

BMFP



FORGOTTEN CALL

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BAPTIST MISSIONS TO FORGOTTEN PEOPLES

Why a Mission Board?



Jonathan & Rachelle Lyons
President

There is much debate about the need and place of a mission agency. Let me say that if a local church can adequately take care of the needs of a missionary on the field, then the mission agency is not needed. With that said, most churches are not able to nor is it sustainable for a church to handle all that is involved with missionary care and accountability.

A Mission Board is an arm of the local church, not a replacement of the local church. It is much like a camp ministry, a Bible school, or other ministries that enhance and help the local church. BMFP does not send missionaries to the mission field, that is the responsibility of the local church. We are here to assist and aid the local church in its pursuit of the Great Commission. A mission board that has its biblical place works directly with the local church and does not usurp authority over its missionary. We provide "watch-care" over the missionary as we work alongside the local church.

We believe we should minister to the missionary and their family but we also have a responsibility to minister to and encourage sending church pastors. BMFP strives to build and establish closer relationships with our missionaries and their sending churches. This is a work in progress. We are still learning how we can best accomplish this goal. Over the last few years, the Lord has allowed us to build relationships with some very dear churches and their pastors. The care of the Lord's servants is a very high priority. Missionaries and their sending churches are not just a number to be counted but a family to be served, saluted, and strengthened.

If you are or have a potential missionary candidate, we would be honored if you would consider partnering with BMFP. Reaching the world with the Gospel is a task that can be accomplished as we work together for the cause of Christ. Our Candidate Training Week will be held this year at the Gospel Light Baptist Church in Walkertown, NC, June 10th-14th. Please visit bmfp.org or call 904-783-4007 for more information.

Missions and Prayer

There are many things that Dr. Burge initiated during his leadership of BMFP that have blossomed since his homegoing. Mission-wide participation in prayer is one of them.

The weekly email of missionary prayer requests that arrives in 3,000+ inboxes each week is something he started.

The participation of the missionaries who send in prayer requests continues to grow. If you would promise to pray for the requests of the BMFP missionaries, send an email to Brother Jonathan Lyons, BMFP President, (jlyons@bmfp.org) and you can join this ministry of intercession.

When the Covid 19 pandemic hit, Dr. Burge incorporated the Zoom technology to facilitate communication throughout the BMFP Family. He instituted the weekday 9:00 a.m. Zoom prayer meetings with the BMFP Field Administrators. These times of fellowship and prayer have elevated our relationship with the Lord and one another exponentially.

The number of field administrators who are able to get on varies from 2 to 10, depending on schedules. Regardless of where we are in the world, if we can get online, we are there. Technology gives, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name," a whole other dimension! The number of prayer requests that come in weekly varies as well. This week there are 19 requests. It is sometimes hard to get through praying for each of the requests in less than an hour. "Sweet Hour of Prayer" is a precious reality.

Dr. Burge would often say, "BMFP does not send missionaries to the mission field. That is the job of the local church. BMFP exists to assist the local churches in their pursuit of the fulfillment of the Great Commission." He would say, "BMFP does not belong to me. BMFP belongs to the Lord." The implications and ramifications of these statements place the role and ministry of prayer in a proper and vital perspective. This is the perspective: Jesus is the Head of His Church.

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Jon & Carolyn DeRusha
USA Field Administrators

Continued from front page
by Jon De Rusha

He is the Lord of the harvest, and of necessity, the Lord of the harvesters/laborers. He is infinitely competent in His office. Paul said, "We are laborers together with God." Someone else has said, "Prayer is the work of God." When we pray within the framework of the building of His Church, we are laboring together with God. When we pray for laborers, their preparation, qualification, and consecration, we are laboring together with God. Prayer with this focus is the heart of God. This kind of praying opens the door for the, "great and mighty things which thou knowest not," to be experienced in the local churches and the ministries of the missionaries. Indeed, this is praying according to the will of God.

Would you initiate a prayer group that would pray specifically, consistently for BMFP missionary prayer requests? Pastors, fellow missionaries, would you think about starting a prayer group? We are praying you will.

There is no such thing as missions apart from prayer!

News From the Field
Adrian & Maurisa Hernandez
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This month we started our regular ministries back up with the kids club and Bible Institute, and will start back in the public schools very soon. We've been praying about getting back in the schools, and a principal in Xenacoj actually called me saying someone gave him my number, and asked if I would be interested in coming once a month to pray with the kids and present the gospel to over 200 children. What an answer to prayer! We look forward to what the Lord has in store through this opened door!

Another blessing was getting to celebrate our 8th Anniversary in Santo Domingo, Xenacoj. We are so thankful for all that the Lord has done and continues to do in this town. We had our sister church in Santiago join us. We had 4 people accept Christ as their Savior and 6 souls who rededicated their lives to the Lord!. Praise the Lord!

We ask for your prayers toward the ministry of getting back in the public schools, and for many children to accept Christ as their Savior. We've also been invited to a village 3 hours away to share the gospel with 100 children! Our landlord and his family started the work but called me as they are not preachers and have asked me to share the gospel once a month. They are doing a great work with 3 families they are reaching in a Sunday school type fashion. We are so thankful for the Lord continuing to open doors for our family here in Guatemala.

Kurt & Rachel Robertson
Korea
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In June of 2021, we boarded our flight to South Korea not knowing what God had for us, But we knew God called us. 2 Timothy 2:3 says, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." Over the past 2.5 years, we have endured many hardships, but we have also experienced many blessings. The Korean language has proved to be a mountain of a task. It is a difficult languages for English people to learn. Everything is opposite from English. There have been many trials trying to break our resolve to reach the people of Korea. However, none of these things have deterred us from our mission. We have had many nights weeping into our pillows and crying out to God. Yet, we continue on because we know the promises of God are sure.

Galatians 6:9 says, "And let us not be weary in well doing: For in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." The word faint here means "quit." We have learned to endure hardship for the glory of God. Because of this, we shall reap despite our difficulties, if we don't quit. Satan would love us to throw in the towel. But we must remember that God desires us to be diligent. Hebrews 6:11 says, "And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:" While there have been many hardships, we have hope to remain unto the end. When we walk through our valleys, we know that Jesus walks with us. Step by step, all along the way, Jesus walks with us. He never leaves us.

What is Faith Promise?

In accord with the spirit of the New Testament, it makes giving a spiritual thing and establishes true consecration as the only valid basis for sharing with God our means - ultimately provided by God. We "purpose" in our heart to give. This is the Bible plan for reaching the world with the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ (II Cor. 8:4-5 and 9:7).

"I believe it will only be known on the Last Day how much has been accomplished in missionary work by the prayers of earnest believers at home."
- James Fraser

**For Thou Shalt Go To All That
I Shall Send Thee**

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