

# mission:world

MAGAZINE

THINK GLOBALLY  
ACT LOCALLY

March - April 2020 ::: The Great Commission Magazine of the BMA





# THINK GLOBALLY ACT LOCALLY

BY: Donny Parrish  
Lifeword  
lifeword.org

*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

—Matthew 28:18-20

**T**he Mission. His mission.

Carrying out the mission of God is our reason for the existence of the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America. Together we join hearts, hands, and resources to carry the glory of His saving message to the nations of the world. Christ's Great Commission is a local church commandment. BMA Missions and Lifeword exist as tools to help local churches carry out that command. It's a commandment that is world-wide in its scope. But, because it was given to the local church, it all begins at home.

"Think Globally, Act Locally"...that is the theme set by BMA President, Jeff Swart, for our 2020 BMA National Meeting. This edition of *Mission: World* is centered around that thought. When we think of reaching the world for Christ, we can sometimes forget that the world means America, too. In fact,

it means my hometown, my neighborhood, my next-door neighbor, my family. Christ's Great Commission is easy to think of as missionaries being sent to a faraway land. But until the local church mobilizes for missions on a local level it is doubtful that efforts on foreign lands will bear much fruit.

As you read this edition of *Mission: World*, ask yourself this question: "Is my local church acting on the Great Commission right where we live?" And then pray for the representatives of BMA churches from across America gathering in Waxahachie, Texas for our National Meeting to leave the meeting inspired to do more to fulfill His Great Commission around the world and at home.

After all, *missionary* is our middle name. It's the reason that we exist!

## 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.

**Moral Action** makes sure that the views of BMA Baptists are heard in the halls of Washington, D.C.

**Ministers Resource Services** helps meet the financial planning needs of BMA pastors and staffs.

**BMA Foundation** is the endowment instrument for all of the ministries of the Baptist Missionary Association.



## mission:world

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# FAMOUS NEAR & FAR

BY: Jeff Swart  
BMA America President  
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Coca-Cola products are available everywhere in the world except North Korea and Cuba. The company's marketing strategy, which is prominently displayed in the world headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, may have the answer as to how they saturated the cola market: "Think Globally, but Act Locally." The marketing strategy of the Coca-Cola Company is to place their products in every country of the world; and to accomplish that, they distribute their product to as many locations as possible.

It seems reasonable that the same strategy would work in God's work: *think globally*—support missionaries around the globe; and *act locally*—share the gospel with our neighbors next door and across the street.

In His final words before He ascended back to the Father in heaven, Jesus told His disciples, and all future disciples too: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Jesus declared that believers were to be a witness first in "**Jerusalem**" (Acts 1:8). Our witness for Christ always begins at home—our own homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and communities.

Although being a witness for Christ begins at home, it doesn't stay at home as we are to be witnesses in "**Judea**" (Acts 1:8). Judea was the state in which the city of Jerusalem was located. So, not only are we to be witnesses for Christ in our hometown but we're also to be witnesses in our home state.

Jesus went on to say that we were to be witnesses in "**Samaria**" (Acts 1:8). Samaria was a neighboring state to Judea. So, evangelism begins in our own state and then expands outward to reach our neighboring states.

And finally, Jesus said we were to be witnesses to the "**uttermost parts of the earth**" (Acts 1:8). Our witness for Christ is to be a global witness.

God has chosen to use people who have experienced the saving grace of the Lord Jesus to reach people who do not yet know Him as their personal Savior wherever they may live on this globe.



### Thinking Globally

Before He ascended back to the Father in heaven, Jesus commanded His disciples: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:19-20).

This passage of Scripture is affectionally referred to as the Great Commission. The commission was not an afterthought but the very centerpiece of Christ’s ministry. Jesus set the example for us as He shared the gospel with the Jews (John 1:11), the Gentiles (Matthew 8:28-34), the Samaritans (John 4:4-34,42), the Romans (Matthew 8:5-13), and the Canaanites (Matthew 15:21-28). Jesus preached a universal gospel because mankind is universally lost!

### Acting Locally

British missionary C.T. Studd is reported to have said: “The light that shines farthest shines brightest nearest home.” In other words, the surest way to fulfill the Great Commission is through local churches who are reaching their communities for Christ.

Jesus assumed that every believer would be an evangelist when He said: “...ye shall be witnesses unto me” (Acts 1:8). Considering Jesus’ words, doesn’t it seem biblical to define the word *missionary* as *me*?

How does every believer become a missionary and every local church a missions-minded church? I suppose we could suggest several dozen ideas, but for now, let me suggest several foundational truths in becoming a Great Commission church.

### A Passion for Souls

Perhaps our churches are not evangelistic because we don’t have a consuming passion for the souls of men. A passion for souls is evidenced in the plea of the Apostle Paul when he cried out to God on behalf of his own Jewish brethren, “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved” and “...I have a great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh” (Romans 10:1; 9:3).

A passion for souls is John Wesley pleading, “Give me the world or I perish!” A passion for souls is John Knox crying, “Give me Scotland or I die.” It is a George Whitfield saying, “Give me souls or take my soul.” A passion for souls is a David Brainerd proclaiming, “I care not where I go or how I live or what I endure so that I may save souls.” It is a Jonathan Edwards exclaiming, “O Lord, give me New England! Give me New England.” A passion for souls is Jesus weeping over the city of Jerusalem and praying, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...how often would I have gathered thy children together...” (Matthew 23:37). Evangelism is rooted in a passion for souls.

### The Power of the Holy Spirit

One of the ways that we can develop a passion for souls is by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus declared: “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me...” (Acts 1:8). In this verse, Jesus connects the power of the Holy Spirit and the evangelism of the world.

Jesus told us the secret of reaching the world with the gospel when He said: “...and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:20). Christ promised His abiding presence as we go to the world with the gospel. The Great Commission is a wonderful promise! All authority! All nations! All commandments! All the days of your life!



### Prayer

Because evangelism is spiritual warfare, the only means of success is prayer (Ephesians 6:10-18). James explained the importance of prayer when he wrote: "...ye have not, because ye ask not" (James 4:2). If we want to see a harvest of souls, we must ask God for a harvest of souls.

### Discipleship

There are many wonderful byproducts of a discipling ministry but let's just focus on one—evangelism.

There are more than seven billion people alive on the earth that all need to be saved. Seven billion is an extremely large number so allow me to try and express the number in terms we can understand. If you were to spend one thousand dollars per day it would take three years to spend one million dollars and 3,000 years to spend one billion dollars. Therefore, it would take 21,000 years to spend seven billion dollars!

The spiritual application is that if you led 1,000 people to Christ each day, and the population never changed, it would take you 21,000 years to win the world to Christ. But if you won one person per year to Christ and disciplined that person so that they could reproduce themselves, and everyone won to Christ did the same thing—in less than forty years the world would be won to Christ! "All nations" is our goal and we will reach that goal by winning and discipling people one at a time.

### Conclusion

More than two decades ago, I penned these words: "We, as individual believers, cannot win the world to Christ but we can win our world to Christ. If enough believers win their world to Christ, we will win the world to Christ! Although our lives touch each other, our worlds are different. If my world does not hear of Christ from me, where will they hear of Him? I may be the only believer in my world. In fact, I may be the best Christian someone knows because I may be the only Christian they know!"

Let me ask you a personal question: "Is there a missionary serving on a mission field today that can say, 'I am here because of the sacrifice of Brother and Sister so and so or because of the mission mindset of the ABC Missionary Baptist Church?'"

Christ alone can save the world, but Christ cannot save the world alone. Christ needs partners. Will you be one? Will you lead your church to be one?

# WILL YOU LEAD YOUR CHURCH TO BE ONE?





A NEW  
OPENING TO  
THE WORLD





BY: Jon Dodson  
Lifeword  
lifeword.org

**F**or over 50 years, Lifeword has been a successful radio ministry of the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America. Broadcasting in 128 countries and giving a third of the world's population the opportunity to hear daily gospel teaching, God has used the radio ministry of Lifeword to reach and impact thousands upon thousands of lives.

The goal of Lifeword is to make Jesus famous to the nations of the world. Two billion people in the world still have not heard about Jesus.

How can the BMA of America and Lifeword do even more to reach people with the hope only found in Jesus? How can we multiply our efforts with the available resources?

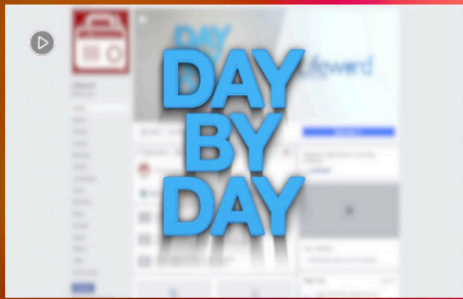
My name is Jon Dodson. I am the Director of Digital Broadcasting and Strategies at Lifeword.org. As engaged college students twenty-six years ago, my wife Robyn and I attended Antioch Baptist in Conway, Arkansas, where I first met current Lifeword Executive Director Donny Parrish. Twenty-six years later God brought Donny and I back together with a common vision only God could birth.

For the last 25 years I've worked in the internet marketing industry gaining invaluable experience with clients across the country, managing web and digital/social media efforts for small to large churches, and leading internet strategies for ministries like FamilyLife.com. I called Donny just over two years ago to talk about how I might help Lifeword's online efforts, not knowing how God would direct the following conversations.

Donny began telling me about a new daily production called *Day By Day* specifically for BMA people in North America. Lifeword had been primarily an international broadcast ministry with few BMA of America people able to hear them in North America. He wanted to change that with the *Day By Day* online video series available only on Facebook.

The testing of *Day By Day* Facebook videos exceeded our expectations. During a meeting with Donny he said, "This may be a crazy idea so tell me if it is." As you can imagine, I prepared myself. Donny continued, "I want to build a Lifeword Cloud where all of the past radio broadcasts and Lifeword media can be uploaded, searchable, downloaded, and shared online. Is that a crazy idea?" My response, "No it's not crazy and when do we get started building it?"

**Who Is Jesus To You?**  
[Click here](#)



Day by Day Video  
**Made For War**  
 The conflicts and trials we face are opportunities for us to experience the power of God, if we will trust ...

By: Clif Johnson (Lifeword)    Aired on Jan 08, 2020    Show Day by Day

Format 1080P	Duration 00:03:06 min.	Size 113.86MB	Copy Embed Code
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Nine months later on September 1, 2018 the Lifeword Cloud went live at Lifeword.org with five initial languages: English, Spanish, Arabic, Swahili, and Garifuna. Using the internet, Lifeword is now able to make the name of Jesus famous to all nations of the world in a way that has never been realized. The plan is to create ten additional language sites this year at Lifeword.org by May 31, 2020. We are already making advances to meet this goal.

Today, Lifeword.org can be seen and heard in 60 languages. In the next five to ten years, Lifeword plans to be making Jesus famous in a total of 200 languages.

As the culture continues to embrace and dive deeper into all things internet, with God's continued favor and blessings, Lifeword is positioned to be a shining voice of hope and good news with the gospel of Jesus online.

It has now been fourteen months since the Lifeword Cloud launched. What has happened since the launch of the Cloud? What are some results from this ongoing effort?

So many incredible things have happened since the launch of the Lifeword Cloud; and the last six months have only sped those up:

- \* Since the Lifeword Cloud launched, literally millions around the world have had the online opportunity to view, listen to, or read gospel teaching from the digital media ministry of the BMA of America: Lifeword.org.
- \* From January 1 to September 1, 2018, prior to launching the Cloud, Lifeword.org had 6,794 new visitors to the website. From January 1 thru September 1, 2019 after the launch, Lifeword.org saw an 887 percent increase in new visitors to the website with 66,393 visitors that had never been there before.
- \* In 2018, Lifeword.org utilized Facebook to literally reach millions of people with gospel teachings. Using video, audio, images, and blog posts, Lifeword.org was able to display our media on Facebook more than 42 million times, giving people the opportunity to see/hear/read gospel teaching and learn about Lifeword.
- \* Facebook provided Lifeword a way to reach more than 10 million Facebook accounts producing just over 35 million video views in 2018. We rejoice and praise God for all that He is doing through Lifeword online!
- \* The Lifeword Instagram account (@LifewordMedia) now has more than 12,200 followers and is growing daily.



## Who Is Jesus To You?

[Click here](#)

### WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?



**Who Is Jesus To You? Videos**—Donny Parrish envisioned and produced a video that Lifeworld calls “Who Is Jesus To You?” This video is a very simple presentation of who Jesus is and a clear presentation of the gospel that invites viewers to accept Him as Lord and Savior. When visitors go to Lifeworld.org they will see a banner at the top of the site with a simple question asking, “Who Is Jesus To You?” and a button they can click to see the English video.

Not only can the world see this video in English, but Lifeworld has worked with translators around the globe to translate and produce this gospel presentation into 57 different languages that can be viewed right now at <https://lifeworld.org/jesus-to-you/>. We are working daily to produce and translate this video message into more and more languages.

**Lori Cline Show**—Not long after the Cloud launched, Lifeworld began producing *Lori Cline*. This show can also be seen on the Lifeworld Facebook page at [facebook.com/lifeworld](https://facebook.com/lifeworld). Every Tuesday and Thursday a new devotional is published by the *Lori Cline* show that has reached thousands and thousands of people each week.

**Lifeworld en Español**—For years Lifeworld’s Director of Operations Luis Ortega has produced a Spanish devotional called *Palabra De Vida* for the Lifeworld en Español Facebook page. This production has proven week in and week out to be the most watched and engaged production Lifeworld publishes online. When we were able to start marketing these devotionals on Facebook, the number of comments overwhelmed our capacity. The Spanish website at [Lifeworld.org/Spanish](https://lifeworld.org/Spanish) continues to bring thousands of visitors to its gospel teachings. Praise God for His enormous blessing and pray with us for Lifeworld’s continued Spanish ministry.

**The Table Show**—Lifeworld desires to minister to college students in this culture. We want them to know Jesus and follow Him daily in their lives. *The Table* is a one-minute video presenting relevant topics designed for college-age students. Lifeworld wants to see more and more college students reading the Bible. At the end of these fast, topical videos a relevant scripture reference is displayed on the screen with an invitation to look it up and read it. Pilots for *The Table* have already been produced and tested, allowing Lifeworld to move into full production. We look forward to seeing how God uses *The Table*. Pray for this new production as Lifeworld ministers to college students online.





**Lifeword Blogs and Writing Team**—As we prepared to launch the Cloud, the Lifeword team began seeking skilled writers and storytellers to help us produce regular blogs or articles to publish at Lifeword.org/blog. As God will do, He provided a very talented group of skilled Christian writers. These writers have allowed Lifeword the ability to publish one (sometimes two) blog post per day covering a variety of Christian topics and life applications helping the body of Christ live out their faith as published at Lifeword.org/blog. We are always looking for talented writers and storytellers. If that describes you or someone you know please contact us at Lifeword.org so we can talk.

**Lifeword Mobile App**—Did you know Lifeword now has a mobile app? It's brand new, just launched in September 2019. This app gives Lifeword another way to minister to people everywhere. You can find it at the Apple Store or Google Play by searching for Lifeword. Today, the app displays daily updates of *Day By Day* and *Lori Cline* videos along with daily blog posts.





**Lifeword on Apple TV and Roku TV**—God has blessed Lifeword with multiple channels to expand its ministry into digital areas it's never been before. With the publishing of the Lifeword app we also launched video channels on Apple TV and Roku TV currently showing *Day By Day* and *Lori Cline* to thousands of new people.

**Lifeword Podcasting**—The Lifeword team has been hard at work and was able to launch *Day By Day* and *Lori Cline* podcasts in October 2019 to major podcasting platforms. You can find the Lifeword podcasts at Apple Podcasts, Google Play Music, Stitcher, Spotify, iHeartRadio, and Deezer. When you subscribe to the Lifeword podcasts you'll receive the latest *Day By Day* and *Lori Cline* audio on your mobile device within your favorite podcast app. Additional podcasts will be launched in the future as more and more productions come online at Lifeword.org.

God continues to richly bless the ministry of the BMA of America through Lifeword.org in ways that we can only rejoice in His provision. As incredible as the above accomplishments are, Lifeword is aggressively working toward even more online ministry to continue striving to make the name of Jesus famous to the nations.

There are two billion people in this world that have not heard the name of Jesus. Lifeword is doing everything we can to create opportunities for them to hear about the saving grace of Jesus. Thank you for praying for and supporting the ministry of Lifeword.org.







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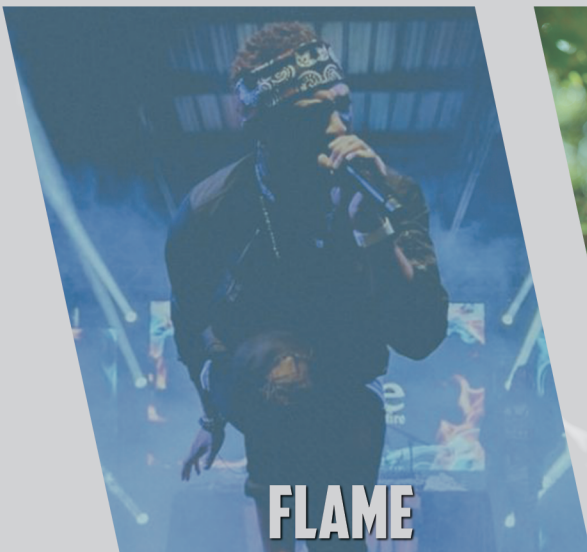
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# ***GOD'S WORD TO EGYPT***





BY: Charlie Costa  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org

Egypt is a place of wonder and history; it is also a place of need. In the last 26 years, the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America has recognized that fact and has planted six churches in Egypt with a seventh on the way. Last September, we launched our sixth church plant in a suburb south of Cairo. The work has been taking place for the last two years. A young Changemaker and his wife canvassed the area, visiting families and sharing the gospel. Many have come to faith. Last September, all these families who have been reached with the gospel got together for a launching service. Attendance surpassed 100 people. Singing was heartwarming, worship was awesome, and the Word was preached with boldness.



Pastor Charlie Costa preaching in Egypt





Part of the congregation of BMA church in Egypt.

Egypt presents a big challenge. Christianity represents about ten percent of the population, the majority of whom are Coptic Orthodox. Islam is the official religion of Egypt; and Arabic is its official language. With over 95 million inhabitants, Egypt is the most populous country in North Africa, the Middle East, and the Arab world.

The challenge has always been dual for us. Islam has resisted over the years our attempts to evangelize the population, in part because of the residual hate for western imperialism. The British ruled Egypt until 1922 but their military presence continued till 1952. The association of the Egyptian monarchy with the British presence created a negative image in the minds of Egyptians, and they associated Christianity with that negative image.



Worship service of BMA church south of Cairo.



When the Muslim Brotherhood came on the scene in Egypt, the pendulum swung toward more fundamental Islam that has no tolerance for Christianity—no matter what they say. During the reign of the Brotherhood (President Mohammad Morsi) from June 2012 till June 2013, 120 churches were burned.

Presbyterian missionaries were some of the first to enter Egypt and then others followed. They were confronted with Islam and later the Orthodox Church. The Orthodox view us as a threat. Evangelism in their view is sheep stealing. Because they are the largest Christian group in the country, the government gives them preference over other groups.

This brings us to our present situation. Building a church, or restoring an old church building, for the longest time, needed a presidential decree. Today, Baptist churches get a permit as an NGO, not as a church. Our church planters have to work with skewed laws while the Orthodox church tries to influence authorities to hinder issuing permits.

These facts only serve to give you a glimpse of the circumstances under which we work. Yet we persevere in spite of difficulty and persecution and church burning and imprisonment of converts coming to Christ from Islam.

The challenge is to persevere in spite of all difficulties, to pray and confront the enemy on his own turf, and to give generously to support our work.

With Christ preached, Egypt can really become a land of wonder.



BMA church meeting in Egypt.



# CHANGE IS COMING TO PORTUGAL



Home Bible study in Portugal.

BY: Marco Gaspar  
BMA Missions  
[bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org)

**W**hen we think of reaching all the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ, we think that it is an impossible mission. On one hand, we are correct; no one alone can do that—it's impossible. But on the other hand, we're absolutely wrong. Jesus proves it to us. He chose to not spread the gospel alone; instead, He called people to follow Him, to learn with Him, and then to go throughout the world to be fishers of men. But, do you know something? Those twelve men, including Paul, knew that it was impossible for them to reach all the world. So, what did they do? They followed Jesus' example—they called people to follow Jesus; they taught them to be fishers of men; and then they sent them to the world to evangelize. Jesus' disciples made disciples; and they intended those disciples to continue making disciples. This was a movement meant to continue until the day of Christ's return.

This is our goal with the churches that belong to the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) in Portugal. We have a unique opportunity to make a shift. The average age of our members is older and our membership has decreased. If we do not make a disciple shift soon, most of our churches will die. Since the choice is change or die, we choose to change. And we are very thankful to God for our partnership with the BMA of America. In 2015, God used Dr. John David Smith to challenge us to make this shift. Brother John David continued to visit us both in 2017 and 2018; and he will visit us again this year (2020) to continue challenging us and helping us make changes. When I think of this, I see the BMA of America “thinking globally, acting locally.” Why? Because we are being trained by someone who is not Portuguese; doesn't live here; and even if he did live here, couldn't reach all of Portugal





Missionary family helping plant a new church in Portugal.

with the gospel alone. However, by training us and sharing with us God's vision for His church, Brother John David is helping to reaching Portugal with the gospel. I believe that by being trained and in turn training others who will do the same (discipleship multiplication), our dream of reaching all of Portugal is possible. Now imagine all our churches doing the same!

Now I would like to share with you some exciting things that are happening because of our partnership with the BMA of America.

First, I want to express again how thankful we are for BMA Missions' vision around the world. Because of your global view, we will soon plant a new church—the first one in 25 years! This new church will be planted in a small city called Cartaxo, about 40 miles north of Lisbon, our capital. Within the next three years, we will also be able to support a church planter. This is all possible because of your love for missions, combined with the BMA of America's vision from the beginning.

We are also using DiscipleGuide's Bible studies translated to Portuguese. Not only do all the churches in our association use these studies, but also other churches not

associated with us. Through the years, these studies have been a great blessing to us. In partnership with BMA of America, these studies are even sent to other countries in Africa such as Angola and Guinea-Bissau.

Another project that is being prepared is the translation of Xchange, a discipleship tool written by Steve McCoy. I personally believe this material will be a great tool to help us invest in discipleship. We now have Modules 0, 1 and 2 translated. Module 1 is already in use in Angola; and hopefully, by the time you read this article, Module 3 will also be finished with at least one church using it by January.


In the church where I pastor, we now have four discipleship groups. I lead three of them; my wife Sandra helps me in two of them; and the fourth is a recent start-up led by a missionary couple from Holland, Peter and Annie. In total, we have 14 people being discipled and preparing to disciple others. Our goal is to involve all our church members in this movement (our church has 50 members) while also being an example to other churches within our association.

Please pray for us; pray for an awakening in Portugal; pray for God to raise up a new generation of leaders fully committed to the Lord with a great passion for missions and discipleship. And don't forget—we cannot change all the world; but if we act locally, somehow we will influence all the world (Genesis 12:3b; 22:18).



Missionary team doing outreach in the community.




 New church plant meeting in Lutsk, Ukraine.

# A NEW CHURCH IN UKRAINE!

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

It is hard to believe that we have been in Ukraine for almost two years now. God has done so many great things during our time here and we can genuinely say we love serving in Ukraine. Probably the most incredible event to take place during our time here is the opportunity to plant our first church, Water of Life, in the city of Lutsk. We left Texas in July 2018 to move six thousand miles to Ukraine to serve as missionaries. Our desire was to live out the call on our lives, to reach the country of Ukraine for Christ. While we were thinking globally, Ukrainian Christians were acting locally. While God was moving us, He was also moving in the hearts of some here to reach their city for Christ. God was working His plan. Little did we know what God had in store once we were connected to each other. We took a leap of faith, coming to Ukraine with a vision and plan to start a church. Our plan was, I believe, in line with God's plan; but our timelines were different. We had a timeline of three or four years and God had a timeline of not years but months. I told God, more than once, that according to our DCPI (Dynamic Church Planting International) training and timeline He was moving too fast. This, by the way, really got things going. It was clear God had a plan and we needed to trust that plan and follow.

Water of Life had her launch service on November 17, 2019 with over one hundred in attendance. Again, we give all of the credit to God. He has supplied every need, given strength for every challenge, and has been more than faithful in everything. One of our greatest challenges in planting the church was finding a place where we could meet. Everything we felt would be suitable was not available to rent, only to buy. The places we did try to rent decided not to rent to us when they found out we were a church. We prayed together as a church asking God to reveal His plan. We were six weeks away from our launch date with nowhere to meet—we had grown too large to meet in anyone's home.





While we were excited about the growth, we were getting a little anxious about not having a place to meet. Sasha, our Ukrainian church planting partner, checked every available resource every day with only the same spaces we had either been turned down for or that were not feasible showing up. We reached a self-imposed deadline where we decided to postpone the launch service and our English club until a later date. We began meeting in small groups since there was nowhere large enough where we could meet together. There was some disappointment, but we knew God had the answer. On the day of our deadline, Sasha was walking by a new space in the center of the city and there was a sign in the window. After calling the number and getting the details, he called us. “God has provided a place for us,” he said, and began to give us all the particulars. It sounded too good to be true, but we went and looked. It was perfect and more than we had ever hoped for. The space was brand new; we would be the first occupants. The rent was less than half than everything we had seen before. In fact, the rent and utilities were well within the amount church members had committed to give each month. It was in the center of the city with virtually every bus line in the city stopping just a few feet from the front door. This is a big deal here since most people depend on public transportation. We as a church were able to finish out the building ourselves and make it our place. The most incredible thing is that we are located on the ground floor of a new retail/dining/housing complex with five hundred families living right above us. Yes, I said five hundred families for us to reach with the gospel—five hundred families to whom to minister and to be the hands and feet of Jesus. God placed a gold mine right on top of us.

It is wonderful to think that years ago when God placed a burden for Ukraine on us, He placed a burden on a group of believers to reach their city with the gospel. He had a perfect plan and we are beyond grateful we get to be a part of it. Our global thoughts have become local actions in our city of Lutsk, and we simply can't wait to see what God will do next.



Adding the finishing touches to the new meeting space.



Small group discussion.



# GOSPEL MULTIPLICATION IN ROMANIA



An early meeting of the new church plant held outside.

BY Bryan Risner  
BMA Missions  
[bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org)

**W**e serve a big God, and He has given His disciples (you and I) the challenge of having a big, Jesus-sized goal. I call that Jesus-sized goal a “Big Bold Vision.” Our “Big Bold Vision” is that every person everywhere will hear the gospel from a friend. How can this happen? The best way to do this is through relational evangelism. We have the responsibility to train and equip our local church to be disciples that can go and make other disciples. This is known as Gospel Multiplication. The best way for Gospel Multiplication to happen is for disciples to go win people and teach them how to reach others. We must have an easy and duplicatable method.





Thinking locally is our first mission. We are currently planting a church in Romania. The church is located in our village, Sântandrei. Our first meeting was in the backyard of a Christian man. The next week we moved to a centrally located gravel area. We met here for several weeks. No walls and no seats. We sing worship songs, I present a simple message, and we have a time of prayer. I make it a priority to share the gospel message every single meeting. Each week our attendance has grown. We are seeing God work in miraculous ways; so far, we have had 15 individuals give their lives to the Lord. We are running an average attendance of 40 to 50 people and have outgrown the capacity of the nearby village homes. With winter quickly coming, we have built a small, metal multi-purpose building. And with the help of some local men, we have eight wooden benches to go inside it. Pam and Candra have created laminated “hymnals.” We are excited to do church with our local villagers. In the coming weeks we will begin our new believers’ course and our children’s meetings. We are also praying about starting weekly Bible studies in a second village.

My local goal is to reach all four corners of our village with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our plan is to accomplish this with people reaching people. Something we are working hard at is getting to know each individual. We want to call them by name, know who their children are, what their beliefs about Jesus and the cross are, and what prayer needs they have. I believe that before people care about what you know, they must know that you care about them. Authentic relationships give us the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus.

My global goal is the next step in our vision. My desire is for our village to reach the next village over and for that village to reach its neighboring village. We currently have a new Christian man from a nearby village leading worship in our village. He is teaching our new believers what worship is. This is disciples making disciples. My desire is for Romania to be a sending nation—a nation where Romanians both disciple other Romanians as well as plant new churches in nearby countries.

This vision may seem radical to some. And that is exactly what it should be. Our vision needs to be a God-sized vision, a vision and mission that only God Himself can accomplish. We must focus on one person and one village at a time, making certain to build genuine relationships with strong biblical foundations. Only then can we reach the world for Christ. The key is having a duplicatable system and then teaching that to the new believers. We can’t do it alone. I love to quote Brother Eric Johnson: “Together we can do more!” God has sent me to work in my village; but God has also mandated that you work in your “village.” My challenge is simple—think locally, go globally, and gospelize all along the way.





BY: Wael Dawahir  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org

Jesus, in His prayer to the Father said, concerning the disciples, “I have sent them into the world” (John 17:18). The Lord here explains the mission: Jesus is the one sends; the field of the mission is the world; and the disciples are the ones who will complete the mission.

We note here the emphasis on this local group (the disciples) and the mission “to teach the world” (the global dimension). The gospel started in Jerusalem

and reached to all the world.

Jesus then continues to explain some facts about the disciples He is sending to the world: (1) they are “taken from the world,” (2) they “exist in the world,” and (3) they are “sent to the world.” In this way, they represent the local church through the ages. They are limited by their residency and their capabilities as they face this huge task; however, they are supported by the Lord’s prayer for the success of their mission.

Our church (The Family of the Kingdom) is an Arab Baptist Church. Our mission is “A church that is passionate about the kingdom and a church for the glory of the Lord of the kingdom.” We are “from the world” and we are “in the world” with all of its details and struggles; but we are also “sent to the world.” Our vision is the kingdom. Our encouragement is from the Lord of the kingdom to fulfill His global mission through





our ministry. We serve locally and think globally.

Arabs living in America are from all Arab countries (22 countries) and the reasons for their existence here in the U.S. are different. Some are here to study; others immigrated due to economic and social conditions; still others were forced to come here due to persecution. This mix of cultures and causes poses challenges to any Arab service in America. Here is a summary of these challenges and suggestions for dealing with them.

1. The first challenge is that the nature and times of work vary. It is difficult to choose a time for church that suits everyone. The distribution of housing over geographical areas creates a problem in this context as well. This challenge can be addressed by making the location of the church suitable for the majority and close to highways; it is also helpful to conduct home groups in different locations outside the church.

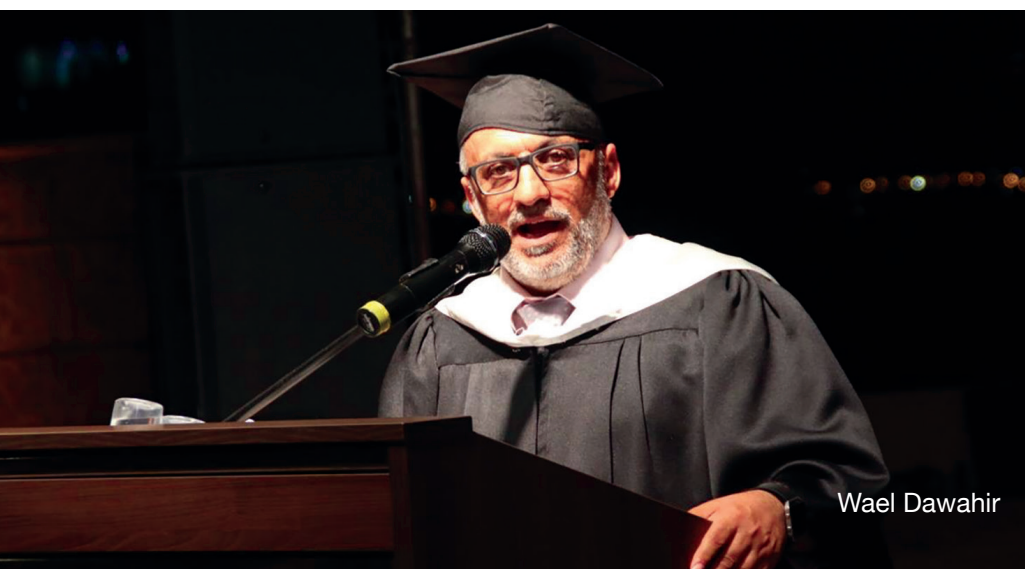
2. The second challenge relates to the fact that the first language of the second generation of Arabs is English, and they do not understand Arabic. This means that they find a problem integrating with the Arabic-speaking church. Therefore, the best way for the Arab church to grow, in my opinion, is for a very serious and real partnership between an American church and an Arab church.

3. The third challenge is that the Arabs in America are from different cultural, ideological, and theological backgrounds. As

they come together in the church, the nature of education and experience that will be shared often varies. The wise approach is to maximize and strengthen the common ground, and avoid focusing on what divides us, and to rely on the principles that “in everything, there should be love” and “Love never fails.”

4. The final challenge lies in deepening the sense of the universal church among the members; we must not forget about our families, friends, and churches in our original countries and the world. The fact that members of our churches come from a variety of backgrounds and geographical areas makes it easier for us to build bridges with large numbers of people globally, and to plant churches and create missionary opportunities. We want our members to be passionate in reaching and influencing their own people; and perhaps God will lead some of them to return to serve in churches in their home countries.

Just as the early Christians conveyed their faith from Jerusalem to their countries and established churches there, we believe that by reaching Arabs here in Chicago, we are working to grow the message of the gospel throughout the Arab world and globally. After all, a living church is that “which serves locally, and thinks globally.”



Wael Dawahir



An architectural site plan or blueprint is shown in a light blue, semi-transparent overlay. The plan includes various rectangular and circular shapes representing buildings and parking spaces. Text on the plan includes "BLDG PAD ELEV = 1204.5", "DIRECTIONAL SIGN", "50'-0\"/>

# EQUIPPING A NEW MISSIONARY GENERATION

BY: Dr. John David Smith  
BMA Missions  
[bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org)



Some have stated the obvious in that you would not want a surgeon to operate on you if you found out that he or she had no medical training or that perhaps they got impatient and dropped out of medical school thinking they knew enough to practice medicine.

On the international mission field many missionaries have erred in two major areas. First, they confused diving into ministry as the same as diving into culture. They then proceeded to make many mistakes through the years that they could have avoided if they would have only listened to the lessons concerning the culture instead of working off of what they thought they knew. Second, they only gave a half-hearted effort or abandoned early their study of the local language in order to get on with the ministry. Once again, their haste provided for them limited effectiveness and very slow results.

As we consider some of the best practices for preparing both cross-cultural missionaries and church planters here at home, we make some declarations. First, if indeed we want the people who serve us in areas such as medicine, education, aviation, and more to be well trained, we also want the people planting new churches to be well trained. Second, we are neither advocating for only an academic preparation nor solely a “hands on” training; we are presenting the need for both. The theological and missions foundation are essential. The “hands on” part is also essential. In the United States, we tend to emphasize the academic and neglect the “hands on.” We need a better balance. After all, someone said well, “swimming is best learned wet.”

By the time you read this short article, we pray that you will be hearing more and more about this church planting residency. Here are a few things that we envision to start. 1) We will begin with an emphasis on North American church planters. 2) The residency will seek to train a limited number (no more than eight) of church planters each year. 3) The residency will last seven to nine months each year and will function with a cohort model. 4) The residency will operate with a decentralized approach. This means that the cohort will gather once a month, usually never in the same place. The group will meet at different places for training and interaction on the topic of church planting. The locations for the training will include several churches that have recently been planted or current church plants in order for the residents to learn from that local church planting team. 5) The residents will complete reading and research assignments throughout the month.

In broad terms, the preparation for being part of a church planting ministry comes down to three major categories: 1) my being, who I am in Christ (character); 2) my preparation in doing (ministry competencies), how do I begin, build relationships, and navigate the church planting waters that are extremely rough at times to say the least; and 3) knowledge.

In the area of who I am (my being), some of the key issues will be intimacy with Christ, spiritual discipline, self-discipline, spiritual and emotional maturity, moral purity, family health, servant’s attitude, teachability, compassion, flexibility, and spiritual gift(s).

In the area of competencies, some of the areas to be covered will include building relationships, evangelism and discipleship, church planting and church development, leadership development, and more.

In the area of knowledge, the residency will seek to cultivate the residents in these areas—biblical and theological truth, ecclesiology, understanding the culture, communication of the Word, missions foundations, et cetera.

Ultimately, the goal of the church planting residency will be to help the residents plant churches that will plant churches!



# A BIG GOD AT WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES



BY: Sam Freeman  
BMA Missions  
[bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org)

Church service on the island of Mindanao, Philippines.

**G**od is up to something **big!** And I can't help but get excited when I see God moving and working in the lives of His people.

The last few months we have been busily preparing for the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of the Philippines missions conference and bi-annual association meeting. The BMA of the Philippines Missions committee is tasked with vetting potential

mission project locations along with interviewing and assessing potential missionaries. I serve as an advisor to this committee as well as the BMA of the Philippines Missions Department missionary trainer; as a result, we have spent a lot of time working together for the last several months, preparing to present new mission project locations and missionaries to the messengers of our churches.



We were blessed to have BMA of America International Missions Director, Brother Eric Johnson, and his father Brother Buddy Johnson visit us during the last week of October. During that time, I accompanied them to the island of Mindanao where we visited with the newly formed local association of churches in that area. They both preached at different churches that Sunday morning; and afterwards I was blessed to baptize seven new converts for one of our local churches in General Santos City. I know our brethren in Mindanao were truly blessed by their visit. The Lord protected us and we did not experience any earthquakes while there; but the week before, and the week since our visit, there have been at least six earthquakes around 6.5 magnitude, over ten earthquakes around 5.5 magnitude, and hundreds of tremors around three magnitude. One of the malls caught fire and burned over 80 percent. While our churches have not had any major damage, there are many that have suffered terrible losses, including the loss of loved ones. Please pray for them and our churches as they minister to them.

After leaving Mindanao, we returned to Negros island, and were blessed as both Brother Eric and Brother Buddy preached and taught at the BMA of the Philippines missions conference. They poured into us all week, showing us through God's word how it is biblical and proper to work together for the furtherance of the gospel, and to see more churches planted all over the world. This topic is special to me because I believe in the BMA of America. I know God is using the BMA of America to spread the gospel all around the world; and using the same principles, God will use the BMA of the Philippines to further that mission. "Together we do more" isn't just a catchphrase; it is a principle for church planting that is visible throughout the early churches during the times of the Apostles. To know that we are working in similar fashion as these biblical heroes is inspiring. I love the BMA of America and the BMA of the Philippines!

After the missions conference, messengers from the BMA of the Philippines conducted the business of the association during its bi-Annual meeting. It is a joy to watch this association of churches grow and mature. They are learning to partner with the BMA



Village on the island of Mindanao.

of America as together we help send missionaries all over the Philippines. It is our prayer that soon this partnership will be expanded to sending missionaries into other nations as well. Please pray for our brethren here as God continues to expand their ministry.

During the meeting, the messengers of the BMA of the Philippines elected two new national missionaries, Brother Noriel Donesa (Iloilo) and Brother Jeynor Aristoteles (Davao). Please pray for these men, along with Brothers Rapado, Francisco, Dordas, and Quiamco who are faithfully serving as BMA of the Philippines national missionaries to different regions of the Philippines. Also remember Brother Maurin who just completed his first year as a BMA of the Philippines missionary apprentice. We have observed a lot of growth and maturity in Brother Maurin and are excited to see how God is going to direct him after he completes his apprenticeship. We believe partnering young men who are called by God into the ministry with older seasoned pastors and missionaries for a time period in teaching, mentoring, and evaluation will bring a lot of success in the future endeavors of church planting all over the Philippines by the BMA of the Philippines.

May God bless you all for your continued prayers and financial support for us as your BMA missionaries to the Philippines.



# A new:**show** for mission:**world**

BY: Donny Parrish  
BMA America  
[missionworldmag.com](http://missionworldmag.com)



**L**ifeworld is excited to announce a new show the media ministry will produce for Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Missions! It will begin airing on World Missions Day, Sunday, February 23.

Executive Director Donny Parrish says, “The vision for this production is to inform our churches of the exciting things going on around the world. It will be a monthly update featuring missionaries and the world of BMA Missions. Basically, it’s *mission:world* magazine in video form. It will take you places the magazine can’t.”

Yalanda Merrell, a member of Herman Baptist Church in Bono, Arkansas, will be the show’s broadcaster. A former news anchor and reporter for KAIT-TV in Jonesboro, she graduated from Arkansas State University with a degree in Communications and an emphasis in Broadcast Journalism. Since 2010, Yalanda has worked for UAMS (University of Arkansas for Medical Science) recruiting students into healthcare professions.

Yalanda came to the attention of Lifeworld when she began writing daily devotionals for Facebook and expressed an interest in supporting the media ministry. A high school Sunday school teacher at Herman, she works with her church’s youth and enjoys blogging. She and her husband Shaun live in Cherokee Village, Arkansas, where they fish and kayak with their son Hunter and raise labs and golden retrievers.



Shaun and Yalanda Merrell





There's no mistaking her passion for ministry. Whether it's a media ministry like Lifeword or a missionary sending agency like BMA Missions, she serves passionately and stays informed of what's going on in both.

Yalanda says, "I began following one of our missionaries in Papua New Guinea on Facebook. I was amazed at just how different missions really is from what we picture in our minds. It seems worlds away; yet when they post, you see the real faces of the people desperate for the love and truth of Jesus. You witness their culture, their diversity, and the barriers the missionaries face in the area.

"Instantly, I wanted to help. Through prayer, financial support, and sharing about their experiences to bring about awareness for our missionaries, I knew that if others could see it, they would want to help too.

"God is doing tremendous work throughout the world through the missionaries of the BMA. I'm thankful to be a part of using today's technology to inform others about how our missionaries are going to great lengths to reach the lost."



BMA Missions Executive Director John David Smith has been on board with the idea from the start. He says, “We look forward to the new show and Yalanda’s part in this new endeavor. The thing for which we constantly fight is for our people to know what’s really going on in BMA Missions. One of our greatest frustrations is when people don’t know; so it’s just another step, another avenue for our people to know the great things going on in BMA Global Missions.

“If we can get more people connected, there’s a lot of benefit: greater participation, greater support, and greater encouragement of missionaries and their incredible work.”

The show’s name has yet to be determined, but it may simply be *mission:world* since it is an extension of the BMA’s flagship magazine. Be watching for its Facebook debut at [facebook.com/bmaamissions](https://facebook.com/bmaamissions) on Sunday, February 23, 2020 and be blessed by the missionaries and their work that the show features each month.





# Think **Globally**, Act **Locally**. **Me?**



**I**n July of 2007, I was preaching a revival at Hall Summit Baptist Church in Hall Summit, Louisiana, a small town of less than 300 people approximately 40 miles south of Shreveport. I met a young man that week named Lance Webb. He had an obvious passion for God; and, at that time, was grappling with the call of God on his life.

Through the years, I've seen his passion for God that was present in 2007 compound as he matured in his faith. Today, he is thinking globally and acting locally, even though he is not in full-time occupational ministry. Of course, no one works a “secular” job—we are all to engage in the Great Commission. Lance’s story provides an excellent example of what God can do through “regular, ordinary” church members who make themselves available to the mission of God:

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



**As a lay leader, you have an unusual drive for the mission of God. How did this passion birth itself in your heart and what fuels this drive?**

“I met a young lady who grew up in a Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) church. She is now my wife and introduced me to the idea of missions. It wasn't just the idea of the various aspects of mission activity but more importantly what the mission of God was really about.

“I did have the opportunity to go on a couple of cross-cultural mission trips as well, and the impact of seeing the need for the gospel in these places weighed heavily on me. Seeing firsthand another culture and learning about their worldview was quite interesting to me. It was when I went through a course called *Perspectives* in 2014 that God started to give me clarity of the calling He had on my life.

“You see, God had been working all along preparing me to accomplish what He desired to do through me; however, He had to break my heart for the things that break His heart. In a nutshell, I could clearly see that God's heart has always been and will always be filled with a desire to be worshipped from people from every nation. I want to be a part of seeing that reality take place.”

Though you are not working formally in occupational ministry as a pastor or full-time missionary, you have demonstrated what it means to “think globally and act locally,” even though you live in a small community. What are some practical ways you are doing that?

“It could be something as simple as being friendly to a person from another nation. Imagine just saying hello in Arabic to a person from the Middle East. I promise you will get their attention. The nations of the world are at our doorstep and we have a great opportunity to engage them. My family also supports missionaries prayerfully and financially in Europe and Asia.

“Even though I may not have the opportunity to go on mission trips as often as I would like, I still have a role to play in joining others who are called to the mission field full-time. The most important thing we can all take part in is praying, not only for our lost friends, family, or co-workers, but also for the nations. Great resources to understand prayer needs that I like are *Operation World* or the *Joshua Project*.

“I really have the opportunity to make a global impact, as we all do, through going, sending, welcoming internationals, praying, and mobilizing others to do the same.”

**What advice would you give church members as to how they can “think globally but act locally” in their communities?**

“Ed Stetzer said, ‘Put your yes on the table and let God put it on the map.’ That's exactly what I did; and if any follower of Jesus will do the same, I firmly believe that God will use them in ways they never dreamed or imagined.

“I can say that with full confidence because I have experienced it personally. It really is not a difficult thing to do; we can be involved in both a local and global context. Look for where God is at work and just join Him in what He is already doing.”

**If someone would like to speak with you further, how can they reach you?**

“My email is lance\_webb36@yahoo.com and my cell number is (318) 455-2460.”



# PRINTING LOCAL TO ACT GLOBAL





BY: Dr. Charley Holmes & Dr. Philip Attebery  
 Baptist Publishing House & BMA Seminary  
 baptistpublishinghouse.com

**G**ood news! The Baptist Expositor, produced by the Baptist Publishing House (BPH), is making a change in people's lives and in the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America.

Look at what people are saying about this Sunday School/Small Group Bible Study curriculum:

*"Definitely a fan...the content quality stands on its own. I'm excited to see what the curriculum brings out in regards to raising up students of the word instead of students of curricula." –BMA minister on staff, Northwest Arkansas*

*"I think our women's and men's classes are enjoying it. I've started with the men, teaching them, and they say they really enjoy the depth of it. I also like that it has challenged my women's teacher. She's already become a better Bible student because of it." –BMA Pastor, Dallas area*

*"I wanted to express my delight in the new curriculum. I teach a women's Sunday school class...I am so thankful for the Baptist Expositor. My desire as a leader is to see women realize they can know and understand the word of God and apply it to their lives. They can have a knowledge of God and who He is like never before. Thank you for this wonderful study tool!" –Ladies' Sunday School teacher, Northeast Arkansas*

This is only a small collection of the positive responses we have received recently. The theme of almost all these comments has been: "We love our

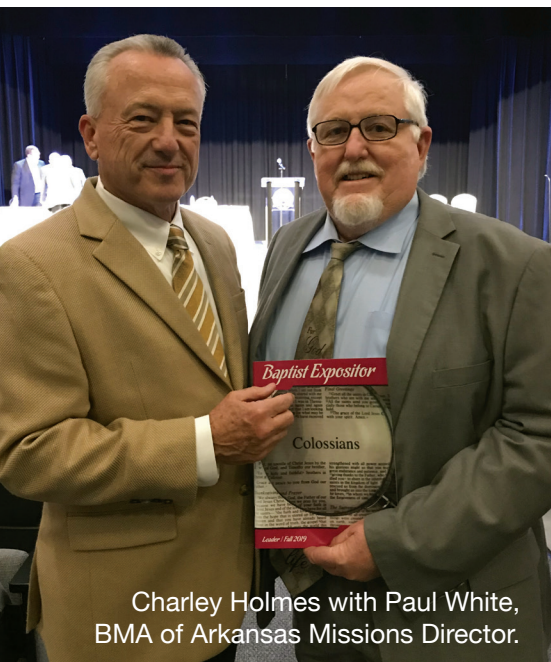
*Baptist Expositor's* format; this is real food and it takes us deeper into the Word!"

We have been inundated for years with reports of the trials of Christian publishing (and most of it has been true). We know that the two main non-BMA of America groups, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and the America Baptist Association (ABA), that compete for the allegiance of our churches have also gone through declines. The SBC's Lifeway recently had to close all its retail stores and sell their main building to move to smaller quarters. The ABA publisher, Bogard Press, has released about 50 percent of its employees. We never rejoice in the difficulties of others; however, we (BMA of America) must not think "the grass is greener on the other side of the fence."

Back to the good news! For the last ten years, there has been a gradual decline in sales of BMA literature. However, with the new format, sales in the fall quarter rose by 13 percent, including 82 new customers. This has helped to place the Baptist Publishing House on stable financial footing. This improved financial standing has enabled us to think globally, in step with the 2020 BMA of America national meeting theme "Think Globally, Act Locally."

Before we talk about the global picture, let's consider BPH's new outreach locally! Beginning with the winter edition of the *Baptist Expositor*, BPH is providing all BMA of America state and nationally endorsed church plants with Sunday School/Small Group materials for the handling fee of \$5 per quarter. This handling fee goes directly to our printer/shipper, Complete Printing in Carthage, Texas. The Holder family, owners of Complete Printing, are members of First Baptist Church in Carthage, Texas. We are grateful for the lengths to which they have gone in order to help BPH be successful.





Charley Holmes with Paul White, BMA of Arkansas Missions Director.



BMA Global Minister Center receptionist Heather Pantoja and BMA Missions Executive Director Dr. John David Smith.



Randy Crudginton and Heith Mitchell at the BMA of Texas annual meeting.

Turning to the global outreach of BPH, we are rejoicing in the potential impact of BPH in the BMA around the world. Three BMA of America mission fields will soon feel the impact of the *Baptist Expositor*. Former BMA missionaries Ricky Williams and Belinda Caudle have begun to translate the curriculum into Spanish. This material will be available at no cost to Spanish-speaking missionaries to download and reproduce.

BPH has also been contacted by one of our missionaries to the Philippines, Brother Sam Freeman. He intends to begin publishing the curriculum for use on the mission field.

Swahili is the most spoken African language with over 100 million native speakers. Evangelistic International Ministries (EIM) in conjunction with BMA of America missions has been instrumental in establishing a strong association in central Tanzania. This new local association of churches is in the heart of the Swahili-speaking territory. We are expecting that translations of the *Baptist Expositor* will begin within the next year.

Taking a little liberty with the theme, “Think Globally, Act Locally,” we can see how “acting” locally and providing our U.S. churches with premium Bible study materials has enabled BPH to think and act globally.



Former BMA missionaries Ricky Williams and Belinda Caudle.



Teaching a class to Swahili-speaking pastors in Tanzania.





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## BAPTIST MEDICAL MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL **2020 TRIP SCHEDULE**

### **DATES**

JAN 18-25, 2020

FEB 29-MAR 7, 2020

JUNE 12-22, 2020

AUG. 19-30, 2020

OCT. 24-NOV 4, 2020

JAN. 15-25, 2021

TBD

### **LOCATION**

EL SALVADOR

HONDURAS

ROMANIA

PERU

ZAMBIA

THAILAND

UKRAINE

### **MISSIONARY**

RIGOBERTO JIMINEZ

DENIS LOPEZ

BRYAN RISNER  
DANIEL BAGOSI

PAUL TINOCO

JOSHUS PHIRI

BRANDON LINGLE  
JO YAEBEANG

LARRY WOOD





# 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



**Papua New Guinea:  
Jeremy Hambrice**

For thousands of years, the Wantakia people of Papua New Guinea have lived in darkness and death, separated from God's light and life. That is about to change. Within the next few months, we will begin teaching our Wantakia people God's word for the very first time. We will begin with creation and work our way towards the cross. Please pray that God would open the eyes of their hearts and let them see the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.



**Canada: Mike Barton**

What a privilege it is to serve our Lord & Savior!

Quite honestly, the ministry is not always easy--as most of you know. Quebec is a land of

rocks and thorns; and it needs a lot of preparation when it comes to the soil being ready for the seed. But when it blooms into the wonderful fruit of salvation, it is always worth it--no matter the pain, frustrations, testing, trials, and cost that come. We serve in an area that is rich with natural resources but poor with indifferent, cold, hard hearts. However, the Lord always proves Himself faithful.

My wife Josie, is the pianist of the church and takes care of Sunday school with Mrs. Ruth Poirier. She is also discipling a young convert, which is a huge blessing. I think there is no greater joy than discipling a new convert that is thirsty for God's Word so that they may know Him in order to be faithful and obedient to His will.

Our church right now is quickly becoming a multi-cultural church where we are seeing a lot of Haitians, Africans, and now Chileans. I am so grateful to the Lord that He is sending these souls. Even though they have different cultures and backgrounds they are a breath of fresh air as they are seeking souls who need the Savior. I am for the first time discipling Chileans and my Spanish is a zero; but with but a little English and God's wonderful grace and mercy, I am able to teach both the Word of God as well as French to a dear couple who is very thirsty to learn.

Please pray for souls to be genuinely saved. Please pray that our church would continue to grow and multiply in the truth of our Lord and Savior; and that we would all be on fire, desiring to be Christlike in a troublesome and wicked world.



**Papua New Guinea:  
BJ Sanders**

Wow, the time for sharing the gospel with the Wantakia people is so close, we can taste it! For five years, we have begged the Lord to allow us to learn this difficult language, and He has! He has also helped us translate the Bible into their language and develop Bible lessons to teach them. Please pray with us that He would continue to show us favor. Pray for the Wantakia people's hearts to be prepared to hear the gospel message for the first time!





**Philippines: Doug Lee**

Graduation and the end of this school year is quickly approaching at BMA Bible College and there is a scurry of activity as our students rush to complete final assignments and requirements. It has been a productive and a blessed year, and we have seen our students grow in grace and spiritual maturity. Our graduates are ready to face the challenges before them as they leave to serve in their ministries and we know that God will be with them each step of the way.

Our ministry with the Ati tribes in the mountains is progressing. We have done several rice distributions in the past few months, and are pleased that not only can we take them spiritual food but also physical food for their needs. With the purchase of an older model Jeep, that we had refurbished, we are able to make the treacherous journey up in the mountain area easier. Each trip is an adventure!

Thank you all for your prayers and financial support for us and the Bible College here in the Philippines.



**Philippines:  
Cris & Alicia Samson**

Our furlough has continued to be fruitful and encouraging. We are enjoying our time of fellowship with many of our BMA of America churches. We praise God for the partnerships and friendships that have been developed during this time, and we trust that God will be glorified through the continuation of our ministry. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve Him and the BMA.

Our excitement continues to build as the time draws near for us to return to the Philippines where God has called us to minister. Please be in prayer for us and our extended family as we approach our departure in the upcoming months.



**Minnesota: Mike Strong**

Since being sent, we have seen five people come to faith. Four of them have been baptized. We also had a recommitment. We have attendance that ranges from 10-18 most weeks. We are praying for co-laborers, a place to meet, remaining funds for my salary, and a van.

This has been a great season of growth as well. We have been working on formal, committed discipleship with each person who has come to Christ. We are using DiscipleWay curriculum for new believers. We are also about to begin studies on I Peter (women), Inductive Bible Study Methods (everyone), and a study of the covenants (everyone). Thanks for your prayers and care. To God be the glory!



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# VOLUNTEER STUDENT MISSIONS



## 2020 VSM SCHEDULE

### **PUERTO RICO - June 5 - 13**

The team will be working with Pastors Angel Colon and Freddy Didier. Team Puerto Rico's leaders are Noah and April Hill.

### **CALIFORNIA - June 6 - 13**

This VSM Team will be used to assist with Vacation Bible Schools in several of these churches. Our team will be working with Pastor Lincoln Dial and Frank Garrido. Pastor Bryson Haden and his wife, Jessica, will be leading this team.

### **PERU - June 10 - 17**

Working with national missionary Nelson Palacin, along with Johnmichael and Angela Poulin. This trip will be led by Pastor Rob Hagar and his wife, Christy.

### **UKRAINE - June 15 - 26**

This is the first time we are sending a team to work with our missionaries Larry and Tammy Wood. This team will be led by Pastor Larry Barker and his wife, Shelby.

### **NICARAGUA - June 20 - 28**

Jeremy and Kristen Riddle signed up to lead this trip to work with our missionaries, Oscar and Tamy Guitan, in Nicaragua

### **ASIA - June 26 - July 6**

This team of students will be heading to Asia to assist with a Vacation Bible School with some of our missionaries in Asia. Jeff Rice, high school teacher in Vilonia, will lead this team along with his niece, Mary Rice.

### **ROMANIA - July 3 - 13**

This will be our 2nd year to work with missionaries Bryan and Pam Risner, but our first year to work with Candra Barnett, who joined them recently. Makaye Key, a long time VSM student, is now leading this trip, along with Juan Mendez.

### **PORTUGAL - July 3 - 14**

Eli Semedo, Team Leader for the BMA Missions office, and Joanna Allen will co-lead the team to Portugal. This team will work with missionary Marco Gaspar.

### **EL SALVADOR - Dates TBD**

Missionary Rigoberto Cruz and his team loves hosting VSM teams! Leading this team is Daniel Medina, youth pastor from Oak Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Gilmer, TX. Co-leading this team is Lisa Payne from Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church in Kewanee, MO.

**CONTACT: ANGELA RICE**  
**ANGELA@BMAAM.COM**



# 2020 BMA NATIONAL MEETING

# THINK GLOBALLY ACT LOCALLY

## 2020 BMA National Meeting April 27-29, 2020

Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas.

For information about hotels, go to  
[www.bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting](http://www.bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting)

### Breakout Sessions

- Electronic tools for Bible study including Logo Software
- Defending Creationism
- Reasons to Maintain Associational Polity
- Retirement Reformation
- Developing a New Ministry Vision
- Teach for Results

For more details on the  
2020 BMA National Meeting, go to  
[www.bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting](http://www.bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting)



THE MARTINS



JASON EARLS



THE ERWINS



JEFF SWART



LUIS ORTEGA