

# Annual Report

2022/2023

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Global Servants Deb and Keith Myers meet with the Seminario Bautista de México.



**International Ministries works cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace, and abundant life for all creation.**

# From the CEO

*What first ignited your passion to serve in God's mission?*

**Was it an encounter with God's kindness and compassion? Perhaps it was a person who spoke of their love for Jesus and his gospel? In Luke's Gospel, for Cleopas and a friend, it was an enlightening conversation with a stranger on the road to Emmaus.**

*Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened." (Luke 24:13-14)*

**I wish I could recount the numerous eye-opening conversations that defined 2023 for me. Global Servants Mark and Alise Juanes shared about the challenge and opportunity of having to make leadership changes in a ministry founded by a legacy missionary. Pastor after pastor shared about how the pandemic and its aftermath challenged their sense of calling into the ministry. Global Servant Kristy Engel told us stories of orphans in Ukraine whose eyes lit up as she and her team met their medical needs.**

In our annual report we share some of those kinds of stories from the last year with you as well—Global Servants Chrissy and Lance Muteyo building peace in Zimbabwe, Global Servant Barb Bolick's work alongside our global servants and international partners to extend the life-changing impact of Talita Cumi Girls' Clubs, and more.

As they talked and discussed these

things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him... they stood still, their faces downcast. (Luke 24:15-17)

Friends, isn't it true that we are often so absorbed by the things burdening our hearts that we miss the fact that Jesus has been walking alongside us the whole journey? **And, isn't it true that we are only compelled into God's mission when we've had a genuine encounter with our risen Lord Jesus?**

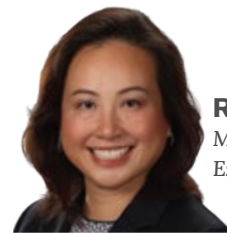
I hope the pages that follow are both enlightening and inspiring for you. As you will read, 2023 was an excellent year for International Ministries and, through your partnership, IM global servants and ministry partners continued to invest in God's mission around the world.

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "were not our hearts burning within us

while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us? They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem..." (Luke 24:31-33)

In 2024, we look forward to celebrating IM's 210th anniversary with an online gathering of global servants and partners from all around the United States, Puerto Rico, and the world, called the "Global Encounter." I really hope you will join us in celebrating God's mission through IM over the past 210 years and into the future—each moment and chapter of our shared history inspired and compelled by an encounter with our risen Lord.

Together with you in God's mission,



**Rev. Dr. Sharon T. Koh**  
MDiv, MAT, DMin  
Executive Director / CEO

*Sharon Koh*



Participants of a peacebuilding workshop in Zimbabwe; read the full story on page 14.



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COUNCIL**



**Katie Boatwright**  
MSODL, Chief Strategy Officer



**Rev. Jim Bell**  
MDiv/CE, Associate Executive Director for Global Mission



**Patti Glasser**  
MBA, Associate Executive Director for Operations



**Rev. Ray Schooler**  
DMin, Major Gifts Officer

# From the Chief Strategy Officer

## Katie Boatwright

**The inspiring stories shared with you in these pages are a testament to God's relentless love and to your faithful support and constant prayers. Thank you!**

Even as the Christian philanthropic environment in the United States continues to experience unprecedented shifts, IM's fiscal year ended with revenue that exceeded our expenses. We continue to look ahead and adapt our funding model to ensure vibrant mission continues for many decades to come. **We are innovating new, mission-aligned income streams to diversify and strengthen our financial health into the future.** We test, validate, and only then begin to scale new ways of funding the work to which God has called us. God is faithful and leads us step by step.

Even as we look to the future, we remain incredibly grateful for the beautiful heritage of mission made possible by faithful supporters like you. The stories shared in this report are a testament to God's work through you! **IM Donor Advisors continue to respond to requests for assistance as churches and individuals consider how they want to extend their impact in God's mission beyond their own lifetimes.** We are here for you. We pray along with you for God's plan to be accomplished, "being confident of this that he who began a good work in [us] will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).



**Katie Boatwright**  
Chief Strategy Officer

*We test, validate, and only then begin to scale new ways of funding the work to which God has called us. God is faithful and leads us step by step.*

# From the Board President

## Jorge Medero-Roldán

**International Ministries' founders were moved and inspired by the visionary pioneer Luther Rice, who exemplified a deep commitment and dedication to organize financial support for Ann and Adoniram Judson and other missionaries.**

Today, thousands of churches and individuals like you continue to partner with IM with daily prayers, connecting with global servants, and providing sacrificial financial support in a vivid testimony to "not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (Hebrews 13:16). **Your prayers and commitment to Jesus' Great Commission enable a breadth of ministries to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace, and abundant life for all creation in Iberoamerica, the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.**

God's inspired vision to Luther Rice now supports a diverse group of 120 global servants, who have committed their lives to the Great Commission. At IM we are excited that today's global servants are using creative approaches to continue to disciple and train pastors, overcoming distance barriers. Would you pray for a global servant today?

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for supporting global servants and International Ministries!

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Jorge Medero-Roldán,**  
*President*



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**Bruce Van Der Beek**

**Joseph Zepeda**

# Emerging Leaders in Mission

*How short-term mission changed the lives of two medical students.*

## Marisol

NICARAGUA

**Midway through Marisol Cortez's junior year as an undergraduate medical student, she walked into a hospital room and saw a patient praying alone in bed. She thought about how God is at work when people feel most vulnerable. "A light bulb went off for me," she says. "I thought maybe I should try medical missions."**

Her aunt recommended that Marisol talk with IM Area Director Adalia Gutiérrez-Lee about the work of AMOS Health and Hope in Nicaragua. AMOS works to reduce preventable deaths and improve health in communities suffering the unjust conditions of poverty.

After undergoing preparation with IM's Short-Term Mission staff, Marisol worked closely with AMOS and with Global Servant Christine Lafferty for nine weeks

last summer, creating public health education materials and experiencing home visits with AMOS teams.

In one case, a team traveled to the home of someone with an infected amputation after his brother had called to say he'd become unresponsive. "I had never seen a situation this dire before," Marisol says. The team checked his vitals and worked to get him up, while trying to contact an ambulance. When no ambulance came, they put the brothers into a taxi, a decision that saved the man's life. "I realized—if AMOS didn't have a doctor and these other resources to come check on patients, this patient most likely would have died."

Marisol was struck by the depth of care she saw AMOS doctors give, something she hopes to emulate.

*"It made me realize that the way I serve is through medicine—I want to serve in medical mission work. AMOS, the people, and the experience helped me realize that. Medicine is a way of loving people."*

### Emerging Leaders

As she continues her medical training, Marisol has applied to join an IM Emerging Leaders cohort. Through this new initiative at IM, she will build relationships with other like-minded young adults as they journey together in faith and in serving others.

All Emerging Leaders commit to participate in short-term mission. "Many of them have never traveled internationally, or have only traveled internationally for vacation," says IM Short-Term Mission Associate Nicole Cox, who leads the program. "This helps broaden their worldview as they serve others."



◀ Marisol (right) with IM Global Servant Christine Lafferty (center)



# Alex

## PHILIPPINES

**Like Marisol, Emerging Leader Alexandra Bloss is a medical student. When Alex began medical school, she joined Emerging Leaders in part because she wanted to prioritize short-term mission amid her busy schedule. She began to ask God for wisdom about where to go.**

Then, as she drove to and from her school in Maine, Alex noticed a woman who stood every day on the median in the middle of the road, clutching a sign asking for money. One day, instead of driving past, Alex stopped. Over lunch, the woman shared the story of how she'd lost her housing. Alex realized that she wanted to spend more time learning from people impacted by poverty, trying to understand what could make a difference.

After a few Zoom meetings, Alex and IM Global Servant Paul Rollet agreed that in July 2023 Alex would travel halfway across the world and experience Paul and Queenie Rollet's ministry with Companion With The Poor (CWTP) in the Philippines.

"I'm task-oriented, and I'm thinking, 'What will I do?'" Alex says. "But Paul said, **'This is more about being with people. We will go, and we will spend time with people.'**"



Alex listens to a local doctor while on a short-term mission trip to the Philippines.

As part of the trip, Alex spent four days immersed in a community experiencing poverty at a level that was beyond anything she had seen before, and she felt overwhelmed. "I wanted to tell Paul that I was done, but after dinner [my host family] read scripture and prayed together. After that I just said, 'Ok. I know that I am here for a reason. I'm supposed to trust God.'"

As Alex visited more communities, she met a young woman the same age as herself—23—who had wanted to become a teacher but who was instead caught in prostitution. Again, Alex was overwhelmed by the injustice of poverty. How could she, or anyone, respond?

*"I have a lot to learn from the missionaries' approach," Alex says. "As they plant churches, they address the problems in the communities where they are—food, education, fresh water. They work with local leaders, then hand everything over to the leaders while maintaining relationships. They can't do everything, but as they walk alongside, they can do good. I think we would do well to learn that lesson."*



Pictured (l-r): IM Global Servant Paul Rollet, Queenie Rollet, CWTP trainee Nora Hualde, and Alex

# Talita Cumi



IM Regional Coordinator Sarah McCurdy, listening as a Talita Cumi participant shows her notebook.

## *Little Girl, Rise Up*

**In Iberoamerica and the Caribbean, a growing number of Talita Cumi Girls' Clubs create a safe place for girls to flourish.**

As IM Regional Consultant Barbara Bolick worked among underserved communities in Chile to help form cooperatives for community health and economic development, the women of the community voiced a concern weighing on their minds. They wanted their daughters to have more opportunities than they'd had.

"We needed to do something to help their daughters overcome the challenges they face every day, to realize the purpose that God has for them in this world," Barb says.

Talita Cumi is the Aramaic phrase Jesus spoke in Mark 5, when he brought Jairus' daughter back to life: "Little girl, arise." In Chile, Barb's Talita Cumi Girls' Club taught girls everyday skills as well as the virtues of faith, hope, love, courage, moderation, justice, and wisdom. "We went from about 50 girls to about 150 girls," Barb says. The program received recognition from Chile's Ministry of Education when it was adopted a decade later by a local school.

Meanwhile, IM Area Director for Iberoamerica Rev. Dr. Adalia Gutiérrez-Lee had begun a conversation with Barb about whether the program and its benefits could be expanded throughout Latin America.

## *Talita Cumi Expands*

Barb began the process of evaluating the program so it could be replicated—how was it working? Why was it working? In 2019, she assembled a consulting team to assess the curriculum and a team of Spanish speakers to evaluate the language used. During the pandemic, Barb and Global Servant Sarah Matos worked daily to complete a two-year curriculum, incorporating suggestions and contributions from the team.

In October 2021, assisted by Sarah Matos and the consulting team, Barb began to train in-country coordinators to lead year-long Talita Cumi pilot programs in the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Ecuador. Local Christian women would lead the programs because, as Barb explains, "The only way to effectively nurture youth in vulnerable communities is to build mentoring skills in local leaders. Their cultural and contextual knowledge is irreplaceable."

## *In the Dominican Republic*

In the Dominican Republic, IM Global Servant Ketly Pierre says, "Talita Cumi has been like the frosting on the cake for my life, the lives of the coordinators, mentors, and girls." There they have seven groups—four in the bateyes (communities surrounded by sugar cane) and three in La Romana.

During one meeting, Gabriela, a girl in the club, explained that she had no friends because her mother taught her that friends aren't real. "For her, Talita Cumi has become her family, where she has learned to show affection," Ketly says. "Our girls are coming to believe what [their mentor] Leydi always tells them, 'For me, life is beautiful, because God is in it.'"

## *In Mexico*

In Mexico, a mentor shared with Global Servant Sarah Matos, "The girls are learning to make different decisions than the ones that their situations are leading them toward. The girls interact with one another differently now. They have learned to be true friends. They learn they are with others who want to make their life better. Our prayer is that God completely transforms their life story and that they have the spiritual and emotional strength to move forward."

## *In Nicaragua*

As Regional Coordinator Sarah McCurdy (who is collaborating with Talita Cumi as a literacy consultant) visited a club in Nicaragua, she chatted with one girl just finishing her first year in the club. "She shared that a year ago she was angry, thought very low of herself, and didn't get along with her sister," Sarah says. "Now she is happier, enjoys being



# 150

girls living in vulnerable communities in Chile learned everyday skills and values of faith, hope, love, and more.



IM Global Servant Ketly Pierre (right) and Talita Cumi mentor Leydi (left)

with her family, and her self-esteem is much higher. She shared all of this with me with genuine joy.”

## *In Costa Rica*

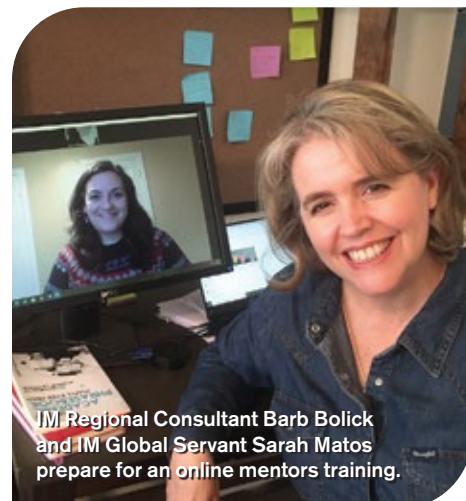
In Costa Rica, as the pilot year ended and the group opened to new girls, it quickly doubled in size. Global Servant Sue Hegarty says, “Three mothers recently begged the mentor to accept their daughters into the program because they are desperate to have positive influences in their lives. Our mentors are women of great faith and courage, who love the girls in difficult situations.”

Now the girls and their mothers are asking that the program continue into a third year, and the women leading the club are writing another year of curriculum. “The women in Costa Rica are leading this,” Barb says. “I hope this becomes a grassroots movement from the context of the girls.”

## *Life-Giving Partnerships*

As Barb and Global Servant Ketly Pierre partner closely together to expand the program into more countries using the data collected from the pilot programs, IM donors are also finding creative ways in which to partner, in addition to giving directly to the project. The Rocky Mountains Region of American Baptist Churches recently gave a generous gift to provide nutrition support for all of the clubs in each country.

***“We are so thankful for your generous gifts to this ministry,” says Barb. “International Ministries comes from a long tradition of empowering women, and with your support, Talita Cumi helps young girls tell their story through the redemptive light of the gospel.”***



IM Regional Consultant Barb Bolick and IM Global Servant Sarah Matos prepare for an online mentors training.



Talita Cumi Girls' Club mentors in Costa Rica with IM Global Servant Sue Hegarty.



# A Season for Everything

*Through a difficult decision in a Colorado church, God brings new life.*

**“I noticed maybe fifteen years ago that our congregation was dwindling,” says Rev. Don Lambert, a former pastor of American Baptist Church Fort Collins in Colorado.**

Some people had left for other churches. Others were no longer able to attend. The flow, which felt shocking at first, continued—members decreased, finances decreased, and, the biggest tipping point of all, those available to help with the work of the church’s ministries decreased.

“I was tired,” says Fran Lambert, Don’s wife, reflecting on the additional work she and other members were taking on in order to keep the church functioning.

“We reached a critical point in the last five years—we kept going but recognized that people were burned out,” says church board member Bill Moseley.

Bill began to reflect on the situation with other board members. “Churches don’t live forever. I don’t think any of the churches Paul planted still exist. We recognized that a church has a life span. It’s ok to admit that maybe it is time for something new.”

When they began to see this decline, the congregation had the foresight to change their by-laws, stating their intent to close before all their resources were

fully depleted, so that they could give away a useful, sizeable gift for the missions and ministries the church historically supported. In January 2023, the congregation voted in unanimous agreement to close.

“There was much sadness in letting go of regular worship together and a physical place in which to worship, but we also recognized that for everything, including churches, there is a time, and ours had run its course,” says Terry Myers, Bill’s sister and a former IM global servant to Bulgaria.

After the congregation sold the building, they found themselves in an incredible situation—they now had \$1.3 million to invest in the ministries that had meant the most to their church.

The congregation decided to give the money to ministries that had been the most historically significant to them—a ministry the church founded for day care for the elderly and International Ministries. A part of the money was also allocated to assist local ministries.

ABC Fort Collins had a long history with IM, which began even before the church’s inception in 1954. The church’s first full-time pastor, Rev. Dr. Fred Chambers and his wife, Dr. Dorothy Chambers, were missionaries in India and the Philippines, and they helped to instill a love for mission in the church. The congregation supported the ministry of its long-time member Marion Beebe in Burma, as well as of former Global Servants Terry and Tom Myers in Bulgaria. Up to their final moments, the church continued to support other IM global servants as well.

“With this history in mind, it was an easy decision for us to commit to give 40 percent of our remaining assets to International Ministries to help IM continue God’s mission and ministries into the future,” says Bill. The board wanted to give the funds to IM without strings attached so that IM would be free to use them where the needs were

***“We were a mission-minded church,” Terry says.  
“We enjoyed worship and fellowship time together, but it was mission that drove us.”***

Pictured (l-r): Terry Myers, Don and Fran Lambert, and Bill Moseley



*“It was a bittersweet journey,” Terry reflects. “We felt the loss of being with our church family, but there is also joy that a new, young, and energetic congregation will be using the building. And we rejoice in the lasting contribution we can make in memory of those who came before us by giving to the causes that have been vital to the ministry of our church.”*

greatest. They sought counsel from IM’s Major Gifts Officer Ray Schooler, then voted to divide their gift between four different ministries with the most urgent needs.

“IM is so deeply moved by the thoughtful manner in which ABC Fort Collins remembered and funded our ministries with this generous closing gift,” Ray says. “It’s a gift that represents what mattered most to them.”

In June 2023, the church held its final service, creating space for members to grieve together, and in September 2023, the sale closed and a new bilingual church moved into the space.



# Empowering People Where They Are

*In Zimbabwe, International Associate Global Servants Chrissy and Lance Muteyo find new ways to bring change.*

**“Just as communities are the sources of problems, the community also possesses the resources to find solutions,” says IM International Associate Global Servant Lance Muteyo. “Even amid violence, you can work toward peace.”**

With a background in sociology, the arts, and family therapy, Lance has found creative ways to engage in activism, beginning in his neighborhood in Zimbabwe, a country experiencing crippling inflation, unemployment, and poor infrastructure. He mobilized artists to help promote home-based care programs for those with HIV and AIDS who had no access to treatments. He organized cleanup campaigns and the drilling of wells for clean drinking water to fight Harare’s cholera outbreaks.

In 2009, Lance attended a global Baptist peace conference in Rome, where he met former IM Global Consultant Dan Buttry. Later, both Lance and his wife, IM International Associate Global Servant Chrissy Muteyo, would complete formal training programs in Conflict Transformation Training with Dan and his wife, Sharon, and become trainers themselves.

Lance’s influence and impact expanded as he founded Trees of Peace Africa (TOP Africa) in Zimbabwe as well as the Pan African Peace Network in Kenya. In the last fifteen years he has facilitated peacebuilding trainings for thousands of

leaders in churches, nonprofits, schools, and businesses in fourteen countries. In 2019, TOP Africa became an official IM partner, and Chrissy and Lance became global servants.

IM Associate Global Servants Chrissy and Lance Muteyo





TOP Africa, women's tailoring program participant



## *Building Peace Throughout Zimbabwe's Provinces*

Last spring, Lance led a “Developing Community through Peacebuilding” event in Harare, Zimbabwe, to build unity among community leaders from different ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds.

“In addition to Zimbabwe’s political, social, and economic challenges, Zimbabwe is a polarized country,” Lance explains. “Some leaders have engaged in efforts to bring about change non-violently, or participated in mediation between warring groups, however, these courageous leaders typically have little or no training for such activities. Therefore, there is an important need for training.”

Lance has taken and further developed the “bottom-up” peacebuilding methodology he learned from the Buttrys, which emphasizes the cooperative power people can hold to promote peace within their own communities, rather than a top-down approach in which a government or another authority imposes peace. “It is a good methodology—in our context people are always silenced,” Lance says. “This methodology lets people talk. It lets them practice—how to be a facilitator, how to solve a problem. At the end of the day, we want people to own the peacebuilding process.”

## *Empowering Women*

In 2021, Chrissy began a new life-changing project in Zimbabwe specifically for women. She had watched many women bear the brunt of economic hardship; they are vulnerable to domestic abuse as well as labor exploitation.

Chrissy, who is a gifted family therapist as well as an experienced seamstress, began a tailoring program to equip vulnerable women with income-generating skills. This program teaches basic and advanced sewing, clothing design, dress making, and business skills development, alongside biblical methods of peace and conflict transformation. Chrissy also provides opportunities for women who wish to do so to receive trauma counseling.

“My husband passed away while I was pregnant with our third child,” one participant explains. “A life of a widow is difficult, and I have experienced exploitation and humiliation. My son is now six, and all these years I have been working hard with no proper skills. [Then] I heard about the tailoring program. I was

the best student in our morning session group. I am now working at home making clothes and school uniforms. I have a good customer base and am now able to look after my kids.”

Chrissy says, “What’s making me happy is that we are doing something. In my community, I can make a change. We are experiencing success in what we are doing with tailoring. We are empowering women to fend for their families.”

## *A Request for Prayer*

As Lance and Chrissy walk alongside others to train them in building the kind of peace that ultimately helps all to flourish, Lance asks, “Will you pray with us? We believe the things we are doing here have a huge impact. But we are at our capacity point. We are praying that God will provide a way to do more—we want to empower more people where they are.”

# Global Mission Overview



**Rev. Jim Bell**  
Associate Executive  
Director For Global Mission

**Our God is igniting a passion for mission in his people, and International Ministries (IM) is privileged to respond by facilitating the engagement of the people of God in the mission of God around the globe through sending and sustaining personnel, accompanying and collaborating with partners, and implementing programs and projects.**

## People

**IM's "member care" for global servants aims to enable them to serve with long-term resilience and effectiveness.**

Global servants attend a "Conference for Missionaries" (CFM) every four or five years for a time of spiritual formation and soul care. Twenty-two global servants participated in a Fall 2022 CFM on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and another twenty-seven global servants—along with twenty-two missionary kids (MKs)—gathered for a Summer 2023 CFM at Silver Bay, New York.

## Partners

**Through the pandemic and other recent crises, IM has collaborated with our international partners to meet immediate need and prepare for long-**



In January 2023, IM Global Consultant Kristy Engel returned to Ukraine to provide medical care in twenty shelters for displaced people.

**term recovery.** We have partnered with Hungarian Baptist Aid to minister to persons displaced by the war in Ukraine. In partnership with Baptist World Alliance Aid, we have facilitated relationship-building and support for partners in Haiti. In South and East Asia, IM worked with the North East Christian University to provide a program in Christian Enterprise Social Development, which has equipped over 400 pastors and Christian leaders to establish faith-based enterprises to support ministry.

At the 2023 gathering of the Baptist World Alliance, IM joined other Baptist mission organizations as a founding partner in a Baptist Global Mission

Network, which will facilitate collaboration of mission agencies, missiologists, and mission pastors in cross-cultural mission. IM is also honored that our Executive Director and CEO Sharon Koh and Global Servant Melanie Baggao were invited to be delegates to the Fourth Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization in Seoul, South Korea, in September 2024.

## Programs and Projects

In 2023, IM's Short-Term Mission program resumed sending teams and individual volunteers. **This last year, 208 volunteers served in Thailand, Japan, Nicaragua, Mexico, Nepal,**



# 208

volunteers served in  
short-term mission.

**Kenya, Ethiopia, Hungary, Dominican Republic, India, Liberia, Costa Rica, Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Norway, and Colombia.** Short-Term Mission also continued offering virtual “Mission Express” experiences, with online trips during the 2022-23 fiscal year to South Africa, Liberia, Lebanon, Hungary, Myanmar, Nepal, Cambodia, and Israel/Palestine.

IM’s new Emerging Leaders young adult discipleship program continues to grow; cohort members attended the Urbana ‘22 Student Missions Conference and the ABCUSA Biennial Mission Summit.

Through IM’s stewardship of One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Development Grants, American Baptist Foundation Palmer Grants, and Lippard Grants for Medical Mission, over \$600,000

was provided for projects, including construction of schools, leadership training, prevention of human trafficking, and education of refugee children.

We are so grateful for your prayers, your encouragement, and your continued investment in God’s mission around the world. Thank you!



In July 2023, some of IM’s Emerging Leader cohort members met in Puerto Rico to serve others, attend the American Baptist Biennial Mission Summit, and spend time in prayer and discernment. Pictured here with IM Global Servant Dr. Rick Gutierrez.



# Ministry Priorities

This past year, our global servants and volunteers responded together for good alongside our international partners, serving faithfully and incarnationally within our different ministry priorities.

# 1

## *Inviting people to be disciples of Jesus Christ*

Evangelism, Discipleship, Theological Education



# 2

## *Proclaiming God's reign of justice, peace and abundant life*

Immigrants & Refugees, Peace & Justice, Health & Wellness, Education, Economic Development, Abolishing Human Trafficking & Global Slavery

# 3

## *Equipping the body of Christ to engage in God's mission*

From Everywhere to Everyone, Short-Term Mission, Youth & Young Adults, Training & Capacity Building



# Our Impact at a Glance

## Iberoamerica and The Caribbean

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

50



people joined a Creole-speaking church recently planted in the Dominican Republic by IM Global Servants Kihomi Ngewmi and Nzunga Mabudiga. *Read more on page 27.*

## Africa

ZIMBABWE

24



participants attended a peacebuilding event to build unity between different ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds in Harare, Zimbabwe. *Read more on page 14.*

## Latin America

CHILE

150



girls living in vulnerable communities in Chile learned everyday skills and values of faith, hope, love, and more. *Read more on page 10.*



# Europe, The Middle East, and Liberia

NORWAY

# 68



years of maintaining relationships with the community and church in Honningsvåg, Norway. *Read more on page 26.*



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# East and South Asia

NEPAL

# 257



churches were planted in Nepal. *Read more on page 25.*

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# 4

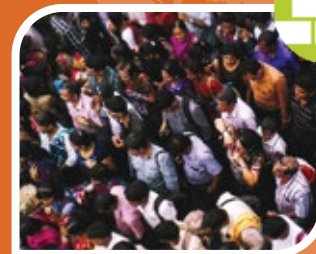
# Africa

KENYA

# 200



men, women and youth participated and completed training in conflict transformation, peacebuilding and mentoring. *Read more on page 23.*



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## Southeast Asia and Japan

# 110k

people reached through  
trafficking campaigns  
in the Mekong subregion,  
including Thailand, Burma  
(Myanmar), Lao PDR, and  
Northern China. *Read more*  
on page 28.



## Global

# 15

young adults participated in an IM  
Emerging Leaders cohort to grow in  
their faith and in serving others.  
*Read more on page 8.*

## East and South Asia

# 400

students and Christian leaders were  
trained to establish faith-based  
business enterprises to support ministry.  
*Read more on page 16.*



## Global

# 208

volunteers served in short-term mission.  
*Read more on page 17.*

RESPONDING  
**together**  
for GOOD



# Hello and Goodbyes

During our 2022-2023  
fiscal year

## Appointed



### DECEMBER 2022

**Rodney Ragwan** was appointed to serve as IM's Global Consultant for theological education.



### NOVEMBER 2022

**Toya Richards** was appointed to serve in Africa, focusing on the areas of theological education, peace, and justice.

## Assigned



### APRIL 2023

**Sarah McCloy** was assigned and departed for service with the Japan Baptist Union at Shokei Gakuin University and its associated church, Shokei Baptist Church in Sendai, Japan.



### JANUARY 2023

**Aaron and AmyEstelle Trout** were assigned and departed for service in Southeast Asia, serving in the areas of discipleship and capacity building.



### JUNE 2023

**Eric and Yuree Lembke** were assigned and departed for service at the Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Bible School and College in the Mae La Refugee Camp in Thailand.

## Role Changes



### DECEMBER 2022

**Jeni Pedzinski** transitioned from her ministry as a global servant in Thailand to serve in the home office as Director of Mission Mobilization.



### MAY 2023

**Kyle Witmer** transitioned from his ministry as a global servant in Thailand to serve in the home office as Area Director for Southeast Asia and Japan.

## Farewells



### OCTOBER 2022

**Peter McCurdy** resigned after 10 years of service in Costa Rica and Mexico and became senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Jeffersonville, Indiana. Sarah McCurdy has transitioned into the role of Regional Consultant for K-12 Education in Iberoamerica and the Caribbean.



### APRIL 2023

**Mark and Ngoc Pham** are continuing ministry with the Company of Grace in Vietnam with IM partner Baptist Mission Australia.



### DECEMBER 2022

International Associate Global Servant **Wati Longchar** completed 3 years of service in theological education in East and South Asia.



### SEPTEMBER 2023

**Ann and Bruce Borquist** retired after 36 years of service in the Philippines, Brazil, and then as Global Consultants for the ministries "From Everywhere to Everyone" (Ann) and Economic and Community Development (Bruce). They are continuing their global ministry as volunteer special assistants with IM.

# Areas Africa



**Karen R. Smith**  
MA, MS, Area Director

## Global Peacebuilding

Among the life-changing initiatives your giving has helped to fund this year is the Global Peacemakers Mentoring Fund. This project supports workshops led by local peacemakers that equip church and community leaders with conflict transformation and peacebuilding skills. In Kenya, International Associate Global Servant Boaz Keibarak engages in this work, as do International Associate Global Servants Chrissy and Lance Muteyo in Zimbabwe.

In southwestern Nairobi, IM partner Peacebuilding, Healing, and Reconciliation Program (PHARP) is facilitating and leading peacebuilding training in Kibera, a low-income area where over 2 million people live within one square mile without the infrastructure of running water, sewage, and, in some homes, electricity. PHARP's peacebuilding work in Kibera over the last five years has resulted in a direct decrease in conflict and an increase in community empowerment. Project leader Pelagie Gichanga says,

*"We have seen openness from all the participants. Critical issues like injustices that certain tribes face were openly talked about in a safe environment. Pastors were able to shake hands as a symbol of forgiveness and reconciliation and agreed to work together to fight against enmity amongst clergy. The people in Kibera are motivated to acquire valuable skills in conflict resolution. It brings us great joy to continually equip them with necessary tools and knowledge in the area."*

### GLOBAL SERVANTS

**Ann & Bill Clemmer**  
DR Congo

**Anita & Rick Gutierrez**  
South Africa

**Boaz Keibarak**  
Kenya

**Christina & Lance Muteyo**  
Zimbabwe

**Katherine & Wayne Niles**  
DR Congo

**Kathy & Tim Rice**  
DR Congo

**Toya Richards**  
South Africa

**Faye Carol Yarbrough**  
South Africa



A peacebuilding training led by IM partner PHARP.



Women and men prepare to serve as church leaders in Nepal.  
Photo by IM Global Consultant Stan Slade.

257

churches planted in Nepal.

224

additional local fellowships.

# Areas

## East and South Asia

### Strengthening Local Leaders In Nepal

Since 1993, when Baptist churches in Nepal formed a national organization (the Nepal Baptist Church Council or NBCC), the number of churches has grown from 8 to 265, with an additional 224 local fellowships that have not yet been formally recognized as churches.

As NBCC has grown, it has invited partners from Korea, Malaysia, India, and the West to come alongside local leaders as they develop contextually appropriate ways of embodying God's love for the people of Nepal. "International Ministries has focused on helping NBCC increase its capacity to train church leaders and to respond to human needs with health, disaster relief, and development ministries," says IM Global Consultant for Theological Education Stan Slade.

*"To help meet the rising need for church leaders, IM has given special attention to strengthening the work of Nepal Baptist College (NBC), the educational arm of NBCC."*

The college offers both church-based and campus-based diplomas, bachelor's, and master's programs. Thank you for helping to equip leaders for effective service as church leaders, evangelists, Bible translators, theological educators, and development workers.



**Rev. Dr. Benjamin Chan**  
MDiv, STM, DMin, Area Director

#### GLOBAL SERVANTS

**Lanutemjen Jamir & Alemla Ao**  
*India*

**Katie & Taku**  
*East & South Asia*

**David Sagar**  
*India*

#### GLOBAL CONSULTANTS

**Myllinda Baits**  
*Restorative Arts*

**Lauran Bethell**  
*Abolishing Global Slavery*

**Ann & Bruce Borquist**  
*Economic Development, Everywhere to Everyone, Capacity Building*

**Kristy Engel**  
*Health & Wellness*

**Mike Mann**  
*Economic Development*

**Rodney Ragwan**  
*Theological Education*

**Ray Schellinger**  
*Immigrants & Refugees*

**Stan Slade**  
*Theological Education*

**Jeanine & Walt White**  
*Health & Wellness, Capacity Building*

#### GLOBAL COORDINATORS

**David & Joyce Reed**  
*Spiritual Care*

**Rhonda Reed**  
*Health & Wellness*

**Debby Witmer**  
*Missionary Kid & Family Care*



# Areas

## Europe, the Middle East, and Liberia

### Encouraging Our Friends in Norway

**In July 2023, Area Director Rev. Dr. Charles Jones visited Europe's northernmost Baptist church in Honningsvåg, Norway, with Rev. Rob Kirbach, Associate Executive Minister for the American Baptist Great Rivers Region.**

During World War II, Germany occupied Norway. When the German army retreated, they applied a scorched earth strategy, razing an area larger than Denmark. In 1955, as a part of reconstruction efforts, the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (now International Ministries) provided funding for the reconstruction of a fisherman's hostel in Honningsvåg to restore the

*"It is important to maintain our historic relationships," says Charles. "I hope that our visit was an encouragement to this small group of believers: that they know they are remembered and not alone."*

livelihood and dignity of the local fishing community. IM later also supported the Norwegian evangelist who planted the church, which met in the hostel. Previous IM Area Director Reid Trulson had visited the church in 2002.

Thank you for the ways in which your support this year enabled IM to maintain its commitment to join alongside our brothers and sisters in the gospel as they invite others to follow Jesus Christ and receive God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.



**Rev. Charles Jones**  
MDiv, MACE, DDiv, Area Director

#### GLOBAL SERVANTS

**Melanie Baggao**  
Lebanon

**Dan & Sarah Chetti**  
Lebanon

**Hermelinda & Jorge Damasceno**  
United Kingdom

**Laura & Rich Freeman**  
Türkiye

**Amanda & Jon Good**  
Hungary

**Carmella Jones**  
Regional Consultant

**Nora & Pieter Kalkman**  
Regional Consultants

**Becky & Larry Stanton**  
Hungary



IM Area Director Charles Jones (left) and Rev. Rob Kirbach (third from left) with members of the Baptist church in Honningsvåg,

# Areas

## Iberoamerica and The Caribbean



**Rev. Dr. Adalia  
Gutiérrez-Lee**  
MD, MDiv, Area Director

### Serving Haitians

**As the situation in Haiti has grown more volatile, our global servants initially planning to serve in Haiti are now ministering among Haitians in the Dominican Republic. They support our Dominican partners, who are welcoming Haitians and helping them adjust and flourish there.**

Global Servants Kihomi Ngwemi and Nzunga Mabudiga recently relocated from Haiti to serve a community with a large Haitian population. **A local association of churches had been praying for God to send someone to aid them in this ministry, and they have since provided land for Kihomi and Nzunga to plant a Creole-speaking church.** In September 2023, the church began meeting as many as three times a week because of the hunger for a church in this community. Global Servants Brian and Lynette Smith, who were also previously serving in Haiti, are currently helping the River of Life Baptist Church rebuild after a devastating fire as they minister to Dominicans and Haitians working on farms and in cacao fields. Soon Global Servants Tim and Stacy Reese will join

our team of global servants ministering among the diaspora populations.

Thank you to all who support our global servants, and also those who have given funds toward Creole hymnals and Bibles for this rapidly growing church. In the midst of turmoil, the gospel continues to be preached in both words and deeds.



A woman praises God during a church service at the new Creole-speaking church in the Dominican Republic.

#### GLOBAL SERVANTS

**Barbara & Dwight Bolick**  
*Regional Consultants*

**Carlos Bonilla & Mayra Giovanetti**  
*Regional Consultants*

**Deliris Carrión-Joseph & Moise Joseph**  
*Mexico*

**Waleska Febres Hernandez**  
*Colombia*

**Madeline Flores-López**  
*Dominican Republic*

**Mercy González-Barnes**  
*Regional Consultant*

**Sue Hegarty**  
*Costa Rica*

**Eliberto & Molly Juárez**  
*El Salvador*

**Christine Lafferty**  
*Nicaragua*

**Patti & Tim Long**  
*Mexico*

**Luis & Sarah Matos**  
*Mexico*

**Ricardo Mayol-Bracero**  
*Regional Consultant*

**Sarah McCurdy**  
*Regional Coordinator*

**Debbie & Keith Myers**  
*Mexico*

**Kihomi Ngwemi & Nzunga Mabudiga**  
*Haiti & Dominican Republic*

**David Parajón**  
*Nicaragua*

**Ketly & Vital Pierre**  
*Dominican Republic*

**J.D. Reed**  
*Regional Consultant*

**Stacy & Tim Reese**  
*Haiti & Dominican Republic*

**Brian & Lynette Smith**  
*Haiti & Dominican Republic*

**Corene Smith**  
*Brazil*

**Jae Stockton**  
*Mexico*

**Ruth Vindas**  
*Costa Rica*

**Dilia Zelaya**  
*Honduras*

# Areas

## Southeast Asia and Japan



**Rev. Kyle Witmer**  
MBS, Area Director

### Therapeutic Care for Trauma Survivors

**For the last twenty years, Global Servant Kit Ripley has been providing care for adolescent tribal minority girls who are survivors of trauma, including sexual abuse, domestic violence, and trafficking in persons through her work with the New Life Center in Chiang Mai, Thailand.**

The New Life Center offers a residential shelter, education, life skills training, and trauma-informed care and counseling. It is also active in implementing anti-trafficking campaigns that have reached more than 110,000 people throughout the Mekong subregion, including Thailand, Burma (Myanmar), Lao PDR, and southern China.

Kit's primary ministry is with Imago Art Studio, an outreach of the New Life Center. In addition to providing clinical counseling and art therapy for NLC residents, Kit is providing workshops throughout the community on trauma-informed care, art therapy, counseling, conflict transformation, and spiritual formation.

*“Thank you for your prayers and financial support, which makes all of these things possible,” Kit says.*



#### GLOBAL SERVANTS

**Aphiwan & Scott Coats**  
Myanmar & Thailand

**Annie & Jeff Dieselberg**  
Thailand

**Joel & Trish Hoefle-Magal**  
Thailand

**Gordon & Lee Ann Hwang**  
Japan

**Alise & Mark Juanes**  
Thailand

**Eric & Yuree Lembke**  
Thailand

**Becky Mann**  
Thailand

**Lori & Matt Mann**  
Southeast Asia

**Sarah McCloy**  
Japan

**Jonathan & Thelma Nambu**  
Philippines

**Aaron & Valerie Osterbrock**  
Malaysia

**Marlene Po**  
Serving the Myanmar  
Diaspora in the U.S.

**Kit Ripley**  
Thailand

**Paul Rollet**  
Philippines

**Shigemi Tomita**  
Japan

**Aaron & AmyEstelle Trout**  
Southeast Asia

**Katrina & Kyle Williams**  
Southeast Asia

IM Global Servant Kit Ripley stands among Thai seminary students who participated in a contemplative artwork session.



Workshop participants paint during an art therapy session at Imago Art Studio, an outreach of the New Life Center in Chiang Mai, Thailand.



*“God is doing exciting things in Thailand,” Kit says. “And I am thankful that we can partner together to share the love of Jesus Christ and participate in God’s ministry of peace, healing, and reconciliation.”*

# Financial Data



**Patti Glasser**  
Associate Executive Director  
for Operations

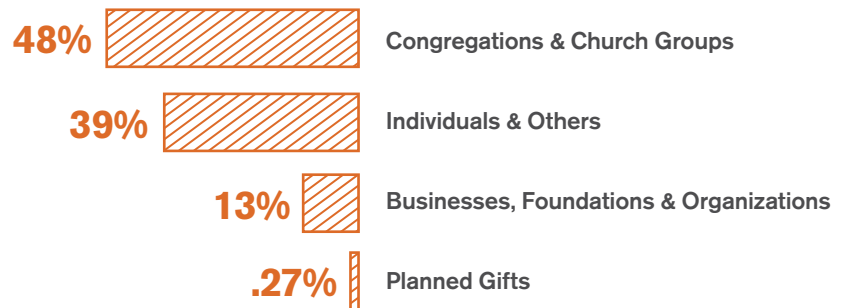
My husband and I love to hike, and we often stand in awe as we look at the many beautiful waterfalls in our favorite state park. Those waterfalls are the result of tiny streams that combine to have a huge and lasting impact that topples trees and carves a path through solid stone.

This annual report offers a glimpse of the fruitfulness of God's ministry through IM during the 2022-23 fiscal year. **As I reflect on these stories, I give thanks for the many faithful donors who have made this possible. Just as tiny streams combine to create waterfalls, God uses even the smallest donations to make a huge impact throughout the world, changing hearts and shining light into the darkness.**

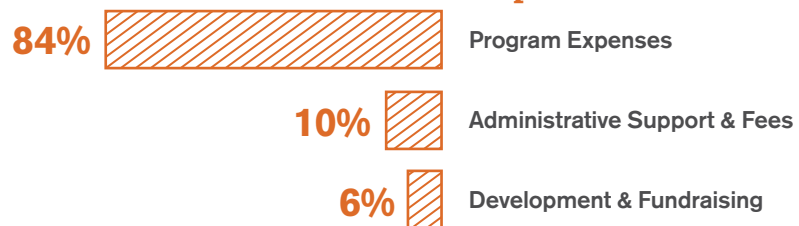
Your sacrificial giving and IM's stewardship of those resources combined for another positive fiscal year. We offer all praise and glory to God in celebrating our total revenues exceeding our expenses by more than **\$625,000**. This will enable our global servants, ministry partners, and staff to shine Christ's light even more brightly into our troubled world in the new year.

As Jesus proclaimed in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

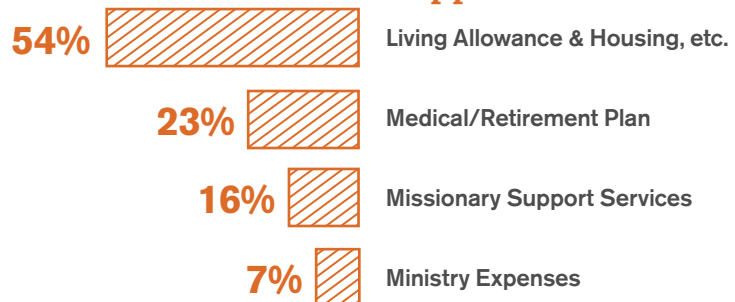
## Sources of Contributions



## Expenses



## Global Servant Support Distribution



# Statement Of Mission Ministry

*For fiscal years ending September 30, 2023 and 2022*

<b>Revenue, Gains, and Other Support</b>	<b>2023*</b>	<b>2022</b>
Contributions	11,924,578	13,902,174
Contributions to Endowment Fund	647,909	161,445
Realized Planned Gifts	478,711	487,967
Other Income	413,571	710,339
Endowment Income for Current Operations	3,155,326	2,859,031
Other Investment Income/misc.	260,089	-482,497
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$16,880,184</b>	<b>\$17,638,459</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Ministry of Missionaries & Global Partners	10,620,624	10,466,470
Ministry Support & Education	3,033,780	3,374,964
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>13,654,404</b>	<b>13,841,434</b>
Administrative Support & Fees	1,665,804	1,582,880
Development & Fundraising	934,527	1,004,973
<b>Total Supporting Expenses</b>	<b>2,600,331</b>	<b>2,587,853</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,254,735</b>	<b>\$16,429,287</b>

\*2023 numbers are pre-audit.



# Your Giving Creates a Legacy



**Marc Kirchoff**  
Director of Development

**This past year marked my fifth anniversary serving International Ministries. I am honored to serve our global servants and am amazed at the impact they have around the world!**

I know that it is only through the power and grace of God that lives are being changed every day. But I also know those lives are changed because of generous and faithful partners here in the United States. I often tell folks,

*“We only do what we do because you do what you do – thank you!”*

**As I reflect on the past five years, I think of a couple who have supported their global servants for many years with monthly gifts.** One month, an extra zero was mistakenly added to their gift. Our superb donor services caught the unusual gift and asked me to follow up.

When I called the donors and asked about the unusual gift, they said it was “inadvertent.” But, rather than return it, they said, “Just keep it, and use it wherever it is needed most. We know you will put it to good use!”

**More recently, an urgent but timely opportunity arose. A generator was needed for Global Servants Kihomi Ngwemi and Nzunga Mabudiga’s eye clinic in Haiti.** One was available at a very good price, but only for a limited time.

A donor who had been supporting the ministry for many years offered to pay for half if we could raise the other half. But the clock was ticking. Within a week, we secured the remaining funds from a handful of donors and the generator was purchased, delivered, and installed! All because of generous partners who gave over and above on the spur of the moment!

**Speaking of going over and above... I remember visiting with one couple with whom I have become very close friends.** They have been supporting IM (and many other ministries) for more years than I have been in ministry myself!

During our conversation, they expressed a need to update their estate plan. But they had no one whom they knew or trusted for such important counsel. Having worked in the field for several years, I offered the names of some trustworthy Christian attorneys in their area. They found one they liked and, after a few visits, decided to create a plan to benefit all their favorite ministries, including IM.

**Each of the people I mentioned here is establishing a legacy of one kind or another.** Their gifts will continue to change lives well into the future. We thank every one of you who have similarly laid up treasures in heaven through your generous giving to International Ministries.

# Meet Our Development Team

*Would you like to leave a legacy that will continue to bear fruit in the generations to come? Our donor advisors are here to help.*

## Learn More

 [internationalministries.org](https://internationalministries.org)

 [imdonorservices@internationalministries.org](mailto:imdonorservices@internationalministries.org)

 610-768-2168



**Marc Kirchoff**  
Director of Development



**Rev. Ray Schooler**  
DMin, Major Gifts Officer



**Joyce Bagiraneza**  
MTHM, Donor Advisor



**Jill Lowery**  
Donor Advisor



**Courtney Steadman**  
Donor Advisor



**Rev. Dwayne Doyle**  
MDiv, MAICS, Mission  
Partnership Coordinator

## Get Your Complimentary Gift Planning Resources

We can provide you with free tools and guidance as you seek to increase your retirement income, decrease your taxes, increase the inheritance you leave to your heirs, and increase the gifts you give to your church and to mission.







*They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”*

*Luke 24:32*





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You have the opportunity to respond, alongside our global servants and international partners, to share the gospel and meet human need in the name of Jesus around the world.



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## DONOR QUESTIONS?

[imdonorservices@internationalministries.org](mailto:imdonorservices@internationalministries.org)

