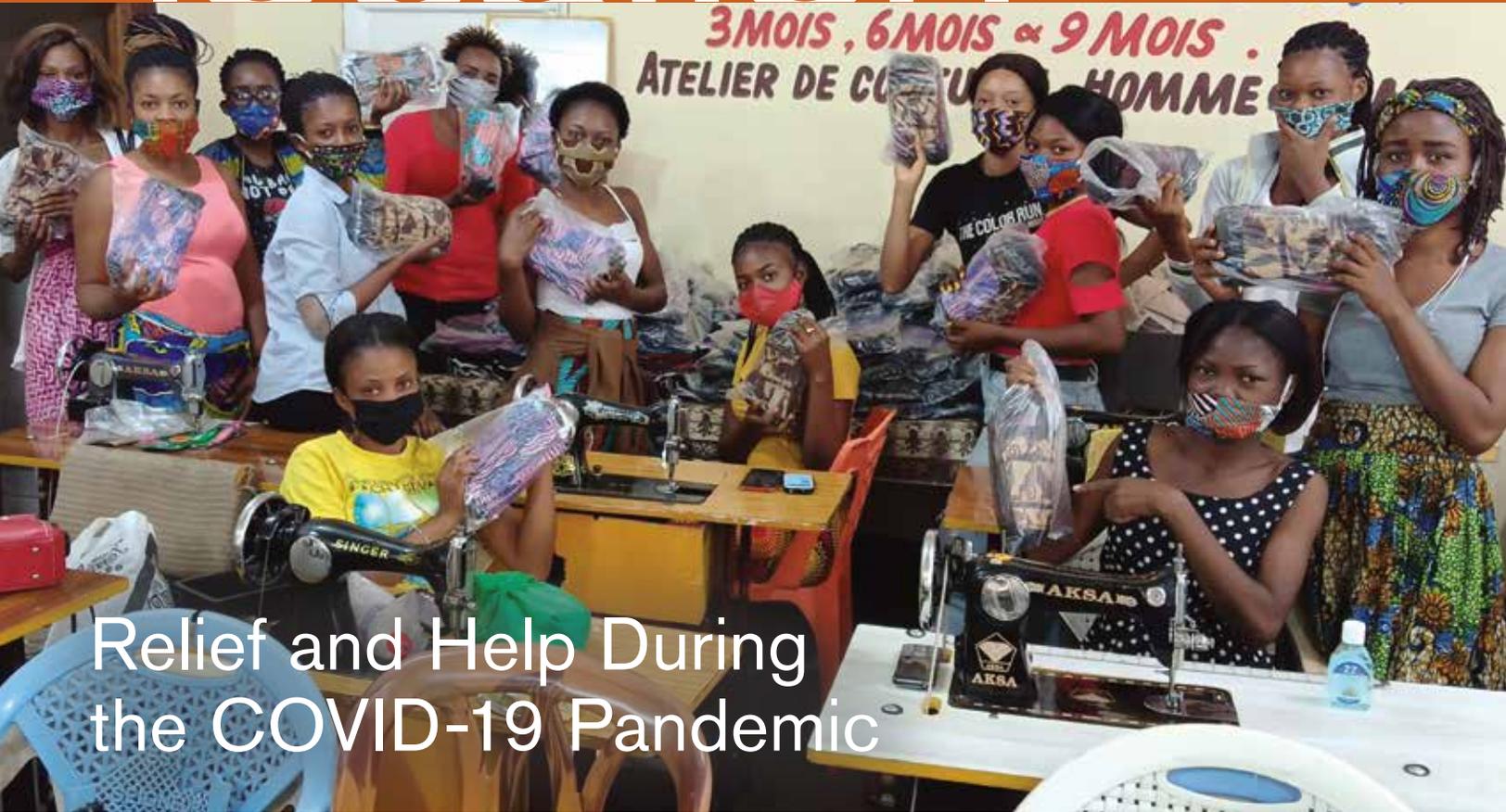


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ON EARTH  
AS IT IS IN  
HEAVEN MATTHEW  
6:10

FALL – WINTER 2020



## Relief and Help During the COVID-19 Pandemic

*As the world faced a rapidly spreading pandemic this spring, IM's global servants and partners have been uniquely positioned through their incarnational ministries to see and quickly respond to critical needs in their communities.*

When the pandemic first began to spread in Mainland China in January, IM's Area Director for East and South Asia Dr. Benjamin Chan reported an urgent need for medical-grade protection masks, coveralls, and other medical supplies for hospitals and patients. To date, Ben has raised \$313,742, which has been used to air ship over 8,000 coveralls and nearly 150,000 masks to hospitals in China. The funds have also purchased meal coupons for the homeless and provided financial assistance to the Hong Kong Christian Institute.

In April, IM established the International COVID Response to focus on needs in countries where our global servants

and partners are affected. To date, IM has raised and released \$93,750 to help meet needs made known to us by our global partners. We've shared emergency grants for food, housing, healthcare, and worked to ensure that partners at risk of suspending vital services to vulnerable members of their communities can continue in their ministries. These relief grants have reached partners in China, India, Nepal, Mongolia, the Philippines, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Panama, Uganda, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cambodia, Serbia, Angola, Burundi, Togo, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Mexico, Chile, El Salvador, Lebanon, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe.

One critical need as the world has locked down has been for food. In the Dominican Republic, IM Global Servant Madeline Flores-López says the pandemic caused immediate food scarcity in the Dominican and Haitian communities she serves. Thanks to donations from White

CONTINUED ON PAGES 4-5





## A Message from Sharon Koh

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

In 2 Kings 6, the king of Aram, enraged by the prophet Elisha, sends “a strong force” of warriors to the city where Elisha is living. When Elisha’s servant wakes up the next morning and sees the army surrounding them, he’s filled with fear.

In verses 16-17, Elisha tells the servant, “Don’t be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” He asks God to open the servant’s eyes, and the Bible tells us, “Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”

Perhaps we can all relate to some aspects of that moment, particularly during the unknowns of a pandemic. A situation confronts us, it looks overwhelming, and we are filled with doubt and fear. We can see the surrounding threat, but we can’t see what God is up to. Then, perhaps, there might also come a moment when God opens our eyes to see a glimpse of what God is doing. In that moment, we see that God is not only present, but powerful and for us.

Because our global servants live within the communities we serve, they are poised to see not only the needs others might miss during this pandemic but also God’s provision to meet those needs. You can read more in this newsletter about how God has used them as Christ’s hands and feet during this crisis.

You’ll read too in this newsletter about two couples for whom short-term mission trips opened their eyes to a bigger picture of the church and of what God is doing around the world. These cross-cultural experiences brought eternal changes in how they want to live and give of themselves as followers of Jesus.

May God open all of our eyes—that as we face the impact of this pandemic we would not be overcome with fear but will fix our eyes on Jesus. May we see that God is with us, and step forward in faith that God will continue to direct and use us.

In Christ,

**Rev. Sharon Koh**  
Executive Director / CEO

# on location

If you would like to help us reduce cost by receiving an electronic instead of print version of this newsletter, create (or log into) your account at **portal.internationalministries.org** or email us at **imdonorservices@internationalministries.org** with your name and email address.

We welcome comments on Facebook at International Ministries—American Baptist.

For more information, contact [zdripps@internationalministries.org](mailto:zdripps@internationalministries.org).



# Kingdom Giving

Adrian Rogier grew up listening to his father tell the story of his Great Aunt Dora.

In 1917, in her mid-twenties, Dora DeMoulin left the U.S. to journey to Nicaragua, sent by the Women's Missionary Society of New York. There, she joined Eleanor Blackmore in establishing the Colegio Bautista de Managua, a primary and secondary school that continues to flourish today. An avid supporter of Baptist mission, Dora died in Managua only twelve years into her work at the school. "She loved the children. She loved the mission work. She died young but left a real legacy," Adrian says.

“We want to give with a greater impact. Because God's world is bigger than our family.”

In 2000, Adrian traveled to Managua to visit Dora's grave and see the Colegio Bautista. While there he met with Dr. Gustavo Parajón, whose father had been one of Dora's students. "Dr. Parajón was an ABC missionary and medical doctor," Adrian explains. "His work with IM in Nicaragua was legendary. Dr. Parajón told me about my aunt and his face lit up. He remembered what his father had told him about the impact Aunt Dora had on his life." Dr. Parajón's son David is a global servant with IM today, working with his wife, Laura, to provide preventative and curative health services to remote and vulnerable communities in Nicaragua where there are no doctors.

In the 1970s, Adrian and his wife, Sharon, were encouraged by their pastor Dr. John Grisham to consider a deeper commitment to mission—giving beyond what they might normally give and participating in short-term trips.

"I went on a discovery trip to Costa Rica," Sharon says. "We crossed the rainforest to meet the pastor, learn about what they've done so far, and see the possibilities of what they hope to do. It's broadened how I feel about being a Christian, and what we can help with in the lives of many people." Adrian agrees: "It's first-hand information of what God is doing through the global servants, through our gifts—you feel you're working hand-in-hand with them."

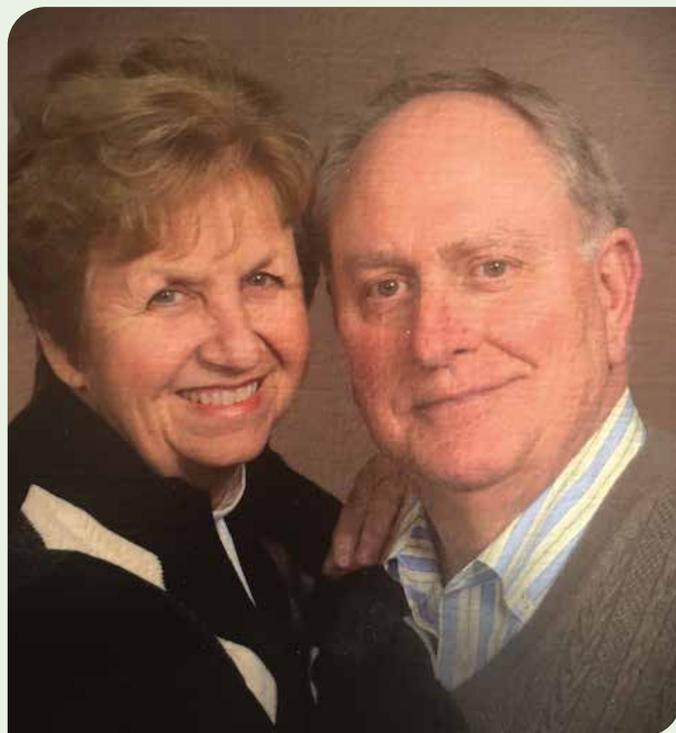
Adrian and Sharon similarly appreciate each time a global servant visits their church, and when the Parajóns could visit their home. "It's so powerful when you sit across the table and listen to them telling their stories," Sharon says. "I'm not out there doing that work, but if I can support them it's just amazing."

Today, Adrian seeks to follow in the footsteps of his father and great aunt, to leave his family a mission-minded legacy. "My father passed the story of Aunt Dora on to his children. It's my job to tell my children the story. And when my parents got to the age to plan retirement, they gave to us through a charitable gift annuity set up through the American Baptist Foundation to benefit God's mission."

The Rogiers are working with IM to set up a "testamentary endowment," which will give to their children and the work of IM.

"When people think of their wills and trusts, they think of their children and grandchildren," Adrian says. "But for those of us in the church, there's another way to do it and still provide for our children. Rather than leaving something to just two or three people, you can leave something to many people, so they can pass it on to others. We want to give with a greater impact. Because God's world is bigger than our family."

*To learn more about charitable gift annuities or endowed gifts through IM, contact Zofia Dripps at [zdripps@internationalministries.org](mailto:zdripps@internationalministries.org).*





Liberia

CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

Cross, FBC Seymour, IN and Brewster Baptist Church, IM partner Good Samaritan Hospital, and IB Campo Rico and IB Ciudad Deseada, Madeline fed more than fifty families in March, then provided food and medicine for more than a hundred families through April, May, and June. “Closeness to the families helps us as global servants to see what others cannot,” she says. “The government tried to help but it was too much for the government. My joy was so big when our partners said they had boxes for me to deliver. I felt like a child on Christmas Eve waiting for the boxes and distributing them in so many communities.”



Nepal

In Bangkok, Thailand, when the pandemic shut down the red-light area venues, many women were left without income. IM Global Servants Annie and Jeff Dieselberg have served in that neighborhood through their NightLight ministry for fifteen years. They address the complex issues surrounding trafficking and prostitution and offer a program of holistic transformation. Through IM’s COVID grant, Nightlight staff began to prepare daily food packs for women living on the streets, and the word spread. More and more people from the neighborhood began to gather daily; by the end of June they had distributed 4,533 packs of food and 700 hygiene packs.

“Initially, we were the only group giving out food,” Annie explains. “One day, as we set up to distribute food, our staff overheard the motorcycle taxi drivers across the street saying, ‘God is coming down.’ Now when we walk around the area we greet so many whom we did not know before. As a result, we have had ten women ask for work as an alternative to prostitution.”

“ Pastors were able to tell the goodness of the God we serve. ”

REV. SAMUEL GARMONDEH  
LIBERIA



Nepal

In the Philippines, Global Servant Paul Rollet says, “There were times during the lockdown where the need for food was incredibly high and frightening. At one point, we heard that even the mothers of newborns didn’t have milk, so we were having to use the runoff water from cooking rice to give to their babies.”

For eight years, Paul has worked with Companion with the Poor (CWTP). This organization plants holistic churches in urban poor communities throughout Metro-Manila and Cebu, and is connected to more than one hundred churches and a thousand preschools through IM partner Mission Ministries Philippines. During the lockdown, this meant CWTP could use IM’s grant to distribute food quickly through their church network and, in many cases, respond faster than the local government.

“I got to see the amazing miracle of fifty Filipino pastors and missionaries, whose yearly administrative budget barely exceeds \$20,000, provide over \$120,000 of food aid to more than 10,000 people in a hundred communities in just over four months!” Paul says. “Through this, our humble group, in partnership with IM, was able to see Jesus and to be his hands and feet.”

“I felt like a child on Christmas Eve waiting for the boxes and distributing them in so many communities.”

GLOBAL SERVANT  
MADELINE FLORES-LÓPEZ  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In Liberia, closures and the need to shelter in place resulted in the disruption of food supply, food shortages, price increases, and the loss of income. IM’s partners in Liberia determined that food assistance in their partner schools and churches was a priority, as were awareness training and sanitation supplies. Through IM’s COVID grant, our partners were able to provide food for many of their pastors and workers during the crisis, working to access more remote locations with difficult roads.

“Those who never had anything to survive on in a few days and weeks were blessed by the food supplies,” says Rev. Samuel Garmondeh. “Pastors were able to tell the goodness of the God we serve. It was a very overwhelming impact that I can’t describe entirely.”



Dominican Republic

# Seeing God Through Short-Term Mission



Late last January to mid-March, David and Susan Brown traveled from their Indiana home for an extended short-term mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

"There is something energizing about going into another culture," says David, a retired pastor. "Americans sometimes can only see their own world, but the world is a bigger place and God is doing amazing things that you get to witness if you go on a short-term mission trip."

After serving for four years as missionaries in India, the Browns brought their love for cross-cultural ministry back to the U.S. with them, leading groups from their church on short-term trips to Mexico and Nicaragua.

They had sensed God calling them to consider another trip. As they prayed about it, they were invited by IM Global Servants Ketly and Vital Pierre to stay in their home and serve alongside them for seven weeks in their evangelism and discipleship outreach in La Romana. This city of 150,000 is home to many Haitian immigrants.

"I really respect the work IM does," David says. "I'm proud to take part in it. We helped out in the bateyes, which are rural communities for Haitian sugar cane workers and their families. Many do not have running water or electricity."

David and Susan, who is a certified tutor in teaching English as a second language, volunteered at the

Community Center in La Romana, where Vital is the chief administrator. The center provides an after-school program for children and offers classes for different levels of English learners. The center is also the site of a health clinic that has helped supply food and provide for basic needs during the coronavirus pandemic.

*"God is doing amazing things that you get to witness if you go on a short-term mission trip."*

"I'm 67 years old," David says. "Some people would say my time to go on a mission trip has passed. Baloney! If you have a week to spare, consider a short-term mission trip. Even volunteering for one week will change you. You can go with the idea that you have so much to offer, but when you get there, you discover God's already there. We are invited to see what God is doing and throw our little gifts in the basket. We are the ones who come back richer. I learn, I grow. It doesn't matter how old you are!"

*Want to try a virtual short-term mission trip? Contact [volunteers@internationalministries.org](mailto:volunteers@internationalministries.org).*

## THANK YOU!

world  
mission  
conference

LIVE STREAM 2020

Our first virtual World Mission Conference welcomed 1,160 participants from 30 countries. As Program Director Bee Kamonklapachon discussed the work of the New Life Center Foundation in Thailand, she told us, "If one village woman can change a village, imagine how a whole village can change the world." IM's CEO Rev. Sharon Koh added, "Friends, we are the IM village. So let's imagine together how God, using us as the hands and feet of Christ, can change the world." Watch and be encouraged by the **World Mission Conference Live Streams** at [internationalministries.org/world-mission-conference](http://internationalministries.org/world-mission-conference).



# Project Spotlights

## COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, MEXICO: MIGRANT MINISTRIES, A MILE IN THEIR SHOES

This project seeks to support ten IM ministry partners with whom IM Global Servant Ray Schellinger ministers to provide shelter, hydration, nutrition, medical care, pastoral accompaniment, legal aid, elementary education, and human rights orientation for migrants. **Project goal:** \$176,475 over three years. A gift of \$5,000 provides food and utilities at one shelter for fifty people for a year. A gift of \$1,000 purchases beds, mattresses, sheets, and blankets for twenty people.

## NICARAGUA: HEALTHY HOMES

Nearly a million people in Nicaragua cannot access safe drinking water. Through the Healthy Homes project, IM Global Servant Dr. Laura Parajón and the AMOS ministry provide water filters to reduce diarrhea and parasites as well as new cook stoves that will reduce respiratory illnesses caused by smoke inhalation from wood burning stoves. **Project goal:** \$30,000 for water sanitation and hygiene supplies. \$50 provides a family with an improved stove. \$100 sponsors a family's water filter for ten years.

## LEBANON: INSAAF CENTER

INSAAF Justice and Compassion (pictured left), led by IM Global Servant Sarah Chetti, is one of the few organizations in Lebanon seeking to serve migrant domestic workers, who are often exploited and abused. **Project goal:** \$7,000 annually to advocate for the rights of women brought to Lebanon as migrant domestic workers, minister to those in prison, repatriate those unlawfully imprisoned, and provide compassionate care. \$1,800 provides a month of legal assistance.

## CONGO: WHITE CROSS MEDICAL SUPPLIES, NURSE TRAINING AND TRANSPORTATION

This White Cross project seeks to provide medications, vitamins, hospital supplies, and training for nurses in the ten hospitals where IM Global Servant Katherine Niles serves with the Congolese Baptist Community (CBCO). This will improve the overall level of medical care and give needed supplies. **Project goal:** \$28,334 annually for the thirteen hospitals that are part of the CBCO. \$100 provides a hospital's medications and vitamins.

## PANAMA: STEP TUTORING

The children in Changuinola, Panama, are raised on banana plantations, where they can be bullied, live in poverty, and struggle to keep up with their peers. In 2007, in partnership with the Centro Teológico Bautista del Caribe Panameño, IM Global Servant Ingrid Roldán-Román started a tutoring program for these children. This project not only helps with rising costs for uniforms, backpacks, supplies, and transportation, but provides a hot meal each day. **Project goal:** \$2,500 per month to help fifty students in grades K-12. \$500 can support twelve children.

world mission offering 2020



## JOIN US IN GIVING AND PRAYER!

This year, we are highlighting specific Ministry Priorities that provide a window into what God is doing worldwide through our 125 global servants, 900+ volunteers, home staff, and 250+ international partners. Learn more and receive free resources to join God's global mission movement at [worldmissionoffering.org](http://worldmissionoffering.org).

i once was blind but now i see

mark 8:22-26

## INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

1003 W 9th Ave, Ste A  
King of Prussia, PA 19406



### A CHARITABLE GIFT IN YOUR WILL CAN HAVE a lasting impact.

#### **Many people like to include a charitable gift in their will.**

Imagine what God can do around the world through your kindness. Your step of faith in planning a charitable gift in your will could help build a school, fund a leadership training course, or provide safe shelter for a woman fleeing violence with her children.

#### **Continue to sustain the global ministries you support today.**

By including a gift to IM in your will, you can play a vital part in continuing our work to serve immigrants and refugees, advocate for peace and justice, abolish trafficking in persons and modern-day slavery, promote education, empower communities through economic development, and transform lives by improving health and wellness.

Like many other supporters who have chosen to make this very special gift, you'll help ensure that those who follow us will be left with the resources they need to respond to the call of Jesus Christ. Through your will, you have a rare opportunity to support the next generation of missionaries.

**For more information,** contact Zofia Dripps at [zdripps@internationalministries.org](mailto:zdripps@internationalministries.org), call 610-768-2311, or visit [www.internationalministries.org/wills/](http://www.internationalministries.org/wills/).