

WORLDVIEW

SPRING 2024

Jesus from Moi to Mae

Sitting in his wheelchair on his front porch in Chiang Rai, Thailand, Grandfather Moi (pictured on the bottom of page 3) is always the picture of joy. He laughs and bubbles with life, even though he can no longer see. He enjoys the presence of our UB missionary team from the Good Soil Community Center as they come to visit him. He uses a hearing device to hear our greetings and stories, and he always anticipates each visit. This summer, he shared with our missionary team in Thailand that he is praying to Jesus, which is a huge step in a country that is less than 1% Christian. Soon after, Moi told them that he had chosen to follow Jesus! We are overwhelmed with joy and praise God!

But that's not all. Mae, a young

mother, wants the same things many of us do. She wants a community of friends with good people surrounding her. She values hard work. She wants the best for her family.

Mae is friends with Erika Pacheco, a UB missionary from Honduras. For over seven years, Mae watched God answer prayers in the Pachecos' life. Mae is also the granddaughter-in-law to grandfather Moi, and she has heard the many prayers lifted up for Moi and his household during our regular visits to their home.

In November, Mae approached Erika and said she was ready to accept Jesus as her Lord and Savior. The UB Global missionaries and Thai staff gathered around her in support as she prayed a prayer of confession and acceptance of Christ. Tears of joy flowed from everyone's eyes as Mae gave her life to Christ.

Grandfather Moi told us that he was praying to Jesus. Just a short time later, Mae professed her own faith in Christ. God is redeeming a family. Not just one aged man; not just one young mother. Jesus has made Himself known from Moi to Mae. Please pray for others in their family that they will witness the saving grace of the Gospel and respond. May Moi, Mae, and their whole

household live out the light and hope of Jesus, and may they become the witness among their Northern Thai neighbors to proclaim Jesus Christ is Lord.

Have you ever thought of witnessing to whole families or organic groups of people rather than individuals? Like us, you might be surprised at how often this was the strategy of the first-century missionaries. Follow this QR code to discover the numerous places communities of people were gathered to hear the Gospel together.

UBGlobal.org/WorldView



Go Trips

Short-term ministry trips are opportunities to experience the work God is doing around the world, and there are several in 2024.

We are traveling to Thailand in June, July and September. There, we will serve local communities and support our international missionary team in making disciples.

In June, there is a trip to Germany, where we will be able to serve with German churches reaching unreached immigrants and refugees.

UBGlobal.org/Trips

UBGlobal.org

New Field, New Worker

The Oshari, a hard-working and devoted East Asian people group, are unreached at only 1.6% Christian. Nearly 30 million Osharis live with restricted freedoms, especially religious. Those who follow Christ face imprisonment and death, not only for themselves, but for their extended family as well. The Osharis need spiritual emancipation, and UB Global has a new missionary to boldly meet that need.

Our missionary, who we will call “A,” was raised in a UB family with a rich history of missions and ministry. She has been on a deliberate path to follow God’s call on her life, which led her to attend college overseas to gain cross-cultural experience. She is in the process of building her support team and undergoing language acquisition and security pre-field training. “A” hopes to leave in May to study the Oshari language and culture serving with an international team. We look forward to how the fullness of the Gospel transforms the Oshari people as God’s people labor sacrificially together!

Significant Year

This has been a significant year – we’ve had more people seriously interested in missions with UB Global than any time over the past 20 years! How did we get here?

Over a year ago, the grassroots UB Global Prayer Network (UBGlobal.org/PrayerNetwork) started hosting gatherings to faithfully pray for missions and ask for more workers. God is answering those prayers!

Also, during this past July’s National Conference, UB Global led an evening worship service, facilitated six workshops, initiated an international lunch experience in which 40 people took part, created a whole new escape room that had over 100 participants, launched a new fund in honor of Steve Dennie, and more. What an incredible time connecting with fellow UBs! (Watch the service at UBGlobal.org/NC23)

In particular, during Thursday evening’s service, attendees heard about the heartbeat of UB missions: to reach every people group with the hope of Jesus, especially those on the frontiers. There are nearly no missionaries (a mere 3%) focused on bringing the Gospel to nearly half the world (3.4 billion people who belong to unreached people groups).

Since July, we’ve been walking alongside several families and singles who are discerning God’s leading for their lives; nearly all of them are pursuing missions among unreached people groups. While the Holy Spirit may not lead all of them into overseas missions, we consider it a privilege to be a part of their journey to walk faithfully in the direction He leads.

In this Worldview, you’ll read about some of these new harvesters’ pursuit of reaching the unreached. Additionally, others are seriously exploring work among the tribal

Muslim Shoptar (79 million, 0.003% Christian), Buddhist Japanese (120 million, 1.2% Christian), and other unreached peoples.

Will you pray that these brothers



and sisters will clearly know God’s pathway and timing for them and boldly follow Him in faith? Consider how the Lord may be asking you to

be involved in reaching unreached peoples – supporting a new worker’s journey, a short-term mission trip, helping to mobilize others, connecting with the Prayer Network, or something else. Check out options at UBGlobal.org/Engage



Church Giving

We are grateful for all donors to UB Global missionaries, projects, and ministries in 2023!

Top 10 Giving in Total Dollars

1. Emmanuel Community Church (IN)
2. King Street Church (PA)
3. Mainstreet (OH)
4. Brown Corners Church (MI)
5. Otterbein UB Church (PA)
6. Gaines Church (MI)
7. Kilburn Avenue UB Church (IL)
8. First UB Church (New Castle, PA)
9. Fowlerville UB Church (MI)
10. Salem UB Church (PA)

Top 10 Giving Per Capita

1. Kilburn Avenue UB Church (IL)
2. Gaines Church (MI)
3. Pleasant Valley UB Church (MI)
4. Milltown UB Church (SD)
5. Liberty UB Church (OH)
6. Shiloh Community Church (ON, Canada)
7. Countryside UB Church (MI)
8. Salem UB Church (PA)
9. First UB Church (New Castle, PA)
10. Stanley Park Community Church (ON, Canada)





Person of Peace

Yai Boakri regularly welcomes our Thailand missionary team into her Chiang Rai home. When she asks them to pray for her, she tells them that she has been praying to God on her own. She is active in her older years and continues to be involved in her neighborhood community. She influences people with her warmth and kindness. She speaks to others about what she is learning about God. Our team prays that she might be a Person of Peace (PoP).

What's a PoP? Let's go to Scripture. In Acts 16, there's an influential business woman named Lydia. Paul finds her at a place of prayer. After Paul shared about Jesus, Lydia (whom Luke identified as a 'worshiper of God') opened her heart to become a follower. Then she took another step. She provided rooms for Paul's missionary company. Later in the story, Lydia's home is the place where Paul reunited with and encouraged other followers after being released from the Macedonian prison. Lydia was influential in welcoming the missionary band and sharing the faith with others. Can you think of others? Like Zacchaeus, Rahab, Aquila & Priscilla, the Philippian jailer, Abigail, Ruth, and the list could go on!

If you are searching for a PoP,

M to the Shoptar

It was while serving refugee children that the Holy Spirit stirred in "M's" heart a passion to be involved in cross-cultural missions. Over the past few years, "M" learned several languages and studied international relations as an undergraduate. She continued to actively serve in her local church and also engaged in an internship at UB Global's office for many months.

This spring, "M" will graduate and step into a one-year internship focused on the Shoptar tribal Muslims.

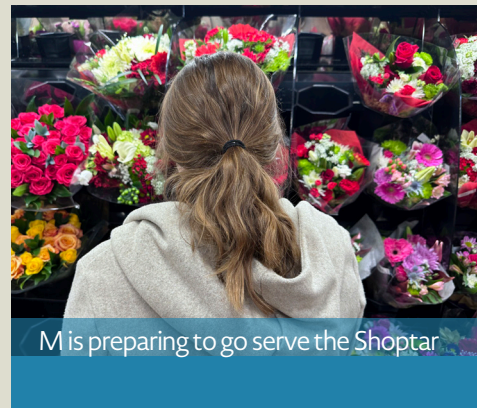
look for the following common characteristics:

- hospitable and welcoming of others
- someone who knows others and is known by others
- open to hearing God's story
- someone who shares the teaching of Jesus on their own

A very common response we repeatedly hear from Thai Buddhists is "all religions seek to make us a good person." When someone like Yai Boakri responds in a different way, we want to invest more time and discipleship effort with them. They will likely be the ones who have the greatest kingdom impact in their community. Missionaries come as outsiders, but when influential insiders become the ones promoting Jesus, other members of the community take notice.

UB Global missionaries in Thailand are intentionally reaching out to their neighbors through a Disciple-Making Movement (DMM) approach. Identifying the PoP is one tactic that's a part of this strategy. Let's pray for the Spirit to lead us to PoP and bring about a harvest among Thai

unreached tribal Muslim people groups in the world. There are 79 million Shoptar around the world but only 0.003% are Christian. There are very few missionaries focused on bringing the much-needed Gospel to them. She will learn the language with a team while serving and loving the Shoptar. Will you join us in asking that she will raise up a support team and have an impactful & fruitful year?



M is preparing to go serve the Shoptar

Buddhists.

Can you identify PoP in your circles? How can this help you with



disciple-making? Follow this link to learn more. Our UB Global team would love to chat with you about these disciple-making efforts.



Answer to Prayer

For over two years the Nuñez family waited to fulfill God's call to go to Thailand. Finally, the Spirit released them to go in faith last summer, despite a large financial gap. One week after landing in Thailand, God prompted a generous giver to fill that gap in their 3-year commitment. We are grateful for your prayers for the Nuñezes, and their whole team of supporters.

For many years, Milton and Erika Pacheco have desired to expand their family. In May 2022, they received news of a placement for adoption in



Pachecos and Nuñezes arrive in Thailand

God answered our prayers and made the timing of their return coincide with the Nuñezes' journey to

Honduras. Since then, we have all prayed for Lucas to become their son. It took a year, but

Thailand in July 2023.

Jenaya has been waiting to return to her mission field for well over a year, facing one closed visa door after another. Suddenly last summer, God opened up an unexpected opportunity; within a month, she was able to go back to Macau to serve.

Only God!

Frontier from the Beginning

When asked what a frontier is, most people think of an old Western movie. Unexplored and barren, you may see tumbleweeds rolling across your path. The lands are usually uncultivated, and there is almost always an unquenchable thirst for water. When it comes to missions, some characteristics ring true - the frontiers are people groups where there's great spiritual desolation and people are literally dying of spiritual thirst. However, it is far from barren; close to *half the world* belong to an unreached people group!

The United Brethren have been frontier from the beginning. Our early church planters and missionaries went to the frontiers. Over 250 years later, we continue in these ways and follow Jesus' example of going to go to those who are spiritually parched.

In the Book of John, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that whoever drinks from the water He gives will never thirst again. She didn't seek Jesus out; rather, He went to her. Jesus commanded His followers to do the same: "GO and make disciples of all *people groups*" (original Greek word is *ethne*).

Over two thousand years later, 42% of the world today still belong to unreached people groups; nearly all of these people will never hear the Gospel even once in their lives! What stunning facts! Logically, we would think that most missionaries today are working in the frontier.

But here's the sobering reality: 97% of all missionaries serve among NON-unreached people groups. Why is it that those who need the Gospel *the most* have the *least* amount of the Church's attention?! How can we sit on the sideline when billions of souls are at stake?

The United Brethren of the 1700s & 1800s followed the Lord's call to work among the unreached people groups of their day. It took intentionality, sacrifice, and long-term dedication. Thanks to their efforts, many of those people groups have thriving churches and are even

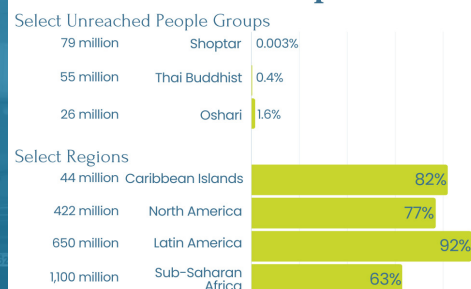
sending out their own missionaries.

These people groups are forever transformed!

As we serve among the unreached people groups of our day, we are confident that our Father will transform these Buddhist, Hindu, and Muslim people groups for eternity. However, it will also require sacrifice, intentionality, and long-term focus for His followers today.

The Lord of the Harvest is calling His disciples to continue bringing living water to those on the frontiers. Will we join Him? For more details on unreached people groups, go to UBGlobal.org/UPG

% Christian Comparison



To see a larger image of this graphic, go to UBGlobal.org/WorldView



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better missions together