

mission:world

M A G A Z I N E

Honoring the Past Looking to the **Future**

May - June 2020 ::: The Great Commission Magazine of the BMA



Honoring the Past Looking to the Future

BY: Donny Parrish
Lifeword
lifeword.org

I like to think about the future. Potential, possibilities, and dreams for what tomorrow could be ignite my imagination and really light my fire. But you can't divorce tomorrow from yesterday. In fact, if there had been no yesterday, if there hadn't been pioneers and dreamers and achievers yesterday, there would be no tomorrow to build upon.

The Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) is changing. A new generation of leaders are taking their place and taking our association of churches in new, challenging directions. I like it. I believe there's Bible precedence for it.

Moses was a great leader who poured into a great leader, Joshua. When Moses died, Joshua took his place and led the people. Joshua became a great leader. Great leaders always prepare people for leadership that transcends their time to lead. What's the cost of not building into new leaders?

Judges 2:8-10 says, "And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being an hundred and ten years old. And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the mount

of Ephraim, on the north side of the hill Gaash. *And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel* (italics mine). Evidently, Joshua didn't follow Moses' example to prepare a new leader to take his place.

As important and right as it is to pour into new leaders, it's also important to honor those who have blazed a trail for us. In this edition of *mission:world* you will read about some of our senior leadership that are moving aside for a new generation to take their place. They have served well. They have laid a solid foundation upon which to build. It is right that we should honor them. And it is also right that the world of Christ move forward.

I hope that you will enjoy each article. Our goal for this edition of *mission:world* is to honor our past while looking to our future. Let's honor those who are leaving a tremendous legacy and rejoice in the glorious future He is preparing for our association.

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.

Volume 8 - Issue 3

May - June 2020

www.bmaamerica.org

Editor

Donny Parrish

Managing Editor

Phillip Rice

Design & Layout

Nick Jacobsen

Published bi-monthly by the
Baptist Missionary
Association of America,
611 Locust Street
Conway, AR 72034

Entered as Periodical Rate at
Conway, Arkansas.

Periodical Postage paid at
Conway, Arkansas,
and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to:

Mission:World

P.O. Box 1188

Conway, Arkansas 72033

501.329.6891

Email

missionworld@bmaamerica.org

Website

www.bmaamerica.org



For contact info, websites, and more on the BMA family of ministries, visit BMALife.com

4 TRANSITIONS

Dr. John David Smith speaks into the exciting way God is moving in the transitions that are occurring in the world of BMA Missions.

8 FAITH BECOMING FRUITION AT LIFEWORD

Former Lifeworld Executive Director, George Reddin, looks back on the formative years of Lifeworld and the future that lies ahead.

14 A SHARECROPPER'S PRAYER

The missionary life of Jerry and Sue Kidd has left an indelible mark on the history of BMA Missions.

18 LEAVING A MISSIONARY LEGACY

Phil and Lajuana Knott have followed God around the world as a missionary couple.

22 RAISING A GENERATION OF AMERICAN CHURCH PLANTERS

BMA Missions history of planting churches in America is continuing to grow.

26 A HEART FOR ROMANIA

Meet new BMA Church Planters to Romania, Cristian and Vanessa Martinez.

TRANSITIONS



BY: Dr. John David Smith
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org

Please indulge me one more time as I tell you a story that you have read from my keyboard before. The Christian apologist Ravi Zacharias was sitting on the front row at a conference where he was awaiting his turn as a speaker. An elderly brother was at the podium, and he was extending well beyond his time. A young man was sitting beside Zacharias and would take his turn at the podium after Zacharias. The young man grew more and more impatient with the older man at the podium. He began to lean over and make negative comments about the older brother. As the aged gentleman wrapped up his presentation, the young man was relieved and stated, “about time.” As Zacharias rose to go to the podium he turned to the young man and said, “The only thing worse than nostalgia is amnesia.” Certainly, there is a natural tension that exists between the seasoned work of those who have gone before and the expectant work of those who are awaiting their turn. Throughout the history of Christianity and down to the level of local ministries, leadership transitions that many times bring new ideas and differing points of emphasis, are not always easy. To the ones who have given their lives and look to past accomplishments, it is possible to think that anything new or different is wrong. To the new arrival, it is possible to discount all that has been done in the past and the perception can be that it was all wrong. These are extremes that we want to avoid. What are some of the biblical precedents and principals that apply? There is a healthy tension that exists in all transitions, and in the everyday unfolding of events, that can be characterized by our need to both honor the past and look to the future.

Recently, I had the privilege to visit the Petén in north Guatemala. In addition to multiple other churches spread throughout the country, our association in Guatemala has 5 churches and a couple of church plants in this region mostly covered by rainforest. During the brief visit we were able to see the fruits of an honorable past that has led to a productive present and a promising future. Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) missionaries, Marvin and Helen Loyd, arrived in the Petén in 1983 after serving several years in Bolivia, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. What a great example of faithfulness and fruitfulness in the past meeting current movement into the future. The conditions were not easy back when the Loyds entered the Petén. They were able to endure much and see multiple churches planted. Marvin is now well into his eighties. When I spoke to him on the phone after my trip to Guatemala simply to tell him and sister Helen, “thank you” for their years of service, he greatly encouraged me with his reaction. He said, “We really enjoyed it, and if we could wipe a few years off, we would go back and do it again.” Larry Hendren, another long-time BMA of America missionary to Bolivia and Cape Verde who served alongside Marvin for several years (their exploits are book-worthy), had this to say about Marvin: “Marvin and I have been ‘down the river together,’ and I can say that once Marvin knows the task God has given him, the only thing he will not do is quit. There is just no stopping Marvin Loyd.” We also acknowledge the work and ministry of missionaries Andy and Connie Schalchlin who also served in this region.



Fast forward to today. Oscar and Jaqueline Monterroso moved to the Petén ten years ago from Guatemala City, after serving with Pastor David Marroquin, and began working with the churches that had been started and starting new churches. Brother Oscar pastors a church, mentors new pastors and church planters, encourages the churches and pastors through regular investment, and has a Bible institute to train emerging leaders. It is obvious that they have a great connection with the people they love and lead. One of the greatest windows into Oscar and Jaqueline's heart of love is in the way they "unofficially" adopt teenagers who need that love. It was a great blessing to visit with churches that are maturing and multiplying, and it was a joy to visit in the Monterroso's home and be surrounded by multiple young people into whom they have poured their lives. The honored past meets and looks to the future.

In the Bible, we are familiar with numerous leadership transitions that would incorporate an honored past and a look to the future: Moses to Joshua; Jesus to His disciples; Paul to Timothy and Titus. Let's focus on the transition from Moses to Joshua by looking at two passages: Numbers 27:15-23 and Judges 2:7, 10. Since we have limited space, the passages are not written here. In Numbers 27, Moses offers to us a few really good principles from the vantage point of the leader who has the honored past as he looks to the future. 1) Moses understood that there had to be a succession plan. He was not interested in maintaining his personal empire until death. He wanted to build the greater work of God. It is true that he is about to pray for God to reveal that man. However, I would argue that Moses had a step before his prayers and that was the realization that he needed to allow space for the next leader. 2) Moses did indeed seek the face and direction of God to indicate the next leader. Godly leadership will certainly help us to avoid some of the rash, haphazard mistakes we make in leadership transitions at times. As Moses prayed, God clearly indicated that Joshua was the man. 3) Moses, with God's help, recognized the "spirit of leadership" in Joshua, and Moses acted to include Joshua. For all the long-time leaders who have emerging leaders under you, please remember if you do not invest in them or give them space to lead, typically one of two things will happen: a) they will leave and find another opportunity b) they will stay and make your life miserable. 4) Verse 20 says that God told Moses to give Joshua "some" of his authority. This denotes to me a transition plan. Moses did not simply disappear when Joshua came on the scene; there was a designated time that the two would serve together. It was a leadership transition, not a leadership upheaval. Moses offers some great wisdom and action in how to honor the past and look to the future.



Ironically, as we look to the Judges 2 passage, Joshua, who was the recipient of a great leadership transition through Moses, seemingly did not see the importance of doing the same for the leaders who followed him. Verse 7 says that Joshua served the Lord with faithfulness. Sadly, verse 10 says the next generation was clueless when it came to serving the Lord. We know that within a few short years after the death of Joshua that the Israelites fell into immorality and idolatry. We also know that it catapulted them into the long years of repeating these evil things over and over through the years of the Judges.

In this issue of *mission:world* you will read about great men and women who, like Moses, have given all to open the way for us. Our attitude toward them is one of **honor**. You will also see the future in the current and new missionaries. Our attitude toward them is preparation and encouragement as we look to the future.

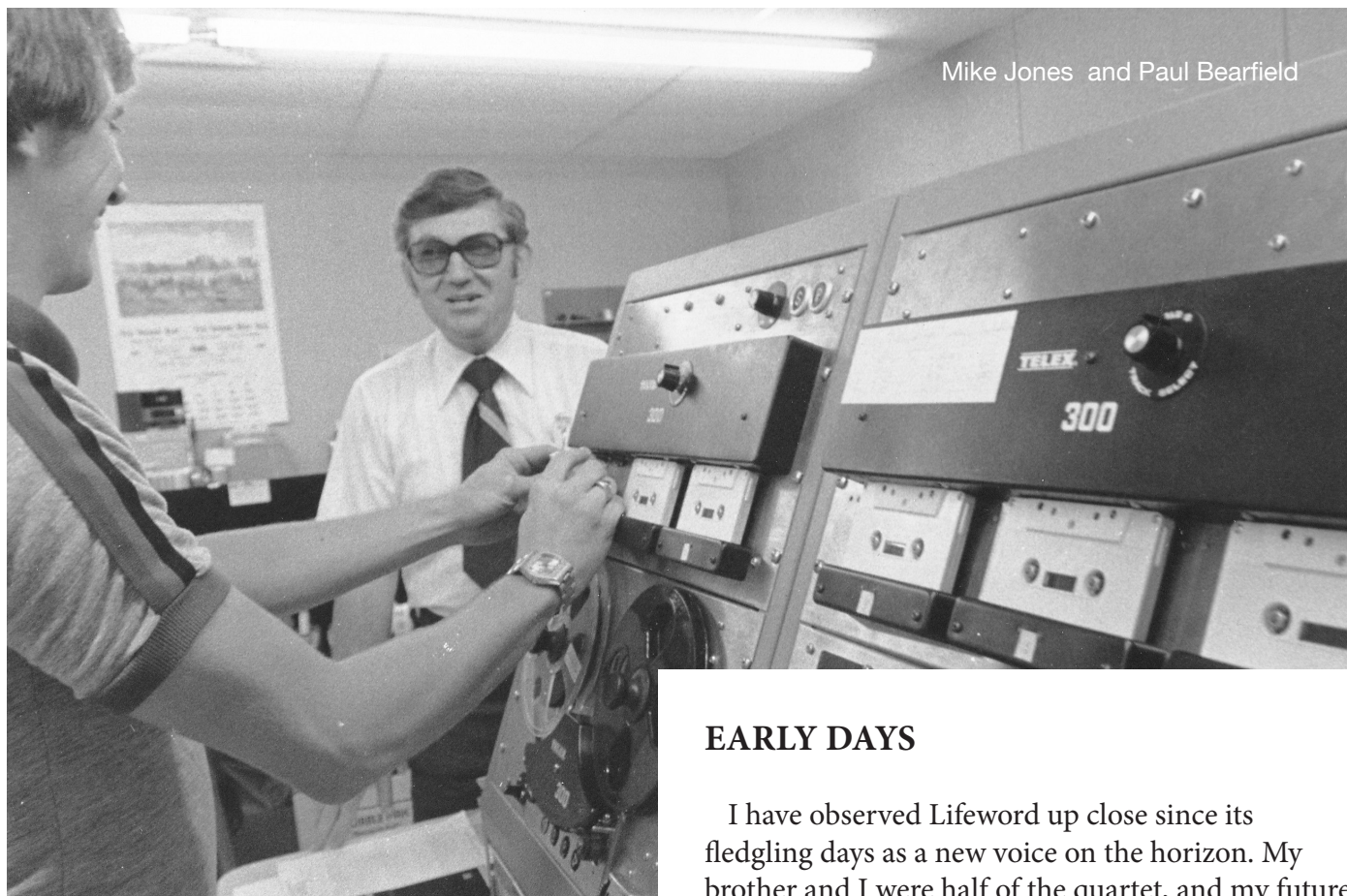
Harold Morris with the Harvest Gleaner Hour singers

FAITH BECOMING FRUITION AT LIFEWORD



BY: George Reddin
Lifeword
lifeword.org

Mike Jones and Paul Bearfield



EARLY DAYS

I have observed Lifeword up close since its fledgling days as a new voice on the horizon. My brother and I were half of the quartet, and my future wife played the piano on the first program recorded by Brother Morris in Conway. In a matter of days, he went on multiple stations as calls came from many areas and churches began to send support. Faith was bearing fruit.

The HGH became a department of the North American Baptist Association—which is now the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America—in 1968. Two years later, Harold Morris died at the age of 45, his health collapsing after a decade on the foreign mission field, five years in promotion of world missions, and then five years in pioneering an international radio broadcast.

After Brother Morris died, **A. R. Reddin**, my father and former president of Central Baptist College at Conway, accepted the call to lead the HGH. He had only one year to serve before the Lord called him home at the age of 54, but it was a fruitful year. Church support increased, and equipment purchases upgraded the technical quality of the broadcasts. It was a year of faith for God to supply and for the churches to catch the vision. And it was happening.

It was a huge step of faith when Lifeword premiered as the Harvest Gleaner Hour (HGH) on a Saint Louis radio station on September 4, 1965.

Harold Morris, former missionary to Brazil, had a gigantic dream. He wanted to tell the whole world about Jesus. He believed nothing was too hard for God.

Now, 64 years later, things hoped for are becoming reality, and things foreseen are in abundant evidence. Faith has become fruition. From its home base in Conway, Arkansas Lifeword is introducing Jesus to the world in 60 languages via radio, television, and the world-wide web 24 hours a day every day. But the end is not yet. Lifeword is still trusting God for an ever stronger and even wider impact.

COMING INTO ITS OWN

God had a candidate in the wings to lead the HGH to new heights. **Paul L. Bearfield** was nearing the end of a one-year furlough from the mission field in Taiwan and was living in Conway. During Dad's three weeks of hospitalization before his death, he asked Brother Bearfield to preach for him on the daily broadcasts. Following Dad's funeral on February 14, 1972, the HGH Board met that day and elected Brother Bearfield as HGH executive director.

God blessed Paul Bearfield's fourteen years of energetic leadership to give the HGH wider acceptance among the churches. The ministry was becoming a significant force in the total missionary thrust of the BMA.

Brother Bearfield is remembered for enlisting Dr. E. Harold Henderson as the primary speaker on the English-language broadcasts, for expanding the outreach to six languages, for relocating the offices and studios to its own building in the Conway Industrial Park and paying for it in three years, for publishing a daily devotional magazine called *Day by Day*, for creating a monthly individual support group called Faith Inner Circle, and for launching an annual walk-a-thon that provided funding for ministry expansion.

Brother Bearfield was diagnosed with colon cancer in 1984, but he maintained his "full-steam-ahead" service until waning strength put him to bed three months before his death

on January 23, 1986, at the age of 55. He had worked hard to leave the ministry in good shape financially and to prepare for a smooth leadership transition.

LEARNING TO TRUST

I had worked as assistant to Brother Bearfield during his last six years, and the Board met after his funeral and named me as the new HGH executive director on January 25, 1986, my forty-first birthday. I accepted the position with much fear and trembling but with faith in God and with gratitude for Brother Bearfield's mentorship.

Upgrading the recording studio to handle the increasing production became an immediate goal. Mike Jones, recording engineer, itemized equipment needs and gave me the memo: total cost for everything needed would be \$90,000. One week later, two men walked into my office and laid a check on my desk for \$90,000 without knowing of the need. When they learned about our equipment needs, they said to use their check for that project. Coming less than two months after the Board elected me, I took the gift as a confirmation of God's leadership and assurance of His hand on the HGH. It was a great faith builder.

Highlights of the next 25 years trace God's blessings. His hand was evident in the selection of Kirk Shelton as program director and host of the English-language broadcast from 1986 to 1989. He was followed by Rick Russell, 1989 to 2019, who with Luis Ortega's help expanded outreach from six to 35 languages before I retired and to 60 languages by his retirement last year.

Other highlights include the purchase of six and a half acres off Interstate 40 (I-40) for \$48,000 with designated offerings; the change of the broadcast name to Lifeword; creation of short-format evangelistic broadcasts featuring Donny Parrish and Rick Russell; incorporation of the Lifeword Foundation (which later merged with the BMA Foundation); beginning of video production with the addition of Donny Parrish to the staff in 1990; launch of a half-hour television program created and directed for two years by Bill Ward and Maggie Chandler featuring the Lifeword Singers and messages by Don Chandler; sale of the Lifeword Building, which we had outgrown; sale of the I-40 property (which had increased in value 42 times its purchase price); purchase of Conway Chapel properties in downtown Conway with two large

George Reddin



two-story buildings for \$2.4 million paid for with the sale of the old building and interstate property; and renovation of the two buildings, which after further remodeling and expansion have now become the BMA Global Outreach Center.

God also led in the selection of **Dr. Steve Crawley** as Lifeword's Chief Financial Officer. I had been his pastor when he was in kindergarten, and through the years I had watched his spiritual growth and dedication to God as a layman. He was the comptroller of a holding company which owned several paper mills when the Lord called him to preach. We invited him and his family to Lifeword and offered him a position that paid a lot less than he had been earning. He joined our staff at a time when our growth demanded a new level of fiscal management, and he was the man for the job. And you know the rest of the story. He earned a master's degree from BMA Theological Seminary and a doctorate from Dallas Baptist University and served six years as Lifeword's executive director. Now he serves as both the executive director of BMA Ministers Resource Services and as a financial consultant with the other departments of the BMA.

Steve Crawley will be remembered for his leadership along with Dr. John David Smith and others in the integration of BMA Missions, DiscipleGuide Church Resources, and Lifeword, not as a merger of the departments but as a sharing of certain administrative functions in one location to economize operating costs while unifying our mission strategy. Dr. Crawley was Lifeword's executive director from 2011 to 2017 and continues to assist in the ministry's financial management.

I STAND IN AWE

When I look at Lifeword today, I stand amazed at how God continues to turn faith into fruit. Involved with Lifeword in a variety of roles since 1990, **Donny Parrish** succeeded Dr. Crawley as executive director when the BMA of America convened at Arlington, Texas on May 1-3, 2017.

The impact of Donny Parrish, "Mr. Creativity," is evident at Lifeword: high quality webcasts including Lori Cline's program for women and *Day by Day* featuring Clif Johnson; the spread of Community Radio "stations" to reach listeners in remote areas; creation of the Cloud to make Lifeword programming available to the world at will in a growing number of languages—it's faith becoming fruition. Praise God for Lifeword!

Dr. Steve Crawley



(L-R) Ellen Siler, Jon Dodson, Donny Parrish, Dr. Steve Crawley, Lauren Crawley, Luis Ortega



MULTIPLY

SOAR 2020

\$110 PER PERSON BEFORE JUNE 1
INCLUDES CONFERENCE TSHIRT

\$125 PER PERSON AFTER JUNE 1
DOES NOT INCLUDE CONFERENCE TSHIRT

GAYLORD TEXAN \$134.00
ASK FOR THE SOAR RATE

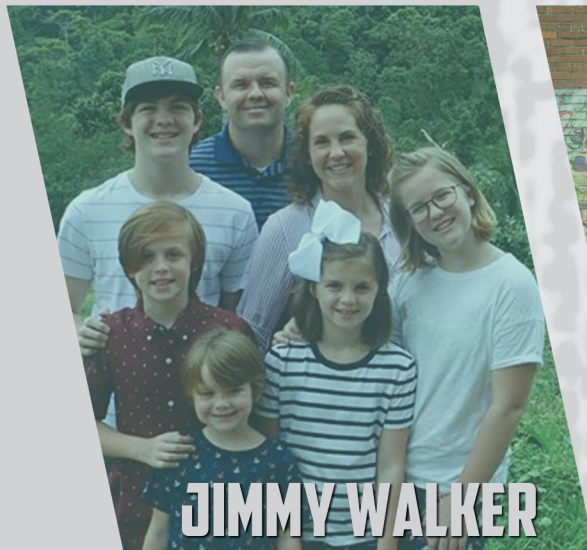
JULY 1-3 - GAYLORD TEXAN, GRAPEVINE, TX



ANDY COMER



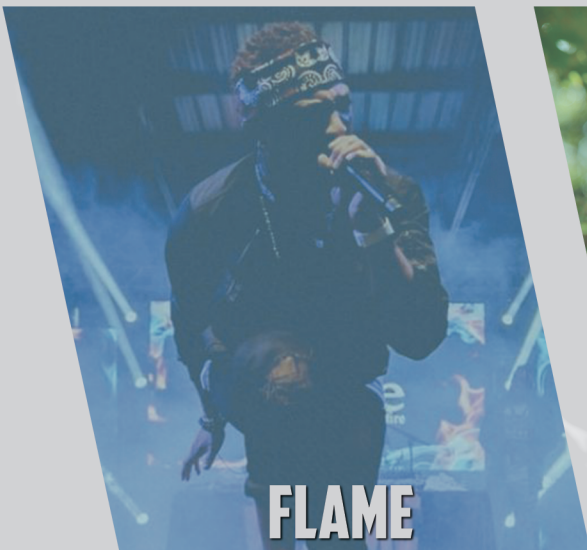
CHRIS VINES



JIMMY WALKER



SOAR COLLECTIVE



FLAME



DR. JOHN DAVID SMITH

NEW WEBSITE WITH MORE INFORMATION
WWW.GOSOAR.COM

Missionary to Bolivia and pilot Jerry Kidd, 1973



A SHARECROPPER'S PRAYER

BY: Holly Meriweather
 BMA America
bmaamerica.org

It was 1938 and sharecroppers Cecil and Corinne Kidd were working the cotton fields in Bois d'Arc bottoms (south of Hope, Arkansas) when Corinne had a “prayer meeting” with God. Married four years, they were expecting their first child when she suddenly felt sick and instinctively knew something was really wrong. When she stopped to rest and try to ease the pain, she told God, “Lord, if you will give me a healthy son, I will give him back to you.”

Right there in a south Arkansas cotton field, she dedicated her child to the Lord—then carried her son to term. They named him Jerry Dwayne. Their daughter Jo Ann arrived three years later.

The family eventually moved to Hope and began attending Unity Missionary Baptist Church. There

Jerry was saved at the age of twelve. God planted the seeds of ministry in his heart throughout his teenage years.

After high school graduation in 1957, he enrolled in Southern State College (now Southern Arkansas University) in Magnolia and operated the college's printing presses. While living in an old dormitory for students who worked on campus, God began dealing with him about surrendering to the ministry, keeping him awake at night. He says he would tell the Lord, "Yes, I'll do it (so I could sleep). Then I would dismiss it until the next time He spoke to me."

Since he didn't own a car and College View Baptist Church was within walking distance of the college, he began attending there. He soon noticed several young ladies sitting on the first row—one of which was Sue Hudson, a junior at Magnolia High. They dated two years until Sue graduated and went to Central Baptist College (CBC). In October 1959, Jerry finally surrendered to the ministry in the State Missions Office, which was then located on the CBC campus. He enrolled at CBC at mid-term, and he and Sue were married on August 26, 1960. Jerry

graduated from CBC with a bachelor's in Bible in 1963.

Jerry pastored two small churches while he was a student in Conway: Tomberlin Baptist Church in Tomberlin, Arkansas (near England), and East Side Baptist Church in Lonoke, Arkansas. His first full-time pastorate was East Side Baptist Church in Springhill, Louisiana, where he served four years.

In 1967 the Kidds moved to Fort Walton Beach, Florida to assume interstate missionary status where they served Westwood Baptist Church for five years. While in Florida, they adopted their children: Jason in 1968 and Juli three years later.

Jerry began to feel God moving in his life when missionary pilot Gerald Price showed slides of the work in Brazil. The Kidds realized then that, with God's leading, they were ready to embark on the journey to foreign missions.

While considering the call to the foreign field, the Kidds sent an application to the mission board in 1972. However, because of lack of finances, the board did not send any new missionaries that year. Still feeling the call to go abroad, and willing to wait, Jerry knew there was a need for missionary

PRAY FOR



Jerry, Sue, Jason and Julie Kidd



pilots. He moved his family from Florida to Longview, Texas, to attend LeTourneau University, a missionary technology school, to study aviation. It was a huge leap of faith since they were leaving Westwood with no means of support.

Brother Jerry recalls vividly that during that year there were “so many miracles: when we lacked money for a particular need, we would find the exact amount required in that day’s mail. Ware Acres (now Camille Acres) Baptist Church asked me to pastor while we were in Longview, but I knew I could not pastor full-time because of training and studying. I agreed to fill in, but the church insisted I pastor. They understood that I was preparing for the mission field, and they wanted the salary they paid me to be their contribution toward getting me there.”

A year later, Jerry received his pilot’s license. He had also completed courses in auto mechanics, first aid, and amateur (ham) radio. After his 1973 election to Bolivia, Jerry, Sue, and their two children went on deputation, preparing to go to the field. “We chose Bolivia,” Brother Jerry says, “because missionary Marvin Lloyd, who was already serving in that country shared with me the need of a missionary pilot in Bolivia. Since I felt that was what God was calling me to do, we made that choice.”

During their months of deputation in 1973, they raised money for the ministry, which included an

airplane and other equipment needed to get to Bolivia. Again, God provided for their needs, and on November 8, 1973, they began the overland journey all the way to Bolivia, South America.

But they had no idea that the voyage would take three months and would involve almost every imaginable roadblock. After dealing with customs inspections, visa issues, a fuel crisis, and a military coup, and despite impassable roads and travel by car, bus, steamship, and airplane, they finally arrived in LaPaz, Bolivia’s capital, on February 8, 1974.

During their eight years of ministry in Bolivia, they worked with Bethel Baptist Church in Santa Cruz and supported missionaries M. S. Arrington and Marvin Loyd, who lived in the jungle regions of the country and worked with indigenous and uncivilized tribes of Indians. His flights to the interior of the country supplied these families with all their necessities. In addition to working with and training nationals, they were involved with discipleship so the work could continue after their departure.

But that would happen sooner than they could have possibly known.

In 1982, they returned to the United States on furlough and attended the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) National Meeting, where Jerry was elected assistant to the executive director for foreign missions. Although they had assumed they

would return to Bolivia after furlough to continue the work there, the Kidds returned only to pack up and move back to the States for Jerry to serve in BMA international missions.

“No one had specifically given full attention to the foreign missionaries, so I began to work with them,” said Kidd. “Through the course of the years, my position changed to Director of International Missions. Then, Brother Phil Knott came on board as my assistant, and we worked together for several years. When he became the Director, I moved to Director of Missionary Care.”

Brother Jerry describes Missionary Care as “pastoring the missionaries.” He is available to the missionaries for any need they or their families might have. This includes counseling, helping with reentry when they retire, and even helping them on furlough. Through Missionary Care, missionaries can also attend beneficial conferences where they are ministered to for a week. They can also be set up with a mentor.

“Mainly, it’s just communicating,” said Kidd. “I love missionaries, I love the work, and I feel this is what God wants me to do!”

Currently, Brother Jerry is on staff at South City Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. He has seen the former Temple Baptist Church endure difficult



The Kidd family

times. “The hardest four years of my life” is how he describes the years he pastored Temple. Through it all, the Lord continued to make clear He wasn’t through with Jerry yet. So, he followed God’s leading and prayed for a young man with a fresh vision to pastor Temple.

At a reunion of former Temple youth group members, Drew Cline felt God leading him to pastor Temple. Drew became lead pastor with Brother Jerry continuing as a staff member. Temple was re-planted as South City Church in 2017.

Jerry states: “At the age of eighty and having had the privilege of being in the ministry for sixty years, I am thankful to God that He still provides opportunities to serve.”



Jerry and Sue Kidd

A long, straight asphalt road stretches into the distance under a cloudy sky. The road has a double yellow line in the center and white lines on the sides. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds. The road is flanked by green grass and some trees. In the background, there are hills and utility poles with power lines.

LEAVING A MISSIONARY LEGACY

BY: Holly Meriweather
BMA America
bmaamerica.org

Phil Knott's family moved around a lot during his childhood. It's the reason, he says, that he grew up with an expanded worldview, something that would serve him well when, at the age of nineteen, he entered into pastoral ministry.

He was born in Wynnewood, Oklahoma, then moved to Texas, ending up on the Gulf Coast where his father worked as an offshore oil man. From the eighth grade to the eleventh, his family lived in Anchorage, Alaska, where his father worked in offshore drilling and they attended a Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Interstate Mission congregation. It was a good training ground for the ministry he would surrender to years in the future.

During that time, he recalls, many flights stopped in Anchorage to refuel, and he enjoyed hanging out at the airport nearby, watching the planes going in and out. He saw many different nationalities and missionaries to the Orient come and go during their stopovers. The mission church they attended also reflected that diversity. All those experiences were part of God's plan for him to truly develop a heart for the nations. Before leaving Alaska, Phil surrendered to the ministry.

The Knott family moved back to Texas and he began attending Jacksonville College in 1969, where he met his future wife LaJuana. He began pastoring Jackson Baptist Church in



Phil and LaJuana Knott

Canton, Texas at nineteen and received an associate's degree at Jacksonville College, then transferred to East Texas State University.

After he and LaJuana married, they moved to Dallas and Phil received ministry experience serving as associate pastor, a youth pastor, and doing a children's bus ministry. He then served as pastor at a church in Morton, Texas, just a few miles from the New Mexico border. During his tenure there he also began volunteering at the Spanish Baptist Publishing House, Casa Bautista, working in publications and helping with the printing process.

From there God called him to pastor a church in the Houston, Texas area while managing a Christian bookstore.

"In the early 80s I felt called to work among Hispanic people," Brother Phil recalls. "In an area where there were a lot of Spanish-speaking people, I was exposed to the Hispanic culture, the language, and Bible

study material. One thing led to another, and I really felt led and called to go."

When he visited Costa Rica for the first time and met the people there, everything just clicked into place.

In 1983, he was commissioned by the BMA to work in Costa Rica. LaJuana had never been to Costa Rica, Brother Phil points out, and the house they would live in was chosen by someone else. He says, "Sometimes, the wife's missionary view is not quite as romantic as the man's. It's clearer to me now in hindsight, but I always admired her faith and commitment."

Having to leave Texas for the Costa Rican mission field with a three-month-old, a seven-year-old, and five-year-old twins, LaJuana also had to come to a time of surrender and commitment just like he did. "Trusting that it was God's call for me and for her as well," he says, "she had to put a baby in the arms of a stranger to go to language school—a mom

with four little ones. Language learning as an adult can be a humbling experience.”

Phil credits Lajuana with being involved in every area of church ministry. She taught music and developed other courses at the Bible institute, including a teacher training program on how to plan children’s activities promoting learning. In Costa Rica there were no uprisings or political conflicts; the country had a good education system and literate people; most importantly for the Knotts, though, there were autonomous, self-sustaining churches, and good pastoral leadership.

After planting the first church, they planted another one in three to four years. Either directly or indirectly, they helped plant eleven or twelve more in conjunction with other national missionaries. “We served there for seventeen years, primarily in church planting,” Brother Phil says. “We did leadership training, Bible studies, and with other people, we developed a self-sustaining, self-sufficient church in Costa Rica.”

The Knotts were the last BMA American missionaries to Costa Rica; and when they left in 2000 there was a strong network of about 20 established churches sustaining the missionary vision and a thriving BMA of Costa Rica. When American missionaries leave the field, Phil explains, there is always some leadership void, and the challenge is a shift to self-propagating, self-supporting churches without outside resources.



Phil Knott in the Amazon River basin in Bolivia.

BMA Costa Rica now has its own missions director; it also sponsors a pastors fellowship, supports cooperative church planters, and has a training school for pastors and church planters. Missionary to Peru Gerson Orellana is a product of BMA Costa Rica. Under the association’s guidance and the support of churches there, he developed church planting skills, then was sent to Peru. Another Costa Rican, Julia, was sent to Mozambique, Africa. They are proud to say that they are not a receiving nation but a sending nation.

When Phil and Lajuana moved back to the States, Phil took a position at BMA Missions as assistant to International Missions Director Jerry Kidd. “I served several years, gaining valuable experience in the global missions effort,” Brother Phil recalls. “Of course, I had experienced working in Central America, but as an assistant to Brother Kidd, I enlarged

my understanding of global missions.”

After serving in this capacity for several years, Brother Phil transitioned into the role of Director of Operations for Latin America. His many duties included working to assist missionaries, opening new fields, and establishing national leadership in nations without an American missionary presence.

“The final step in this process was that I became Director of International Missions when Jerry moved to Missionary Care,” says Brother Phil. “Some regional coordinators had been established at that time, and my job as International Missions Director was to work with field coordinators like David Dickson in Latin America, Doyle Moore in Southeast Asia, and Buddy Johnson, our training coordinator, among many others. Leadership in global missions has to be a team effort.”

With that job change, he traveled to Africa for the first

time. BMA work in West Africa began in the mid-nineties. Eventually, African leadership was established, a church-planting model was in place, and American missionaries had stepped away.

After serving five years as International Director, he began to see the need for newer and different leadership. Responding to Executive Director John David Smith's advice to "plan your exit," Brother Phil thought Eric Johnson was an ideal candidate. As it turned out, Eric was also going through a time of ministry decisions.

During this transition period, Tundra Baptist Church in Canton, Texas, called Brother Phil to pastor, while at the same time West African leadership was taking a new course. Those two circumstances confirmed God's clear calling to both pastor Tundra Baptist Church and continue his work part-time in Africa, teaching and training several times each year.

In 2016 at the age of 65, he finished a master's degree from BMA Seminary, work he had started years before. "This was a personal goal of mine. Thanks to the 'Buddy Johnson rule,' an exception made for long-term missionaries, the seminary accepts work done years before without penalty, and courses can be completed on campus or on-line. We owe a tremendous thanks to the Seminary's encouragement and assistance." Being an avid reader, he says, helped him achieve that goal and encouraged the spiritual discipline he believes is so important.

With a new home and a new church in Texas, Phil is now content to serve in the States and in Africa. The four little girls that went with their parents to Costa Rica in 1983 became culturally adapted to Hispanic culture, and two of them, Jill Fernandez (Grapevine, Texas) and Amy Piedra (Aserri, Costa Rica), married Costa Ricans.

Daughter Jamie Looper moved to Costa Rica with her family in recent years, and Amanda Miles, the youngest, lives near Canton, Texas. Then, of course, there are Phil and LaJuana's ten grandchildren that bring them so much pride.

BMA Missions' Guatemala Coordinator David Marroquin tells the story of Brother Phil staying at his house in Guatemala during a field visit and knocking on his bedroom door at 2:00 in the morning. There was a soccer game between Costa Rica and Guatemala in the wee hours of the morning and Brother Phil wanted to watch it with David. So, they hung out, had some popcorn, and watched the game. It was very impactful, and David has never forgotten it. But if you know Phil Knott, you know how relational he is, especially when it comes to the missionaries, pastors, and church planters he serves. It's just how he does ministry.

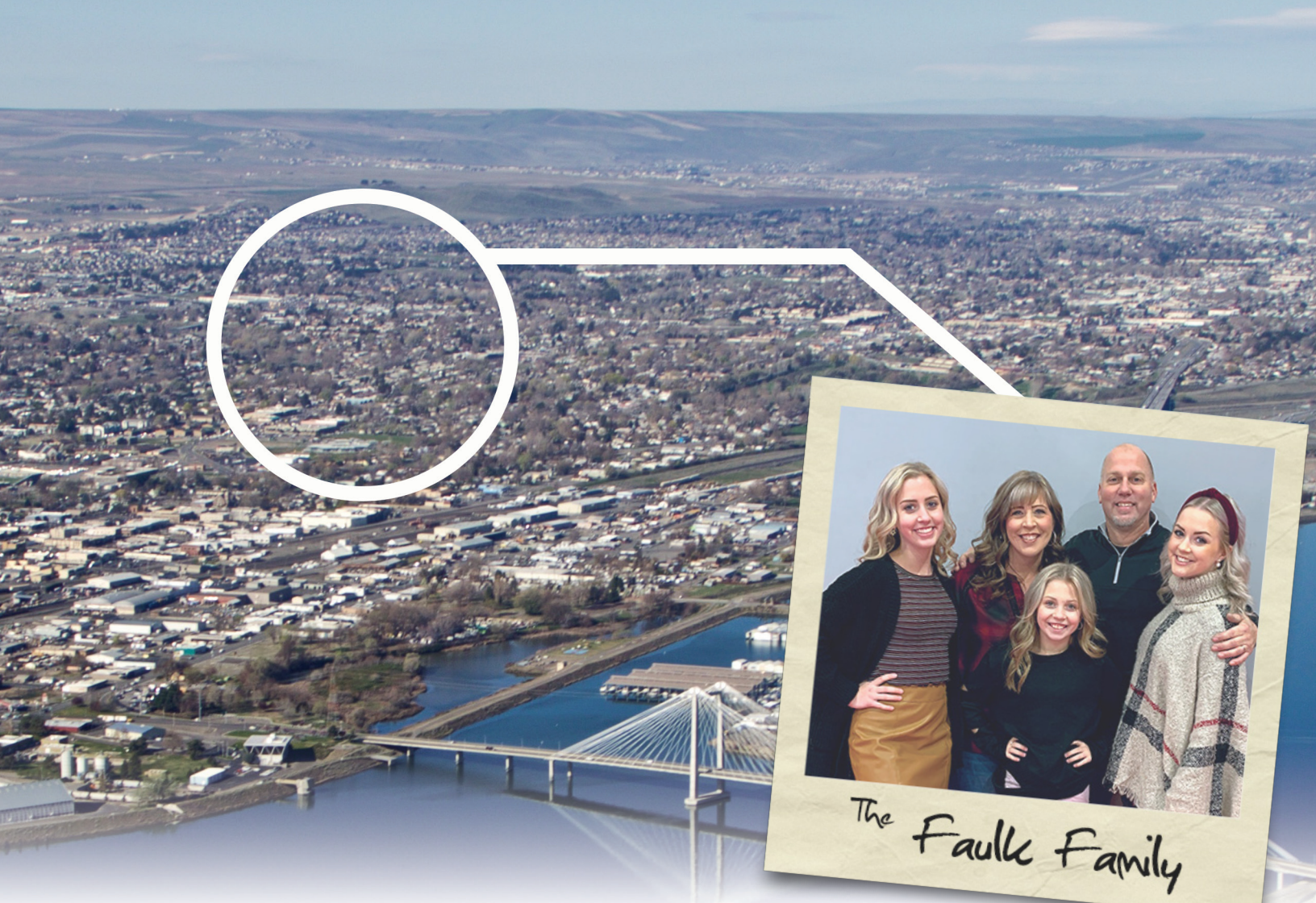


Phil Knott with pastors in India.

A small, white, single-story church with a prominent steeple is situated on a lush green hillside. The church features a wooden door, several windows (including a small square one and two larger arched ones), and a bell tower with a cross on top. The background consists of a dense forest of evergreen trees and a mountain range under a cloudy sky.

RAISING A GENERATION OF AMERICAN CHURCH PLANTERS

BY: Larry Barker
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org



Our history and heritage as an association is one of churches planting churches following the example of Jesus in the Gospels and the disciples in the book of Acts. The ongoing overcoming gospel produced disciple-making disciples who planted New Testament churches with the DNA of multiplication. Neil Cole describes DNA as Divine Truth (the Cross), Nurturing Relationships (the Community), and Apostolic Mission (the Culture). Our vision is: “Raising up a generation of church planters to transform their communities for Christ.”

With this history and legacy every church needs to ask, “what will be our legacy when we are gone?” What could be a better heritage than churches that plant churches that plant churches that continue to impact the world for Christ? No one lives forever. After a relatively long, normal, or short life span, death comes. The same is true of individual local churches. We must face the fact that each local church will die someday. The question you need to

ask is, if it dies, will it have reproduced children and grandchildren to carry on your legacy?

Dynamic Church Planting International speaks about this legacy and the tragedy that can occur. “Most of the miraculous church planting recounted in the book of Acts happened in the region of Turkey. Yet today it is a 99.8% Muslim nation with only 0.01% of the population being evangelical Christians. Most of these are on military bases and foreign corporate headquarters. Yet in the second century as much as 60% of the region was one of the strongest Christian footholds in the Mediterranean region.

“In fact, Turkey is one of the nations today where persecution of Christians occurs. What went wrong? What turns a Christian nation into a non-Christian nation where believers are persecuted? The problem comes when churches have an unhealthy focus on themselves and neglect a vision for the expansion of the greater kingdom of Christ.”

Our passion is to make sure that does not happen under our watch by prayerfully facilitating a discipleship-based multiplication movement, where we share common objectives of multiplying disciples, leaders, and churches.

Church planting has had a huge impact on my life and ministry. Most of us belong to a church that was birthed and planted not too many years ago. Westwood Baptist Church in Fort Walton Beach, a church plant of the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA), is where I spent my teenage years growing and learning about walking with Christ. Men like Ray Thornton, Jerry Kidd, and Bobby Bowman led this congregation. Both Jerry and Bobby moved on to serve on the foreign mission field planting churches and delivering the gospel to people who had not been reached.

My first pastorate was a church plant started by Homer Gunn as he went through Illinois and Indiana finding a group of people interested in impacting their communities for Christ. My next

two pastorates I followed men who planted the church, Jim Barr in Oswego, Illinois and Jeff Swartz in Nevada, Missouri. These men had an impact on my life because of their willingness to step out in faith and plant churches that would preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. They were and are my spiritual heroes along with others like James Crews, Silas McMurray, and Kenneth Bobo.

Today we have church planting families who are the products of this conviction to continue a church planting legacy. Brad and Heidi Faulk planted The Summit in the tri-cities area of Washington. She grew up in a church plant that began in her parents' home that today is Grace Baptist Church in Tacoma, Washington. Now her parents serve in the church they planted. Ali and Anetta Chambers planted Mosaic Church in Memphis, Tennessee; and Ali is a product of Liberty Memorial that was planted by Kenneth Bobo. Ali later served at Liberty Memorial as youth pastor before planting Mosaic.





Anders and Carla Lee have planted Central in Southaven, Mississippi. He is actually named after a church planter who got his father back in church serving faithfully. His father then was involved in two church plants and the legacy continues in the heart and ministry of Anders. A church planting legacy and a determined focus on reproducing is a sign of health. Christian Schwarz writes in *Natural Church Development*: “Hardly anything demonstrates the health of a congregation as much as the willingness—and ability!—to give birth to new congregations.”

What will our church planting legacy be? God is opening doors for us to hopefully walk through in many new areas. We now have the potential for church plants in multiple languages that are focused on different people groups who desperately need to hear the gospel. Pray with us as we strive to hopefully continue this legacy in places like Morgan, Utah; Valencia, California; and a new plant in Orlando, Florida.



BY: Cristian Martinez
BMA Missionary Elect
bmamissions.org



A HEART FOR ROMANIA

We are Cristian and Vanessa Martinez. Our family is in the process of moving to Romania as Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America missionaries. We seek for the name of Jesus to be glorified, have a commitment to make disciples, and hope to see disciples and churches multiplied in Romania and beyond. Here I will share with you who we are and to what we believe the Lord has called us.

Our family is made up of three different nationalities which has its complexities. At the same time, it has been amazing to see the different ways God uses our multi-cultural family for the sake of His kingdom. I (Cristian) am from Mexico City, my wife Vanessa is from Romania, our two-year-old daughter Joellen is from the U.S. (East Texas), and our 6-month-old son Ethan is also from the U.S. (West Texas).

Cristian, Venessa, Joellen and Ethan Martinez



My relationship with BMA churches began several years ago while I was living in Mexico. My dad was connected with the BMA Bible Institute in Mexico first through teaching Evangelism Explosion and then by becoming a student of the institute.

During my first year of college in Mexico City, God began to increase in me a desire to the general call to “equip the saints for the work of the ministry” (Eph. 4:11). I prayed for more clarity in how I could do that for the building of God’s church. I began to serve in the church in Mexico in areas of teaching and took more responsibility in equipping and modeling for others how to evangelize. During that time, I made a commitment with God that I was going to seek to be better equipped so that I could handle His Word well and lead His people for the building of the church and the evangelization of the world.

Soon after that, Dr. Ricky Williams and Dr. Philip Attebery attended a BMA Mexico meeting where

I met them and communicated my desire to get a seminary education. I later moved to the U.S. and attended the BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas where I received a bachelor’s degree.

I am thankful for all the investment I received from the professors there both in and out of the classroom. They encouraged me and shaped me as a disciple of Jesus and a servant of Jesus’ church.

During my last year at the seminary, I married Vanessa. She has been a gift from God to grow me in so many areas, raise children, and make disciples together for the glory of God. Vanessa is from Romania and we have visited family and churches there. I’ve seen both the need as well as the great opportunity we have to make disciples in that part of the world. The desire to make disciples and plant churches there has continued to increase. We want to be obedient to Jesus and His mission. Thank you for considering us as BMA missionaries.



A HEART FOR ARGENTINA

My name is Tyler Brantley. My wife Emily and I live in Conway, Arkansas and are members of Antioch Baptist Church. I have felt the Lord laying it on my heart to plant churches in Argentina. My wife and I have both spent time in South America and have fallen in love with the people and culture. We see a need and feel a strong burden to see the gospel spread through that country.

I was saved when I was five and baptized later that year after I turned six. My childhood was mainly split between two different churches. For the

majority of my childhood, I attended Marrable Hill Chapel in El Dorado, Arkansas with my parents. When I was in the tenth grade, we started attending Mount Union Baptist Church in El Dorado where my father became the music director and my mother served as the secretary.

I surrendered to the ministry when I was fifteen and became licensed by Mount Union under Brother Jason Goodwin. After I attended high school in Junction City, Arkansas I came to Central Baptist College here in Conway where I studied



BY: Tyler Brantley
BMA Missionary Elect
bmamissions.org

Tyler and Emily Brantley

theology and met my eventual wife, Emily Rice. While attending college, I interned with Adam Willet at Sunnyside Baptist Church in Rogers, Arkansas the summer between my sophomore and junior years. The summer before my senior year, I came on as the part-time youth director at Needs Creek Baptist Church in Greenbrier, Arkansas. I was there for a year and a half before I was called to be the full-time youth pastor at Park Avenue Baptist Church in Searcy. I was there for almost two years.

Around the time I graduated college, I started feeling the urge to study church planting and its place in missions. After a time of studying and praying on that, I found myself wanting more and more to be a church planter. Though I felt like that

was what I was to do for God's mission, I just didn't know where or how. Around the same time, Brother Todd West contacted me about interning with him at Oasis and assisting with planting the church in Conway. This experience was such a blessing to me as I was able to sit under and watch a great group of men lead a church. Throughout my time there, one thing that Todd really tried to instill in me was to focus on being in God's Word myself in order to be able to lead those around me more effectively. I really focused on growing and maturing in my own spiritual walk. I believe this season of my life was when God began softening my heart and preparing me to listen to Him calling me to international church planting.

A HEART FOR HISPANIC AMERICA

BY: Elvis Garcia
BMA Missions
bmamissions.org



S ometime after American missionaries left Guatemala, I was in charge of taking inventory of the tools, materials, and equipment in our old training camp. Of all the things that had to be done, my favorite part was to review the library books. I especially enjoyed looking at the large collection of old *Gleaner* magazines.

In the afternoons, I would read through them and look at all the photos of the missionaries. As I read through the pages I dreamed about those heroes of the faith. Names like Bill Gibson, Aubrey Johnson, Marvin Loyd, Dale Thornton, Joe Caudle, Ray Freeman, Duane Heflin, Jack Bateman, Bobby Bowman, and many others were in my usual reading.

Through these readings, I also learned about Brothers Paul Robinson, Buddy Johnson, and Michael Hight who have been in charge of the Hispanic ministry in North America. They gave their time and ministry for the advancement of Hispanic work in the United States. Each of them left a legacy in churches and pastors.

We are here today because of these brothers who serve faithfully in the ministry. God allows us now to follow this legacy that these men of God have left.

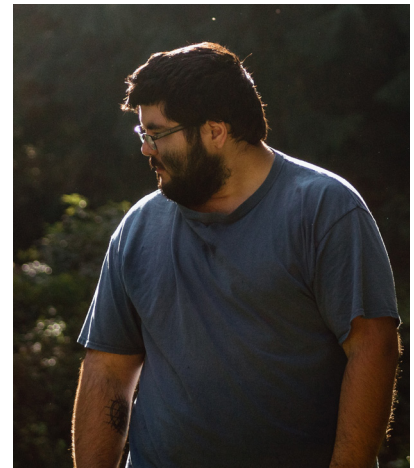
My name is Elvis Garcia and I have served the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) America since I was eighteen. I started out as a national missionary in my home country; since then, I have served as a missionary in the state of Mississippi, a pastor, a director of the Bible institute, a state coordinator, a national assistant, and now as the Director of Church Planting for North America.

During these ministries, God has allowed us to plant a church in Cabo, Guatemala, four churches in north Mississippi, one in Mexico, and now we are planting another central Arkansas church in Little Rock.

The possibilities that the ministry in North America offers are exciting and require an adequate strategy and dependence on the Holy Spirit to reach these millions of people who live here without the light of the gospel.

Hispanic Population Statistics by Pew Research:

- From 2005 to 2010 the Hispanic population grew an average of 3.4 percent per year.
- During 2018, the Hispanic population in the United States reached a new record of 59.9 million people, which means a 1.2 million increase compared to 2017.
- According to information from CNN, in 2017, Hispanics of Mexican origin ranked first in the Hispanic segment with 35,758,000 people, followed by immigrants from Puerto Rico, El Salvador and Cuba.
- The southern region of the country recorded the fastest growth of the Latino population with 33 percent during the same period, which means 22.7 million people in 2018.
- Los Angeles continues to lead the ranking of Latino residents with 4.9 million in 2018, followed by Harris County in Texas with 2 million and Miami-Dade, Florida with 1.9 million.
- In 102 United States counties, Hispanics accounted for at least 50 percent of the population in 2018.



Transculturation:

- Not only are Hispanics the largest minority group, they are also the youngest.
- These young people, whether they were born here or have emigrated as children, present us with countless opportunities to start churches and ministries.
- These young people who are bilingual generally have a higher education or it is in their future plans.
- They have traditionally Latin characteristics such as being family oriented, but at the same time they have the independence of the Anglo-Saxon culture.
- They live in two worlds and know how to fit into each one. You can eat tacos with spicy sauce at lunch and then chicken and dumplings or other traditional food from the southern United States at dinner.
- We believe that these young people will be an important force in the future; and we want to invest in efforts and resources that reach this sector of American society.

Our Current Works:

We currently have churches in Spanish in six American states. Some have state coordinators who are doing an excellent job in guiding and multiplying the churches. In others, the ministry is beginning, but we are excited for the future.

Our Future Plans:

When the first century church commissioned Paul and Barnabas, they evangelized strategic cities by establishing local groups of believers and commissioning faithful men. This is known as the Pauline cycle. Our desire is to continue with the strategy of the Apostle Paul.

Our plans focus on church planting and development in strategic cities of this country. We have identified several locations and have asked for your prayers. Some of these cities have the highest concentration of Hispanics in the United States. Of the eleven cities with the highest concentration of Latin origin, we already have a presence in Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, and El Paso, thanks to the efforts of BMA Texas.

In Orlando, Pensacola, Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, and New Jersey, we have BMA churches or missionaries who are working in the ministry. We plan to collaborate and join efforts with these churches/missionaries in order to better use our resources and create focal points of ministerial support.

When we were planting the church in northern Mississippi, missionaries from other groups constantly came to tell us that it was “very difficult,” that the Hispanic people did not want to come to church, and that it was not possible to plant a church in this place. We refused to listen to these negative comments and pressed hard on the work of the Lord. Today there is a growing church that has multiplied in more churches and has its own Bible institute in the same place where they told us that it could not happen.

Based on this premise, we ask for your prayers. North America presents great challenges but also exciting opportunities that we cannot overlook. We will continue to press hard on God’s work and expect Him to give us the result.

These plans seem very ambitious, but we believe in a great God and know that the beating of the heart of God is in the development of leaders and the establishment of new churches. Please pray for us.

NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 16-18, 2020



REGISTER TODAY
WWW.BMAAMERICA.ORG/SENIOR

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

\$135 PER PERSON (INCLUDES DINNER THE 17TH)
UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 2020

\$145 PER PERSON (INCLUDES DINNER THE 17TH)
AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2020

CHATEAU ON THE LAKE

\$129 PER NIGHT *PLUS TAXES AND FEE
UNTIL OCTOBER 17, 2020



Donny Parrish
Conference Host



Kirk Shelton
Conference Pastor



Travis Sellers
Conference Worship



Lauren Talley
Concert Artist



Brian Free & Assurance
Concert Artist



Showboat Branson Belle
Show

NEW HOTEL THIS YEAR

CHATEAU ON THE LAKE

415 N STATE HWY 265
BRANSON, MO.





Joshua and a volunteer teaching in Zambia

BY: Joshua Phiri
BMA America
bmaamerica.org

A HEART FOR ZAMBIA

Meagan and I are missionaries in the southern part of Zambia, Africa sharing Jesus with the hearts of the poor and the lost so that suffering children and the unreached become passionate followers of Christ who will lead and transform their communities.

I am a Zambian married to an American. I met my wife when she was on *The World Race*, a mission trip to 11 countries in 11 months. My country, Zambia, happened to be the ninth country she visited; and she was assigned to work in the very ministry where I was serving. We began a long-distance, electronic courtship which ended with me joining her family in Colorado for six months where I proposed and we were married.





Joshua and Meagan Phiri

God has placed a desire in both of our hearts to continue to minister to my people. Immediately after our wedding, we returned to Zambia and started a discipleship-oriented movement to plant churches in the least reached areas surrounding Livingstone. These villages have been ignored by the pastors and churches of the bigger cities due to their remoteness and poverty. We are working toward bringing Christ-centered, empowering developments to these neglected areas, which include educational services, health, micro-finance, gardening, clean water, and water purification. Once desperate needs are met, the gospel can be embraced.

Since then, God provided us with a home that serves as our base of ministry in Livingstone and

enables us to build relationships with those around us. Recently, our beautiful daughter Ashlyn was born; we are excited to raise her with the sweet people of Africa.

Another goal we have is to train workers to become equipped and skilled for God's work around the world. We have already begun discipling young men in our village to do this work but would also like to invite interns and teams from other countries to join us for short-term mission trips. We desire to partner with churches and ministries to train, coach, and help cast a vision of reaching those who are neglected and lost. Our goal is that every person who comes to serve with us will be radically altered for Jesus.





HONORING THE **PAST**
LOOKING TO
THE **FUTURE**

BY: Dr. Steve Crawley |
Ministers Resource Services
ministersresourceservices.com

The ministry of Ministers Resource Services (MRS) exists today because of the vision and faithfulness of many who came before us. This article retraces some of the highlights of the agency. Going back in our records to 1963, we find that Brother M.E. Childers, chairman of the association's Missionary Committee, appointed Brothers J.P. Jones, Richard Walters, and Ralph Cottrell to investigate the possibility of a retirement plan for the association.

In 1971, Brother Cottrell introduced the idea of the Ministers Benevolent Association that would help pastors with unexpected financial challenges and encourage participation "not for what one can get out of it but for what one can contribute to it." In 1973, the association authorized research for the establishment of a permanent retirement program for BMA (Baptist Missionary Association) America to supplement ministers' social security benefits.

On January 1, 1974, the retirement plan was officially in place. That same year, the association made a constitutional change to establish the Annuity and Benefit Agency department and elected Brother Cottrell as its first executive director. Further, the Ministers Benevolent Society (originally the Ministers Benevolent Association) was officially endorsed and adopted by the body.

In 1976, a health care plan was put into place to serve employees of BMA churches and entities. In 1978, the Helping Hands initiative was adopted to help ministers needing support and was instrumental in the establishment of the FAME (Funds to Alleviate Ministers' Emergencies) program for medical emergencies.

In 1983, the name of the department was changed from Annuity and Benefit Agency to Ministers Benefit Department. In April of that same year, the department purchased property located at 4001 Jefferson Avenue, Texarkana, Arkansas. (This location would remain the home of the department/agency until May of 2018.) On January 1, 1987, Brother James Henry became the second executive director after serving six months in the capacity of assistant director.

The Ministers Health Insurance Program, initiated in 1976, was terminated in April of 1992 due to rising costs and downward-spiraling participation. Following his six-plus years of service, Brother Henry resigned in 1994 and was succeeded by Brother Craig Branham, who became the third executive director of the department. In 1997, the name of the department was changed to Ministers Resource Services.

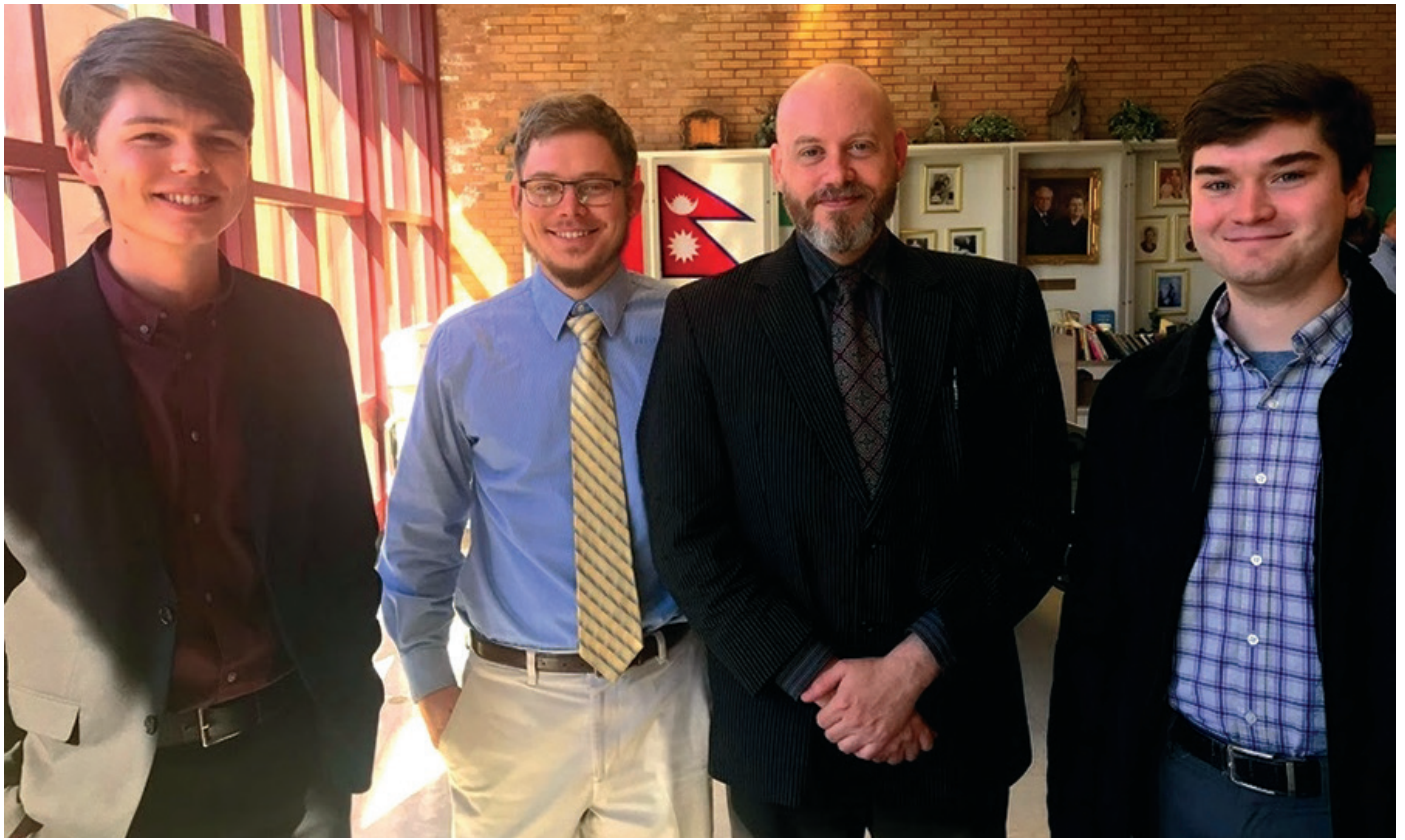
Following the resignation of Brother Branham in 1999, Brother Ron Chesser became the department's fourth executive director and began work on January 1, 2000. Under Brother Chesser's leadership, the agency passed a major milestone with total assets under management exceeding the 10-million-dollar mark for the first time in 2011. Brother Chesser served the agency for more than 18 years, retiring in May of 2018.

As we look back over the past 57 years of history, I am made acutely aware of how blessed we are to stand on the shoulders of great men who served us well. Their vision has resulted in resources that have blessed many BMA missionaries, pastors, ministers, and workers. Just as they faced the challenge in their generation, we must face the challenge in ours. We cannot afford to rest on our laurels and enjoy the fruit of their labor without looking ahead to see how we can best serve those who come behind us.

Looking to the future, MRS has an opportunity to enlarge its territory. We are currently exploring ways to do more with less and to provide the most effective resources possible at the most efficient costs to meet the needs of BMA ministers and employees at large.

Our vision includes an agency that will offer a number of valuable resources including retirement services, employee benefit services, risk management services, and leadership resources.

We honor those who have served us in the past; we pray for wisdom as God leads us in the future. Moreover, may all that has been done in the past, is being done in the present, and will be done in the future bring glory to our great God!



EARNESTLY CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

BY: Dr. Charley Holmes
BMA Seminary
bmats.edu

Earnestly contending... The pictures included in this issue of mission:world illustrate the productivity and faithfulness of the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Seminary's theme verse, Jude 3.

The top photo features four young men who are being trained to "earnestly contend" for the faith and practice of associational Baptists. Two of the men in the picture are sons of BMA Seminary graduates—illustrating the faithfulness of the Seminary in training sound preachers for over 65 years. There are too many examples of second-generation students to mention; and at graduation last year we even had

one family of three generations of BMA Theological Seminary graduates. As encouraging as it is to see successive generations of men trained in the past, it is even more encouraging to anticipate the contenders for the faith in the future.

The bottom left photo on the next page features a student who is currently planting a new church as a missionary for the BMA of Texas. With roots in the past generations and branches extending into the future, the BMA Seminary helps ensure that the faith of associational Baptists is safe.



A group of Seminary Alumni in 2018.



Three generations of BMA Theological Seminary graduates.

Seminary Sunday is observed by the BMA of America each year on the Sunday after our graduation ceremony. This year that Sunday is May 17. On Seminary Sunday, we ask each church and Sunday school class to pray for our graduates who are leaving our campus to continue to teach the faith to the next generation. Pray for our faculty, trustees, and administration as well, that we will keep our eyes on the prize of earnestly promoting our faith.

We also urge our Sunday school classes and churches to receive a special offering for scholarships for new students on Seminary Sunday. Most students need help, especially those just beginning.

Encourage young pastors and missionaries today by praying and giving.

Earnestly contending,



BAPTIST MEDICAL MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL **2020 TRIP SCHEDULE**

DATES

JUNE 12-22, 2020

AUG. 19-30, 2020

OCT. 24-NOV 4, 2020

JAN. 15-25, 2021

TBD

LOCATION

ROMANIA

PERU

ZAMBIA

THAILAND

UKRAINE

MISSIONARY

BRYAN RISNER
DANIEL BAGOSI

PAUL TINOCO

JOSHUS PHIRI

BRANDON LINGLE
JO YAEBEANG

LARRY WOOD

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

mission:news



Lebanon: Joe Costa

Hello everyone! We hope you are having a great spring! Since the beginning of the year, Mira and I have been constantly reminded that God is great and His love endures forever. The Middle East region has been passing through some rough times, yet we see the Lord working, and working beautifully I might add. If nothing else, this year has helped us to really write our plans in pencil so God can erase and edit whatever and whenever He pleases. Due to the Lebanese revolution and the financial crisis, our plans have changed. We continue to do Bible studies with different context groups, yet we also focus on our relief ministry, that focuses on giving people food vouchers and visiting them on a monthly basis in their homes. We also are working with young people and creating weekly dialogue forums to talk about what they are going through and how they can be the present and future of the Middle East region. Please pray for the region and for God's plan in the

Arab world. May He prepare the hearts of the lost so they may experience His grace and freedom.



Nicaragua: Paige Sanchez

This year is in full swing and we are so thankful for the opportunities God has brought to the Piece of Hope in 2020. We now have more than 35 students and their families coming through our doors weekly and we get the chance to minister to them daily. We have four different programs to reach the specific needs of each student while ultimately sharing the gospel and the love of Jesus every day. These programs include early stimulation, preschool, primary, and a vocational program. We take time every week to do devotionals with both the students as well as their parents, and include Bible stories and lessons in everyday activities.

God has continued to open doors in our communities to share in other settings as well such as public schools, other therapy centers, and public events. Our goal is to share the

gospel of Jesus Christ all over Nicaragua and wherever God sends us! Our team prays daily as we search God's will in every decision that is made with our ministry. We have such a great team and are praying about adding a new team member to grow it. To do this we need churches and individuals to partner with us on a monthly basis to support the growth of this ministry to serve these families. We would also love for each one of our students to be adopted by a prayer partner who can pray daily for the specific needs of a student and their family and support the ministry financially to continue to provide these services if possible. If you are interested in being a prayer partner for one of our students please send us an email and we will get you connected with the family (pieceofhopenica@gmail.com). We are also praying about the possibility of being able to purchase a building to grow our reach in our communities. We are waiting for God's timing for this to become a reality and we appreciate your prayers also.

There are many BMA churches and individuals who make this ministry happen and we want to say a sincere thank you! You are making it possible to share the gospel of Jesus Christ here in Nicaragua. Thank you again and God bless!



Philippines: Doug Lee

We finished strong for the first semester here at the BMA Bible College. Through our student outreach program, 536 people came to know the Lord as their Savior. Praise God from whom all blessings flow! We are confident the second semester will result in an even greater harvest. Graduation is May 17. Our work with the three Ata tribes is progressing. We need a meeting place in one of the villages. Pray for God's provision in this need. Pastor Joel Francisco baptized five and has more candidates to be baptized when the weather permits. Our missionary, Jack Albes, one of our graduates whom we support, is working in the town of Libas. There is no evangelical church in that area; instead it is predominately Catholic and Muslim. He recently baptized ten new believers and is conducting a Bible study each week in several homes. The junior high and high schools in that area, with an enrollment of over 3000 students, have allowed him to teach a Morals and Ethics class. He volunteered to teach with no salary. The principal told him he could not teach religion, but he can teach from the Holy Bible. Jack assures him he is not teaching religion, but Christianity. The

school is okay with that. Many of the young people have become believers through these classes. Our plan is to have a VBS there this summer. God is opening doors and we are blessed beyond measure to be a small part of His work in His great Kingdom.



**Philippines:
Filomeno Kakilala**

Pray for the Philippines. Major natural disasters seem to strike with regularity, leaving disastrous results. But the Filipino spirit has tenacity and smiles appear on people's faces even in difficult circumstances. We appreciate your prayers for my wife Lisa, who has hydrocephalus. Bad headaches have only strengthened her faith in God, who comforts her. Please help us with our new support plan where we need to raise a higher portion this year. Donations to pay for the costs of my international and domestic travel to mission points are much appreciated. Your prayers are valuable and we could not do anything in life and ministry without them.



Ecuador: Buddy Johnson

Lord willing, Taffy and I will soon be moving to Ecuador. We plan to work with the people in the mission church that was begun by Trevor Morris several years ago. We hope to help disciple some of the people who attend the church, begin new small groups, begin evangelism outreach, and help toward the organization of the church. We are still seeking partners to help us in this effort. We trust our Lord to guide us during the next year or two as we serve Him and the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Together we can do more!



**Latin America:
John Michael Poulin**

Things are going well in Latin America. We are seeing the churches of the BMA in each of their own countries forming associations. The reasons for these associations are as follows: 1. We are convinced that we can do more together than we can do apart. I recently got back from Peru where I met with some leaders in a small remote rural church. These leaders were very motivated to work with the other churches in their country. When they realized that what they give, even though it be minimal, could be put with what other churches give and that they could have an impact on church planting in their own country, they became very excited.

2. We associate for church planting. The main reason that we are encouraging churches to form associations is to church plant. We want to see local churches being helped by the associations in their countries to plant more churches within their country and without. I could list a number of other benefits of working in association (fellowship, doctrine, etc.) but space will not allow me to do so. I would like to invite any of our pastors to take a trip with me and see what God is doing in Latin

America. You can get in touch with me at johnmichaelpoulin@gmail.com.



Philippines: Stan Scroggins

All missionaries love their furlough time, but also can't wait to get back to the people God has called them to. While on furlough we've visited churches from California to New Jersey and everywhere in-between. Donna and I will be headed back to the Philippines at the end of July. Give us a call if your church would like to have a missionary visit and report. Our weeks before leaving for furlough included visiting Beijing (it was cold there), baptism in the mountains of Leyte, and the eruption of Mount Laal. It all seems quiet now. The Bible College in Talisay had a great year with increased enrollment with graduation coming in May and looking for another large enrollment in August. The first phase of the Darlene Carey Christian Academy building should be ready for students when we get back. We sure need help furnishing and paying for it. Your help would be a great way to honor this faithful servant of God. We do have one regret--not being able to visit more churches while home. Remember all those missionaries who said that

“prayer is the most important need”? Well, it is true. Please remember to pray for us; it is our most important need!



Minnesota: Mike Strong

There is a growing excitement and buzz around what God is doing here in Minnesota. We are seeing ever increasing partnership growth in our BMA churches, with local ministries, and in our community. We are now actively leading an afterschool Bible club in a local public charter school. We are also now actively leading a Bible study in a local retirement home. We have been able to repeatedly share the gospel in both. In the school, we are leading the middle schoolers to grow in leading small groups with the elementary children. We are teaching the brothers and sisters in the retirement home how to do S.O.A.P. studies. Both groups have members who are excited about what's happening and are inviting others. God is doing a great work in our community!

In the coming months, we are planning many outreach events. We are partnering with the churches of the BMA to coordinate short term mission trips that include door to door evangelism, a block party (in June), and a basketball camp and

tournament for kids (in July). We are also looking to start back a growing women's Bible study led by Laura Beth and a new Bible study group in a neighboring city. Food ministry will resume in the spring. We also have a few potential core group members praying about committing to join us to launch the church. Though I currently work full-time for a bank, I am praying about a transition to full-time devotion to the church planting ministry due to the growth and need of the plant at this time. I invite you to join me in this prayer as we wait on the LORD to provide the remaining funds. Thank you for your prayer support, letters, calls, and emails. Thank you for financially partnering with us to take the good news to the nations. May God continue to bless each of you as He has promised in Christ Jesus our LORD!



**Thailand:
Siripong Yaebeang**

June of this year will mark six years of ministry in Bangkok, Thailand for our family. Throughout these years, we have been extremely thankful for the faithfulness of God and the many churches and individuals that have supported our family and ministry. It's not always been easy, but we have seen how God is working in Thailand for His

glory. He has used us to start North Bangkok Church and we have witnessed the power of His gospel that has transformed and changed people's lives. By God's grace, we are striving to make Him known in this part of the world. Lord willing, we are planning to come to the States for our furlough the end of this summer. We hope to be able to see and visit with many of you. Please continue to remember us and the Thai people in your prayers.



Check out
missionworld.tv



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

mission:**world**
M A G A Z I N E



REGISTER ONLINE!

GET YOUR MAGAZINE BY MAIL OR DOWNLOAD FOR **FREE**

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

844.262.8637

| www.missionworldmag.com

| missionworld@bmaamerica.org



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1, 2020

RE:CHARGE
LEADER'S OASIS

MORE INFO AT
BMAAMERICA.ORG/RECHARGE

SPONSORED BY
ACTIVATE