

mission:**world**

# Senders



# Senders

BY: Dr. John David Smith  
BMA Missions  
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*Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.*

**I**t was Easter Sunday. The disciples were behind locked doors waiting for the Jews to come into the room and take them away. They were afraid. They had good reason to be afraid. If the Jews could crucify Jesus then what was to stop them from being their next victim? All seemed lost. The doors were locked shut.

But then, miraculously, the disciples get to see what Mary had already seen. Jesus was alive! You might think that Jesus would stop right then to tell them how this had all happened. Or maybe He would give them some sort of insight into what was to happen next. But, instead, Jesus brings the disciples two gifts. “I give you peace.” “I’m sending you just like my Father sent me.”

We serve a sending God! He *sent* His precious Son to planet earth to pay the price for our sins. He *sent*

someone to you so that you could know His great love for you! And, He is *sending* people all around the world to proclaim the Good News that man no longer need to be separated from God! And what is the result of that Good News? Peace. Peace with God!

This edition of *mission:world* focuses on the senders.

*How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?* Romans 10:14-15.

We must send people to preach His gospel! God the Father has sent the Son. God the Son has sent us. We are called to send others.

God is a sending God.

## BMA FAMILY OF MINISTRIES

To help fulfill the Great Commission, the people of the BMA have created a family of ministries. Each has a unique directive, but all have the same Great Commission purpose.

**BMA Missions** seeks to facilitate churches in fulfilling the Great Commission through assessment, training, coaching, and missionary care.

**Lifeword** assists in taking the gospel throughout the world through radio, television, the internet, and mobile devices.

**DiscipleGuide** partners with BMA churches to maximize their Great Commission potential.

**BMA Seminary** equips students to become pastors, missionaries, and church leaders.

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## 4 EVERY FOLLOWER A SENDER

BMA Executive Director, Dr. John David Smith, discusses this necessity of not only going to the mission field, but having senders.

## 8 LIFEWORD: SENDING

Lifeword is partnering with local churches and missionaries to send the message of Jesus through media.

## 14 SENDING THE EQUIPPED

Security Training has become part of the essential training that BMA Missionaries are required to attend. Holly Meriweather gives us an inside look.

## 18 SENDING HELP TO DISASTER VICTIMS

BMA Missions partners with the Disaster Relief Agency, “Just The Crumbs”, to take needed help to people who are suffering in the United States.

## 26 SOAR SENDS!

Students who attend SOAR, have volunteered to go to the mission field for decades. In 2019, those students gave \$10,000 to send others to the nations.

## 30 MAKING SURE THEY ARE READY TO GO!

Bryan Risner and his family are serving as BMA Missionaries in Romania. He gives insight to the Pre-Field Preparation provided by BMA Missions.





BY: Dr. John David Smith  
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Two similar encounters in two different countries stick out in my mind from recent trips to undisclosed countries in the realm of Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Global Missions. Both involved ladies who approached me after being introduced to them as the director of Missions for the BMA of America (BMAA).

In both instances they had tear-filled eyes as they implored me to thank the churches in the United States that are faithful to send missionaries and preach the gospel around the world. One of these ladies was a refugee, and the other was a citizen of one of the most oppressive places in the world toward the gospel.

They had both come to Christ as a result of BMAA-sponsored ministries in their respective

places, and they both recognized one absolute necessity in missions: *senders!*

The act and art of sending comes from the heart of our great missionary God! He has always been, and He is now a sending God. A cursory look at the Bible certainly demonstrates this principle. Abraham, Moses, Gideon, David, Jonah, Isaiah, and most other significant human vessels in the Old Testament were sent in some capacity.

The greatest “sending” is no doubt the one Jesus referred to concerning Himself and all of us: “Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.”

Another outstanding example is found in the well-known sequence given by Paul in Romans 10: call, believe, hear, preach, and send. This text declares



# EVERY FOLLOWER A SENDER



that the missionary process clearly begins with *sending!* All throughout the New Testament with the disciples and the subsequent global missions team of Paul and others, sending has its prominent role in the missionary enterprise.

Every true follower of Christ is a sender when it comes to God's global mission. Some of the most dedicated senders that I have ever met are actually goers (missionaries) who help send others. Everyone should be a sender!

In the missions course *Perspectives*, a sender is simply defined as someone who supports, encourages, and prays for those who go. The very meaning of the word *missionary* is "one who is sent."

It stands to reason that there would be no missionaries if there were no senders.

In his introduction to the book of Philippians, Paul commends the followers of Christ in that

city for their "fellowship" in the gospel. The word *fellowship* actually means "partnership."

Partnership is the word that closely captures the ideal relationship between a sender and a goer. Partnership can be defined as sharing with others in action, trust, responsibility, and liability. The act of sending is much more than an impersonal offering or a non-specific prayer for "all the missionaries." It is a joining of our souls that requires mutual action, relational trust, personal investment, and even the sharing of loss when it occurs.

Writing from prison to the Philippian believers, Paul offers us some great insights into this sender-goer partnership. It is noteworthy that Paul preached the gospel in Philippi to Lydia, the young girl with an unclean spirit, and the jailer in Acts 16. This is the first time the gospel was preached in Europe (modern day Greece).





Two very different cultures were represented in this goer-sender dynamic, but God did an amazing work in the lives of all. It is also significant that this young church of Philippi was probably about ten years old at the time Paul wrote this letter. This is important when we look at all of the “sending” activities they were involved in. Here are the characteristics of great senders from Philippians chapter 1:

1. **People are More Important than Possessions** – (vs. 3-4) The following are some characteristics that drive a great sender. Remember Paul was a great goer, but he was always involved in sending others as well. Paul offers *thanks*, which indicates that he knew someone else had acted on his behalf. In this case it was God and the Philippians who had partnered with him in the gospel. Paul almost never gave thanks for stuff, but he always offered thanks for people. A great sender-goer relationship also includes *interdependence*. Paul knew that he needed the Philippians, and they were encouraged and prayed for by Paul. Prayer marked this

relationship. *Prayer* is one the greatest acts of selflessness and dependence on God. *Joy*, the theme of this book, was a result of the partnership. The partnership was marked by overall unselfishness and a commitment to the mission of God and to the participants in that mission.

2. **Partnerships are More Effective than Personal Agendas** – (v. 5) The very beginning of the church in Philippi was marked by partnership and sending. In Acts 16 we read about Lydia, the young girl with an unclean spirit, and the jailer who became the nucleus of this new church. As Paul did everywhere he went, he disciplined and empowered people for the work of the gospel. Epaphroditus and Clement are two names mentioned in the book that scream of sending as they participated in the mission. The church matured with elders and deacons who are referenced. They sent an offering to the church at Jerusalem. They helped send Paul by supporting him financially (4:15-16).



In 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 the churches of Philippi (Macedonia) were commended for their partnership and multiplication in the mission: “Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.” Notice that there were churches (plural) in the Philippi region when this was written.

### 3. Purpose is Eternal not Temporal – (v.6)

Paul was confident that this partnership and everything that it entailed had a greater purpose. At times we can have tunnel vision and only think about our local ministry and not those beyond us. And yet at other times we

can be part of the sending process “out there” and totally neglect the people around us. The Philippians were obviously taking care of business locally as they multiplied disciples and churches around them. However, they also supported those in the “uttermost” parts also. One of the keys that Paul brings out in verse 6 is that they all knew they were part of a bigger picture and that is the mission and purpose of God. We are on a journey with God; it’s His journey. He will take this journey to completion. The ability of senders to look beyond themselves, to what only affects them, and be driven by God’s greater mission and purpose is essential in the sending process.

We need to remember that as goers, we are still senders. We also need to remember that while we send to those beyond us, we are still goers at home.

We are not stuck in one category or the other. We offer a huge “thanks” to all of the goers and senders involved in God’s mission and purpose.

Like in Paul’s life and ministry, senders are a motive for thankfulness and a source of joy!









# LIFEWORD: SENDING

BY: Luis Ortega  
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**G**od sent the Son, the Verb. The Son has all power and authority to send. As the Son was sent, He also sent.

The Son said to the Father in reference to His disciples, “as thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world” (John 17:18).

The Son said to His disciples, “as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you” (John 20:21).

Why and for what was the Son sent?

Luke put it this way, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).

Jesus said three things about the reason He was sent to earth:

“to preach the kingdom of God...therefore am I sent” (Luke 4:43), which is God’s will.

“My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work” (John 4:34).

“I came...not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me” (John 6:38).

## WHAT IS GOD'S WILL?

God's will is that through the preaching of His Word people from all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, the world might be saved. "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:17).

Jesus sent out His disciples to do the same, to fulfill the will of the Father, "And sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick" (Luke 9:2).

The church is under the same marching orders. Just as Isaiah in the Old Testament was sent when he heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 6:8).

## THE LORD IS STILL SENDING TODAY.

Lifeword is partnering with the local church as she sends out missionaries, church planters, and sends out the Word. The local church has been tasked or sent to make disciples of all nations.

Lifeword partners with the local church as she sends out the message and missionaries throughout the world.

Lifeword goes with the missionaries on their phones and radios, and even reaches into areas via the Lifeword Cloud that at times are not as accessible to the missionary.

Lifeword is even present to help reinforce discipleship when missionaries are discipling those that cannot read or write.

In East Africa, Lifeword is partnering in sending the gospel in dozens of languages, and plans are underway to send the gospel of Jesus Christ into twenty new language people groups on this continent.

People groups like the Masai, Pare, Haya, Nyakyusa, Luo, Kurya, Ha (Wa ha), Fipa, Chagga, Wasambaa, Rangi, and Dakama will soon hear the gospel in their own languages.

The Word is also being sent to countries like Ethiopia in the following languages:

Amharic, Somalia (Djibouti and Somalia), Afar (Djibouti), and Sudanese (South and North Sudan).

In West Africa, Lifeword is partnering with local churches to have a clear gospel presentation using WhatsApp on smartphones, local radio stations, and the Lifeword Cloud.





Team leader Hayford Jackson states, “the audio messages are spreading like a flame of fire.”

Recently, brother Emmanuel, a member of Bible Baptist Church in Kenyasi, told the story of traveling by bus to church one Sunday morning and listening on his phone to the message of “Who is Jesus to you?” in Twi at Lifeword.org.

Emmanuel states, “All of a sudden, everyone in the bus became quiet and started paying attention to the message I was listening to. Then a certain man asked me, ‘Can you share it with me so I can listen?’”

Before the bus ride was over, Emmanuel and the man had exchanged numbers to continue sharing messages via WhatsApp. Emmanuel and Hayford both stated, “Thank God that the message about who Jesus is, is having a far reach in our area. To God be the glory!”

In this same part of the African continent, Pastor Timothy Abroso reports hearing from dozens of villages, and he states that, “the Lifeword programs have been instrumental in helping us reach many people and have been a great blessing to our church and the souls coming to Christ.”

In the Asia-Pacific region, Pastor Pete Etabag has been training media missionaries left and right and has a God-sized vision of installing twenty additional Lifeword Community radio stations. In addition, he is leading efforts to record and upload the languages of Cebuano, Illongo, and Tagalog on the Lifeword Cloud this year.

In Central and South America, new programming and formats are continuing to develop, resulting in dozens of professions of faith and even some of these converts being disciplined through a local church.

Aymara, Quechua, and Guarani will be part of the next batch of languages to be loaded into the Lifeword Cloud in the next fiscal year.

In Europe, the Romanian team is beginning the exploration process of reaching out to Hungarian and Czech Republic believers and strategizing to partner with the local churches in serving their communities.

Twenty-three. If you’ve been keeping count of the new languages targeted to be added to Lifeword.org this year, that’s the number.

Let us partner in prayer. We are all sent, and we are all to send or transmit the message of Jesus Christ, the gospel.

Sometimes, we play the role of going and at times, the role of sending.

May we all be found faithful in sharing Jesus whether we are sending or going.





#CHANGEMAKERS

# World Missions Day

2-23-20

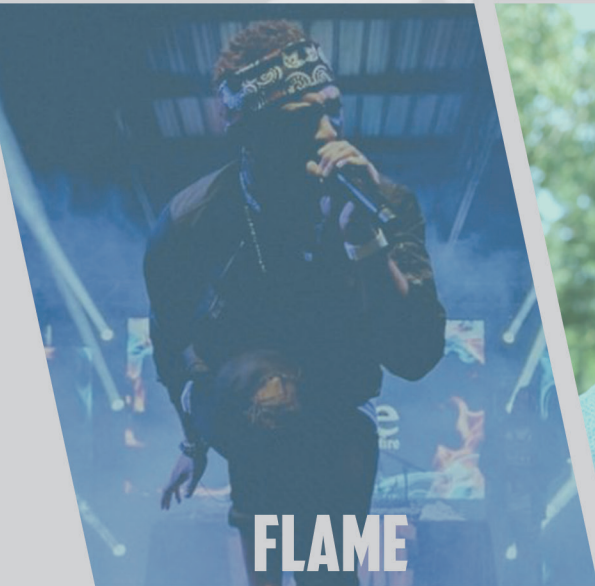




# MULTIPLY

SOAR 2020

JULY 1-3 - GAYLORD TEXAN, GRAPEVINE, TX



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BY: Holly Meriweather  
BMA America  
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# Sending the Equipped

## A YEAR THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

In 2001 Martin and Gracia Burnham, New Tribes missionaries to the Philippines, were kidnapped by a Muslim terrorist group. Their captors imprisoned them and the others taken hostage but never in the same place. They stayed on the move constantly to avoid rescue attempts by the Philippine army.

In June of 2002 after more than a year of trying to stay alive in horrible conditions and witnessing unspeakable atrocities by their captors, the final gun battle took place. The army successfully rescued Gracia, but she was wounded in the crossfire.

Sadly, Martin died during the chaos that ensued.

On September 11, 2001, just four months into the Burnhams' imprisonment, 9/11 happened. Department of Defense (DOD) employee David Dose, who was doing work related to the Burnham's recovery effort, began to feel God calling him to do something radical.

## THE CALL TO ACTION

Since 1991, Dose had been involved in security education and training, law enforcement, and U.S. military specialized survival and hostage recovery. Ten years into that government career, his perspective was altered by those two events.

He says "I found myself in a unique position of being in the personnel recovery business with

the government and involved in my own church's missions efforts. It resonated with me that Martin had not had adequate training to go abroad, at least not to the level that it could have been."

Those difficult months of trying to get Martin and Gracia home, dealing with their families in America, and taking care of their three children still in country were life-changing, to say the least.

## A COMPANY INSPIRED BY PSALMS

The horrific events of 2001 gave birth to Dose's original security company called Fort Sherman as well as his newest vision Stronghold Security.

Dose explains that, "September 11, 2001 created pressure on the government to help civilians with training. I was given permission to take the DOD's unclassified training (research) and form it into training for those who travel abroad.

"We do that for many clients, but the faith-based part of what we call 'risk stewardship' is my heart. We're trying to be good stewards of the risk.

"United States law says those who go abroad should know the issues involved in traveling abroad and then," he continues, "they should decide if they want to go after they have all the information as well as some solutions and tools. We help sending agencies with the program policies they should have in place before they send folks abroad."



## BMA MISSIONS' TRAINING

Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Missions Executive Director John David Smith discovered Dose's security company several years ago when he began research for his doctorate. David Dose and Fort Sherman (now Stronghold) were names that kept coming up on his radar screen as he searched for a company to conduct training for those commissioned to serve abroad.

Dose says, "The Bible warns that there will be risks in being obedient to the gospel. We must tell those being sent the risks. It's irresponsible not to do so. But then we give them solutions."

Stronghold's website says the training is for "faith-based travelers who go abroad often, lead teams abroad, live abroad for prolonged periods of time, and for anyone working in an advanced security risk area with criminal activity and/or unfriendly host governments."

BMA Missions requires that all missionaries go through the two-day training which includes the following: lecture, demonstrations, videos, discussion, and hands-on role-play scenarios that allow students to practice the skills being taught in realistic scenarios.

Stronghold Security helps develop skills in crime avoidance and target hardening, situational awareness, captivity survival, information protection, car-jack survival, robbery survival, handling confidential questions appropriately, reacting effectively in crisis, et cetera.

Agencies are also given help to develop codes of conduct, organizational policies, and crisis procedures so when there is an event, action steps can begin immediately with the personnel already in place to manage them.

David has trained just over 55,000 long and short-term missionaries and volunteers over the past 18 years with a focus on security and survival for Christian missions personnel.



## SENDING THE GOSPEL

Stronghold Security's website does not give specifics about training but does delineate certain realities like the following:

- There is an increase in crime against unprepared Americans abroad.
- An increasingly litigious society means more liability and legal requirements for organizers and travelers.
- There are limited resources to invest in ministry as effectively as possible and there are practical tools necessary to do so.

However, Stronghold Security offers solutions to these problems that include the following:

- Solid security planning protocols for ministry organization and leadership.





“Research backs that up, because studies show that missionaries are more likely to stay more long-term versus the person that could never adapt to the idea that there are pickpockets and other risks. The fear of those things is lessened by proper training that gives them the tools so they can relax and do ministry.”

## THE COMPANY’S INSPIRATION

The name “Stronghold Security” was inspired, David Dose explains, by the many scripture passages saying God is a strong tower or a stronghold. Psalm 17:1-3 is just one of those:

“The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?”

Sending those who are properly equipped is crucial to getting the message of the gospel to those who need to hear.

- Crisis policies to respond in a biblically moral and legal way to risk and crisis situations
- Focused intel to reduce risk exposure and increase security prior to travel
- Practical security training including skills to reduce risk exposure abroad

Stronghold offers three types of training: skills for crisis management teams, personal security skills, and crisis support consultation with focused intel and pre-travel planning.

“My part of the puzzle,” Dose says, “is to be able to keep people on the field longer and focus more on the ministry because they’ve discovered how to minimize their fears and know how to minimize the challenges of living abroad.

“Feeling safer in a foreign environment allows them to stay long-term. People need to be trained so they can relax and do their work versus the person who never had enough training to deal with those things.







BY: Holly Meriweather  
 BMA America  
[bmaamerica.org](http://bmaamerica.org)

**T**o talk to Mike Angus is to be inspired, excited, and moved to tears. There is no question where his heart is. It's all about people...people who need Jesus.

When I asked if he would let me interview him about being sent to be a part of disaster relief, he didn't hesitate to say, "Yes!"

And from there, he just shared his heart. He didn't tell me his story until the end of our conversation, but I feel like I should share it at the beginning of this article, because it's really the beginning of a life of service.

With complete honesty and frankness, he said this about himself:

"Twenty years ago, I didn't care about nothing but Mike Angus; but now I don't take any credit for anything, especially for being a part of this ministry.

"God changed my life. Then two years of running from the Lord ended in being called to preach and pastor. In fact, the first sermon I ever preached was called 'How to Lose an Argument with God.'"

This is a man who loves to serve, and his enthusiasm is contagious.



## AFTER THE STORM CHASING

The first time Brother Mike responded to a storm was when Katrina moved ashore over southeast Louisiana and southern Mississippi on August 29, 2005, as an extremely dangerous category four storm. There are only five categories of tropical storms.

But the storm that taught him the most lessons was the Phil Campbell, Alabama, tornado in April of 2011 that left a 132-mile path of damage over six counties. With a death toll of 72, it was the deadliest in state history since 1950, when records were first kept.

That storm is more commonly known as the Tuscaloosa-Birmingham tornado because of the cities' college-town and big-city populations. As he and his wife drove to those damaged areas, Brother Mike says he noticed that media coverage was concentrated in those towns, but the smaller towns like Phil Campbell in northern Alabama had been ignored.

For Brother Mike, that was the area he and his team needed to be.

He recalls that, "Phil Campbell taught us a lot. We were just north of Tuscaloosa and the media was camped out there to cover the college town.

"When we drove past the larger cities, it would have been easy to camp out there, but we chose the other outlying areas that weren't receiving assistance. We learned not to go where everybody is. Go to the under-served."

The reason, he says, is that's what Jesus did. He often went to the most unlikely places and to the most unlikely people because that's where the greatest spiritual need was.

"We stay off the beaten path," Brother Mike says. "We don't go to the newer, more important, bigger places. We go to where the people are. Our logo says, 'After the Storm Chasing,' so we chase the most unlikely areas."

During his years of responding to areas with disaster relief help, Brother Mike had never heard of Lavon Haden, a retired pastor who lived less than a hundred miles from him...and shared the same passion for the same people.

Until Hurricane Florence....



BMA Disaster Relief and Just The Crumbs providing meals for relief workers during the recent Arkansas River flooding.





## SERVING TOGETHER

The category one storm made landfall on September 14, 2018, over North Carolina. The hurricane itself was not the problem. It was the massive amounts of water dumped on the area and the widespread flooding that followed.

Just as he and his wife were preparing to head to North Carolina, Brother Mike received a phone call from a pastor telling him that he needed to make contact with Brother Lavon Haden, who was also responding to the clean-up effort.

Since February of 2015, Brother Lavon has led a disaster relief ministry called Just the Crumbs and is now designated as the Baptist Missionary Association's (BMA) disaster relief agency.

As Brother Mike and his wife arrived in Augusta, Georgia, the night before setting up, they didn't know which of the five affected cities they would go to, but they ended up at the same facility as Brother Lavon Haden.

There was no time for small talk, so they just jumped into the task at hand, beginning with five of seven churches in the town of Trenton, North Carolina, that had been destroyed by water.

Volunteers already on site included churches and pastors who had come together and connected through the same thing that drew them all together: spreading the love of Christ by meeting needs.

As the two men worked together with a common purpose, they began to appreciate each other's strengths:

Brother Mike provides the work on the ground, getting supplies from point A to point B through volunteers.

Brother Levon sets up facilities with food and supplies, feeds volunteers, and stays with people who need help.

When the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) decided to shut down after a few days, there were still people with needs, so Brother Mike, Brother Lavon and their volunteers stayed, and the EOC directed people to them.

The way Brother Mike sees it, that was just more people to minister to, more people to encourage, and more people to plant that gospel seed into.

As of this writing, their most recent disaster relief mission headquarters was Immanuel Baptist Church in Greenbrier, Arkansas. The Arkansas River flooded its banks, levees were breached or almost breached, and the flooding devastated areas that were miles away from the riverbank.

Once again, the call went out to volunteers, churches responded, and Brother Mike and Brother Lavon served together from start to finish.



Just The Crumbs ministry prepares meals to flood victims in Arkansas.





## ADVICE TO CHURCHES

No matter what form the disaster takes, both men say that the needs are the same. Churches are encouraged to have a few necessary items on hand for when disaster strikes: bottled water, non-perishable food items, rubber gloves, tarps, bleach, trash bags, diapers, and formula.

Disaster buckets, often donated from hardware stores like Home Depot and Lowe's, can be packed with non-food items from that list to be ready to use. Brother Mike's church, Divine Grace in Long Beach, Mississippi, keeps these items and much more on hand in their food pantry.

These physical items can be given to disaster victims, but the most important gift is comfort, compassion, and encouragement. Sometimes they just need someone to listen and even pray with them.

When people see and feel compassion, they see Christ, Brother Mike says.

It's the volunteers, however, who receive the blessing as well. They are the ones who say to people, "We understand and we're going through it with you."

Once the cleanup is over, there are long-term results including a community being revived and refreshed. Sometimes, Brother Mike says, people who haven't been to church in a long time are directed to BMA churches in the area.

Also, victims of the disaster and those who see the results in a community are often inspired to minister to others. Again, they see the hands and feet of Jesus in the hugs, kind words, and prayers.

Brother Mike says, "I don't take any credit. God just got in behind this ministry. Just be the hands and feet of Christ. We're designed to do it. It's our mission to reflect Christ."

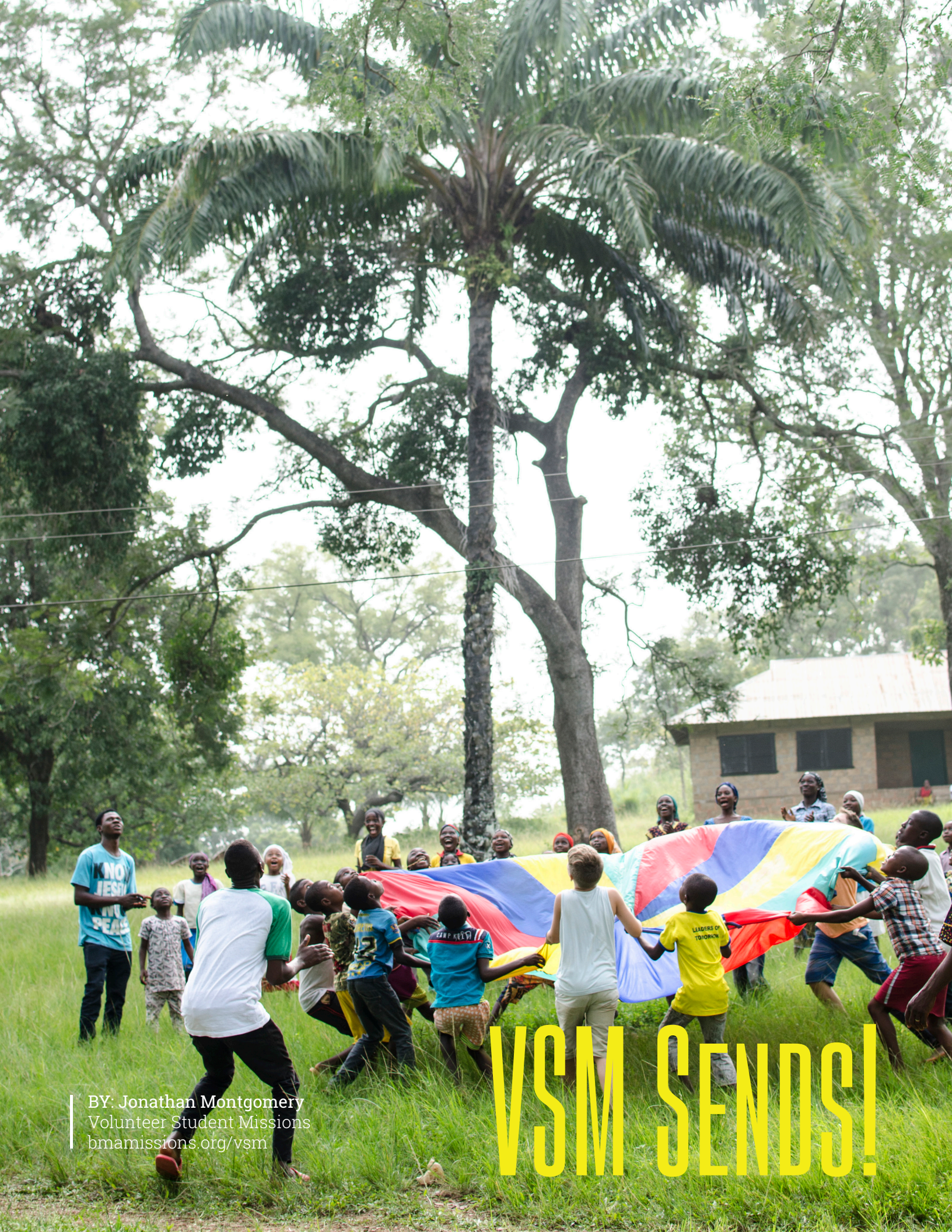


Preparing to provide supplies.



Brother Lavon Haden with Just The Crumbs ministry praying with flood victims in Arkansas.





BY: Jonathan Montgomery  
Volunteer Student Missions  
[bmamissions.org/vsm](http://bmamissions.org/vsm)

# VSM SENDS!



The story of Christmas is the story of God sending us a Savior. As believers, we have the responsibility of sharing the Good News of Jesus with the world. God is readying individuals to be sent into the mission field to tell the story of His Son. Within the ministries of Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) churches, God is daily preparing the hearts of future missionaries. One future missionary may be a young girl who has just learned that those “red, yellow, black and white” are all precious in God’s sight. God may be preparing a middle school student as he samples food from around the world at a holiday party. But in recent years there has been one common way that God has prepared believers for long-term missionary service. God often uses short-term trips to burden hearts for the nations.

As a young girl, Candra Barnett answered the call to missions before even going on her first trip. It is no surprise Candra surrendered to missions at such a young age. She grew up in a missions-minded BMA church. Her dad, who also serves as her pastor, had already led some Volunteer Student Missions (VSM) trips. When Candra let her missionary call be known, it was her dad who first suggested she go with VSM. Candra’s now long-term field was her



Candra Barnett with Gypsy kids in Romania.

first short-term assignment. She traveled with two VSM teams to Romania. God also opened the door for Candra to serve on a VSM team to Ghana. As a student majoring in missions at Central Baptist College, Candra had the opportunity to intern for two months in Ecuador and then three months in Thailand. Candra realizes that her short-term trips helped to prepare her for long-term missionary service. She said, “Though I already felt called to missions before I first went on a VSM trip, the Lord used these trips to confirm that calling in my life and to develop in me a true heart for missions.”

As a teenager, Brandon Lingle had traveled to Thailand on a short-term trip. His team taught English and led a basketball camp for two weeks at a Buddhist school inside a Buddhist monastery. His girlfriend at the time was also on this short-term team. Brittney was Brandon’s girlfriend then, but now she is his wife and missionary co-laborer to the nation of Thailand. God used this short-term trip to open Brandon and Brittney’s eyes to the real and urgent need of getting the gospel to unreached places and people groups. Speaking of this first trip, Brandon said, “We saw real people who have never heard of Jesus or the gospel. It weighed on our hearts like nothing else has. We both knew



Candra Barnett with Gypsy kid in Romania.





Brandon and Brittney Lingle



Brittney Lingle with children in Thailand.

we needed to come back and be there long-term.” Brandon urges others to consider serving on a short-term trip: “Go if you can, especially if you feel drawn to missions. Go there expecting to serve any way you can and be a student. There is much to learn from the people you are going to serve and from the missionaries there.”

One of the most inspiring VSM stories concerns the Risner family who now serves in Romania. Bryan Risner first led the VSM team to Romania in 2015. When he returned after that first trip, his wife Pam was so captivated by the stories he shared, she agreed to go with him the following summer. By the summer of 2017, the entire Risner family traveled together with the Romania VSM team. When VSM was short a leader for the 2017 Ghana team, Bryan without hesitation stepped up and served as a leader for two teams during that summer. Through each of these short-term trips, God was calling this family to serve Him fulltime. The Risner family joined the 2018 Romania team. As this trip came to a close, the VSM team returned to the states. This time, though, the Risner family remained on their new mission field. Bryan is always quick to recognize that short-term missions played a major role in the life of his family by opening their eyes to a world much bigger

than their hometown. He said, “The prayers, love, support, and training we received from our VSM experience was a steppingstone into our future. God was preparing our hearts for the field the entire time.”

As Danny Ballard served in ministry at his church in Mississippi, his view on missions was like most other church members: “I can’t go, so I will just send money.” Then he started leading VSM teams and church mission trips. God used these trips to begin changing Danny’s heart. He prayed that God would make it clear if he should continue to lead short-term trips or if it was time to explore becoming a missionary full-time. The church had planned three trips for the summer of 2011. On the trip to Nicaragua, God gave Danny a clear answer to go. Before going to bed on one of the last nights of the trip, Danny was burdened about seeking God’s direction on how he should continue to serve out his missions calling. He prayed that night for God to give him a clear answer the following morning. When he awoke and grabbed his Bible the next day, the daily devotional reading was Romans 10:14-15. God answered Danny’s prayer through those familiar questions in this passage of Scripture: “And how are they to preach unless they are sent?” Danny



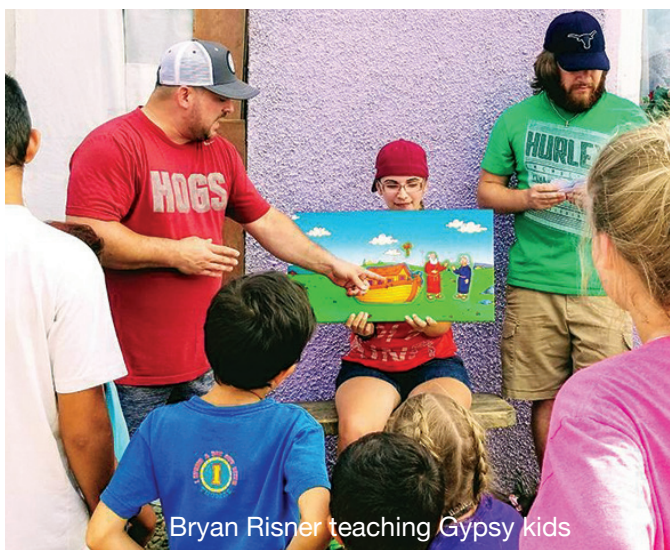
and Rita Ballard were soon sent, and they now have been on the field in the Philippines since 2013. Danny shares, “If it were not for leading the short-term mission trips for our church, I do not think I would be here today. God used those trips to give me a burden and calling to missions full-time.”

One of the students in Danny’s youth group going on all those mission trips with him was J.C. Walker. As a middle school student, J.C. went on the church’s stateside trips. Later, J.C. had the opportunity to sign up for a VSM trip. She went in the summer of 2011 to Panama. This first VSM trip gave her a different perspective of missions. J.C. saw missionary work in a different way and recognized that there is a world of people in need of the love of Christ. J.C. said, “I knew I belonged in missions, but I was thinking only short-term; I never would have imagined that missions would literally become my life.” For the next two summers, she traveled to Nicaragua on short-term trips. These two summers of ten-day trips eventually became two additional summers of two-month stays in Nicaragua. The short-term assignments helped J.C. realize that God wanted to use her talents and abilities to further His kingdom within a Latin American culture. J.C. is married to Evertz Rojas, who is one of our BMA national workers serving in Nicaragua. They are currently working in Las Flores, Nicaragua to reach the lost with the gospel. And their ministry is blossoming just like the name of the town they serve.

In 2011, I met another student from Danny’s youth group in the international terminal of the

Houston airport as one of his church’s teams met up with one of my VSM teams in preparation for a week of service in Nicaragua. This young man has a huge heart for missions. He served on several VSM teams as a student missionary. Later, he felt called to serve within a Creative Access Nation (CAN) and waited for a team of Operation New Generation (ONG) students to form so he could serve for a year in Asia. When a team never assembled, he was undeterred and went alone as a college student enrolled in a foreign university. After his year assignment, he returned to the states, finished his degree, got married—and now he and his wife are serving together on this CAN field. On a recent trip to this nation, our team met up with him at dinner on our final night. I asked him the same question I had asked all the missionaries above, “How did short-term trips prepare you for long-term service?” His answer was quite straightforward: “If it wasn’t for VSM, I would not be on the field today. God used that to get me where I am.”

God is currently writing the story of future missionaries. They are young children at your church’s Vacation Bible School. They are the ones loaded on the church van heading to camp. They are being discipled within the youth ministry. And very soon, they may be asking you for prayers and support to allow them to serve on a VSM trip one summer. The harvest fields are ready, and God will continue to be busy preparing those He plans to send.

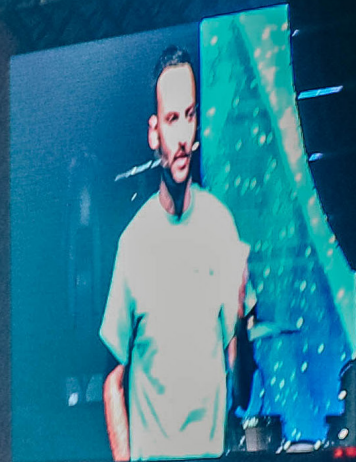


Bryan Risner teaching Gypsy kids



Risner Family





SOAR  
SENDS!





Andy Comer preaching at SOAR



SOAR Collective leading worship at SOAR.

Most kids dream of spring break and summer vacation as a time for trips to the beach, a cruise, or skiing. This was never the case for me. For me, the thing I dreamed about every summer vacation was SOAR. Every year, since before I can remember, I attended the Baptist Missionary Association's (BMA) yearly youth conference with my parents. I remember watching them serve and watching the conference grow as I grew. Some

of my biggest life memories come from being present at SOAR conferences over the years. From my very first SOAR in 1996 when I was six weeks old to this year's SOAR, it has been made very clear to me that SOAR does one thing year after year that fulfills Jesus's commission for His church: SOAR sends missionaries across the street, across the country, and across the world.

Several years ago, when I was a girl of just eleven

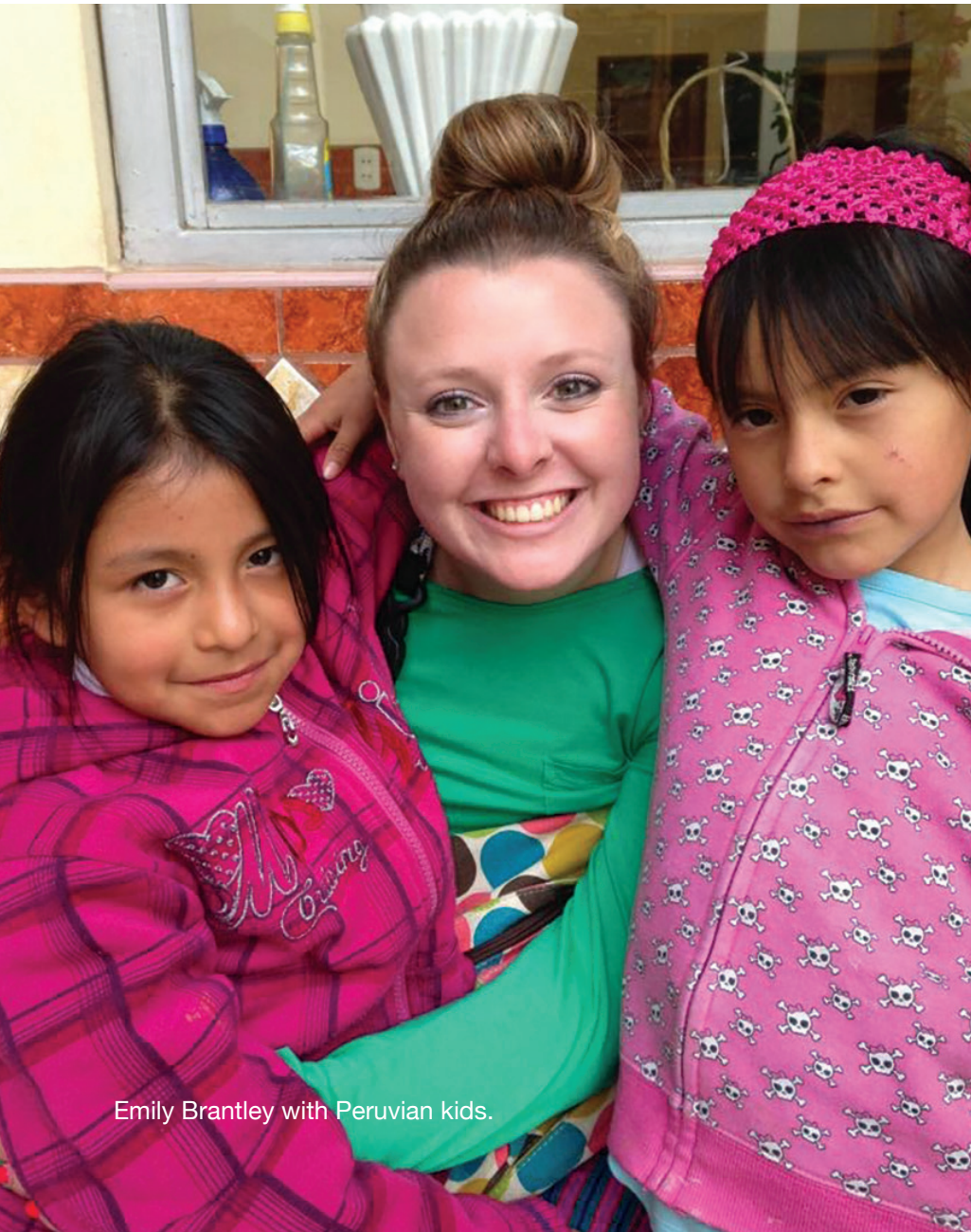


years old, I attended a SOAR conference that would change my life forever. It wasn't my first SOAR and it wouldn't be my last—but it was one that God used to change everything. I had heard testimonies from countless missionaries before, but the testimony I heard that night was from a lady who had surrendered her life to be a missionary overseas. I listened to her share her passion for the lost souls of the country in which she was serving and I felt her

love for Christ and His mission overflowing from her heart. I left that session with a renewed view of who God is and His purpose for me. That was the first time I ever really learned about the meaning and importance of missions; and I knew I wanted to be a part of God's Great Commission. Over the next several years, God provided ways for me to be a part of missions in my own community and He continued to reveal more of Himself to me.

At SOAR 2012, I finally signed up for my first Volunteer Student Missions (VSM) trip. For so many years, God had been preparing me for this week and for signing up for a trip. My mom and I had decided to go together, and we were set on going to Romania. As soon as SOAR was over, we began fundraising and preparing for our upcoming trip to the European country we so desired to visit. However, Jesus had a different plan and I'm so thankful for His sovereignty. My mom and I ended up going to Peru the next summer instead and my life was never the same afterwards. I encountered Jesus on that trip in ways I never had before. Jesus used that trip, that country, and the Peruvians I met to break me completely and put me back together in a way that was more honoring and glorifying to Him. The next summer I returned to Peru for six weeks, and the summer after that I returned for four more weeks. Peru became home to a large part of my heart, and the people I had the privilege of meeting there became my family. But most importantly, God used my time in Peru to give me a passion for missions that would consume me in the best possible way.

In 2015, after I returned from my third trip to Peru, I had the opportunity to speak at SOAR about Volunteer Student Missions and the impact it had on my life. I got to share with a huge room full of students how God used SOAR to work in my heart and to lead me to surrendering



Emily Brantley with Peruvian kids.





Students that were awarded a VSM Scholarship.

my life to His mission. I got to speak to hundreds of students about the importance of missions and God's purpose for them, just as the missionary spoke to me so many years before. The conference that had sent me to the mission field was now giving me the opportunity to send others, and I am so grateful that I was able to be a part of God's mission in that way.

Now, not only does SOAR send students to be missionaries through their events, but they

send them financially, too. This year, SOAR started a VSM Scholarship Fund. From now on, the only offering taken at SOAR will go towards providing scholarships for students to answer God's call to go on mission with Him. This year, SOAR raised over \$10,000 and provided scholarships for twenty students to go on VSM trips next summer.

Over the years, SOAR has taught thousands of students how important it is to go. From

the themes each year, to the midnight meeting, to the SOAR Serves opportunities, the SOAR conference has sent students to be missionaries in their hometowns, in their country, and in other countries. I am so thankful that the leaders involved in producing SOAR are senders and that they sent me.





## MAKING SURE THEY ARE READY TO GO!

### THE CALLING

When God called my family to be full-time missionaries to Romania, it was both a very exciting time as well as a very scary time. We knew this next step in our walk with Christ was going to be a very big step of faith for myself, Pam, and the kids. It was also a huge step of faith for our extended family and friends circles. Our decision to serve on the foreign field was a decision we took very seriously. We prayed individually, together, with family, and sought wise counsel. We wanted to make sure that we were prepared as much as possible for such a challenge. We knew God was in control; but if we were to be honest, our family was still very nervous.

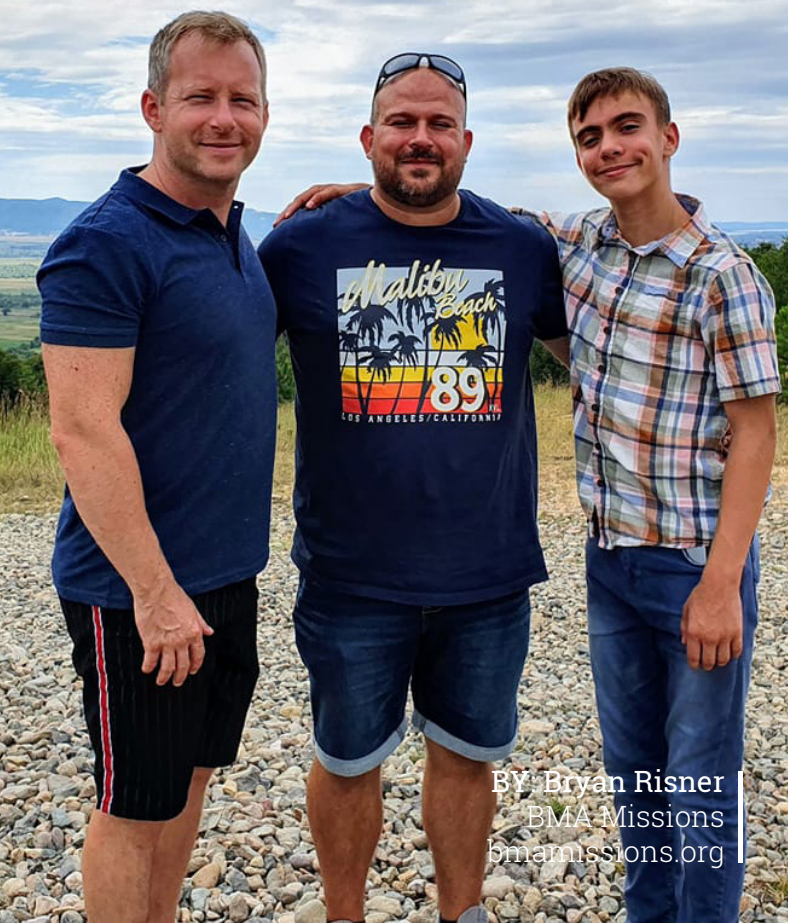
### CONFLICTING EMOTIONS

As I think back to those days before our move, it reminded me of a prior season in my life. I was 23

years old and I can remember it as if it were yesterday. I was sitting in front of my pastor, Brother Kenneth Strickland. He asked me if I was interested in serving as the student pastor of Hattieville Missionary Baptist Church. That was a desire that I had had on my heart for several years and for which I had hoped—but I was nervous. Even with the mixed emotions, I knew God was calling me into this position. My response to Pastor Strickland was “Yes, but I don’t know if I know enough to be a student pastor.” I share this story because I had the same mixed emotions and similar response to God when I felt Him calling me and my family to serve in Romania. Two things are certain: 1) it is okay to experience conflicting emotions, and 2) we can never be fully prepared for the assignments God gives us. However, God can and will still use us; and He gives us tools to make the process a bit easier. Since you are reading this article, you know that our family did say yes to the call and we are trusting God along the way.



Daniel Bagosi, Bryan Risner and son, Landon.



BY Bryan Risner  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org

## REMEMBER YOUR TRAINING

I knew first-hand from my fourteen years of law enforcement training how important your training is. I am so thankful that the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) provided us with one month of Pre-Field Preparation and Orientation (PFPO) training. Each day we started with prayer and Bible study. This is an important reminder that even missionaries can get so busy that we can forget to put our quiet time with God first. Our training ranged from a variety of topics. We studied culture shock, culture do's and don'ts, common missionary mistakes, how to help without hurting, security training, church planting, and missionary care. We also learned about the technical side of payroll, insurance, and partnership support.

One thing that stands out to me was studying about culture shock. I remember thinking how that was probably not going to happen to me—but it did. I was able to remember our training that this was a normal experience. I had the steps to overcome it

and resources to reach out on the days it seemed too hard. In law enforcement we have a saying, “During a high-pressure situation, you will revert back to your training.” This has proven true more times than not. One of the most exciting parts of training for me was the security-based training. This is very needed in many parts of the world. It helped us understand and look for potential dangers, and enabled me to have a plan in case of an emergency situation on the mission field. During this time, we were able to meet and spend time with the BMA staff. This is very helpful when you need help from 5,500 miles away. We also were able to deepen our friendships with fellow missionaries that were going through the training with us. This is also vital on the field, especially during tough times. We prayed, laughed, and even cried together. Our leaders poured into our hearts and lives and we were guided by some of the very best in the BMA. I highly recommend anyone that is going on the mission field, short-term or long-term, to be a part of PFPO training.



Larry Wood, Bryan Risner and Eric Johnson



BY: Larry Wood  
 BMA Missions  
[bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org)

## PREPARING The SENT Spiritually

There is nothing that can fully prepare you for leaving your family, friends, home, and a whole way of life to live and work in a foreign country and culture. The enormous magnitude of this kind of life change is impossible to be understood until it is actually experienced. That being said, there are many things that can be learned about this process and we have a responsibility to be prepared as much as possible. Pre-Field Preparation and Orientation (PFPO) is a very needed and helpful tool used by Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Missions to ensure each family going to the mission field is aware and informed of the challenges to be faced and ways to deal with various situations.

Without a doubt, the most important and helpful portion of the training for us had to do with our spiritual preparation. I know, it seems a given that someone going on the mission field would realize the importance of spiritual preparation. However, sometimes the most obvious can become the most neglected. Each day in PFPO we were encouraged to make the most of our time in God's Word and prayer. We are serving on a battlefield; our weapons and defense are not of this world but from God Himself. To take care of our spiritual life first is a must if we are going to have any success in the field. That encouragement and admonition were spot on. The lengths Satan will go to in order to distract us from time spent in our Bibles and prayer has no bounds. So many days there are good things that seem to call for our immediate attention, only to realize later that they were huge distractions instead. Ephesians 6:12 says it best: "for our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." We were given many tools to use in our daily walk. One of the best ideas was SOAP (Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer). This was a fresh way for us to not only read Scripture but to also make observation and application in our lives. We were encouraged to ask ourselves the question of who are we looking to? Are we looking to God or away at ourselves and other things? How could we look to anyone or anything other than Him, the One who called us in the first place.





Larry Wood preaching



Larry and Tammy Wood

As stated earlier, preparing for life in a new culture is difficult at best. Fortunately for us, everyone who helped in our training have spent many years on the mission field themselves and were able to speak with firsthand knowledge and experience. They were brutally honest and for that we are grateful. However, as newly elected missionaries, there is a certain excitement that overtakes you as you start your journey. New places, new foods, new people and experiences. Then one day reality sets in, unexpectedly, like being hit by a bus. You ask yourself if you can make this culture your own. Can we really identify with these people and plant a church? Will we even survive? During PFPO, we learned that these questions and feelings were normal, and we were given the right tools to use in order to make it through these difficult times.

Finally, but certainly not the least important was the bonds that we built with the other people going through this training with us. We will never be able to share these benefits in words. What we know now about encouragement and what we were told in PFPO is worlds apart. On those days when loneliness and spiritual warfare hit hard, and on good days, connecting with these people who truly know what we are experiencing is such “boost” to continue to take the next step. The people in our BMA Missions office have been there for us to encourage and strengthen us. The support from our sending organization is invaluable and most appreciated. PFPO also taught us to be intentional to find the encouragement from our supporters, family, friends, and sometimes even people we do not even know! It is amazing how God has used so many to encourage us in so many ways! Thank you, Lord, and thank you BMA Missions for a great PFPO experience!





# Rosewood Baptist Sends!

BY: Charles Johnson  
Rosewood Baptist Church  
rosewoodbaptist.net

*“... Who will go for us? Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me,’” – Isaiah 6:8.*

**D**isciples of the Lord Jesus Christ are to be going (with the gospel) individuals, and genuine New Testament churches who effectively and faithfully implement the Great Commission must be sending congregations.

It is hard to consider sending without addressing the need for finances to support taking the gospel to “the uttermost.” A local church will be blessed in all aspects when she gives cheerfully and liberally to financially encourage spreading the Good News.

Another area for sending involves personnel. As humanly difficult as it may be at times, churches must be willing to unselfishly send called members to other fields of service. A local body of believers will ultimately find immense blessings and spiritual development when sending church planters and workers to new fields of labor for our Lord.

Perhaps the most essential element in sending involves sending our prayers upward for those who

are sent. We are truly involved in spiritual battles against demonic wickedness in high places. The key to a successful assault by ground forces lies in a preceding strong artillery attack in the air. Our prayers for those who are sent provide the necessary bombardment of the enemy before the “Lord’s army” exercises His work in respective places of witness and service.

Finally, each believer should recognize *all* who have been saved by grace through faith possess the privilege and responsibility of sending the gospel in our daily lives wherever we go. Above the exit doors in our worship center hang signs in bold letters: **YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD.**

We should all be aware to send the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ in our daily walk anywhere our day-to-day lives take us.





# Bethlehem Baptist Sends!

BY: Dr. Martin Jameson  
Bethlehem Baptist Church  
[bethlehembaptistchurch.info](http://bethlehembaptistchurch.info)

Jesus made the most significant mission trip in history. His visit to planet earth accomplished all that was necessary for the salvation of sinners. He revealed His plan for the world to hear about salvation in the Great Commission.

Churches must send both money and people to help spread the gospel. Bethlehem Baptist Church (BBC) gives to help send missionaries around the world. BBC designates a portion of her budget to each department within the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America. BMA Missions receives the highest priority. World Missions Day provides an additional opportunity to channel financial resources into our association's worldwide mission enterprise.

BBC members also enjoy going to mission fields to minister to missionaries, their mission churches, and communities. Adopting a hands-on approach gives members a feel for what missionaries do. Seeing mission work through a microscope instead of a telescope has generated a greater interest in outreach at home.

The cost of a mission trip prevents many from considering a trip to a foreign field. Our church funds half the cost to make it more feasible. On Easter Sunday, our church designates the entire offering to help members take a mission trip. If no one takes a trip that year, a substantial portion of that offering is sent to BMA Missions and the remainder is kept in reserve for future mission trips. In recent years, our church's pastoral staff has ministered in Washington, Illinois, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Ukraine, and Tanzania. Thirty-six members have taken fifty-seven trips to twenty-seven fields on five different continents.

The good news is good news only to the people who hear it. Each one reading this who knows Christ is a Christ-follower because someone took the Great Commission seriously. The best thing one can do for another person is to share the gospel with him. How can one go unless he is sent?





# Paramount Baptist Sends!

BY: Dennis Knight  
Paramount Baptist Church

*“Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.” – John 20:21*

Paramount Baptist Church has been a missions-minded church for many years. I am thankful to have been associated with this church for almost thirty years.

The Father sent the Son; Jesus sent the apostles; they in turn sent others. This must continue! We must send others with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul stated the gospel clearly in I Corinthians 15:3-4. “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”

We have the awesome responsibility of preaching the gospel and it cannot be altered. Response to the gospel must be more than just acknowledging that it is true. It must be embraced by faith. Paul stated, “I

know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day” (II Timothy 1:12).

There are many good things churches can do. We must not do them to the exclusion of sending gospel-proclaiming missionaries.

Paramount supports Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) missionaries and their ministries. She gladly supports international missions, such as Indonesia, as well as missions in Mississippi. She supported and served as the mother church to South Forrest Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Over the years our mission involvement has encouraged our church to reach out and share our blessings from the Lord with others.



# Walnut Road Baptist Sends!

BY: Jake Vandenberg  
Walnut Road Baptist Church

*“He who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from Him, I tell the world” –John 8:26*

God sent His Son Jesus into the world to save us. This was His good and perfect plan, to sacrifice His beloved child, for us. Revelation 13:8 says that “the lamb was slain from the foundation of the world.” Our God is just, and He must punish sin; but He is also merciful, and so He made a way for us to be forgiven. He could have spoken from heaven. He could have given laws we had to uphold for salvation. He could have used any means He wanted to bring us to Himself. But instead He gave the command to Jesus, “go!”

If our Father is a sending God, then we ought to be a sending church. We should be sending servants out into the highways and hedges compelling people to come into the master’s house. We should be the ones going and teaching the nations. We should be the hands and feet of Jesus, out in our lost and dying world, pulling the broken into our arms and loving them with the Father’s love.

Jesus came in flesh for one purpose: to do the will of His Father. God’s will for Jesus was to die on the

cross as the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and He completed it perfectly. His will for our lives, and for our churches is to continue to spread the good news of what Jesus did on the cross. That might look like sending financial support to our missionaries who have surrendered their lives to this work full-time. It might look like sending out our church members into our communities. It might require us to leave behind what makes us comfortable, and to step into a new realm of faith. But Jesus says, “go!”

We become sending churches out of obedience and a desire to do the will of our Father; but the inevitable result of our obedience is immeasurable blessing. It has been our experience as a church that when you increase giving, God increases provision. When you increase your work, God brings you workers. When you submit to God and say, “send us,” He will give you direction when He says, “go.”



# SENT ON A MISSION



BY: Dr. Steve Crawley  
Ministers Resource Services  
[ministersresourceservices.com](http://ministersresourceservices.com)



**A**s we study Scripture, it becomes apparent that God is on a mission—in essence, He is a missionary God. Consequently, anyone who has decided to follow Jesus is inherently responsible for adopting His mission. In John 20:21, Jesus proclaims, “As I have been sent, so send I you.” Since Jesus is sending us as missionaries, it obviously requires that we embrace a different way of thinking—that we adopt a missional mindset. Living missionally is a well-used phrase in Christian circles, but what does it mean?

I remember years ago when I first began to grasp the fact that I was being sent by God to do mission work. This work was not in a foreign land, an interstate mission point, or at a state mission project. I was being sent as a missionary to my place of employment. I was attending Evangelism Explosion training at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Famed pastor Dr. D. James Kennedy was leading the training. At one of our intermissions, we engaged in general conversation, and he asked if I was in the ministry. I responded, “No, I’m just a layman.” He then asked me what “just a layman meant.” I went on to explain that I was not serving in occupational ministry. He quickly shared with me that I was not “just a layman” but a soldier in the army of the living God. That week of training and sharing the gospel back in 2004 revolutionized my view of what it meant to live missionally. I had been sub-contracting the fulfillment of the Great Commission to our church’s pastor and staff, along with our associational missionaries. Yet, my eyes were opened that week to the fact that I, too, was sent out by my church with no less responsibility than a full-time missionary. I was to be God’s ambassador in my circles of influence. At that time, I worked for a rather large company. I had access to people that many pastors and

missionaries would never have the privilege to access. In a sense, I became a “corporate missionary,” realizing that God had sent me to that company for much more than to draw a paycheck. Realizing my mission field was my company and other social circles where I engaged changed the way I saw and interacted with people around me. I became soul conscious and began to pray for the Holy Spirit to enable me to share the gospel with boldness.

When writing to the church at Corinth, Paul reminded the members that each of them were also to be missionaries just as he was. They too had a specific purpose. They were being sent by God to join Him on mission in their region of the world. “All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18). Paul instructed them that every born-again believer in the church at Corinth was in the ministry—the ministry of reconciliation. Every believer, using his or her unique spiritual gift(s), plays a part in this process of reconciliation. One plants; one waters; and God brings growth (1 Corinthians 3:7).

We are now in a season of joy as we celebrate that monumental day two millenniums ago when Jesus, sent on a mission by God to redeem the souls of man, put on human skin and entered this world. The church is now being sent by God to share the Good News of what Jesus has done. This responsibility is given to every believer and is no small thing—Paul explains that God makes His plea to lost humanity through the work of His people (2 Corinthians 5:20). Fortunately, though Jesus is sending us out, we are not alone. As our Savior shared the Great Commission, He reminded us that His power and presence will be with us as we go (Matthew 28:18-20). May we all strive to fulfill our biblical mandate to live missionally wherever God sends us!



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Dr. Charley Holmes, President



Dr. Philip Attebery, Dean

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**COACHED** by the Activate staff.

**Activate** has partnered with **Sam Rainer** and the **Revitalization Network** to offer church health and pastor health assessments, as well as percept reports for pastors interested. Activate will continue to develop and provide materials, grow pastor huddles, host trainings, and provide coaching. Activate pastors are given suggestions but never told what to do. Pastors are free to go at their own pace.

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- Any church, whether thriving or struggling, newly planted or established
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Check out our website at [BMAMISSIONS.ORG/ACTIVATE](http://BMAMISSIONS.ORG/ACTIVATE) or contact your pastor advocate Heidi at [heidi@bmaam.com](mailto:heidi@bmaam.com) to help you decide where to begin.





# 2020 CAMP SCHEDULE

## JUNE

- June 9 - 12 **GMA Camp**
- June 16 - 19 **Preteen 1 Camp**
- June 23 - 26 **Combo Camp**

## JULY

- July 7 - 10 **Preteen 2 Camp**
- July 14 - 17 **Ark-La-Tex Camp**
- July 21 - 24 **Student Camp**

For more information on the camps, go to [danielspringscamp.com](http://danielspringscamp.com)



# mission:news



## **Texas: Jesse Hales**

Thank you for continuing to pray for us as we get small group Bible studies going here in Round Rock, Texas. God is blessing us and we can't wait to see what He has in store for this new church.



## **Philippines: Fil Kakilala**

I remember the mixed feelings of dropping off my daughter at a college dorm as she began her freshman year. On the long flight home to Hawaii, the feeling of sadness and gladness filled my heart - sad that I was missing her already, but glad for the opportunity for her to spread her wings to new horizons. I feel the same way as a church planter/missionary when it is time to pass the baton to trained local leadership at a mission/church

plant. There's no denying that the mixed feelings exist, just like those of a parent, but there's more joy seeing our church plants on Panay and Luzon islands thrive, without me at the helm. I celebrated with our two church plants in Hawaii during my visit there, amazed that they've stood the test of time, cost, and other challenges on the island.



## **Papua New Guinea: BJ Sanders**

Wow, what an exciting time! We just finished our first ever literacy class among the Wantakia people! Ten students went from never having their language written, to being able to read and write it! We had a big graduation celebrating their accomplishments and building excitement for the next class! In just a couple of short months, we will begin teaching the entire village everything from The Creation to Christ's teachings. Please **join us** in committing this time to prayer! Thanks Baptist Missionary Association America family!



## **Philippines: Cris & Alicia Samson**

We are well into our first furlough and are enjoying our time of fellowship with our BMA pastors, friends, and churches. As we continue raising funds, we are excitedly anticipating our return to the Philippines in order to continue the ministry to which God has called us. For those of you who are not very familiar with our ministry, it is primarily a ministry of church planting with a support ministry of medical missions. Our desire is to show the love of Christ through our actions to those in need of physical healing as we share the gospel of Christ to those in need of spiritual healing. We are grateful for BMA America and your continued love and support. Thank you for your prayers and partnership as we serve the Lord together as one. God bless you all!





### **Minnesota: Mike Strong**

God is making Himself known in Near North Minneapolis. There has been a hunger for salvation and a desire for seeking spiritual maturity. In a few short weeks, we've seen Him call four souls out of death into life by faith in Christ. Three of them have been baptized. We've witnessed a growing hunger for discipleship and fellowship with others who also desire more of Christ. We are witnessing healing begin. We are having conversations with families divided over following Christ or following religion. We are seeing a church family start to form.

We are still in pre-launch phase. The milestones we hope to reach before launching are raising the funds for my salary and the church launch budget, raising up and adding leaders to serve the people in our community, expressed desires of the launch team members to put their gifts to work in ministry, and a public proclamation of our plan for the church in the greater North Minneapolis community. Though we are not where we need to be

to officially launch, we do have several Bible studies at work impacting our community with the gospel. We also have a weekly food ministry where we provide roughly a ton of food (primarily produce and dairy) to North Minneapolis households for free. This gives us the opportunity to hear our neighbors' stories, give targeted and specific gospel hope, and pray for them. We meet people who would never know we were planting a church otherwise. We also meet people who need Jesus but aren't yet comfortable stepping into a church building.

We are praying for God to send and raise up leaders while working to equip those we have meeting with us today to become the leaders God made them to be. We are also preparing to share our plans for the church and invite people to partner with us in prayer, financially, and as part of our launch team. If you are interested in joining as a personal partner or through a church or group partnership, please contact me through email ([brothermike@nncmpls.com](mailto:brothermike@nncmpls.com)). We would love to have discussions about internships we can offer to CBC, Jacksonville College, or Southeastern Baptist College students. Thanks for your prayers and partnership. To God be the glory!



### **Philippines: Stan Scroggins**

Since April we've enjoyed having teams here from BMMI, Bethel Baptist, Fulton, MS, EIM, and Garrett Memorial, Hope, AR, that helped our local missions and helped with improvements at the BMA Bible College campus. After 5 months we finally have our passports back from immigration and are now going forward with plans to survey Asian countries for church planting opportunities. A new bunch of freshmen flooded our campus in August. Our landlord sold our rent house so we've had to move so, please make note of our new address: Blk. 48 Lot 24 Buckingham Square, Town & Country Cambridge, Negros Occidental, Philippines 6115.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support. Prayer truly is the most important thing.



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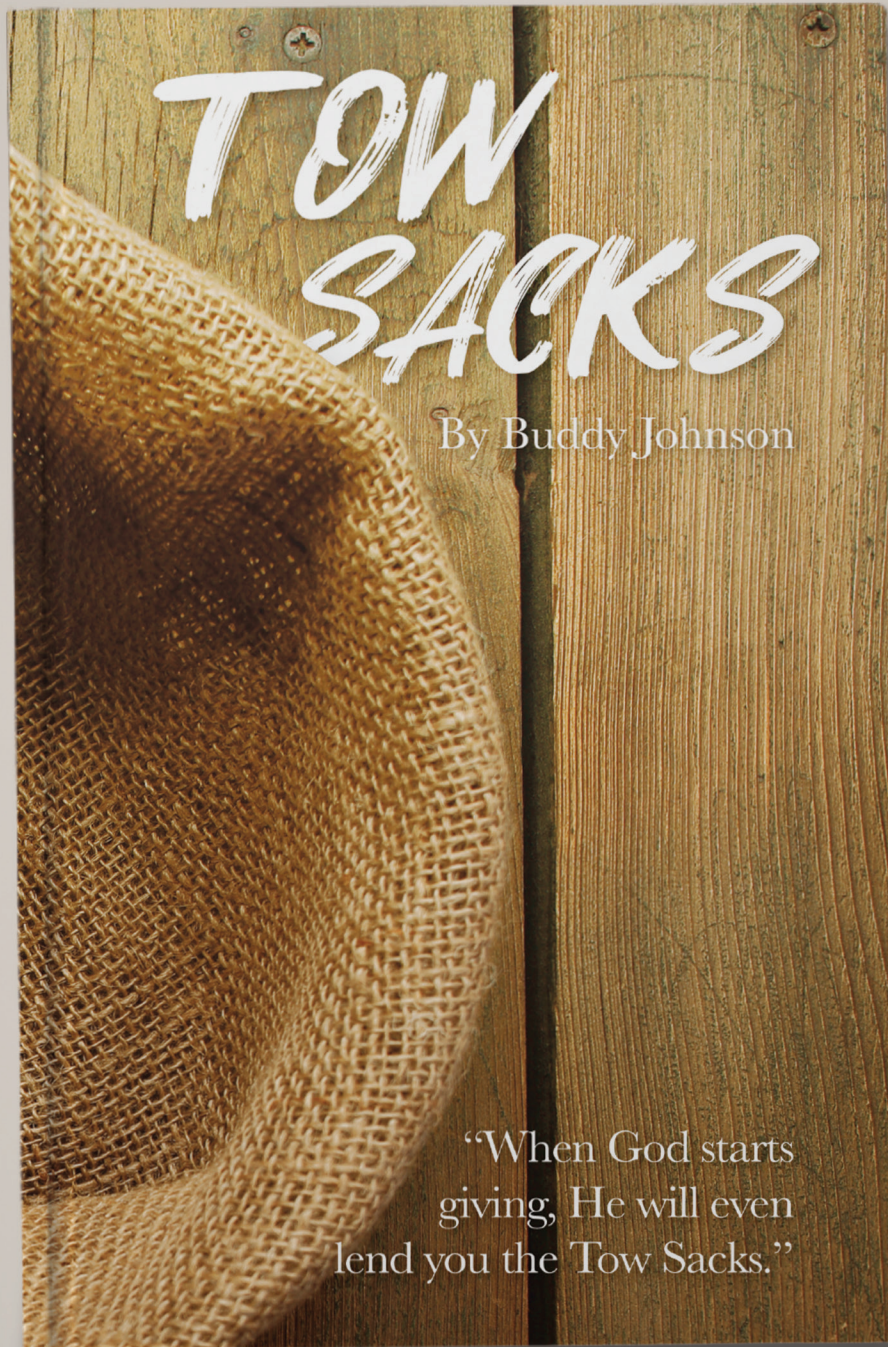
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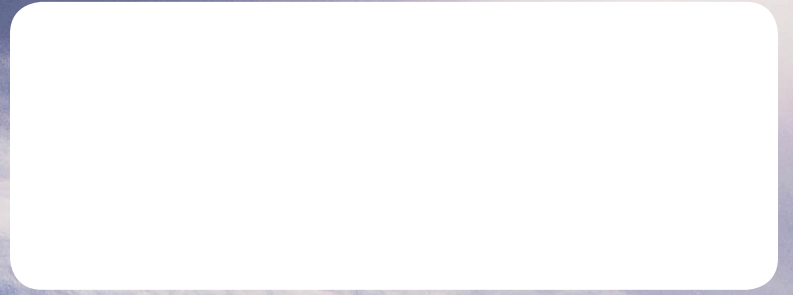


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