



**INSIDE:
NEW COUPLE
ENDORSED
FOR INDIA**



N | LOCATION

GLOBAL FOCUS: China, India, Nepal



GOOD NEWS FROM CHINA

The Rev. Benjamin S.L. Chan coordinates IM's work in China/Hong Kong, India, Korea, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, and supervises IM's Global Consultants.



The sanctuaries of churches in China, which were once empty, are now filled to overflowing!

23 Million Christians in China!

by the Rev Benjamin Chan, IM Area Director for East Asia and India

We are not always aware of how the gospel is bearing fruit around the world. This is particularly true for East Asia and especially for China. Official Chinese surveys show that nearly one in three citizens in the People's Republic of China, generally perceived as an atheist country, describe themselves as "religious." This is in stark contrast to the goals of the Cultural Revolution, which began under Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung) in 1966 and ended with his death in 1976. In those ten years many religious leaders were dispersed throughout the country for "re-education," all churches and church-run organizations were forced to close, and worship services and Bible reading were forbidden.

Seeds Are Sown

During that bleak time, many Christian leaders in the western world concluded that the gospel message was silenced. However, attempts to eliminate religion actually became a means for purifying the church and dispersing

thousands of committed Christians. Faith and hope were being shared in every corner of China.

Then beginning in the late 1970s, the Chinese government changed its ultra-conservative position. Since then, there has been an explosion of religious belief for three decades. Now China's government officially recognizes five religions: Protestantism, Catholicism, Buddhism, Islam and Daoism. The largest growth has been in Christianity.

The Gospel Bears Fruit

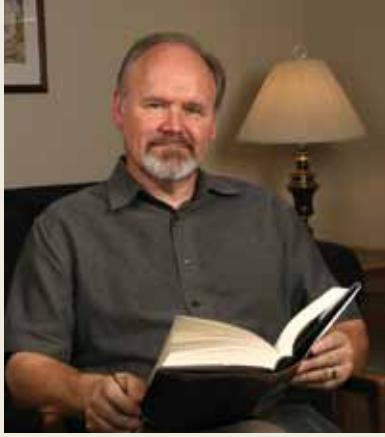
The first Protestant church was reopened in 1979. The China Christian Council (CCC) was formed in 1980 to help the churches restore their activities. Since then the number of churches and meeting points of the CCC has grown to more than 55,000 with over 23 million members. These congregations are served by 3,700 pastors, 27,000 evangelists and more than 150,000 lay leaders and lay pastors. Among the Christian workers, 40% are women, including 1,000 who are

ordained clergy.

To provide more pastors and theological educators, 21 CCC-related Bible schools and theological seminaries now offer certificate and degree programs to 1,800 students every year with 9,000 already graduated. County-level training institutes and Bible schools are mushrooming. International Ministries (IM) has provided student scholarships and recently helped with the construction of the women students' dormitory of the Nu Shui County Bible Training Center in Yunnan Province.

Another important factor reflecting Christian influence in China was the establishment of two organizations in the 1980s—The Amity Foundation and the Amity Printing Company. The Foundation (see page 8) has become the largest and most recognized Chinese non-government religious organization. The Bible began to be printed after the paramount leader of the People's Republic of China, Deng

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Executive Director's Message

by the Rev. Dr. Reid S. Trulson

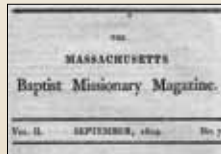
The Star in the East

*"For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."
(Matthew 2:2)*

With those words the wise men explained why they had traveled from the East to Jerusalem in search of a newborn King.

Some eighteen centuries later those words gave title to a sermon, "The Star in the East," which Dr. Claudius Buchanan preached in Bristol, England. His sermon described the progress of the gospel in India based on Buchanan's study and observations from his years as a chaplain to the British East Indies Company.

In September 1809, 21-year-old Adoniram Judson read that sermon, which had been reprinted in *The Massachusetts Baptist Missionary Magazine*. Through those words Judson discerned God's call for him to enter missionary service. In 1812 Adoniram and his wife, Ann, departed for India. From there they went to Burma, and in 1813 started what is now two centuries of organized American Baptist mission work in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, the Caribbean and the Americas.



1809 Magazine Cover

By the close of the 1800s, Burma, India and China had become three major areas of American Baptist mission. But in the mid-1900s, new social/political movements wrought great change in all three nations. After several generations of pioneering, partnering and building, American Baptists—and other Western mission agencies as well—found themselves barred from their existing forms of outreach by the communist revolution in China, anti-colonialist nationalism in India, and a military coup in Burma.

The church in East Asia, India and China, however, has continued to mature and bear fruit. Increasingly it has invited us, its brothers and sisters in the West, into new forms of shared ministry. This issue of *International Ministries ON LOCATION* looks at ways that the light of Jesus, the bright morning star (Revelation 22:16), continues to shine in the East.



IM joins with Christian organizations in China and the U.S. to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Together we work in a wide range of ministries. The following is a partial list of such efforts conducted in a recent five-year period:



EVANGELISM

Sponsoring pastors in rural churches through the *F/2 Foundation, International*
Promoting Bible printing in China and the Bible Ministry Exhibitions in the U.S.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Developing theological educators in partnership with the *China Christian Council/Three-Self Patriotic Movement*, the *Chung Chi Divinity School*, Hong Kong, and the *Foundation for Theological Education in South East Asia*
Providing books to theological seminaries and lay leader training centers
Sponsoring new campus construction of *Nanjing Union Theological Seminary*
Promoting seminary Teacher's Mentorship Program in partnership with the *Foundation for Theological Education in South East Asia*.



GENERAL EDUCATION

Providing equipment to city schools for migrant children from rural areas
Assisting in *The Amity Foundation's* English-as-a-Second-Language teachers' training
Sponsoring the construction of the *Luoping Primary School* in Jiangxi Province
Administering the work of volunteers to teach in the *Autistic Children Center* in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province and with the *Amity Summer English Program*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Supporting relief and development programs through *The Amity Foundation*
Funding the development of six libraries for sightless people
Promoting non-government organization management training in partnership with *The Amity Foundation, Build-a-Bridge, and Eastern University*
Sponsoring orphans whose parents died of AIDS in Henan Province



HEALTH

Sponsoring HIV/AIDS education in partnership with *The Amity Foundation*
Providing medical supplies and equipment to rural clinics
Providing a mobile clinic to the *Zhejiang Christian Council*
Sponsoring the construction of 27 rural clinics in Ningxia and Gansu areas

PEACE & REFUGE

Sponsoring a drug addicts rehabilitation center in Guangdong Province in partnership with the *Center for Development of Transformation Ministry International*
Sponsoring a drug detoxification and rehabilitation center in Yunnan Province
Supporting disaster relief and community re-development in partnership with *The Amity Foundation, China Christian Council/Three-Self Patriotic Movement*



“Here I Am, Lord!”—Echoes of Samuel in God’s Call to Judy Sutterlin

by James G. Layton, Senior Writer/Editor

Judy Sutterlin’s call reminds her of God’s call to Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-18), “Specific steps of God’s call were placed before me more than once until I was sure they were from God.”

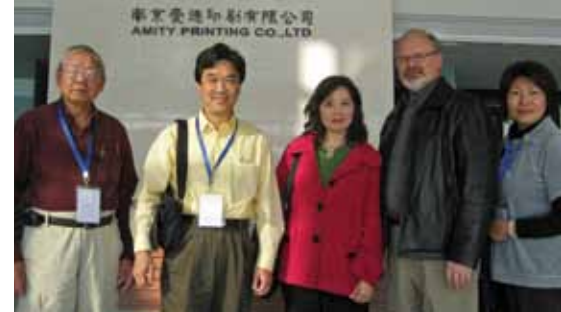
Judy was born of missionary parents whose term in China was cut short by her mother’s illness several months after Judy’s birth. Judy grew up in Oregon and Michigan, where her father served as a pastor. She accepted Christ through the First Baptist Church of Portland at the age of ten.

After earning her degree at Kalamazoo College in 1970, Judy taught high school mathematics in Columbus, Wisconsin, and was active in the First Baptist Church of Madison. In 1978 she traveled to Hong Kong as an International Ministries (IM) volunteer. She says, “I learned a lot there about the meaning of mission from IM missionaries Loren Noren (with IM, 1945-86) and Harold Schock (with IM, 1955-89). My three-day foray into the Mainland also left a strong impression.”

After receiving her degree in 1983 at Colgate Rochester Divinity School, Judy pastored Trinity Church of Nunda, New York for nine years. When she took a trip to her birthplace in 1986, Chinese pastors invited her to return and serve through teaching. “By 1992, I answered the next step of God’s call,” Judy explains, “and became a teacher in China.”



William W. Sutterlin stood beside his daughter at her college graduation, a symbol of the support Judy had from her parents at each step of her call.



Among those attending the November 2010 celebration of the printing of millions of Bibles were: David Wong (Ben Chan’s special assistant for Swatow, China), Ben, Jenny Quey (Sr. Pastor, Community Bapt. Church, San Mateo, Calif.), Reid Trulson and Alice Hau (Ben’s administrative assistant).

23 Million Christians in China!

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Xiaoping, accepted the request to do so by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. The Amity Printing Company has published 85 million Bibles with 10 million printed annually in recent years!

The Future Is Promising

Thirty years ago, the Protestant Church in China was given a chance to prove itself as an indigenous faith group that loves God and cares for China’s citizens. Since then these Bible-loving and Christ-centered Christian brothers and sisters have gained a powerful, positive reputation. Since 2009, under the encouragement of a new religious policy, the Protestant Church has been given another wide-open door—to expand theological education with the goal of nurturing Christian leaders and pastors and extending its witness through caring for the needs of others. The work of IM theological educator Judy Sutterlin is an integral part of this opportunity, as described to the left.

As the second decade of the 21st century begins, we can celebrate that the Church in China is thriving—a reminder of the truth of 1 Peter 1:24b-25, “...the grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures forever.” That word is the gospel that was preached to you.

The Rev. Benjamin S.L. Chan was born in Hong Kong. A graduate of the Divinity School of Chung Chi College in Hong Kong and Yale Divinity School, Ben was ordained by Calvary Baptist Church, New Haven, Connecticut. Before joining IM, Ben served as the pastor of the Community Baptist Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In his present position Ben maintains relationships with fifteen Baptist conventions and councils in Asia and is the Chair of the Board of the Foundation for Theological Education in South East Asia.

Judy Sutterlin—Following God’s Call in a Rapidly Changing Ancient Country

Throughout her nearly 20 years as an International Ministries (IM) missionary, God has used Judy Sutterlin to serve mightily in China, the most populous country of the world. The following is a sample of her ministry.

1992–1995: Began as a teacher with IM’s Christian-initiated partner organization, The Amity Foundation; named outstanding teacher; invited by church leaders to help improve English skills used in hosting international visitors and to coordinate an English ministry to foreign Christians

1995–1996: Commissioned by IM (1995); studied Mandarin; asked by Amity to be a volunteer teacher for an English class at Nanjing Union Theological Seminary (NJUTS)

1996–2000: Provided pastoral care from Hong Kong for Amity teachers in Mainland China; helped develop a Hong Kong kindergarten outreach ministry; joined with others through The Amity Foundation to arrange support of needed surgeries and education for children in Mainland orphanages

2000–2006: Through Amity taught future secondary school English teachers at a Nanjing college; initiated annual visits to some Amity AIDS orphans supported by IM; began visits to Amity village clinics helped by IM; received Jiangxi Province’s Friendship Award for outstanding service

2007– present: moved to the NJUTS campus to teach Theological English; continued involvement with English worship and Bible study in two churches; received a friendship award for work with village clinics

These girls were among Judy’s first students when she began teaching in China in 1992.





A new generation in India is responding to the good news of Jesus Christ.

Number of IM-Related Baptists in India Surpasses American Baptists in the U.S.

by the Rev Benjamin Chan, IM Area Director for East Asia and India

The crowd at the International Ministries (IM) World Mission Conference in Green Lake, Wisconsin fell silent in disbelief. Dr. J. M. Ngul Khan Pau, the General Secretary of the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI) made a startling prediction in 2003. He postulated that the number of Baptists in India would climb rapidly. In fact, he claimed that IM-related Indian Baptists as a group would grow bigger in membership than American Baptists in the U.S. in just a few short years!

Contrary to popular wisdom of the time, this rapid rise of Baptists in predominately Hindu India has come to pass! Today, CBCNEI and another IM partner, the Baptist Council of Telugu Churches in South India, have more than 7,800 churches and 2 million baptized members, while American Baptist Churches USA total 5,400 congregations and 1.3 million members. More importantly, Christians in North East India and South India together account for 90% of the Christian population in India. This growth has been cultivated by the belief that evangelism and mission are not “programs” of the church but they are what define a church. The results have included aggressive, transformational ministries like reaching out to street children, ministering to battered women, and serving victims of substance abuse and HIV/AIDS.

The work of IM’s partner churches in South India is being accomplished in the setting of the economic growth prevalent in that part of the nation. This has permitted them to use their resources for urban mission and to build new churches in unreached areas. However, North East India is less developed, and Christians there are facing political, economic and inter-tribal struggle every day. Still, this hardship has helped them value relationships and their common identity of being Baptist Christians.

As in the south, CBCNEI churches take every possible opportunity to witness about how Jesus has transformed them and their communities, and they do so to all possible tribal groups and villages in North East India that have not heard of Jesus. They have also sent hundreds of evangelists to mainland India as well as missionaries to other countries. The churches mobilize their entire congregations to be involved in mission. For example, five to six churches commit to sending and supporting evangelists/missionaries. They then walk with them through prayer and encouragement and join them in celebrating the results.

Further CBCNEI results can be seen on its website (www.cbcnei.org). The details of IM’s work with more of our partners in India, particularly through the efforts of volunteers, are highlighted in the article about Debbie Mulneix’s ministry to the right.

Debbie Mulneix—Dedicated to Help Volunteers Serve

Ministering in India since 1998, **Debbie Mulneix** is the International Ministries (IM) liaison between partner organizations, including churches, and individuals, congregations and regions in the U.S. Her efforts focus on what she describes as “a ministry that changes lives” as she enables volunteers, short-term missionaries, and mission tour groups to serve in meeting specific objectives in India and Nepal.

In March 2010, for instance, the Rev. David and Jeannie Bess traveled from West Virginia to serve in North East India. David conducted training sessions for church leaders on the biblical basis for child evangelism and the importance of children’s ministries. Jeannie used her library information science degree to train librarians from some church associations and seminaries. They learned how to preserve documents, some dating from the late 1800s.

The preparation for Debbie’s present ministry included earning a degree in Christian education and social work when she was in her early 30s and the mother of three sons. She then worked as a Christian education and youth director in both Methodist and Baptist churches and became the Associate Director of Heart and Hand Ministries in Philippi, W.V.

Until 2005, Debbie’s initial role with IM was as a dorm parent and dorm supervisor at the Woodstock School, a Christian international school in Mussoorie, India. The school, founded in 1854, serves more than 460 Christian and non-Christian students from 25 countries. On three occasions Debbie chaperoned as many as 18 children for 30-day tours of India. It is no surprise that she now effectively works with American Baptist volunteers in their mission travels!

Most of the volunteers who depend on Debbie’s ministry do not have previous international experience. They usually serve for a matter of days as they work on such projects as women’s and

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Debbie (far right) plans mission work tours for groups like this one from the West Virginia Baptist Convention, led by Rev. John Simmons (in red jacket), Associate Executive Minister for Missions and Administration.

God Bridges a Chasm Half a World Apart for Taku and Katie Longkumer

by the Rev. James G. Layton, Senior Writer/Editor

The Rev. Taku Longkumer was born in North East India. When asked his date of birth, he responds with a smile, “When you are born in the 1950s where I was, in the jungle, there is no distinct record of your birth.”

In contrast, the Rev. Catherine (Katie) Longkumer grew up on the other side of the globe, in Springfield, Illinois. The Longkumers feel that it was God who brought them together—each received a missionary call many years before they met.

Taku prepared for his ministry at the Eastern Theological College in Jorhat, Assam, in North East India, where International Ministries (IM) missionaries like George and Charlotte Gillespie were teachers in the 1970s. Taku was commissioned to work with the Nagaland Missionary Movement (NMM), serving in Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and many areas in India. As part of this work, he was sent to Hawaii to train and partner with another mission organization, Youth with a Mission (YWAM).

In the meantime, Katie was with YWAM in Brazil. She worked with churches in outreach ministries in Manaus, the largest city in northern Brazil and then helped provide a day care program in Belo Horizonte, in the southeastern region of Brazil. She then returned to the University of Illinois and completed her Bachelor of Social Work degree before going to Hawaii for training with YWAM in 1982, the same year as Taku.

Taku and Katie then became part of a team that traveled to

Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and finally South India, helping pioneer the YWAM short-term evangelism and discipleship training programs. There they married in 1983.

In 1985 they moved to North East India. Until 2001, Taku held executive positions with NMM and the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI). Over the years Katie ministered in many capacities, including as a teacher and chaplain.

For the last ten years the Longkumers have lived in the U.S. where both Taku and Katie earned seminary degrees. Presently, Taku is the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Farmington, Illinois, and earlier Katie was the interim pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in the same community. They are the parents of three children, two sons who were born in Nagaland (one by candle-light!) and a daughter who was born in the U.S.

The God who brought them together in Hawaii—the midpoint between where they grew up—has given them a clear call to missionary service. They will soon minister in North East India through IM’s partnership with CBCNEI as described below.



The Longkumers’ 1983 wedding was a celebration not only of their love but also of God’s powerful leading in their lives.

Our Privilege—Helping to Fulfill a Vision from God

by the Rev. Catherine (Katie) Longkumer, Recently Endorsed IM Missionary Candidate

It is with a sense of destiny and humility that my husband, Taku, and I make final preparations to serve as International Ministries (IM) development workers in North East India. More than 170 years ago American Baptist missionaries ventured into the jungles of that part of the world with a passion to share God’s love and the good news of salvation in Christ. Those men and women anticipated that this region would be instrumental in reaching the people of southern China and northern Thailand. However, God redirected their focus, and they began a mighty work among the

As special assistants to Ben Chan, Taku and Katie have recently represented IM by preaching, conducting conferences and leading seminars in celebration of the planting of 29 churches in 25 years through Bhutan Frontier Mission.

Naga and Garo tribal people. The once headhunting Nagas embraced the gospel with zeal and carried the good news to their neighboring tribes until all became Christian.

In the early 1950’s, missionaries were forced to leave the region, but the passion for mission was instilled in the new believers. They continued to send out their own missionaries and evangelists, planting churches throughout India and neighboring nations.

Our vision is to strengthen that witness as we soon serve Christ through IM’s partner organization, the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI). We see God’s hand directing our lives to this moment since Taku and I are uniquely qualified to minister through CBCNEI. India has recently made changes in its visa regulations, which have limited the number of IM missionaries. Because Taku is a citizen of both the U.S. and India, and I am his wife, we will have the privilege to live and work there without visa



North East India, composed of some states well-known to many American Baptists, like Assam and Nagaland, is strategically positioned for the Longkumers’ exciting, new ministry.

problems. This will allow us to enter the culture of India where Western and Eastern thought combine just as they have in our 27-year marriage.

Our work with enthusiastic believers will focus on CBCNEI churches. We will be providing training and counseling to prepare missionaries for cross-cultural ministry in reaching throughout North East India as well as among the peoples of neighboring South East Asia—a fulfillment of that vision of more than 170 years ago!

Learn more about the Longkumers’ ministry at: www.internationalministries.org/missionaries/Katie_and_Taku_Longkumer



God Operates on One Level—the Level Called “Amazing!”

The story of how the first Christian in a certain Nepali district is used by God—to bring about dramatic changes to a government-run hospital

by Bucky Sydnor, IM Development Worker

In my ministry as the International Relations Coordinator for Human Development and Community Service (HDCS), I work for its founder and director, the Rev. Tirtha Thapa. Tirtha's earlier years remind me of the biblical story of Abraham. This parallel includes Tirtha's choice not to follow in the footsteps of Abraham's father, Terah.

Abraham's faithful response to God's call to go to the Promised Land (Genesis 12) contrasts with his father's. Terah was also called to travel to the land of Canaan. But when he left Ur in Babylonia and started for the Promised Land, he stopped in the city of Haran and decided to stay there...for the rest of his life. (Genesis 11:27-32)

Hearing God's Call

My colleague Tirtha was a Hindu until he came to faith in Christ when he was a college freshman. His God-given gifts led him to attend seminary in Hong Kong. But throughout his time of study he heard God's clear call to return to Nepal and demonstrate the love of God in his Hindu and Buddhist homeland.

Yet Tirtha faced temptations. He could have “stayed in Haran,” for he was offered a handsome salary if he would serve as the pastor of the Nepali congregation he established in Hong Kong. And one of his American seminary professors recommended that he go on for a Ph.D. in theology at the University of Chicago, where the professor would arrange to have all expenses paid. But Tirtha knew what God wanted him to do. He returned to Nepal and led HDCS—which he founded before he went to Hong Kong—to improve the life of his people.

Experiencing God's Guidance

In 1998 Lamjung District officials asked Tirtha to start a “mission hospital” since the district hospital did not function. The term “mission hospital” is derived from hospitals that were once set up and administered by missionaries. Today any Christian hospital is called a mission hospital. This is the very district in which he was born, but from which he was expelled years previously when he became a Christian.

To understand district hospitals, Nepal is divided into 75 district with each having its own government hospital. In many districts the level of hospital service is extremely

low. Tirtha believes this was the reason that his father died from a treatable illness when Tirtha was fifteen years old. So when Tirtha was asked to establish a mission hospital, he declined. He felt this opportunity was an answer to prayer; God could use him to revive the barely functioning district hospital. The officials agreed with one condition—Tirtha

had to find all the funding.

Tirtha made an appointment that would finalize the arrangement in the near future, believing that by then God would provide the finances. With the appointment just two days away, a European Christian mission group decided to begin to work in Nepal by supporting Tirtha's project with both funds and personnel.

Celebrating God's Results

What is remarkable is that a Nepali Christian in a land inhospitable to Christianity had gotten the government to let his Nepali Christian organization manage a district government hospital. But that is not all. The World Bank in 2003 conducted a study of 30 Nepali hospitals. When the research team arrived at the Lamjung Hospital, a local resident told the team leader, “This place used to be like hell. Now it is like heaven!”

The final report of that study reflected that fitting description. It noted that Lamjung District Community Hospital spent 56% of its budget on salaries and 28% on medicines. Another district hospital in the study spent 71% of its budget on salaries and 5% on medicines.

The Lamjung Hospital was cited as a model for the country, demonstrating how district hospitals could be improved through the partnership between the government and non-profit organizations.

Everything that had happened through Tirtha and HDCS was a first-of-its-kind. Tirtha had no educational experience that would lead him to administer a place where surgeons operate. What Tirtha did have was an “Abraham-response” to God's call. And when God operates, the result is amazing!

Charles (Bucky) Sydnor began serving in Nepal from 1978 to 1987. He was able to return to Nepal in 2004 and now ministers through the national-level, Christian not-for-profit organization, Human Development and Community Service (HDCS), based in the Kathmandu Valley. HDCS is committed to holistic mission, including ministry in the areas of health, education and community development.

Learn more about Bucky's ministry at: www.internationalministries.org/missionaries/Sydnor

Located at the base of Nepal's Himalayan Mountains, the circular entrance to the hospital is a reminder of how God led Tirtha Thapa to come “full circle,” returning to serve Christ in his homeland.



Tirtha (left) participates in morning devotions that Bucky regularly leads for all the hospital staff, both Christians and non-Christians.



The Whole World Is Their Mission Field

International Ministries (IM) missionaries serve at the request of IM's partner organizations from around the globe. These partners often call long-term missionaries who serve four years or more in one country. But the partners also have the option of inviting IM's Global Consultants who minister anywhere in the world for as short a time as a few days to repeat visits over a period of years.

The Global Consultants and their ministry focus areas are: **Lauran Bethell**, human trafficking; **Dan Buttry**, peace and refuge; **Mike Mann**, economic development; **Stan Slade**, theological education; and **Walt White**, evangelism. They assist both IM's partners and long-term missionaries through leading specific projects and training sessions that help meet precise objectives. For example, Lauran Bethell has provided consultations with Christian groups in India and China that are working to help women and children escape prostitution and experience healing, and Dan Buttry was an integral part of the years-long process that led to a peace accord last September among Naga factions in India.

To learn more about each of these Global Consultants go to: www.internationalministries.org/people?categories=global_consultant



Lauran Bethell Dan Buttry Mike Mann



Stan Slade Walt White

Volunteering—A Retirement Plan that Brings Results

As described on page 4, International Ministries development worker Debbie Mulneix matches requests from India and Nepal with skills possessed by U.S. volunteers. One such match has answered medical needs through the ministry of retired IM missionaries, **Dr. Edwin and Margaret Tegenfeldt**, who served in India from 1971 to 1991. The Tegenfeldts went to North East India for two months in 2006 at the Leishiphung Christian Hospital (LCH) in Manipur and since then have returned for month-long visits annually.

Ed describes the situation, saying: "We travel to share the love of Christ as well as our medical knowledge and skills. The small hospital in the remote southern part of the Naga Hills has no general surgeon, and patients have to trek about three hours over very poor roads for comprehensive medical care. So those with surgical problems who can afford to travel are sent down the mountain, while those with needs for routine surgeries that can wait are kept on a list and called in when my wife, who is a nurse, and I visit annually."

During their visits Ed responds to emergencies as well. One patient was "Michael" (not his real name), a young man with epilepsy who had a convulsion that threw him into the open cooking fire in their one-room house. Ed performed skin grafting for the third-degree burns on Michael's back. "The day of the skin grafting was a great milestone for him and a considerable challenge for me," Ed says, "as the hospital did not have a dermatome.



Dr. & Ms. Zimik, founders of the hospital in the Naga Hills, welcome Margaret & Edwin Tegenfeldt for what has become the Tegenfeldts' annual volunteer visits.

That necessitated several hours of cutting small pieces of partial thickness skin to cover most of his back. What joy and deep gratitude to God was felt by all when two days later the dressings were removed and nearly all the skin grafts had taken."

Michael's faith grew greatly. Earlier in life he had accepted Christ, and he has now become a deacon in his church. Through a small business he started he is providing for his family as well as helping others in need. He and his wife are facing the future with hope and courage in Christ because of a how a retired couple invested some of their time in volunteering.

Debbie Mulneix

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youth ministries, backyard Bible studies, leadership training, first aid courses and computer training. During this time they encourage IM's mission partners as well as learn from them.

Debbie's voice becomes celebrative as she elaborates, "When a group or individuals visit India and share their personal skills, they also share their lives. Since there are so many people in India who know English, communication between the volunteers and those hosting them is often easy. Group members tend to stay in touch through e-mail and share life experiences even after their trips are over. These visits emphasize that ministry is definitely evangelism and preaching, but it is also training, accounting, communication, administration, and so much more. Basically, volunteering means sharing your knowledge and skills willingly to further the Kingdom of God."

This sharing can be life changing as volunteers create bonds with Christians in other parts of the world, gain a better understanding of life beyond the U.S. and tell of what they have learned as they report to associations and churches when they return home. If you would like to serve in this way, go to: www.internationalministries.org/volunteer_teams.

Learn more about Debbie's ministry at: www.internationalministries.org/missionaries/Mulneix



From Headhunters to Evangelists

Taku and Katie Longkumer are newly endorsed IM missionaries to North East India. The story of God's guidance in their lives is found on page 5. God's miraculous work is also seen in Taku's family history.

Taku's grandfather was among the first Christian converts of his village in the early 1900s. He and other new believers were persecuted and forced to settle elsewhere. Due to illness Taku's grandfather, mother and elder brother died, and Taku's father was sent to a school established by missionaries. After he received a basic education that included Bible training, he became an evangelist in 1953. He took his young family, including Taku, to the nearby village of another tribe that had not heard the gospel. In fact, its inhabitants still practiced headhunting.

Taku describes those early years, "The darkness I remember was not simply based on the absence of light in the jungle, but it came from the oppressive, spiritual darkness of evil."

Each evening Taku's father would invite the villagers to sit by the fire in their small hut, where he would serve them tea while telling stories of Jesus. After many years, which included a series of miraculous events demonstrating the power of God over the power of the spirits, the villagers began to respond to the gospel message. They then became the evangelists until the entire village became Christian. Taku concludes, "The victory of Jesus' love impacted every aspect of village life. Because of the gospel, fear and violence were replaced by joy and peace!"

American Baptist International Ministries (IM) is a Christian mission that works with more than 200 partner organizations globally—primarily churches, hospitals, schools/seminaries and other mission agencies. These efforts are accomplished by long-term missionaries and thousands of volunteers to help people *come to Christ, grow in Christ and change their worlds with Christ*. Support for IM's missionaries and the work of partner organizations comes from gifts to the World Mission Offering, designated contributions and income from some endowments. World Mission Offering gifts from churches and individuals are accepted by IM at any time. To give for the support of IM's global mission, go to: www.internationalministries.org/give and choose World Mission Offering.

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- Following God's Call** Sutterlin
-  **4 IM-Related Baptists Surpass ABCUSA** Chan
-  **Dedicated to Help Volunteers Serve** Mulneix
-  **5 God Bridges a Chasm** Longkumer
- Helping to Fulfill a Vision from God** Longkumer
-  **6 God Operates on One Level** Sydnor
-  **7 Mission Field, the Whole World** Global Consultants
-  **Volunteering—A Retirement Plan** Tegenfeldt

Partnership with a Friend

International Ministries (IM) is able to respond to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) through close relationships with partner organizations. Among those partners in China is The Amity Foundation. Amity, which means "friendship," was founded in 1985 on the initiative of Chinese Christians. Since that time, IM has worked closely with Amity in the areas of church-based projects, disaster relief, education, health, social services and rural development throughout China. IM celebrates its partnership with Amity, a "friendship" that ensures the gospel can be shared by word and deed in a nation of more than 1.3 billion people!