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OUR GOALS In Mission

The General Board of Global Ministries is the global mission agency of The United Methodist Church. As a biblically rooted and historically informed organization, our purpose is to connect the church in mission by equipping and transforming people and places for God’s mission around the world. Our mission theology statement guides Global Ministries’ participation in the Missio Dei, recognizing that the transforming power belongs to God. Global Ministries is in mission to witness to what God has done and is doing, and to learn from what God is doing in every land where disciples gather in the name of Jesus Christ.

Global Ministries recruits, places and supports missionaries from different countries, with varying cultures in different kinds of ministries. We help identify and assist people who are responding to God’s call to mission and volunteer service, by providing training, resources and support for the missionaries in the domestic and international context.

There are more than 300 missionaries serving in more than 60 countries and 100 volunteers serving in 23 countries. They work as pastors, teachers, doctors, social workers, community developers, church planters, evangelists and in a variety of other ways through various forms of denominational or ecumenical ministries.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

—Isaiah 6:8

“Though I attended church every Sunday, I did not have a personal encounter with God and that always left me feeling incomplete. Then a missionary from Bangladesh visited my church and called for someone to come and help them with their computer ministry. I knew God was calling me and I obeyed and committed one year of my life as a short-term missionary in Bangladesh in 2001 and now, 16 years later, I am committing to serve in Cambodia as a long-term missionary.”

—Andrew Lee, Global Missionary, from California serving in Cambodia

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• Make disciples of Jesus Christ
• Strengthen, develop and renew Christian congregations and communities
• Alleviate human suffering
• Seek justice, freedom, and peace

Are You Being Called?

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Our Missionaries

Asti White, Global Mission Fellow
From Georgia, USA, Serving in Michigan, USA

My call to mission and the mission in my heart started at a very young age. I grew with a passion and desire to love my neighbor as best as I possibly could. My heart for mission and service grew tremendously as I gained knowledge to rising issues in the world. Concerns that affect our daily lives. These overarching economic injustices are evident in all aspects of our lives: housing and homelessness, healthcare, taxes, transportation, education, race and the list goes on. I find it important to hear the cries of the needy and for all the issues in and around the world, there are many least, lost and forgotten.

Fuxia Wang, Church and Community Worker
From China, Serving in Oklahoma, USA

I was born and raised in mainland China as an atheist. I became a Christian while pursuing my master’s degree at the University of Central Oklahoma through the Chinese ministry at the Wesley Foundation at UCO. I responded to God’s call to full-time ministry and God opened the door for me to go to study in the seminary in California and was ordained as an elder in the Oklahoma Annual Conference. I am currently serving as a missionary at the Oklahoma University Wesley Foundation, a bigger campus ministry. I have preached the gospel and ministered to more than 1,000 international students from 21 countries in 5 continents, resulting in 70 professions of faith and 7 house churches in China in the past 10 years. I took annual mission trips to China and preached the gospel and gave leadership training. I have baptized over 50 people and children in China in the past two years.

Adam Darragh and Colleen Bookter, Mission Volunteers
From Louisiana, USA, Serving in Japan, Thailand and Panama

On our first date eight years ago, we bonded over a desire to see how God works in our world in languages, cultures and landscapes quite different from our own. Being mission volunteers has brought us beyond the church walls into the farm fields of Japan, the classrooms of Thailand and soon, a community center in Panama. It’s been amazing to see how God works through these creative ministries, through us in ways we couldn’t have imagined before, and through a whole diverse host of people we are now privileged to call friends. Truly, God breaks down every boundary we try to build between ourselves and others.

Pamela Cristina de Souza, Global Mission Fellow
From Minas Gerais, Brazil, Serving in Maputo, Mozambique

Whenever I thought about the years ahead, I could never see myself in the same place. I believe very much that Jesus has prepared me for something that eyes have not seen and ears have not heard. I sincerely believe that it is not for me to know, and that that if I were on my own I could do nothing. God chooses the improbable ones. I see myself as an unlikely person for this call, and God’s call burns in my heart every day.
NICHOLAS and RENE SHAW, *Global Missionaries*
FROM OHIO, USA, SERVING IN LUBUMBASHI, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

We knew that God was calling us to step out of our comfortable lives and begin a new adventure of God’s leading, however we could never have guessed how adventurous it would be. From the first call saying that we were being considered for a position in DRC, until the minute we (along with our four boys) stepped off the plane, there was not a doubt in our minds that we were being called to be here. Through many meaningful and heartfelt conversations with family and friends we shared our excitement and strived to help them understand that this calling meant that we were making a decision that to many seemed illogical, but to us was exactly the right decision. We love being here and can’t wait to see what the Lord has in store for this city and TESOL (the English-speaking School of Lubumbashi) where we work and teach.

CHARLES IRUNG A IRUNG, *Global Mission Fellow*
FROM LUBUMBASHI, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, SERVING IN PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

Hailing from DRC, a country with protracted conflicts and injustice, I have developed a zeal to serve others as means of bringing hope in the midst of hopelessness. I lived near a refugee camp as a child. There, I saw the many faces of injustice and suffering. As a child I did not understand or know how I could be of help to someone. Unconsciously, I felt that sharing anything with my refugee friends was all I could do. Today, I remember that the most important thing I shared with my friends was not food, clothes or any other similar thing, but it was love, care and time. This experience and my faith guide me with a belief that everyone has a purpose where we are called to participate and serve in some way, and act as an instrument of positive change in our families, communities and this world. I believe humans, no matter their race and social status, have to live as a community in which love leads and in which everyone is a reason for the other person to smile.

KRISTEN BROWN, *Global Missionary*
FROM OKLAHOMA, USA, SERVING IN JERUSALEM, PALESTINE, AND ISRAEL

I knew from a very young age that God was calling me into the mission field ... I did not know it would be as a clergy person until the end of my undergraduate years. After graduating from seminary, I joined a Volunteer In Mission team to Palestine and Israel ... and my journey to this area of the world was transformed. Each time I came here people asked me when would I come back full-time ... and over the following years I came with VIM teams, and in other ways to help my discernment of God’s call on my life.

DAVID MAKOBO N’SHIKALA, *Global Missionary*
FROM DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, SERVING IN DAKAR, SENEGAL

When I became a missionary ... as an agriculturalist with a Master of Science, I thought I would be the one who would be teaching local ordinary farmers, but I am surprised to see that regardless my degrees I also learn a lot from the farmers’ experiences. I am thankful I am a missionary because this has enabled me to fulfill my dream of helping my fellow Africans through agriculture to become empowered and ward off poverty.