



The 10th Anniversary of Global Ministries

Sing a New Song!

November 2006



Sing to God a new song Sing to God all the earth! *Psalm 96:1*

Common Global Ministries Board gathers for 10th Anniversary of Partnership

Global Ministries, a common witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ celebrated the 10th anniversary of the formation of their partnership at the November 2006 Board meeting. Previous to this union, the Disciples maintained a relationship with their partners through the Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) and the United Church of Christ maintained a relationship through the United Church Board for World Ministries (UCBWM). UCBWM was also known many decades ago as the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM).

In the late 1980s, the two churches formed the Joint Ministry in Africa, but

continued to operate under separate boards and area executives. It soon became apparent that a single ministry was more practical and more efficient, not only in Africa but in other areas of the world where the two churches had partnerships. Therefore, in 1996 the two churches united in total commitment to the oneness of Christ's mission and formed the Common Global Ministries Board, or Global Ministries, that we know today.

On Friday November 10th, the formation of the Global Ministries partnership was celebrated with the Common Global Ministries Board and representatives from around the world.

International partners and missionaries were invited to participate by sending expressions of congratulations, many of which are included in this newspaper.

We ask that you remember Global Ministries in your prayers during this period of celebration, reflection, and contemplation on the future.

A bird doesn't sing because it has an
answer, it sings because it has a song.

Maya Angelou

Songs of Struggle, Songs of Faith in East Timor

When Global Ministries began 10 years ago, East Timor did not exist as an independent nation. East Timor has formed through often violent struggles, first against the Dutch and then the Indonesians. The Timorese people have suffered unspeakable atrocities at the hands of the Indonesian military over the last quarter of the 20th century. East Timor is a predominantly Christian nation – which is a rarity in Southern Asia. The violent history continues to challenge the leaders who struggle to overcome the poverty, the delay of justice, the lack of education and opportunity, and the interference of outsiders in government affairs. The Protestant Church of East Timor has had few partners to accompany it on its road to recovery. Many Protestant pastors were killed or driven out in the violence that preceded its independence. Global Ministries is committed to working with and supporting the efforts of the Church in its many ministries to the people of East Timor. Over the past 5 years we have helped the Church in many ways – with scholarships for students, assistance in building a school, and support for the church leadership. In 2006 we have been called to assist in crisis. When violence broke out between the military and the police and spread to include regional groups with suspicions of discrimination and exclusion, homes were burned, 37 people were killed and 150,000 were rendered homeless. Because we have a strong partnership, Global Ministries was able to send assistance to provide emergency relief to the refugee camps around the capitol city of Dili.



For the East Timorese and the Protestant Church of East Timor our partnership over the past 5 years has been a critical presence. Dr. Carlos Madrazo will soon be going there as a Global Ministries missionary to strengthen our presence in their struggles. The Church in East Timor is teaching us what it means to keep the faith in spite of violence, devastating poverty and crisis.



Global Ministries
A common witness of
the Division of Over-
seas Ministries,
Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ),
and Wider Church
Ministries, United
Church of Christ

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Through Global Ministries, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ are committed to a ministry of critical presence around the world. Our challenge is to timely and appropriately meet God's people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally, and/or economically.

A Celebration Song from Brazil

One of the worst floods Rio de Janeiro, Brazil has ever suffered occurred in February, 1996. One place hardest hit was the shantytown where Barbara de Souza, Global Mission Volunteer, was training classes for the formation of community health educators in Jacarepagua. The scene was tragic — families who lived along the canal next to the shantytown’s main road suffered total loss of their homes and meager belongings. Beyond the main road, mud destroyed 85% of the homes. The canal overflowed and people were knee deep in sewer water. Rats were everywhere.

The newly trained health educators were called into action. The first task was to get vaccines for protection against tetanus and other diseases. With the help of the city health department, the health educators began vaccinating. The health courses given by Barbara captured the attention of the public health authorities. In no time, the population of this shantytown wanted the health educators to continue working in the community on a permanent basis.



The small group of health educators made news headlines and two pharmaceutical companies offered to donate funds to establish a permanent health clinic. At the time, the group worked from the rooftop of one of the shantytown huts. With their new support, they were able to buy the second floor of a home near the canal that had a living room, bedroom and kitchen. The Association of Community Health Educators was founded and registered, and thus the first free clinic in the area was formed, staffed by volunteers, including volunteer physicians.

In 1999, the city health department signed a contract with the Association for a new health program called the Family Health Program — Preventative Medicine Through Health Education. This project fit Barbara’s expertise and training. Since then, the Association of Community Health Educators has grown steadily. From the small house remodeled into a one room clinic, the clinic now has a second floor, providing four more exam rooms. The Association purchased the house behind its location and built a three story building that allows for more health teams, a classroom, an emergency room, and treatment and vaccination areas. A new health team was hired, and a much needed Physical Therapy Program was instituted. The Physical Therapy Program is funded completely by the generous donations of U.S. churches and supporters.

On October 19, 2006, the Association celebrated 10 years of medical ministry. It inaugurated its third building, which allows for the addition of yet another health team and provides room for recreation, art, and professional training for youth and children. They also plan to provide activities for shantytown children so they may have alternatives to the lure of drugs and have a chance to lead healthy and hopeful lives.

As Global Ministries celebrates its own 10th Anniversary, it is with gratitude and delight that we can do so accompanying those who are committed to God’s work, producing the successful projects it has supported. The shantytown clinic and the Association of Community Health Educators is certainly a living witness to “Critical Presence ... meeting God’s people at their point of greatest need.” Global Ministries is proud of the ministry of Barbara de Souza and the community health educators who have used God’s gift of opportunity to bring healing, hope and faith to their place in the world. Happy anniversaries!

That my heart
may sing to
you and not
be silent, O
God, I will
give you
thanks
forever.

Psalm 30:12

*O God of Isaiah and John the Baptist,
through all such faithful ones you
proclaim the unfolding of future joy and
renewed life. Strengthen our hearts to
believe your promise that one day we will
walk in the holy way of Christ, where
sorrow and sighing will be no more and
the journey of God’s people will be joy.
Amen.*

Prayer from South Africa

A Song of Hope in Southern Africa

There is hope rising in the countries comprising the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa – Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Rev. Adora Iris Lee, former Global Ministries missionary, worked to establish AIDS ministries which included a rural medical clinic, a hospice, camps for children affected by AIDS, orphan care, a hospital milk fund for HIV-positive babies, after-school abstinence programs, AIDS education teams and a coffin-making project which provided caskets for the poor. Rev. Lee knows that when we respond to AIDS, we are also addressing the disease of poverty, hunger and social injustice. One of the lessons she has learned from the people of southern Africa is that even in the midst of this awful disease, there is still hope.



Hearing a Song of History from Turkey

There is a rare document few have seen, although millions have used its results. It is the original, hand-written manuscript by Sir James Redhouse from the late 1800s, setting out the first authoritative Turkish-English dictionary. Our American missionary predecessors in Turkey commissioned this manuscript as part of enabling Turks and foreigners to understand each other’s worlds through a trustworthy dictionary publication.

Missionaries with the American Board in Turkey, Ken and Elizabeth Frank have just finished making digital photographs of James Redhouse’s manuscript. Soon, researchers everywhere can easily access this precious progenitor of today’s Redhouse Dictionaries. Turkey’s American Board missionaries have played some influential, sometimes controversial roles in the history of Turkey. Researchers, Turkish and others, are increasingly investigating the Redhouse archives, and visiting the small library in Istanbul to understand this history better.

The Redhouse Press continues to print one of the best selling dictionaries in Turkey. It is owned and operated by our partner in Turkey, the Health and Education Foundation (SEV).



Keep a green tree in your heart,
a singing bird will come.
Chinese Proverb

Singing in Harmony with Neighbors in China

In China, eighty percent of the citizens live in rural areas, especially in Henan Province. This area is one of the poorest areas in China, with the annual income amounting to about \$80 U.S. a year per family. Life is difficult: most people farm to support their families, and many peasant farmers struggle to pay leases on their land and homes. In the mid-1990s, a large number of people in the area made money by selling their blood to private companies. Unfortunately, many contracted HIV/AIDS through repeated use of contaminated needles when giving blood to these private blood collectors.

Last fall, many houses were damaged and destroyed during torrential rains. The people in the area were unable to repair or rebuild their damaged homes due to a lack of funds and a lack of physical ability because of the effects of HIV/AIDS. Global Ministries assisted in the rebuilding by committing funds for materials. Neighbors from the villages provided the labor. They said, “If people from around the world can help our neighbors, then we can also help our neighbors close to home.” In this way, 25 houses were rebuilt for HIV/AIDS victims in a single month, many of them were even bigger and better than the houses that had been destroyed. By working together, villagers were also able to overcome some of the stigma and fear associated with the disease.



Pieces of Our Song

When you find all the Global Ministries words listed below, the remaining letters will spell out an important GM concept. Can you find it?

Y C E L E B R A T E S E I R A N I M E S
T H C C E L P O E P O T E L P O E P V E
R U O R L I R Y C O V E N A N T T T O E
E R W C A B O A R D S O I Y H B C I L T
V C S A T G G R O W I F A I T H U R R A
O H H R I O R P C S O U T H L E L I E C
P I G I N D A A S W A T E R A A T P L U
G L O B A L M I N I S T R I E S U S A D
Y D O B M I M D E V E L O P H T R L T E
T S A E E H U M A N R I G H T A E I I E
E P E A R C V O L U N T E E R S P N O V
C O P N I S E I R A N O I S S I M T N I
I N O R C F E U N I T E D S T A T E S E
T S R P A R T N E R H F S I T S I R H C
S O U T H E R N A S I A E N S H E F I E
U R E S S E T A C O V D A I O A S A P R
J S N E K C A T S Y A H D A L R S I S O
C H V W A I D A F R I C A R E E T T F O
M I D D L E E A S T D N E T E G R H E P
G P A C I F I C C U S E L P I C S I D R

- GLOBAL MINISTRIES

AFRICA

CARIBBEAN

EAST ASIA

EUROPE

LATIN AMERICA

MIDDLE EAST

PACIFIC

SOUTHERN ASIA

UNITED STATES

ADVOCATE

AID

BOARDS

BODY

BUILD

CARE

CELEBRATE

CHILD

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

CHRIST

CHURCH

COVENANT

CULTURE

DEVELOP

DISASTER

DISCIPLES/UCC

EAST

EDUCATE

FAITH

FED

FISH

FREE

GIVES

GOD
- GROW

HAYSTACK

HEALTH

HIV/AIDS

HUMAN RIGHT

INTERFAITH

JUSTICE

LAY

LEAD

LOVE

MISSION

MISSIONARIES

NORTH

OGHS/WOC

PARTNER

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

POOR

POVERTY

PRAY

PROGRAM

RECEIVE

RELATIONSHIPS

RELIEF

SEE

SEMINARIES

SHARE

SOUTH

SPIRIT

TEND

TRAIN

VOLUNTEERS

WATER

WEST

... the season
of singing has
come, the
voice of doves
is heard in
the land ...

Song of Solomon
2:12

Voices of Global Partnership

Global Ministries partners and missionaries from around the world send their expressions of congratulations.

Ten years in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was focused on the service to humanity, is indeed worth celebrating. The work may not have been all ‘roses,’ but your achievements, as witnessed by the Christian Council of Ghana, surpasses all the pains and toils experienced in the ministry. Your ministry has brought life and hope to many people around the world, especially in Africa. In Ghana for instance, many people have benefited from your support of the Council's programmes on Educational Assistance for girls, HIV/AIDS support and education, Interfaith Education, and the Women's Desk activities, to mention but a few. Global Ministries has indeed fulfilled its part of the God-given task of reaching out to the world for the past ten years. The Christian Council of Ghana shares in your joy as you celebrate the 10th Anniversary. We join the rest of the African countries and the world at large to say CONGRATULATIONS which is translated in a Ghanaian dialect as “AYEKOO.” It is our prayer that the Lord will continue to strengthen the ministry in the years ahead and a fruitful partnership with God's people through the Christian Council of Ghana. We once again say, Congratulations!!!

Christian Council of Ghana



God is great; God is good; glory to God! That is the shout of joy we sing on the occasion of Global Ministries' tenth anniversary. On this day, our staff, collaborators, and all our children join with your voices to give thanks. Yes, thanks for choosing to work with the poorest of the world; thanks for choosing to come to our country to do ministry; thanks for your efforts to reduce the poverty in third world countries, and; many, many thanks for proclaiming, as did Jesus, the Good News of salvation. On this tenth anniversary, may the God of life and of the poor give you many blessings. Keep going further as God is with you now and always.

Polycarpe Joseph, Founder, House of Hope – Ecumenical Center for Peace and Justice (COPJ), Port-au-Prince, Haiti



The fact that Global Ministries has been in existence for ten years, furthering the spread of the Gospel world-wide, is evidence that the Holy Spirit is at work in the world, meeting the challenge created by the ever-changing situations of our time. Here in Thailand, where we also strive to present a coordinated approach to carrying out the work of the Kingdom of God, we have representatives of both the UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) working with us, and we are grateful for the support which is provided by Global Ministries. We congratulate Global Ministries on this, its tenth anniversary, thank God for bringing the two churches together and pray that we and they may continue to work in partnership in the future, bringing glory to God and giving praise for things accomplished in God's name.

Mrs. Woranut Pantupong, Ecumenical Relations Officer
Rev. Dr. Sint Kimhachandra, General Secretary, Church of Christ in Thailand

God's mission is fundamentally a search for reconciliation and unity: reconciliation and unity among peoples on earth, reconciliation and unity between each human being and God, reconciliation and unity in the inner life of each of us. Our churches are meant to be milestones in this path toward reconciliation and unity. Each time we choose to work together rather than to walk alone, we are participating fully to God's mission. This is the choice UCC and Disciples made ten years ago. Be they thanked for this sign of hope. In a world split by secular or national interest, it is good to see people and organisations put forward the common good. May the divine Spirit of reconciliation and unity inspire CGMB for many years!

Rev. Didier Crouzet, International Relations, Reformed Church of France

On behalf of our Church, The Hong Kong Council of The Church of Christ in China, and the Hong Kong Christian Council, I bring you our heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Common Global Ministries Board. Thank God that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ were called to jointly form this Board as a common witness for God's mission. In the past years, you have been God's instrument, carrying love and hope to many parts of the world and helping the needy to have fullness of life. As one of the overseas partners, we treasure the friendship and partnership with you and look forward to having new working relationship in global ministries. May God grant his gifts and power to you as you continue to bring God's love and care to all people in the days to come.

Eric S.Y. SO, General Secretary, Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China



It is with great joy that I wish to congratulate you on the wonderful occasion of 10th anniversary celebration of the formation of Global Ministries. We truly wish we were physically nearer so we can join you and share your joys on this occasion, but we do that from far away! I have come to know you through partnership with Aiya Napa Conference Center in Cyprus (ANCC) where my husband, Riad Jarjour, and I have served since 1983. The Center has been “a light on a mountain” and a landmark for so many people in the Middle East and around the world. ANCC serves the churches, church related organizations and many NGO's in the Middle East by bringing people together to work for peace and the integrity of human life. It is a success story of partnership with you and we thank God for that. Furthermore, and as the General Secretary of the Fellowship of the Middle East Evangelical Churches, I have worked closely with Global Ministries through the Middle East office in addressing special needs of our churches. It is hard to describe in a letter the effect our partnership has had through programs supported by Global Ministries. It remains in the hearts and minds of the people who benefit from such programs. But, I believe the effect is life-long, enabling Christian believers to live out their faith in the difficult Middle East context. It is our prayer and hope that our partnership will grow stronger and deeper as the years go by. On behalf of the FMEEC, I wish to congratulate you and may God bless you and the mission you undertake in our region and all over the world.

Rosangela Jarjour, General Secretary, FMEEC, Lebanon



To all the friends new and old in Global Ministries, I greet you in the name of Christ and congratulate you on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of this wonderful Board. I had the honor and the pleasure to be part of this Board in the early years of its life and for six years. I thought it was one of the most profound and courageous steps ever to be taken by two great churches, and hoped it would become a model for other churches. I vividly remember meetings where I met wonderful people and made great friends, some friends for life. I remember struggle, celebrations, different opinions, and sometimes pain and disappointment – but always the sense of achievements. It was like a rebirth of the great virtue of a common witness to the love of God shining most strongly on the cross of Jesus Christ. May the Lord God continue to bless you and guide you! May you continue to shine for the glory of God!

Mary Mikhael, President, Near East School of Theology, Beirut, Lebanon

We, the United Church of Zambia Theological College send you our warmest congrats on the occasion of your 10th Anniversary. We are proud to be associated with you in the area of leadership development. We wish you more years of success for the service of human kind and to the glory of God! With all God's richest blessings.

Dr. Musonda Bwalya, Principal, The United Church of Zambia Theological College, Kitwe, Zambia

On behalf of the Kukhany'okush Zion Church in Swaziland, I would like to congratulate Global Ministries for its 10th Anniversary. The marriage between the Christian Church Disciples of Christ through its Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) and the United Church of Christ through its Wider Church Ministries (WCM) has been a shining example of partnership and also a lesson to all of us that by working together, rather than competing as churches, we are better able to fulfill our Christian faith with love, forgiveness, and care for others. For us in Africa and in Swaziland, we recognize the celebration from the 1980s when the Joint Ministry for Africa was formed. At that time, you sowed your joint commitment to partner with African Churches to transform Africa through ministry. We pray for a long and fruitful life for Global Ministries and we commit ourselves to the partnership. May its full meaning and objectives be realized for the good of humanity and for giving a holistic meaning to the Christian faith.

Bishop A. M. DLmlani, Kukhany'okusha Zion Church, Swaziland

Global Ministries is one of the most important partners we have and it is a great pleasure for us to send a message of commendation.

Rev Rupert I. Hambira, Principal. Kgolagano College, Botswana

The Christian Council of Lesotho has witnessed long years of partnership with Global Ministries and together we have managed to make the difference especially in the education for the poor children in Lesotho. Congratulations on your 10th Anniversary and please continue with your good work. May God bless you all, and we assure you of our prayers.

Catherine Ramokhele, General Secretary, Christian Council of Lesotho

On your tenth year in the united journey as Global Ministries, I bring with me the whole Church of North India to congratulate you for witnessing Christ throughout the world. The last decade has seen wars, violence, ethnic conflicts, terrorism and natural disasters which have caused loss to lives and resources. Thousands of lives were swept away on 26th December, 2004 by a tsunami wave that snuffed out the Southeast Asia region. The Church of North India was shocked as our Diocese in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was hit the worst. Thousands of island residents were reported dead or missing. Thousands of lives were lost, and those spared faced difficult situations. During this crisis, the Church of North India courageously shared the news with its overseas mission partners. Global Ministries was one of those who immediately stood by us in solidarity to the challenge of rebuilding lives in the tsunami hit islands. The Nicobarese were left desperate and traumatized by the tsunami. Their dreams were shattered. But today, they are able to dream of a beautiful island. We appreciate the concern Global Ministries has towards the issues of justice, peace and the inclusion of all Creation amid the growing context of religious intolerance, communalism and individualism all over the world. The need for a resource centre for peace in one of our Dioceses was shared with Global Ministries, who responded immediately and assisted in the creation of Shanti Griha. Today, Shanti Griha has become the empowering voice of thousands of Dalits and Adivasis living in the area of Durgapur Diocese, CNI, proclaiming justice for the poor, downtrodden and marginalized. I thank Global Ministries for journeying with us in the process of bringing people from periphery to the centre, creating God's reign in this world. The Church of North India, being a united and uniting Church, cherishes our partnership with you. We join with you in rejoicing and thanking our Almighty God for this wonderful ministry to proclaim the kingdom of God through words and deeds.

Rev. Dr. Enos Das Pradhan, General Secretary, Synod of the Church of North India



We are grateful to God for enabling Global Ministries to provide assistance and leadership to Churches, Councils and Christian Organisations in the continent of Africa and are keeping your Ministries in our prayers, especially in this particular moment as you celebrate your 10th anniversary. May God bless you all and may your endeavours be crowned with success.

Rev. Dr. Mvume Dandala, General Secretary, All Africa Conference of Churches in Nairobi, Kenya

Greetings of felicitations to the officers, staff, and mission partners of Global Ministries on the occasion of its 10th anniversary celebration. We at Dansalan College Foundation join you in thought and prayer in the joyful celebration of 10 years of exemplary work to make this world a better place to live in. Congratulations! May you have many more successful celebrations of partnership ahead. May your partnership continue to grow in strength in the years to come.

President Fedelinda B. Tawagon and the Faculty and Staff, Dansalan College Foundation, Iligan City, Philippines

More Voices of Global Partnership



On the occasion of Global Ministries’ tenth anniversary, the National Council of Spiritual Churches of Haiti (CONASPEH) sends its congratulations and Shalom. This is also CONASPEH’s anniversary as we have participated in the blessings and solidarity of this great ministry. This ministry speaks for those who cannot speak themselves and advocates for those who are blind, hungry and have no justice. It has been ten years of struggle to maintain the glory of God among the afflicted. May faith in God continue to help you cross the seas of difficulty, and may every nation, in particular the United States and Canada, better understand its life imperative. Receive shalom and good thoughts for your continued ministry on this your tenth anniversary.

Rev. Patrick Villier, President, CONASPEH, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

On behalf of members of the Council of Christian Churches in Angola (CICA) I want to express our thanks for the good partnership we're developing with Global Ministries and extend our congratulations for your 10th anniversary. May the Lord continue blessing the ministry of this important board which is a real tool of cooperation, connecting Christian bodies of the world!

Rev. Luis NGulmbi, CICA's General Secretary, Angola



Mabrouk for the celebrations of Global Ministries. I am sorry I am not there to celebrate with you in person, but I celebrate daily our relationship, our partnership, our joint ministry and our friendships, which existed with both churches even before Global Ministries was born. There is not a meeting or a gathering I attended without reiterating that Global Ministries is a sign of hope for me and for Palestinians. Global Ministries has heard our cry and appointed Marla Schrader to accompany Palestinian organizations in many fields over the past fifteen years. She continues to empower me in my ecumenical and interfaith ministry as I travel the world to educate and as I remain steadfast in my local community offering hospitality and bridges of understanding that nurture a culture of peace and non-violence. God is calling us to an active type of presence, a presence which calls us all to work for justice and peace for all. Marla has been an embodiment of companionship and accompaniment and a ministry of presence. Let us celebrate Global Ministries, the directors past and present, the staff and all the missionaries who have made a difference in the world.

Jean Zaru, Clerk of the Ramallah Friends Meeting, Ramallah, Palestine

I came to know the UCC and the Disciples of Christ when I was working with the Middle East Council of Churches, beginning in 1978. They have been supportive of the churches' ecumenical work and in helping MECC achieve its objectives. I was honored to be present at the joint meeting of both the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ when they met for the first time to discuss their joint mission work and the issue of unity. I strongly believe that Global Ministries is a blessing from God to his people all over the world, and especially the poor and the marginalized, the oppressed and the weak, and Christians and non-Christians. Global Ministries’ support to both organizations—the Arab Group for Christian-Muslim Dialogue and the Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue—has enabled us to help the broken communities of the Middle East: children, women and men who suffer from injustice, lack of peace and security, and a weak economy that has destroyed the lives of many, especially women and children. Global Ministries has empowered our efforts to promote a culture of dialogue and bring Christians and other faith communities together for a better understanding of each other, promoting a culture of dialogue that supports equal citizenship. It has helped in bringing youth from all different backgrounds to build their capacities in issues related to conflict resolution, justice, peace and human rights. And in times of war and conflict, Global Ministries was present to wipe the tears and enable women and children to face the miseries and sufferings of the war and know they are not alone! On behalf of the Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue (FDCD), and the Arab Group for Christian-Muslim Dialogue (AGCMD), hearty congratulations to Global Ministries on its 10th anniversary and may our loving God strengthen you and bless you in your ministry.

Rev. Dr. Riad Jarjour, Arab Group for Christian-Muslim Dialogue and President, Forum for Development Culture and Dialogue



On behalf of the Churches of Christ Theological College in Australia, I welcome the opportunity to offer our warmest regards to the Common Global Ministries Board on the occasion of your 10th anniversary. In Australia, the movement known as Churches of Christ is relatively small, but we have an ecumenical presence that often surprises. Our capacity to engage in the mission of God in this part of the world has been enriched enormously through our partnership with Global Ministries. We thank you for your concern for us and we deeply appreciate the generosity of your contribution to the task of ministry and mission in Australia and the Asian-Pacific region. We congratulate you on achieving 10 years as facilitators of valued global ministry. We also affirm, and are inspired by, the model of ecumenical cooperation that you embody. Our prayers are with you at this time of celebration and we look forward to a future where Global Ministries continues to nurture the mission of Christ in the wider world of God.

Merrill Kitchen, Principal, Churches of Christ Theological College, Australia



I am so pleased to send my congratulations, prayers and best wishes as you celebrate the 10th anniversary of Global Ministries. As someone who has been a part of our global ministries family since 1979, I have lived through the initial discussions about this union and the prolonged transition to the Common Global Ministries Board. In my first meetings with the combined board during home leaves, I confess to some feelings of loss and confusion. However, as time has passed, I have learned that our attempt to be a more inclusive, diverse global mission family is in fact a metaphor for what we believe global missions should be about. We must live out our commitment to embrace one another in all our diversity and different-ness, no matter how messy and challenging that is, if our mutuality-in-mission/critical-presence relationships with our partners around the world are to ‘ring true.’ Together, we are seeking to live out God’s calling on all of us to be witnesses to compassion, peace and justice wherever and however God calls us.

Lydia Johnson, Global Ministries Missionary, New Zealand

On the occasion of Global Ministries’ celebration of its 10th anniversary, the Executive Office of Disciples of Christ Church in Congo-Brazzaville and the entire Church community wish Global Ministries all the best. This event is very significant to us, particularly because this unity was born at the very moment when our own local church was started, so for us this is a “twin” celebration. The organization and work of Global Ministries serve as examples as to how to extend to every corner of the world. This is also an example of how we can perform God’s work well with other communities, according to the recommendation of Jesus in John 17: 22-23. May this day mark success and continuity in your ministry for the glory of God who created us. God bless Global Ministries in remembrance of the day of it’s creation.

Rev. Lucien Kobele, General Secretary, Disciples of Christ Congo-Brazzaville

United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe (UCCZ), formerly known as the American Board Mission, sends warm regards and congratulations to Global Ministries on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of covenant. The merging of the two boards kindled light in the Christian community in Africa, making it more illuminated in the UCCZ in particular. Since the union, there has been understanding and growth of meaningful partnership with churches in other areas, an intricate web of relationships that link us together in common witness. We rank Global Ministries highly for enabling church organisations in Africa, the Middle East and Europe, Southern Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean to experience abundant life in Christian ministry.

Rev. E.M. Matuvhunye, President, UCCZ, Zimbabwe

On behalf of Lesotho Evangelical Church, I would like to send our heartiest congratulations on the anniversary of the union of the UCC and Disciples of Christ. Our church has enjoyed a fruitful relationship with Global Ministries over many years.

Mollmo A le Boloke and Rev. B.M.Kometsi, Lesotho Evangelical Church

Peace and Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the Lord keep you and support you always in your Christian Mission. As you meet to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the formation of Global Ministries, the Middle East Council of Churches feels pride and gratitude as your partner for the past decade, and long before that, with the United Church Board for World Ministries and the Middle East office of your two churches. The Middle East Council of Churches takes pleasure in extending its warmest congratulations on this occasion, for the unification of the United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ in total commitment to the oneness of Christ’s mission and for the establishment of Global Ministries. You have supported the churches and the people of the Middle East region countless times. As the situation continues to deteriorate in this region and land that saw Christ’s birth, we are certain of your continuous support, which will help maintain Christian presence and witness in this land where destruction and suffering are not spared. We rejoice as you rejoice, and we pray for the continuity of your mission. Our sincerest congratulations and may God bless you and keep you all.

Gulrgis I. Saleh, General Secretary, The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC)



To all our friends at Global Ministries, on this your tenth anniversary celebrating your ministry of solidarity, support, and commitment, the staff, volunteers, and children of Caminante Educational Project send you best wishes, blessings, and peace. You can say, as did the prophet Isaiah, that *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners...* Thank you for giving us your support and for your constant prayers for our ministry. You have made many of our dreams a reality.

Denisse Pichardo, President, Boca Chica, Dominican Republic

We, the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola (IECA), send the warmest congratulations to both Churches for having decided to found Global Ministries. Please accept our humble word of appreciation of the work this Global Ministries has been carrying out. The foundation of Global Ministries expresses the accomplishment of our Lord’s prayer that we be one as the Father and the Son are one, and reveals this unity in spirit and action. God bless Global Ministries, Amen.

Rev Augusto Chipesse, General Secretary and Head of the Church, IECA, Angola

Our greetings to you in the holy name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As a part of this union, the Disciples of Christ in Democratic Republic of Congo brings greetings that we are with you in hearts and spirits during the celebration of your anniversary. We will continue praying for our partnership together and total commitment to the oneness of Christ’s mission. “They may be one as you and I are one.” John 17:11. May God continue to bless Global Ministries.

Rev.Elilki Bonanga, Disciples of Christ in Democratic Republic of Congo

I will praise you, O God, among the nations; I will sing of you among the people.

Psalm 57:9

Still More Voices of Global Partnership

Each bird
must sing
with its
own voice.

Henrik Ibsen


It is a joy to greet you in the blessed name of Jesus Christ. We congratulate the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for the ten years of joining their endeavors in the common witness of Global Ministries. Witnessing to the love of Christ Jesus through ministering to those in need of love is a blessed effort in itself; ministering together is doubly blessed, because it stresses the oneness of the Church's mission, Christ's mission. We in the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East consider ourselves richly and multiply blessed by our partnership with Global Ministries because we too have become partners in that one mission. This is a privilege and a challenge; the privilege of presenting Jesus Christ to the world is also a challenge to be worthy instruments in God's hands, instruments not only to reach those in need with his love, but to do so as the "one expression" of our one Lord through one Spirit, "that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." (John 17:23b) We thank the Lord for trusting us through you with such a task. It is our prayer that the Lord strengthens his church in you for many more years to come, for the benefit of the many more who will hear of his saving grace, and for his glory.

Rev. Megrdich Karagoezian, President, Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, Beirut, Lebanon

It is good to reminisce and celebrate about the significant events of life most especially its inception. It is particularly true with the beginning of the life and ministry of Global Ministries ten years ago. With the many notable undertakings of Christian witness and service in various parts of the world that benefitted so many lives, churches, and communities, Global Ministries has all the reasons to rejoice and celebrate the goodness of God and his people. We join with you in festivity and thanksgiving through Rev. Marma Urbano. The United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), through its incumbent leadership, including the national secretariate, takes pleasure and honor in greeting the members of the Common Global Ministries Board. Happy and blessed 10th anniversary.

Mabuhay Po Kayong Lahat Bishop Eliezer M. Pascua, General Secretary, United Church of Christ in the Philippines




On the auspicious occasion of the tenth anniversary of CGMB, I write to extend congratulations to you and to your supporting denominations, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ, for your ecumenical vision and for your thoughtful collaboration with partner churches worldwide. As a recently returned GM missionary to the Peoples Republic of China, I also write to express profound gratitude for the cultural sensitivities of the Board, its staff, and its missionaries. You make it possible for us to work effectively with partner churches even in lands where ambiguous history and strident nationalism have frequently combined to render traditional mission methods ineffective and unacceptable. You are also assisting American congregations in coming to understand the reality of a world-wide Christian community in which women and men of faith relate on the basis of equality, share one another's burdens, and support one another as best we may. Your work has been a blessing to many over the past decade, and I look to the future with hope for your continuing wisdom and assurance of God's grace.
Samuel C. Pearson, Global Ministries Missionary in China, 2002-06

I am honored to have this opportunity to congratulate you as you celebrate the 10th anniversary of Global Ministries, a milestone that deserves recognition. On my own behalf and on behalf of St. Paul's students and staff, I would like to extend my best wishes to you as you gather to celebrate this wonderful occasion. I'd like to express my admiration and an infinite gratefulness for everything that you've done for the last 10 years, as well as for everything that you will accomplish in the future. On behalf of the St. Paul's Community, I would like to particularly appreciate our partnership in setting up the communication and preaching lab, which will facilitate the training offered by St. Paul's towards realizing effective service to God and humanity. Global Ministries has a tremendous responsibility to effectively monitor and foster cooperation in total commitment to the oneness of Christ's mission, and St. Paul's United Theological College, Limuru, is honored to be partners with you. We wish you God's blessings in whatever you do now and in the future.
Dr. Timothy Wachira, St. Paul's Limuru, Kenya



A Song of Rice and Beans

This poem was written by a working class Chilean woman in 1973, shortly after Chile's socialist president, Salvador Allende, was overthrown. A U.S. missionary translated the work and brought it with her when she was forced to leave Chile. This is to be read by two people, one reading the bold-faced type and one reading the regular type.

I am a woman.
I am a woman.
I am a woman born of a woman whose man owned a factory.
I am a woman born of a woman whose man owned a factory.
I am a woman whose man wore silk suits, who constantly watched his weight.
I am a woman whose man wore tattered clothing, whose heart was constantly strangled by hunger.
I am a woman who watched two babies grow into beautiful children.
I am a woman who watched two babies die because there was no milk.
I am a woman who watched twins grow into popular college students with summers abroad.
I am a woman who watched three children grow, but with bellies stretched from no food.
But then there was a man;
But then there was a man;
And he talked about the peasants getting richer by my family getting poorer.
And he told me of days that would be better and he made the days better.
We had to eat rice.
We had rice.
We had to eat beans!
We had beans.
My children were no longer given summer visas to Europe.
My children no longer cried themselves to sleep.
And I felt like a peasant.
And I felt like a woman.
A peasant with a dull, hard, unexciting life.
Like a woman with a life that sometimes allowed a song.
And I saw a man.
And I saw a man.
And together we began to plot with the hope of the return to freedom.
I saw his heart begin to beat with hope of freedom, at last.
Someday, the return to freedom.
Someday freedom.
And then,
But then,
One day,
One day,

There were planes overhead and guns firing close by.
There were planes overhead and guns firing in the distance.
I gathered my children and went home.
I gathered my children and ran.
And the guns moved farther and farther away.
But the guns moved closer and closer.
And then, they announced that freedom had been re-stored!
And then they came, young boys really.
They came into my home along with my man.
They came and found my man.
Those men whose money was almost gone.
They found all of the men whose lives were almost their own.
And we all had drinks to celebrate.
And they shot them all.
The most wonderful martinis.
They shot my man.
And then they asked us to dance.
And they came for me.
Me.
For me, the woman.
And my sisters.
For my sisters.
And then they took us.
Then they took us.
They took us to dinner at a small private club.
They stripped from us the dignity we had gained.
And they treated us to beef.
And then they raped us.
It was one course after another.
One after another they came after us.
We nearly burst we were so full.
Lunging, plunging – sisters bleeding, sisters dying.
It was magnificent to be free again!
It was hardly a relief to have survived.
The beans have almost disappeared now.
The beans have disappeared.
The rice – I have replaced it with chicken or steak.
The rice, I cannot find it.
And the parties continue night after night to make up for all the time wasted.
And my silent tears are joined once more by the midnight cries of my children.
And I feel like a woman again.
They say, I am a woman.



The time of rice and beans for the poor woman in the poem occurred after the election of the socialist, Salvador Allende, as president of Chile. Allende was elected in 1970. He was overthrown in a military coup in September 1973 after a long period of destabilization launched by the wealthy classes and supported by the US government and US corporations. Along with thousands of others, Allende was killed by the military. The coup, under the leadership of General Augusto Pinochet, launched a period of severe hardship for the working and peasant classes. From *Rethinking Our Classrooms: Teaching for Equity and Justice*; www.rethinkingschools.org