

# on location

FALL – WINTER 2019

ON EARTH  
AS IT IS IN  
HEAVEN MATTHEW  
6:10



## WHITE CROSS CELEBRATES 100 AMAZING YEARS

In the aftermath of World War I (1914 – 1918), the world faced a global humanitarian crisis the likes of which had never been seen before.

On June 28, 1919, Germany and the Allied Nations signed the Treaty of Versailles, formally ending the war. The war to end all wars may have been officially over, but in its wake was starvation, disease, poverty and desperation. The tremendous scale of devastation and human misery was without precedent. World leaders struggled with how to tackle the seemingly insurmountable need for repair and reparations. Besides the physical damage, the lives and spirits of so many were broken.\* Many called out to God, "Do not abandon us now in our time of greatest need!"

In God's amazing grace, many came to the rescue, putting aside their personal losses, anger and resentments. Among the first to respond were the women of American Baptist churches. They heard the plea from afar and felt called to serve as the hands and feet of Christ.

No stranger to war-time service, the women of American Baptist churches had assisted the American Red Cross (1914 – 1918) by providing surgical dressings, bandages and other medical supplies for shipment to the front for wounded U.S. service personnel.

After the war, the women became convinced that a similar [Continued on pages 4–5](#)





## A MESSAGE FROM SHARON KOH

Dear Friend,

Hello and greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This fall, as colors change after a hot summer, we are glad to embrace the seasons ahead that remind us of rest and renewal. Together, we are grateful to reflect on the ways that God gave us signs of vibrant life all around us this past summer. We celebrated our 205<sup>th</sup> anniversary and IM had a busy season!

**We celebrated our 205<sup>th</sup> anniversary and had a very busy season!**

healthy number of prospective global servants seeking God's call at the Hear the Call weekend retreat in August. It is exciting to see God's Spirit mobilizing His people to participate in His cross-cultural mission.

In the past few months, we appreciated the stories of our many short-term volunteers on mission trips around the world. We also enjoyed a

On the financial end of things, IM is working hard to steward the resources you have entrusted us with by evaluating every available resource and how it is being used through IM in God's mission. In October, we began to phase in some improvements to our personalized support model for global servants. We have been working throughout the summer to inform our global servants, staff and constituents of this change designed for long-term sustainability of God's mission and support of IM global servants.

I want to thank everyone who participated in the survey, the research and decision making that went into the changes of the personalized support model, and all those who prayed for IM along the way. If you have further questions about missionary support services (MSS) or want more details, please email us at [imdonorservices@internationalministries.org](mailto:imdonorservices@internationalministries.org).

Thank you for praying for and investing in IM and our global servants. Together, we are God's participants in bringing God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. (Matt. 6:10)

In Christ,

Sharon Koh  
Executive Director / CEO

P.S. Right now, the World Mission Offering is being received in churches nationwide. I urge you to lift your prayers to God for an abundant harvest. The videos and stories of God at work globally will inspire you and your church as you see what God is doing thanks to you. To download or stream the videos and to find the print resources, go to [worldmissionoffering.org](http://worldmissionoffering.org).



You can **subscribe** to this free newsletter at [internationalministries.org](http://internationalministries.org) or by sending your name and address to:  
International Ministries On Location  
1003 W 9th Ave, Ste A  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

We welcome comments on Facebook at International Ministries-American Baptist. For more information, contact:  
[imdonorservices@internationalministries.org](mailto:imdonorservices@internationalministries.org)  
610.768.2323

**on location**







## ART SPEAKS WHERE WORDS CANNOT

By Mylinda Baits, Global Consultant for Training and Capacity Building

On May 18, 2018, Cubana de Aviación Flight 972 crashed shortly after takeoff near Santiago de las Vegas, Cuba.

Of those on board, 112 passengers perished and only one survived. Among them, 20 pastoral leaders from the Nazarene Church of Cuba were killed, leaving 10 children between the ages of 7 and 16 orphaned. Nine Nazarene congregations were deeply impacted by this tragedy. The entire community felt deeply the burden of grief.

As an IM Global Consultant for Training with the Restorative Arts, I was invited by my friend and conflict transformation co-facilitator, Pastor Ernesto Bazán, to accompany this community on their journey of complicated grief through the restorative arts.

invite contact through storytelling.

I remember being moved to tears as I watched Jose\*\*, a youth whose parents perished in the crash, glue their photos under the cabochon and then place them at the end of the mosaic road. As he lingered there, I could glimpse God's grace and care for him, holding him close and making a road towards healing. The art that now hangs in the church, speaks when words can't.

To read more about Mylinda's ministry, visit [internationalministries.org/author/m-baits](http://internationalministries.org/author/m-baits).

\*a gem or bead cut in convex form and highly polished but not faceted (Merriam Webster 8/2/2019)

\*\*name has been changed

“ Creating art in a time of severe trauma brings God's healing. ”

When trauma touches our bodies, minds, spirits and relationships, art-making provides a way to heal our wounds, make sense out of senselessness, find beauty in brokenness and rebuild and restore trust. When we engage in the creative process of making art, we are expressing God's invisible nature. It becomes possible to know God and make God known through the act of creating.

Together with the family and church members, we created a mosaic road from broken pieces of stained glass (redeemed from a damaged church window) and photos of the victims under clear glass cabochons\*. This process and finished piece became a touchstone for the families. It is a tangible representation of the lives, relationships and stories of this community. The physicality of the broken pieces of glass and the smooth cabochons continue to





## WHITE CROSS 100-YEAR COMMEMORATIVE CERTIFICATE



Each White Cross participating region and American Baptist Women's Ministry, president was awarded a 100-year certificate in honor of their commitment and support of White Cross.

If your group would like a commemorative certificate contact:

zdripps@internationalministries.org or call 610.768.2311, and we would be pleased to send it to you.

## CURRENT WHITE CROSS PROJECTS IN NEED OF FUNDING

NORTH EAST INDIA \$75,000 to provide medical supplies for hospitals, clinics and mobile medical units.

NICARAGUA \$30,000 needed annually to provide medical supplies and medicine for the ministries of Dr. David and Laura Parajon / AMOS Health and Hope.

LIBERIA \$10,000 needed to provide meals for 120 students a day at the Ricks Institute.

PALESTINE \$3,000 needed to assist refugee families with meals and medications through the Christian Mission to Gaza in the Middle East.

**Find more projects in need of funding, visit [internationalministries.org/white-cross](http://internationalministries.org/white-cross).**



## WHITE CROSS CELEBRATES 100 AMAZING YEARS CONT.

Continued from front cover

service would be of great help in the work of Christian mission globally. In 1919, two American Baptist women from Cleveland, Ohio, organized the White Cross Service League, "channeling the war effort into support for Baptist mission," to use their words.

**White Cross, a ministry of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, was born.**

“ The King will reply,  
'Truly I tell you  
whatever you did for  
one of the least of  
these brothers and  
sisters of mine, you  
did for me.' ”

MATTHEW 25:40

Such a simple formula of providing practical help to people in need has stood the test of time. Today, White Cross continues this legacy of Christian love and service by providing practical items and financial support from individuals and churches to help the most vulnerable in our world. Focusing on the small, everyday things that are needed, like diapers, baby gowns and blankets, vitamins and rolled bandages, thousands of women built relationships with

each other while providing necessary items for people in need.

Today, purchasing sterile bandages that are lightweight to ship and ready to use has become more cost effective. On September 30, 2019, IM began phasing out the physical hand-rolled bandage program in favor of baby kits and financial support for White Cross Ministries.

White Cross financial gifts continue to provide education, food, medical supplies, health kits and health and hygiene training and more to Uganda, Congo, Palestine, Liberia, Panama, El Salvador Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Chile, Haiti, Bolivia, Nepal, India, China, Myanmar and Thailand specifically, and general White Cross funds help respond to needs around the globe.

Donated items are shipped directly to IM global servants who have requested them to distribute, in person, to partners and people in need. Or the White Cross financial gifts are used to purchase items in-country. By responding to these practical needs, global servants establish relationships with individuals for ongoing discipleship.

**Churches celebrate 100 years of White Cross, thanks to your generosity.**





## "WE ALL ENDED THE DAY WITH TEARS OF JOY AND GRATITUDE"

By Carla O'Neill, coordinator of Mission and Service Ministries for American Baptist Women's Ministries of Rhode Island



In March 2019, ABWomen [American Baptist Women's Ministries] of Rhode Island dedicated our Mission in Service Day to celebrating White Cross's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Phenix Baptist Church in West Warwick.

More than 75 women attended the festivities. And the event turned out to be more emotional than we ever expected.

Dr. Laura Parajón [IM medical missionary in Nicaragua] made an inspiring presentation about her life and how she became a missionary. We also enjoyed a presentation by Zofia Dripps [associate executive director for Mission Advancement] on IM and the history of White Cross.

But what really surprised us was what happened as we were doing the craft project. We made bead bracelets which we had planned to sell back at our home churches as a fundraiser for AMOS, Laura's health ministry. But we were all so touched by Laura's presentation that the ladies decided to receive an offering right then and there and give the \$250 raised and the bracelets to Laura to take back to Nicaragua with her.

By the end of the day, we were all in tears. It was such a beautiful day. We learned a lot about White Cross, and God's Spirit was with us all day long.

In 2019, churches have found creative ways to mark this golden milestone. Last spring, the Phenix Baptist Church hosted more than 14 women's and church groups (see sidebar story) for a full-day celebration. Many ABCUSA regions found their own unique ways to honor this milestone in their churches. Thank you for your part in this legacy of hope and help.

### White Cross needs your help and financial contributions.

In this 100<sup>th</sup> year, White Cross groups have creatively held White Elephant bingo nights to fundraise for global mission and invited those in the community to have a part. Other churches have engaged the youth groups for car washes and afterwards had spaghetti dinners—all creative ways to expand involvement beyond the women.

To learn more about White Cross and to give to support White Cross projects, visit: [www.internationalministries.org/white-cross](http://www.internationalministries.org/white-cross). You will find helpful resources, current information and a list of current projects. As IM celebrates 205 years this year, the White Cross participants are being challenged to raise \$205,000 in 2020. Kindly share this long-standing and creative ministry with others to support White Cross ministries.

“ Let us establish in connection with each church ... a little White Cross band of those who, for the love of Christ and for pity of these, our neighbors, will meet together to make garments for women and children, and household necessities of various sorts. ”

-FROM AN ARTICLE IN THE  
WOMEN'S AMERICAN BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER, JULY 1919



## YOU CAN'T OUT-GIVE GOD

By Rev. Ray Schooler

**A**fter retiring from the U.S. Postal Service, my dad preached in local churches for the next 25 years," recalled Jeff Taylor of his father, Fred, both generous IM donors. "He was not ordained as a pastor, but he had a gift. He would retire to his 'study' next to the old coal bin in the farmhouse's basement in Mt. Perry, Ohio, to pray and study the Bible to see what the Lord had for him that week."

In his final years, Fred battled cancer. Yet he found a new congregation in his fellow cancer patients and medical staff to whom he was not afraid to ask, "Are you a Christian?" Fred preached his final sermon on December 30, 2018 and passed away this spring, just 11 days shy of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

He and his wife, Mildred Anne, who died in 2009, were regular donors to IM. On their wedding day in 1942, they committed to an ongoing tithe of 10%. They honored that marital pledge, and over the next 67 years they gradually increased it to 50%. In early 2019, Fred raised his tithe to Christian charities, including the IM general fund and missionaries, to 60%.

"My mom and dad and our whole family attended the World Mission Conference in 2014 during IM's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. We met the missionaries whom we support face-to-face. What a thrill that was!" said Sandy, another Taylor sibling. "Getting to know the missionaries personally and receiving their newsletters is really important to us."

Giving to global mission through IM has become a family activity. "Our parents instilled in us a heart for helping others as a general way of life. Now all four of us children tithe," said Sandy. As our mom loved to say, "You can't out-give God."

Mildred and Fred were members of First Baptist Church, Zanesville, Ohio.



If you wish to  
learn more  
about giving  
opportunities...

Or you have questions on how IM can fulfill your wishes for a future gift or gifts that produce life income, please call Zofia Dripps, associate executive director for Mission Advancement at 610-768-2311, or email her at [zdripps@internationalministries.org](mailto:zdripps@internationalministries.org).





# MEET IM'S NEW MISSIONARIES









By Rev. Dr. Rodney Ragwan, Director of Mission Mobilization




Since the earliest days of cross-cultural ministry, IM has been committed to working with partners overseas. We are excited about the recently appointed and assigned Global Servants, both women and men from diverse backgrounds who will advance God's kingdom on earth "as it is in heaven." In our collective discernment, we believe they are God's chosen servants for a time such as this. They will join IM to work alongside our brothers and sisters around the world. The Mission Mobilization Team has this unique privilege of walking with them on this amazing journey. To learn more, visit: [www.internationalministries.org/international-ministries-global-servants](http://www.internationalministries.org/international-ministries-global-servants).

## NEW GLOBAL SERVANTS OCTOBER 1, 2018 – PRESENT



### NEW APPOINTED GLOBAL SERVANTS

-  **Aaron and Valerie Osterbrock**  
Malaysia
-  **Alise and Mark Juanes**  
Thailand
-  **Sarah Nash**  
Bolivia
-  **Brian and Lynette Smith**  
Haiti
-  **Faye Yarbrough**  
South Africa
-  **Jae Stockton**  
Mexico
-  **Stacy and Tim Reese**  
Haiti
-  **Eliberto and Molly Juárez**  
El Salvador






### DEVELOPMENT WORKERS

-  **Amy and Joseph Vo**  
Vietnam

### ASSOCIATE MISSIONARIES

-  **Ryan Baumgart**  
Japan
-  **David Sagar**  
India

### INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATE MISSIONARIES\*

-  **Ruth Vindas**  
Costa Rica
-  **Boaz Keibarak**  
Kenya
-  **Christine and Lance Muteyo**  
Zimbabwe
-   **B. Lanutemjen and Onenlemla Ao**  
South and East Asia

\*Persons serving as employees of an IM international partner.

## INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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



### A LASTING IMPACT: RENAMING A ROAD

IM's missionaries have been honored in many ways over the years, but having a road named after one of them? This could be a first.

Dr. Marian Boehr MD, who served as an American Baptist missionary in India for 30 years, was recognized by the Indian government by having a road named in her honor, reported the local Telugu newspaper, Andhra Jyothi, on June 28, 2019.

"The renaming ceremony, from Railway Feeders Road to Dr. Marian O Boehr Road, was conducted on Dr. Boehr's 93rd birthday on July 24, 2019. Signs and a stone indicating the honor were displayed at the entrance and all along the road up to the

market. The unanimous decision by the town council and the mayor, Sri Abdul Aziz, recognized her service at the American Baptist Mission Hospital from 1953 to 1991. The decision was made at the request of Dr. Prashant Kumar, corporator of the 51<sup>st</sup> Division where the hospital is located."

Dr. Boehr commented, "I feel so humbled by the honor given to me. I could never have done it without the help of Jesus!"

Since retiring from the mission field in 1991, Dr. Boehr has become a sought-after speaker on behalf of IM. She currently resides in Portland, Oregon.

Congratulations Dr. Boehr... your legacy lives on.