



INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

American Baptist Foreign Mission Society
P.O. Box 851 • Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

American Baptist International Ministries was formed to help Baptists in the United States work together in one sacred effort to make disciples of all nations. Organized in 1814, it is the oldest Baptist international mission agency in North America and the second oldest in the world, following the Baptist Missionary Society formed 1792 in England.

REID TRULSON

"In One Sacred Effort: Elements of an American Baptist Missiology"



INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES



2015-2016 Annual Report
Our Response to the Call

IM's Passionate Response

Dear IM family,

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year at International Ministries. Soon after my installation, I met all of our global servants and their children on the IM *Around the World* trip. All of these servants live with a passionate sense of God's call on their lives, a calling that asks them to faithfully live out the gospel of Jesus Christ daily. The IM home staff supports that work with a similar passion and commitment. It's amazing to see what God can do through people working together for a common purpose.

After that, I got to meet many of you in my travels across the United States—including ABCUSA regions who give sacrificially, people who volunteer as members of Mission Partnership Teams, pastors who lead their churches in supporting our ministries and partners in mission who dream of becoming an IM missionary someday. I especially enjoyed meeting those who said, "I couldn't become a missionary, so I want to make it possible for others to cross cultural boundaries for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Somewhat recently, in an office clean-up exercise, I found myself standing in the midst of the dusty bookshelves of our history. The more I read, the more humbled I felt by the missional legacy we now stand upon and are charged with carrying forward.

The year ahead is full of God's exciting promises, beginning with a brand refresh. While we cherish the images that centuries of responding to the call of Christ have given us, we are also looking toward the third century of God's mission through the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

Even as we live into the entirety of our strategic plan, *Responding to the Call (RTC)*, we feel led by God's Spirit to focus on Discipleship, Peace and Justice, Abolishing Slavery and Economic and Community Development this year. As you enjoy the pages of this report, please pray for all of our global and domestic staff who are engaged in these and all the other areas of RTC.

Finally, I am pleased to report that 2016 brought continued financial stability and growth for IM, with every indication that this trend will continue. The sacrificial giving of our donors, churches and regions supports our global servants and partners, funds their projects and makes the entire work of IM possible. Thank you for being a significant part of IM bringing God's kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10)

Gratefully,



SHARON KOH, MDiv, MAT
Executive Director / CEO



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IM STAFF LEADERSHIP

Sharon Koh, MDiv, MAT
Executive Director / CEO

Patti Glasser
Associate Executive Director
of Administration

Stan Slade, MA, PhD
Associate Executive Director
of Program

Zofia Dripps, MMin
Associate Executive Director
of Mission Advancement

Responding Together

Dear Friend,

The Board of Directors of American Baptist International Ministries is energized by the heart, vision and skills of our new executive director, the Rev. Sharon Koh. We are also filled with hope as seasoned staff and global servants implement the strategic plan, Responding to the Call. We pray that many people will come to know Jesus and be faithful to his call.

In this annual report, you see references to followers of Jesus learning what it means to grow in faith within challenging cultural contexts, working to transform conflict and oppression into peace and justice, freeing those who are victims of slavery and sexual exploitation and creating opportunities for people to make better lives for themselves and their communities. International Ministries global servants strengthen and extend the work of international partners. The Holy Spirit moves. Jesus Christ is glorified. People live into the fullness of life that God has prepared for them.

Your board of directors works toward these ends, that what we see on earth may be as it is in heaven. The directors are women and men from Puerto Rico to California whose genes reflect the world's major ethnic groups. Their professions, not-for-profit work and personal skill sets contribute to a rich depth of knowledge and insight. These directors are deeply committed to the work of the local church and also to the global mission of Jesus. They use their combined experience and their love for Jesus to provide effective governance of the organization and to sustain and extend the mission until Jesus returns.

The board is also keenly aware that your prayers, financial support, direct mission engagement and relationships with our global servants provide the spiritual elixir that empowers people to respond to God's call to mission. You are the ones who enable a missionary to hold a frightened child while whispering words of comfort and hope.

Thank you for your partnership in mission. We are deeply grateful for your support.

Sincerely,



REG MILLS, MDiv, PhD
President



International Ministries Board of Directors

Officers

Rev. Dr. Reginald Mills
President
Mercy Johnson
Vice President
Rev. Paul Vick
Treasurer

Board Directors

Rev. Dr. David Ball
Rev. Wendy Bernhard
Terry Farmer
David Gnirk
Sharon Gober
Lorna Hansen
Manuel Hernandez
Marijane Kiley
Thomas Lacy
Rev. Kathy Longhat
Rev. Ronald Maxwell
Jorge Medero
Rev. Barry Moultrie
Timothy Pantoja
Rev. Dr. Jenny Quey
Roger Raikes
Susan Rhodes
Denise Ruffin
Rich Schweissing
Nancy Shaver

Global Servants

AFRICA



Area Director
Eleazar Zihherambere

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Glen & Rita Chapman
Ann & Bill Clemmer
Jill & Mike Lowery
Katherine & Wayne Niles
Ed & Miriam Noyes
Kathy & Tim Rice
Katrina & Kyle Williams

Ghana

Rovaughna Richardson

South Africa

Anita & Rick Gutiérrez

Togo

Awenam Anifrani &
Holale Azondjagni*

Regional Consultant

Marilyn Raatz*

EUROPE & THE MIDDLE EAST



Area Director
Charles Jones

Bulgaria

Terry & Tom Myers

Czech Republic

Nora & Pieter Kalkman

Hungary

Carrie & Kurt Smalley
Larry & Rebecca Stanton
Carmella Jones

Lebanon

Dan & Sarah Chetti

United Kingdom

Hermelinda & Jorge
Damasceno

IBEROAMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



Area Director
Adalia Gutiérrez Lee

Bolivia

JD & Rhonda Reed

Brazil

Corene & Phil Smith

Chile

Barb & Dwight Bolick

Costa Rica

Sue Hegarty
Peter & Sarah McCurdy
Ruth Mooney

Dominican Republic

Madeline Flores-López
Ketly & Vital Pierre

Haiti

Nancy & Stephen James
Kihomi Ngwemi &
Mabudiga Nzunga
Brian & Lynette Smith*

Honduras

Dilia Zelaya

Mexico

Debbie & Keith Myers
Patti & Tim Long
Deliris Carrión-Rosa

Nicaragua

Carlos Bonilla & Mayra
Giovanetti
David & Laura Parajón

Panama

Ingrid Roldán-Román

Regional Consultants

My linda Baits
Mercy Gonzalez-Barnes
David & Joyce Reed
Ray Schellinger

EAST ASIA, CHINA & INDIA



Area Director
Benjamin Chan

Philippines

Jonathan & Thelma Nambu
Deb Mulneix
Paul Rollet

 Countries where vocational global workers serve

*Not yet in Country of Service

IM's Global Response

SOUTHEAST ASIA & JAPAN



Area Director
Leslie Turley

Japan
Gordon & Lee Ann Hwang
Shigemi Tomita

Thailand
Kim Brown
Aphiwan & Scott Coats
Annie & Jeff Dieselberg
Chuck & Ruth Fox
Lea Lindero
Becky Mann
Jeni Pedzinski
Kit Ripley
Karen Smith
Debby & Kyle Witmer

Regional Consultants
Ann & Bruce Borquist

GLOBAL CONSULTANTS

Lauran Bethell
Dan Buttry
Sharon Buttry
Kristy Engel
Mike Mann
Stan Slade
Jeanine White
Walt White

DEVELOPMENT WORKERS

Melanie Baggao
Dwayne & Janet Doyle
Laura & Rich Freeman
Joel Hoefle & Trish Magal
Katie & Taku Longkumer
Lori & Matt Mann
Carole Sydnor
Emerson & Ivy Wu

ENDORSED AS GLOBAL SERVANT CANDIDATES

Denise Osejo- & Juan
Aragón - Mexico

The global servants of International Ministries embody and bear witness to God's redeeming love in an amazing variety of ways and places. Encouraged by the spiritual leadership of five area directors, IM's home staff gives **guidance to new servants and partners** as well as **continuing support to longtime global servants**.

IM workers are in residence in 29 countries, with ministries to many more. They serve with over 200 ministry partners reaching people in over 70 countries. They **invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ** as they serve them through a multiplicity of ministries. Using their God-given gifts, skills and knowledge, they put feet on our common prayer: "your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10)

STANLEY SLADE, MA, PhD
Associate Executive Director of Program



Featured Initial Priorities
Discipleship

TOTAL:

120

GLOBAL SERVANTS

[69 Global Servant Units
29 Countries with Goba
l Servants in Residence]



The Humble Response of a Former Refugee

Where is home? For Lah-Say Wah, a young woman in her mid-twenties, it is Colorado. But it is also Thailand, where she was born and raised in a refugee camp. Years after moving to the U.S., although no longer a refugee, Lah-Say discovered that she could fulfill a dream to reconnect with her roots. And that journey changed her life.

Lah-Say's parents fled to the Mae La refugee camp in Thailand in 1991 to escape armed conflict and persecution in Burma. They were a part of a globally growing number of refugees who had fled from war, violence or natural disasters. Lah-Say was born in the camp, which was her home until 2009, when her family was given the opportunity to immigrate to America. A bright and eager student, Lah-Say adapted quickly to life in Colorado. Although she knew just a few words of English when she arrived, she enrolled in an American high school and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in public health from Colorado University.

After graduating, Lah-Say yearned to return to northern Thailand to reconnect with her roots and invest in the ethnic Karen (Kah-ren) community there. Her friend Amanda Zepeda told her about the New Life Center in northern Thailand, **which ministers to young ethnic minority women who have experienced or are at risk for human trafficking, forced labor and other forms of exploitation.** Lah-Say was intrigued, and Amanda helped her to get connected quickly.

Lah-Say's language abilities in Karen, Burmese, English and Thai made it easy for her to fit in, and she adapted quickly to her volunteer placement. She taught English, practiced photography and served with great humility and flexibility.

Perhaps even more significantly, Lah-Say's own story of survival and faith in Jesus was a powerful testimony to the New Life Center residents who, like her, had survived ethnic persecution and displacement. During Lah-Say's farewell celebration, several people testified to **the profound impact she had made in their lives solely through the gift of her presence.**

"I cannot believe how much Thailand, and especially the New Life Center, has changed my life," Lah-Say said upon returning to Colorado. "God used this experience to revitalize my faith. I now have a renewed commitment to make a difference in the world by serving other people who have been displaced like me."

KAREN SMITH, MA
Director of Mission Design



Featured Initial Priorities
Abolishing Slavery
Discipleship

Responding to a Changing World

The world is constantly in motion. People are moving further, faster and more frequently than ever before. Ethnic groups that once were separated by continents or oceans now meet as neighbors. Individuals can reconnect with their roots or take their place in a new culture. In all of the movement and uncertainty, spiritual hunger grows as people search for a sense of identity.

Yet even as the world changes, the fundamental human needs remain the same. Belonging. Purpose. **Freedom from enslavement and exploitation; from persecution and discrimination.** Sustenance and shelter for the body. Education and wise counsel for the mind. And most of all, the saving grace of God. As people who desire to see God's kingdom realized on earth, the question we must face is how to address these needs today, given all the challenges and opportunities of our ever-changing world.

It was with prayerful discernment that we developed *Responding to the Call*, our strategic plan for the upcoming years of ministry, striving to better understand God's purpose for IM at this point in history. The fruits of that process were the Focused Impact Areas and Ministry Priorities that describe our ministry, which are shown in the chart. Out of these, we identified four Initial Priorities that will receive special focus throughout the next two years.

These diverse Ministry Priorities do not stand alone—each is an integral part of IM's mission. So when we seek to share God's Word, we might find that the biblical truths are more readily understood and accepted when we have shared God's love in a tangible way. When we seek to help

someone rise out of poverty, **we can empower that individual by strengthening the entire community—and, similarly, we can strengthen communities by empowering individuals.**

In all of our ministries, **we come alongside those whom we serve as co-laborers**, preparing them to carry on the good work themselves. When we heal, we also train healers. When we plant a church, we collaborate with church members to build up their own gifts of teaching, counseling, administration and evangelism so that the church will be ready to

respond when God calls it to purposeful ministries of its own.

The call to proclaim God's reign of justice, peace and abundant life requires us to respond together in creative ways. And when people come together—global servants, partners, prayer warriors and financial supporters—there is no lack of creativity. Each is able to contribute the gifts and skills entrusted to them by God, and when combined with the work of partners and in country friends and the blessing of the Holy Spirit, lives are transformed.

FOCUSED IMPACT AREAS	MINISTRY PRIORITIES
1 Inviting People to be Disciples of Jesus	Evangelism Discipleship Theological Education
2 Proclaiming God's Reign of Justice, Peace and Abundant Life	Immigrants and Refugees Peace and Justice Abolition of Trafficking in Persons and Global Slavery Education Economic and Community Development Health and Wellness
3 Equipping the Body of Christ to Engage in God's Mission	Promotion of Mission "From Everywhere to Everyone" Short-term Mission Engagement Youth and Young Adults Training and Capacity Building
4 Pursuing Organizational Excellence*	Financial Health Accountability Technological Advancement Communication

*This impact area is important to the vitality and sustainability of IM. The priorities within the impact area are being addressed and improved on an ongoing basis.

For more information, email Director of Mission Design Karen Smith at karen.smith@internationalministries.org.

Peace and Justice

International Ministries works with the Body of Christ around the world to embody God's love in situations of discord, suffering and conflict.



Ministry Champion:

Dan Buttry, MDiv, ThD

Manal El Tayar had already been stirred to serve the cause of peace. A Lebanese student of political science and sociology, she was intrigued by how social change could come

through conflict transformation. And so, one Sunday, when she introduced herself to the American couple sitting next to her in church, it was with amazement that she learned that they traveled the world promoting peace!

Dan and Sharon Buttry, IM global consultants, were in Lebanon as guest lecturers. They invited Manal to visit one of their classes, which she did, and several months later she attended their intensive Training of Conflict Transformation Trainers program.

Today, Manal works as coordinator for the Peace-Building Initiatives program of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary's Institute for Middle East Studies. She also rejoined Dan and Sharon in Egypt in February 2017 to co-facilitate a training program.

"A lifelong calling is emerging for Manal," Dan says. "She is part of a rising generation of Christian peacemakers."



Abolition of Trafficking in Persons and Global Slavery

International Ministries seeks to nurture the psychological, physical and spiritual transformation of those who have experienced the trauma of forced labor.



Ministry Champion:

Lauran Bethell, MDiv, DD, LHD

For those who are trafficked into the sex industry, an escape from prostitution is only the first step toward restoration. Home lies beyond a wall of expenses, legal requirements and

discriminatory treatment, and without documents or adequate income the climb can seem impossible.

"Hannah" had hit that wall. After six years as a single mother in the red light district of Bangkok, Thailand, she had seemingly found a way out. NightLight International, founded by IM missionary Annie Dieselberg, was helping her return to her country. But when it came time to board the flight home, she was detained.

During the next week, NightLight organized "a storm of prayers, legal counsel, assistance from NGOs and finally a court order," Annie says. That was the breakthrough they needed.

At last, Hannah stood at the border with her children in her arms and a phone in her hand as she told her mother that she was coming home. With tears of joy, she cried, "Mummy, I love you! I love you!"





Economic and Community Development

IM personnel are engaged in income-creation and sustainable livelihood programs that seek to restore God's *shalom* to marginalized and at-risk individuals and communities.

Ministry Champion:

Bruce Borquist, MBA



In May 2016, a 14-person mission team from San Diego Christian College spent 19 days in the rural Thai village of Ma Oh Jo serving with the Integrated Tribal Development Program (ITDP), an organization founded and directed by IM global consultant Mike Mann with the help of his wife, Becky.

One of the many projects the group tackled was completing a house for teachers at the Ma Oh Jo school. "This new house is to hopefully encourage teachers to stay long term," Mike explains. "They live at the school the entire school year, so our goal was to give them a place of their own."

The team also helped to prepare an agriculture demonstration area. This land is used to model and teach effective farming techniques so that villagers can grow their own gardens.

By not only giving villagers seeds but also teaching them how to grow sustainable crops, and by not only supporting schools but also encouraging educated individuals to stay and contribute to their communities, the ITDP and the mission teams that serve with it are making great strides toward ending poverty in the hill tribes of Thailand.



Discipleship

International Ministries comes alongside people so that, together, we may grow in our knowledge of and commitment to Christ.

"In the late 1990s, a Muslim teacher heard the good news of the gospel through a radio broadcast," writes Katie Longkumer, an IM development worker in India along with her husband, Taku. "God touched him and he committed his life to Christ.

"As he grew in Christ, the call to full-time ministry 'burned in his soul'" and he began to seek training in Christian ministry—however, his community responded by exiling him for several years. He was at last allowed to return "with the understanding that he would not preach there," but that did not stop him from pursuing his calling. After consulting with Taku, he founded Neighborhood Ministries as an outreach to the Muslim community.

This ministry has been growing ever since. Today, there are "an average of 12 baptisms each month and over 100 house churches established," Katie writes. "When the Bible is read aloud in homes, neighbors hear, their hearts are stirred and they come to inquire. And as God's Word is given to those with hungry, seeking hearts, lives, families and communities are transformed."

Responding in Faith

For the thousands of people in the communities we serve across the globe, the Christ-centered work of International Ministries staff members, global servants and partners is truly a light in the darkness. We continually strive to embody the active and living love of God to those in need of comfort, material assistance and spiritual renewal.

All of this is only possible because of your prayers and faithful financial support.

You can support our ministries by giving to:

- The IM **General Fund**, which meets the ongoing needs of the entire work of IM
- One or more **global servants**
- **Mission projects**
- The **World Mission Offering**, which is the American Baptist Churches USA's annual emphasis on global mission
- The IM **Endowment**, which ensures the sustainability of IM's global mission for the long term

Some of the ways to give:

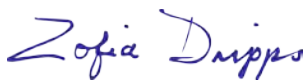
- **Cash gifts** – You can give via check or credit card in one sum or through scheduled payments.
- **Gifts of stock and other securities** – You receive a tax benefit and IM receives the appreciated value.
- **Annual IRA gifts** – If you are 70.5+, an IRA gift can help you fulfill your minimum required distribution and provide you with tax savings.
- **A gift in a will or beneficiary designation** – Making a gift in honor of a loved one or in your memory can simplify your future decisions and leave a lasting impact.
- **Employer matching gifts** – Ask your employer if your gift can be multiplied by a company contribution.

Many people give generously so that their example can influence others to make the same commitment. Through the Luther Rice Society, IM annually recognizes and honors this important leadership giving.

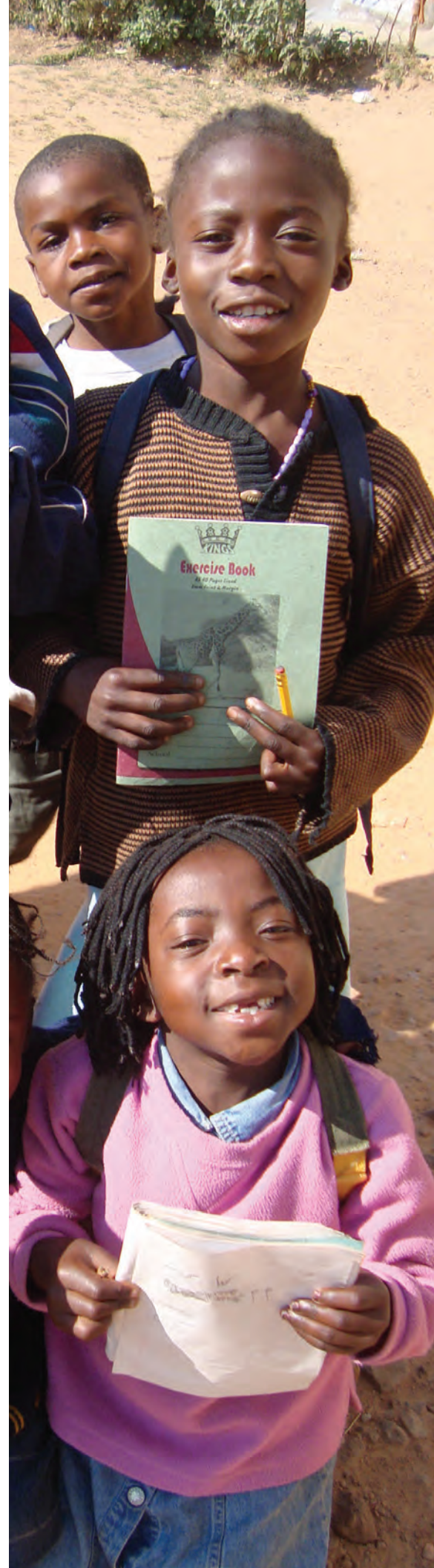
Grants from donor-advised funds and family foundations, gifts that produce life income and other options are available to fulfill your charitable purpose. Call us with any questions at 610-768-2311.

Your partnership is what makes our work possible, and we continually thank God for you in prayer. Thank you for joining with us in ministry!

All for God's glory,



ZOFIA DRIPPS, MMin
Associate Executive Director
of Mission Advancement



Financial Snapshot

I am pleased to provide this financial summary of the global outreach of International Ministries in 2016. This report sets forth the permanent record of the financial status for the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti a Glasser

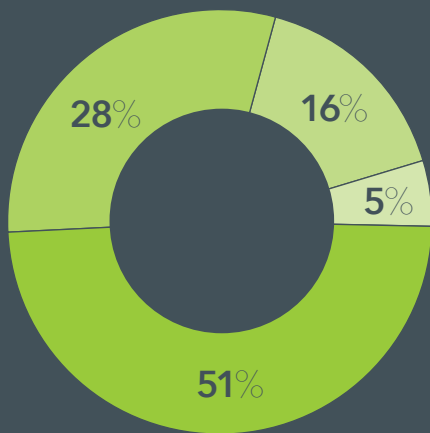
PATTI GLASSER
Associate Executive
Director for
Administration



STATEMENT OF MISSION MINISTRY

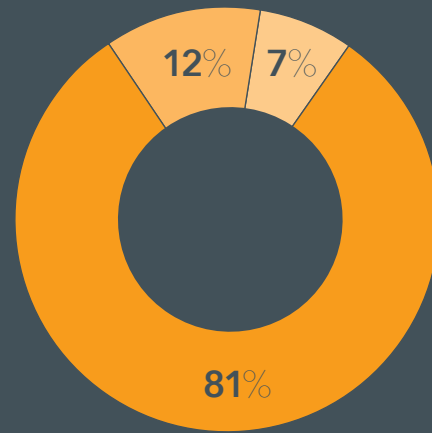
For fiscal years ending September 30, 2016 and 2015

Revenue, Gains and Other Support	2016	2015
Contributions	12,457,761	12,405,655
Contributions to the Endowment Fund	864,879	536,312
Realized Planned Gifts	725,855	475,669
Other Income	393,337	267,665
Endowment Income for Current Operations	2,130,472	2,339,591
Other Investment Income/misc.	246,092	(51,685)
Total Revenues	\$ 16,818,396	\$ 15,973,207
Expenses		
Ministry of Global Servants & Partners	9,152,261	9,208,291
Ministry Support & Education	3,750,052	3,596,773
Total Program Expenses	12,902,313	12,805,064
Administrative Support & Fees	1,851,251	1,430,982
Development & Fundraising	1,078,236	907,003
Total Supporting Expenses	2,929,487	2,337,985
Total Expenses	\$ 15,831,800	\$ 15,143,049



SOURCES OF CONTRIBUTIONS

- Congregations & Church Groups
- Individuals & Others
- Businesses, Foundations & Organizations
- Planned Gifts



EXPENSES

- Program Expenses
- Administrative Support & Fees
- Development & Fundraising