashley Holst, Dominican Republic; Andrew Long-Higgins, Lebanon; Gabrielle Worley, Armenia. Four individuals completed their service as Long-Term Volunteers in 2014: Scott and Rebecca Hardin-Nieri, Costa Rica; Lydia Hill Johnson, Lesotho and Catherine Schrader, Paraguay.

Missionary Relationships

From January 1 to December 31, 2014, seventy-nine missionaries were involved in a ministry of critical presence through missionary visits and relationship building: Scott Nicholson, Mexico (2 months), Jeffrey Mensendiek, Japan (5 months), James Wilson, Botswana (3 months), Jayanthi Wilson, Botswana (3 months), Erik Free, Mozambique (3 months), Kimberly Free, Mozambique (3 months), Gloria Vicente, Guatemala (1 month), Jeanette Salley, Haiti (3 month), Kristine Tisinger, South Africa (1 month), Phyllis Byrd, Kenya (2 months), Tim Rose, Guadeloupe (2 months), Aaron Wiggins, Fiji (2 months), Bruce Van Voorhis, Hong Kong (3 months), Julianna Nitz, Global Mission Intern, Sri Lanka (1 month), Scott Couper, South Africa (3 months), Susan Valiquette, South Africa (1 month), Zoltan Szucs, Hungary (2 months), Jeanette Salley, Haiti (4 days), Brenda Fulle, Short-term Volunteer, Thailand (1 day), Bob Ray, Short-term Volunteer, Japan (1 month), Joyce Ray, Short-term Volunteer, Japan (1 month), Ashley Holst, Global Mission Intern, Dominican Republic (2 months), Scott Couper, South Africa (3 months), Nicole Betteridge, Global Mission Intern, Laos (2 months), Laura Jean Torgerson, Nicaragua (4 months), Tim Donaghy, Nicaragua (4 months), Loletta Barrett, Namibia (3 months), Tim Fonderlin, Haiti (4 days), Diane Fonderlin, Haiti (4 days), Anil Henry, India (2 months), Teresa Henry, India (2 months), Xuyen Dangers, Laos (4 months), Martha Mensendiek, Japan (1 month), Ariel Royer, Jordan (1 month), Mark Behle, Lesotho (3 months), Don Westra, Honduras (1 month), Maryjane Westra, Honduras (1 month), Alison Stendahl, Turkey (3 months), Scott Hardin-Nieri, Costa Rica (1 month), and Rebecca Hardin-Nieri, Costa Rica (1 month).

We had Missionaries to the US and Canada that itinerated: Rev. Sudhansu Naik, Orissa, India (1 month); Rev. Dr. K. Jesurathnam, Bangalore, India (6 weeks); Lindo Ngwenya, South Africa (6 weeks); Olga Yan Pardo, Dominican Republic (6 weeks); Sztojka Szabina, Hungary, 2 weeks; Amena Cristovao, East Timor (1 month); Jean Pierre Djimbonge, Democratic Republic of the Congo (1 month), and Albino DaCosta, East Timor (2 weeks); Dr. Henriette Hubaret Lebang, Indonesia (1 week) and Nora Carmi, Palestine (2 weeks).

Missionaries itinerated either the Sunday before Quadrennial or the Sunday after. They included Gabrielle Worley, Armenia (1 visit), Xuyen Dangers, Laos (2 visits), Tim Donaghy, Nicaragua (1 visit), Laura Jean Torgerson, Nicaragua (1 visit), Anil Henry, India (1 visit), and Teresa Henry, India (1 visit).

Regular appointed Missionaries, Global Mission Interns, Long-term Volunteers, and candidates attending the Missionary Conference in Indianapolis were all assigned to speak in a congregation either the Sunday before or the Sunday after. This included Martha Mensendiek, Japan; Mark Behle, Lesotho; Alex Bartis, Costa Rica; Jerri Handy, Mexico; Marge Boyd, Mexico; Nathan Bailey, Jordan; Lauren Kabat, Peru; Santos Vasquez, Guatemala; Tom Liddle, East Timor; Monica Liddle, East Timor; Anne Gregory, Thailand; Nancy Longatan, Philippines; Daniel Longatan, Philippines; Paul Turner, Democratic Republic of the Congo; Rachel Pellett Gillette, Jamaica; Henry Brewer-Calvert, Dominican Republic; Andrew Long-Higgins, Lebanon; Tyler Reeve, Morocco; Andrew Shearer-Cooper, Lesotho; Lindley Kinerk, Sri Lanka; Susan (Andy) Jepson, Sri Lanka; Alison Stendahl, Turkey; Xuyen Dangers, Laos; Scott Nicholson, Mexico; Scott Hardin-Nieri, Costa Rica; Rebecca Hardin-Nieri, Costa Rica; Matthew Fehse, Philippines; and Chris Nkemba, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

We had former missionaries speaking at the following United Church of Christ Annual Meetings: Ken & Betty Frank – Southern California Annual Conference; Donna Dudley – Illinois Annual Meeting; Fay Ann Blaylock – Northeast Annual Meeting; Tom Morse – Indiana/ Kentucky Annual Meeting; Julianna Nitz – Wisconsin Annual Meeting; and Linda Hanson – Iowa Annual Meeting.

From January 1 – December 31, 2014, 31 United Church of Christ Conferences and 27 Disciples Regions received visits. Of those visits, 212 were to UCC Congregations and 176 were to Disciples Congregations. (Four point seventy four congregations were visited per missionary unit.) There were a total of 748 missionary presentations made. (9 presentations were given per missionary unit with an average of 10 presentations per month of interpretation.)

People-to-People Pilgrimages

The People-to-People Pilgrimage Program assists United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ congregations, regions and conferences to meet and walk in solidarity with our partner churches and organizations around the world. In 2014, the People-to-People office assisted with inquiries, provided educational materials and supported a total of 98 delegations. The office supported with planning and detailed assistance to 57 Global Ministries' mission pilgrimages to Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Middle East and Europe, and Southern Asia. The numbers of pilgrimages per area were: 7 to Africa, 2 to the Middle East and Europe, 4 to Southern Asia, and 44 to Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, this office has created new People-to-People resources: a Guide for Leaders and a Guide for Participants, two comprehensive planning tools for leaders and participants to help prepare delegations for a life changing mission experience. These resources can be ordered through the Global Ministries website.

GLOBAL ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

Derek Duncan and Shernell Edney, Program Associates

The Global Advocacy and Education Team engaged in networking and collaboration in 2014 with denominational, ecumenical and advocacy partners and with Global Ministries area offices on advocacy priorities of regional partners, including just peace, hunger/food security, and women's and children's rights. Opportunities to take action were highlighted weekly in Global Ministries' updates, on the website, and using social media. A variety of advocacy materials were produced or updated including web updates on Peace and Human Security and the International Day of Prayer for Peace, the Congo initiative and Congo Week, Conflict Minerals, Hunger and Food Security, and Gender-Based Violence. The advocacy team helped prepare action alerts this period on the Congo, Nigeria, Climate Change, immigration and unaccompanied migrant children, Syria, Iran and Israel/Palestine.

The Advocacy Team helped plan Ecumenical Advocacy Days in March 2014, "Jesus Weeps – Resisting Violence, Building Peace" which focused on the various ways forms and policies promoting violence can be transformed to politics which enable peace. Other engagements in 2014 included orientation for the Disciples Peace Fellowship summer interns, an advocacy workshop at Quadrennial Assembly in Atlanta, GA in June 2014, and a training on Global Advocacy for the Global Ministries Missionary Conference in Indianapolis, IN in August 2014.

Global Adult Curriculum

In collaboration with the Mission Education and Interpretation team, the Advocacy Team is helping to create and launch a new curriculum to get adults involved in Global Mission. The REACH curriculum consists of a section dedicated solely to advocacy and teaching adults how they can become actively engaged in various areas of global justice mission. This is the "sister curriculum" to READY launched last year.

Congo

The advocacy team was very instrumental in helping the Africa Office to meet the needs of the Congo initiative. Associates shaped the advocacy focus for the campaign, which provided action alerts for participants for a more robust and comprehensive U.S. policy toward the Congo, including protections against resource exploitation and violence against women. They further supported this by updating resources and maintaining networks within the ecumenical community. Both Associates hosted the Global Ministries special guest from the Congo, Mr. Jean-Pierre Djimbonge, for visits to New York City and the UN, lobbying on Capitol Hill in DC, a tour of Indianapolis, the CGMB board meeting in Cleveland and advocacy related venues.

The advocacy team increased awareness of Congo Week (October 2014), preparing action alerts and resources for congregations. We strengthened engagement with Friends of the Congo and ecumenical partners on advocacy regarding Congo elections and human rights, and highlighted opportunities such as the CELL OUT, Congo Swim, and participation in Lobby Days in Washington, DC.

Africa Christianity Rising: Stories from Ghana

Director Jim Ault produced this documentary about the rise of Christianity in Africa, and specifically. The film proposes the question, “What does Christianity’s explosive growth in Africa mean for the world, the church, and us?” The Advocacy Team assisted in promotion and marketing of the set screening engagements of the documentary. There were two screenings in Indianapolis where GM staff and invitees attended: Central Christian Church on November 2, 2014 and Christian Theological Campus on Wednesday, November 16, 2014.

East Asia and the Pacific

The advocacy team has engaged in an international ecumenical campaign for peace and reconciliation in Korea, which began at the World Council of Church 10th Assembly in Busan, Korea in November 2013 and was advanced this year at the WCC International Consultation on Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula in Bossey, Switzerland in June 2014. The Cleveland Associate helped organize an Ecumenical Korea Peace Conference in Atlanta, GA in May 2013; participated in a Korea Peace March and consultation in Washington DC in July 2014; and addressed the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples (NAPAD) annual meeting in Chicago, IL in August 2014. The advocacy team has joined with the Council on Christian Unity and NAPAD to increase Disciples engagement in Korea peace and reunification efforts.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Advocacy highlights include Global Ministries response to the crisis in Summer 2014 concerning unaccompanied children and families crossing the Mexico-US border, many fleeing increasing violence and instability in Central American countries. With input from partners, advocacy included action alerts for immigration reform and deportation changes, and a background resource “Worth the Risk? Consider the factors behind the surge of unaccompanied children.”

Middle East and Europe

The advocacy team focused on peace, human rights and demilitarization throughout the region. In preparation for the 2015-2016 Middle East Initiative, the Cleveland Associate participated in a Global Ministries delegation from September 20-October 4, 2014 to visit partners and projects in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine, and to attend a conference sponsored by the YWCA Palestine on “Women’s Freedom, Peace and Dignity in Palestine.” Advocacy highlights included security and humanitarian needs in Syria and Iraq, and supporting the latest independence efforts in Palestine. Other Middle East advocacy activities were action alerts, including the new 3rd Thursday advocacy alerts on Israel/Palestine, and resourcing the Kairos campaign and the UCC Palestine/Israel Network.

MISSION INTERPRETATION AND CONSTITUENCY EDUCATION

Jon Barnes, Executive

Curricula Development

The Global Ministries youth curriculum READY (Revolutionary, Engaged and Driven Youth) has opened up opportunities for GM staff to engage directly with youth. In 2014, staff participated in Youth Retreats and camps in the Pacific Southwest Region/Southern California Conference, the Indiana/Kentucky Conference, and at various local churches. This curriculum has direct connections as we seek to be a pro-reconciling, anti-racist church, as well as in the area of leadership development. The curriculum is open-source and resources will continually be updated to keep the curriculum fresh and relevant.

In 2014, the Mission Education team began work on a new adult resource called REACH (Renewing, Engaging and Advocating Churches). This resource will contain three sessions and also be open-source and free on the website. It will take many of the issues raised in the READY curriculum and adapt them for an adult audience, enabling churches to think deeply about why and how Disciples and UCC engage in mission today. The Mission Education team expects to launch this curriculum on the web in spring 2015.

Congo Initiative

Congo Initiative, launched General Synod and General Assembly in 2013, concluded in December of 2014. This was the first area focus and, for the Education team, involved the production of videos, the writing and translation of Bible studies, and the promotion of projects that were identified by Congolese partners. At the 2014 November Board Meeting, a celebration to conclude the initiative was led by Rev. Sandra Gourdet and Mission Education staff participated.

Middle East Initiative

In 2014, preparations began for the next area initiative, focusing on the Middle East. Working under the leadership of Peter Makari, Executive for the Middle East and Europe, the Education team is assisting in the production of promotional materials, Bible studies, webinars and videos. This initiative will focus on a number of countries and issues within the Middle East and will officially launch at General Synod and General Assembly in 2015.

Weekly Global Ministries Updates

The updates are reaching an average of 15,408 people per week. We continue to highlight weekly prayers, partner and missionary news, and ways to be involved with Global Ministries through advocacy and giving. In 2014, a new more attractive and user friendly format for the update was launched. Staff received many notes from those receiving the updates thanking them for the improvements.

Global Ministries Handbook

In summer of 2014, work began on the production of a Global Ministries Handbook for congregational mission engagement. This book is being produced as a resource guide on international mission with general church members in mind. Each chapter is between 10 to 12 pages, written in a way that is accessible, and addresses concrete “best practices” so that churches/individuals may have tangible takeaways. Each

chapter will include a short study guide to help facilitate discussion within members of a mission committee, board of elders, or adult Sunday school class. While the most immediate audience would be members of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), there is a need for this type of material for any person, group, or congregation from a mainline background. Because it is important that not only voices speaking from a North American context engage in the dialogue about this subject, authors representing various cultures, contexts, and faith traditions are being approached, with an intentional commitment to have at least half of the chapters written by international partners. The book is scheduled to be published in 2015 by Pilgrim Press.

Disciples Communicators Forum

The General Ministries Communicators Forum continues to meet monthly. The forum works jointly on Disciples Together, a bi-weekly email that goes to Disciples Regional Ministers, Pastors, and Seminary Students. This email provides resources from the various general ministries to better equip and resource clergy for local parish ministry.

Staff Pairing with Disciples Regions

The staff pairings with Disciples Regions continued in 2014, with staff participating in 29 out of 32 regional assemblies. With a number of changes in staff, the pairings have been reworked; however, no staff person has more than three regions to which they affiliate. Staff continues to work hard at building relationships and understanding between Global Ministries and Disciples Regions.

“Be A Global Mission” Region

There continues to be a great deal of energy and potential for transformation around the establishment of Global Church Partnerships in Disciples Regions. For Disciples Regions and UCC Conferences desiring new connections with international partners, an effort is being made to assist them to map their own contexts before seeking partnerships. After gaining a deeper understanding of their own contexts for ministry, the Education team will work with Area Executives to facilitate relationships with partners who have similar contexts and issues. The hope is that these relationships can facilitate relationships of a “shared life” or “shared journey” and that partners will have very tangible gifts to offer our constituents as they share how the ministries in which they are engaged are transformative for their context.

Website Changeover

Last year, the education team worked to redesign the Global Ministries website to better reflect our core values. Changes included a more partner focused design, more extensive use of large graphics, as well as reorganizing content categories for simplified navigation. Soon after this redesign, the education team learned that the web platform would be changing. During this process, much effort has been made to maintain the changes and enhance the website in the new platform.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Linda Lawrence, Program Manager

The Child Sponsorship program is an international ministry to provide assistance to children and elders of Global Ministries' partner ecumenical organizations. This ministry works in collaboration with the five areas of Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Division of Overseas Ministries and the United Church of Christ Wider Church Ministries. Through sponsorships, Disciples and UCC members and local churches continue to provide financial assistance to children and elders for their basic health care, educations, accommodations, school tuition and supplies for many of the children in their own society and culture.

Over the years the Global Ministries Child Sponsorship gifts have helped to strengthen and further shape the future of God's family around the world. In 2014 approximately \$300,000 was collected and more than 200 children and elders were assigned sponsorships. While the contributions that come to partner organizations through the sponsorship program are very important to them, the services they provide to the children and elders is their first priority and challenge as well. Their primary objective is training the children to be self-sustaining as adults or helping elders to live out their last days in grace, love and dignity when they have been abandoned, or rejected.

Along with the Africa area executive, the program manager traveled to Zimbabwe and Botswana to observe the children's programs of the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe (UCCZ) and the United Congregational Church of South Africa (UCCSA). Both churches have children ministries participating in the sponsorship program: the UCCZ with 13 local churches and a residential children's home (Daisy Dube) and the UCCSA with the Lephoi Centre for Blind Children. In collaboration, a short term venture with the New Hampshire Conference was established to enhance their partnership with the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe by sponsoring children from two local UCCZ churches. The Lephoi program has been energized through music. A former student returned and is now teaching the children music as a way of communication. During our visit at Lephoi, we saw over and over again that the children's disabilities were not inabilities. Music, crafts and basic skills learning were demonstrated all over the campus.

The program manager also visited the two children homes operated by the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI). The church oversees the Pringle Home for girls and the Mt. Olivet Home for boys. Recently the church made the change to homes to better address gender issues and concerns. Both homes act as a refuge for abused, homeless, rejected and neglected children in Jamaica. Under the UCJCI's care the staff works to provide the children a stable constructive family style environment, educational opportunities and possibilities of integrating them back into their homes.

Walking the journey together, partners have conveyed their appreciation and thanks to all Global Ministries constituents throughout the year for their generous aid to impoverished children and elders in other countries.

The following are recognize ministry partners of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through the Division of Overseas Ministries.

RAMBO COMMITTEE

Steve Minson, President
Rambo Committee, Inc.
1648 River Ridge
Williamsburg, VA 23185-7546

The Rambo Committee, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation that has as its sole purpose the support of the work of Christian Hospital Mungeli, India, including its School of Nursing, the Rambo Memorial English Medium School, and the Springer Community College. During 2014, this support was primarily in three areas: seeking funds for capital construction and other projects to assist the Hospital deliver critically needed services to the people of Mungeli; developing partnerships between Mungeli and U.S.-based organizations; and facilitating the travel to Mungeli of persons interested in the work there.

The Rambo Committee is delighted to report significant success in raising funds. In December 2014, they were awarded a \$600,000 grant from the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad program of the United States Agency for International Development. This sum, along with \$93,000 from the Rambo Committee, is being used to procure commodities that will expand desperately-needed medical services to mothers and children at Mungeli. The hospital is now in the process of acquiring a mobile health clinic for village outreach services, and equipping a new Maternal Ward, Labor Room, Neo-natal ICU, Operating Room for women, and Intensive Care Unit for women. Also, the Rambo Committee facilitated the execution of an agreement between Christian Hospital Mungeli and Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine establishing Mungeli as an international rotation site for Virginia Tech's fourth-year medical students. The first such students arrived in Mungeli in February 2014. Also, during 2014, through the tireless efforts of the Rambo Committee's Executive Director, Landa Simmons, we helped coordinated the visits of more than 3 dozen people to Mungeli, each bringing unique talents and perspectives.

DISCIPLES AMATEUR RADIO FELLOWSHIP, INC.

John Park Winkler, Jr, President
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North Richland Hills, TX 76180
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In 2014, the Disciples Amateur Radio Fellowship (DARF) awaited the delivery of the last 14 of 27 solar powered HF Communications stations to be installed in the 23 principle

Supervisory Posts and the general Secretariat of the Disciples Community of the Church of Christ in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The units were purchased in the United States in 2013 and added to a container of medical equipment and supplies destined for the hospital at Bolenge. We look forward to receiving word that those stations have been installed. When completed, this network will be the fourth generation of communications purchased by DARF for our work in Congo.

The Communications infrastructure project grew out of a DARF survey trip to DRC in 2006 at the request of the Disciples community. In 2010, a DARF team traveled to DRC and trained 50 church leaders to install and operate the eleven stations that had been purchased in the DRC, as well as the stations yet to be purchased.

DARF was organized in the 1950's under the leadership of Bob Nelson and Jim Sukioga at the United Christian Missionary Society and a number of Amateur Radio Operators who saw the potential for better communication with mission personnel. Over the years, DARF supplied radio equipment has been provided in Paraguay, the Congo, the Philippines, Lesotho, Swaziland, and Guatemala.

Recommended Action:

The General Board receives the report from the Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries and forwards the report to the 2015 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.