

BMFP

FORGOTTEN CALL

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BAPTIST MISSIONS TO FORGOTTEN PEOPLES

Pressing Toward the Mark by Educating the Masses



Jonathan & Rachelle Lyons
President

The goal of ministry is not simply to gather a crowd, but to educate people with the truth of God and equip them to live for Christ. Colossians 1:25–28 reveal a tremendous responsibility given to every servant of God: to make known the Word of God and teach every person until they become mature in Christ.

Paul declared, “Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” Notice the repetition—every man. The Gospel is for everyone, and the truth of Scripture must be made available to everyone.

The heart of Baptist Missions to Forgotten Peoples; is not merely to send missionaries, but to help reach forgotten peoples with the Gospel, establish churches, train believers, and equip them to reach others for Christ. We must go beyond evangelism. New believers must be discipled, trained, and challenged to reproduce their faith in others.

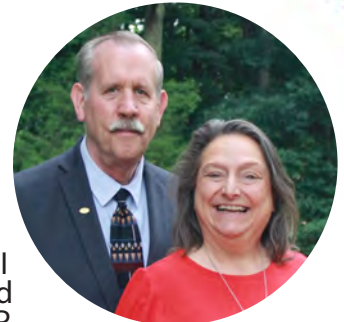
Educating the masses means giving people the truth that transforms lives. We want to see men and women understand the Word of God, families strengthened, churches established, and believers equipped to carry the Gospel to their own communities and beyond.

Our vision remains focused on multiplication—to continue reaching the unreached, teaching the reached, training the taught, and sending the trained. Every missionary, pastor, church planter, and faithful church member has a part in this great task.

Our goal is to make much of Jesus by making disciples who know Him, love Him, serve Him, and help others know Him, “that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.”

The Master has commissioned us and the masses are waiting. Consider joining BMFP as we continue to press toward the mark by Educating the Masses!

BMFP Assisting Local Churches and Their Pastors



John & Rose Radank
Vice President

Rose and I have been here less than one year. As a new kid on the block, I wanted to give a testimony of what I have both experienced and learned about BMFP.

First, a little history. Even though we are now just coming on board with BMFP, we have been associated with the mission since 1997 when we were invited to attend what turned out to be the very first Mission Possible European Retreat. We were new to the mission field in Germany. Without going into a lot of detail, our first few months on the field were difficult. One of the founding missionaries of the retreat understood what we were going through and invited us to attend. In fact, he paid for us to be able to come.

From the beginning, from the leadership to the missionaries themselves, we were welcomed, loved, and encouraged. Looking back, we believe the Lord used that retreat—and more importantly, the people of BMFP—to help us stay on the field. Humanly speaking, that week made an eternal difference in our lives and ministry.

Over the next twenty-eight years, we attended retreat after retreat. As we watched missionaries interact with one another, a pattern became obvious. BMFP has always been more than a mission board. It is a family. We saw seasoned missionaries invest in younger families, pastors encourage weary servants, and friends pray for one another through victories and trials alike. We rejoiced together when churches were planted, souls were saved, and we carried one another's burdens during seasons of heartache.

Now that Rose and I have the privilege of serving on the leadership team, I can honestly say that what we observed from the outside is exactly what we have found on the inside. There is a genuine desire to honor Christ, serve missionaries, and reach forgotten peoples with the gospel. We are not interested in simply managing a mission. Our desire is to strengthen churches, encourage missionaries, and help advance the Great Commission.

(Continued on next page)

Prayer Warrior by Joanna Burdett

As missionaries, we often get asked, "How can I pray for you?" I appreciate this question because of the care behind it. What I find is that, "how can I pray for you?" most often means, "what can I pray about for you?" I tend to answer it accordingly by listing names of people who need salvation, a physical need we may have, or an event, decision, or transition coming up. This usually satisfies the person requesting. My desire is to always be honest with them while trying to be succinct. There are many things to pray for your missionary that go beyond "Lord, bless our missionaries." BMFP has a wonderful brochure on praying effectively for your missionary. It's the best I've seen, and I'd love it if someone used that as a guide when praying for our ministry!

However, I'd like to answer the original question of how and refer to Ephesians 6:18-20. Paul said:

- » **"Always" pray constantly**
- » **"With all supplication" pray urgently, fervently**
- » **"Pray in the Spirit" filled with the Spirit and listening to His leading while praying**
- » **"Watching" praying vigilantly, keeping yourself aware of the spiritual struggle in each request**
- » **"Perseverance" praying consistently with determination**
- » **"For all saints" pray all-inclusively**
- » **"And for me" pray individually**
- » **"Utterance" for boldness for preaching, praying specifically, strategically**
- » **"In bonds" pray knowingly for the situation that presses in on your missionary**

That is how I want people praying for us! We are blessed to have a group that prays for us in this way. Most of them are in their golden years, and we love them! May the Lord raise up in us the next generation of prayer warriors!

Continued from front page by John Radank

No mission board is perfect because none of us are perfect. But I thank the Lord for men and women who love God, love one another, and are committed to the work He has called us to do.

Third Culture Kids (TCKs)

TCKs are used to change and adapting, so settling into a set lifestyle can be frustrating. They must learn to handle the "itch" for change in a healthy manner.

To our fellow missionaries, administrators, and pastors, thank you. Thank you for faithfully serving in places that are often difficult and unnoticed. Thank you for investing your lives in people whom the world may overlook but whom Christ deeply loves. Your labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).

As Rose and I continue in this new chapter of ministry, our prayer is that we might be to others what so many in BMFP have been to us through the years—an encouragement to continue faithfully serving until our Savior returns.

Editor's Notes

The words of Tanna Collins, on the left, were written in her Bible. That Bible was found at the site where she and her family perished in a plane crash in the Himalayan mountains. They were missionaries reaching Tibetan refugees in Nepal returning from Thailand where Tanna had delivered twins.

"Lord, here in your precious Word, I give myself, my husband, my children, and all that I have or ever shall posses, all to you."
-Tanna Collins

Her note continued: "I will follow your will, even to China. Lord, open doors, and I will go and tell the Chinese of your great love. In time of need, supply for us; in time of sorrow, give us peace; in times of joy, send someone to share. Help me to never murmur nor complain. I love you Lord Jesus."

Joe and Tanna Collins served in Nepal for two years before God called them to glory. Then He used Tanna's parents and brother to continue the work.

Please pray for these upcoming events:

- BMFP Administrators' Meeting
- BMFP Family Retreat
- Church Planters' Conference (October)
- Mission Possible European Retreat (November)

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



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