

Central America and Caribbean

Interim Regional Coordinator: Eliezer Brito-Semedo
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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



Portuguese-speaking Countries

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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

