

# BMFP



# FORGOTTEN CALL

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## BAPTIST MISSIONS TO FORGOTTEN PEOPLES

### Pressing Toward the Mark by Expanding the Ministry



**Jonathan & Rachelle Lyons**  
President

In Titus 1:5, the apostle Paul calls for intentional ministry expansion: "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city." Expansion is purposeful, prayerful, and structured. As Baptist Missions to Forgotten Peoples grows, three principles unfold: influence, interface, and increased office space.

**God is broadening our influence.** Through faithful missionaries and strategic partnerships, the Gospel is reaching further into regions and among people groups long overlooked. This growing influence is not measured merely by numbers, but by lives transformed and churches established. Like Titus in Crete, we are called to strengthen what has begun and extend what remains lacking.

**We are expanding interface**—greater connection and interaction with churches, supporters, and missionaries. New communication platforms and increased travel opportunities have enabled more effective engagement. Clearer vision, stronger encouragement for missionaries, and efficient coordination of efforts are the results. Ministry is not done in isolation; it thrives through meaningful relationships and shared purposes.

**The Lord is leading through an increase in office space**—a practical yet significant aspect of ministry growth. As our missionary endeavors grow, additional space will allow for better organization and improved facilities to handle key ministries and enhance mission projects. This is not merely about buildings, but about stewardship, creating an environment where the work of the ministry of assisting Local churches can function smoothly and effectively.

BMFP is "Pressing Toward the Mark." God is ordering and expanding His work. As Paul instructed Titus, we are strengthening and extending what God entrusted to us. We trust God to continue reaching the forgotten peoples of the world.

### Success

Matthew 28:18-20



**Jon & Carolyn DeRusha**  
Church Planting  
Administrators

Everyone desires success. No one wants to fail. When Jesus asked, "What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul," he assumes what all people assume—that regardless of the effort, we expect to gain something from it. We attend classes at school expecting to follow the standard course, move to the next grade, and then graduate. Graduation marks success. We invest our money, time, and energy expecting related results.

Every field of effort has its clear markers of success and failure. Some are more definite, while others are more ambiguous.

The realm of missions and local church ministry is no different. We rejoice whenever a new church is established, and we grieve whenever we hear of a church closing its doors.

What are some biblical indicators of success? In missions work and church life, what serves as a clear marker of achievement? Does the Great Commission offer a definitive scale for assessing success or failure?

**Winning Sinners to Christ:** Is being a prolific soul winner a marker for success? Indeed! But where does it fall on the graded scale of success outlined in the Great Commission? Remember, going to heaven and fulfilling the Great Commission are not the same thing. You do know what the Great Commission is, don't you?

**Baptizing New Believers:** Would baptizing those we win to Christ be a measure of success? It is disconcerting to read reports of souls saved compared to baptisms when the numbers are disproportionate by three or four times.

**The Church Finance Report:** Would the financial report be a measure by which the success of a local church is measured? Maybe so, but maybe not.

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**Continued from front page  
by Jon DeRusha**

**Disciple-Making:** Success and failure become a little more unclear on the disciple-making scale. However, can we all agree that when the person we have led to the Lord and who obeys Christ in believers' baptism develops and matures to the point of leading their first soul to Christ, seeing that person baptized, and making a disciple, a measurable success has been achieved?

**Becoming a Sending Church for Missionaries:** What about when God separates a young couple for missionary service, and the church sends them out? Wouldn't we conclude, biblically, that the church has attained another level of success?

**Reproducing Other Churches in Our Judea & Samaria:** What about when travel and distance become obstacles for some church members, leading the church to authorize and establish another independent Baptist church in closer proximity? Wouldn't that be considered a measure of success?

So, how effective are our soul-winning efforts? Do we understand what the Gospel is? How successful are we in teaching and leading those we've led to Christ to obedience through believers' baptism? Do we know what believers' baptism is and what it signifies? How well are we discipling those we've won to Christ and guiding them to obedience through believers' baptism? Are they disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ? Have they become soul-winners and disciple-makers? That is what disciple-makers do. How successful has our local church been in planting other churches in our Judea and Samaria? How effective has our church been in preparing, training, and sending out missionaries to the ends of the earth? May God give us a vision for Great Commission success.

**Third Culture Kids (TCKs)**

**TCKs are constantly saying goodbye to people. Intimacy with Christ is an international practice and opportunity. They never have to say goodbye to the Lord. He understands what they are feeling.**

2022, Pam and I have been hosting a program for the MK's who attend with their families. These are the youngest members of our BMFP missionary family who serve alongside their parents in both the hallelujahs and hardships of missionary life. The program includes a daily challenge from Scripture followed by a time of exciting games and activities. With this, our MK Choir & Players will be preparing several skits and a song for the evening meetings.

This year, the nearby Freedom Baptist Church has offered their gymnasium each morning where our MK's can turn up the enthusiasm without disturbing the adult group. Once again, we will be inviting the adults to join us on Wednesday for a

BMFP family picnic with plenty of food and fun for all ages.

Pam and I would like to ask for your help as we prepare for this year's program:

- Participate – The program is open for BMFP kids ages 6-16 who attend with their parents. Be sure to include the names and ages of your children when you confirm your registration with the office. A brief information form will be e-mailed to you prior to the retreat.

***"His authority on earth allows us to dare to go to all the nations. His authority in heaven gives us our only hope of success. And His presence with us leaves us no other choice." – John Stott***

- Pray – Join us in praying that God will make this a blessed and memorable time for our MK's. We are asking God to make today's BMFP Missionary Kids, tomorrow's BMFP Missionary Candidates.

- Promote – If you know churches and individuals who might be willing to invest in this endeavor, please put them in touch with us (michaeleastridge@cpministries.us). We will be glad to send information or possibly schedule a visit with their church. Contributions can be sent directly to our BMFP Office or made through "Online Giving" via the BMFP Website (bmf.org/donate). Please be sure to indicate that gifts are for "MK-26."



**Making Plans for MK-26  
by Mike & Pam Eastridge**

**CPR Ministries (Life Support for the Local Church)**

As part of our biennial BMFP Stateside Retreat since

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

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