



2023/2024
ANNUAL REPORT



Annual Report

2023/2024

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About Us

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.



See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up;
do you not perceive it?

ISAIAH 43:19



Young adults worship in Mexico

From the Chief Executive Officer



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

Praise the Lord that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is alive and well and is still changing lives today!

In Isaiah 43:19, God invites us to perceive the new thing God is doing in our midst. In 2024, we celebrated a rich heritage of courage and sacrifice through International Ministries' cross-cultural work over the last 210 years. At the same time, we are leaning into a future of sustainability and innovation and embracing the missional future God has placed before IM.

One of the highlights in ministry this past year was the Global Encounter, an online gathering to celebrate 210 years of serving in God's mission with our global servants, partners, and communities worldwide. We connected with hundreds of cross-cultural gatherings during the live-translated event –all simultaneously but in different time zones! This new way of coming together to celebrate this milestone was a blessing to all who attended.

In the following pages, you will read about global servants who look for ways God is already at work and use the resources and gifts God has provided to move forward in mission and meet human needs.

In Haiti, the eye clinic established over 30 years ago is still flourishing through challenging times because of the remarkably resilient leaders working daily and the presence, mentorship, and prayer of IM Global Servants Kihomi Ngwemi and Nzunga Mabudiga.

IM Regional Consultant Dwight Bolick has long been committed to creation care through rainwater harvesting systems. His deep reflection on scripture guides his passion for this sustainable practice now expanding throughout Iberoamerica.

In northeast Japan, IM Global Servant Lee Ann Hwang has an innovative and sustainable project with no-till gardens. This is a tangible gesture of care and opportunity for those in the community where she and her husband Gordon live and serve.

And finally, we are glad to honor the memory of IM Global Servant Madeline Flores-López who was called home to the Lord as she was serving. Her work and legacy continue through others even as we remember her life of service and conviction.

I hope these pages will inspire you to give God glory for the ways IM continues to be used and that you perceive all that is springing up around us in God's mission.

Together with you in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Sharon T. Koh
Executive Director / CEO

See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up;
do you not perceive it?

ISAIAH 43:19

Executive Director's Council



Young boys in India.



Sharon Koh, MDiv, MAT
Executive Director / CEO



Jim Bell, MDiv/CE
*Associate Executive
Director for Global Mission
& Chief Program Officer*



Ray Schooler, DMin
Major Gifts Officer



Joe Gonzalez
Chief Information Officer



Bukky Babalola
Chief Financial Officer

From the Board President

This past year marked our 210th anniversary of proclaiming God's Word around the globe. This milestone should not be taken lightly as it vividly represents how God's hand has sustained and guided us to transform the lives of many people—a transformation rooted in the hope that a life touched by God will never be the same.

Do you remember when God touched your life? It is that same sense of joy and hope that Haitian people feel through the ministry at the Cap-Haitian Eye Clinic that IM Global Servants Kihomi Ngwemi and Nzunga Mabudiga supervise. It is also the same kind of hope that communities feel when God uses IM Regional Consultant Dwight Bolick's skills to introduce rainwater harvesting. These systems promote sustainability and also increase their faith that God is caring for them.

In December 2023, International Ministries mourned together after God called home IM Global Servant Madeline Flores-López, a dear friend from my beloved Puerto Rico. Although we grieve, we still have hope and can be encouraged that her master said to her, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things; I will make you ruler over many things; enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25:23).

Throughout the years, God has led us in expanding the breadth and reach of IM to areas not originally envisioned by missionaries Ann and Adoniram Judson when they responded to God's call and boarded a ship in 1812. Recognizing that as humans, we have a limited vision toward the future, IM has always sought God's will in reshaping the call for ministry.

For this reason, the Board created the Innovative and Strategic Opportunities Committee (iSoC) to purposefully seek and adapt how we respond to God's Great Commission in this century. With their guidance, we will continue to work in God's mission transforming lives with God's hope and joy into the next generation.

¡Gracias por apoyar y acompañarnos en la obra a la que Dios nos llamó!

Thank you for supporting and partnering with us for the work to which God called us!

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Crop harvesting in Southeast Asia.

Living Water: Restoring God's Creation Through Rainwater Harvesting

“Water scarcity will be the largest global problem over the next decade. Rainwater harvesting [is a way] to create local solutions and help people regain control and care of their water sources.”

While serving in Chile for over 18 years, IM Global Servant Dwight Bolick saw first-hand how the water crisis there affected families and schools in the rural communities he served. Although ample rainfall occurred during the rainy season, by mid-to-late summer, keeping gardens and farm animals alive became a challenge.

“Over the years we saw weather patterns changing—longer dry periods—to the point that in the summertime the springs would dry up sooner than usual.” Many of the Mapuche communities Dwight served in Chile were surrounded by eucalyptus and pine plantations used for industrial forestry—trees that deplete the groundwater, leaving little water for the families to gather.

Rural households had to depend on weekly water deliveries or dedicate a day or two each week to collect water. Many chose not to plant a garden because they had no water to spare.

Knowing that rainwater harvesting had worked in states like Texas, Dwight came alongside Mapuche families in Chile to install these simple systems that supply water in the summer months to gardens, farm animals, and for non-potable household uses like bathrooms, washing machines, and showers.

This easily replicated and viable system is adaptable to the region and uses what God already provides for His creation—rain! It changes the lives of families, helping them become more productive, and promotes practical stewardship of water resources.

As word spread from the families who now had water, multiple rural schools and local churches invited Dwight to install systems. Local government agencies also showed interest and installed their own systems!



Now, as a regional consultant, Dwight is addressing the water crisis throughout Iberoamerica and Cuba. “The problems throughout Central America are somewhat different from Chile. Climate change is still a factor. But there are also extensive human-made causes.”

The dry season is longer, rivers and springs are contaminated, the bottled water industry depletes underground water sources, and access to water is restricted as extractive industries move into the area.

For example, in Guatemala, a silver mining company used methods that released harmful levels of naturally occurring arsenic into the underground water system. This action contaminated water sources for all people living in the area.

Rainwater harvesting is an ancient practice that imitates natural ecosystems, collecting water during the rainy season, and storing it for the dry season. It gives people autonomy over their water supply and restores dignity as they steward their resources and provide for their families.

This simple system has made a difference in the lives of a group of men from the Guatemalan village of Volcancitos. Not only did they learn how to install it for themselves, but they continue to teach and help others install rainwater harvesting systems.

“We call them the Rainwater Apostles!”

They recently traveled to El Salvador and a remote village in Guatemala with IM Regional Consultant Ricardo Mayol-Bracero. Ricardo founded RECONPAZ (Continental Christian Network for Peace), a remarkable corps of volunteers in South America and Central America that accompanies and advocates for communities resisting industries damaging ecosystems, especially water sources they have had access to for generations. Rainwater harvesting allows these communities to recover access to and control of their water supply.

With RECONPAZ's Water for All project, Dwight trains communities to design and install demonstration rainwater harvesting systems. These are placed in rural schools where everyone can learn how to replicate the systems in their own homes.

In many rural communities throughout Central America, schools and homes are not connected to water distribution systems. Families lose days of productivity having to spend time finding and carrying water to the schools, simply to have it for the bathrooms and washing hands.

Johny, one of the “rainwater apostles,” expressed his gratitude on behalf of his remote village: “This project is a great blessing. A project that we in the community consider a miracle of God.”

Rainwater harvesting has led to ministry and service opportunities in Chile, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico, and now Cuba. Eleven systems have been installed over the past year.

Dwight believes creation care must now be an integral part of God's mission because of climate change and the degradation industrial activity is inflicting on ecosystems. The partners RECONPAZ serves in Central America are already experiencing the impact. Pastors and church members are facing displacement, forced migration, and even arrests and assassinations simply for protesting activities that damage their water sources.

The narrative of Scripture and Jesus Himself reveals that God's mission is nothing less than the healing, reconciliation, liberation, and salvation of all of creation (2 Corinthians 5:19; Ephesians 1:9-10). Teaching about and installing rainwater harvesting systems is investing in the health and care of creation AND people, now and for future generations.



The “rainwater apostles” work on installing a rainwater harvesting system.

“Throughout the regions, in the rural areas where we are, the people are saying, ‘There’s no water’ and meaning, the water’s contaminated, the water’s polluted.”



IM Global Servants Barbara and Dwight Bolick

Gardens of Grace: Sowing Seeds of Faith and Growing Friendships in Japan

From a young age, IM Global Servant Lee Ann Hwang remembers her grandmother bringing over seedlings for their family to plant. They worked together to plant and harvest a garden each year. Lee Ann always enjoyed gardening, even finding creative ways to plant with limited space on her apartment balcony. However, she didn't imagine gardening would be the way God would open doors to new friendships and ministry opportunities in Japan.

In 2021, after 15 years of serving in Yokohama, a city 45 minutes outside of Tokyo, Lee Ann and her husband Gordon were invited to serve in the rural town of Rifu. "People are a bit provincial in the country," Lee Ann explained. "So if you're not from here, it's harder to become friends [with others] or for them to trust you."

NURTURING NEW BEGINNINGS

As she looked for opportunities to come alongside people in the church and community, she noticed several young people had left for Tokyo after graduating because of the limited job opportunities in Rifu.

"There are already very few Christians in the area," Lee Ann shared. "We cannot afford to lose people in the church, especially the young ones, because they have the energy!"

At the same time, she saw that many fields weren't being cultivated. She put the two together and thought that if there was a way to get someone interested in farming, then there were great opportunities for young people to stay in Rifu.

She found a video online showing a profitable no-till market garden and is using the method in her own garden. A no-till



IM Global Servant Lee Ann Hwang teaches women how to create a no-till garden.

garden is a simple and sustainable gardening method that doesn't till the soil. Instead, it uses cardboard, compost, and only a few hand tools. Lee Ann explained, "To start the beds, lay cardboard down, put four inches of compost on top of it, and plant right into the compost. The roots of the seedlings will grow through the cardboard into the dirt."

The cardboard suppresses the weeds, making the garden essentially weed-free within two years. Lee Ann experienced this with the invasive Jerusalem artichoke that was taking over the field and is now almost gone! Needing to add only one inch of compost to the top every year makes starting, maintaining, and sustaining a no-till garden very easy for anyone to do.

HARVESTING MORE THAN VEGETABLES

Lee Ann's no-till garden is in the experimental and demonstration stage, but women in the community have already shown interest.

"The thing that God has been doing is He keeps bringing people that want to come here...they want to hang out with the English speaker. They want to play in the garden, to forage." When women come to visit, she always invites at least one church member too. This helps with the language barrier, but more importantly, it's making connections to the church and getting to know others who are in relationship with God.

Since moving to their current home where she can garden, Lee Ann has been intentional about building a friendship with her neighbor, Mrs. Takehana. She is elderly and has lived alone since her husband's recent passing. Lee Ann has shared baked items, brought flowers, and invited her to share meals together. When Mrs. Takehana saw what Lee Ann was doing with the garden she said, 'Please teach me.' In just under a year, she has moved from being suspicious of her persistent neighbor to wanting to learn and do more with Lee Ann!

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Ideally, a no-till garden will produce 2 or even 3 harvests in a year. This will give a family food for themselves plus income. The produce could be sold at the farmer's market or to local restaurants. It is a sustainable and cost-effective way to garden! Plus, it is not as labor-intensive as traditional gardening, making it appealing to all ages.

Lee Ann is excited to figure out what works best for the different planting cycles, to help others create their own, and to see how God will use this no-till garden for ministry opportunities in the church and community.

“The original idea for the garden was to try to get young people to stay in Rifu. If that was my only purpose, I would be a failure because I have not proven anything with this garden yet. But God has in the meantime been using it for attracting people to Him.”



IM Global Servants Gordon and Lee Ann Hwang

A Vision for the Future: Ministries Built on Trust and Empowerment

Global Servants Kihomi Ngwemi and Nzunga Mabudiga's service in God's mission is a deep reflection of their lifetime of ministry. From an early age, Kihomi watched her mother teach other women in the community how to use the resources available to create income. "She was training other women how to bake bread and sell it so they could make money themselves," said Kihomi. Their family would host pastors visiting her village in the Congo. Her father knew the importance of education and would give what little they had to help children in the community afford school.

Nzunga's father was a lay pastor. When he passed away, Nzunga began to follow a negative path. However, while in junior high school, he had an American missionary as his teacher, who was a positive influence, and Nzunga started to feel the call to become a pastor. After marrying Kihomi and attending seminary in the United States, Nzunga returned to the Congo to teach at a university. Together, they started two schools and a church that are that is still serving the community today.

After being invited by International Ministries to serve in Haiti, Kihomi and Nzunga used their skills to create ministries that continue to impact people today. From introducing a training program for assistant professors to teaching cohorts of women how to manage money and create financial stability, both Nzunga and Kihomi have left a legacy that extends beyond the Congo and Haiti.

Empowering others through training has been a theme throughout their ministry. This was no different when they agreed to serve in ministry at the Cap-Haitian Eye Clinic in 2006.

The eye clinic was originally the work of former IM Global Servant Dr. Hollis Clark and his wife, Wanda. In 1989, without nursing or ophthalmology schools in Haiti, Dr. Clark trained others right there in the clinic—training while treating. After his retirement, things were not functioning as they should, so Nzunga was asked to step in to help manage the eye clinic.

"Why me?" Nzunga shared. "Some might think it was because I was a missionary, or a teacher, or a pastor. But no! I got the

"We are a product of God's mission. We are living proof that the work of those before us was not in vain."

training to run an eye clinic back in the Congo."

As God would have it, Nzunga had already founded his own eye clinic back in the Congo, but didn't imagine he would be doing it again.

Two years ago, because of the violence in Haiti, global servants needed to relocate. Kihomi and Nzunga now serve Haitians in the Dominican Republic. However, they continue to mentor and support those running the daily operations at the eye clinic in Haiti.

Many have asked how the eye clinic is still successful when they are not there. The improvements in technology have certainly been helpful—help is just a phone call or video conference away. However, Nzunga believes two other important ingredients make the eye clinic work.

The first ingredient is trust. "There is no successful ministry if you don't trust those people" Nzunga shared. "I trust them fully. They are mothers and fathers like me, so I trust and respect them."

Just as he and Kihomi have done in other ministries, they have empowered the men and women at the eye clinic through training and encouragement.

Nzunga shares a lesson he learned from his mother, a philosopher, with everyone who works at the clinic. It is a story about a young man trying to shame the village chief. He believed he could trick the wise chief by holding a small bird in his hand and asking if the bird was dead or alive. If the chief said he was alive, the man would squeeze and kill the bird. If the chief said he was dead, he would let it go.

When the young man asked the question, the wise chief answered: "This bird is your will. If you want it to die, you are going to kill it. If you want it to live, you are going to let it go."

This story describes what Nzunga believes is the second ingredient in the continuing success of the eye clinic—empowerment. “Everyone today at the eye clinic knows about this teaching. I say, ‘You have the will of the eye clinic in your hand. You can kill it or let it survive.’”

“Please do not forget this is true. The eye clinic is all yours—for you today, for your children and your grandchildren and your great-grandchildren tomorrow.”

The staff at the eye clinic have persevered to overcome many challenges. Through Nzunga’s advice, encouragement and correction, the staff recognize they have the skills and training needed to make it grow.

The work done by women and men at the clinic brings hope to Haitians through tangible medical care. It also reflects the gifts of teaching and training that God has given the Mabudigas.

God has been, is, and will continue to be at work through the ministries Kihomi and Nzunga have been called to. They have left a legacy of participating in God’s mission no matter where they go or what the circumstances are. Just as mission-minded people influenced the lives of Kihomi and Nzunga, their influence has spread throughout the Congo, Haiti, the United States and now as they serve in the Dominican Republic.



Interns with their manuals.

“It meant a lot to me to see you can participate [in God’s work] even when you are illiterate or you don’t go to work every day. You can still use your talents.”

— IM GLOBAL SERVANT KIHOMI NGWEMI



In Loving Memory: The Legacy of Global Servant Rev. Madeline Flores-López

In December 2023, International Ministries grieved the loss of Global Servant Rev. Madeline Flores-López, who passed away unexpectedly after a brief illness. Madeline began serving with IM in 2002 and coordinated mission volunteers and groups throughout the Caribbean, facilitating service opportunities for people from the United States and Puerto Rico.

It was through one of these short-term mission trips that Brunilda Gonzalez, from a Baptist church in Puerto Rico, met Madeline in 2008. “Madeline guided our small group to the Dominican Republic, and we came back transformed and happy for the work done.”

After this initial experience, Brunilda fell in love with serving in God’s mission, becoming a co-laborer in the work with Madeline. “Because I was in love with God’s mission, I would take my vacation days to be with Madeline, going to the Dominican Republic and Cuba.” Over the next 15 years, they formed a strong bond as sisters in Christ. Now, Brunilda carries on Madeline’s legacy in the places they served together.

As a coordinator, Madeline facilitated a variety of short and long-term mission trips and Brunilda accompanied her on many of these, especially after her retirement in 2012. They visited bateyes (communities of sugar workers), orphanages, schools and the leper colony in the Dominican Republic. These service trips included Vacation Bible School programs, health clinics, visiting the sick and bringing the Good News to people. Later they collaborated for trips to Cuba, offering pastoral workshops and summer camps and spent time encouraging others with God’s Word, love and kindness.

“I was blessed to learn from Madeline the importance of knowing people and their needs. It was an honor working with her because I enjoyed learning and also serving at the same time.”

It was through these extensive trips and Madeline’s mentoring that God prepared Brunilda for the work she is doing now. While Brunilda isn’t in full-time ministry with IM, she is full-time in God’s mission! She works with Puerto Rican Baptist churches giving orientations for those wanting to serve

on mission trips and coordinates groups both locally and internationally.

This past August, Brunilda took a trip to the Dominican Republic to continue Madeline’s legacy. Every year, they would collect school supplies and deliver them to the children in the bateyes. After collecting donations for over a month, she and two more sisters in Christ, Luz Doris Rivera and María del Carmen Santos, who also served with Madeline, delivered 200 backpacks filled with school supplies to children in different bateyes, churches, and communities!

“I wanted to continue her legacy and will return in December to deliver gifts and candy to children, and food to families.” Just as Madeline did, Brunilda is coordinating a group of 15 people who will share in the joy of blessing the children and families in the Dominican Republic. Brunilda credits her ability to carry on these ministries to how closely God allowed her to work with Madeline, meeting the people who she is currently coordinating with today.

God’s mission is not about just one person, though. Brunilda shared that Madeline was very clear about that. “She would say she was the person doing that job, but it’s God’s mission



Madeline's love for children and others shined through her.

Backpacks were successfully delivered to children in the Dominican Republic for this school year through Brunilda and others carrying on Madeline's legacy.



and we have the privilege to be a part of that. I still deal with grief, but I always say, God give me the strength because this is your mission. It's not Madeline's mission. It's not my mission. We are just collaborating with Him."

The work Madeline was doing in Cuba also continues with the help of Brunilda and others. Through ministry contacts, Brunilda receives names of widows, those who are sick, and families who are in most need. Using monetary donations, and the advantages of online grocery shopping, she orders specific food based on the families' needs through a local market. Then, the order is delivered directly to them. Through these donations and contacts, she can feed 14 families every month!

People have written to Brunilda about their testimony—how God provided when they had nothing. One mother shared that even at the moment she was praying, asking God how to feed her children, they received the food delivery.

This testimony is a picture of how God works things together. Even though she is no longer here on earth, Madeline's legacy continues through Brunilda and others impacted by her life's work.

"Madeline taught us to give ourselves completely to the noblest causes by providing food, clothing, love, affection, and kindness. We will continue to be the hands and feet of Christ to bless others."

“In these past 15 years collaborating with Madeline, the mission became my passion. I loved the mission. I learned to carry out the tasks that she carried out with love, kindness, and selflessness. We became sisters, friends in the service of God, serving those in need.”

- BRUNILDA GONZALEZ



Global Mission Overview



Jim Bell, MDiv/CE
Associate Executive Director for Global Mission & Chief Program Officer

God is up to something! In a world fraught with distress and discouragement, God is continually “doing a new thing” to bring salvation, deliverance, health and wholeness. This annual report from International Ministries offers the opportunity to “perceive it” through glimpses of how God is at work in and through IM’s people, partners, programs and projects.

PEOPLE

Several IM global servants followed God’s call to new ministry assignments in the past year. This includes Rhonda Reed who stepped into a new role as the global coordinator for health and wellness. She represents IM when networking with other global health organizations and supports IM’s provisions for medical and mental health care for global servants. Global Servants Amanda and Jon Good are now serving with UCEBI (Baptist Evangelical Christian Union of Italy) in Italy and regional consultant Barbara Bolick was invited to teach in the School of Public Health at Texas A&M University. She is integrating her experience creating, managing and directing the Talita Cumi Girls Clubs in course content and initiating study abroad opportunities for student groups.

We also appointed three international associate global servants, Eliberto and Molly Juárez, Marci Carvalho and María Angélica Mainecul who were already serving in God’s mission. Christy Lafferty was commissioned and assigned to continue her long-time work with AMOS Health and Hope in Nicaragua as an IM global servant. Plus, we ventured into innovation by placing and supporting Ruthie Marquez-Castro in service as a “mission resident” in Colombia.

PARTNERS

During the past year, IM entered into new partnerships with several international organizations. Link Aid International is a new partner focused on welcoming short-term mission teams serving in Liberia. Puente de Confianza (Bridge of Trust) is a Christian NGO based in Malaga, Spain that holistically helps displaced people from Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. Through a new relationship with the Transcarpathian Baptist Charity Foundation in Ukraine, IM is meeting the needs of

persons displaced by the ongoing war. IM’s long-time ministry in Tijuana, Mexico, Deborah’s House, a ministry for women survivors of domestic abuse and their children, became a formal partner organization in March.

PROGRAMS

In this annual report, you’ll read about the new Mission Engagement Team (MET) led by Mission Engagement Director Jeni Pedzinski. For effectiveness and efficiency, we consolidated IM’s Short-Term Mission, Youth and Young Adult, and Mission Mobilization departments to create the MET. The team aims to recruit, train and support growing numbers of servants in God’s mission around the globe.

In June, the first cohort of Emerging Leaders—IM’s young adult program—completed their two-year mission-focused discipleship experience, and a new 2024 cohort was launched! God is doing a new thing among our young adults and we are ready for what is coming in this next generation.

PROJECTS

Through the generous giving of American Baptists to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, IM provided emergency relief grants to persons fleeing warfare and violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ukraine, as well as to victims of flooding in Liberia and Thailand. OGHS also provided funding for development projects, including a dormitory to provide housing for girls at a Baptist school in Burundi, the expansion of computer and science facilities for a school in Liberia, the expansion of Talita Cumi Girls Clubs in 6 countries in Iberoamerica, and a new vehicle for an organic farm ministry serving people with disabilities in Thailand.

In addition to all the areas supported through OGHS, many projects were funded through the American Baptist Foundation Palmer Grants: church planting and discipleship in Baja California Sur, Mexico, the creation of a space for relational evangelism in Vietnam, the establishment of a mission hub by a partner in Thailand, and the participation of Baptist leaders from across Africa in the Baptist World Alliance’s 2024 gathering in Lagos, Nigeria.

Global Servants Amanda and Jon Good respond to an invitation to work with the Baptist Evangelical Christian Union of Italy in ministries of evangelism, discipleship, church planting, and theological education.

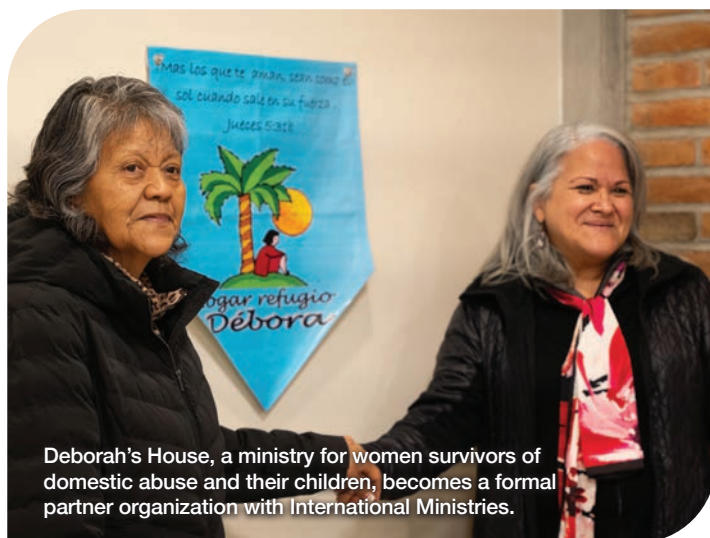


\$20,000 of One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) emergency relief funds are sent to partners in Thailand who suffer from severe flood devastation.



IM was well-represented in the 4th World Congress of the Lausanne Movement for World Evangelism, held in Seoul, South Korea in September. Executive Director/CEO Sharon Koh and Global Servants Melanie Baggao and Rodney Ragwan were invited to participate in person, and Mission Engagement Director Jeni Pedzinski and Board Director Dezo Schriener were also online participants.

Indeed, God has been up to something! You are a part of it as you pray, offer encouragement, and provide the support needed to engage the people of God in the mission of God through International Ministries. Thank you!



Deborah's House, a ministry for women survivors of domestic abuse and their children, becomes a formal partner organization with International Ministries.

Ministry Priorities

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

1 Invite people to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

Evangelism, Discipleship, Theological Education

2 Proclaim God's reign of justice, peace and abundant life.

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

3 Equip 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

11

rainwater harvesting systems were installed, giving families and schools in rural areas access to water.

READ MORE ON PAGE 8.

200

eye surgeries performed at the Cap-Haitian Eye Clinic, giving sight to the blind.

READ MORE ON PAGE 12.

215

graduates of the Master of Theological Studies in Latino/a Ministries are now serving in their home countries spreading the gospel.

READ MORE ON PAGE 25.

4,900+

patients received care at the Cap-Haitian Eye Clinic.

READ MORE ON PAGE 12.

200

backpacks delivered to the children in the Dominican Republic.

READ MORE ON PAGE 14.

Africa

25

men and women participated in the Global Poultry Initiative and learned how to raise and breed chickens.

READ MORE ON PAGE 22.

Europe, the Middle East, and Liberia

\$45K

grant presented to IM partner in Ukraine to provide an essential community center for internally displaced individuals seeking refuge from the ongoing impact of the war.

READ MORE ON PAGE 24.

East & South Asia

120K+

individuals in Nepal received quality care through hospitals managed by IM partner Human Development and Community Services (HDCS).

READ MORE ON PAGE 23.

Southeast Asia & Japan

4

new churches established through IM partner Companion with the Poor in Manila, Philippines, including one at a city dump.

READ MORE ON PAGE 26.

13

people were engaged in the sustainable practice of no-till gardening which can provide income for rural families in Japan.

READ MORE ON PAGE 10.

6

schools established in Thailand for the hill tribe people, changing lives through education.

READ MORE ON PAGE 26.

16

grants given to graduates of the Christian Social Enterprise Development Training program to start the business they developed during the program.

READ MORE ON PAGE 23.

Global

214

volunteers served on short-term mission trips.

READ MORE ON PAGE 18.

RESPONDING
together
for GOOD

Message from Mission Engagement Director

When I moved to Thailand as a global servant in 2015, I was often asked how long I planned to serve. My answer was always the same: “For as long as God chooses.” When God calls, we never know how long a Kingdom assignment may last—and this should never be our focus. Instead, our focus should be on faithfulness and obedience. We must entrust the details to God’s perfect care.

In 2024, International Ministries’ short-term and long-term mission mobilization departments joined hands to become one Mission Engagement Team (MET). The MET aims to invite and equip people of all ages to respond to God’s call to mission through cross-cultural global service. The team works together to search for, develop, and support new global servants as they discern God’s invitation to serve. We also work with people looking to engage in short or long-term mission assignments.

Friends, are you ready to serve for a week—or a year—or “for as long as God chooses?” God is certainly at work and now is the time to join together. IM’s Mission Engagement Team is ready and waiting to hear your story and walk with you as you engage in God’s mission.



IM Emerging Leaders ready to learn and serve!



Rev. Jeni Pedzinski
Mission Engagement Director



Nicole Cox
Youth & Young Adult Associate



Baillie Myers
Short-Term Mission Associate



Nora Elisabet Kalkman
Short-Term Administrative Assistant



IM Global Servant Rev. Madeline Flores-López with an individual from the bateyes in the Dominican Republic.

Hellos and Goodbyes

During the 2023-24 fiscal year

HELLOS

APPOINTED



July 2024

Marci Carvalho was appointed to serve as an IM international associate global servant with Puente de Confianza (Bridge of Trust) in Spain, in partnership with JAMI, the mission agency of the National Baptist Convention in Brazil.



January 2024

Eliberto and Molly Juárez were appointed to serve as IM international associate global servants with Misión Vida y Paz (MVP), or Mission Life and Peace, in El Salvador.



July 2024

María Angélica Mainecul was appointed to serve as an IM international associate global servant with Puente de Confianza (Bridge of Trust) in Spain, in partnership with JAMI, the mission agency of the National Baptist Convention in Brazil.

ASSIGNED



November 2024

Christine (Christy) Lafferty was commissioned and assigned to serve with AMOS Health and Hope in Nicaragua.

GOODBYES



December 2023

Madeline Florez-López passed away after 22 years of service in the Dominican Republic. We remember her servant's heart and the lives she transformed through her ministry.



February 2024

Toya Richards resigned from pre-assignment preparation for service in South Africa.



June 2024

Marlene Po completed 7 years as an IM associate global servant in partnership with Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Myanmar and the U.S.



July 2024

Sarah McCurdy served for 9 years, first in Costa Rica and Mexico and then as the regional coordinator in education for Iberoamerica and the Caribbean. She will continue in ministry as a volunteer special assistant with IM.

“ For as long as God chooses.”



August 2024

Ben Chan retired after over 32 years of service as area director for East and South Asia. Since 1992, Ben has guided relationships and ministries in India, China, Nepal and throughout East and South Asia and contributed in significant ways to IM's overall direction.



August 2024

Aaron and Valerie Osterbrock served for six years in theological education in partnership with Sabah Theological Seminary in Malaysia.



September 2024

Patti and Tim Long retired after over 40 years of service in the Dominican Republic and Mexico. Both served in education, Tim in theological education with Baja Baptist Seminary of Mexicali and Palmer Theological Seminary and Patti as a resource specialist and teacher at Centro Pedagógico Didaqué School in Tijuana.



Grandmother with granddaughter.

Changing Lives Through Poultry Breeding

The Baptist Mission of South Africa (BMSA) is one of IM's ministry partners in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), a province on the southeastern coast of the country. Estimates show that half of the people under the age of 35 in KZN are unemployed. Many people survive by doing subsistence agriculture and cattle raising.

In addition to its evangelism and discipleship ministries, BMSA is engaged in economic initiatives that are changing people's lives through micro-enterprise and small business opportunities. In 2022, BMSA began a joint project with the Global Poultry Initiative (GPI). This project equips participants with the skills they need to create and sustain a small home flock of chickens and improve the quality of birds through careful selection and breeding.

This program is unique because it teaches participants how to develop their own poultry breeding stock, not just raise them for meat and eggs. These breeds are defined as chickens developed in South Africa that are uniform birds, productive and profitable.

When participants can develop their own poultry breeding stock, they won't need to depend on international conglomerates to provide the breeds.

This past year, 25 participants in this joint BMSA/GPI program have experienced increased food security and monthly income. Over time, this privately created self-employment will strengthen families through increased health, nutrition, and economic security.



Karen R Smith
MA, MS, Area Director

GLOBAL SERVANTS

Ann & Bill Clemmer
Regional Consultants & DR Congo

Anita & Rick Gutierrez
South Africa

Boaz Keibarak
Kenya

Christina & Lance Muteyo
Zimbabwe

Katherine & Wayne Niles
DR Congo

Kathy & Tim Rice
DR Congo

Faye Carol Yarbrough
South Africa



Global Poultry Initiative participants.

Bearing Fruit Through Partnerships



Throughout the region this last year, we have focused on helping partner conventions and NGOs (non-governmental organizations) restore their ministry operations and rebuild financial capacity. This included projects to meet tangible needs, like constructing a student hostel for protection in India and developing spiritual and social needs through training and education programs.

The Namuna Community Hospital in Nepal had one of those tangible needs met. They received a new operation theater and a C-arm X-ray machine to help better serve patients.

The hospital is managed by Human Development and Community Services (HDCS). HDCS is a Christian NGO that works in partnership with IM. With the help of this organization, people in Nepal receive access to affordable healthcare and transformational education. In this past year alone, over 120,000 individuals received quality care through a HDCS hospital.

Through our partnership with North East Christian University in India, IM created the Christian Social Enterprise Development Training program. Pastors, lay leaders, and seminaries benefit from learning to include the provision of jobs and the improvements of quality of life as part of the wholistic mission of God's Kingdom.

Graduates from this program can apply for the Seed Award grant. So far, we have awarded 16 grants to new businesses! These recipients, and those who have started a business with their own resources, will have continued coaching by an IM team.

Thank you to all who support our global servants and ministry partners. Your prayers and generosity fulfill projects like these!

After over 32 years of faithfully serving as a global servant and then as area director for East and South Asia, Ben Chan retired on September 1, 2024. IM is deeply grateful for his work and service!



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

Mylinda Baits
Restorative Arts

Lauran Bethell
Abolishing Global Slavery

Kristy Engel
Health & Wellness

Mike Mann
Economic Development

Rodney Ragwan
Theological Education

Ray Schellinger
Immigrants & Refugees

Jeanine & Walt White
Health & Wellness, Capacity Building

GLOBAL COORDINATORS

David & Joyce Reed
Spiritual Care

Rhonda Reed
Health & Wellness

Debbly Witmer
Missionary Kid & Family Care

Hope in the Midst of Devastation

In February 2024, a group of IM members, including myself, Executive Director and CEO Sharon Koh, IM Board President Jorge Medero-Roldán, and IM Global Servant Kristy Engel went on a short-term mission trip to Hungary and Ukraine. We visited with IM partners Hungarian Baptist Aid in Budapest and Transcarpathian Baptist Charity Foundation in Berehove, Ukraine. Hungarian Baptist Aid is supporting the work of the Transcarpathian Baptist Charity Foundation in its humanitarian services to internally displaced Ukrainians fleeing from the war in the eastern regions of Ukraine.

Our group visited several refugee shelters in Ukraine, helping to deliver food, medicine and other supplies to the displaced individuals. While in Ukraine, it was a blessing to meet with many churches and communities, hear their stories, and witness how they hold firm to their faith even while facing the effects of the ongoing war.

We were delighted to present \$45,000 to our partner, Hungarian Baptist Aid, through the Virginia and Gordon Palmer, Jr. Trust of the American Baptist Foundation. These funds will help provide an essential community center for internally displaced individuals seeking refuge from the ongoing impact of the war in Ukraine.

We eagerly anticipate God's work through these funds as we continue to *respond together for good* in God's mission.



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

Italy

Carmella Jones

Regional Coordinator

Nora & Pieter Kalkman

Regional Consultants

Becky & Larry Stanton

Hungary



Executive Director/CEO Rev. Dr. Sharon Koh presents a check to IM partner Hungarian Baptist Aid to help provide a community center for displaced individuals.

Breaking Down Barriers



As of August 2024, we've celebrated 215 graduates from the MTS program and 70 students are currently studying in international and U.S. cohorts. The online Master of Theological Studies (MTS) in Latino/a Ministries began in 2016 to meet the growing need for training pastors and leaders in evangelical Spanish and Portuguese-speaking communities.

This innovative program prepares students for thoughtful and productive wholistic ministry and leadership in churches, organizations and community life in Iberoamerica and the Caribbean. Seminary administrators and professors strive to give contextualized and personalized ministry training. The exceptional 92% graduation rate testifies to their success and to the dedication of the students themselves.

In the next five years, we have the potential to prepare 200 more Christian leaders to serve in their communities through the MTS program.

The advantages of preparing Spanish and Portuguese-speaking leaders in their own countries far outweigh the cost of sending global servants into a new country. This is in part because it often requires extensive time in language acquisition and adapting to a new culture.

However, choosing an education should not cause a dilemma over providing basic needs for their families. To break down the financial barrier, IM has partnered with Palmer Seminary to provide a combined scholarship to those students living in Iberoamerica who have been called to ministry.

Because of your partnership in giving, a student's monthly cost is much more affordable! Thank you for helping to extend this training opportunity for pastors and leaders. The MTS program ensures that the church in Latin America will continue to grow and maintain healthy faith communities for decades to come!



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

GLOBAL SERVANTS

Barbara & Dwight Bolick
Regional Consultants

Carlos Bonilla & Mayra Giovanetti
Regional Consultants

Deliris Carrión-Joseph & Moise Joseph
Tijuana, Mexico

Marci Carvalho
Spain

Waleska Febres Hernandez
Colombia

Mercy González-Barnes
Regional Consultant

Sue Hegarty
Costa Rica

Eliberto & Molly Juárez
El Salvador

Christine Lafferty
Nicaragua

María Angélica Mainecul
Spain

Luis & Sarah Matos
Oaxaca, Mexico

Ricardo Mayol-Bracero
Regional Consultant

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

Corenne Smith
Brazil

Jae Stockton
Mexico

Ruth Vindas
Costa Rica

Dilia Zelaya
Honduras

Leaving a Legacy

All over Southeast Asia and Japan, legacies are being realized, celebrated, or built as God continues to do new things here.

From church planting, organic farming, and educational opportunities to working with immigrants, refugees and anti-human trafficking ministries, our global servants and partners continue to faithfully respond to God's call in ways that will profoundly impact the next generation.

In the Philippines, IM Global Servants Aaron and AmyEstelle Trout are building a legacy through a ministry of encouragement, training, and connection to Jesus. AmyEstelle's father offered his farm as a place to grow crops for local church pastors and they'll use the gifts that God has given to minister to the surrounding community.

Rev. Dr. Paul Rollet, IM global servant working with Companion With The Poor (CWTP), is using his gifts to meet the spiritual and physical needs of those living in some of the most difficult places in Manila. Over the last 10 years, Paul and CWTP have established 84 churches, including one built right in the city dump! Each church is a beacon of hope as the Good News of Jesus is spread.

In Thailand, global servants who have been pioneers in their field are seeing the fruit of their legacy as new ministries and opportunities arise due to the investment of a lifetime.

IM Global Servants Mike and Becky Mann work with Lanna Coffee Co. to make a difference in the lives of hill tribe people in the region. Since 1991, they have brought clean water for drinking and irrigation to over 300 villages, impacted 14,000 families through their ministry, and established 6 schools. They are seeing their legacy in action through ministries that have an impact now and for future generations.

God is always at work opening new opportunities. Whether they've been serving for less than a year or over 30 years, global servants are stepping into the legacy God is creating across Southeast Asia and Japan.



Rev. Kyle Witmer
MBS, Area Director

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

Kit Ripley
Thailand

Paul Rollet
Philippines

Shigemi Tomita
Japan

Aaron & AmyEstelle Trout
Southeast Asia

Katrina & Kyle Williams
Thailand

anna cafe



IM Global Consultant Global Servant Mike Mann with the Lanna Coffee Co. team in Thailand.

Financial Data

Every morning, weather permitting, I sit in my backyard, coffee in hand, reading my daily devotional as the sun rises. This helps me to put into perspective God's greatness compared to whatever issue I may be facing.

One day, I looked outside, and the sunrise was different. The color of the sky was more pinkish orange than I had ever seen before. As I watched the sunrise, I was immediately reminded and comforted that God was *doing a new thing*. Things are not always how I expected them to be, but God is still God.

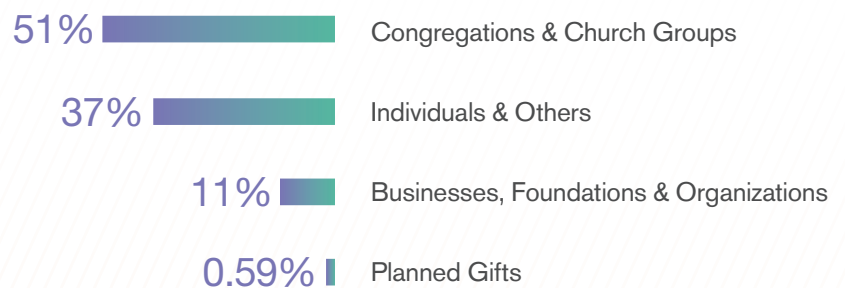
Isaiah 43:19 says, "See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." As we start this new year, I don't know what each of us may be experiencing, but don't be afraid. **God is still in control and is making a new way forward.**

The FY 2023-24 Annual Report is a testament of God's faithfulness to International Ministries through donors and partners like you. **All glory to God, we finished the year with our revenues exceeding expenses by more than \$926,000.** These results will allow our global servants, partners and staff to continue the work of God's mission around the world. We are excited and looking forward to what God has in store for 2025 and are glad to have partners like you to share it with!

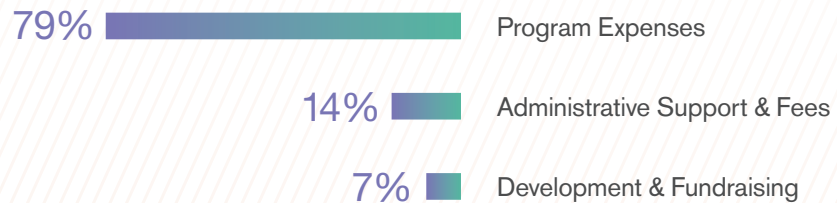


Bukky Babalola
Chief Financial Officer

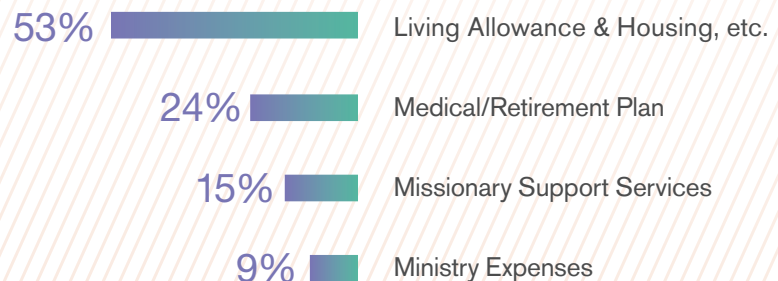
SOURCES OF CONTRIBUTIONS



EXPENSES



GLOBAL SERVANT SUPPORT DISTRIBUTION



Statement of Mission Ministry

FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 AND 2023

REVENUE, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT	2024*	2023
Contributions	11,782,701	11,924,578
Contributions to Endowment Fund	433,872	647,909
Realized Planned Gifts	536,483	478,711
Other Income	419,729	413,571
Endowment Income for Current Operations	3,299,704	3,155,326
Other Investment Income/misc.	444,300	260,089
TOTAL REVENUES	\$16,916,789	\$16,880,184
EXPENSES		
Ministry of Missionaries & Global Partners	9,813,154	10,830,258
Ministry Support and Education	2,886,920	3,033,780
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	12,700,074	13,864,038
Administrative Support & Fees	2,230,905	1,665,804
Development and Fundraising	1,059,369	934,527
TOTAL SUPPORTING EXPENSES	3,290,274	2,600,331
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15,990,348	\$16,464,369
Net Operating Income	\$926,441	\$415,815

*Unaudited Financials

New Ways to Support Mission



Marc Kirchoff
Director of Development

I truly believe it's better to discover what God is doing and join in, rather than asking God to bless what we're about to do.

You have seen and read about the new things God is doing through International Ministries—our global servants, projects and partnerships. Just as Jesus called the people of his time to think in new ways, I believe he calls us to do the same today.

So...now it's your turn!

You have been so faithful and we thank you for your partnership in mission. But now I invite you to consider something new.

As I write these words, several trends offer new opportunities:

First, the stock market is hitting record highs nearly every week. That trend may change by the time you read this, but the market is still much higher now than it has been in years.

Second, the popularity of Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) is on the rise. These funds have been popular among higher-income individuals for several years, but now they're also used by moderate-income households.

Third, IRAs are increasing in value as more workers add to their retirement accounts.

Fourth, (and this is a BIG one!) the wealth in the US is shifting. About a year ago, I heard that less than ten percent of all wealth was in the form of cash including checking, savings, and money market accounts. Around 90 percent of wealth was held in non-cash assets such as retirement accounts, real estate, stocks, and other appreciated assets.

“...new wine must be poured
into new wineskins.”

LUKE 5:38 NIV

Recently those percentages have changed: less than 5 percent of wealth is in cash and 95 percent is in appreciated assets.

Why do I mention these trends?

Because each offers a new giving strategy (new wine in new wineskins, if you will!) for our partners in mission. Plus, each strategy has advantages—both for mission and for you!

You have the opportunity to provide the resources to do mission, to help us continue the work into the next generation, and to change lives for decades to come.

While doing so, you also generate benefits for you and your heirs. Benefits come in the form of tax avoidance, increased retirement income, and increased inheritance for your heirs. These are in addition to the increased support you give to future mission and ministry.

I thank you for reading about the new things God is doing here at IM and for the new opportunities you have to keep these initiatives growing into the future.

If you have questions and are interested in hearing more about these new opportunities, please contact us to start a new conversation today!

Meet Our Development Team

Are you ready to step into the new opportunity God has for you to advance God's mission into the next generation? Our donor advisors are here to help.

Get Your Complimentary Gift Planning Resources

We 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.

LEARN MORE

 internationalministries.org

 imdonorservices@internationalministries.org

 610-768-2168



Scan the QR code to access free gift planning resources!



Marc Kirchoff
Director of Development



Rev. Ray Schooler
DMin, Major Gifts Officer



Jill Lowery
Donor Advisor



Joyce Bagiraneza
MTHM, Donor Advisor



Courtney Steadman
Donor Advisor

See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up;
do you not perceive it?

ISAIAH 43:19





International Ministries

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for GOOD

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