

## The Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM)

### Report to Week of Compassion Board of Stewards

#### Fall 2020

The onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the landscape of mission. The change influences the ways in which communities are able to be present with one another, as some countries have closed their borders in order to contain the spread of the virus. In addition, this pandemic has opened up new ways that church leaders are engaging with one another through various means of technology. Area executives have been in contact more with overseas church partners during the virus than previously. Although the pandemic is consuming many resources, there are other life-threatening issues facing Global Ministries' partners. The issues are not new, but they continue to threaten the quality and dignity of life of people in many parts of the world. These issues include the new emergence of Ebola, the economic boycotts of Cuba and Venezuela, natural disasters impacting the Caribbean and the United States, migrants on the move who are more vulnerable to COVID-19, climate change impacting food security and potable water for millions of people, and human rights violations in countries, such as Palestine and the Philippines. It must be noted that some of our partner agencies responding to the most vulnerable are closing their doors because of lack of funds available due to the pandemic.

Due to COVID-19, there is a domestic and international travel ban until the end of the year for the Indianapolis staff, which probably will be moved to the spring of 2021 to coincide with the United Church of Christ newly adopted policy. The United Church of Christ ban continues until the 2021 General Synod. One of Global Ministries' core values is presence and therefore, this pandemic has resulted in the creation of new ways to be present with partners around the world through technology, such as zoom meetings and other platforms.

Despite the anxiety and isolation related to the Coronavirus, as well as, the closing of some countries' borders, 21 mission co-workers, 4 global mission interns and 8 global service workers remained in their places of assignments. The majority of the global mission interns found themselves in very vulnerable positions at the beginning of the pandemic and returned home; however, they were involved in volunteer ministries within the United States and engaged in virtual interpretation. Currently, two are serving in volunteer ministries and three have concluded service. At this time, there is one global mission intern candidate in the screening process and three additional applicants under consideration for service.

Jane Sullivan-Davis is retiring after 38 years of faithful service in God's mission. Jane served as a mission co-worker for the Division of Overseas Ministries and later a Global Ministries mission co-worker in Argentina, Mexico, Peru, Chile, and New York for a total of 18 years. Since 2000, she has served as the Executive for Resource Development for Global Ministries, working with individuals and congregations of the Disciples of Christ and the United Church of Christ that wish to explore special giving opportunities to support the work of Global Ministries. Jane's leadership has resulted in the growth of DOM endowment fund, as well as growths in congregational and individual gifts. In addition, she co-lead the development of the Mission Co-Worker Personal Fund Raising Model. Global Ministries is thankful for Jane's service and wish her the best in retirement.

Krista Johnson Weickel will begin full time service as the Global Advocacy and Education Associate. Krista is a member of Tapestry Church in Indiana. She served as a Global Mission Intern in Jerusalem

from 2006-08. She spent eight years working as a Peacebuilding Coordinator for the Mennonite Central Committee's International Program. In addition, she is certified as a Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR) trainer. This move will allow Global Ministries to respond to the many advocacy issues identified by partners.

The decrease in the Disciples Mission Fund and the Easter Offering has a direct impact on the ministries of DOM/Global Ministries. The Division of Overseas Ministries will most likely end the year in a positive position because of the travel ban and the savings related to moving to virtual board meetings. However, 2021 will be difficult. The Global Ministries' budget for 2021 has a reduction of \$257,000 in expenses compared to 2020.

DOM/Global Ministries is thankful for the \$338,890 received from Week of Compassion as of August 31, 2020 in support of the Capacity Building, Sustainable Development, and Disaster grants. In addition, we are thankful for the accompaniment of Week of Compassion as we work together in responding to the needs of the most vulnerable within the global community.

Julia Brown Karimu, President  
Division of Overseas Ministries  
and Co-Executive of Global Ministries

# Global Mission Intern Program Report

April 2020 – September 2020

The Global Mission Intern (GMI) Program continues as a critical leadership program in the church and we thank Week of Compassion for the support that makes this possible. We continue to see young people who have moved through this program transition to leadership roles across the church –many serving local churches, regional ministries and as national staff. During COVID-19, the program has faced new challenges and surmounted them with creativity.

Our cohorts of GMIs are creating a new generation of future leaders with strong ties. We are in the sixth year where GMIs were offered, as their terms conclude, a local placement following their service that is coordinated with the Disciple and UCC Volunteer offices, specifically tailored to correspond to their responsibilities in their international location of service. We utilized this pre-existing relationship to find temporary assignments for all GMIs who are U.S. based during the time of COVID so that they could continue to serve even as they “paused” their international placements because of health and safety concerns.

The information below on the young adults includes three distinct groups of Global Mission Interns – those serving during this time period who are still in safely in their placement; those who had to be evacuated due to the nature of the COVID crisis in their respective country and are working in alternative service settings while they wait, and those who have concluded during these six months. At the end, we have supplied a list of candidates that are in the pipeline so that you as a board have a sense of next year’s cohort – many of whom have been working with us for months as they prepare to serve. Please note though that as young adults, they may change plans often and we have a thorough screening process. This means the final list may be different – and since the deadline is December, there is a probability that it will be bigger.

We continue to promote the Global Mission Intern Program with both prayer and the clear knowledge that the globally most other countries are handling the pandemic better than we are. As we work on placements, we have limited the program to countries where service is possible (both in regards to travel and pandemic response) and we will reassign existing interns and appoint new young adults in service based on those metrics. We have shared with all, however, to be prepared for a constantly changing environment and placement dates that will correspond to both safety parameters for international travel and readiness for the acceptance of interns from our global partners. We know that at this time of fragility, these global expressions of presence are more critical than ever as witnessed by our Global Mission Intern Leda Zakarison, serving in Beirut. As she wrote a few weeks ago after experiencing the traumatic explosion of August 4: *“what I have witnessed in the past few days is truly a city working as one body, with each person a limb, sharing their gifts to begin to heal together. I am absolutely devastated by what occurred on August 4. And when I am at my lowest points, I look to the community around me to find hope to continue.”*

## Global Mission Interns Currently Serving

**Abigail Fate** (9/1/19—8/31/20) is a member of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Glen Ellyn, Illinois. Abi is serving with Melel Xojobal, Mexico which advocates for the rights of children. Abi is providing leadership to young people between ages of 13 to 20 through workshops and events focused on human rights, conflict management, life planning, and health. Abi was evacuated in April and is currently serving in Nogales, Sonora with the Kino Border Initiative serving refugees while waiting permission to return to Chiapas.



**Maria "Abi" Hernandez** (9/1/19—8/30/20) is a member of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Orange, California. She has been assigned to serve, thanks to her degree in both Japanese language and peace studies, with the Asian Rural Institute of Japan. Abi is assisting the operations and courses at the Asian Rural Institute teaching sustainable agriculture and organic farming to students from across Asia. She is working with the new cohort of students that arrived in Japan in March and has stayed as the community is isolated and COVID free.

**Thomas M. Smith IV** (8/1/19- 7/31/20) is a member of Cherry Log Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Cherry Log, Georgia. Thomas is a graduate of Columbia Seminary. He began his service with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) and he is currently working with their Ecumenical Relations and Program Ministry, teaching and working with various churches in the southern part Korea (Haneam) as it is a COVID free zone.





**Kaitlin Thompson**, member of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Middletown, Ohio, and has both her undergraduate degree and master's degree in social work. She began her work with Proyecto Caminante in the Dominican Republic where she was working with the children of Boca Chica in Caminante's outreach ministry. She was evacuated in April due to the COVID crisis and is currently serving as a social worker with Community Refugee and Immigration Services in Columbus, Ohio while waiting to return.



**RJ Howard**, member of Community Christian Church (Disciple of Christ), Tempe, Arizona and has his degree in biology. He is serving with the Pacific Conference of Churches in Suva, Fiji as a program associate working with advocacy and justice issues related to global warming. He has stayed in Fiji throughout the COVID crisis and, although he was home for a short visa issue, he is now returning to address the critical questions of climate change in the Pacific.

**Leda Zakarison**, member of Prospect Unite Church of Christ in Seattle, Washington is serving at the Forum for Development, Culture, and Dialogue, Beirut, Lebanon to assist in communications and refugee ministries. She has stayed in Beirut throughout the COVID crisis under a shelter in place order living at the Near East School of Theology and started back to work at FDCD at the beginning of May. She has shared a number of strong theological reflection through the major crises taking place recently in Beirut.



#### **Global Mission Interns Concluding during this term:**

**Kelsey Knisley**, member of Harvard Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is serving with the Ecumenical Foundation for Integral Development Training and Education (FEDICE) in Ecuador to strengthen the capacity building in the area of health education. She also has assisted with groups coming to the area. Kelsey was evacuated in April 2020, and through the summer has worked remotely for FEDICE doing translation, and concludes on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September.





**Dustin Riebel**, member of Harvard Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is serving with the Ecumenical Foundation for Integral Development Training and Education (FEDICE) in Ecuador and working on the micro-credit finance project and communication resources. Dustin was evacuated in April 2020, and from April to September worked remotely on communication outreach for FEDICE, and concludes on September 30.

**Fiyori Kidane** is a member of Allisonville Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Indianapolis, Indiana, and a recent graduate of Texas Christian University. Fiyori was assigned to serve with the refugee resettlement project of Perichoresis, a program in Katerini of the Evangelical Church of Greece. She worked with direct services and specifically their women’s outreach program. She was evacuated in April, itinerated in churches in the Indiana region, and concluded at the end of June in order to start seminary at Brite Divinity this August.



**GMI’s in discernment:**

*Lydia Yang – to serve with the National Council of Churches in Korea, starting in November pending approval from the MPC*

*Claire Weihe – to serve with the Reformed Church of Hungary in Hungary, starting in May pending approval from the MPC*

*Angelica Santiago Gonzales – to serve with the Iglesia Pentecostal of Chile serving at the Shalom Center, starting in May pending approval from the MPC*

*Elliot Edeburn - to serve with the SSID in the Dominican Republic starting in May, pending approval from the MPC*

The application deadline for this 2021 cohort ends on December 31, 2020 so there is a strong possibility of additional applications. Additionally all of the GMIs currently serving, have the option, with the invitation of the partner, to renew or extend for a maximum three year term.

September 16, 2020

**Week of Compassion**

**Summary of Global Mission Interns, Capacity Building Program,  
Critical Presence Program and Sustainable Development, Disaster Relief and Other Grants**  
*(Details for Each on Subsequent Pages)*

**January 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020**

	Global Mission Interns		Capacity Building Program	Critical Presence Program Grants	Sustainable Dev, Disaster Relief and Other Grants	Total (Excludes Other Inc & Exp for GMI)
	<u>Other</u>	<u>WOC</u>				
Beginning Balance as of January 1, 2020	62,050.14	51,175.82	31,901.04	888.00	26,500.00	110,464.86
Income:	500.00	0.00	34,000.00		303,210.00	337,210.00
Expense:	(42,540.13)	(42,540.13)	(48,425.00)	0.00	(262,710.00)	(353,675.13)
Ending Balance as of September 30, 2020	<u>20,010.01</u>	<u>8,635.69</u>	<u>17,476.04</u>	<u>888.00</u>	<u>67,000.00</u>	<u>93,999.73</u>
Total Ending Balance		<u>28,645.70</u>				

**Committed Expenses for GMI's**

Already Appointed thru:	Year	# of GMI's	
	2020	9	(13,431.60)
	2021	2	(8,942.52)
	Anticipate 2 as of 1/1/2021		

Anticipated Ending Balance Without Additional Funding From WOC or Others	<u>6,271.58</u>
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Beginning Balance 01/01/20 113,225.96 WOC 51,175.82  
 DOM 62,050.14

**Income**

WOC  
 WOC  
 WOC

Other - Donor(s) 500.00

**Total Revenue** 500.00

**Expenses**

	<i>Japan</i> Maria Abigail Hernandez	<i>Dominica Republic</i> Kaitlin Thompson	<i>Fiji</i> Robert Howard	<i>South Korea</i> Thomas Smith	<i>Beirut, Lebanon</i> Leda Zakarison	<i>Mexico</i> Abigail Fate	<i>Greece</i> Kiyori Kidane	<i>Ecuador</i> Dustin Riebel	<i>Ecuador</i> Kelsey Riebel	Total Expenses
Apptmt Start Date	09/01/19	9/1/2019	01/01/20	07/01/19	01/01/20	9/1/2019	09/01/19	12/01/19	12/01/19	
Apptmt End Date (includes 2 mos. HA)	09/30/21	12/31/2020	12/31/20	08/31/20	12/31/20	12/31/2020	08/31/20	09/30/20	09/30/20	
January	1,220.75	765.38	1,168.20	1,173.39	934.41	1,125	785.85	866.58	866.58	8,906.00
February	1,220.75	959.33	847.21	3,201.02	934.41	1,125	785.85	2,457.04	2,457.03	13,987.50
March	1,220.75	765.40	847.20	1,173.39	934.40	1,125	1,028.43	866.58	866.58	8,827.59
April	1,220.74	1,409.58	847.20	5,059.39	934.41	748	748.17	2,585.44	2,666.05	16,219.15
May	1,220.74	748.16	847.20	2,062.29	934.40	3,395	748.17	1,724.62	1,724.62	13,405.66
June	1,220.74	748.18	748.17		934.40	748	748.17	748.17	748.17	6,644.17
July	1,259.51	748.18	748.17		934.40	1,073		1,589.35	748.17	7,100.95
August	1,259.51	1,121.18	748.17		973.16	1,398		748.17	748.17	6,996.53
September		748.19	748.17			748.17		748.17		2,992.70
October										0.00
November										0.00
December										0.00
	9,843.49	8,013.58	7,549.69	12,669.48	7,513.99	11,485.89	4,844.64	12,334.12	10,825.37	85,080.25
Expenses covered by Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Expense To Date</b>	<b>9,843.49</b>	<b>8,013.58</b>	<b>7,549.69</b>	<b>12,669.48</b>	<b>7,513.99</b>	<b>11,485.89</b>	<b>4,844.64</b>	<b>12,334.12</b>	<b>10,825.37</b>	<b>85,080.25</b>

**Total Expenses** 85,080.25

**Ending Balance** 09/30/20 **28,645.71**

Allocation of Ending Balance (Assumes WOC funds spent first):

WOC Ending Balance 8,635.70  
 DOM/UCMS Ending Balance 20,010.01  
**28,645.71**



**Capacity Building Program**  
**January 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020**

*(formerly Leadership Development)*

		<u>Africa</u>	<u>East Asia and Pacific</u>	<u>Latin America and Caribbean</u>	<u>Middle East and Europe</u>	<u>Southern Asia</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>01/01/20</b>	5,661.50	720.00	11,056.20	3,688.61	10,774.73	31,901.04
<b>Income</b>	<b>Date Rec'd</b>						
WOC	06/04/20	3,400.00	3,400.00	3,400.00	3,400.00	3,400.00	17,000.00
WOC	08/24/20	3,400.00	3,400.00	3,400.00	3,400.00	3,400.00	17,000.00
							0.00
		<u>6,800.00</u>	<u>6,800.00</u>	<u>6,800.00</u>	<u>6,800.00</u>	<u>6,800.00</u>	<u>34,000.00</u>
<b>Expense</b>							
January							0.00
February				4,045.00			4,045.00
March		2,600.00					2,600.00
April							0.00
May			8,500.00			2,500.00	11,000.00
June			3,000.00	4,000.00	3,000.00	2,250.00	12,250.00
July		3,000.00		3,750.00	3,000.00		9,750.00
August		3,000.00					3,000.00
September		3,400.00				2,380.00	5,780.00
October							0.00
November							0.00
December							0.00
		<u>12,000.00</u>	<u>11,500.00</u>	<u>11,795.00</u>	<u>6,000.00</u>	<u>7,130.00</u>	<u>48,425.00</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>09/30/20</b>	<u><u>461.50</u></u>	<u><u>(3,980.00)</u></u>	<u><u>6,061.20</u></u>	<u><u>4,488.61</u></u>	<u><u>10,444.73</u></u>	<u><u>17,476.04</u></u>

**Reported Use of Capacity Building Grants from WOC  
1/01/20 – 9/30/2020**

**Africa**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Country &amp; Partner</b>	<b>School &amp; Training</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Explanation of Grant Use</b>
3/2/2020	United Church of Zambia University School of Theology and Religious Studies		Support of Theological Education	2,600.00	Mbangweta Daniel and Makungu Winnifridah
07/15/2020	Eglise Des Disciples Du Christ Association			3,000.00	Bourses POUR Jourdian Mobe Bozas
08/5/2020	United Theological College	United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe and Congregational Church of Southern Africa	Support of Theological Education	2,000.00	Addmore Makware
08/21/2020	Kgolagano College			1,000.00	Scholarship for Botswana Synod Students
09/2/2020	Namibia Synod of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa			3,400.00	Develop and Strengthen entrepreneurial skills for artists and artisan to enhance their marketing capacity
			<b>Total</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>	

### Middle East and Europe

Date	Name	Country & Partner	School & Training	Grant Amount	Explanation of Grant Use
02/05/2020	University Saint-Joseph	Forum for Development, Culture, and Dialogue.		3,000.00	Scholarship for Radwa Salah
04/28/2020	Graduate Theological Union	Synod of the Nile of the Evangelical Church of Egypt/Protestant Churches of Egypt		3,000.00	Hanna Megally (Doctoral candidate in Church History)
			<b>Total</b>	<b>6,000.00</b>	

### Southern Asia

Date	Name	Country & Partner	School & Training	Grant Amount	Explanation of Grant Use
2/07/2020	<b>World Council of Churches</b>	Church of Christ in Thailand		2,500.00	scholarship support at Bossey in Switzerland for Wittawat Thamma,
03/24/2020	Union Theological Seminary		Union Theological Seminary in the Philippines.	2,250.00	Scholarship for Danial Sinnathamby Selvakumar and Biyoora Kanesapillai
08/03/2020	Union Theological Seminary			330.00	Tuition for Julio Martins
08/24/2020	Church of the American Ceylon Mission (CACM)		University of Jaffna	2,050.00	scholarship support for Pastor Rev. Thevagananathan
			<b>Total</b>	<b>7,130.00</b>	

### East Asia and Pacific

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Country &amp; Partner</b>	<b>School &amp; Training</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Explanation of Grant Use</b>
02/19/2020	Pacific Theological College in Fiji	Congregational Church of Tuvalu		5,500.00	Scholarship for Tafue Lusana
02/07/2020	Pacific Theological College in Fiji	Congregational Church of Tuvalu		3,000.00	Scholarship for Nikotemo Sopepa
01/15/2020	Gakko Hojin Ajia Gakuin	Asian Rural Institute in Japan		3,000.00	ARI's Advance Training for Graduates
			<b>Total</b>	<b>11,500.00</b>	

### Latin American and the Caribbean

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Country &amp; Partner</b>	<b>School &amp; Training</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Explanation of Grant Use</b>
2/13/2020	Evangelical of Theology (Matanzas Seminary)			4,045.00	Instituto Superior de Estudios de Teologia del Caribe Hispano (ISETECH)
06/03/2020	Evangelical Congregational Church of Argentina			4,000.00	Scholarship assistance for the doctoral work of Pastor Paulo Graumann
07/15/2020	Jesus R Nava	Evangelical Congregational Church of Argentina		3,750.00	Certification through the Evangelical University Martin Luther King Jr in Nicaragua
			<b>Total</b>	<b>13,474.78</b>	