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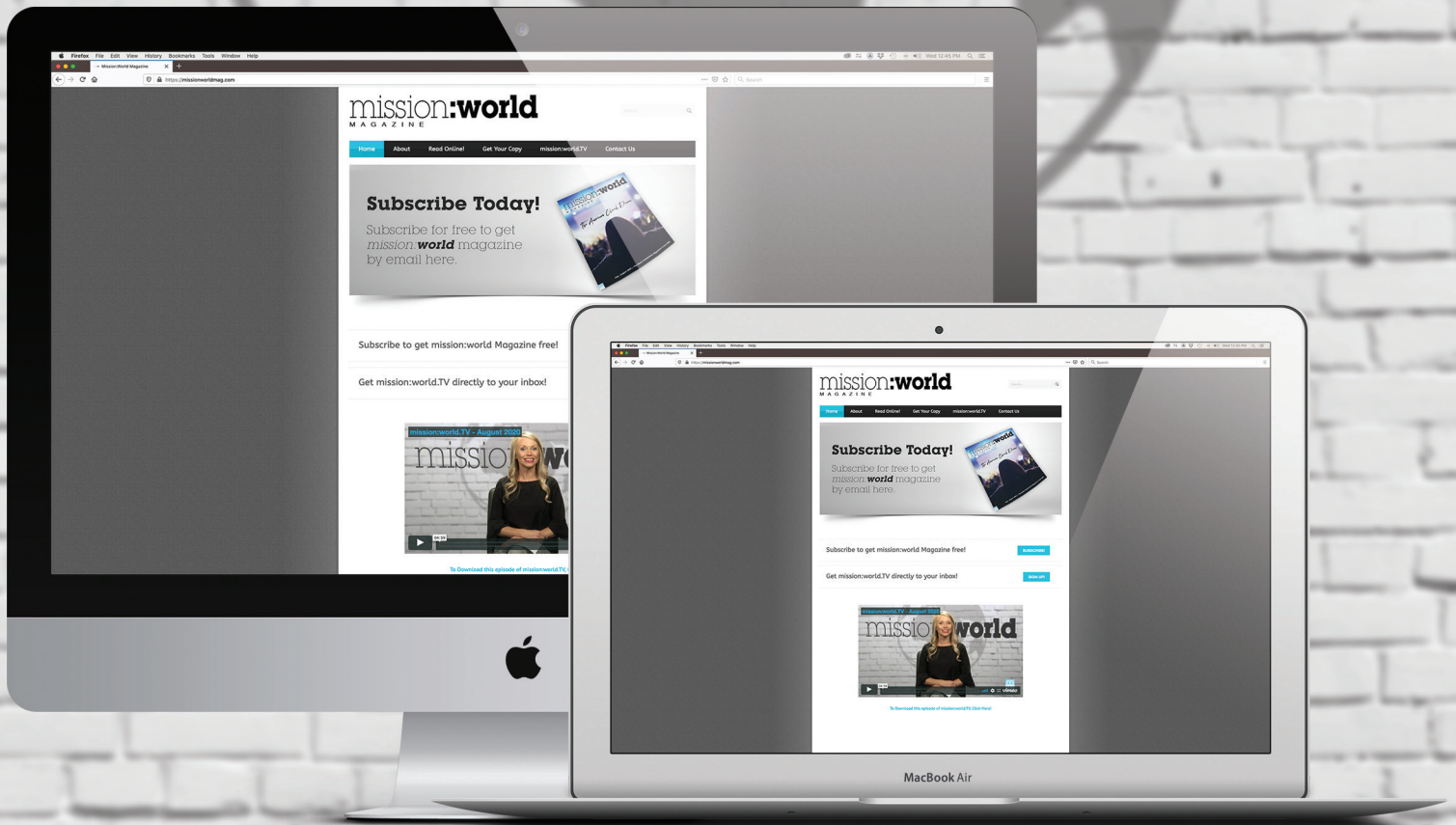


**CHANGEMAKERS**  
AFRICA

July - August 2021 :: The Great Commission Magazine of the BMA



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**Editor**  
Donny Parrish

**Managing Editor**  
Phillip Rice

**Design & Layout**  
Nick Jacobsen

**Email**  
[missionworld@bmaamerica.org](mailto:missionworld@bmaamerica.org)

**Website**  
[www.missionworldmag.com](http://www.missionworldmag.com)



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**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.



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



# THE BMA'S MINISTRY HISTORY IN AFRICA

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

Africa is known as “the dark continent,” so titled by author Henry Stanley not because of its inhabitants or socioeconomic status, but because of the mystery it remains for Europeans and Westerners. Let’s be honest, for many in the West the closest we have come to Africa is Disney’s *The Lion King*. However, before we discount that as juvenile and of no value, let’s look at some of the real lessons it teaches about Africa. The opening scene of the rising sun accompanied by the Zulu chant that is translated in the famous song, “Circle of Life” captures our attention quickly. The animals on the Savannah are at full attention as Mufasa the King presents his newborn son Simba on Pride Rock. The Circle of Life is the thrust of the movie. In the positive it represents the ways things “should” be and the respect that is required for authority, family, caring for others, and seeing ourselves as part of the big picture...not being the big picture. In the negative (not seen in the movie) it no doubt also can lead to an extreme reverence for and worship of nature. The movie does not portray God; instead, it depicts the spirit-man (in this case a monkey) as in charge of the process. The more in-depth extremes of this would include ancestor worship, witchcraft, and various forms of animism.

Later in the movie, we are introduced to two of the most likeable characters in Timon and Pumbaa. They live by the mantra of Hakuna Matata...no worries. After a life-threatening experience, they are taken back to the Circle of Life. In the end, after Simba is misled, he also returns to living the Circle of Life. A summary of some of the lessons we know about African culture in contrast to Western culture would include the following: they are very group oriented while we are individualistic; there is a great respect for “oughtness,” the way things should be, while we celebrate self-identity; Africans tend to be relational while we are achievement oriented; and they value the event and the experience while we are governed by strict adherence to time.

When did the gospel first go to Africa? Remember, young Jesus and His family fled to Egypt. Simon of Cyrene carried the cross of Jesus. Cyrene is modern-day Libya. On the Day of Pentecost there were people from Egypt and Cyrene present. Philip led the Ethiopian eunuch to Christ. Believers from Cyprus and Cyrene first preached the gospel to the gentiles in Antioch of Syria. Throughout the first centuries of Christianity, northern Africa was a fertile ground for Christianity.

Overall, the worldwide missionary movement in Africa lagged a little behind the movement in Asia; but once it got going it has been a harvest field for the gospel. In the past 50 years of missions there has been what is called the “Great Missions Shift.” Fifty years ago, the majority of followers of Christ lived in Western Europe and North America. Today the majority live in Africa, Asia, and South America. In the modern era, the Moravians were the first to send missionaries to Africa. They were followed soon by the London Missionary Society and missionary Robert Moffat. Moffat’s son-in-law David Livingstone, Mary Slessor, David Grenfell, and William Sheppard were among well-known early missionaries to Africa.



Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Global Missions' first works in Africa were through the Portuguese speaking countries. Pastor Manuel Ramos in the Cape Verde Islands was the first BMA missionary in Africa in the early 1950's. Soon thereafter, Pastor Antonio Duarte from Lisbon, Portugal was sent by the Portuguese association to Angola, Africa. He enjoyed a very fruitful ministry until the start of a 30-year civil war that ended the ministry.

The BMA presence in Africa increased greatly in the late 80's and 90's with the connection between missionary Ray Loven in Ghana. That ministry developed more with the ministries of BMA missionaries John and Margaret Lindsay, Paul and Kerri Huermann, Dale and Celia Broom, and numerous ChangeMaker missionaries. Also, BMA missionaries in the Middle East began establishing works in northern Africa in places such as Egypt, Sudan, and Morocco. The newest BMA missionaries in Africa are Joshua and Megan Phiri in Zambia.

Two noteworthy partners in African missions are Water for Christ and Evangelistic International Ministries (EIM). Water for Christ, under the direction of founder Tim Tyler has worked diligently to dig water wells in Ghana and other places, as well as invest in the overall ministry. EIM, under the direction of founder Rocky Goodwin and continued ministry through his son Mike Goodwin, has invested through pastor training and their Shepherd Bag ministry. EIM has had a great impact through their pastor training in Tanzania and helped to lead in the establishment of the BMA of Tanzania.

BMA Global Missions currently ministers in the following African countries: Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon (through the ministry of BMA missionary Mike Poirier), Cape Verde, Egypt, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Morocco, Mozambique (through the churches of the BMA of Costa Rica), Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, and Zambia.

In this issue of *mission:world*, you will hear stories from ChangeMaker missionaries from Tanzania, Ghana, Cape Verde, Nigeria, Zambia, and Mozambique. Please continue to pray that the impact of BMA churches through BMA Global Missions will grow exponentially on the continent of Africa.

## John 3:16 in three languages of Africa:

Deus amá mundo de tal manera q Ele dá sé únig fidg pa'qu tud gent ta acreditá ná-  
El qu ta ben moré mas és tem vida eterna.

- Capeverdean Creole

'Sabou Ama adouna gai ibebe, Aini wo se tourou go obou, ine woi wo le gawase  
ye, yamar' ka omo sogo wo bemo ga:

- Burkina Faso

Pakuti Mlungu etemwesya ngako charo chino, ni pechipa Mwana wake wovyalikwa  
yeka, kuti ali wonse ommvwila yeve angataike, sembê awe na moyo wosasila.

- Zambia (Nsenga)



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BY: Renatus Kanunu  
BMA Missions  
[bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org)

# GRATITUDE FROM TANZANIAN CHURCHES

**H**ello brothers and sisters! I greet you in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior. We are so blessed that God has been faithful to us as we continue to live and work for Him every day for His glory and honor. We would like to extend a big thank you to all of Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America and each individual who stands shoulder to shoulder with us in our work in Tabora, Tanzania. We appreciate your prayers and financial support for our work here in East Africa. We would like to especially thank all the BMA pastors who have volunteered to travel from America to Tanzania three times a year to help us grow! We would also like to thank Evangelistic International Ministries (EIM) for investing heavily here in Tanzania through the Barnabas Touch Ministry and Overseas Bible School programs each year since 2014.

The work in Tabora started in 1994 by Pastor Cosas Kanunu who moved from Mwanza as a home missionary to start a missionary work in Tabora. Tabora is a Muslim city where thirty-five percent of the population is Muslim and another thirty-five percent hold to traditional beliefs. Pastor Kanunu started the work from nothing and grew it into forty churches until 2010. In 2013, over twenty churches died because of poor leadership, a lack of sound doctrines, and solid resources and other ministerial materials. In 2013, Pastor Kanunu discovered that planting a church is not a big task, but sustaining it is. He did not know what to do as most of the churches were in rural areas.

After praying and seeking God's wisdom, we wrote many emails to different organizations asking for help. In 2014, EIM and BMA America, through their pastors from different local churches, jumped in to help. From 2014 to 2017, we saw 21 pastors graduate. This was a huge step forward for our association. These 21 pastors, along with 42 evangelists and over 70 women, were trained to do God's work in Tabora, Tanzania by BMA America. From this point, the Tabora Association started a new era of proclaiming the Word of God to the people of Tabora and other parts of Tanzania.

## OUTPUTS OF THE TRAINING DONE IN THREE AND A HALF YEARS IN TABORA FROM 2014 TO JULY 2017

When we first met BMA America, we only had 22 surviving churches—and these were very weak both doctrinally and in their membership. Most believers and even some pastors had no Bibles. As of today, we have 43 surviving churches and an additional 12 preaching spots. We have local churches in the Tabora, Shinyanga, and Simiyu regions. We are growing quickly!

The Tabora Associations have been in the process of registering their local churches. Each church will stand on its own as a self-supporting, self-governing, and self-multiplying church. The joy of our work is in the heart of each of our church members, both in lay people and in pastors.

The churches are now being taught sound doctrine from the Word of God. Our association is continuing to work towards independence from foreign aid. The only way to overcome our dependency is to invest in educating our people in every aspect of their lives.

Dr. Holmes, BMA America, and Lifeword have all been working very closely by assisting in areas where we are not yet able. Dr. Holmes prints all the BMA study materials while Pastor Renatus Kanunu translates these study materials into the Swahili language. So far, we have completed a book on church governance which has proved to be an excellent tool in teaching our churches their roles in each area of life. Lifeword, in collaboration with our pastors, has been producing Swahili programs on various topics and airing them to all the people of Tabora. Lifeword in Tanzania has a program called “Word of the Chief” where we let the Bible speak for itself. We are in the process of growing as a new denomination in Tanzania. Each time

we have a special need with one of our churches, BMA America through EIM has helped support us. We are especially grateful to Brother Danny Bullock who has helped our pastors financially to be able to travel and conduct seminars in our churches encouraging one another. According to our database, we have over 3,000 registered church

members. Pastors are able to prepare spiritual food for their congregations and do other pastoral work without distractions getting in the way.

After three years of training under BMA America pastors, we started teaching the same materials to our youth who will be able to teach others to teach others. Local churches are becoming centers for these types of Bible schools. However, printing and distributing materials has been a challenge. Finding commentaries or other books to help our students is also a challenge. In addition, language is also a barrier as most of our pastors

speak only Swahili and their local dialogue. Right now, our churches are divided into four zones. We have six associational leaders who take care of all administration work. These leaders ride a bus each month to visit and encourage other pastors and to do training to equip the believers.

Each church reads at least one topic from a catechism each Sunday. Reading from a catechism in our local churches is such a blessing as it provides clear instruction of our doctrine. Children and women’s ministries are also growing despite no materials for these groups. Our men’s and youth ministries are also still growing. In Africa, when you visit a church, you primarily see only women and children. Our association is looking for better



ways to reach men. We hope that when you reach a husband, you reach the entire family. We also have no materials for our men or our youth. We have a huge need for training materials for each of these ministries.

As an association, we thank God that most of our churches are reaching Muslims as well. Pastor Kanunu, Pastor Andrew, and other pastors have reached over 136 Muslims. We also have over 25 Muslim converts as a result of Lifeword's radio outreach. The work in Shinyanga under Renatus Kanunu is growing, and at this point, we have planted three churches. Shinyanga is 140 miles from Tabora. The work here will be able to reach Mwanza and all six regions in the Lake Zone, including Serengeti. We will also be able to enter Rwanda, Uganda, and Kenya. In Tabora, we have churches in Uranbo and Kaliua. These churches will be able to reach Burundi, Gongo, Mozambique, Molawi, Zambia, and other neighboring countries.

We are working toward Dodoma, Morogoro, and Dar es Salaam. We hope that when we start churches in these big cities, we will be able to attract businessmen and businesswomen who will support the work financially.

Since our ministry is growing quickly and churches are being planted in many places, we are facing many challenges. We are trying to think through some of these challenges so we can reach as many as possible by showing God's love in a

practical way. For instance, we have many villages without medical clinics or clean, safe water to drink. We have people who are willing and able to go start a new work, but we lack land and other tools. Getting Bibles and building churches is also a challenge.

Water is life. However, many places where our churches are being planted have no water wells. People walk more than 5 to 8 miles looking for water. These areas are very dry. Digging wells by hand is a challenge. Many people share water with their cattle. We need to encourage people to find a way to get a water well drilling ministry to jump in and help us in these communities. In some places there are no hospitals or pharmacies. Many people die of malaria. We need to encourage medical teams to help our communities. We also are praying that God will touch individuals and other churches to support our churches financially so that we can buy land in other cities to start new churches.

One very special prayer request we have is that God would provide a way for our association to build a training center. We believe the best way to

maintain sound doctrine in our churches is by educating our members. We would love to use this center to train pastors and young ministers who want to serve God. This Bible training center would belong to our association and not a local church.

As a new association, we say: "Where the road ends, the ministry will start."





BY: Moses Adjekwei  
BMA Missions  
[bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org)

# Adversity <sup>and</sup> Victory in Ghana

**T**he Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America, Lifeword, and Evangelistic International Ministries (EIM) are seed sowers in Ghana. Water for Christ waters the seed, BMA America goes for the harvest, and God gets the glory and praise. This is what the mission looks like in Ghana.

I was there when the BMA was born in Ghana, West Africa. It was through literature that Brother Ray Loven shipped to Brother Adu Boahen in Ghana. I met Brother Ray and Brother Adu when they came to the Bible college I was attending. They were looking for a place to store materials. After my graduation, they took me from the capital city of Accra to Kumasi to a village called Kronum to pastor a church there.

Because of the reports of how BMA literature was having a positive impact in Ghana, BMA America leadership came to Ghana for a follow-up visit and to conduct a seminar. This is when the BMA was born in Ghana, in the early 1990's.

I was the first pastor of the first BMA church in Ghana in Kronum-Kumasi in the Ashanti region. This was our target group; but through them, the idea was born to reach the entire country of Ghana and all of Africa.

Since the birth of BMA Ghana, many missionaries and evangelists have come and gone. Some lived here and all had a positive impact on the work here. There have been some adversities, but we thank God for the victory. He said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."

The first three missionaries that came here left with such a rich experience with their mission work in Ghana and Africa. I wish that they could put into writing their experiences! Both the medical and Volunteer Student Missions (VSM) teams also contributed immensely during their visits in Ghana and Africa.

When these missionaries moved back to their home countries along with their resources, things began to take a negative turn. A culture of dependence had been built during their presence. Changing that dependence mentality became a battle; many churches collapsed because they were planted in poor and remote villages, rather than urban centers that would allow for future growth and development.

My name is Moses Nmai Adjekwei. I am married with four children—two boys and two girls. I am from the Ga tribe; I was born in Accra Teshie to a Muslim family. My father forced me into this religion even though he did not know or understand much about the Muslim faith. I followed my father ignorantly till one day, at the age of 14, a group of people came to my town to evangelize. They showed a film on Jesus, and I trusted Christ as my Savior.



After I was saved, I could not keep what had happened to myself. I started sharing my testimony from that point forward. I traveled from village to village, to any place where the Lord led me, to share the good news about Jesus. I often use a film on Jesus, shepherd bags from EIM, relief programs, and well drilling with Water for Christ to share the gospel.

The Church appears to be asleep when it comes to missions in today's era. My father and some of my siblings are still Muslims, and their goal with the Arabian world is to convert Africa to Islam. They are using every resource at hand to achieve this goal. They invest in the education of their youth, giving them financial support. They build mosques everywhere in Africa. It is sad that they are using our monies at the banks for this goal of sending people to hell. Meanwhile, the Church, with the hope of eternal life and hope in this world, is asleep waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus without getting very involved in the Great Commission. I pray for the revival of the Church. I believe this is the time when we must invest more into missions and the souls that are dying. If Covid-19 were to signify the return of Christ, just imagine all the resources that would be left behind that could have been used to share the gospel.

I am a missionary pastor, a coordinator for EIM and Water for Christ programs in Ghana and West Africa, and the missions director and visionary leader for BMA Ghana. Our goal is to restructure, mobilize, and unify the mission towards evangelism, church planting, discipleship, and leadership development.



Brother Rocky Goodwin with EIM, Tim Tyler with Water for Christ, and Lifeword have all been a huge blessing to the work here. God has and continues to use them to help keep our mission going. There is still a multitude of open doors for missions work in Ghana. Africa is so religious but so far away from the truth.

BMA America has done a great work in Ghana and in Africa since its inception. We are trusting God for His will to be done. It is our prayer that by 2030, the work would grow, multiply, and become more self-supportive. It is our dream that by the end of 2030, if our Savior has not returned, that we will have planted 400 additional churches; trained 2,000 pastors, disciples, leaders, and workers; and will have sent church-planting missionaries to the entire country of Ghana and all of Africa.

Thanks be to God who has found us worthy to be a part of what He is doing around the world. On behalf of all the churches and the leaders here, we say, “God bless all of you for sacrificing your life, your time, and your money for the work here in Ghana and Africa.”





BY: Moses Angmortey |  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org

# GHANA: BIRTHPLACE OF BMA AFRICA MISSIONS

Prospects and challenges pave the way forward. Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Missions came to Africa beginning with Ghana more than twenty years ago. Many people joined BMA Missions as pastors simply because of the support they received. Similar to what Jesus said, they looked for Him because He fed them. When the financial support phased out or ceased all together, these same pastors quit their jobs and their churches were left without leaders. Today, only committed pastors remain with the mission as pastors or leaders.

My name is Pastor Moses Angmortey. I was born in 1951; I am married and have four children—two boys and two girls. Christ saved me in 1981, and I was ordained as a full-time pastor in 2009. I serve as the pastor of Christ Temple Missionary Baptist Church in the suburb of Dansoman in Accra, Ghana. I also serve as the regional president of BMA Ghana for the Greater Accra Region. My ministry is comprised of training pastors both in soul-winning and discipleship-making.

## EDUCATION

The low academic level of some of our pastors poses one of the problems in the mission in Ghana. Many of the pastors started their churches with very poor people. These pastors must be encouraged to work on their education, possibly focusing on management programs. And like the Apostle Paul, pastors should be doing some sort of tent ministry so that they will be in a position to support their churches, especially during the early stages of church growth.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

The youth, as the energetic force of a church, must be supported in order to build a vibrant ministry. When they are happy, they willingly involve themselves in all ministry activities of the church. Pastors must also show interest in all departments of the church, including men's fellowships, women's fellowship, youth ministry, and children's ministry.

## CHURCH CHOIR

Baptist church services are lively when the church choir sings during the service. If churches can be persuaded and taught how to have a strong choir to sing at church, it will help the church to grow and expand.

## COMPETITION

The youth are attracted to church when they get the opportunity to compete with others in the region in which they live. The youth should be involved in all church activities—evangelism, singing competitions, and sometimes various excursions.

## CHURCH WELFARE

Supporting those in need within the church, if well-managed, can also help the church members, especially when they receive financial relief when in need. When church members are happy, they support the church with their own finances.

## CONFIDENT

I am personally excited about Brother Moses Adjekwei's initiative and leadership with BMA Missions in Ghana.

Your support is very much needed to grow the BMA together here in Ghana.



GHANA

# RAY LOVEN AND GROUNDBREAKING WORK IN AFRICA

BY: Enoch Adusei  
BMA Missions  
[bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org)



**B**rother Adu Boahene had started his own church before the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) had started its work. The BMA was registered in Ghana in 1991 under the name Baptist Bible Fellowship. Verbal reports say that Brother Adu Boahene met an America friend by the name of Ray Loven, who happened to be the first BMA missionary to Ghana. When Ray Loven saw the needs and struggles Brother Boahene faced, he decided to inform BMA America about Brother Adu Boahene and his work and mission. Through God's grace, BMA America responded to the call to establish a BMA work in Ghana. From there, BMA America began to send Brother Adu Sunday school literature to distribute to the churches as study material and to help in the work he had started.

Brother Adu conducted the literature distributions so well that he gave the books free to both Baptist and non-Baptist organizations. Soon, BMA literature arrived in other West African countries. When BMA America realized how the work in Ghana was growing, they decided to visit Ghana and officially organize and recognize the work done so far. Based on their assessment, they encouraged the Ghanaian team to establish more churches. Meanwhile they began supporting the work financially and helped establish a doctrinal statement for BMA Ghana.

Brother Adu was not raised or trained as a Baptist. So, he teamed up with other Baptist leaders to learn about the practices of Baptists. These leaders were Kingsley Anderson, Fred Ghanson, and Stephen Djan—these three men became the first national executive officers. However, these men were “primitive” Baptists and condemned as non-biblical any policy or idea proposed to grow the association. This held back the growth of the ministry in Ghana.

## MY TESTIMONY

I was just a young guy of twenty years old when the Lord called me, under the ministry of Pastor George Boateng of Bible Baptist Church in Offinso, to preach the gospel. Pastor Boateng quickly disciplined me and sent me to a new location called Afrancho in the Offinso Municipality from 1995 to 1997. There I started the Agona Church in 1998 as a student in Bible College.

I was committed to more Biblical education. Pastor George Boateng and I continuously pushed for the opening of a BMA Bible college in Offinso to train our pastors. While waiting, I looked into attending a Bible college at Bouke in the northern part of Ivory Coast. Finally, the Lord heard our prayers and brought Brother Paul Heuermann and Brother John Lindsey as missionaries from America to help start a Bible school. They rented a house for a few years to get the Bible school started.

I was one of the first group of students, along with Brother Moses Adjekwei. Brother Adjekwei was with Brother Adu and Brother Ray before the BMA had a presence in Ghana. Brother Adjekwei is our current director of missions in Ghana. In 1998, I graduated with honors as the overall best student, and now serve as director of the Bible school. I believe that the Lord led me to this role through my passion for education. I have currently completed my first degree in theology and hope to begin a master's program soon.

## MY MINISTRY

The church I currently lead is Family Baptist Church, which was established on August 6, 1991, at Offinso-Kokote. The historical narrative of the church indicates that Opanin Owusu Agyemang led the establishment of the church. History tells us he was a political prisoner at Sunyani Prisons when some Baptist missionaries visited and shared the gospel with them. He accepted the Lord as his personal Savior and asked the missionaries to plant a Baptist church in his hometown of Kokote in Offinso. After his release, he organized a big crusade at Offinso to start the church. New converts from that crusade included Mr. Ernest Brenya and his wife Auntie Agyeiwaa, Mr. Addai, Mr. Boakye, Mr. Mensah, Amankwa Solomon, Joseph Sam, and Madam Tiwaa.

## BIBLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

Currently, I have been reappointed as the director of our Bible school by both BMA America and BMA Africa. The Bible school was registered under the name Baptist Theological College in 2015 with the help of Brother Dale Broom and his wife Celia, our immediate past American missionaries. My vision is to raise the standard of training for our pastors where we can award diplomas. We want the degree qualifications to meet the Ghana Accreditation Standard Board requirements in order to better prepare our pastors for the ministry. To meet the Board's requirements, we must do a massive renovation on our school facilities and restructure our academic curriculum. As of now, we have an uncompleted auditorium and restrooms. We also have set aside land where additional dormitories and classrooms can be built—but we need the project funds to complete them.





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# ***Strong Ministry Leadership on Cape Verde Island***

BY: Eudo Rodriguez |  
BMA Missions  
[bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org)



I am Eudo Rodrigues and I am forty years old. I am from Cape Verde on the West African coast. Our country is made up of islands. It is located in the Atlantic Ocean about 500 miles from the African continent. I have been married for 17 years now to Célia Rodrigues. We currently have three children, a son and two daughters. Right now, my family and I live on the island of São Nicolau. There we have established a church of which I am the pastor.

I gave my life to the Lord Jesus Christ when I was 13 years old. Since then, I have been trying to live in the presence of the Lord, according to His will, and trying to serve Him in the best way possible.

I first heard the gospel at First Baptist Church in Cape Verde. The Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) has had

a very strong relationship with this church for decades, partnering with this church practically since the beginning of this mission here in Cape Verde.

Manuel Ramos, the first pastor of this congregation, says that he came in contact with BMA America in the early

years of his pastorate. They supported the mission in several ways, developing a relationship and producing fruit through this partnership.

The support of the BMA has been extremely important to help spread the gospel in Cape Verde. They have both sent missionaries and have prepared leaders to direct and plant churches. Though we started with a single leader and church, throughout our partnership with BMA Missions, we have seen additional leaders trained and sent out to other places in our country to plant churches.

Brother John David Smith and his wife Kimberly came as missionaries, impacting the direction of the ministry in Cape Verde for good. They went out of their way to prepare leaders and new congregations

on other islands in our country. I am a product of their work.

It was through the preaching of then missionary pastor John David Smith that I trusted Christ as my Savior and was baptized. The Smiths went to great lengths to prepare local leaders who could continue the work in Cape Verde. I sat under their teaching and was prepared to continue in the ministry of the Word.

Very early in my spiritual life, I felt as if God was calling me to missionary work. After studying under a theological institute built with the help and partnership of BMA Missions, I was ordained and sent to set up a new congregation on another island in our country. Even in the midst of the challenges created by a country rooted in spiritism

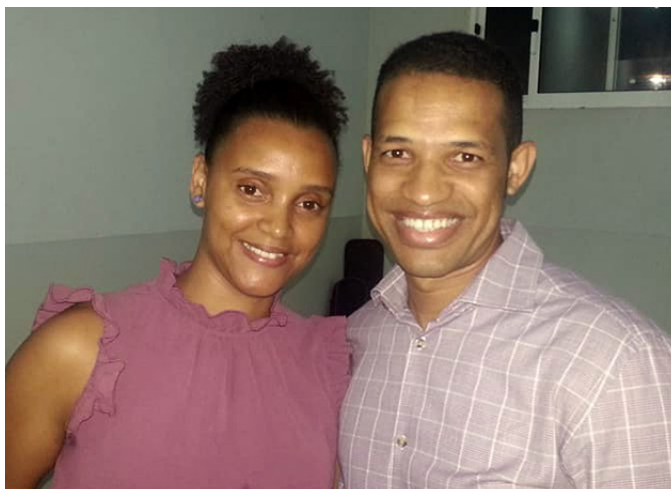
and Catholicism, we have seen many people believe the gospel and turn to serving the Lord. We remain hopeful that God will continue to produce fruit here in the mission in Cape Verde.

We currently have churches and missions on various islands and locations in our country. The work is now entirely under the direction of local leaders due to the BMA investment in preparing

leaders and planting churches.

We have completed our church plant, my family and I are leaving soon to move to another island to help with missionary and church planting work there. We desire to see leaders planting churches on every island in our country. We appreciate your support and prayers for this endeavor.

Please pray that God will send more workers so that the gospel will reach all people. Pray that we would continue with zeal for the mission that God has given His church, even in the midst of difficulties. Pray that God would prepare the way and place where my family and I will be soon. May our heavenly Father bless us all!





BY: Claudio Gomes  
 BMA Missions  
[bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org)

# THE STRONG INFLUENCE OF DR. SMITH IN CAPE VERDE

**I** take great pleasure in being able to share what God has done in my life and ministry in Cape Verde!

I am Claudino Gomes from Cape Verde on the West African coast. I have been married to Francelina Gomes for 25 years now, and we have one son. I have served the Lord on several islands in our country. My story of entering ministry started more than 30 years ago.

I heard the gospel message through Pastor Manuel Ramos and gave my life to the Lord Jesus. Since that date, I have tried to walk according to the Lord's will. My spiritual and theological formation was greatly influenced by Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) missionary to Cape Verde, John David Smith. His teaching helped me to serve the Lord even better and more often than I did before.

Twenty-two years ago, I was separated for the ministry. Since then, I have served several evangelical missions in our islands. About 90 percent of the people in our country profess to be Catholic. Spiritism is also very strong. Despite this, I have been privileged to see people coming to Christ, consecrating themselves through baptism, and dedicating their lives in service to the Lord.

On the island of São Vicente, the second largest island in terms of population, I have been working with many missions in the outlying areas. These are places where people go through many difficulties. I have also worked with churches on other islands to help with their establishment and growth.

I am very grateful to God for the contributions from many churches and the support of BMA Missions that has allowed me to go beyond what I could do on my own. Your support has been crucial to allowing me to continue doing what God has called me to do—to preach the gospel and help plant churches. Soon, my wife and I will be traveling to another island where we will be helping to consolidate a small church there.



My wife has struggled with poor health, creating extra challenges for us. The pandemic has also brought many difficulties. However, we have not stopped serving the Lord.

Please pray that God would continue to help us as we preach the gospel to our country. Please pray for both my wife and I to have good health. May the days that remain for us here on earth be spent serving our Lord Jesus Christ! I have no words to describe what your support has meant to our ministry. May our good God be with everyone!



## FROM NIGERIA TO GHANA THEN BACK HOME

**M**y name is Eniowo Adewole Erioluwa Joseph. I am the eleventh child of the late Prince Samuel Eniowo Sunmonu family who hailed from Ikaram-Akoko in Ondo State of the western part of Nigeria. I am 48 years old and married to Lydia Eniola. We are blessed with two children—our 8-year-old son Paul and our 6-year-old daughter Praise. I am a ChangeMaker for Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Missions in Nigeria, and currently a third-year online student at BMA Theological Seminary.

The missions work in Nigeria today is like a small event divinely orchestrated by God to achieve His greater purpose to the glory of His name. It all started in Lagos State in 2004 when I developed a strong desire to know what exactly salvation entails. I had always believed I could lose my salvation

because of my background with the Methodist church.

Fortunately, one day I visited Brother Samuel Adeyemi who was then the pastor of Bible Baptist Church. (This was a former White Garment church turned into a BMA church, but now no longer part of the BMA.) Bible Baptist Church was located in the Egbeda area of Lagos State. Here I saw a BMA Adult Sunday school teaching material on his table. I asked him if I could read it, and he gladly gave it to me. After reading the lessons, I felt as if scales were being removed from my spiritual eyes. I began to realize that salvation is a free gift from God to anyone who places his faith on the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross. I learned that salvation can't be lost. Peace and joy from discovering assurance of salvation flooded my heart.

I immediately joined that local church in order to have unlimited access to read BMA teaching materials. There I developed a passion to teach children using BMA children's materials, and a children's Sunday school was organized to that effect. After serving in this church in various capacities for four years, I felt the Lord calling me to surrender to the ministry. I surrendered to this calling in October of 2008.

My church, Bible Baptist Church in Egbeda sent me to Kumasi in Ghana for a biblical studies program organized by BMA America. This program was taught by Brother Paul Heruermann and Brother John Lindsay in January of 2009 and was designed to train pastors. After I graduated in August of 2010, the Lord called me to stay in Ghana to assist Bible Baptist Church (Harvest Temple) in Kronum, one of the BMA churches in Ghana. I served in this local church with Pastor Moses Adjekwei and Pastor Francis Adu Boahene, working both with the children's Sunday school and as youth pastor. Later I worked as the Ashanti regional youth pastor. I also had the opportunity to work with Brother Dale Broom and Sister Celia Broom, the missionaries who succeeded Brother Paul Huermann and Brother John Lindsay.

After ten and a half years of serving in the ministry in Ghana, the Holy Spirit impressed upon me the desire to return to Nigeria. I moved back to Nigeria as a missionary church planter in July 2019 under the knowledge and support of Brother Phil Knot.

I then started evangelism in my neighborhood with the support of my wife Lydia. We opened our home up for a Bible study program and started with five people on August 28, 2019. Later, some of my co-tenants started attending and the Lord increased our numbers such that we had to find a place to rent for meetings. In addition, from January 23-25, 2020, we held an open crusade called "Alafara Gospel Explosion" with Brother Phil Knott and Pastor Moses. During this crusade, five people accepted Christ as their Savior.

Today, BMA Nigeria Missions has successfully planted a church fellowship known as Word Alive Missionary Baptist Church with fifteen baptized members plus children. Some of these members

transferred their memberships from other churches of like faith. To God be the glory! I believe the future of this work is very bright. We are witnessing Christ work in our neighborhood, and we are also making disciples and raising leaders with visions to spread the gospel and plant churches throughout Nigeria according to the New Testament model found in Matthew 28:19-20 and 2 Timothy 2:2. I currently have seven young men and women in my discipleship class. We are teaching them with DiscipleWay teaching materials, courtesy of Brother Eric Johnson.

In my opinion, I think one of the greatest hymns composed is "God Moves in Mysterious Ways, His Wonders to Perform" by William Cowper (1774). These are indeed the words which best describe the beginning of BMA Missions work in Nigeria.



BY: Joseph Eniowo  
BMA Missions  
[bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org)



# MINISTRY TO ORPHANS IN ZAMBIA

BY: Joshua Phiri  
BMA Missions  
bmamissions.org

**G**rowing up in the rough neighborhood of Lusaka, Zambia, I (Joshua) didn't hear the gospel until I was 14 years old. Through an interesting course of events, a former friend and criminal who had found faith in God while in prison introduced me to my Lord and Savior. It took many years for God to really get ahold of my life. I am so grateful for His mercy and patience! When I accepted Christ as my Savior, He gave me the desire to share the gospel with the lost and those who have never experienced the Father's love.

When I was 25 years old, I attended a discipleship training school at Youth with A Mission (YWAM) and began working in an orphanage and school ministry near Livingstone, Zambia. Those were years of spiritual growth and mission development in remote villages. One day, God sent a ministry

group to Love's Door. In that group was a young lady named Meagan. Growing up in Colorado, Meagan had been introduced to God at a young age and had put her faith in Him. She grew up in church and was part of many ministries involving children and youth. Finally, she chose to go on The World Race through Adventures in Missions. Our courtship began!

Three years later, we were married in Meagan's small hometown of Kiowa, Colorado. From there, we started our amazing journey to Zambia. (I almost said, "into the unknown" because so many things at that point were unknown! But we had already had a few confirmations that our way was being clearly plotted out for us by our God.) We didn't have any monthly supporters at that point. We only had Meagan's savings account and many, *many* unknowns!

With bright hopes and unrealistic visions of seeing a quick movement of God sweeping sinners into saints in just a few years, we dreamed of orphans being raised up to be the spiritual and national leaders of tomorrow. We could see waves of young people coming from the West and having their lives radically altered by the power of God working through them for the least and the lost. We envisioned opportunities in other locations where we were partnering with other Africans to lead similar works. But in reality, the start was slow. Now, the words of the Psalmist came alive: *“It was not by their sword that they won the land, nor did their arm bring them victory; it was your right hand, your arm, and the light of your face, for you loved them. You are my King and my God, who decrees victories for Jacob”* (Psalm 44:3-4).



In 2019 God intervened in a mighty way! Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) America adopted us as their missionaries to Zambia through the work of our pastor John Smith from Majestic View Church in Kiowa, Colorado. Now God has fulfilled His Word. He has been so faithful. Never a word has dropped to the ground and disappointed us. Never a promise has gone unfulfilled. Though we waited many times, yet He has remained true and faithful.

Through the support of BMA Missions and some individual churches, our needs have been met and many of our heart’s desires have been provided.

Now we have two wells for drinking water and irrigation in our village of Mbangweta. We have a fully built church and no longer have to host church services out under a tree. The younger children are being blessed with God’s favor; they have a preschool in their village. We have Bible study groups spreading like wildfire through many other villages. And now, God has blessed Meagan and I with our own child, Ashlyn! God is doing amazing things!



# EXHAUSTING TRIP AND EXCITED NEW BELIEVERS

**T**his was my second trip to Mozambique to support the work of missionary Julia and worker Francisco Luis Antonio who is originally from the country.

My first job while staying at the Hotel Caballo Blanco in Maputo was to meet with Julia, Francisco, and on several occasions with six new believers sharing discipleship in preparation to be baptized that weekend at the beach.

Saturday arrived, and with great joy, I rode with missionary Julia in her small and old minibus to the meeting point on the beach of Costa del Sol under intense heat. When we arrived, a crowd was already singing praises and waiting for the baptism candidates. With great enthusiasm, I proceeded to baptize each one of them. The next day, very early, Julia picked me up in her minibus with several new believers from Maputo to go to the mission in Boquiso about 15 kilometers from the capital to carry out the church service.

The path to Boquiso is a dirt road in terrible condition, so the bus had to drive very slowly. When we arrived at the mission, the brothers were already waiting for us. The service began with songs, dances, and very happy traditional choirs. At the end, I preached with the help of Julia, who translated my sermon into Portuguese. After the service, we returned to Maputo to prepare for the next day's trip to Zambezia.

At 3:00 in the morning, the taxi came with Julia and Francisco to pick me up at the hotel to go to the bus terminal. Upon arriving, we paid for the tickets for the Gulamu region and started the trip in a bus overloaded with people, farm animals, and sacks of food.



I was very excited to start the trip, but after four hours had passed, the narrow bus aisle began to shrink even more. With the road being in such bad shape, the bus was constantly slowing down due to potholes. Soon night began to fall; and we had not yet reached our destination. The hours passed, and since it was midnight, the bus stopped at lodging to spend the night. This place only had one room available, and I paid for it so that Julia could rest. As there were no more rooms, Francisco and I stayed on the bus to try to sleep. Very early the next day we resumed our trip, and within an hour, we finally reached our destination. We had traveled 990 kilometers by bus from the capital. After getting off the bus, Francisco arranged for transport to take us to the community of Gúlamu.

When we arrived at Gúlamu, the truck that was transporting us stopped along the side of the road. I was surprised to see a crowd of people, including adults, children, and young people singing in Changana and clapping their hands. Francisco approached me and explained that it was the community's way of welcoming us.

After this special reception, I forgot how sleepy I was and how tired I felt. They immediately took us along a narrow dirt road and gave us a tour of the entire town. We saw small palm and mud houses without electricity or drinking water; these homes are called "casas de mato." One thing that impressed me was seeing girls between the ages of 12 and 14 with their bare feet and visibly worn clothes carrying their babies wrapped in blankets on their backs. Later they took us to a wooden house; it was a clean and well-organized place. This would be our place of lodging during our stay. Before noon, we had a chat with the men and community leaders. We were able to donate ten Portuguese Bibles but sadly, it was not enough for all the men who wanted a Bible.

After the talk, we walked with the entire community along a path towards the Gúlamu River, about a kilometer away, to baptize believers with expressions of joy, songs, and praises to God. By the end of the afternoon, I had had the great blessing of baptizing thirty-two people who publicly professed Jesus Christ as their Savior. It was the most exciting moment of my life, listening to the testimonies of conversion of each one of the candidates for baptism. The next day we started the trip back to the capital, and despite knowing how grueling the long journey would be, I felt delighted and satisfied with this missionary trip. I reflected on the spiritual hunger and need for God the entire community had, unlike our Western society. We have electricity, water, electronic media, and technology, but many lack spirituality and are indifferent towards God and the salvation He provides through Jesus Christ.



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