

2025 MISSIONARY PROFILES



BMA GLOBAL

Jarred and Megan Etheredge

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South Africa

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The Etheredge family serves in a rural area of South Africa, approximately four hours north and slightly east of Johannesburg. Their ministry focuses on both community engagement and church development, with the goal of spreading the gospel and equipping local believers for discipleship and leadership.



Ministry Approach

Their work is centered around two primary aspects. First, they engage with the local community through agriculture and skill-building training. These initiatives serve as practical tools while also providing opportunities to teach biblical discipleship principles and share the gospel through real-life applications.

Second, they partner with a network of local churches through the pastoral fraternal. Their role is to come alongside pastors and lay leaders, equipping them with the knowledge and resources to evangelize, disciple, and strengthen their congregations. This collaboration has led to the planting of their first church in a nearby village—an area that previously had no Christian presence.

Goals for 2025

The Etheredge family has set several key goals for the coming years:

1. Training Center Development – Completing the initial phase of their training center, which will allow them to hold monthly on-site training for up to 100 people and provide housing for 25 trainees.
2. Church Plant Establishment – Finalizing the church plant and appointing a local leader to shepherd the congregation.
3. Pastoral Conferences – Hosting three annual conferences in partnership with the pastoral fraternal to strengthen biblical teaching and encourage sound doctrine within local churches.

The Community They Serve

The Etheredge family primarily works among the Pedi tribe, the third-largest tribal group in South Africa, comprising approximately 10% of the national population. The Pedi maintain a traditional kingship structure, with local chiefs overseeing individual villages. Their customs closely resemble those of the Zulu people. Historically known for their strength and militancy, the Pedi today are largely peaceful and community-oriented.

Challenges

While cultural and language barriers are inherent challenges in cross-cultural ministry, the greatest difficulties they face are spiritual. One of the most significant challenges is addressing the aftermath of mass evangelism movements from the late 20th century, which emphasized conversion without discipleship. As a result, many people in their region practice a form of syncretism, blending biblical teachings with ancestral worship.

A dominant force in the region is the Zion Christian Church (ZCC), which claims about 85% of the Pedi population as followers. Despite its name, the ZCC does not recognize Jesus as the Son of God but instead venerates their bishop, Le Kanyane, as their mediator to God. Ancestor worship is a key aspect of their faith, and reports suggest that human sacrifice is practiced during their annual pilgrimage to their main compound, Moriah.

Additionally, many churches in the area focus on healing and deliverance ministries, emphasizing performance-driven worship and pastoral idolatry. Apostolic movements, along with small Muslim and Hindu communities, are also present.

Spiritual Landscape

Biblically sound churches make up less than 10% of the faith community in their area. True evangelical believers are similarly scarce. However, approximately 35% of the population has been exposed to some aspects of the gospel, though many lack a full understanding of biblical truth.

Despite these challenges, the Etheredge family remains committed to their mission of making Christ known, strengthening the local church, and equipping believers to stand firm in their faith. Through agricultural training, pastoral development, and church planting, they continue to serve as faithful witnesses in South Africa

Joshua and Meagan Phiri

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The Phiris serve in three districts of the Southern Province of Zambia. Their ministry focuses on reaching the most neglected communities with the gospel, bringing both spiritual transformation and practical support to those in need. Through church planting, community development, and village outreach, they are committed to serving "the least and the lost," ensuring that even the most remote and underserved areas have access to the message of Christ.



Ministry Approach

Their work includes church services, Bible studies, youth and children's ministry, and personal evangelism through house-to-house visits and counseling. They partner with local leaders and international mission teams to provide ministry that respects cultural traditions while introducing biblical truth. In addition to sharing the gospel, their ministry extends to educational programs, health-care initiatives, and sustainable development projects that improve quality of life in struggling communities.

Mission Goals

One of their primary goals is to plant churches across fifteen districts of Zambia's Southern Province. They are passionate about training and equipping local leaders to sustain and expand the work of the ministry. Recognizing the importance of leadership development, they provide theological education and practical training to ensure churches remain strong and biblically sound.

The People They Serve

The communities Joshua and Meagan serve are diverse and deeply rooted in cultural heritage. Many people in these regions face economic hardship, limited access to healthcare, and educational barriers. Most rely on subsistence farming or small trades to provide for their families. Despite these challenges, they are resilient, hospitable, and eager to embrace opportunities for growth and transformation.

Spiritually, the region is a mix of Christianity, traditional African religions, Islam, and secular beliefs. Many individuals blend Christianity with indigenous customs, making discipleship and biblical teaching a critical aspect of Joshua and Meagan's work.

Challenges

Ministering in these communities presents unique challenges. Some of the key obstacles include:

1. **Traditional Beliefs:** Many communities have deep-rooted traditions that sometimes conflict with Christian teachings, requiring cultural sensitivity and wisdom.
2. **Economic Struggles:** Poverty often forces people to prioritize survival over spiritual growth, making consistent discipleship difficult.
3. **Limited Church Resources:** Many local churches face challenges such as lack of trained leadership and inadequate resources, requiring strong discipleship and church support initiatives.

Mickeal and Sharon Quillman

Zambia

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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.

The Johnson Family

China

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The Johnsons live in Beijing, China—a vast metropolis of over 20 million people, home to both a rich tapestry of local Chinese cultures and a diverse expatriate community. Since moving to China, their ministry has evolved significantly. Initially focused on reaching the Han Chinese majority, they soon expanded to include local minorities. In the past seven years, their primary focus has shifted toward serving the expatriate community in Beijing. Through gospel-centered discipleship and training, they equip both expats and locals to become effective witnesses for Christ in their spheres of influence.



Ministry Approach

Due to Chinese laws prohibiting evangelism to locals, they practice wisdom and discretion in sharing the gospel. They do not engage in public evangelism, such as street preaching or distributing tracts. Instead, they prioritize organic, relational evangelism. One of their key initiatives, “1,000 Gospel Conversations,” encourages believers to share their faith with friends, family, and colleagues. Participants document these conversations, allowing them to pray, provide accountability, and follow up when possible. Their philosophy is simple: “We can’t create conversion, but we can start a conversation.” To further equip believers, they also offer evangelism classes, including training on how to share the gospel in Chinese.

Mission and Goals

Their ultimate goal is to reach the nations for Christ. Living in a highly transient city presents a unique opportunity for global missions. Every year, they witness individuals from various countries—Brazil, Canada, China, Ghana, South Africa, Spain, and more—come to faith and be baptized. Most of these believers will eventually return to their home countries. Their vision is to disciple them so that they leave Beijing equipped to share the gospel wherever they go.

They have already seen this mission bear fruit. On a micro level, individuals like Markus from South Africa, who left a same-sex relationship after encountering Christ, now actively shares the gospel with others in his home country. On a macro level, they have sent out believers to plant churches in their native lands, including Kosei in Tokyo, Paul in Boulder, and Brett in Melbourne. They also anticipate launching a new church plant on the Westside of Beijing soon.

The Community They Serve

Their community is a beautiful representation of the global church. With individuals from over 60 nations and all walks of life, their gatherings provide a glimpse of heaven’s diversity. The people they serve generally fall into three categories:

1. Those who were running from God but encountered Jesus in Beijing and now have powerful testimonies.
2. Those who grew up in church but never took their faith seriously until they found a passion for God in Beijing.
3. Those who intentionally came to China to be missional, whom they support, encourage, and equip.

Challenges

Legal restrictions remain their greatest challenge. They have experienced police raids, arrests, deportations, and difficulties securing consistent meeting spaces. Though conditions have been relatively stable since January 2024, they remain vigilant, knowing that government policies can change abruptly. These challenges, however, serve to strengthen their faith and compel believers to count the cost of following Jesus.

Religious Landscape

China officially recognizes five religions: Buddhism, Catholicism, Daoism, Islam, and Protestantism. Survey data suggests that China is 74% atheist, with the remaining population comprising Buddhists (15%), Daoists (8%), Christians (2%), and Muslims (1%). Due to the underground nature of many churches, exact numbers for Christians are difficult to determine, but despite the growing church, China remains largely unreached.

In Beijing, they help oversee 11 international churches, most of which are organized by language groups (Korean, Russian, French, Cantonese, Mandarin, etc.). Additionally, they maintain relationships with four or five other biblically sound international churches. However, they are cautious about certain churches that promote unbiblical teachings—such as excessive focus on generational curses or affirming ideologies contrary to Scripture.

Common Belief Systems

Both locals and expatriates in China tend to embrace a secular, self-reliant worldview. The prevailing mindset is that success and happiness are achieved through personal effort, with little thought given to a higher power. This creates a unique challenge but also an incredible opportunity to introduce people to the truth of the gospel.

The Johnsons remain committed to making Christ known in Beijing and beyond, trusting in God’s sovereignty and the power of the gospel to transform lives.

Jeremy and Mandy Hambrice

Paisley, Myli, Havana, and Emmi Rose

Papua New Guinea

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The Hambrice family serves in the remote Eastern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea, ministering to the Wantakia tribe in the village of Pinji. Their vision extends beyond Pinji, as they seek to reach the nine surrounding villages with the gospel.



Church Planting and Discipleship

By God's grace, the Hambrices and their team planted a church in 2020 and have since been actively discipling and teaching the local believers. Their ministry initially involved large village outreaches, where they taught chronologically from Creation to Christ and through the end times over three-month periods. Their second outreach in 2022 reinforced these teachings.

Now that the church is established, they focus on smaller, in-home Bible studies with those who show interest. The church meets on Sundays, primarily led by local Bible teachers in training. Women from the church lead a children's Bible study on Saturdays, and an adult Bible study is held in a round hut on Friday nights. Their next major step is planting a church in a neighboring village in the coming year.

Goals

The Hambrices are committed to discipling and strengthening the local church to maturity, ensuring that elders and deacons are raised up to lead the congregation independently while remaining firmly rooted in God's Word.

Another major goal is Bible translation. Significant progress has already been made, and they are committed to continuing this work so that the Wantakia people can access the Scriptures in their own language. They also plan to establish a youth ministry in the next year to engage teenagers with the gospel.

Additionally, they support a literacy program, now fully run by local believers, to equip more people to read God's Word for themselves.

The People They Serve

The Wantakia people are primarily planters and gatherers, living in small round houses made from jungle materials. Their daily lives revolve around cooking over open fires and cultivating coffee trees, which provide income through sales to roasters in larger towns.

Spiritually, the Wantakia people hold animistic beliefs, convinced that all things possess spirits. They live in fear of spirit beings, believing that a distant, evil creator made these spirits to harm mankind. Their way of life revolves around appeasing and manipulating these spirits to avoid misfortune.

Challenges

The Hambrices face several challenges in ministering to the Wantakia people, including:

1. Lack of Interest Among Unbelievers: Many in the village remain indifferent to God's Word, making outreach difficult.
2. Opposition from Other Religious Groups: Unbiblical teachings from local Lutheran and Seventh-Day Adventist groups, which are heavily syncretized with animistic beliefs, create confusion and resistance.
3. Faithfulness in Leadership: Developing strong, committed local leaders is a constant challenge as the church grows.

Spiritual Landscape

Out of approximately 500 villagers in Pinji, around 150 have come to faith in Christ. However, they remain the only believers in a language group of 10,000 people. The Hambrices are working to change that by spreading the gospel to more villages and strengthening the local church.

Looking Ahead

Through church planting, discipleship, Bible translation, and literacy programs, the Hambrices remain steadfast in their mission to bring the truth of the gospel to the Wantakia people. They continue to trust in God's provision as they work toward expanding His kingdom in Papua New Guinea.

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

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Facebook: Disciple Making in the Philippines

Danny and Rita Ballard serve in the Luzon Island region of the Philippines, residing in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, about 70 kilometers south of Metro Manila. Their ministry extends across various communities, focusing on church planting, discipleship, and outreach.

The Ballards are engaged in a multi-faceted ministry, partnering with ChangeMaker Vincent Ferrer to support five established mission churches and actively exploring two additional locations for future church planting. Their work includes:

- Children's Ministry
- Bible Study & Discipleship
- Cancer Support Ministry
- BTCP Training (Biblical Training Center for Pastors)
- Relief Ministry



Goals and Vision

The Ballards are committed to church planting and discipleship, particularly among those who are economically disadvantaged. Their vision includes developing a model for urban church planting, as most of their efforts have been in rural areas where costs are lower and outreach is more accessible.

The People They Serve

The Ballards primarily minister to the less fortunate, many of whom have limited education and struggle daily to meet basic needs. God has placed these individuals on their hearts, and they find deep connections in serving and relating to them.

Challenges

One of the most significant obstacles in their mission is the deep-rooted Catholic background of the Filipino people. Many view their Catholic identity as synonymous with being Christian, making it difficult to introduce biblical salvation apart from religious traditions. The desire to please foreigners can also present challenges, as some individuals may superficially agree to salvation without a genuine heart change. However, the Ballards have found that studying Scripture together allows the Holy Spirit to work, leading people to ask questions and seek truth on their own.

Religious Landscape

The religious environment in Sto. Tomas reflects the broader religious demographics of the Philippines:

- Roman Catholicism – 78.8%
- Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) – 4.2% (A non-Trinitarian group with strict doctrinal views)
- Philippine Independent Church – 1.4%
- Seventh-day Adventist Church – 1.3%
- Other Christian groups – 3.8%
- Islam – 6.4%

While there are approximately 14 Baptist churches in the area, doctrinal beliefs vary, making biblical clarity and sound teaching essential. Many people claim to be Christian simply because they are Catholic, highlighting the need for genuine gospel-centered discipleship.

Prayer Requests

- The Ballards ask for prayer in the following areas:
- The growth and impact of their ministry.
- Financial provision to sustain and expand their work.
- More laborers in the ministry, particularly pastors.
- Strength, wisdom, and encouragement for their family and friends.

Doug and Diane Lee

Philippines

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Doug and Diane Lee serve in Talisay City on Negros Island, Philippines, where they are dedicated to equipping future Christian leaders through theological education, church planting, and community outreach. Their ministry plays a role in training pastors, teachers, and church workers who will spread the gospel throughout the Philippines and beyond.



BMA Bible College

Dr. Doug Lee is the Director and President of BMA Bible College, the central hub for theological education and ministry training in the region. The college saw record-breaking enrollment in the 2024-25 school year, with 97 students, far exceeding the capacity of the dorms—a challenge they consider a blessing!

Accredited by the Philippine government, the college offers degrees in Theology, Christian Education, and Church Music. Both Doug and Diane serve as instructors, investing deeply in the spiritual and academic growth of their students.

Beyond the classroom, they are involved in Bible studies and church planting efforts in four different areas, expanding their reach in the community and strengthening local churches.

The People They Serve

The Filipino people are warm, hospitable, and receptive to the gospel. While the majority identify as Roman Catholic, many do so in name only, without active church involvement. The country has a wide economic gap, with most people being either extremely poor or extremely rich, though a growing middle class is emerging.

Prayer Requests

- Continued financial support for their personal needs and for the Bible College.
- Health and safety for themselves, the staff, faculty, and students.
- Funding for solar panels to reduce high electricity costs.
- Expansion of online theology classes to pastors in Kenya.
- Financial stability of the Darlene Carey Christian Academy.

Praises

- Completion of staff housing updates, dorm expansion, and kitchen renovations.
- A growing student body of 97 future church leaders eager to serve.
- The faithfulness of supporters who make this work possible.
- Continued government accreditation through CHED (Commission on Higher Education).
- A growing impact in the community through evangelism, children's outreach, and soul-winning efforts.
- Over 700 people have come to Christ through students' weekend mission work and church internships!

Through their commitment to theological education, church planting, and discipleship, the Lees continue to make a lasting impact in the Philippines and beyond.

Sean and Kendall Pasley

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Sean and Kendall Pasley serve in Chambéry, the capital city of Savoie, in southeastern France, near the Swiss border. Their long-term mission is church planting, a process that requires years of deep investment in relationships and community life.

Ministry Focus

Sean has had the opportunity to preach in multiple churches, becoming part of a regular preaching rotation. While their ultimate goal is to plant a church, they recognize the necessity of building relationships before the gospel can be shared effectively. In France, gospel conversations typically come after years of trust and friendship.

Main Goals

The Pasleys are committed to:

- Evangelism – Engaging in long-term, relational gospel conversations.
- Church Planting – Laying the groundwork for a doctrinally sound church in their region.
- Community Integration – Becoming a known and trusted presence in their city.

The People They Serve

The French people are highly skeptical of religion, often viewing Christianity as either a mindless tradition or a crutch for the weak. Many assume that faith is irrational, and they resist the idea of absolute truth. Culturally, they value philosophical discussion over practical application, making it challenging to encourage an active, lived-out faith.

The French also tend to be private and socially reserved, making deep friendships difficult to establish. Leisure and personal enjoyment are highly prioritized, sometimes at the expense of spiritual growth.

Challenges

- Breaking Through Skepticism – Convincing people that faith in Christ is a rational and necessary decision.
- Encouraging Active Faith – Many French believers engage with Christianity philosophically, but not practically.
- Patience in Gospel Conversations – It takes many conversations over a long period to even discuss spiritual matters.
- Cultural Aversion to Absolutes – The French view exclusive truth claims as extreme, making it difficult to proclaim Christ as the only way to salvation.

Spiritual Landscape in France

- Only 2% of France's 69 million people identify as evangelical Christians (including groups like Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons).
- The CNEF (National Council of Evangelicals in France) aims to establish 1 church for every 10,000 people, but the country is far from reaching that goal.
- In Savoie, there are only 12 Protestant churches, and only 2 that Sean considers doctrinally sound.

Religious Climate

- Catholicism – Once dominant, now largely cultural or mixed with charismatic movements.
- Islam – France has the largest Muslim population in the EU, with a growing influence, particularly among immigrant communities.
- Secularism – The French identity is deeply secular, making religious belief a private, often ridiculed matter.

Long-Term Commitment

The Pasleys are dedicated to a lifetime of ministry in France. They pray that their sons will also serve in French-speaking Europe, recognizing that meaningful gospel work in France takes decades of faithful presence.

Pray for the Pasleys' Ministry

- That relationships will lead to gospel opportunities.
- That hearts would be softened to the truth of Christ.
- That French believers would embrace active faith and discipleship.
- That a new, biblically sound church would be planted in Chambéry.



Candra Barnett

Romania

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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

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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

Cristian and Vanessa Martinez

Joellen and Ethan

Romania

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Cristian and Vanessa Martinez serve in Braşov, a major city in central Romania. Braşov is a top travel destination and home to one of Romania's main universities, making it a strategic location for ministry among both young professionals and students.



Ministry Approach

Their ministry is built on both public outreach and relational evangelism.

They:

- Meet primarily in homes for worship, fellowship, and discipleship.
- Engage in evangelistic outreach in public spaces during summer months.
- Focus on hospitality and deeper connections during winter.
- Equip believers to love their neighbors, practice hospitality, and share the gospel as a way of life.
- Host regular Bible studies for those interested in learning more about Jesus.

Goals

- Make the gospel available to all people and trust God for the results.
- Display the gospel through holiness, unity, and love in the church.
- Preach the gospel faithfully and clearly to every person they encounter.
- Plant churches and send missionaries to unreached people groups south of Romania.

The People They Serve

The Martinez family serves two distinct communities:

- City Ministry – Educated Romanian professionals and college students.
- Village Ministry – Gypsy families with many children.

Their ministry connects the two by:

- Encouraging city church members to serve in the villages.
- Engaging college students in one-on-one tutoring to help village children with reading and writing.

Challenges

- Many Romanians lack basic biblical knowledge and are indifferent to Christianity.
- People often do not see their need for salvation.
- There is a long process from hearing the gospel to repentance and faith.
- Evangelism is often lacking in the local church culture, with few outreach efforts beyond church walls.

Spiritual Landscape of Braşov

- Population: ~300,000
- Biblically Sound Churches: Fewer than 10
- Evangelical Population: Only 2% of the city's residents
- Most new believers are young people raised in Christian homes, with very few conversions from outside the church.

Religious Context

- 87% of Romanians identify as Orthodox, and being Romanian is often equated with being Orthodox.
- Orthodox opposition to Evangelicals can be strong and sometimes even violent, particularly in rural areas.
- Evangelicals make up 5.4% of the national population, but far fewer in Braşov.

Prayer Requests

- That God would soften hearts and open minds to the gospel.
- That church members would be bold in evangelism.
- That their home gatherings and outreach efforts would lead to transformed lives.
- That they would successfully plant churches and send missionaries to unreached areas.

Bryan and Pam Risner

Landon, Lindsey, & Melody

Romania

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Bryan and Pam Risner serve in Santandrei, Romania, a town near the larger city of Oradea, close to the Hungarian border. Their ministry focuses on planting churches and making disciples who make disciples.



Ministry Focus

The Risners share the gospel through relational evangelism and outreach programs, seeking to establish new churches while building meaningful relationships. Their ministry includes:

- Annual VBS programs for children.
- English camps to engage with the community.
- Christmas shoe and coat drives to serve families in need.
- Weekly children's programs to teach biblical truths from an early age.
- Relational evangelism courses, equipping believers to share their faith effectively.

Main Goal

Their primary mission is to plant new churches in Romania, reaching people through personal connections, community outreach, and discipleship training.

The People They Serve

Bryan and Pam minister to the Romanian, Gypsy, and Hungarian communities, each with unique cultural and social dynamics.

Challenges

- Religious Traditions vs. Biblical Truths – Many cultural traditions are mistakenly viewed as biblical doctrine.
- Legalism in Traditional Churches – The influence of legalistic practices creates barriers to genuine faith and spiritual growth.
- Tensions Between Romanians & Gypsies – Social and ethnic divisions make unity within the church difficult.

Spiritual Landscape

- 90% of Romanians believe in God, yet only 36.1% attend church weekly.
- The pandemic significantly reduced church attendance across the country.
- 85.3% of Romanians identify as Orthodox Christians, with smaller Catholic, Reformed, and Pentecostal populations.

Prayer Requests

- That new church plants will take root and grow.
- That discipleship efforts will lead to lasting faith in Christ.
- For hearts to be open to the gospel amid cultural and religious traditions.
- For unity among the Romanian, Gypsy, and Hungarian communities.

Grady and Denise Johnson

Mexico

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Grady and Denise Johnson have been serving the Lord in Mexico since 1995. Their ministry spans two distinct locations:

- Huejutla, Hidalgo – A rural agricultural town located where the coastal plains meet the Sierra Madre mountains in eastern Mexico.
- Pachuca, Hidalgo – The state capital, a highly urban city situated nearly 8,000 feet above sea level.



Ministry

The Johnsons' ministry is multifaceted, focusing on education, church leadership, evangelism, and missions.

In Huejutla:

- They serve at the Martha Johnson School, founded over 32 years ago by veteran missionary Martha Johnson, where children receive an education centered on God's Word.
- They work with local churches and missions in evangelism, teaching, and spreading the gospel to the surrounding communities.

In Pachuca:

- Grady serves as the pastor of El Alba Baptist Church.
- They engage in personal evangelism, preaching, and mission outreach through the BMA churches.

Expanding the Gospel Across Mexico

- The BMA of Mexico consists of 52 churches and 60 mission works throughout the country, with six of those churches in Hidalgo.
- They serve the BMA of Mexico in various boards and committees, helping to strengthen the national mission effort.
- They participate in medical outreaches, Bible institute teaching, and evangelistic outreach.

The People They Serve

The Johnsons minister to two distinct cultural and ethnic groups:

- Huejutla – Primarily descendants of the Aztecs who speak Nahuatl, an indigenous dialect.
- Pachuca – A modern, urban population with a more industrialized and cosmopolitan mindset.

Their Mission & Calling

The Johnsons are honored to represent BMA America in Mexico, striving to:

- Make Christ known to all nations and tongues.
- Share God's love and forgiveness through preaching, teaching, and discipleship.
- Strengthen and expand church planting and missions throughout the country.

Prayer Requests

- That God would continue to bless their ministry in both rural and urban communities.
- That new believers would grow in faith and more churches would be planted.
- That their work with the BMA of Mexico would continue to reach the lost and equip leaders.

Tommy and Sara Rose

Micah, Silas, Easley and Kaison

Mexico

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Tommy and Sara Rose are church planters serving in Querétaro, Mexico, a vibrant capital city known for its rich history, strong family values, and forward-looking mindset.

Ministry Work

The Roses are planting a church called El Arco, with the vision of:

- Making disciples who live out their faith.
- Planting additional churches throughout the region.
- Sharing Jesus through community engagement, sports activities, schools, and personal relationships.

Challenges

One of the biggest obstacles in sharing the gospel is the deep-rooted traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. Many people in Querétaro have been catechized from an early age to:

- Follow church traditions not found in the Bible.
- Base truth on church teachings rather than Scripture.
- Prioritize family and religious tradition over a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The People They Serve

The people of Querétaro are:

- Friendly and family-oriented, valuing deep relationships.
- Proud of their heritage, blending history with a modern outlook.
- Religious, with 91.2% of the population identifying as Roman Catholic.

Spiritual Landscape

- Roman Catholicism is the dominant religion in Querétaro.
- There are few biblically sound churches in the area.
- The need for gospel-centered church planting is great.

Prayer Requests

- That God would break through cultural and religious traditions to bring people to salvation.
- That El Arco would grow and plant many more churches.
- That hearts in Querétaro would be open to the truth of the gospel.



Elie and Rana Costa El-Hage

Martin and Anthony

Jordan

rana.costa@gmail.com

Elie and Rana El-Hage serve in Amman, the capital city of Jordan, engaging with diverse communities through education, women's empowerment, and medical outreach. Their ministry focuses on building relationships and sharing the gospel in a context that requires strategic and thoughtful engagement.

Ministry

The El-Hages' ministry has three main branches:

1. Amman Baptist School (ABS)
 - As a volunteer staff member, Rana works on developing a school manual and reviewing policies.
 - This role provides opportunities to participate in morning devotions, Bible studies, and staff discipleship.
 - They engage in one-on-one follow-ups with students and teachers, encouraging spiritual growth.
2. I Am a Woman (IAW) Ministries
 - This initiative empowers women by offering skill-based courses in a safe and supportive environment.
 - During weekly gatherings, participants hear a short Biblical message during their coffee break.
 - The goal is to create meaningful connections that lead to spiritual conversations and transformation.
3. Medical Ministry
 - Though still growing, this initiative connects with churches in rural Lebanon and Syria to provide medical aid.
 - The El-Hages follow up with vulnerable patients via calls and messages, using these interactions as opportunities for ministry.



Ministry Goals

The core mission is to build relationships with individuals in the community, share faith through personal connections, and encourage engagement with local biblically sound churches.

Challenges

- Government Constraints – Christian ministry must have a clear justification and connection to a local church.
- Resistance from Nominal Christians – Many hesitate to embrace a personal, experiential faith over tradition.
- Cultural Nonchalance – The community can be disengaged from spiritual matters, making consistent participation in ministry activities difficult.
- Financial Challenges – Sustaining IAW and medical ministry efforts requires ongoing support.

Spiritual Landscape

- Jordan has a population of 11.6 million, with Christians making up just over 1%.
- There are 25-30 Evangelical churches in Amman.
- The dominant religion is Islam, but many people connected to the El-Hages' ministry come from various Christian backgrounds.

Prayer Requests

- Wisdom & Favor – Navigating legal and cultural limitations on ministry in Jordan.
- Open Hearts – That nominal Christians would embrace a true, personal faith in Christ.
- Engagement & Commitment – That the Jordanian community would be more receptive and invested in spiritual growth.
- Financial Support – Provision for IAW and medical outreach to continue impacting lives.

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

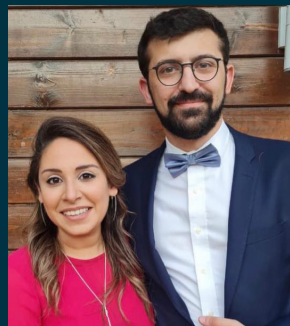
Joe and Mira Costa

Lea

Lebanon

joecosta88@gmail.com, WhatsApp: +961 3200 535

Joe and Mira Costa serve in Beirut, Lebanon, and its northern suburbs, using social media and in-person discipleship to reach young people across Lebanon and neighboring countries such as Syria, Jordan, and Egypt.



Ministry

- Their ministry focuses on reaching unchurched young people, challenging them to think about their relationship with God and their purpose in life. Their approach is built on three key areas:
- Social Media Outreach – Partnering with Lifeword to create engaging Arabic content that sparks spiritual conversations.
- Bible Studies & Discipleship Groups – Providing a safe space for young men and women to grapple with tough questions and grow in their faith.
- Leadership Training – Equipping pastors and young leaders to develop sustainable youth ministries and reach young people in creative, practical ways.

Their vision is simple: **Reach. Engage. Integrate.**

- Reaching young people with the gospel.
- Engaging with them through discipleship and one-on-one relationships.
- Integrating them into the local church while supporting and training its leaders.

Challenges

- Mass Immigration – Many young people and even trained leaders leave Lebanon due to the economic crisis and instability.
- Ministry Consistency – Political and social unrest make long-term discipleship challenging.
- Hopelessness & Skepticism – While many young people are asking questions about faith, they are also struggling with despair due to Lebanon's corruption and instability.

The People They Serve

Lebanon is a diverse country with:

- A population of 6 million – About 10,000 people are committed churchgoers.
- A Christian minority – Evangelicals make up only 1% of the population.
- A dominant Muslim majority, alongside Maronite Catholics and Greek Orthodox communities.
- Ambitious, well-educated youth – Many seek to leave Lebanon for better opportunities.
- Spiritual curiosity – The crises in Lebanon have caused many young people to question faith, God, and the meaning of life.

Spiritual Landscape

- Lebanon has around 26 Baptist churches and 6-7 biblically sound churches in the Costa family's area.
- The primary religions in Lebanon include:
 - Shiite and Sunni Islam
 - Maronite Catholicism
 - Greek Orthodoxy

Prayer Requests

- Protection – The situation in Lebanon is tense; pray for safety and wisdom for leaders.
- Hope for Young People – Many are lost and hopeless; pray that they find meaning in Christ.
- Open Hearts – That suffering Lebanese people would turn to God in the midst of their trials.
- Strength for Ministry – That God would provide guidance and endurance as the Costas continue their work.

Jacob and Miriam

Malachi and Samuel

Himalayas

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Please avoid using missions/Christian terminology/language when communicating.

Jacob and Miriam serve just outside the capital city on the eastern side of their country. Their ministry focuses on Bible study, discipleship, pastoral training, and community outreach, all aimed at making the good news of Christ known to people across the region.

Ministry

The couple's ministry revolves around weekly Bible studies in their home, where both seekers and believers gather to study the Bible, enjoy fellowship, and engage in Gospel discussions over snacks and games.

Jacob also mentors a local pastor, providing teaching on church ministry, doctrine, and sermon preparation. They actively support a healthy local church by investing in children's ministry, youth teaching, and discipleship. Their midweek house fellowship serves as a space for deeper study and spiritual growth.

Daily outreach includes visiting local shops and roadside tea stalls, where they engage in conversations, build relationships, and share the Gospel. These connections often lead to invitations to their home Bible study or follow-up discussions about faith.

As a mother of a toddler and a newborn, Miriam's ministry is centered on supporting Jacob and caring for Malachi and Samuel, while still actively engaging in relationships and hospitality.

Goals

- Expand their home Bible study and house fellowship.
- Train and equip local pastors and church leaders, including a summer seminar for 20 pastors.
- Spread the Gospel across the country, reaching people from various backgrounds.
- Disciple new believers, helping them grow in their knowledge, love, and obedience to God.

The People They Serve

The people are warm, personable, and open to conversation, which makes relationship-building natural. However, their relaxed approach to life and sin can make it challenging to convey the urgency of repentance and faith in Christ.

Challenges

- Hinduism's belief in millions of gods makes it easy for people to view Jesus as just another deity rather than the one true God.
- Many believe that all spiritual paths lead to the same place, making it difficult to convey the exclusivity of Christ.
- While there are many churches, only about 10% have sound theological beliefs, with many influenced by prosperity gospel, false teachings, syncretism, and charismatic practices.

Religious Landscape

- Hinduism is the dominant religion, with daily worship directed at three main gods, alongside countless others.
- Tibetan Buddhism and Islam also have a presence.
- Hinduism and Buddhism are often blended, with Hindus worshiping Buddha and Buddhists visiting Hindu temples.

Jacob and Miriam remain dedicated to planting seeds of faith, discipling believers, and training leaders as they serve in the Himalayas, trusting God to bring lasting transformation in the hearts of the people.



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

Josie, JJ, Joy, and John

Thailand

ericbrandonlingle@gmail.com, bbling8989@gmail.com

Brandon and Brittney Lingle serve in Bangkok, Thailand, where they are currently in a season of transition between church plants. After recently returning to Thailand, they are praying for direction on where to plant their next church and seeking a Thai partner to join in this mission.



Ministry and Outreach

The Lingles are working alongside a Thai friend who is preparing for ordination and pastoral leadership. Together, they are laying the groundwork for a new church in downtown Bangkok, starting with:

- Bible studies in homes to build a foundation of believers.
- Evangelism in their new area, reaching Thai people with the gospel.

Their long-term vision is to establish a biblically sound church that will faithfully teach God's Word and disciple new believers.

The People They Serve

The Thai people are friendly but often skeptical of Christianity, viewing it as a foreign religion. While many politely accept Christian teachings, few show deeper interest in exploring the truth of the gospel. Buddhism (95%), often mixed with Animism, dominates religious life in Thailand, shaping cultural beliefs and spiritual practices.

Challenges

- Raising up humble leaders in the church remains a significant challenge.
- Life in a mega-city like Bangkok presents difficulties, as busy schedules and heavy traffic make one-on-one discipleship more complicated.
- With only 1-2% of Thailand's population identifying as Christian, the lack of sound Bible-teaching churches is deeply discouraging. Some believers in rural areas resort to online worship due to the absence of faithful churches nearby.

Goals

- Find the right Thai partner to co-labor in church planting.
- Establish a new church in Bangkok that is faithful to the gospel.
- Continue evangelizing and discipling in their new area.
- Support their Thai friend's ordination process and help him prepare for pastoral ministry.
- Raise up local church leaders who will serve with humility and faithfulness.

Prayer Requests

- Wisdom and direction in choosing the next location for their church plant.
- Strength and perseverance for their family and their Thai partner's family.
- A fruitful response from those they are reaching with the gospel.
- Provision and growth in their Bible studies and evangelism efforts.

Brandon and Brittney remain faithful to the mission of making disciples and planting churches in Thailand, trusting in God's guidance as they seek to establish a new gospel-centered church in Bangkok.

Dr. Siripong and Jessie Yaebeang

Titus, Noah, & Roman

Thailand

thailand.forHisglory@hotmail.com

Siripong and Jessie Yaebeang serve in Bangkok, Thailand, where they are dedicated to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, leading North Bangkok Church, equipping pastors and preachers, and providing biblical resources for Thai Christians and churches. Their ministry focuses on addressing the spiritual famine in Thailand by ensuring that God's Word is faithfully preached and taught.



Ministry and Outreach

The Yaebeangs lead North Bangkok Church, where they faithfully teach the Word of God and disciple believers. In addition to shepherding their congregation, they are involved in:

- Producing biblical resources through writing and videos to support Thai Christians and churches.
- Hosting preaching seminars to train and equip Thai pastors and preachers.
- Engaging in evangelism to share the good news of Christ with the Thai people.
- Raising and appointing church leaders, including deacons and lay elders.

Through these efforts, they seek to strengthen the few biblically sound churches in Thailand and provide much-needed theological training.

Challenges and the People They Serve

Thailand is a predominantly Buddhist nation, with nearly 90% of the population practicing Buddhism. Many Thai people believe in karma, reincarnation, and a works-based salvation, which makes the Gospel difficult to understand and accept. Christianity is often seen as a Western religion, and churches are frequently influenced by Pentecostal and Charismatic movements, leading to a lack of sound biblical teaching.

Out of Thailand's 70 million people, less than 1% are evangelical Christians, making biblically faithful churches rare both in Bangkok and throughout the country.

Ministry Goals

- Faithfully preach and teach God's Word at North Bangkok Church.
- Train and equip Thai pastors and preachers through annual preaching seminars.
- Continue writing biblical resources to strengthen Thai churches.
- Expand their online ministry, producing video content for Thai believers.
- Shepherd and disciple church members, raising up new leaders.
- Glorify God in their daily walk, marriage, parenting, and homeschooling.

Prayer Requests

- Wisdom and strength in weekly sermon preparation and shepherding the church.
- Guidance in searching for and appointing church leaders (deacons and lay elders).
- God's provision and blessing over preaching seminars, writing projects, and video resources.
- A deeper daily walk with Christ for their family.
- Growth and perseverance in their marriage, parenting, and homeschooling journey.

Siripong and Jessie remain steadfast in their mission to proclaim the Gospel, strengthen the church, and equip faithful leaders in Thailand, trusting God to transform lives through His Word.

AJ

Creative Access Nation - Central Asia arkslp@protonmail.com

Please avoid using missions/Christian terminology/language when communicating.

AJ serves in Central Asia, where she is preparing to live among and reach an unreached Muslim people group of approximately 150,000 people. Currently, she is based in a major city, but her long-term plan is to relocate to a smaller village where this people group resides.



Ministry

The initial years of AJ's ministry will be dedicated to intensive language and culture learning. Her primary goals include:

- Becoming fluent in both the national language and the people group's ancient Mandarin-based dialect.
- Building relationships and gaining trust within the community.
- Laying the foundation for future gospel work, with the vision of planting a healthy, indigenous church among this people group.

The People She Serves

This group is an ethnically Chinese Muslim population that fled China in the mid-1800s and settled on the border of two Central Asian countries. Their language blends Mandarin with Arabic and Persian influences, and their culture is deeply rooted in Islam and Tengrism. Though they are warm and hospitable, the gospel is virtually unknown among them, with only 0.04% identifying as believers.

Challenges

- Language & Cultural Barriers – Learning two languages is essential for clear gospel communication.
- Islamic Strongholds – The perception of Christianity within the community is often negative.
- Creative Access & Security – Finding safe and sustainable ways to live and minister among the people.
- Persecution of Believers – New followers of Christ may face rejection or opposition.

Current Spiritual Landscape

- No known churches exist among this people group within the country where AJ serves.
- A few biblically sound churches exist in the national language in major cities, but many in this group do not speak the national language or live near these churches.
- Encouragingly, in the neighboring country, early efforts are underway, including the beginnings of a Bible translation in their language.

Prayer Requests

AJ asks for prayer partners to intercede for:

- Language learning – Fluency in both languages to share the gospel clearly.
- Spiritual openness – That hearts would be softened to hear and respond to the Good News.
- Church planting efforts – That a faithful, indigenous church would one day take root among this people group.
- Protection and wisdom – As she navigates the challenges of living and ministering in this region.

Michel and Ruth Poirier

Canada

(418) 209-3710

pasteur.poirier56@gmail.com

Michel and Ruth Poirier serve in Vallée-Jonction, Quebec, and minister in Lévis, a city with 140,000 people and only two Baptist churches. Their ministry extends beyond Quebec's borders due to the large number of immigrants in the region, including Africans, Haitians, Brazilians, and Chileans who have come to work and settle in Canada.



Ministry Approach

- Their ministry is international in scope, reaching people from diverse backgrounds who have settled in Lévis.
- The focus is on sharing the gospel, leading people to salvation, baptism, and training them to share their faith with others.
- The church welcomes many immigrants, presenting unique opportunities and challenges in ministry.

Ministry Goals

- Evangelism – Leading people to faith in Christ.
- Baptism and Discipleship – Teaching believers to grow in their faith and train others to do the same.

The People They Serve

- The majority of the local population is Roman Catholic, and Baptists are often seen as outsiders or even enemies of their faith.
- Many African immigrants who attend the church come from Pentecostal backgrounds and believe in losing salvation or salvation through faith plus baptism.

Challenges in Ministry

- Religious Opposition – The Catholic majority often views Baptists as opponents to their traditional beliefs.
- Motive for Church Attendance – Some immigrants attend services not for spiritual growth, but to seek letters of recommendation from the church to help with government approvals for immigration status.

Spiritual Landscape

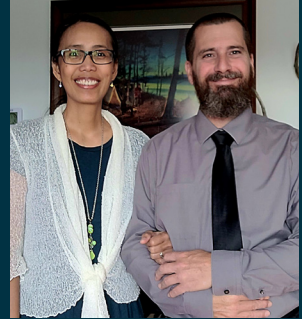
- Only 3 BMA churches exist in all of Canada.
- Quebec has about 25 independent Baptist churches serving a population of 8 million people.
- Lévis has only 2 Baptist churches for a city of 140,000 residents.

Michael and Josie Barton

Canada

kjv.barton@gmail.com

Michael Barton serves as an Assistant Pastor in Canada, faithfully working to bring the gospel to a spiritually dry and resistant community. Alongside his wife, Josie, he is dedicated to strengthening believers and reaching the lost.



Spiritual Climate

- The majority of people in their area come from a Catholic background, but even Catholicism is fading.
- Many have turned to humanism, placing their faith in themselves rather than in God.
- The region is spiritually hard soil, but the Bartons remain encouraged knowing that God is all-powerful and can break even the hardest of hearts.

Ministry Vision

- Trusting in God's power to use His local church to bring people to salvation.
- Encouraging and strengthening fellow believers to remain faithful and obedient, no matter the cost.

Prayer Requests

- That souls would be saved and come to a true knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- That believers would be strengthened, running their race in obedience and faithfulness to the one true God.
- For Haitian brothers and sisters suffering persecution, that God would protect them and provide a way of escape.

Praises

- God's grace, mercy, and patience, freely given despite our unworthiness.
- Michael's wife Josie, whom he cherishes as his "second miracle and precious pearl."
- Pastor Mike and Ruth Poirier, for their faithfulness, steadfastness, and love for their Savior.

Safa and Florans Banosh

Grace, Eleora, Elena, and Shameless

Arizona

Safabanosh@gmail.com

Safa and Florans Banosh are dedicated to building up the spiritual lives of believers in Glendale, Arizona. Their ministry revolves around:

- Equipping believers spiritually through Bible studies and discipleship.
- Encouraging the church family to live out their faith and become soldiers of God.
- Creating a strong spiritual family centered on biblical principles and mutual growth.



Ministry Goals

- To serve Jesus Christ by serving His people with humility and commitment.
- To foster a community that grows in faith and knowledge of the Word.
- To disciple others to live in obedience to Christ, becoming true followers and soldiers of the Lord.

People They Serve

- The Banosh family serves a spiritual family of mostly mature believers who are dedicated to serving the Lord together.
- Their focus is on building up believers to grow deeper in their faith and to take on the responsibility of discipleship.

Challenges

- Maintaining commitment among church families, especially in terms of regular attendance on Sunday and Friday services.
- Reaching the broader Arab community, many of whom identify as religious or traditional but may not have a personal relationship with Christ.
- The challenges of cultural and religious diversity, with many people in their community identifying as atheist, agnostic, or with nominal beliefs.

Religious Landscape

- The Arab community in the area includes a mix of religious and traditional beliefs, with many identifying as atheist, agnostic, or "nothing in particular."
- Despite this, the Banosh family remains committed to preaching the gospel to all and helping those who are seeking truth to find it in Jesus Christ.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for a deeper commitment among church families, particularly in their regular attendance and participation in church activities.
- Pray for the gospel to break through to those in the community who are still struggling with their faith, especially those who have not yet found a relationship with Christ.
- Pray for wisdom and strength as Safa and Florans continue to disciple, train, and build up the believers in their church family.

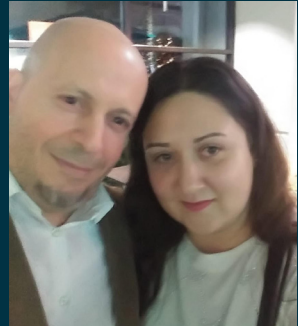
Adam and Nour Batarseh

Florida

adambatarseh@gmail.com

Adam and Nour Batarseh lead BMA Arabic Church in Orlando, a ministry dedicated to sharing the gospel with the Arabic-speaking community in the area. Their ministry includes:

- Sunday worship services where they preach the Word of God.
- Personal outreach through house visits and one-on-one conversations.
- Bible studies (both in-person and via Zoom) to disciple and strengthen believers.



Ministry Goals

- To share the gospel with Arab people in Orlando and lead them to Christ.
- To make disciples who grow in their faith and share the gospel with others.
- To be a faithful and biblical presence in a city where Arabic-speaking believers are few.

People They Serve

The church ministers to Arabic-speaking people from various Middle Eastern cultures and backgrounds. Some have already come to Christ, while others are still seeking or resistant to the gospel. Prayer, perseverance, and preaching are key in leading them to salvation.

Challenges

- Overcoming cultural and religious barriers as many are deeply tied to their traditions.
- Reaching people who are “Christian by name” but do not have a personal relationship with Christ.
- Praying for open doors so that more people can hear and accept the gospel.

Religious Landscape

- There are five Evangelical Arabic churches in the area.
- BMA Arabic Church is the only Baptist Arabic church in Orlando.
- Other Arabic-speaking churches include:
 - Catholic Arabic churches
 - Orthodox Arabic churches
- The most common religious groups they encounter:
 - Nominal Christians (Christian by name but not in faith)
 - Muslims

Prayer Requests

- Pray for more opportunities to share the gospel with the Arabic-speaking community.
- Pray for hearts to be opened to the message of salvation.
- Pray for discipleship efforts as new believers grow in their faith.

Juan and Hannah Fernandez

Victoria, Eleanor, Juanito

Illinois

pastorjuanfernandez@gmail.com, 618-581-8056

Juan and Hannah Fernandez are dedicated to reaching Hispanic immigrants in the Metro East area through personal evangelism, discipleship, and community outreach. Their ministry includes:

- Daily prayer walks in work areas such as roofing sites, construction zones, restaurants, and RV parks where many Hispanic workers live.
- Producing online devotionals & short videos to engage and inform Hispanic immigrants about their outreach efforts.
- Building relationships through local soccer leagues and gym visits to expand their evangelistic network.



Ministry Goals

- Develop a prayer team to intercede for evangelistic efforts.
- Establish three discipleship groups in Florissant, Chesterfield, and Granite City.
- Form a Core Team of three families to assist in ministry.
- Connect with businesses that employ Hispanic workers to offer devotional support.

People They Serve

- Hispanic men (ages 18-65), first-generation immigrants who primarily speak Spanish.
- Many arrive in debt to transporters and struggle with substance addiction as they cope with the challenges of starting over in the U.S.
- They are driven by the American dream, constantly moving from town to town in search of work and better opportunities.

Challenges

- Limited time to minister due to workers' demanding schedules.
- Building trust among a transient community unfamiliar with BMA or Baptist beliefs.
- Strong superstitions and reliance on spiritual guidance from non-Christian sources.

Religious Landscape

- Strong Catholic influence, with packed churches on Sundays (80-120 per mass).
- 3-4 Protestant charismatic groups meet weekly for worship.
- Many immigrants lack biblical knowledge but are open to spiritual discussions.

Prayer Requests

- Strength and endurance to remain steadfast in ministry.
- Godly friendships and community for their family and children.
- Completion of their garage project to create a space for ministry outreach.
- Opportunities to connect with more families and establish a strong support network.

Cherry and Terma Gamboa

Keiry and Keilyn

New York

gamboacherry9@gmail.com

Cherry and Terma Gamboa are originally from Honduras and belong to the Garifuna people, an ethnic group that has spread across the United States and Europe. They are grateful for the opportunity to serve in the Bronx, NY, where Cherry pastors Iglesia Bautista G M Redención.



Ministry Approach

During the warm months, they visit parks for evangelistic campaigns and distribute tracts to reach the lost. In colder months, they focus on house-to-house visitation and personal discipleship to strengthen believers and share the gospel.

Ministry Goals

Their vision extends beyond the Bronx as they pray for opportunities to plant churches in:

- Houston, Texas
- Ohio
- Nanuet, New York

People They Serve

Their ministry is multicultural, reaching:

- Garifuna-speaking individuals
- English speakers
- Spanish speakers

Challenges

The Bronx has many churches, but the true gospel is often distorted. Preaching sound doctrine is a significant challenge, but God has been faithful.

Religious Landscape

The Bronx, a city of 1.5 million people, is home to various religious groups, including:

- Pentecostal churches (most prominent evangelical presence)
- Muslims
- Jehovah's Witnesses

An estimated 40% of the population identifies as Christian, but many lack a solid biblical foundation.

Prayer Requests

- A larger space for worship – The church is currently renting a small facility, but growth in attendance means they will soon outgrow their space.
- Rescuing young people from gangs – They have a thriving youth ministry and need room to welcome more families and young people seeking transformation.
- New church plants – Praying for doors to open in Houston, Ohio, and Nanuet, NY.

Elvis and Wendy Garcia

Pablo, Josh

Texas

elvis@bmaglobal.org, 662-587-2148

Elvis and Wendy Garcia are committed to reaching and equipping Hispanic leaders across the United States. Elvis serves as the Ministry Coordinator for Hispanic People in the U.S., and his ministry includes:

- **Leadership Residency:** Meeting monthly with Hispanic leaders to train and develop them.
- **Theological Education:** Teaching at the BMA Theological Seminary in Puerto Rico.
- **Missionary Support:** Evaluating, training, and mentoring Hispanic missionary families.
- **Church Growth & Multiplication:** Supporting over 60 Hispanic churches and 6 Hispanic church associations across the U.S.
- **Evangelism & Discipleship:** Engaging with both first-generation Hispanic immigrants and second-generation Hispanic Americans.



Ministry Goals

- Train and develop leaders to train others, creating a multiplying effect.
- Strengthen Hispanic churches in the 10 states with the largest Latino populations in the U.S.
- Expand a church-planting movement among Hispanic communities nationwide.
- Provide resources and support to BMA Hispanic missionaries and churches.

People They Serve

- First-generation Hispanic immigrants from over 40 Latin American countries.
- Second-generation Hispanic Americans who speak both Spanish and English.
- Many of the people they serve are immigrants and refugees seeking stability and a better life.

Challenges

- **Overwork & Materialism:** Many Hispanic immigrants work long hours, making it difficult to prioritize spiritual growth.
- **Cultural Adjustment:** Transitioning from Latin American cultures to life in the U.S. often leads to struggles with faith and identity.
- **Individualism:** Many Hispanic immigrants come from communal cultures, but the American lifestyle often fosters independence, making community-based faith harder to cultivate.

Hispanic Population & Gospel Response

- The U.S. Hispanic population reached 62.1 million in 2020, making it the second-largest ethnic group in the country.
- Hispanics are one of the most responsive groups to the gospel. According to Pew Research, 80 out of every 100 Hispanic immigrants respond positively to the gospel.
- The dominant religion among Hispanics is Catholicism.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for more laborers to join the growing need for Hispanic church planting.
- Pray for wisdom and resources as they support missionaries and churches.
- Pray for Hispanic pastors and leaders to remain faithful in ministry.
- Pray for Wendy's ministry as she encourages and supports pastors' wives.

Jason & Jennifer Goodwin

Cooper, Delaney, Wyatt, Avery, Knox, Hattie

Louisiana

Goodhouse19@gmail.com

Jason and Jennifer Goodwin are dedicated to church planting in Ruston, Louisiana, with a vision to establish a BMA church in the area. Currently, their ministry consists of a small group of 4-7 families who meet weekly at the ABS (Association of Baptist Students) at Louisiana Tech and in homes.

Also serving as ABS director, Jason actively shares the Gospel with college students at Louisiana Tech and others whom God providentially places in his path.



Goals

- To bring together a group of Christ-followers to plant a BMA church in Ruston.
- To engage, disciple, and equip college students with the Gospel.

The People They Serve

- Their current group primarily consists of homeschool families in the Ruston area.
- Louisiana Tech University has a large student population, including international students from diverse religious backgrounds.

Challenges

- The biggest challenge is the short time they have been on the field, making it difficult to establish deep connections quickly.

Spiritual Landscape

- Ruston is home to 22,000+ people and a university with nearly 12,000 undergraduates.
- Estimating the lost population is difficult, but statistically, at least 16,000 people may be walking in spiritual darkness daily.
- There are at least half a dozen biblically sound churches in Ruston.
- The predominant religion is Christianity, though much of it reflects American cultural Christianity rather than biblical faith.
- There are also Hindu and Muslim adherents, especially among international students.

Jamshad and Anila Hadyat

Josiah, Joshua, Ariana and Micaiah

Georgia

jamshad@vlcu.orgm, Facebook: Vertical Life Church-Urdu

Jamshad and Anila Hadyat are dedicated to reaching refugee communities in Clarkston, Georgia, through church planting and holistic ministry. Their work involves:

- Building relationships to establish trust within diverse refugee communities.
- Providing emotional and practical support to individuals facing economic hardship, trauma, and cultural barriers.
- Sharing the gospel through Bible studies, personal outreach, and community events.
- Integrating cultural understanding to communicate the gospel effectively.



Ministry Goals

- Establish a strong, Christ-centered church within the refugee community.
- Disciple new believers to help them grow in faith and become leaders.
- Assist refugees practically while pointing them to the hope found in Jesus.
- Develop a mission-minded community that expands God's Kingdom.

People They Serve

- The Hadyats minister to refugees from various cultural and religious backgrounds, many of whom have escaped war, persecution, and economic hardship.
- The people they serve often experience social isolation, emotional trauma, and cultural adaptation struggles as they rebuild their lives in the U.S.

Challenges

- Cultural and language barriers make communication and discipleship more complex.
- Gaining trust among refugees who have suffered trauma and are often wary of outsiders.
- Limited financial resources for outreach, support, and ministry expansion.
- Resistance from some religious and cultural groups that oppose Christian teachings.

Religious Landscape

- The majority of the refugee population in Clarkston are non-believers, with only a small percentage being Christians.
- Few biblically sound churches exist in the area, and those that do often lack resources for effective outreach.
- The dominant religions among the refugees include Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and various Christian faith traditions. Many also hold onto traditional cultural beliefs.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for wisdom as they navigate cultural and religious dynamics in their ministry.
- Pray for financial provision to sustain and expand their outreach efforts.
- Pray for open hearts among the refugee communities to receive the gospel.
- Pray for health and safety as they prepare for upcoming travel to Pakistan.

Edixon and Belkys Piña

Arizona

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Edixon and Belkys Piña are dedicated to spreading the gospel and strengthening the Hispanic community in Phoenix through New Birth Baptist Church. Their ministry includes:

- Annual Ministry Planning to align with the church's vision: Reach, Disciple, and Send others to Christ.
- Preaching Sound Doctrine to ensure biblical teaching and spiritual growth.
- Home Visits & Biblical Counseling to address spiritual, emotional, and practical needs.
- Churchwide Prayer & Fellowship Gatherings to build unity and bring more people to Christ.
- Praying & Preparing for New Church Plants to expand the work of the Kingdom.



Ministry Goals

- Strengthen and consolidate New Birth Baptist Church.
- Establish Bible study groups in homes to promote discipleship and community.
- Plant new churches to expand gospel outreach in Arizona.

People They Serve

- Primarily Hispanics of Mexican origin, many of whom face economic hardship.
- Many require transportation assistance to attend church services.
- The community is learning commitment to God and collaboration in ministry.

Challenges

- Spiritual Growth & Transformation: Encouraging believers to live in daily communion with the Lord through prayer and Scripture.
- Overcoming Gossip & Division: Helping members grow in unity and spiritual maturity.
- Missionary Vision: Instilling a heart for evangelism and church planting.
- Cultural & Religious Barriers: Many Mexicans come from deeply rooted Catholic traditions and struggle to leave behind idolatry and long-standing customs.

Religious Landscape

- Most Hispanics in the area are Catholic, with strong traditional beliefs.
- Many struggle to abandon cultural and religious practices tied to their identity.
- For God, no heart is too hard! The Piñas continue to pray, share, and trust the Holy Spirit to convict hearts.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the spiritual growth of church members.
- Pray for wisdom and strength as they lead and disciple.
- Pray for the new church location to be a blessing and for continued outreach.
- Pray for openness among the Hispanic community to the gospel.

Gavin and Haley Roberts

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Utah

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Gavin and Haley Roberts serve in Morgan, Utah, a small-town community nestled in a county of approximately 14,000 people. Their ministry is rooted in organic relationships and deep involvement in the community.



Ministry Approach

- Their approach to ministry is simple yet impactful—they build relationships naturally by being actively engaged in the community.
- Often, people come to them, opening doors for gospel conversations in everyday life.
- Their heart is to live out the gospel, making Jesus known through authentic connections rather than structured programs.

Ministry Goals

- Their ultimate goal is to see a sustainable, gospel-preaching church in Morgan, providing a faithful Christian presence in the community.

The People They Serve

- The town is strongly shaped by its dominant religious culture, which influences local life and traditions.
- Ministry in this context requires patience, understanding, and deep relationships to share biblical truth effectively.

Challenges in Ministry

- Sustainability – Ensuring long-term growth and stability for their ministry and church.
- Space Constraints – Finding a suitable location to meet and grow as a church.

Spiritual Landscape

- Morgan is home to only one evangelical church serving a population of 5,000.
- The entire county has just two evangelical churches among 14,000 residents.
- The local high school graduates 250-300 students per year, showing the need for a strong gospel witness in future generations.

Ashraf and Jenny Sara

John & Mark

Texas

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Ashraf and Jenny Sara are dedicated to reaching Arabic-speaking people in America with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ashraf serves as the Coordinator of the Arabic Ministry in America, leading efforts to plant Arabic churches in Texas, Florida, California, and Arizona. Their ministry focuses on:

- Church planting in major U.S. cities with significant Arabic-speaking populations.
- Assessing, training, and coaching missionaries to evangelize, disciple, and establish churches.
- Building a movement of Arabic-speaking believers who follow Christ and spread the gospel.



Ministry Goals

Their primary goal is to plant Arabic-speaking churches across America. They are committed to:

- Leading Arabic-speaking individuals to salvation in Christ.
- Raising strong, gospel-centered communities of believers.
- Equipping and mobilizing church members to fulfill the Great Commission.

People They Serve

Their ministry reaches immigrants from the Middle East and North Africa, including:

- Nationalities: Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, and Arab Gulf countries.
- Ethnicities: Arabs, Kurds, Copts, Assyrians, and Chadians.

Challenges in Ministry

Reaching Arabic-speaking individuals is a long and complex journey, as most come from cultures deeply influenced by Islamic traditions and customs. On average, it takes eight years for an Arabic-speaking individual to fully embrace faith in Jesus Christ. The ministry requires patience, dedication, and ongoing discipleship.

Religious Landscape

- Islam is the fastest-growing religion in the world and in the U.S., including the Dallas area.
- Many Arabic-speaking immigrants cling to their cultural and religious traditions, making evangelism challenging.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for Arabic-speaking individuals to be open to the gospel.
- Pray for more missionaries to be trained and equipped for church planting.
- Pray for the growth and strength of Arabic-speaking churches in America.

Mkram and Claude Ghattas Shahatit

Ruth & Nathan

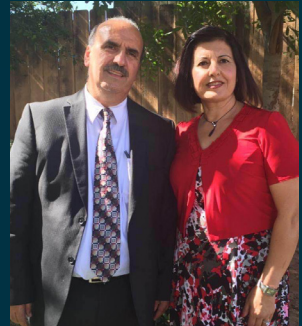
California

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Mkram and Claude Shahatit lead an Arabic church and outreach ministry dedicated to serving refugees and new immigrants in El Cajon.

Their ministry focuses on:

- Providing essential household items such as used furniture, kitchen supplies, and other necessities to help displaced families.
- Using these practical services as a bridge to share the love of Jesus and introduce the gospel.
- Hosting evangelistic events to foster relationships and disciple new believers.



Many of the people they serve have fled war-torn countries and are in desperate need of hope, stability, and community.

Ministry Goals

- Sharing the gospel with unreached Arabic-speaking people.
- Evangelizing and making disciples who will follow Christ and lead others to Him.
- Building bridges between the church and the refugee community through acts of love and service.

People They Serve

Their ministry primarily reaches:

- Muslims (both Sunni and Shia).
- Catholic immigrants from the Middle East.

Challenges

- Muslim communities have deeply rooted beliefs that differ significantly from Christianity, including a different holy book, prophet, and cultural values.
- Many refugees face trauma and hardship, making trust-building and discipleship a slow process.

Religious Landscape in El Cajon

- Population of Arabic speakers: 90,000+
- Christian believers make up less than 3% of this group.
- There are only six Arabic-speaking Christian churches in the city.
- Largest religions in the area:
 1. Catholicism
 2. Islam
 3. Eastern Orthodoxy

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the ministry to be effective in sharing Christ's love.
- Pray for open hearts among refugees to receive the gospel.
- Pray that Jesus will be known throughout El Cajon.

Mike and Laura Beth Strong

Felicity, Julianna, Anna, John, Joshua, Ruby, Samuel, Seth, Eden
Minnesota

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Michael and Laura Beth Strong are committed to helping people flourish in their life-long pursuit of Jesus Christ. They serve in a low-income area of Minneapolis, focusing on creating disciples who are deeply rooted in the Word of God.

Their ministry is life-on-life, meaning they spend intentional time with people so they can learn from their daily walk with the Lord. A significant part of their work includes identifying and training local men to become church planters, pastors, and revitalizers.

Spiritual Landscape

Minneapolis is home to many religions, including Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, and various forms of paganism like Wicca. There is also a strong presence of Catholic and hyper-charismatic churches, spreading false gospels and confusing many in the community.

The church plant consists almost entirely of new believers, which presents challenges in discipleship and spiritual growth. Michael and Laura Beth are dedicated to helping these believers mature in their faith and become deeply grounded in God's Word.

Prayer Requests

- Financial Support – As the church grows, so do ministry expenses. Additional partnerships are needed to help sustain and expand the work.
- Faithful Discipleship – They need more mature believers to come alongside them in discipling the many new believers who have joined the church in the past year or two.
- Spiritual Growth – Praying that each member of the church plant is grounded in the Word and keeps Jesus Christ at the center of their life.

Praises

- God's Faithfulness – Over the past year, they have seen eleven people come to Christ, with seven baptized so far.
- Growth in Faith – Church members are stepping out to use their gifts in ministry.
- New Ministry Initiatives – Members have begun a worship team and are serving in children's and youth ministry.





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