

WORLDVIEW

SPRING 2025



170 Years Of UBs On Mission

On January 23, 1855, Rev. Daniel J. Flickinger, Dr. D. C. Kumler, and Rev. W. J. Shuey were the first to be sent overseas from the US as United Brethren missionaries on a scouting trip. They crossed the Atlantic to reach Sierra Leone. After initial exploration of the land, meeting some key leaders, and suffering the challenges of malaria, two men returned to report back and recover. (All told, these two spent 76 days at sea for 88 days in Sierra Leone.) Flickinger returned home in April 1856, after suffering various setbacks, more bouts with malaria, but having purchased some land in Freetown to launch future missions initiatives there.

The United Brethren were moved to join God on mission because they knew about the great need for the Gospel among the unreached in Sierra Leone. Over the subsequent years, although waves of missionaries faced health challenges, wars, and even the loss of their children, they counted the costs and pressed on. Praise the Lord that today, Sierra Leone is nearly 13% Christian; among them are 54 UB churches, 86 primary schools, six high schools, and a hospital.

170 years later, UB Global continues to join God on mission among new people groups who still have little to no access to the Gospel. This includes the ethnic Thai Buddhist (55 million, with 1.1% Christian), atheist Oshari (30M, 1.6%), Shoptar Muslims (79M, 0.003%), and others. Today, we continue to send missionaries overseas, and God has led us to send new families to reach unreached people groups right here in North America! Read more on the next page.

In the coming years, we will continue to face setbacks, challenges, wars, and loss of loved ones. Yet we will remain steadfast, inspired by the

glorious vision described by the Apostle John in Revelation 7:9 “...a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.” Your prayers, advocacy, and support have been a critical part of allowing UB Global to join God on mission over the past 170 years. May we boldly press on, until Jesus comes again!



The Top Ten

We are grateful for all donors that make better missions together possible.

Top 10 Giving in Total Dollars

1. Emmanuel Community Church (IN)
2. Parkwood Gardens Comm. (CAN)
3. Mainstreet (OH)
4. King Street Church (PA)
5. Otterbein UB Church (PA)
6. Roseville UB Church (CAN)
7. Fowlerville UB Church (MI)
8. First UB Church (PA)
9. Renew Communities (OH)
10. College Park Church (IN)

Top 10 Giving Per Capita

1. Pleasant Valley UB Church (MI)
2. New Hope Community (CAN)
3. Roseville UB Church (CAN)
4. Shiloh Community Church (CAN)
5. Grace UB Church (CAN)
6. Milltown UB Church (SD)
7. New Hope UB Church (IN)
8. Bethany House of the Lord (MD)
9. First UB Church (PA)
10. Living Hope Christian Centre (CAN)

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Meet Virginia!

Virginia Harvey recently joined UB Global as our Administrative Assistant. Born in Kansas, she moved with her military family frequently during her childhood, living in various states but never overseas. Virginia fondly remembers her time in Washington State, where she forged strong friendships. She eventually graduated from a high school in Connecticut with a strong agriculture program. Last spring, she graduated from Huntington University with a degree in Agribusiness - Marketing. She and her husband, Colin, met at Huntington and were married last summer.

Virginia and Colin's long-term aspirations include owning a flower farm and pumpkin patch, with a potential focus on small-scale butchery. A chance encounter with Stacie, our Finance Assistant and a former colleague, drew her to UB Global. She was particularly interested in the part-time position and its alignment with her passion for ministry.

In her role, Virginia appreciates the balance of routine tasks and diverse projects, as well as the opportunity to work with like-minded individuals. While new to missions work, she finds the experience rewarding and is excited to learn and contribute. Please join us in welcoming Virginia to UB Global!



Emma's Journey: Reaching Shoptar and Beyond

Emma has been faithfully serving among the unreached Muslim Shoptar people group, and her journey reflects both adaptability and determination. Her involvement with UB Global began as an intern, immersing herself in ministry work to build relationships and share God's love with the Shoptar. These experiences deepened her commitment, leading her to take on a one-year role with UB Global.

Her passion for the unreached took her to the West Coast for several months, engaging with a community of Shoptar refugees and immigrants. Initially, her plan was to serve among the Shoptar in the Middle East next, but unforeseen health challenges required her to stay stateside. Emma didn't allow these challenges to derail her mission. Instead, she pivoted and embraced the opportunities around her in the Fort Wayne area. Collaborating with local organizations, she has been working not only with the Shoptar but also with other Muslim communities.

One of the most profound moments in Emma's journey was witnessing a Shoptar woman take the bold step of baptism—a testament to the power of God working within the people. Pray that this will be an encouragement to others to follow because a paltry 0.003% of Shoptar follow Jesus.

Despite the twists & turns of life, Emma is faithfully making an impact right where God has placed her, on mission with God to reach the unreached with the Gospel. Her story is a powerful reminder that ministry happens wherever we are willing to be God's hands and feet, even if it's not our plan.

Jen Blandin's New Role

How could a vine bear spiritual fruit unless it is well-nourished by its spiritual roots? How can we possibly impact the eternal outcomes of unreached people groups unless there is spiritual power empowering us?

This is why we are very excited about Jen's critical role in serving UB Global missionaries. She is serving in a part-time, support-raised role as a spiritual coach for interested UB Global missionaries, helping them strengthen their relationship with God. We look forward to seeing the spiritual fruit as our missionaries become more deeply attached to the Vine.

Pachecos' New Role

Milton and Erika Pacheco have faithfully served in Thailand since 2016. Last year, they were suddenly forced to permanently return home due to the newly elected Honduran administration's adoption requirements. They said tearful goodbyes to their team and Thai friends and quickly move back to Honduras for their first required meeting. Despite this setback, God opened up a new door. They are now part-time, support-raised missions mobilizers among the 110+ Honduran UB churches. We are excited for how the Spirit will stir in the hearts of Honduran believers in distant mountains and large cities to become a part of the global missions movement among unreached people groups!



Here in the US: Reaching the Unreached

Jeremiah, Elisa, and their boys are new UB Global missionaries. After years of serving overseas and ten years as the lead pastor of Brown Corners Church, they will move to Phoenix in summer 2025 to make disciples among unreached people groups in that region (for example, there are thousands of Afghans and Somalis there).

This is my Church

by Steve Fish

Acts 2:46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. (Acts 2)

I was in the church nursery at 2 weeks. I have spent a lifetime going to church weekly, hardly ever missing. I have been an ordained elder since 2005 and began with my local pastoral license in 1989. Today, I speak in different churches on a regular basis.

As I write this, it has been over a month since Alyssa, our daughter, has been able to keep food down. We've seen various doctors, including oncology. There is so much fear and anxiety that stirs as a parent in the midst of unknown health issues for a child. Many dear believers all over the world are praying for Alyssa. I love the 'big' church and all that it means to my family.

But this picture was taken at the hospital chapel immediately after our friends gathered to pray over our family. In the midst of one of the most challenging times of our lives, we smile in peace and comfort with these brothers and sisters. It was so therapeutic. Our home group has

been meeting together now for 13 years. We are all geared toward gospel relationships and outreach to various people groups all over our city and the world. This is my church.

When my church meets in our various homes, we break bread together, we study the Scriptures, we pray together. We do the very things that the early church did in Acts 2:42. And each of our families attends various 'big' churches on the weekends.

We have the opportunity to help define 'church' among new Thai Christians. I desire for them to experience a church like my church. Do they need a 'big' church? Yes, the church is the assembly of believers, and the value of 'big' church cannot be quantified. But for former Thai Buddhists, they can experience what it means to 'be' the body of Christ, to learn a lifestyle of worship, to 'one another' in the love of Jesus, and to share this good news from house to house. Let us not teach them just to 'go' to church to sit and listen like we so often do. They are to 'be' the church, the body of Christ!



Christopher, Liz, and their young kids are the newest UB Global missionaries. They served as an associate pastor in UB churches and then planted a UB church. They are aiming to work with an experienced local team in eastern Pennsylvania, loving many new Afghan immigrants who were war allies forced to flee since the Taliban takeover in 2021.

Both families are currently building their support networks. We pray that the Lord will guide them to the right individuals and churches, that the many large and small details will come together for their big moves, and many unreached will turn to Jesus.

Will you pray for our continued efforts to establish home churches in Chiang Rai? Currently, our team visits 50 homes on a monthly rotation, and they make weekly visits to 6 homes where individuals have come to faith in Jesus. All of our home discipleship happens in homes where spouses are divided in faith between Christianity and Buddhism. Will you pray for those spouses to be drawn by God through the witness of their believing spouse? When we make disciples of Jesus, we establish the church.



Celebrating Baptisms

We celebrate the baptisms of new brothers and sisters in three locations in 2024:

- There was a couple in Asia who decided to be baptized this past year. Our missionaries and short-term mission trip attendees have been faithfully sharing the Gospel with them for 30 years; and now we see the fruit in this former government leader!

- There is a former Muslim from the highly unreached Shoptar people group who is now following Jesus after resettling in the US!
- There are several new believers in Thailand who decided to publicly proclaim their decision through baptism, some despite their families' opposition!



Let us pray that these new believers will be firmly established in Jesus and in local churches. Let us also ask for many more unreached to turn to their Savior!

No Longer Crawling, Baby!

One has to crawl before one learns to walk, but once a baby begins crawling, she is no longer an infant. Sometimes people refer to our mission work in Thailand as being in its infancy. Not any more. Just in the past year we have baptized the first believers who came to Jesus through our team's direct evangelistic witness, established the first weekly small home church, organized disaster relief for our Thai neighbors affected by historic flooding, and established a soccer program that is reaching large numbers of Thai youth. That doesn't sound like crawling, does it? Here are three big steps that are helping us continue to grow.

#1. It's strange to think that parts of the world do not celebrate Christmas, but Thai people traditionally do not. So it is a grand opportunity to throw a big party, give gifts, and share the story of Jesus' coming and God's plan to redeem the

world through him. We had two parties this past December. Our public Christmas party was held at the local Thai activities center where we saw 315 Thai come to eat a meal and celebrate Christmas with us, hearing a clear presentation of the Gospel. The children from the GSCC put on a program they had prepared for months. For the first time, our middle school students expressed praise to God through dance, which was led by Faa, one of our national Thai staff teammates. Our second party at the GSCC was also incredibly successful and held specifically for the dozens of children who attend our year-round programs. We are grateful for the UB churches and donors whose financial support made these parties possible. And also to those individuals who gave during our Christmas in July donor campaign. Please be prepared for another fundraising drive this summer to continue to provide these incredibly effective Christmas outreaches.

#2. Our mission has applied with the Thai government to establish The Good Soil Foundation, our own charitable foundation. This may not sound too impressive, but everything we do as a ministry has to be accountable to the Thai government.

We were blessed with unexpectedly quick approval by the Thai government. We are now in the process of setting up the administration of the Foundation. Having our own Foundation will give us significant advantages going forward.

#3. We have established the Thailand Network. This is a relational network for US and Canadian supporters of our Thailand mission. We have nearly 300 individuals and churches who are already invested in our Thailand mission and missionaries. The Thailand Network gives access to opportunities to connect with each other throughout the year, insider communications, timely prayer requests, and more. We established the Thailand Network to build a community that will more effectively empower the mission and missionaries who are bringing Jesus' message of hope and love to the Thai. Interested in learning more? Sign up



at UBGlobal.org/Thailand-Network to receive an invitation into this private network group.



UBGlobal
better missions together