

International Ministries

1003 W 9th Ave, Ste A  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1210





international  
ministries

ANNUAL REPORT  
2016 – 2017

# Annual Report 2017

Nor'easter. Hurricane. Refugee. Fake news. These terms seem to have gained new meaning in recent times. 2017 was a difficult year for many. Our Lord beckons us, along with his original disciples, to "Come, follow me," but how do we follow Jesus in the midst of natural and human disaster? So often the crush of the reality around us drowns out his invitation to step out in faith.

Yet, much like hiking in the dark behind a friend who has the only flashlight available, the secret to following Jesus is in placing our feet in his footsteps. We don't need to be able to see well into the future; we don't even need to be able to see what he can see. We just need to be able to take the next step forward and know that our trust is well-founded. We take one step of faith at a time.

International Ministries facilitates mission for global servants around the world who are taking one step of faith at a time. Whether they are working alongside the refugee, the student, the trafficked or the impoverished, our global servants work without a knowledge of the future. Instead, they trust God for each step of the way.

We hope you enjoy these stories about restoring dignity and destiny to those who are made in God's image.



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# “Come, follow me.”

MATTHEW 4:19

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / CEO

I just received an incredibly generous gift.

Not too long ago, I took a missionary family out for an evening of fun. We had a great time at the park. They have two young daughters who thought following me around was highly entertaining. The older missionary kid wanted to know if I had brought the gospel of Jesus Christ to all the corners of the world yet. She specifically mentioned Antarctica. I assured her that while I have not personally done so yet, I do believe that God loves the penguins. She then continued to skip along behind me and pepper me with questions about what IM does. I smiled and said repeatedly, “We facilitate God’s mission. We want to see earth look like heaven.”

Our global servants live and work in contexts where God is already at work. As such, our role in God’s mission is to follow Christ as we look for what God is already doing. Then, we encourage others to follow us while we incarnationally highlight the good work God is doing.

A week later, I received a thank you card in the mail. Her missionary mother noted that her child had been so touched by our evening together and inspired by my (our) ministry that she wanted to become a personal donor of mine. Enclosed was a dollar and a card the girl had made for me. I was so touched I wasn’t sure if I should laugh or cry. Apparently, she

had sacrificially set aside her pocket money without any prompting from her parents. Sometimes, we have no idea what we are passing along to those who follow after us.

“‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.’” (Matthew 4:19, NIV)

We are blessed by the generous spirits of you, our friends and supporters. IM is able to participate in and facilitate God’s mission because of the sacrificial giving of so many. May the Lord of the harvest continue to raise up those who are glad to facilitate the coming of God’s kingdom all around the world.

This year has been an amazing year of growth at International Ministries. We commissioned eight new missionaries and their MPTs and endorsed four more to begin building their partnership networks and preparation for global cross-cultural work. We also celebrated the retirement of a handful of those who ran the good race and left their mark for the gospel of Jesus Christ. All this would not have been possible without the investment of your love, prayer and support.

In this annual report, I hope that you will enjoy a few snapshots of the good ministry that God is doing as IM responds to the call to be part of God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. (Matt. 6:10)

As you read these pages, let me invite you to continue to invest in the support of our global servants and the entire work of IM. Your sacrifice and generosity are deeply appreciated.

May God bless you and remember you for your partnership in ministry.

In Christ,



SHARON KOH  
Executive Director / CEO

# Following in the Footsteps of Rizpah

## PEACE & JUSTICE

**HOW DOES ONE MINISTER THE GRACE AND PEACE** of Christ in the middle of a war zone? How does one communicate God's mercy and love in a society marred by social, political, ethnic or religious violence?

In such settings, most ministry focuses on the victims—those who have been physically or psychologically injured or displaced and need immediate and long-term support and relief. Many of these people become trapped in their trauma and suffer in silence, out of view. Others respond with aggression against the perceived enemy in ways that perpetuate the cycles of violence and create new victims.

Yet in almost every conflict, God raises up people who, while being marked by the violence, are able to rise above it and act in transformative ways.



It is with people such as these, the agents of transformation, that Dan and Sharon Buttry have committed nearly 35 years of ministry. Some are church leaders, pastors and teachers. Others are community activists. Some work with women's groups, others with youth. These ministers of reconciliation and transformative healing are the people the Buttrys seek out to identify, raise up, equip and empower.

In 2017 in Sri Lanka, Dan met a woman whose husband had been killed in the waning days of that country's civil war. She was profoundly traumatized, but even in her pain she drew together other war widows to create a community to support mutual healing. She has become a leader, empowering victims to create new lives and new ways of sustaining community.

Building peace and reconciliation cannot take place without dealing with the deep emotional challenges that violent conflict brings. Whether in a family context or sociopolitical war zone, Dan asks the question, "How can the abundant life of Christ come into this person's life, and how does healing begin?"

Dan explains, "Part of our peace building and conflict transformation work is addressing the matter of how to help people process what they have experienced. Then, after responding to their own experiences, how can they become conflict transformers and help others deal with the same issues?"

One of the tools the Buttrys use is the account in 2 Samuel, chapter 21. David was praying about famine in the land when God told him that Saul had massacred Gibeonites, with whom Israel had made a peace covenant. The Gibeonites did not want compensation, they wanted blood. Conceding to their demands, David

allowed them to kill seven of Saul's sons. The mother of five of these sons is absent from the rest of the account. However, Rizpah, whose sons Armoni and Mephibosheth had been killed, began a public vigil over their bodies. After many months, David heard about this. He came to Rizpah with a repentant spirit and tried to make things right.

David recovered the unburied bones of Armoni and Mephibosheth, and together he and Rizpah gave them a proper burial in the ancestral land. In this action, there is recognition of the pain and the loss they have suffered, as well as the restoration of honor to the house of Saul. In many countries, the dynamics of honor and shame are strong factors in how people relate to one another.

Although David could not bring back the dead, he took a significant step towards reconciliation with the house of Saul. God responded with favor, as Scripture tells us, by healing the land.

Dan and Sharon use this account in their training sessions to raise awareness of the multigenerational reconciliation that has to take place for true healing to occur. Participants are not told what to think, instead they are given as much as 45 minutes to wrestle with the text and engage questions about trauma and their own experiences. In mini role-play exercises, Dan and Sharon interview participants as characters within the story to unpack trauma dynamics. The climax is a reenactment of the story, which brings dramatic impact to the story of the transformational work of Rizpah.

Dan notes, "This is one of most powerful experiences in our training because people get into the feeling of it. That moment when Rizpah comes and grieves over her

slain child is so riveting! In a recent training, the woman playing Rizpah came forward in an intense silence that slowly built up and erupted into a scream. I shared about it in a journal. This woman, living in a war zone, acted out of her own trauma in a way that she said was emotionally cathartic.”

Sharon says that, often, “we assume there is a certain script that we have to act out in conflicts, a win-lose script, especially in politics, war and violence. Yet our faith challenges us to break out of those scripts. This is part of what our training does. It gives people opportunities to look in a different direction or consider things from a different point of view.”

Using the Scriptures and engaging in role-play allows participants to confront self-limiting beliefs, act courageously, and reexamine values. It allows them to practice something new in a safe environment where they are free to fail and approach the situation in another way.

Non-violent movements are not always successful. Dan calls for peacemakers to be more persistent: “We tend to be critical of peaceful alternatives more than of war and violence, and we give up too easily.”

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers.” (Matthew 5:9) Dan and Sharon emphasize, “*Peacekeepers* stay out of trouble. *Peacemakers* go into trouble, and they transform it. It is the incarnational model. Jesus came to a troubled world, and that is the world into which our mission calling has sent us. We can’t be afraid of it.”



- Since 2010, over 250 people from 50 countries have taken the Buttrys’ 10-day intensive Training of Conflict Transformation Trainers.
- 27 IM missionaries and directors have taken part in conflict transformation training.
- In 2017, about 250 people received conflict transformation training from the Buttrys through workshops and courses in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Italy, Lebanon, Egypt, Cuba, Mexico and Sri Lanka.



# More to Follow: A Story of Sustainable Community Development

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**“DWIGHT AND BARB DID NOT COME DOWN** to tell us how to do everything, they came to show us what we could do on our own.”

This statement from the president of the National Baptist Convention in Chile is one of the greatest compliments that Barb and Dwight Bolick could ever receive, as it describes what has been one of their primary goals since they began their ministry in Chile.

Isaiah 61:1-4 says that those who receive the good news of the kingdom of God will themselves rebuild, raise up and repair their world. The oppressed and brokenhearted become “oaks of righteousness.” This speaks of a transformation as people recover dignity, practice virtues and are equipped with every good thing to thrive as whole persons.<sup>1</sup>

One of the ways that Dwight is showing communities how to solve their own problems is by showing them how to capture rainwater to deal with severe seasonal droughts. You might not think that a region that receives nearly as much rain as Seattle over the course of a year would struggle with water shortages, but the problem is that in southern Chile, the difference between the rainy and dry seasons is particularly extreme. When it rains, there is more than enough water to go around, and when the rains stop, they stop completely. With the effects of climate change, these extremes are becoming ever more divergent.

In rural Mapuche communities, where most of the

people are subsistence farmers, a water shortage is more than just an inconvenience. It affects health, sanitation and livelihoods. Without enough water, crops and livestock grow poorly and begin to die off, and as a result there is little food to eat, much less to sell for income. Many families sell the produce from their gardens to supplement their income, but with the uncertainty every summer of whether there will be enough water, many families opted to not plant at all.

Dwight realized that the solution was to harness the power of the rainy season during the dry. A well could do this, tapping into the stores of ground water, but wells are expensive and can only be dug in suitable locations. So what if people could collect the rain before it hit the ground? From this idea, the rainwater collection project was born.

The first rainwater collection system was established in the rural community of Curihue by a local women’s group. With Barb’s support, this group has developed into an economic development cooperative, serving the whole community through a number of projects. In addition to hosting the demonstration rainwater system, the group has founded a yarn-making business and helped to renovate and reopen a health clinic, which it is now working to expand into a community center with a meeting space and medicinal herb garden.

Dwight set up basic rainwater harvesting systems in twelve communities. They address families’ immediate needs while also serving as demonstration systems for

the community. What started as a grassroots effort has since gained official recognition, and one rural school system has adopted the system for three schools with water shortage problems. In fact, the local government is even beginning to offer need-based subsidies to install more of these systems.

Home rainwater harvesting systems will ultimately save municipalities from having to spend millions delivering water to families by truck. Currently a majority of rural families receive weekly deliveries of water that only meet minimal needs.

This is one way people can recover dignity and participate in their own development. With the fundamental need for water increasingly being met, the people with whom Barb and Dwight serve can begin to turn their attention to other areas of life, such as local business and education.

Barb admits that many of the rural Chilean people who

are working for change now will only get a small taste of the better life that lies ahead. However, Barb says, "If we can help her make a little money to buy school supplies or uniforms for her kids, her kids can stay in school."

When Dwight and Barb help a community set up a rainwater collection system or a small business cooperative, they see some small improvements in quality of life immediately, but the greatest impact of their work is years away. A ministry of sustainable economic development is, most of all, in service of the next generation. Its effects will be realized in the lives of the children of today's yarn-makers and health clinic assistants, as they grow up with opportunities of which their parents could only dream.

<sup>1</sup> See Bryant L. Myers, *Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development* (Ossining, NY: Orbis Books, 1999), 115-120.

- 17 Chilean communities have installed rainwater collection systems, which they can now reproduce.
- Over 100 rural schools in the region where the Bolicks work have severe water-shortage problems.
- 3 women's cooperatives with 22 members have launched projects such as selling high-quality handspun yarn and wool products, rainwater collection and reopening a medical clinic.





# Following Jesus in Love

## ABOLITION OF GLOBAL SLAVERY

**IN JUST A FEW SQUARE BLOCKS** of Bangkok's commercial district, there are 10,000 or more people engaged in the sex industry. The influence and the economic pressure is so great that, for every woman who leaves, three more may be trafficked in. In this context, the ministry of Annie and Jeff Dieselberg and the number of women they are personally able to help can seem infinitesimally small.

But even a small light can shine out brilliantly in the darkness, and in Bangkok, Thailand, NightLight International has done just that.

### A BRIGHT LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Each person who is touched by NightLight, the Dieselbergs' multi-faceted ministry to women who have worked in the sex trade, spreads that light a little further through her family, friends and community. When Annie stands at the airport waving goodbye to a survivor of

trafficking who has been given the chance to return to her home country, she sees that woman carry with her a newfound joy. In the Wednesday afternoon beauty salon, an outreach to women who work in the red-light district, the Thai staff can be overheard sharing about Jesus while styling hair and polishing nails.

Jeff is quick to note, "It's not because we did a great job of training them to do that. They just do it so naturally with those they know. Maybe that's even better than having a class on how to reach out to others."

This spontaneous, heartfelt witness gives the Dieselbergs confidence that working to abolish global slavery is reaching further than they may ever know. Only God truly knows the impact of one changed life, and that is what keeps them moving forward, even though the way is rarely easy.

### FACING THE CHALLENGES

Annie openly shares that the huge needs in the area of anti-trafficking and ministry to women who have been sexually exploited can be overwhelming at times. She finds strength by fixing her eyes on the woman that is in front of her. Rather than feel overwhelmed by the size of the problem, Annie, a child of God focuses on the image of God in the one woman sitting in front of her. The one to one relationship perspective is what she encourages in the Nightlight staff as well.

It is evident to the Dieselbergs that God's calling did not come with the promise of success. On the contrary, when they are living as Jesus' hands and feet in the world, then they must love a woman even when she goes back into prostitution repeatedly, even when she suffers with schizophrenia, even when she is a paragon

of recovery one day and back in a bar the next. Their greatest responsibility each day is to follow Jesus in love and to love well.

Annie says, "I don't find it hard to love these women—it's a privilege to know them. But I need to hold on to hope and not grow tired of the challenges and demands."

There is no shortage of challenges. Even a good thing like rising awareness and the growth of the anti-trafficking movement can present difficulties. The public interest in anti-trafficking initiatives bears the markings of a fad, and the Dieselbergs have seen some well-meaning individuals join the cause simply for the experience. This ministry, however, needs long-term commitment and long-term financial support, because for the women trapped in the bondage of sex trafficking and prostitution, freedom is a long and hard journey, and not one that can be made alone. What's more, freedom from human bondage is only half of the story.

### IMAGE-BEARERS OF CHRIST

In Thailand, most Buddhists fall into two broad categories. "Orthodox Buddhists" observe the teachings of the Buddha in a strict sense, whereas "folk Buddhists" incorporate various other beliefs and practices as well, particularly those related to the spirit world. In many cases, folk Buddhists will readily adopt elements of Christianity, giving the appearance of a quick conversion when in fact they are accepting Jesus into their pantheon rather than their hearts. In this cultural setting, it is important to find relevant ways to help people understand soul allegiance to the one true God.

Jeff teaches in chapel three days a week and leads Sunday services, where he has found creative ways of



introducing biblical concepts to Thai people that assist them in wrestling with their questions. As spiritual director at NightLight, he also has learned how to gently build trust with women who may have never before experienced a positive male influence in their lives. He is there to be a warm, caring and compassionate “papa bear,” as some fondly call him—a human example of Christian love.

Jeff says, “They need to see that there is something genuine in the love they receive through NightLight, and they have to see me as safe.”

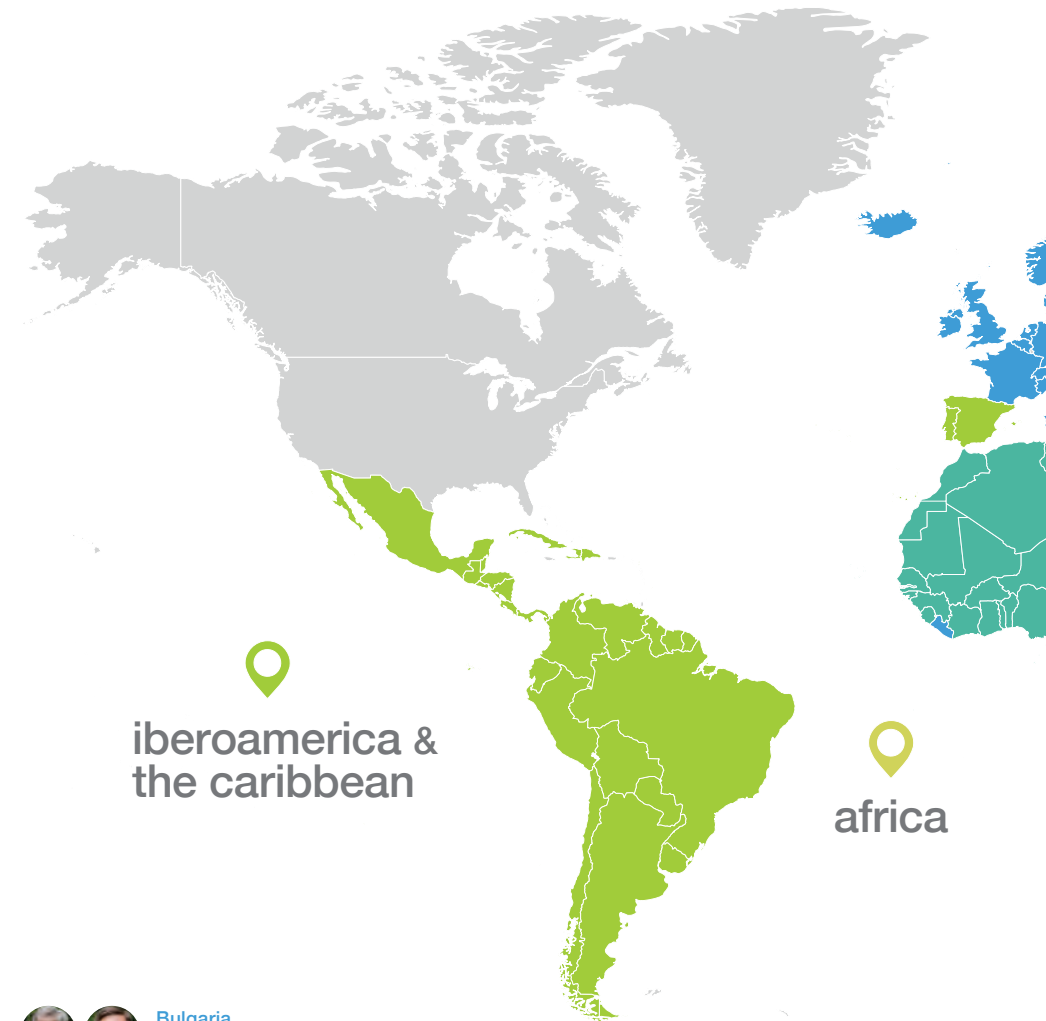
The Dieselbergs recognize that one of their primary responsibilities in this ministry is to serve as image-bearers of Christ for the women who have found refuge in NightLight. These women come to accept that they can trust Jesus because they trust Annie and Jeff, his representatives among them. From this place of trust, they can truly begin to hear God’s call to love, follow and forgive without expecting anything in return; to let go of the Buddhist emphasis on merit and embrace God’s freely given grace.
















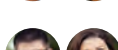

What gives Annie and Jeff the greatest joy is seeing women find new hope—seeing the light in their eyes because they have gained not only a better life now, but also the assurance of a life together with God for all eternity. With each new day that these women who have been freed from oppression receive counseling and care, earn a living through work that is empowering rather than degrading and hear that they are precious in the eyes of God, they can move ever more into the true freedom that is found in Christ.




















- 179 Thai women have been provided alternative holistic employment through Nightlight since 2005.
- Over 140 international women have received NightLight’s assistance in returning to their home countries since 2007.
- 3,000 contacts were made with Thai and international women in prostitution and sex trafficking through NightLight’s outreach programs in 2017 alone.

# Global Servants 2017













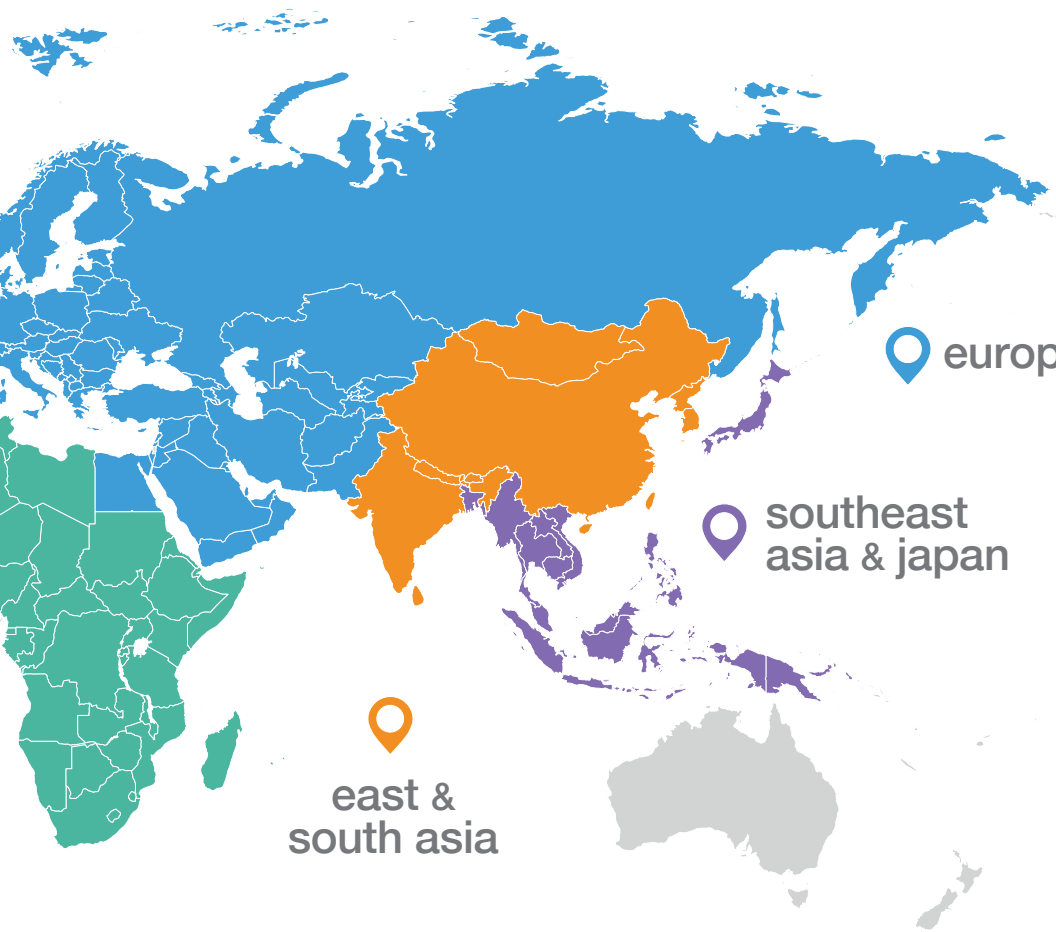
-  **Regional Consultant**  
Mercy Gonzales-Barnes
-  **Regional Consultant**  
Ricardo Mayol-Bracero
-  **Regional Consultants**  
David & Joyce Reed
-  **Regional Consultant/Bolivia**  
JD & Rhonda Reed
-  **Bolivia**  
Sarah Nash\*
-  **Brazil**  
Corenne & Philip Smith
-  **Chile**  
Barbara & Dwight Bolick
-  **Colombia**  
Carlos Bonilla & Mayra Giovanetti\*
-  **Costa Rica**  
Sue Hegarty
-  **Costa Rica**  
Peter & Sarah McCurdy
-  **Costa Rica**  
Ruth Mooney
-  **Dominican Republic**  
Madeline Flores-López
-  **Dominican Republic**  
Ketly & Vital Pierre
-  **Haiti**  
Nancy & Stephen James
-  **Haiti**  
Kihomi Ngwemi & Mabudiga Nzunga
-  **Haiti**  
Brian & Lynette Smith\*
-  **Honduras**  
Dilia Zelaya

-  **Mexico**  
Denise & Juan Aragón
-  **Mexico**  
Deliris Carrión-Joseph
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-  **Mexico**  
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-  **Mexico**  
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David & Laura Parajón
-  **Panama**  
Ingrid Roldán-Román
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Marilyn Raatz
-  **DR Congo**  
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-  **DR Congo & South Sudan**  
Ann & Bill Clemmer
-  **DR Congo**  
Jill & Mike Lowery
-  **DR Congo**  
Katherine & Wayne Niles
-  **DR Congo**  
Ed & Miriam Noyes
-  **DR Congo**  
Kathy & Tim Rice
-  **DR Congo**  
Katrina & Kyle Williams
-  **Ghana**  
Rovaughna Richardson
-  **South Africa**  
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## iberoamerica & the caribbean

## africa

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-  **Europe**  
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-  **Hungary**  
Amanda & Jon Good
-  **Hungary**  
Carmella Jones
-  **Hungary**  
Carrie & Kurt Smalley
-  **Hungary**  
Larry & Rebecca Stanton
-  **Lebanon**  
Dan & Sarah Chetti
-  **Lebanon**  
Melanie Baggao
-  **Turkey**  
Laura & Rich Freeman
-  **United Kingdom**  
Hermelinda & Jorge Damasceno



120 TOTAL GLOBAL SERVANTS  
 69 GLOBAL SERVANT UNITS  
 29 COUNTRIES WITH GLOBAL SERVANTS IN RESIDENCE  
 978 SHORT-TERM VOLUNTEERS

📍 europe, the middle east & liberia

📍 southeast asia & japan

📍 east & south asia

- Hong Kong**  
Emerson & Ivy Wu
- India**  
Katie & Taku Longkumer
- Nepal**  
Carole Sydnor

- Regional Consultants**  
Ann & Bruce Borquist
- Regional Consultant**  
Ruth Fox
- Regional Consultant**  
Debra Mulneix
- Japan**  
Gordon & Lee Ann Hwang
- Japan**  
Shigemi Tomita
- Laos & Thailand**  
Lori & Matt Mann
- Malaysia**  
Aaron & Valerie Osterbrock\*

- Myanmar & Thailand**  
Aphiwan & Scott Coats
- Philippines**  
Jonathan & Thelma Nambu
- Philippines**  
Paul Rollet
- Thailand**  
Kim Brown
- Thailand**  
Annie & Jeff Dieselberg
- Thailand**  
Joel Hoefle & Trish Magal
- Thailand**  
Alise & Mark Juanes\*
- Thailand**  
Lea Lindero
- Thailand**  
Becky Mann
- Thailand**  
Jennifer Pedzinski
- Thailand**  
Kit Ripley
- Thailand**  
Karen Smith
- Thailand**  
Debby & Kyle Witmer
- Serving the Myanmar diaspora in the US**  
Marlene Po

- Global Consultant**  
Myliinda Baits
- Global Consultant**  
Lauran Bethel
- Global Consultants**  
Dan & Sharon Buttry
- Global Consultant**  
Kristy Engel
- Global Consultant**  
Mike Mann
- Global Consultant**  
Ray Schellinger
- Global Consultant**  
Stan Slade
- Global Consultants**  
Jeannine & Walt White

\* Not yet in country of service

# Area Directors



ELEAZAR ZIHERAMBERE  
Africa

God is using IM's partners in Africa to invite people to follow him! In West Africa, where Boko Haram is based, our partners in Cameroon, Benin and Togo see their Muslim neighbors not as enemies, but as persons who may be introduced to the way of Jesus. They are surmounting great challenges to train pastors and evangelists for discipleship and to plant churches in previously unreached areas. IM global servants and partners across the continent are engaged in ministries of theological education and literacy that increase the ability of people to follow our Savior Jesus Christ. Please pray for all who respond to God's call across Africa—global servants, volunteers and our brothers and sisters in Christ in many countries.



BEN CHAN  
East and South Asia

God is working among the churches in miraculous ways! The ministries of IM's partners with unreached people groups continue to grow. The great need now is to disciple new believers by training and equipping church lay leaders and ordained pastors. We are making progress in these areas, but more needs to be done. In addition, a strategic Global Chinese Mission network is being developed with churches and mission organizations in places like the Pacific Rim cities, Toronto and New York, where a significant population of people of Chinese descent and strong Chinese churches already exist. Please pray that God will provide more long-term global servants, volunteers, trainers, mission project promoters, short-term mission teams and graduate interns to join and to help our mission expand.



CHARLES JONES  
Europe, the Middle East  
and Liberia

It remains a great privilege for me to serve our global servants and partners in Europe, the Middle East and Liberia as together we seek to be faithful in following Jesus! This past year, we have doubled the number of our individuals and couples serving in Hungary, continuing to assist Hungarian Baptist Aid in education and a local church of the Baptist Union of Hungary with church development and evangelistic outreach. In the Middle East, loving, Christ-like response to the ongoing refugee crisis remains the strong witness of our Lebanese Baptist partners, and our global servants continue to support the work of nationals across the region. In Liberia, the ministry of a short-term volunteer couple at the Seminary was of mutual blessing, further strengthening our partnership! Please join me in praying for strength and comfort for refugees, people crossing borders all over the world and for growth in people who are called to short- and long-term missionary service.



ADALIA GUTIÉRREZ-LEE  
Iberoamerica and  
the Caribbean

I am excited to see new partnerships form between IM and churches and organizations located in Iberoamerica and the Caribbean, including new partnerships in Spain, Mexico and Jamaica! These important relationships multiply the Lord's witness and work around the world, and allow IM to respond to God's call in ways that we could not do on our own. The Online Master of Theological Studies for Latino/a Ministries, started in 2016, is a partnership between Palmer Seminary of Eastern University, IM and American Baptist Home Mission Societies. I'm delighted to report that the first cohort of 20 students graduate in 2018, having been prepared for thoughtful and productive holistic ministry and leadership in churches, organizations and community life in Latin America and the US. Please pray for continued growth in IM's partnerships in Iberoamerica and the Caribbean.



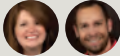




**LESLIE TURLEY**  
Southeast Asia and Japan



People are coming to Christ and learning what it's like to be a disciple in Southeast Asia and Japan! From new believers in Thailand who had been subjected to human trafficking and forced labor, to students and their families in Japan, to advanced study in theological education for church leaders in Vietnam, we are experiencing an exciting increase in people at all levels coming to Christ and learning and growing in their faith. Please pray for workers to come alongside our global servants and partners to continue and grow these ministries, as well as for those involved in the ministries to "run and not grow weary." (Isaiah 40:31)

## Hellos and Goodbyes to IM Global Servants




### We welcomed these new global servants:

-  Denise & Juan Aragón
-  Ricardo Mayol-Bracero
-  Amanda & Jon Good
-  Marlene Po
-  Brian & Lynette Smith

### These global servants were endorsed for global mission:

-  Sarah Nash
-  Aaron & Valerie Osterbrock
-  Jae Stockton

### We bid fond farewells to these global servants:

-  Chuck Fox
-  Cheryl Jones
-  Holale Azondjagni & Awenam Anifrani



# “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”

1 CORINTHIANS 11:1, NIV

## DISCIPLESHIP

**WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, DID YOU EVER PLAY** follow the leader? Looking back, I remember faithfully falling in line behind the friend at the head of the pack, mimicking her movements while keeping on the course she had set, under, over and around whatever challenging obstacles she could find. Anyone who couldn't keep up or incorrectly imitated her actions would be called “out,” and gradually we were eliminated until one of us emerged as the leader for the next round of the game.

Much later in life, I found myself engaged far more seriously in “following the leader” while working part-time as a firefighter. Crawling on hands and knees and dragging a firehose into a burning building, it was critically important for me to keep a firm grasp on my partner's ankle as he led the way to the point where we could begin to extinguish the fire. Failure to follow could threaten the success of the work, and even the lives of those engaged in it.

Following and leading are at the heart of discipleship and at the center of the work of International Ministries global servants. Jesus calls each one of us to follow him. In responding to that call, we follow the One who has been anointed to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and healing for the afflicted, to effect the release of the oppressed and to announce God's favor for all humanity and creation. (Luke 4:18-19)

I am stirred by the example of IM global servants who follow the call and the example of Jesus, often to persons and places in desperate need. Some are bringing transformative words and acts of peace and reconciliation to places of deep and longstanding conflict. Some are helping communities that have very limited resources and opportunities develop the means to foster health and well-being. Others are deeply engaged in freeing persons who have fallen victim to twenty-first-century slavery, helping those who have been exploited find freedom in Christ even as they are released from human bondage.

As the Apostle Paul sought to genuinely follow Christ, he in turn offered himself as a person whom others could follow as they began their journeys of discipleship. Though anyone may directly approach God through Jesus Christ, we have also been given the opportunity to hear and see God through the incarnational presence of the Holy Spirit in our fellow believers.

Like Paul, our global servants aim not only to faithfully follow our Lord Jesus, but also to lead others in following Him. So their work both impacts individuals and produces networks and communities of Christ-centered peacebuilders, health promoters, evangelists, theological educators, crisis counselors and others engaged in Christ-like ministry around the globe.

Your giving to IM enables our global servants to go places near and far, following Jesus and issuing his call to come and follow in the way of discipleship. As they do so, they are also leading others in proclaiming the peace, freedom and good news that is available for all in Jesus Christ. Thank you for responding to the call to follow Jesus, and for your gifts that support the spread of discipleship to the ends of the earth through IM.



JIM BELL  
Associate Executive Director  
for Global Mission





# Board of Directors



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“The new IM logo suits well our third century of mission, and its freshness reminds us that God said, ‘Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.’ (Isaiah 43:19 ESV) ”

Reg Mills  
BOARD PRESIDENT



# Something Old, Something New: The Next Chapter for the International Ministries Brand

**DURING THE RECENT RESPONDING TO THE CALL** discernment process, we called together the International Ministries family to prayerfully consider and define IM's identity and purpose in today's global context. Now, for the first time in nearly a quarter-century, this identity is reflected in a new brand mark and visual style. This branding encapsulates the innovative vitality of our mission and highlights the amazing stories of the work that God is doing around the world.

At the same time, we have reintroduced the historical seal that was adopted by our predecessors shortly after they founded IM in 1814 as the first Baptist foreign mission agency. The seal uses IM's registered name, "American Baptist Foreign Mission Society," and features an ox standing with an altar and a plow under a banner reading "ready for either." This poignant image symbolizes a global servant's unconditional response to God's call: an attitude of readiness for service or sacrifice. Not only does the seal reflect our rich heritage, it also represents the commitment to God's work that IM global servants continue to make every day.

The new logo brings a fresh perspective and energy to IM's centuries-old mission with a vibrant color and crisp, clean lines. The subtle symbolism of the initials IM stretching across the circle and extending invisibly beyond its edges represents God's work in and through our global servants, which reaches around the world and continues beyond what the eye can see.

We chose to use lower-case text in which the letter t forms a cross, such that there are three crosses in the name "International Ministries." This is emphasized in the logo animation, in which the cross is the last image

remaining on screen, as a reminder that the cross is at the heart of our identity and the reason for our mission. We respond to God's call as Jesus taught and as the Holy Spirit leads. IM global servants, staff and partners seek to embody the example of Jesus, who met the poor and marginalized where they were and brought life and love to all people.

The new logo, reinstated historical seal and refreshed brand style are perhaps nowhere more in evidence than on IM's redesigned website, [www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org). Mobile-friendly and responsive, it spotlights the images and stories of what God is doing through our global servants and partners in over 70 countries. By setting up an account,\* you can see your giving history, manage your email subscriptions and recurring donations, apply for service opportunities and more.

The website remains a work in progress, with new features being developed and refined every day, and your feedback is welcome. Just go to our website and use the Contact form under Resources or send us an email at [IMdonorservices@internationalministries.org](mailto:IMdonorservices@internationalministries.org).

Throughout this time of transitions and changes, we seek to honor those who came before—those whose labors for the kingdom of God form IM's proud heritage—by carrying on their work into the next century of ministry. It is our heartfelt prayer that their legacy live on through IM global servants and partners, both today and for many years to come.

\* Please note that user accounts were not transferred from the previous system, so anyone who had an account on IM's website prior to the relaunch is encouraged to create a new account.



# IM Leadership

## RESPONDING TO THE CALL MINISTRY PRIORITY ADVOCATES

Ministry Priority Advocates are IM global or domestic personnel who are subject-matter experts. They provide guidance, support and encouragement to IM personnel across all geographic regions working in a specific *Responding to the Call* Ministry Priority.

### Focused Impact Area 1: Inviting People to Be Disciples



WALT WHITE  
Evangelism



CARLOS BONILLA AND  
MAYRA GIOVANETTI  
Discipleship

Advocates have not yet been selected for the Ministry Priority of Theological Education.

### Focused Impact Area 2: Proclaiming God's Reign



RAY SCHELLINGER  
Immigration and Refugees



DAN BUTTRY  
Peace and Justice



LAURAN BETHELL AND KAREN SMITH  
Abolition of Human Trafficking and  
Global Slavery



RUTH FOX  
Education



BRUCE BORQUIST  
Economic and Community  
Development

Advocates have not yet been selected for the Ministry Priority of Health and Wellness.

### Focused Impact Area 3: Equipping the Body of Christ



ANN BORQUIST  
Everywhere to Everyone



SANDRA DORSAINVIL  
Short-Term Mission

Advocates have not yet been selected for the Ministry Priorities of Youth and Young Adults and Training and Capacity Building.

## DIRECTORS



SANDRA DORSAINVIL  
Director of Short-Term Mission



KRISTY FUJIURA  
Director of MK Care



KATHLEEN GEER  
Director of Donor Services



JOE GONZALEZ  
IT Director



MARY KATE KUCHAR  
Human Resources Director



EILEEN O'DONNELL  
Controller



LISA ROTHENBERGER-WINTER  
World Relief Officer



RAY SCHOOLER  
Senior Director of Development



SHARON SMART  
Global Human Resources Director

Other members of IM leadership, including the executive director, associate executive directors, area directors and board members, are featured throughout this report.

# Following the Same Path in a Different Place: IM's New Location

**ON FEBRUARY 5, 2018 THE NEW OFFICES** of International Ministries opened their doors for the first time. Just half a mile from the current American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) Mission Center and from the future site of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), this location is well situated to enable staff to continue to work on-site and to facilitate the close working relationship between IM and ABHMS.

In announcing the move, IM Executive Director the Rev. Sharon Koh stated, "We are thrilled to have found a space so close to our national-level American Baptist sisters and brothers that suits our global mission needs."

The Mission Center has been the proud home of ABCUSA for over 50 years, and the decision to move was not reached lightly. However, due to the building's

aging infrastructure and a dramatic reduction in numbers of onsite staff, ABHMS, IM and their other denominational partners determined that it would be the best stewardship of God's resources to find new office spaces that better suit the organizations' needs.

IM began the search for a new location with a firm commitment to remain as close as possible to its denominational partners. After an extensive survey, IM's planning team identified an office space in King of Prussia that is an excellent match for its needs.

"I am excited about this new location because it will be an efficient use of space, and it is well designed for collaborative work," Koh said. "It is also a work environment well suited to the habits of our home office staff."

"The IM Board of Directors see God's powerful hand

at work in the availability and suitability of this building for our next chapter in God's mission," said the Rev. Dr. Reginald Mills, IM board president.

The majority of IM's American Baptist partners will be relocating to a building purchased by ABHMS. These include the American Baptist Churches USA Office of the General Secretary, the American Baptist Extension Corporation, American Baptist Women's Ministries, the American Baptist Computer Center, the Ministers Council ABCUSA, one staff member of the American Baptist Historical Society and ABHMS itself. The American Baptist Foundation will also be relocating, though its new location is yet to be determined.

International Ministries  
1003 W 9th Ave, Ste A  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1210



# IM Financial Data

**WE WOULD ALL AGREE THAT 2017** was a challenging year, from natural disasters to political and social unrest to religious persecution. Yet in spite of these challenges, I find great hope in the deep and abiding faithfulness of our Lord and Savior, which I have seen evidenced in the good works accomplished through International Ministries in 2017, some of which are highlighted in this report. This ministry is only possible through God's faithfulness, the hard work of our global servants and home staff and the sacrificial giving of our donors, churches and regions.

I am pleased to offer this financial summary of the global outreach of IM in 2017. American Baptist mission support remained our most significant source of funding. Although our total revenue lagged behind 2016 by \$1.2M, this was largely due to a drop in planned giving contributions to the endowment fund in 2017. At the same time, sound expense management resulted in decreased total expenditures, which partially offset the decrease in planned giving contributions.

What does 2018 have in store for us? From a financial perspective, market and economic analysts offer widely ranging perspectives and predictions for this upcoming year. But even in the midst of this uncertainty, we respond to God's call, stepping out confidently with faith in our unchanging Lord, our rock and our salvation!

With praise and thanksgiving for God's great and unchanging faithfulness,

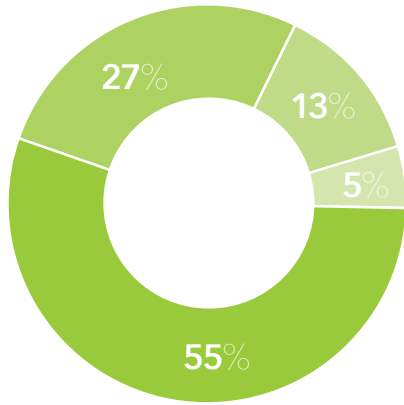
PATTI GLASSER  
Associate Executive Director  
for Operations



## STATEMENT OF MISSION MINISTRY

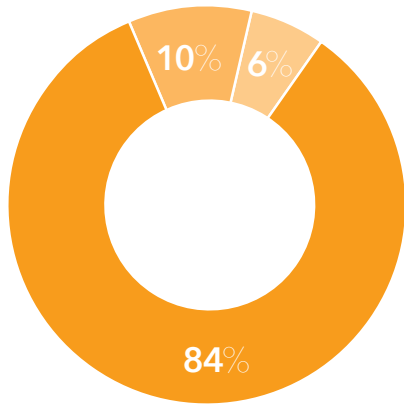
*For fiscal years ending September 30, 2017 and 2016*

<b>Revenue, Gains and Other Support</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Contributions	12,282,858	12,457,761
Contributions to Endowment Fund	183,464	864,879
Realized Planned Gifts	604,038	725,855
Other Income	320,327	393,337
Endowment Income for Current Operations	2,056,436	2,130,472
Other Investment Income/misc.	137,396	229,060
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 15,584,519</b>	<b>\$ 16,801,364</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Ministry of Missionaries and Global Partners	9,771,918	9,152,261
Ministry Support and Education	2,920,768	3,750,052
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>12,692,686</b>	<b>12,902,313</b>
Administrative Support and Fees	1,481,519	1,669,086
Development and Fundraising	997,181	1,243,369
<b>Total Supporting Expenses</b>	<b>2,478,700</b>	<b>2,912,455</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 15,171,386</b>	<b>\$ 15,814,768</b>



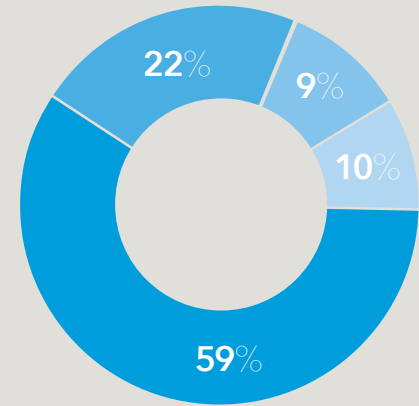
### SOURCES OF CONTRIBUTIONS

- Congregations and Church Groups
- Individuals and Others
- Businesses, Foundations and Organizations
- Planned Gifts



### EXPENSES

- Program Expenses
- Administrative Support and Fees
- Development and Fundraising



### GLOBAL SERVANT SUPPORT DISTRIBUTION

- Global Servant Income
- Medical/Retirement Plan
- Ministry Expense
- Indirect Support

For IM global servants, support is personalized to the ministry, geographic area, family size and cost of living in the country of service. Global servants have budgeted support goals to provide personal care and meet the needs in serving where God calls. While no two situations are exactly alike, this chart conveys the average distribution of funds received for global servant support.

# Nonresidential Global Servants Follow God's Call Everywhere

## GLOBAL AND REGIONAL CONSULTANTS

**DURING THE EARLY 2000 PLANNING** process that resulted in the *Go Global* Strategic Plan, International Ministries realized that a new type of mission service was taking shape. These were individuals whose ministries had grown beyond local or national geographic boundaries. They were consistently serving in a global capacity, working with multiple partners and their residential missionary colleagues worldwide. To recognize this profound development and better support the work of these global servants, IM adopted the term “global consultant.”

The *Go Global* document explained it in this way: “the purpose of IM’s Global Consultants program is to empower our overseas partners, residential missionaries, and Area Directors by offering specialized, strategic, short-term, holistic, partnering opportunities through which our partners will be better able to make disciples of Jesus Christ.”<sup>1</sup>

Along with this formal recognition of the few existing global consultants was the anticipation that the number would grow: “The number and configuration of these positions may be changed at any time, depending on appointments that are made, resources available, and the needs of our partners and as need and opportunity arise.”<sup>2</sup>

Today, this innovative mission service is being realized. IM now has 22 missionaries who bear the title of either regional or global

consultant. These are women and men who, having served well in local ministries, usually with one or more IM partners, have sensed God’s call to broaden their service regionally or globally, making their experience and expertise available to many other partners and residential global servants.

Most of these consultants now live in the U.S. for a number of reasons, including family needs or circumstances, the availability and relatively lower cost of international travel, access to reliable internet and phone service and the avoidance of the perception of favoritism. Others, especially regional consultants, live in a centrally-located area from which they can easily reach the partners with which they work most closely.

In spite of the physical distance inherent in this role, IM realized that global ministry is not impeded by the location and a neutral geographic location is often preferable.

IM’s commitment to respect for mutuality in partnership ensures that global and regional consultants’ ministries remain “local”: Like their residential colleagues, they serve at the invitation of and in close collaboration with people either native to, or with extensive experience in, their local contexts.

Some speak of the advent of the non-residential missionary as a relatively recent development in global mission. IM can point to historic precedence, specifically in our relationships and work in Europe. One might

also consider the Biblical example of early church leaders such as the Apostle Paul. Even the Son of Man crossed ethnicities, ignored boundaries and demolished barriers, traveling extensively by ancient standards during his ministry.

In our desire, commitment and endeavor to be God’s faithful disciples, we invite you to join us in affirming our non-residential missionaries—committed women and men who have taken on the work of building up the ministries of so many others, laboring as leaders of leaders and servants of servants, all in the service of the King of Kings.



CHARLES JONES  
Area Director for Europe,  
the Middle East and Liberia

<sup>1</sup> *Global Consultants: Concepts and Guidelines*; original paper by David Brown, 20 February 2002; revised by IM Global Consultants Meeting, January 2009; p. 2. The vision in *Go Global* was “to glorify God in all the earth by crossing cultural boundaries to make disciples of Jesus Christ.”

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*





# Follow Your Heart, Follow Jesus

## GIVING & DEVELOPMENT

**THIS PAST YEAR HAS BEEN FOR ME** a year of discovery, culminating with an illuminating trip to Myanmar (Burma), which is in many ways the birthplace of International Ministries. The first IM missionaries, Adoniram and Ann Judson, entered Myanmar in 1814, and the ongoing fruits of their ministry are evident even today.

Seeing the enduring effects of a ministry that began over 200 years ago, it is no wonder that IM's work now spans over 70 countries and is continuing to grow!

For each of IM's 120-plus global servants around the world, mission work means being the hands, feet and mouthpiece of Christ.

Many of the people I met left me with the impression that life in the Baptist church in Myanmar is understood as being synonymous with growing in biblical knowledge, providing practical help for the poor and advocating for justice and the rights that every human being ought to enjoy.

What is more is that IM global servants are not only preaching the word of God, but also giving it breath so that the work of Christ has effect (2 Cor. 1:18). I was also able to be in Thailand, and the ministry there is truly transformational. Each missionary humbly attests they are imperfect messengers, chosen not for their wisdom or refined speech but simply because they responded to the call and went where God has sent them. To love Jesus means to follow Jesus, and that is what IM global servants do daily.

We are deeply grateful for your financial support, which is the only way IM can advance the mission. Even

in fundraising, I find comfort that there is a spiritual connection to one's call and practice. Henri Nouwen articulates it well: "As a form of ministry, fundraising is as spiritual as giving a sermon, entering a time of prayer, visiting the sick, or feeding the hungry."<sup>1</sup>

When God calls, he is also preparing the way through the generous response of many like you.

Gifts to the **general fund** meet ongoing needs to advance the work of IM. Gifts for the support of one or more **global servants** or **projects** allow them to fulfill their calling. **Endowment gifts** that generate investment income provide long-term sustainability. A gift as part of your **will** or **beneficiary designation** leaves a lasting impact in your memory.

For ways to maximize your giving, contact us with any questions by phone at 610-768-2311 or by email at [IMdonorservices@internationalministries.org](mailto:IMdonorservices@internationalministries.org).

Thank you for giving. We are grateful for each of you who are also standing with IM in prayerful support. 2017 was a challenging year, but much more blessed because of you.

All for God's glory,

ZOFIA DRIPPS, MMin, CFRE  
Associate Executive Director  
for Mission Advancement



<sup>1</sup> Henri J.M. Nouwen, *A Spirituality of Fundraising* (Nashville, TN: Upper Room Books, 2010).