

# 2024 PROFILE & PRAYER GUIDE



**BMA GLOBAL**

# WE ARE BMA GLOBAL

President: Dr. John David Smith  
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2,000 years ago Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, arrived on earth to culminate the redemptive mission through his death, burial, and resurrection. This made it possible for all peoples of the world to know God by grace through faith in his finished work of salvation. He also came to give continuation to the Mission of God, and all those who know him by faith, now have the privilege and responsibility to participate in this unfinished mission to reach the nations.

For almost 75 years, BMA Global has had an undying commitment to fulfilling God's great Mission. BMA Global is a synergistic effort of the local churches of the BMA of America to send faithful missionaries around the world with the transforming message of the gospel. Hundreds of thousands of people have been reached, disciple makers have been prepared, leaders have been developed, and churches have been started.

BMA Global started with six North American church planters and two international missionaries. Today, the ministry of BMA Global has grown both in the United States and worldwide to include over 400 total missionaries and church planters. Currently, almost 450 new churches are being started, and we have over 2,000 churches worldwide. Today, BMA Global missionaries work in Africa, Europe, Asia, the South Pacific, and the Americas.

As we celebrate the past and look forward to the future, we remain committed to the great mission that God has given us: God's glory and love to the nations through gospel impact and the multiplication of disciples, leaders, and churches! BMA Global exists because we are SENT TO THE NATIONS!

## Prayer Requests:

- That God will raise up more laborers for the harvest and mobilize people to his mission
- That God will continue to bless in the maturity and multiplication of our missions efforts
- That God will send a missions revival among our churches

## Praises:

- The cumulative effect of the gospel and faithful ministry through the years have produced many fruitful mission fields
- God continues to protect our missionaries in difficult ministry contexts
- The churches of our association that are committed to the Mission of God



# Africa & South America

Regional Coordinator: Johnmichael Poulin  
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At first glance you may be asking yourself, "What in the world does South America and Africa have in common?" The truth is that they have a lot in common on so many levels. Most of the countries on both continents have emerging economies. Many of the countries on both continents are struggling with where they stand politically, choosing between socialism or capitalism. But the area that they probably have the most in common is religion. You may ask, "How is that so? Isn't South America predominantly Catholic?" The answer to that question is yes, South America is predominantly Catholic, but in name only. Spending just a short period of time in both continents will show you that they are animistic at heart. They both have witch doctors, try to appease the gods, and look for gods that they can control. This creates all types of obstacles to the gospel, but God is faithful, and the gospel is breaking through this animistic culture.



BMA Global has a rich history in both continents. South America was one of the first continents that the BMA went into. We began to do work in Africa shortly after the forming of our association as well. We have established churches and even established associations in many of these countries. These churches and associations are sending out missionaries within their own country and some have even begun to send missionaries out to other countries.

Currently the biggest problem that we have is in the area of pastoring, specifically the lack of pastors. We need to be crying out to the Lord of the Harvest that he will send more laborers into his field as Jesus has commanded us to do. Not only is there a lack of pastors, but there is a lack of pastoral training. Most of our Sunday school teachers here in the United States have more theological training than our pastors in these countries. We are working on this both in Africa and South America. We are looking for churches willing to make three-year commitments to take short-term trips to these countries and train the pastors in theology.



## Prayer requests:

- That God will call more laborers into his field
- That more churches will commit to help training these pastors
- That God will call American missionaries to these fields

## Praises:

- We already have some churches and individuals that have committed to training these pastors.
- The churches in these areas are sending out their own missionaries.
- God is faithful.

## Africa American Missionaries

Zambia	Joshua & Meagan Phiri
	Mickeal & Sharon Quillman

## Key ChangeMakers

Benin	Moses Adjekwei
Burkina Faso	Moses Adjekwei
Cameroon	Michel Poirer
Ivory Coast	Osai Alexander
	Antony Yaw
Ghana	Moses Adjekwei
Guinea	David Luo
Liberia	Abraham Cheyee
Mozambique	Francisco Luis Antonio
	Domingo Tsucana
Nigeria	Joseph Adewole Eniowo
Sierra Leone	John Flomo
Tanzania	Renatus Kanunu
Togo	Sewornu Yao Peter

## South America Key ChangeMakers

Argentina	Alberto Lopez
Bolivia	Salomon Lino
Chile	Pablo Muñoz
Colombia	Pedro Gomez
Ecuador	Marco Tamay
Panama	Gerson Orellana
Paraguay	Regino Acuña
Peru	Huber Aliaga
Uruguay	Adelqui Vega
Venezuela	Pedro Gomez

## Joshua and Meagan Phiri

Zambia

joshuameaganzambia@gmail.com

Our ministry is devoted to advancing God's kingdom through various means. We actively spread the gospel and lead people into a deeper relationship with Christ, while also establishing churches and fostering small group communities for spiritual growth and community engagement. A core value of ours is supporting families in distress, where we sponsor children in need, ensuring their education and well-being.



Engaging with Zambian villages on our mission requires embracing challenges and opportunities alike. Given the people's deep-rooted traditions, we methodically introduce Bible studies to foster understanding. Through respecting local customs and navigating a mixture of Christianity, our ministry establishes a foundation of trust. Amidst prevailing poverty, we recognize potential in initiatives focused on community development, healthcare, and education. These endeavors demand cultural sensitivity, unwavering dedication, and a comprehensive strategy to create a substantial influence and effectively deliver Christ's message.

### Prayer Requests:

- Bible Study Impact: Pray that our methodical introduction of Bible studies bears fruit in fostering understanding and openness to God's word among the villagers.
- God's Guidance: Seek God's guidance in every step of our mission, that his wisdom and guidance may direct our actions, decisions, and interactions with the people.
- Local Leaders: Lift up local leaders and influencers in the villages, that they may embrace the mission and work alongside us to create a lasting impact in their communities.

### Praises:

- We give thanks for the trust we've been able to establish within the villages.
- We praise the Lord for leading us to engage with villages in the southern province of Zambia. Despite the profound traditions of the people, we are grateful for the patience to introduce Bible studies carefully, fostering a deeper understanding of faith.
- With boundless joy, we rejoice in the profound impact that the establishment of the churches will bring to Samson and Delevu villages.

## Mickeal and Sharon Quillman

Zambia

pastorquill@gmail.com

Sharon and I moved to Zambia in August of 2022 with a passion to reach the people of Zambia with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are now serving in the Sekute (seh-koo-tay) chiefdom in the southern province of Zambia. This chiefdom is made up of Lozi, Tonga, and Tokaleya people groups. In November, we planted a church, Chabantu Missionary Baptist Church, and are in the process of training three local men as pastors. Chabantu is a Tonga word meaning "for all of the people," which implies that everyone is welcome to attend, regardless of their tribe or village. During the week, we spend our time conducting Bible studies, learning local languages and culture, and meeting with local headmen about bringing the good news into previously unreached villages. The three local men being trained as pastors are partnering with us to teach Bible studies in other villages throughout the week. Sharon has begun teaching the local women within the surrounding villages as well. These ladies are so excited to have the opportunity to learn.



The area we are working in consists primarily of the Tonga, Tokaleya, and Lozi tribes, each of which speak their own languages. Villages are made up of family groups governed by a headman who answers to a senior headman that oversees 25 village headmen. The senior headman reports to the tribal chief. Many of these villages use traditional medicine, which is overseen by witchdoctors. White skin is seen as having a lot of money and being willing to just give it away.

### Prayer Requests:

- New church plant, Chabantu Missionary Baptist Church and the three men we are training as pastors: Lackson, Danny, and, Felix
- Guidance of the Holy Spirit as we navigate the cultural differences, as well as wisdom, protection, and guidance as we combat animism, spiritualism, and witchcraft
- Funds to complete the church building and our support fund

### Praises:

- Permanent work permits have been issued.
- Chabantu Missionary Baptist Church is growing. It is made up of several villages including Chibinga, Kawewa, Kainyandela, Luvinda, Dube, Mulingula, Simondo, Makunka, and Simanyungu.
- Many men and women we meet with have a hunger to learn.
- We received permission from the tribal council to enter any village in the Sekute chiefdom and conduct Bible studies and plant churches.

# Asia Pacific

Regional Coordinator: Stan Scroggins  
stanmusical@icloud.com

BMA Global has had a presence in Asia Pacific since the early 1960s when the first BMAA missionaries arrived in Taiwan and the Philippines. Now, after close to seventy years, BMA Global Asia Pacific has a presence in Cambodia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam and two creative access countries, with BMA of the Philippines poised to become the missionary sending agency for all of Asia. Political and religious obstacles hinder American missionaries in most of the region. As a result, BMA Global is endeavoring to partner with the BMA of the Philippines to train and help facilitate sending Filipinos as “tentmaker” missionaries across Asia. Filipinos are uniquely gifted by God to easily learn other languages, assimilate into other cultures and, of course, they are Asian.



BMAA missionaries established the Baptist Missionary Association Bible College of the Philippines in 1972. This college, along with partnerships with Lifeword Philippines and BMA of the Philippines, is equipped to flood God’s missionary message to the continent containing the most unreached people groups in the world – Asia. Lifeword’s social media platforms are opening opportunities to plant the Gospel which cannot be ignored because EVERYONE has a mobile phone and God desires that EVERYONE hear about his love for them.

What can you do? Your most important duty is to pray. Pray for Cris and Alicia Samson, Danny and Rita Ballard, and Doug and Diane Lee, our BMA Global missionaries in the Philippines. Pray for our two creative access missionary families in Asia. Pray for B.J. and Jill Sanders and Jeremy and Mandy Hambrice serving in Papua New Guinea. Finally, pray for God to open your own heart to the calls of over one billion Asians who are blinded by political and religious schisms opposing his Gospel message. You can GIVE. You and GO. Let BMA Global help you fulfill God’s plan for you in His mission. You CAN do it!



## Prayer Requests:

- BMA churches in Taiwan
- ChangeMaker missionaries to Asia
- Scholarships for BMA Bible College church planters

## Praises:

- Increased enrollment at the Darlene Carey Christian Academy
- All Asia Pacific Missionaries safely returned to their fields from furloughs
- BMMI visit to Leyte, Philippines

## American Missionaries

China*	The Johnsons
CAN*	Unnamed
Papua New Guinea	B.J. & Jill Sanders Jeremy & Mandy Hambrice
Philippines	Doug & Diane Lee Danny & Rita Ballard Cris & Alicia Samson

(\*Creative Access Nation)

## Key ChangeMakers

Cambodia	Joseph Soum Somat Hang
Hong Kong	JoJo Vallejera
Philippines	Vincent Ferrer Pete Etabag- Lifeword Asia-Pacific
Taiwan	Bruce Bateman

## The Johnsons

China

501-205-2943 (text)

We serve in the heart of China's capitol, a city of over 20,000,000 souls hailing from almost every country in the world. Our time is spent training leaders to effectively teach the Bible (2 Timothy 2:2) and discipling new believers to be fully equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:17). We have the privilege of ministering to both internationals (many from other creative access nations) and locals in hopes that individuals would be so transformed by Christ they carry the good news with them back to their home countries and cities.



If you ask the average Chinese person, “你相信什么” (what do you believe in), most will reply with the indoctrinated phrase, “I believe in myself.” 罪 (the Chinese word for sin) is often understood to mean criminal; therefore, seeing how they have never been to prison, they wrongly assume they have no need for a Savior. A low view of God creates a low view of sin which creates a high view of self. I would classify the average belief system not as atheism but as MEtheism (I am god). Great patience is needed to help people see the beauty of God and the wretched state of self.

### Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the church in China to be brave and bold amid increased persecution. Remember, in John 17:15, Jesus did NOT pray to remove hardship from his disciples, but rather that they have divine protection to remain faithful.
- With borders finally reopening, China will see an influx of new expats, many of whom have never heard the gospel. Pray that these individuals will hear and receive the gospel, be discipled, and carry an evangelistic passion with them when they leave China.
- Pray for our church planting efforts both in and out of the country: Boulder, Colorado; Tokyo, Japan; Durbin, South Africa.

### Praises:

- We finally have a new space that can hold three times what we were previously able to hold for our services. Before this, people were literally lined up in the hallway each week.
- We have seen large numbers of baptisms with powerful testimonies of how Jesus has radically transformed lives.
- Our people are faithfully sharing the Good News of Jesus with their friends, families, and co-workers. We have had over 600 recorded gospel conversations in the city this year (2023).

## Jeremy and Mandy Hambrice

Papua New Guinea

jeremy\_hambrice@ntm.org

Along with our church planting team (BJ and Jill Sanders and Jack and Lael Crabtree), we minister among the Wantakia people of Papua New Guinea. Since 2015, by the grace of God, we have learned the Wantakia people's unwritten language, created an alphabet for it, taught many people to read it, and translated many Bible portions into it. We taught the gospel to people in our home village of Pinji for the first time in 2019, and the church was born. As we continue to translate the Scriptures and disciple new believers, our sights are on other Wantakia villages that haven't heard the gospel.



PNG is an island about the size of Texas with more than 800 different and distinct tribal languages. The Wantakia people group live roughly 7,000 feet up in the mountains in the Central Highlands Province in PNG, and there is no road access, so we enter on foot or by helicopter. Spread among ten villages along the Wogamo river, the population of the Wantakians is about 7,000.

### Prayer Requests:

- The new church in Pinji village to continue growing in their faith in Jesus, their love for God and others, and their hope for eternity
- For the literacy of Bible teachers in training
- The Wantakia villages that have yet to hear the gospel
- The missionary team that continues to serve

## BJ and Jill Sanders

Papua New Guinea

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As church planters in the mountains of Papua New Guinea, we have developed an alphabet for the Wantakia people, taught them how to read, and are translating the Bible into their language. As we translate, we have the pleasure of teaching the Wantakians.

There are 800 different languages in Papua New Guinea. Wantakia is one of those, situated in the mountains at 8,000 feet. Among the Wantakia people, there are nine villages. As the church grows and gets excited about spreading the Gospel, they are excited to reach the other eight villages.



### Prayer Requests:

- Maturity in the church and more leaders
- Favor in our literacy class
- Bible and literacy teachers, along with their families
- BJ as he translates 1 Corinthians
- Contentment for our family and endurance and strength to live isolated and do the work God has called our family to
- New believers and wisdom/interest for reaching the other villages

### Praises:

- The gospel continues to spread! We had 20 new believers have clear testimonies and were baptized Easter 2023.
- We are a full team again after teammates returned from a year-long furlough. There is strength in numbers!

## Danny and Rita Ballard

Philippines

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Our ministry is church planting and discipleship. We partner with a local pastor, Vincent Ferrer, and currently have five missions. We have different Bible studies with individuals and groups with the purpose of discipleship. Other ministries are cancer support ministry, children's ministry, VSM Philippines team (a team that conducts local mission trips here in the Philippines), and relief ministry (a ministry that helps meet the physical needs of individuals as well as the spiritual needs).

The mission field in the Philippines is vast. There are so many people that live in the Philippines, and it is one of the most populated countries per square kilometer. The majority of the people are Catholic with a works-based mentality of salvation. They are very family oriented, which is a plus and a minus. Many won't leave the Catholic religion because of the family and fear being outcast by the family. Another religion that is prominent in the Philippines is the Iglesia ni Cristo, which is basically a cult. They do not believe that Jesus was the Son of God but only a prophet. They have such a large following because they are able to give out food, money, jobs, and more to the people. Overall, the people of the Philippines are very kind and friendly and have a great heart.



### Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the provision of pastors and workers for the five missions in Luzon and for our partner in ministry, Pastor Vincent Ferrer.
- Pray for God's wisdom and grace to be given for the ministry here in the Philippines, as well as God's provision with finances.
- Pray for our health and the health of our family in the States.

### Praises:

- For the Lord's protection on the field
- For each soul that has been saved, baptized and now being discipled
- For each person that God has placed in our path and their part in the ministry
- For each person that lifts us up in prayer to the Lord and for those who partner with us financially in the ministry
- For the Lord giving us the opportunity to serve Him here in the Philippines

## Doug and Dianne Lee

Philippines

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Doug is director/president of the BMA Bible College in the Philippines. The college is the epicenter of BMAP for training pastors, teachers, and workers to GO and carry out the Great Commission in the Philippines and throughout Asia. We currently have an enrollment of 70 students, and we both are professors and are also involved in Bible studies and church planting in four areas. Doug is also a volunteer chaplain who ministers to the Philippines Coast Guard.

The Philippines rank last in education because of public school deficiencies. Filipinos are either extremely poor or extremely rich and have just recently developed a middle class. The main religion is Roman Catholic, and they will call themselves Catholic even if they never attend the Catholic church. However, they are receptive to someone witnessing to them regarding the gospel of salvation.



### Prayer Requests:

- Continued personal support for us and funds for the BMA Bible College
- Funds to complete the remodeling of staff and faculty housing (four apartments) and remodeling of the kitchen and dining area
- Darlene Carey Christian Academy- As of the 2023-2024 school year, we have 81 students enrolled.

### Praises:

- Our continued health and safety
- Four-year accreditation of the Bible College
- Faithful supporters who have consistently contributed to our Philippines ministry

## Cris and Alicia Samson

Philippines

alicia.ramshur@gmail.com

We are serving as church planters. This includes planting churches and mentoring younger pastors and church workers through the process of church planting.

The predominant religion in the Philippines is Catholicism. This poses a great challenge due to the fact that families are deeply rooted in years of traditional Catholic rituals and beliefs. Breaking down the barriers of these traditions can often be a lengthy process. Secondly, each island has its own language and culture. These are factors we must consider when working with different populations of people despite being in one country.



### Prayer Requests:

- Salvation of those who hear the Gospel through our church planting efforts
- More ministry opportunities for sharing the Gospel in the city of San Carlos
- Pastor Sander and Pastor Romeo, who are two pastors being trained and mentored in church planting

### Praises:

- We thank the Lord for the dedication and commitment of Pastor Sander and Pastor Romeo.
- We praise the Lord for the three children's Bible studies, one youth Bible study, and one adult Bible study in different areas of San Carlos City.
- We thank the Lord for ministry partners who continually support and pray, making this ministry possible.



# Central America and Caribbean

Interim Regional Coordinator: Eliezer Brito-Semedo  
eli@bmaglobal.org

The churches and missions of Central America and the Caribbean face unique challenges as they labor to be effective in their evangelistic efforts, church planting, and discipleship of new believers. The region is known for its extreme weather, repressive governments, and poverty level. BMAA has had a missions presence in this area for an entire generation, but in almost every country American missionaries have handed off leadership responsibilities to national pastors and leaders. As a result, each country has developed its own personalized method to conduct missions efforts in partnership with our association of churches in the United States.



The role of BMA Global has rapidly evolved over the last several years in this region. In the absence of American missionaries, national leaders have accepted the challenge to take ownership of their own missionary vision for their countries. As that vision is clarified, BMA Global has stepped in to encourage and facilitate the realization of each country's particular vision. We have participated in joint efforts to fund missionaries from their countries that are sent out both locally and internationally. Medical teams have made visits to several areas to address health needs of the least fortunate and raise the profile of our local churches. Periodically, training sessions and Bible classes are conducted throughout the region. Through Lifeword the gospel is being preached in difficult-to-reach areas.

American missionaries are no longer "in charge" in Central America and the Caribbean, but as an association of churches we are providing resources to the men who are "leading the charge" in their respective countries. Many serve in areas where they walk a virtual tightrope to avoid being targeted by the government or violent gangs. All work with extremely limited budgets. They all have asked for our prayers. We should honor that request.



## Prayer Requests:

- For each ChangeMaker, pastor, and leader in Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Pray that God will stir their hearts to keep sharing His story and shining His glory.
- For a renewed interest in evangelism, discipleship and leadership development in this region.
- For unity and cooperation among the country coordinators and strengthening partnerships between BMA Global and the national associations in each of these countries.

## Praises:

- For numerous church planting efforts and plans already underway in various countries
- For missions endeavors in Mozambique (Southeast Africa) and Turkey (Southwestern Asia) initiated by Costa Ricans. May God continue to challenge the leaders in this region to join the mission of God.
- For Bible training and equipping initiatives that will help prepare the next generation of leaders

## American Missionaries

Haiti Mike Poirer (Canada)

## Key ChangeMakers

Belize	Cesar Lacayo
Costa Rica	Jairo Bonilla Peña
Dominican Republic	Ramón Paulino
El Salvador	Rigoberto Jiménez Cruz
Guatemala	David Marroquín
Honduras	Denís López Aguilar
Nicaragua	Oscar Gaitán

# Europe

Regional Coordinator: Larry Wood  
larry@thepathway.church

We currently have five countries that comprise our European region. Those countries are Czech Republic, France, Portugal, Romania, and Ukraine. We are also in the process of beginning work in Poland.

Even though these countries are part of Europe, they each have distinctly different cultures, languages, and religious and political backgrounds. Czech Republic, Romania, Ukraine, and Poland have similar cultures and backgrounds due to the fact they are former Soviet Union countries. Their history is steeped in communist, atheistic culture mixed with strong Orthodox or Catholic religious culture. This unique background can make work in these countries slow and difficult. It takes time to build relationships and gain trust in order to share the gospel.

France and Portugal are Western European countries that don't have the oppressive history or background of their Central and Eastern European neighbors, but they have their own difficulties stemming from years of the decline of Christianity and the rise of a secular society. In both instances, we basically are dealing with people who give no thought to God or spiritual things.

The work in Portugal, Romania, Ukraine, and Czech Republic is decades old with Romania and Ukraine having both American missionaries on the field as well as native missionaries for several years. The work is thriving in these countries and many people are responding positively to the gospel. Portugal has a large network of native pastors and churches that are growing and having a positive impact on their culture. France has been a difficult location for us. Our current missionary, Sean Pasley, and his family are making great inroads into French culture and are an active part of a community and church. Their commitment is long term and they are taking the time to learn the language and culture, and they are taking the appropriate steps in order to make a lasting impact with the gospel.



## Prayer Requests:

- Each country in our European region
- The American missionaries serving in Romania and France
- Our national and Changemaker missionaries in Portugal, Romania, Ukraine, and Czech Republic

## Praises:

- The success of the churches in Romania, Ukraine, Czech Republic, and Portugal, in reaching their countries for Christ
- The commitment of these churches to sharing the gospel and starting new churches
- The work in France and the great strides already made in building relationships and ministry

## American Missionaries

France	Sean & Kendall Pasley
Romania	Cristian & Vanessa Martinez Sara Filimon Candra Barnett Bryan & Pam Risner

## Key ChangeMakers

Czech Republic	Milan Bulak
Romania	Bogdan Bilav Dani Bagosi
Ukraine	Sasha Grebenyuk
Portugal	Marco Gaspar

## Sean and Kendall Pasley

France

pasleyjs@gmail.com

Evangelism and church planting is our purpose, and while France has many beautiful churches, there are few that actually belong to the Lord's Church. The French have an aversion to anything religious, so evangelism and discipleship means sharing the gospel to those with whom we have formed relationships. Our prayer is that those who hear the truth of the gospel will be saved and disciplined, then be willing to be part of starting new churches.

Traditionally a Roman Catholic country, the vast majority of French people have no religion. With the largest population of Muslims in the West (mostly the French-speaking part of Africa and the Middle East), France's leaders are against religion of any kind due to the recent terrorist attacks by Muslims. Laws and regulations restrict freedom of religious expression and speech in public if it is deemed a threat. The French are very family oriented but also very private. Some don't even know their next door neighbors. Greetings and eye contact are rare.



### Prayer Requests:

- Our neighbors' salvation and a new neighborhood where we would be gospel witnesses and helpful community members
- That we may see the fruit of our evangelism
- Health of the very few French churches
- Kendall as she is teaching English lessons, and for the salvation of those she teaches
- Sean as he began preaching in French last year

### Praises:

- Opportunities to share the gospel clearly and God's providence of words to say despite our language limitations
- The boys' schooling going well, and their mastery of the language

## Candra Barnett

Romania

candrainromania@gmail.com

I serve alongside the Risner and Bagosi families in Oradea where we recently planted Agape Church. We have over 60 people attending already, and I am responsible for the children's ministry of over 20 kids and 10 volunteers. We are excited to reach the city of Oradea with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This Eastern European country's main religion is Romanian Orthodox, but many young people are turning away from all religious groups.



### Prayer Requests:

- Growth of the new church plant
- Visitors of Agape church to become committed members
- Several nonbelievers who are coming regularly to Agape

### Praises:

- Our third church plant in Romania
- Numbers growing weekly
- Deep relationships and friendships being built here

## Sara Filimon

Romania

sarainromania@gmail.com

As part of a church planting team, we started house church services. I also help teach university students a course called "Relational wisdom." I help with a ministry in the Roma community teaching them to read and write, and once a month I do street evangelism together with my church. I also lead the church's women's group and try to build relationships with people while working part time at a coffee shop.

As we started the street evangelism ministry, we discovered that people are very open to talk, but many young people seem very confused about their beliefs. Recently, I discovered that there is a big gap between the old generation that are Orthodox Christians (mostly just by name) and the new generation that believes in reincarnation. The population of the city that I serve has grown a lot in the last years and now we have more internationals that we can reach.



### Prayer Requests:

- That God will give us wisdom, courage, and tact in replying to different questions that people ask, and at the same time that God will allow us to have plenty of follow ups with the people that we talk to
- That our church will be a light in the city of Brasov and that they will know us by our love for Christ and for all people

### Praises:

- The willingness that the people have shown in talking about spiritual matters

## Bryan and Pam Risner

Romania

bryanwrisner@gmail.com

Our family made a move in January 2023 to the Oradea area, specifically to the village of Santandrei. We have joined with the Bagosi and Toma families in the planting of a new church, Biserica Agape.

Our church meets weekly in our new location for Sunday services. In addition, we have weekly discipleship courses and weekly new believers' classes. We also have twice-a-month youth meetings, weekly alternating Bible studies for our ladies and men, and monthly Bible studies with special emphasis depending on the needs of our church family. God is moving in the hearts of our friends. We are excited to see God's plans unfold before us.



### Prayer Requests:

- Gospel conversation seeds from this past year to bring individuals to Christ & Biserica Agape
- Growth of Biserica Agape and complete commitment of our visitors
- Biserica Agape to be financially independent in one year
- Peace for Ukraine and safety for our friends in Ukraine
- Generous and faithful givers to support us and our work in Romania

### Praises:

- Fruitful summer 2023: three teams, two interns, one church camp with 13 salvations, and then moved our kids to college at CBC
- Commercial building for Agape Church
- Faithful supporting churches and individuals

# Mexico

Regional Coordinator: Eric Johnson  
eric@bmaglobal.org

The first BMA church in the country of Mexico was organized in 1956. In those humble beginnings, no one could have imagined the plan that God had in store for the BMA in Mexico. Since then, God has used his churches of the BMA to grow his work in Mexico. For sixty-six years, new churches have been started, an association formed and organized, and missionaries called and sent to new fields. The seed that was planted in the 1950s continues to bear fruit. Today there are more than 100 congregations working together in the BMA of Mexico.

In the last few years, there has been a growing burden in the BMA of Mexico to train more young men to start new churches that make disciples. God's work is continuing to grow his work. A very exciting recent development in this area is that the churches of Mexico are working to reinstate the national BMA Bible Institute, and the churches there have elected Brother Josue Osorio to coordinate this effort.



It is amazing to see how over the years God's plans come together in our associated work:

- God has called missionaries from our churches.
- They have been sent by our churches to the nations.
- God led those missionaries to men who would be discipled.
- Working with those men, churches were started in Mexico.
- Those churches associated and are now taking the Gospel farther than ever before.

## American Missionaries

Tommy & Sara Rose  
Grady & Denise Johnson

## Key ChangeMaker

Josue Osorio



# Tommy and Sara Rose

Mexico

[bmamexico@gmail.com](mailto:bmamexico@gmail.com)

We are planting a church in Queretaro, and God is transforming the hearts of people with the gospel.

Queretaro is a large, safe city of two million and continues to grow. A modern city that attracts people because of its educational and career opportunities, the majority of the population is Roman Catholic.



## Prayer Requests:

- Church plant in El Arco
- Churches and missions throughout Mexico.
- Leaders in our church.

## Praises:

- The support of BMA America and her churches
- The many who have come to know eternal life through the church plant



# Middle East

Regional Coordinator: Charlie Costa  
chuckcosta58@gmail.com

The fact that a large majority of the Middle East is Muslim dictates how we approach ministry. We cannot attack the ministry of Islam because that will create barriers with people. Usually the most successful language is the language of demonstrating love and care—in other words, demonstrating Christ. This is a language that is not prevalent in Islam and it's a language that touches people where they hurt. Coupled with this is that this language has an intrinsic aspect of risk because we can be taken advantage of. People will attend church, even make a profession of faith, all for the sake of getting some kind of favor or help in return. Many times we are aware of that, but we continue with the hope that in time the Holy Spirit will touch their hearts and cause them to genuinely commit their lives to Christ. It's very important for us serving in the Middle East to realize that our job is to plant the seed and water the seed, but growth and fruit is the work of the Holy Spirit of God.



In the Middle East we need to employ a variety of approaches. There's no "one size fits all" approach, so our strategy is to reach out to all segments of society, all age groups, and all religious backgrounds. This outreach is usually done creatively so as to attract people to listen to the gospel, while at the same time allowing them to interact with and eventually respond to the message. What we do is a drop in the bucket, but God's call for us in the Middle East has been very clear from the onset that we will win these people to Christ one by one.

Baptist work in the Middle East started in the very late 1800s when a Lebanese man who was saved in a Baptist church in Chicago went back to Lebanon, shared the gospel, and planted the first baptist church in Beirut. In the early 1900s Baptist work progressed to Palestine, especially in the area of Nazareth, and on to northern Jordan. In the Middle East today, there are about 100 Baptist churches, as well as baptist schools and clinics and other supporting



ministries that funnel people into the local churches. Since 1993, the BMA has been blessed with planting 36 churches. Currently, we have 10 new churches that are being planted throughout the Middle East.

In a volatile area such as the Middle East, it has been our strategy to stay in the thick and thin of circumstances. We accept war and conflict as one of the realities of the region, and as bad as war and conflict is, we also consider it one of the great opportunities to spread the gospel to people in times of trouble.

## Prayer Requests:

- Perseverance
- Provision
- Protection

## Praises:

- For safety
- For souls saved and baptized
- For increased opportunities for ministry

## American Missionaries

Jordan	Sam & Suzan Jordan Elie & Rana Costa El Hage
Lebanon	Charlie & Mona Costa Joe & Mira Costa

## Key ChangeMakers

Egypt	Atef Labib Yousef Gentleman Nabil
Jordan	Yazan Melkonian
Lebanon	Yousef Hilal
South Sudan	Lewi Mursale
Syria	Maher Semaan

## Elie and Rana Costa El-Hage

Jordan

rana.costa@gmail.com

Rana is a physician currently serving in health and social development at Amman Baptist School. This allows her to be in touch with and serve among children of all ages, staff and faculty.

Jordan has a small minority of Christians and is culturally conservative. The church is a close-knit community, but many carry baggage due to previous church conflicts. At the Baptist school, spiritual ministry is a priority and much is done to provide all who are part of it with good Biblical teaching as well as one-on-one spiritual care when needed.



### Prayer Requests:

- Wisdom as we seek the Lord's will in the decision about whether or not to return to Beirut
- Clarity to recognize ministry opportunities in Amman and courage to accept them
- Creativity in using resources and coming up with events that would trigger a desire among students and staff to know more about the Lord

### Praises:

- A supportive church in Amman as well as uplifting friendships
- A sense of stability and security as a family, especially for the kids' sake
- Well-established relationships with students and staff at the Baptist school that provide a good foundation for sharing the Gospel

## Sam and Suzan Jordan

Jordan

bmajordan@gmail.com

Our ministry focuses on training and equipping new leaders, planting churches, and encouraging and supporting pastors. We have established a community center which includes a medical clinic that serves 30,000 people a year, a women and widow's center, a non-formal education program for displaced kids, and a food distribution center for refugees.

Jordan is a country where millions of refugees from all over the Middle East come. It offers many opportunities through its hospitable people and overall safe environment, but it also has many challenges, such as war.



### Prayer Requests:

- People who have accepted the Lord, for protection and to grow in the Lord
- Life-Changing Ministry, that God will provide and help the ministry keep going
- Theology training program to recruit more students
- Food distribution program and relief ministry for the refugees

### Praises:

- The people who made a decision to follow Jesus and be baptized
- The growing ministry that includes the community center and the church plants
- Blessings from God, who is faithful to provide for our needs

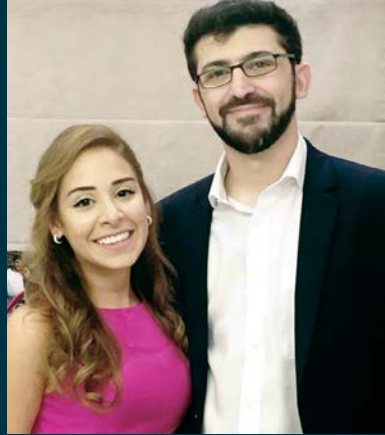


## Joe and Mira Costa

Lebanon

joe.costa88@gmail.com

We focus on reaching young people who are mainly unchurched and meet them where they are. We challenge them to think about their relationships with God and others by focusing on three areas: 1) social media in partnership with Lifeword where we create Arabic content that young people can watch and engage with, 2) Bible studies and discipleship groups in different contexts so young men and women can grapple with tough questions and grow in their faith in God, and 3) training new pastors and young leaders to build sustainable youth ministries and reach young people creatively and practically. Our vision is simple: Reach. Engage. Integrate. Reaching young people with the message of the gospel, engaging with them through one-on-ones and discipleship, and integrating these young men and women to the local church while training its young leaders and supporting them.



The mission field is beautiful and intense, hard yet rewarding. Lebanon is a weird country to be honest, in that it is in the middle of the worst economic crisis since the 19th century, yet restaurants are full and people want to live and enjoy life. It is diverse and rich in culture with twenty percent of the population claiming Christianity (evangelicals are around 1% of the population) and the majority is Muslim. We are not persecuted for our faith, yet there are places that are hard to minister in. People are well educated and very ambitious—that's why we can see high numbers of immigration, especially of young people. The crisis is a curse and a blessing. People are depressed, feel unsafe, and constantly want to get out. That is sometimes frustrating for us, especially because we sometimes feel all those things as well. Yet the crisis is a blessing because people are asking questions. Whether it's them seeking to know God more or them ridiculing God and being sarcastic, both groups are asking questions and are open to having conversations. And we just love that people want to talk and are thirsty to give and take, especially when it's about God, good and evil, and topics of hope and despair.

### Prayer Requests:

- Pray for protection, as things are tense right now in Lebanon. Pray that God may give wisdom to our leaders to make right and Christ-like decisions.
- Pray for young people, as they are lost and feel hopeless in a country that is corrupt and helpless.
- Pray for the Lebanese who are suffering, that God can prepare their hearts to see him in the midst of it.
- Pray for us as we continue ministry and work with young people. Pray that God gives us guidance and strength in the midst of hardships.

### Praises:

- Open doors to talk to many youth who want to know more about God through social media and answering their questions.
- The opportunity to train young leaders in Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt, and support them as they minister in difficult cities and show young people the gospel.
- Our staff in Lebanon. The Lord has provided us with great people that are skilled, that love him deeply, and are passionate in spreading the gospel.



# Southeast Asia

Regional Coordinator: John Meriweather  
john@bmaamerica.org

Carrying out God's mission is much like farming. You prepare the soil, plow the field, plant the seed, and cultivate the ground with prayers for reaping a harvest. Now imagine the field you were given to farm was a rock quarry. Preparing and plowing is tedious, long, hard work. You plant seeds only to realize the ground isn't ready. Will you ever reap a harvest? For our missionary teams in the countries of Southeast Asia this is their reality.

In Southeast Asia firmly-steeped religions like Buddhism, Hinduism, and a growing Muslim influence are dominant. In some cases there is overt anti-Christian opposition. In all cases there are cultural and religious hurdles unlike anything we experience in the United States. It can take years preparing and plowing before you see the sprouts of those first seeds.

However, through your partnership and perseverance, and with God's power, praise the Lord that we are seeing the harvest!

In India and Myanmar, second-generation leaders persist in the face of overt government oppression. We have almost 100 house churches led by national ChangeMakers in these countries, continuing the work first started by faithful leaders in the 1970s. In other countries, American missionaries are laying the foundation of church planting. The church in Bangkok, Thailand, has grown and matured to the point that leaders are being developed and sent, and we expect a new church plant for 2024 in a rural village several hours from the city. In the Himalayas a new missionary family has begun the journey toward planting our first church in that country.

Each country has unique and very real challenges to the gospel. We are thankful for these leaders whose lives are dedicated to plowing the hard ground. How long would I be willing to plow? For our missionary teams across Southeast Asia that answer has been given: As long as it takes!



## Prayer Requests:

- Pray for God's hand of protection and provision for our churches and for the spread of the gospel in the growing face of government oppression.
- Pray for God to raise leaders and doors of opportunity in new countries across SE Asia.
- Pray for the sustainability of current church plants and for future church plants in SE Asia.

## Praises:

- Praise the Lord for the men that have been and are involved in discipleship and leadership development in each of our countries. These men will be critical to our church planting movement in SE Asia.
- Praise the Lord that pandemic restrictions have been lowered, making travel within and across SE Asia easier for our leaders and church planters.
- Praise the Lord for our country leaders, each of whom have a passion and vision to spread the gospel in spite of the obstacles.

## American Missionaries

India*	P. Prakash
Himalayas*	Jacob & Miriam
Thailand	Siripong & Jessie Yaebeang Brandon & Brittney Lingle

## Key ChangeMakers

India*	Jeremiah S.
Myanmar*	Rama B.

(\*Creative Access Nation)

## Jacob and Miriam Himalayas

We make connections and share the good news of the gospel in our city. In our local church, we serve by teaching youth and discipling believers. Our goal is to provide more teaching and training for local leaders and pastors and eventually plant a church.

Although there are quite a few Christians in this Hindu nation, there are also many Buddhists and Muslims. There are not many healthy churches that preach the truth, and there is a lack of good theological education. Another hindrance is the caste system, and every part of their lives is ruled by their cultural identity as Hindus.



### Prayer Requests:

- Open doors and strong connections to share the good news
- The ability to serve long term even though it is a closed country

### Praises:

- Being able to see evidence of God's work in the lives of those we are trying to reach
- Our partnership with a local Christian community

## P and G Prakash India Creative Access Nation

The Prakash family has been serving in India through the BMA for the last 50 years. Our passion in serving people with the Gospel, training church leaders, and offering education and community development has helped us connect with many local communities in the country. The BMA workers in India are actively involved in reaching out to remote villages, focusing on building strong relationships with the locals. Through a compassionate and empathetic approach, we have gained the trust of many and built successful ministries in education, church planting, and leadership training. Church planting and training of young men and women has been of utmost importance through the years. More than 50 churches have been planted, and with trained men and women, more is being done to reach remote parts of the country.



We play a pivotal role in training local leaders and teachers to work with communities, establishing and running schools with over 1500 children. This has been instrumental in bringing a positive change in the community. These schools not only provide education to the underprivileged, but the best education is also given, and the schools serve as a hub for the community, offering additional resources with health care, adult literacy, and most importantly, with God's word and his love. Another project under our care is the Hope House, which helps girls that come from deprived backgrounds. These girls are sheltered and educated to be strong and independent women of tomorrow. They are brought into a Christ-centered environment and grounded in God's word to be leaders. This has been a humble experience through the years to invest in and see them shine.

### Prayer Requests:

- Wisdom, strength and good health for the family
- New opportunities to share God's word
- All that labor in the ministry

### Praises:

- God's continued protection through the years
- Wisdom and courage to share the Gospel, and the souls that have been won for the kingdom work
- The solid team of workers that co-partner within the country

## Brandon and Brittney Lingle

Thailand

ericbrandonlingle@gmail.com

In addition to our main work of planting and helping North Bangkok Church grow, the we have also published Christian books and Bible teachings online. We use different platforms to share the gospel with Thai people and help believers grow in their faith. Our focus is planting healthy biblical churches for Thai people, all for God's glory and their joy.

Thailand is an open country that is not hostile to Christians, but Thai view Christianity as the foreigner's religion, so they stay away from it. Thailand is one percent Christian, four percent Muslim, and 90 percent Buddhist, making it difficult for Christians to find churches. Many districts are without a single church and few would qualify as true churches.



### Prayer Requests:

- North Bangkok Church to grow and be an encouragement and example to other Thai churches
- For pastor conferences that North Bangkok Church hosts and for the future pastors and church planters we train
- For wisdom and guidance as we discern where and when to start a new church in Thailand

### Praises:

- Thai people who are falling in love with Christ and giving their lives to him. Thank you Lord!
- Peace and comfort through trials. It's amazing how God uses suffering and sorrow to do a work in his people.
- We praise God for you and others that support and pray for us. God is good.

## Siripong and Jessie Yaebeang

Thailand

thailand.forHisglory@hotmail.com

Our ministry focus is proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to Thai people, leading North Bangkok Church, planting churches in different parts of Thailand, providing biblical resources to Thai churches and Christians, and training current and future pastors and preachers.

Most Thai are Buddhist, and there are not many Christians or solid churches. Along with many other things, Buddhists believe in karma, reincarnation, and works or morals-based salvation. They tend to think of Christianity as a Westerner's religion. Their churches and Christianity is influenced by the Pentecostal and Charismatic movement from the West. The word of God is not being preached/taught faithfully so there is a great famine (of the Word) in the land.



### Prayer Requests:

- The searching, raising and appointing leaders at our church (i.e. deacons and lay elders)
- The preaching seminar(s) that Siripong will be hosting to help Thai pastors/preachers
- The plan to plant a second church in Thailand
- The book(s) that Siripong will continue to write and weekly preparation and preaching of God's word
- Our daily walk with God, marriage, parenting, and homeschooling

### Praises:

- The number of men in our church that God has increased and their interests in learning and serving at church.
- Siripong finished his doctoral studies from the Master's Seminary.
- Our supporters who make it possible for us to be on the mission field and that we reconnected with many of them during last summer's furlough.

# Portuguese-speaking Countries

Regional Coordinator: Eliezer Brito-Semedo  
eli@bmaglobal.org

While most countries are grouped based on their geographical proximity, the BMA Global leadership felt it was important to create a special region based on their linguistic affinity. Thus, the Lusophone or the Portuguese-speaking region was formed.

Portuguese, a Romance language spoken in the Iberian Peninsula since the 12th century, is the official language of ten countries and territories. In the 15th and 16th century, Portuguese was taken to many regions of Africa, the Americas, and Asia during the colonization period. Currently, Portuguese is the second most-spoken Romance language and the ninth most-spoken language in the world, boasting a total of 258 million speakers.

As one would expect, the Portuguese explorers introduced Catholicism in the (former) colonies and territories, thus granting Roman Catholicism a political, social, and religious foothold in the Luso World. To this day, it has been a challenge to make inroads into the minds and hearts of those who, for centuries, have believed in a works-based salvation. With the exception of Brazil, evangelicals are a small minority in the Luso world and struggle to start and reproduce healthy and indigenous churches. Sadly, secularism has been growing by leaps and bounds in the Luso World.

BMA Global is present in four countries, including Brazil, Portugal, Cape Verde, and Mozambique. In 1951, shortly after NABA (the former name of the BMAA) was formed, the association sent out its first missionaries to Brazil. By 1955, the BMA of Portugal was established. Around 1955, BMA Global partnered with a national pastor to begin Baptist work in the Cape Verde Islands. By 1994, American missionaries arrived and helped solidify the partnership with the BMAA churches. Through the efforts of a Costa Rican missionary, BMA work was introduced in Mozambique by January of 2014.



## Prayer Requests:

- For each ChangeMaker, pastor, and leader in Brazil, Portugal, Cape Verde, and Mozambique
- For a renewed interest in evangelism and discipleship in the Luso World
- For the discussions and plans to begin pioneer work in other Portuguese-speaking countries

## Praises:

- For strengthening partnerships between BMA Global and the national associations in each of these countries
- For healthy church revitalization efforts
- For Bible training and equipping initiatives

## Key ChangeMakers

Brazil	Jarede Souza
Cape Verde	Eudo Rodrigues
Portugal	Marco Gaspar
Mozambique	Domingo Tsucana Victor





**AJ**

Creative Access Nation  
arkslp@protonmail.com

*Avoid using Christian/church language when communicating. This profile is written as an example of how correspondence should look.*

I am currently in the midst of a miss. training program in MX that I will refer to as "RI". RI equips its students for ch. planting among UPGs.\* After the program ends in June 2024, I am planning to return to finish deputation before I leave for the long-term field. I am praying that the Father will connect me with a team and a UPG to work among long term. I am also hoping to use my degree as a speech-language pathologist or my Teaching English as a Foreign Language certifications to work alongside a ch. plant.

A UPG is a people group where less than 2% of the people know who the Father is. Most of them live in the 10/40 window (if you haven't heard of the 10/40 window, a quick google search will show you a helpful map!). The last several UPGs are unreached for a reason. They are hard to get to physically, their languages are difficult to learn, their people are surrounded by false teachings that they have known for generations. This is the reason I am getting training—so I can be more prepared to reach these people in an effective way. I look forward to updating you on a specific country/people group where I will work long term!

*UPG = unreached people group*



#### Prayer Requests:

- Lift up RI: my classmates, the community in MX, and myself as we finish out the program well
- Discernment for a people group and team to work with long term
- UPGs, that the Father would prepare their hearts to hear the good news

#### Praises:

- Continued financial and spiritual support from friends, family, and ch. family
- A wonderful and exciting community group at RI
- Time spent with family over Christmas break!

# North America

Regional Coordinator: Larry Barker  
larry@bmaglobal.org

Everything BMA Global is involved in is motivated by God's mission, of which we are allowed to have a part. Our job is to mobilize believers, churches, missionaries, and church planters in advancing the kingdom of God around the world but also in our own backyard. For this mobilization to occur we must continue to embrace the rich history we have as "missionary" baptists. The Great Commission must remain in the driver's seat of our hearts and the centerpiece of our churches.

Everything we do as an association of churches must center around planting churches that make disciples. Our value statements make it clear that we are passionate about the expansion of God's kingdom to all peoples. We pursue multiplication of believers and churches through discipleship and we affirm local congregations as both the source (sending: churches plant churches) and the goal of multiplication.

In North America, BMA Global now has church plants in seven languages: English, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Urdu, Garifuna, and French. We are reaching Hispanics in Dallas, St Louis, Orlando, and Arizona while reaching Russian-speaking populations in Atlanta, Orlando, and Northwest Florida. We are reaching Garifuna-speaking people in the Bronx, French-speaking in Quebec, and Urdu-speaking in Clarkston, Georgia. Arabic-speaking churches are being planted in Dallas, Orlando, and Phoenix. The potential is unlimited!

BMA Global is committed to reaching every tribe, people, language, and nation, and it takes all kinds of churches to reach all kinds of people. P-5 Multiplication asks you to do five things: 1) Pray—Pray to the Lord of the Harvest, 2) Prepare—Consider how you can become more involved, 3) Partner—Who can you build a stronger relationship with and support? 4) Parent—Who in your church could you send to be a part of church planting, and 5) Plant—Is God calling you to plant?



## Prayer Requests:

- Pray daily for each one of our church planters and their families!
- Pray that in five years we will have church plants in 15 languages!
- Pray that more couples would hear God's call to plant more churches!

## Praises:

- God is forming clusters in order for them to encourage one another and multiply.
- God's continued blessing of when and where he guides, he always provides.
- Church plants are focused on the multiplication of disciples, leaders, and churches.

## Missionaries

Arizona	Edixon & Belkys Piña - Spanish Safa & Sara Banosh - Arabic
Arkansas	Elvis & Wendy Garcia - Spanish
California	Mkram & Claude Ghattas Shahatit - Arabic
Canada	Michel & Ruth Poirer - French Michael & Josie Barton - French
Florida	Adam & Noor Batarseh - Arabic David & Triana Nava - Spanish
Georgia	Jamshad & Anila Hadyat - Urdu Boris & Vera Lebedev - Russian
Louisiana	Angel & Zorismal Colon - Spanish
Minnesota	Michael & Laura Strong - English
Missouri	Juan & Hannah Fernandez - Spanish
New York	Cherry & Terma Gamboa - Garifuna
Puerto Rico	Angel de Jesus - Spanish
Texas	Omar & Anna Pina - Spanish Ashraf & Jenny Sara - Arabic
Utah	Gavin & Haley Roberts - English

## Michel and Ruth Poirier

Canada

pasteur.poirier56@gmail.com

We are church planters to the French-speaking people of Quebec, Canada. We have been working hard to establish three churches and to reach souls for Christ. Quebec is the only predominantly French-speaking area in the country, and it is also predominantly Catholic. Catholicism may sound similar to Baptists in belief, but they are not—and are far from it. It takes wisdom and an understanding of Catholic beliefs to reach the people. The people are very resistant to Baptists, making it very difficult to form relationships.

We work in Haiti as well, and it is easy to witness to people there as Haitians are open to any teaching. Haitians will listen and come to church when invited; however, they are open to all teachings, including false doctrine.



### Prayer Requests:

- For wisdom in reaching Catholics for Christ
- For steadfastness in the life of our Christian workers
- For souls to come to Christ in our French ministry around the world

### Praises:

- For many souls who have trusted Christ as their Lord and Savior
- For men who are willing to share their faith in the street
- For the mutual love among our churches

## Michael and Josie Barton

Canada

kjv.barton@gmail.com

Assistant pastor

People here are mainly Catholic, but even that religion is dying. They are now in the humanism religion, meaning their god is themselves. It is a very dry, hard, and thorny soil, but I'm encouraged to know an all-powerful God who loves them and can break any kind of heart. My trust is in God that he will use his local church in a powerful way in bringing them to a saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



### Prayer Requests:

- Souls may be saved
- Brethren strengthened in continuing to run their race no matter the price, in complete obedience and faithfulness to the only true God
- Haiti- We have brothers and sisters suffering persecution. Pray for their protection and that the Lord will show them a way of escape.

### Praises:

- God's grace, mercy, and patience that he unconditionally gives to me who just deserves hell
- My second miracle and precious pearl: my wife Josie
- Pastor Mike and Ruth Poirier for their faithfulness, steadfastness, and love for their Savior!



## Gavin and Haley Roberts

Utah

wgavin.roberts@gmail.com

I am a church planter in Morgan County, UT. I work alongside my twin brother, Chase. We are planting Morgan Grace Church. Morgan Grace is the only evangelical church in the city of Morgan and one of two in the county.

Morgan is a picturesque mountain town in the Wasatch Mountain range. The predominant religion is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. People in Morgan love to do anything and everything outside: skiing, hunting, fishing, sports, rodeo, hiking, you name it.



### Prayer Requests:

- Endurance to plant in a hard place.
- Funding to have time to devote to ministry and money for outreach.
- Our kiddos to continue to enjoy living in Utah.

### Praises:

- We have a great group of people gathering each Sunday night that has grown quickly.
- We have a good name in our town.
- We love living in Morgan.

## Mike and Laura Strong

Minnesota

mike@nncmpls.com

Laura and I are dedicated to helping people flourish in their life-long pursuit of Jesus Christ. We are currently working in the low-income area of Minneapolis. We are dedicated to creating disciples that are rooted, established, and built up on the word of God. We spend a lot of time with our people in life-on-life ministry so our people can learn from our walk with the Lord. We are doing a lot more work in identifying and training local men to be planters, pastors, and church revitalizers.

We live in an area that has many religions like Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, and a large number of forms of paganism including Wicca. We also have a significant presence of Catholic and hyper-charismatic churches in our area flooding our people with false gospels. Our church plant is made up almost entirely of new believers, which can present many challenges as Laura and I work to help them grow and mature.



### Prayer Requests:

- As our church grows, we are in need of additional partnerships to take on the growing number of expenses.
- We also need faithful believers to join us in the work of discipling the new believers who have joined the church in the last year or two.
- We are asking God to ground our church plant in the word and to make Jesus Christ and the gospel the center of each member's life.

### Praises:

- We praise God for his leading and provision over the last year. We have seen God save eleven people as of August 2023 through the ministry, and seven have been baptized.
- God is growing our members' faith and helping them step out to use their gifts to serve the members of the church plant.
- We are especially thankful for members starting a worship team and serving in children's and youth ministry.

## Elvis and Wendy Garcia

Ministry Coordinator for Hispanic Peoples in the US

elvis@bmaglobal.org

Our vision is to expand in two areas: First, under the direction of God, we want to send multiplication-minded leaders to cities of the US with the largest Hispanic populations, where we can develop missions and start missionary training centers. Second, we want to develop a Hispanic collaboration network (Miso+Net) for pastoral and missionary training, care, and fellowship. This is already in place. We have groups of pastors and missionaries in each state and a leaders group where we talk, pray, and share ideas and needs.

Over the course of the next decade, demographic projections estimate that the Hispanic population in the US will increase by 30 percent to 74 million people by 2030. Hispanics are currently the fastest growing ethnic group in the US and also the most responsive group of people for the gospel in the history of the US.

Our field is incredibly complex, and we need to reach the ones who live in small rural areas as well as the ones who are in urban metropolises. Our target group is complex, we are trying to reach outsiders from 32 different nations with different customs and backgrounds. The opportunities are tremendous. Our main challenge is the lack of funds for activities that we need to invest in, which will give us a great return in the future.

We are putting together a team of new leaders and future church planters that will help us reach this nation for Christ. The Latino culture is a major asset for reaching everyone, not just Hispanics, because of their multiculturalism. The need for the gospel is urgent, and our desire is that in prayer we unite to win North America for Christ.



## Juan and Hannah Fernandez

Missouri

pastorjuanfernandez@gmail.com

We are so blessed to have a discipleship process that is implemented among each one of our contacts. We go over through discipleship with each contact in a three-step process. The first step is we connect with men in our neighborhood, seeking a spiritual conversation. This conversation will lead to an invitation to participate in a Discovery Bible Session. Depending on the commitment to attend this first session, we move on to inviting him for three sessions (step two) and depending upon the interest and interaction during these three sessions, we schedule seven more sessions (step three). During each one of the sessions there is an indication to share the message with someone and invite that person to join the Discovery Bible Group. We encourage only five as the maximum number of participants in a DBS group. We also invite this man of peace to join us to worship once a month, the first Sunday of the month, for corporate worship.



There are many opportunities to meet and reach out seeking for men of peace. The area is predominantly Hispanic families who are first, second and third generation living in the US. They are usually busy working two or three jobs and time with family is almost non-existent. Use of alcohol and or marijuana is very prevalent among these men; it is almost impossible to have a conversation with them while they are sober. The use of these substances is not limited by the level of income or social status. It's just a fact that most of our contacts are not wanting to face or live the reality of not having a relationship with God, and they don't have any interest in becoming members of a church. They are barely surviving the many challenges of current pressures of society. Most of the men we have in our contact list moved to this country recently and therefore their family, wife, and children are in their country of origin, adding more disorder and confusion as they are not staying faithful and honorable to their marriages.

### Prayer Requests:

- The opening of new mission fields in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta, Chicago, New Mexico, and Oklahoma
- The continuity of our training program
- The support and involvement of our churches in this strategic ministry in North America

### Praises:

- The starting of our training program for future leaders
- The starting and continuity of the mission work in Phoenix, Orlando, St. Louis, Dallas, the Bronx, and Vidalia, LA
- The churches and pastors who have been supporting the Hispanic ministry faithfully

### Prayer Requests:

- A core team of men and women to become ministry partners to join our daily evangelistic outreach: We need a worship and prayer team to minister to our friends/guests on the first Sunday of the month.
- Each one of the contacts to become a faithful laborer for the Kingdom: We are hoping to have each man in our congregation sign up for seminary classes.
- For the finances to purchase a home within the city of St. Louis

### Praises:

- For professions of faith in 2023: Noe, Jose, Roberto, Nahum, Lucas, Liz, Hamed, Adan, Arturo, Omar, Jesus, Carlos
- For new friends and church families within BMA churches that encourage and support our ministry financially and invite us to bring ministry updates
- The Lord has opened many doors, either in Spanish, English or as a translator, but the message is being carried out.

## Ashraf and Jenny Sara

Ministry Coordinator for Arabic Speaking Peoples in the US

iraqbp@aol.com

Their vision is a multiplication movement of Arabic churches and to see them planted in every major city in the U.S. where there is an Arabic population. In addition, they want to obey the Great Commission by making disciples among Arabs, resulting in multiplying God's kingdom.



### Prayer Requests:

- BMA America churches to host Arabic congregations
- An Arabic church in the Midwest, and also for God to raise up a planter for the mission work in Austin.
- The work among Arabic-speaking people in North Dallas, both refugees and newcomers

### Praises:

- Many confessions of faith and baptisms among Arabic-speaking people in America
- The growth of Living Word Arabic in Dallas and the several life groups that meet
- The Arabic show "No2tat Saraha" (Lifeword partnership) and the impact on social media platforms and Akama satellite channel

## Jamshad and Anila Hadyat

Ministry Coordinator for Pakistani Peoples in the US

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In the heart of Georgia, within the confines of a mere square mile, lies a city of unparalleled diversity and opportunity: Clarkston. With a population of 14,000 individuals hailing from 52 distinct nationalities, Clarkston stands as a testament to the incredible tapestry of humanity. It is a place where challenges and opportunities intertwine, beckoning the hearts and minds of mission-minded individuals to make a lasting impact. This unique city, often referred to as "the New Ellis Island," serves as a melting pot of cultures, second only to the grandeur of New York.

Amidst this multicultural symphony, Vertical Life Church Urdu has taken on a transformative role. Focused on the intricate needs of non-believing refugees who speak Urdu, Hindi, and Punjabi, the church has become a guiding light, illuminating a path towards integration, empowerment, and spiritual renewal. The mission of Vertical Life Church Urdu extends far beyond material assistance. As faith plays a central role in the lives of many refugees, the church provides spiritual nourishment and guidance. By offering Bible study classes and conducting church services in languages familiar to the refugees, the church becomes a place of solace, growth, and community.



### Prayer Requests:

- Family- Lift up our family, pray for our well-being and safety as we strive to diligently fulfill our mission.
- Church- Pray earnestly for Vertical Life Church-Urdu, that it may thrive and grow despite the challenges it encounters.
- Wisdom- Pray for us as we seek God's wisdom in our interactions within the church community, that we may be filled with divine insight.

### Praises:

- People in Clarkston- Celebrate the individuals God has brought into our lives from Clarkston and its surrounding areas, as well as the new families from Pakistan that have safely settled in the area.
- Life Transformation- Give thanks for the baptisms of more people who have accepted Jesus.
- Ministry Milestone- Offer praise to God for our completion of thirty years of ministry in His name.

# Mkram and Claude Shahatit

California

mkram5@hotmail.com

We are serving the Lord in El Cajon City, California, with Middle Easterners. I pastor Jesus Light of the World Church, and we also have outreach ministries for refugees and newcomers in El Cajon.



Our mission field in El Cajon is multicultural, made up of different ethnic groups such as Catholic from Iraq, Muslims from Afghanistan and Syria, and Kurdish from Iran. It is a challenge to reach these people who hold on to their deeply rooted beliefs. At the same time it is a great opportunity to reach out to these unreached who are desperate to hear about Christ and the gospel. We do visits to refugees' homes and provide them some used household items and used furniture and share the good news with them. Our church is eager to share the gospel with the community; we host events for newcomers throughout the year, at times such as Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and back to school.

## Prayer Requests:

- Salvation for the refugees, that they will accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior
- New believers in our church, for growth that they will become a disciple of Christ
- Protection of our church children and our city children, especially those who attend public school (The state of California is teaching children they can change their gender if they prefer.)

## Praises:

- For new families and new believers joining our church
- For our growing youth ministry
- For new believers!





**BMA GLOBAL**  
**MINISTRIES**



# Healthy Church Solutions

VP of Strategy and Training: Larry Barker

[larry@bmaglobal.org](mailto:larry@bmaglobal.org)

Pastor's Advocate: Heidi Sorrells

[heidi@bmaglobal.org](mailto:heidi@bmaglobal.org)

Healthy Church Solutions is the church resource ministry of BMA Global. Our mission is to help strengthen existing churches to become who God intends them to be. The status of the church in North America is pretty alarming and warrants our attention. We are told that 85% of American churches are plateaued or are in a state of decline. It's so important for us to examine our spiritual health and the health of our church.



Healthy Church Solutions believes in practicing the foundational work of prayer. This is where church health begins. Please look into our prayer system training and how to have a prayer retreat. We have many free resources in this area and would love to work with you to coordinate a regional pastor prayer retreat. Henry Blackaby says, "Prayer should always be a leader's first course of action."

Our Healthy Church Podcast ([healthychurchpodcast.com](http://healthychurchpodcast.com)) is an honest conversation about what it means to be part of a healthy church and is geared toward pastors, leaders, members, and churches. Another way we are working hard to encourage pastors is through bi-monthly Zoom calls. These zero in on topics that are close to the hearts of pastors such as prayer, discipleship, leadership, time management, conflict resolution, and more.



Healthy Church Solutions offers the ReCharge Conference to facilitate time away for you to be refreshed and renewed for the next season of ministry. The trainings we provide can help you in the areas of transitioning pastorally, dealing with discouragement, evaluating your church's ministry, dealing with difficult people, and dealing with time demands.

Our resources can help you learn how to develop and improve reproducible systems that are interconnected processes. These enable your ministry to actualize its values and achieve its mission. Healthy Church Solutions is committed to your soul care, spiritual health, and providing free resources and training for you and your church.

The role of the local church is to be the mobilizing home base, and that requires healthy disciples, healthy leaders, and healthy churches. At BMA Global we desire to serve you and your church through Healthy Church Solutions.

## Prayer Requests:

- Pray that every church will represent Christ well by being his hands and feet.
- Pray that all of us will be called back to our knees and pray with no intermission.
- Pray for pastors, leaders, and churches that are weary and discouraged.

## Praises:

- Multiple prayer retreats have been held with many pastors and leaders attending.
- Pastors and leaders have shared about the blessing our ministry has been, confirming that this ministry work is greatly needed.
- ReCharge becoming a place of sabbath for refreshment, catching our breath, and preparing us for our next season of ministry.



## Short-term Missions

Director of Short-term Missions: Angela Rice  
angela@bmaglobal.org

Through Short-term Missions, BMA Global provides an avenue for you to experience missions first hand. We are passionate about sending people to the mission field and providing many opportunities for our people to serve alongside our missionaries. There are many reasons that this is so important. Not only do we want to help support our missionaries, but our prayer is that God will call long-term missionaries from these trips and that 100% of those who go on a short-term trip will become more involved in missions. People experience first hand the physical and prayer needs of our missionaries, and these trips promote a lifelong love for missions.



My role as Director of Short-term Missions is helping you go to the mission field by building teams, coordinating with missionaries, working with churches, and planning trainings. I currently work with Baptist Medical Missions International, Volunteer Student Missions, Everlasting Smiles Shoebox Ministry, and Church Mission Trips. We are working with Missionary Care to add Care Trips and Family Trips to our teams going out.

BMMI started Everlasting Smiles Shoebox Ministry as a way to further their outreach to open doors for missionaries. I love working with this ministry, as well. This ministry is designed to open the doors for our missionaries to connect with people in the community.

### Prayer Requests:

- More people to answer the call to missions, both short term and long term
- Students feeling led to long-term missions
- Missionaries hosting teams this year

### Praises:

- Getting back to “normal” travel after COVID
- A VSM alumni now in training to be a missionary
- Many students feeling the call to short-term trips

## Baptist Medical Missions International

Director of Medical Missions: Dr. Ralph Izard  
bmmi@bmaam.com

Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) is the humanitarian/benevolent arm of BMA Global. The primary purpose of this ministry is to provide humanitarian aid or assistance for many nations of the world where care is needed because of economic, geographic, or disaster-related circumstances.



BMMI is opening doors for BMA missionaries to plant new churches and make new disciples for Christ all around the world. Many churches and individuals partner with us to serve with missionaries. The main goal of BMMI is to assist pastors and missionaries in meeting people in their community. Many people come out to a medical clinic to receive healthcare, but our prayer is that they leave with more than a few pills; we want them to leave with hope—hope that comes from knowing Christ. During our clinics, local pastors and missionaries set up an evangelism station that each patient goes to as a part of our rotation. Here, they are introduced to Christ, to the local pastor, and to the church.

### Prayer Requests:

- For God to open doors for BMMI
- For our leaders and new medical professionals that are joining our team
- For souls to be saved.

### Praises:

- A full travel schedule
- Churches being planted in areas we serve
- Three containers of shoeboxes were sent this year.

## Mobilization

Mobilization Coordinator: Sean Richards  
sean@bmaglobal.org

In my new mobilization role with BMA Global I will be working to help increase involvement in the Great Commission across the association. I will be doing this through missions education, coaching and mentoring candidates, advocating, and consulting with BMAA departments, ministries, and churches to help them create a Great Commission culture that effectively raises up and sends out church planters.



### Prayer Requests:

- Pray for a humble heart as I re-learn American culture after 8.5 years in Papua New Guinea, and also as I learn to connect with the next generation of people who will be going to the nations.
- Pray for new relationships and strong connections to form as I connect with BMAA ministries and churches that I haven't previously connected with and that are unfamiliar with me personally.
- Pray for our family as we transition to life in America and establish ourselves in a new community where we have no prior connections.

### Praises:

- Give praise to the Lord that he led us to our new home in Greenbrier, AR, and we are starting to feel a sense of stability through the chaos of transitioning back to life in America.
- Praise God that moving into our new home and getting a dog for the first time has helped our sons feel secure, knowing they can start planting "roots" in our new community without fear of having to pull up those roots and move yet again (it's a normal struggle for missionary kids).
- Praise God that I am able to serve with such an amazing team of Godly people at the BMA Global office.

## Missionary Care

Director of Missionary Care: Dr. Jonathan Montgomery  
jonathan@bmaglobal.org

Missionary Care looks after the spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical health of every missionary, which includes our men, women, and—most importantly—missionary kids. This ministry offers counseling, coaching, and conferences to missionary families so they can be fruitful in life and ministry. The goal of Missionary Care is to provide encouragement and support so each missionary can continue to grow and develop as mature leaders who serve longer and more effectively.



### Prayer Requests:

- Pray for divine protection for our missionaries who are under constant spiritual attack.
- Pray for our missionary kids to build strong friendships as they navigate the cultural changes they experience on the field and in their home country, and pray especially for those who graduate and return stateside for college.
- Pray for our sending churches, counselors, coaches, and the missionary care team as they support and encourage our missionary families.

### Praises:

- Our missionaries are more readily utilizing our care team's help and services regularly, which allows this ministry to continue blessing our missionary families.
- Last year's Global Care Conference was a great blessing to our missionary families and allowed them an opportunity to worship together and experience mutual encouragement as they met and fellowshiped.
- We are grateful for new financial supporters, which allow the Missionary Care team to develop new ways to minister to our missionaries.



## Church Planter Training

Trainer: Buddy Johnson  
abudjohn@att.net

Working primarily with Ecuador, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay, while also helping in Brazil and Argentina, my primary focus has been and continues to be in the area of helping prepare men who will dedicate themselves to the planting of BMA churches in their countries. For the past two years I have served in the training of men who are pastoring the very first BMA churches in the countries of Paraguay and Ecuador. The second BMA church in Paraguay is currently being planted. At this time, we are assisting new church planters in Chile where our fourth and fifth churches are being planted. I travel to these countries and focus on "church planting training" but also have regular meetings via the internet with the leaders of all these countries. Taffy is in constant contact with the ladies from these countries as well.



### Prayer Requests:

- For financial help for our newest church planter in Chile. Andres Guzmán travels twice each week to the new church plant where he is discipling believers.
- For our work in Paraguay and for Church Planter Regino Acuña and Pastor Ivan Filippini.
- For our internet-based leadership training in the countries of Ecuador, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

### Praises:

- Praise God for calling men into his ministry. Andrés, Patricio, and Pablo in Chile; Ivan in Paraguay; Marco, Ivan, and Giovanni in Ecuador; and Adelqui and Carlos in Uruguay are especially in need of our prayers.
- Praise God for providing his vision for the churches in all these countries who are dedicated to planting new churches.
- Praise God for calling one of our servants in Argentina into the area of evangelism.

## Chaplaincy

Chaplaincy Coordinator: Dr. Scott Carson  
scarson@southeasternbaptist.edu

All federal and many state governmental agencies that have chaplains, as well as some corporate and institutional entities, require an endorsement from their respective religious organizations. BMA of America has provided endorsements for qualified ministers through its Chaplaincy Department for decades. These ministers must be members of a BMA church, have an established reputation of exemplary service, and be personally recommended by their pastor or by another BMA minister. The endorsing agent keeps in constant contact with BMA endorsed chaplains, attempts to visit them in their ministerial recognitions and celebrations, or in times of need as funds allow. The endorser also monitors their ministry and possesses the capability to revoke an endorsement.



### Prayer Requests:

- Pray that our conservative ministers continue to be invited to be chaplains, freely proclaiming Jesus Christ to the lost and discipling in accordance to the truth found in God's Holy Word.
- Pray for our chaplains and families as they serve in very unique settings and often to people with no church affiliation. The opportunity to share Jesus to the lost or encourage the disenfranchised is truly great.
- As our society continues to move toward humanism and hedonism, pray that our BMA ministers will continue to be invited and accepted into these various organizations to share, unrestrained, the saving knowledge of the gospel.

### Praises:

- Praise the Lord that he continues to call BMA ministers into various chaplain positions.
- Praise the Lord for our churches who understand the importance of this very unique ministry opportunity for evangelism and discipleship.
- Praise the Lord for our churches and individuals who faithfully give to this ministry so that we may continue to place qualified ministers into the various chaplain programs where we are invited to participate.

*“Go and make disciples of all nations.”*

*“As the Father sent me, I am sending you.”*

*“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria,  
and to the ends of the earth.”*

These last words of Jesus are not recommendations to be considered; they are commands to be obeyed. It is a clear message about an unchanging mission. And because of the faithfulness of those early disciples, the message of the gospel—the redemptive work of Jesus on the cross—was heard and spread throughout the world.

And the mission continues today.

We are so thankful for the faithful men and women that continue to carry the message to all nations. The families you have read about continue the rich heritage of missionaries that have gone before them. They recognize God’s calling and his unfailing faithfulness is greater than the challenges and circumstances that may hinder them.

Thank you for investing in our missionaries and mission work around the world. The words of Jesus remind us that we are all called to serve God’s mission. Saved people are sent people. If you are a follower of Christ, you too have been sent to serve. Our prayer is that God’s mission becomes very personal in the lives of our churches and our people, that together—in our going, our giving, and our praying—we will passionately pursue God’s mission at home and to all nations!

To become a financial partner or to learn more about BMA Global and our work around the world please visit [www.bmaglobal.org](http://www.bmaglobal.org)



**BMA GLOBAL**

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