

Spring 2024

Missions News ♦ Views

Make plans to be apart of the
98th Annual Messenger Assembly
of the

American Baptist Association

June 18-20, 2024

Springfield, IL

DELIVERED US FROM DARKNESS

TRANSLATED US INTO THE KINGDOM

REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

HE IS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD

FIRST BORN OF EVERY CREATURE

ALL THINGS CREATED

CREATED BY HIM AND FOR HIM

BY HIM ALL THINGS CONSIST

HEAD OF THE BODY, THE CHURCH

HE IS THE BEGINNING

...IN ALL THINGS HE MIGHT HAVE PREMINENCE.

COLOSSIANS 1:18



IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!

by Justin Coburn



Paul wrote in Colossians 1:18, “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.” From the very beginning it has always been about Jesus and throughout the ages it continues to be all about Jesus. Some say the Old Testament is about Israel and the New Testament is about New Testament churches and I understand that division. The truth is the Old Testament is about Jesus and the New Testament is about Jesus. From cover to cover and everywhere in between, the Word of God is all about Jesus! God knew that man would sin and need a Savior. We see the first glimpse of the coming of our Redeemer in Genesis 3:15 and then we see seeds scattered throughout the Old Testament prophesying of the Messiah who would come and provide the way of salvation. Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost and be a ransom for all who will believe. At Calvary, Jesus bore our punishment; He took our sin and nailed it to the cross, paying our debt in full. We owed a debt that we could not pay, and He truly paid a debt that He did not owe. So may He have the preeminence in all things!

Let us continue to make it all about Jesus! Let us make it about Jesus in our Christian lives, our families, our churches and our missions’ endeavors. I pray that we will make much of Him and nothing of us. It is His gospel that we get to preach and that is what has changed our lives completely. It is His work which He allows us to be a part and it is His power that we get to operate in as we do what He has commanded, to reach the uttermost parts of the world with the message of hope and deliverance. I pray that everywhere there is a missionary preaching the good news, that it will be **ALL ABOUT JESUS!**

In this edition of the Missions News and Views you will see pictures and read reports from various missionaries in different parts of the world and how **IT’S ALL ABOUT JESUS** where they are serving. Everett Ledbetter writes how **IT’S ALL ABOUT JESUS** in Kansas. Joel Nepomuceno writes how **IT’S ALL ABOUT JESUS** in the Philippines. Gilberto Pinzon writes how **IT’S ALL ABOUT JESUS** in Colombia. Ernie Hopper writes how **IT’S ALL ABOUT JESUS** in Uganda. Chuck Fernandez writes how **IT’S ALL ABOUT JESUS** in Florida and in Kenya. Freddy Crook writes how **IT’S ALL ABOUT JESUS** in Belize. Kolt Mackrill writes how **IT’S ALL ABOUT JESUS** in Romania. It is truly **ALL ABOUT JESUS** and may our life’s work and heart beat for His honor and glory! May He increase and we decrease! May He be lifted high and exalted because He alone is worthy of worship and praise!



IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!

by Bryan Sellers

I hope this article finds you rejoicing in the blessings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As I pen these words, I realize that it is only just a few short months away before we gather in Springfield, Illinois for the 98th Annual Messenger Meeting of the American Baptist Association. I hope that you are planning now to attend this year's meeting. Our elected officers of this Association are working hard behind the scenes to put together a meeting that will be both beneficial and a blessing to our churches.

This year we will assemble around the theme, "IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS." In John 12:32, Jesus said; "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." Our job, as New Testament Churches, is to lift up Jesus in everything that we do. We are to point others to the crucified and risen Son of God which is the only hope of mankind. Let us be reminded that on every level in ministry, it's not about us, but all about Him!

It is truly a great honor to serve as president of this Association. I am an associated Baptist, and I love the work of the American Baptist Association. We are a fellowship of Missionary Baptist Churches that partner together to help get the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. We can certainly do more together than we can achieve on an individual basis.

What can you expect when you attend this year's meeting in Springfield, Illinois?

Fellowship - This meeting affords us the opportunity to fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ from around the globe, which will serve as a great benefit and encouragement to each of us. We need this!

Information - Through the necessary business that we conduct each year, we will obtain pertinent information regarding the status of our mission work and literature for the upcoming year. We also hear numerous reports on other important ministries in our associated work. We need this!

Worship - Our worship leaders do a fantastic job in preparing our hearts for worship in each session. Through the congregational singing and special music through individuals and the choir, we have a wonderful opportunity to lift our voices with hundreds of others in praise to our Lord. We need this!

Biblical preaching - One of the most important times of our assembly is when we gather around the Word of God. Tuesday and Wednesday evening services are a highlight of our annual meetings. Please be in prayer for our elected speakers as they prepare to bring God's Word to the messengers. We need this!

My prayer for the annual meeting this year is that it will serve as a time of refreshing, renewal, and revival for each one that is present. Please make plans to attend now, and join us in Springfield, Illinois as we bask in the goodness and greatness of our God.

Bro. Bryan

...IN ALL THINGS HE MIGHT HAVE PREEMINENCE.

COLOSSIANS 1:18

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS - SPRINGFIELD!

by Neal Sutton



The 98th Annual Messenger Assembly of the American Baptist Association will be held in Springfield, Illinois, June 17-20, 2024. If you haven't already, it is time to make plans to attend. Rooms are available at the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield - a DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel and the Wyndham Springfield City Centre. We are committed to filling each of our room blocks at both hotels; therefore, we urge you to book soon. We face a penalty fee for any rooms below 80% of our booked contracted rooms, as well as the loss of the free parking pass for each occupied room. Right now, we need more bookings to avoid this expense. Once we reach 80% of our contracted rooms, the meeting space will be covered, but we still must cover the Audio/Visual and labor expenses. Even though we are very frugal, the expenses have risen a great deal in the past few years. Please book your rooms using the link or phone numbers on the ABA website - www.abaptist.org - Click on Events - 2024 ABA Meeting Information.

BANK OF SPRINGFIELD (BOS) CENTER

The General Sessions, Exhibits, and the Standing Missionary Committee will meet in the Bank of Springfield (BOS) Center.

WYNDHAM SPRINGFIELD CITY CENTRE

The Welcome Reception, Past Presidents Breakfast, National Women's Conference, Interstate Mission Development Breakfast, Choral Music Workshop, History and Archives Committee, MBSF Council Workshop, Baptist Sunday School Committee, ABA Camp Workshop, National Youth Meeting, The Good Fight Ministers Wives Conference, Mission Builders Breakfast, Law Enforcement & Public Service Chaplains Breakfast, National Women's Conference New Officers Breakfast, Annual Missionaries Breakfast and Annual Post Dinner will be held in the Wyndham.

PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN SPRINGFIELD

Missionary Share Time, ABA Schools Meeting, ABA Officers Luncheon, Mexican Baptist Institute Luncheon, and Annual Preachers, Deacons & Wives over 55 Luncheon will be held in the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield Doubletree Hotel.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

We will have a Sunday morning service in the Wyndham Ambassador Ballroom beginning at 10:00 AM, on Sunday, June 16, 2024.

EXHIBITORS

Exhibitor information is available on the ABA website. Look for Events at the top and click on 2024 ABA Meeting Information. We have booths available, but they are filling up quickly.

NAME BADGES

We have added a Registration and Badge Submission form to the ABA website. Please use this to secure your name badges and let us know if you are interested in the meal functions.

Please prayerfully consider increasing your offerings for the Expense of Meeting Fund. Even if you cannot attend, we must have funds to cover the hotel rooms and center (if we don't meet our commitment), A/V costs, salaries, minutes, and other expenses involved with our meeting. Please plan to join us in June for a wonderful time of worship and fellowship. If you have any difficulty booking your room or submitting your exhibit application, please feel free to call, text, or email. I'm always available to help.

Send offerings to:

Office of Secretary/Treasurer of Missions
PO Box 1050
Texarkana, TX 75004-1050

Looking forward to seeing you in Springfield:

Edgar Neal Sutton, Jr.
Director of Meeting Arrangements
ABA@nealsutton.com
903-244-2647





IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS - KANSAS!

by Everett Ledbetter

From the very beginning of our ministry in Topeka, we tried to make it all about Jesus. Our purpose, our passion, our pursuits needed to be all about Jesus. If it wasn't about Jesus, then what were we doing it for? If it wasn't about Jesus, it was destined to fail.



Even though this was more building than we currently deserve, we felt that this was exactly what He deserved. He brought us together, He led us to this building, He provided the necessary funds to get started, He is going to fill His building. This had to be our focus.

Our journey began back in 2020. The Lord began to close up our ministry in Colorado and began to open a great opportunity in Kansas.



Through tragedy, the Lord began to call out a group of people to do a ministry in Topeka, KS. We knew that we needed to teach the small group from the beginning that everything was about the Lord. It was not about us, or them, or any other person. It has always been ALL ABOUT JESUS.

My wife and I had our hesitations about moving to Topeka, but if this was what the Lord wanted then we were going to submit to His will. We are glad that we did! During our two and half years on the field, we have seen 4 salvations and 13 baptisms. The Lord has taken a hand full of people and added to them. By no means are we large. In fact, we average 20 in attendance at the moment. However, our ministry is much larger than that. Currently, I am serving as a volunteer Police Chaplain and a Fire Chaplain. This is challenging but rewarding at the same time.



In November of 2023, we decided to start laying some groundwork for a permanent home for Shining Light Baptist Church. We met with the bank to determine what we would need to move forward. The requirements of the bank were more than we were prepared to meet at that time, but they put us in touch with an agent. The agent had a church building come up for sale the very next day. We looked at the building, even though we knew the bank would not finance us. We loved the building. The church that was selling it offered to carry the note for three years for us.

From the very beginning, I taught our people that our ministry was not about a building. If we made our focus about a building, then we were in danger of feeling a sense of achievement as soon as we had one. We now realize that the building is just a tool to reach more people. We still have work to do and we still have a purpose.



In fact, the police department plays basketball once a week in our gym.

We have officially moved into the building. We had our first worship service on Sunday, February 11th. Everything is not completely ready or perfect, but is it ever? Not only have we moved in, but our building is already being used by the community.

Continue to pray for the ministry in Kansas that we would keep Jesus the focus. Following Jesus, worshipping Jesus, teaching Jesus, and sharing Jesus needs to be the focus of our ministry in Topeka. Also continue to pray, our expenses are greater than we can carry without help at this time. Please contact me if you would like to hear more.



IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS - UGANDA!

by Ernie Hopper

I've used open air preaching, door to door visitation, the Jesus film, tract distribution and a myriad of other methods to start churches but besides reading in the Bible how God used the imminent death of toddler to accomplish his purpose. I've only witnessed it once in my ministry here in East Africa. Little Ernie (my wife and I have several children here who've been named after us) was only three years old and for several months had been given so many shots for malaria that most of the muscle tissue in his body had rotted. The doctors said that there was nothing else for that could be done for him and sent him home from the hospital to die. His father, Dominic, was one of the pastors with whom I was working. He came to me and confessed that he was not a Kenyan, but a Ugandan, and wanted to bury his son in Uganda. I agreed to help him move his entire family.



This all happened in 1997. I had been praying for 6 years that God would open a door for us to go to Uganda. I never dreamed that God would use little Ernie in this way. With my help, and that of some other teams of our evangelist pastors, within six months, Dominic had assembled a group of twenty-one believers, which I promptly baptized. This took place in Mbale, Uganda. After one year there was another congregation in a different suburb about five miles away. Incidentally, little Ernie was able to get different treatment in Uganda, he completely recovered and is now over thirty years old with his own family and none the worse for his childhood illness! Praise the Lord.

Churches in Uganda are required to have permanent places to meet. I don't do everything but with the help of supporting churches we have did manage to help these two churches get plots in good locations and construct contextually appropriate buildings. So far, I've seen the Lord start five churches in this country. There are three more that we have plans to start in western Uganda this next Sunday, March 3, after we baptize them.



Bro. Chuck Fernandez and his wife Terry moved into central Kenya in about 2011 and, besides starting churches along the border of Uganda on Mt. Elgon, did start a church across the border in Uganda which has since started two more.



This Ugandan work is poised to really take off. We now have thirty preacher students in our Bible Institute at Mbale. Some of them will graduate from the basic level next year. We have a basic level for preachers and an advanced level for pastors. Once these men learn enough to answer many of the questions that they are asked in church and on visitation, they become very bold in their work for the Lord. We will be starting a branch of our Bible Institute in the western part of Uganda later this year. Western Uganda doesn't have nearly as much Christian influence as does the eastern part of the country and our school in the east is a twelve-hour bus ride from the western area we are targeting. Please pray that the Lord will help us to make wise decisions and that He would lead more men who are willing to follow his leadership regardless of where it may be. Much thanks to all of you who are having a part in this ministry.





IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS - ROMANIA!

by Kolt Mackrill

Colossians 1:18c says, "that in all things He might have the preeminence." (KJV) I remember reading that verse last fall. I was studying for a series of messages to preach before we came back in Stateside for furlough. As I continued to study this passage of scripture, the Holy Spirit started to do a work in my heart. I began to fall under heavy conviction. One simple phrase began to form in my mind, "Jesus is first." So simple yet so profound.

I don't believe for one second in coincidences. The churches in Romania needed this message. I needed it even more. When Bro. Coburn asked me to write for the ABA magazine and told me what the theme would be, I knew that God had His hand in all of this. It can be so easy to forget what it's all about when we get busy with the everyday hustle and bustle. We need to be reminded that **IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS**.

Jesus is already first. We must acknowledge him as first. He is first in our personal walk with Him as our Savior. He is first as the Head of each and every local New Testament church. It's not about me. It's not about us; or more direct, it's not about you. **IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS**. Let's not be like Diotrefes from 3 John 1:9 who loved the preeminence above Jesus. Let us rather acknowledge Jesus as first in all things.
In Romania

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS in the work that God has called us to do in Romania. In 2015, God called us to move to Brasov, Romania with the goal of starting a scriptural New Testament church in Zarnesti. We were sent out by Langdon Street Baptist Church, Somerset, KY as her missionary.

Located within the county of Brasov and neighbored by the famous castle Bran, or "Dracula's castle," Zarnesti has a population of 21,624 as of 2021. The predominate religion is "Romanian" Orthodox. The city also has a presence of all other protestant and evangelical churches but no Baptist scriptural New Testament church.

We moved onto the field in June of 2017 and began right away learning the Romanian language and adapting to the local culture. God blessed our efforts. After three and a half years of hard work I am able to preach in Romanian without a translator. This goes a long way in speaking to the heart of the people.

During that time we also began renovation work on the building where we now hold worship services every Sunday evening. On November 1st, 2020, we were able to hold our first Sunday evening service. I remember it so clearly. There we were; me, my wife and our three daughters. We



waited with great anticipation to greet those that we had invited. . We were the only ones that evening. We got on our knees and prayed. We decided that we would remain faithful to keep inviting folks to our services and keep sharing the gospel.

Again, God showed himself mighty. After three years of Sunday evening services, Wednesday evening Bible studies, online discipleship time, Sunday afternoon children's Bible club and community outreach, we have seen the Lord bless, not only with many first-time visitors, but also a couple of young families who are interested in joining! We praise the Lord because **IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!**

Our Sunday mornings are spent in fellowship with our sister church in Feldioara. I have served there on a preaching and teaching rotation since 2016. They are without a pastor. We ask for your prayers for this sweet sister church as we help to disciple and train up a man that God will call to be their pastor.

Lord willing, we will return to the mission field on July 24, 2024. We are excited to begin preparations to start a Bible Institute. This was a part of our original goals when we moved onto the field. We are excited to partner with the Cumberland Baptist Institute in Somerset, KY. The Cumberland Baptist Institute is the teaching ministry of both the West Somerset Baptist Church and Parkers Mill Road Baptist Church. We know that the Lord is calling men into the Gospel ministry in Romania. We want to equip them with the necessary tools to proclaim the Gospel in Romania and around the world. I believe in indigenous church planting and I am honored to be a part of that in Romania!

I would be amiss if I did not acknowledge the great churches of the American Baptist Association. Thank you all for your faithful prayers and support on our behalf. My prayer for all of us is that we will always remember that **IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!**

Thank you for ALL who gave toward the 2023
THANKSGIVING MISSIONS OFFERING!
TOTAL: \$346,103.62



IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS - FLORIDA!

by Chuck Fernandez

The Florida Plant is a going and growing Church plant that continues to shine brightly in Brooksville, Florida, and the greater Hernando area. God has given Sis. Terry and me a solid group of believers whom we have taught and trained to do the work of the Lord. We are far from a well-oiled machine, but we have young Christians who love Christ and want to keep His commands.

Each Sunday actually starts with Saturday outreach and two teams going into community to reach the youth for Christ. Through consistent dedication & obeying the Great Commission we are seeing many lives touched by Christ through salvation and sanctification. After six years of going, we are finally seeing many of the families we have reached and built relationships with coming as families and not just the children. We have seen five parents make professions of faith over the last few months and start the discipleship process. This is the end goal of our evangelism and outreach ministry. Not only are we seeing God give the increase, but we are also seeing Him breakdown strongholds that Satan has held on people's lives for years. We know the value of a soul, but we also know the value of a transformed life. The work is laborious, the work is difficult, but Christ is worthy of any and all efforts.



In addition to filling our four vans and training teachers and soul winners we are also training a young man who has surrendered to the ministry under our leadership. He is currently in his third year of Bible College, and we are looking forward to seeing what God is going to do with His life and ministry. We are committing to faithful men the things that we have been taught that He may teach others. In addition to outreach efforts, we are providing doctrinally sound Bible teaching to every age who attends the Church Plant. Discipleship is taking place in multiple venues to include personal counseling and Bible Study with Sis. Terry and myself. We count it all joy to invest in the lives of these young Christians as we are often reminded of the investment that older Christians made in our lives.

Over the last two months I have returned to the prison ministry in an effort to help train another one of our ABA Missionaries. I've been going into a maximum-security prison spanning a period of time of twenty-four years. Sometimes I feel like I've done more time than a lot of the inmates. With that said, the prison ministry is a very fertile and fruitful field as you have a captive audience who have hit rock bottom. We really have no excuse in America for not reaching somebody somewhere with the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



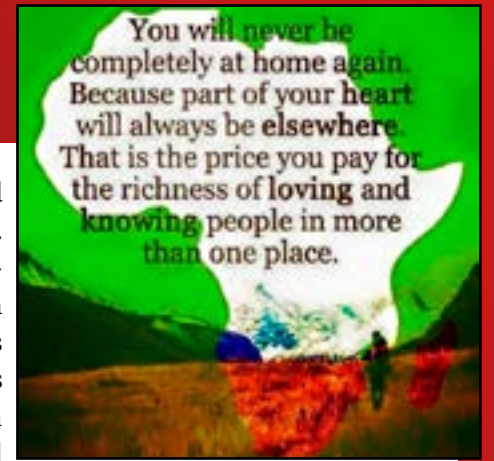
Regarding the mechanical or material side of the building we recently purchased, we continue to maximize the building utilizing every square inch for teaching, preaching and training. We have installed new carpet, décor and have finally installed the steeple. I've often taught our people that we really don't need a sign or steeple if they are doing what God has called them to do. With that said, I do understand the value of a Church sign that identifies us as Missionary Baptist and a Steeple which points the lost toward heaven. As the old hymn says, "we'll work till Jesus comes", and when He calls us, we want to be found faithfully and quietly going about our Father's business.

Please continue to pray for Sis. Terry and I as we lead out this great work that God is doing and as we fight battles which time and space do not allow in this report. We thank our God for each and every one who takes a few moments to remember us in prayer as we labor for our Lord. May God bless His Churches!

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS - KENYA!

by Chuck Fernandez

The Kenya/Uganda/10/40 side of our ministry continues to expand beyond measure. The expansion includes new regions, villages, islands, and Nations. All of that translates into thousands of souls being saved, converts being baptized, and Churches being organized in record numbers. This type of growth creates great demands on the operational side of our ministry. Not only is there a great and constant need for the Word of God for all these new converts but there is also a huge need for training dozens of young God-called men who need to be grounded doctrinally. We are providing Swahili Bibles and solar audio Bibles through our ministry partners, as well as sponsoring Seminars in which we transport Landmark Baptist Pastors (100) to the newly completed Landmark Baptist Bible Institute at the base of Mt. Elgon. This large of a group pushes our ministry training budget to the max but God always provides. The great Missionary Hudson Taylor once said, "God's Word done God's way will never lack God's supply". We have seen that statement to be true over the last sixteen years of our mission work.



While all of the work that God is doing through His Men and His New Testaments Churches is amazing, some of the most exciting news is coming out of the 10/40 Window and Lake Victoria. We struggled for years trying to establish a work among the Luo Tribe at Lake Victoria. It was the hardest and slowest growing work for years. But recently that work has gained traction reaching new villages with God's blessing. We are seeing new villages reached and even some of the Islands on Lake Victoria.

The 10/40 Window Ministry is absolutely incredible to see what God is doing in a closed and unreached Nation. I can say that there is now a first and only New Testament Church established in this particular Nation. What is closed by man is open to the Holy Spirit who is moving in the hearts of people who have been under the stronghold of Satan, and now are being set free when they are born again by the Spirit of God. There have been as many as eighty-five converts over the last year and many of them have been scripturally baptized and united with the Lord's Church. Please continue to pray for this historic work regarding the protection of these new believers.



In addition to the aforementioned areas of growth, we are also in the process of building our second Landmark Baptist Bible Institute in the Kerio Valley. This one is strategically located to serve the Uganda and Kenya side of the valley, as well as the 10/40 Window. Sis. Terry and I want to thank the Churches of the American Baptist Association, their Pastors, and our brethren for being a blessing to the Churches and believers in East Africa and Florida. We are staying focused on fulfilling the Great Commission our Lord gave us over two thousand years ago, as well as looking forward to His soon coming. May God continue to bless His work.



Meet the Pinzón Family
Pictured left to right: Esteban, Bro. Gilberto, Mirna, Daniel and David Andrés

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS - COLOMBIA!

by Gilberto Pinzón

For the Grace Missionary Baptist Church in Anaheim, California, it was all about Jesus in Colombia when they demonstrated their love for lost souls and sent through the ABA a missionary to start a work in 1972. As time went by, there was a need to open more works and ordain pastors. For this reason, some of the brothers were sent to study at the seminary in Costa Rica, so that after graduating they would return to Colombia to open more works. I was the last of them to go to study in Costa Rica and in Florida at Florida Baptist College. I returned to work in Colombia in 1992, because really "IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS in Colombia."

In 1990, I was ordained by the Oakwood Baptist Church in Brandon, FL and worked with them with the Spanish-speaking community for two years. In 1992, the First Baptist Church of Port Salerno, FL, sent me to do missionary work in Colombia. My family and I have seen the hand of God working in the mission field with four new works and the Colombia Theological Baptist Institute.

In 1998, seven churches approved to associate to work together and support each other to do national missionary work. Since then, we have the Colombia Missionary Baptist Federation (Association). Today, we are supporting a missionary and the work of the Lord in the city of Santa Marta. God is blessing His work because "everything is ALL ABOUT JESUS in Colombia."

To the glory of the Lord, several of our pastors, missionaries, Sunday school teachers, preachers and other church leaders, have graduated from our Bible Institute. IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS in Colombia.

By the grace of God, we have ordained 7 pastors, 8 deacons, and nearly 1,100 people have made a profession of faith, and around 400 people have been baptized. The Bible Institute continues training pastors, missionaries, and church leaders for the work of the ministry. Our churches, pastors and missionaries continue to teach the sound doctrine, preaching the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and baptizing new believers. Colombia has 50 million people and 85% Catholic. There are only about 16 churches from our fellowship in Columbia. We need your prayers and support to continue starting more churches because: IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS Colombia.

I thank God for the prayers and support of the Godly churches with missionary vision, associated with the American Baptist Association. We in Colombia pray for our association, for our Secretary-Treasurer of Missions, and all the workers helping churches and missionaries. God will reward all of you as you all work for Him. Amen.

I plan to start our fifth work in Colombia this year. Please help us to buy this property \$108,300 is needed and we have \$17,000 in the property fund. We need 9 churches that gives \$10,000 each. I also need personal monthly support. All offerings can be sent to my sending church. First Baptist Church. P.O. Box. 398 Port Salerno, FL: 34992. Pastor, William Davenport, cell. 812/552-4439. E-mail. . Wdd.music4ministry@gmail.com. kwojo@kciac.com.



Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church



Bosa Missionary Baptist Church



Peniel Missionary Baptist Church



Santa Marta Missionary Baptist Church



Colombia Theological Baptist Institute



IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS - PHILIPPINES!

by Joel Nepomuceno



CENTRAL VISAYAS MISSIONS

CEBU, PHILIPPINES
MISSIONARY JOEL P. NEPOMUCENO

Who then is Jesus Christ but the only Savior, our Redeemer, Priest, King, the only DOOR. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and He is the only Name given under Heaven whereby people will be saved. That's Jesus Christ, the NAME above every Name.

SINGLE VISION:

PREACHING CHRIST IN PHILIPPINES

The Mission Faith Promise Offering goal this year is Php 159,800 or \$3,000 to help assist Missions



and our local missionaries. I covet your prayers for our goal this year for Missions.

We help support 4 local Missionaries.



The Bible School (MBTS-CEBU): Training men for the gospel ministry, that they may PREACH Christ and establish churches.



THE ONLINE MINISTRY: We preach Christ over the Radio and Internet: Numerous testimonies of how they been saved by hearing the Gospel Preached through the airwave and in the internet platform. Only God knows how many thousands of people have heard and been saved through this ministry. **PREACHING CHRIST IN THE AIRWAVE!**

The Harvest is great, the scope is the WORLD, and the need is URGENT!

WHO IS JESUS IN THE PHILIPPINES?

For the past years of doing Mission work in the Philippines, it is a great encounter, similar to other countries where preaching about Christ is a tremendous challenge. Nonetheless the gospel of JESUS CHRIST is much more powerful than any sinful man, His grace is sufficient to change the lives of people, and it is the power of God unto salvation to anyone who believes.



Hundreds have been saved, many were added to the church and members and workers have been mobilized

to lead others to Christ, start mission works, and then organize them into local churches with the same commission as Christ commanded "to save that which was lost", that this GOSPEL must be preached, to every area of need.

We understand the Missionary endeavor has never been easy yet we also experience the joy every time we see people repents of their sin and trust the Lord Jesus Christ.



At times we experience insults and rejections. Often people which we intend to share the gospel do not accept us, and sometimes we are persecuted & scorned. But oh, what a joyful reward, which cannot be equaled by any other work experience, when we see people saved and then sharing the gospel. That is a CROWN of REJOICING.

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS - BELIZE!

by Freddy Crook



Belize Baptist Ministries- Belize is the only Central American country whose primary language is English. The number one source of income for the country is tourism. With a coastline and islands on the Caribbean Sea and the second largest barrier reef in the world, coupled with lush tropical rain forests over mountain ranges, this small country boasts an incredible diversity of wildlife both under the waves and throughout the jungle making it a world-renowned tourist destination. Belize is truly a place to see and bear witness to God's awe-inspiring creativity and grace.



The People- Cotton Tree village is about a 10-minute drive from the capital city Belmopan and because of this, it is very diverse. While most other villages in Belize have one majority ethnic population, Cotton Tree has most all the different ethnic groups represented within this one village which includes Mayan, Creole, Garifuna, Mestizo, and Taiwanese. There are also various Mennonite and Amish communities within the country of Belize. Immigrants from all over the world are represented here.

Cotton Tree village is where the Lord has led us and is where He has chosen for our current mission work to be. Since the beginning of this work, it has grown. Cotton Tree Missionary Baptist Church started meeting in a ten-by-ten room with a restroom and God blessed us with an upgrade to rent a house, and since outgrowing the house, we were blessed with the abilities and resources to build a worship center that the church can call home. As with all churches we have lost some and gained some along the way, but the Lord remains true and has opened the door to many opportunities here in Cotton Tree as well as in other villages.



The women's group, which is taught by Lisa, has recently taken a trip to share the Word to villages in the southernmost parts of the country sharing the gospel and teaching some Bible studies. The ladies also gathered some supplies and sewed and decorated some bags and put together care packages for some of the families who attended the Bible studies. This outreach is, you guessed it, ALL ABOUT JESUS!



Will and Lakyn run a martial arts outreach which includes Taekwondo classes, Brazilian Jiu-jitsu classes, and self-defense seminars teaching some much-needed techniques and de-escalation strategies. This has been a great way to get to know people and actually spend time together during the week with some of the people of the village. Also giving the youth a good option to spend their time. The structure of the classes and requiring the students to maintain good attitudes, showing respect and teaching good moral character are just a few of the things that are taught. Lisa also teaches a child development program called Monkeynastix for younger age children. Through both of these outreaches we are showing and sharing the love of Jesus with all students and families.



Seminary classes are held twice a week at the church building. There has been good participation in the classes. Both classes average about 10 students from here in Belize with a few other students online from the US. Some of our seminary students are not members yet, but Lord willing they will heed the Lord's convictions, make decisions, and follow where He leads.



Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord is the one who said go or we would not be here. Our first mission trip here was in 2014. We fell in love with the people and the country. The Lord opened the door and sent out the call which was too loud and heavy to ignore. We answered the call and haven't looked back. The Lord has blessed this work and us in so many wonderful ways, and we pray that he continues to lead, guide and protect this country and its people. With slogans like "UnBelizeable", and "You Betta Belize it" we would like to add and pray that you would "Belize in Jesus".

May His Name Be Glorified

Missionary Freddy Crook and wife Lisa
Email: freddylcrook@gmail.com

Missionary Helpers
Will and Lakyn Pollard

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS - COSTA RICA



IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS - MEXICO



2024 MISSIONARY RECOMMENDATION FORM

THIS RECOMMENDATION:
 New Recommendation
 Re-Recommendation

RECOMMENDING AS:
 Interstate Missionary
 Foreign Missionary
 National Missionary
 Missionary Helper
 Mission Ministries

RECOMMENDING FOR:
 Salary
 Designated Funds

Salary Requested: Full or Other \$ _____ Is this a **Change in Salary?** Yes No

MISSIONARY INFORMATION

FULL NAME			AGE
ADDRESS			PHONE
CITY	STATE	COUNTRY	ZIP/POSTAL CODE
E-MAIL ADDRESS			CITIZENSHIP (COUNTRY)

MARITAL STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced		If married more than once or divorced, please attach an explanation to the form. WIFE'S NAME _____ CHILDREN LIVING AT HOME (NAME, AGE, GENDER) (<i>OPTIONAL</i>) _____
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Are you a member of your recommending church? **Yes**
 Are you in full agreement with the Doctrinal Statements of the American Baptist Association (pages 152-154) of the 2022 Yearbook? **Yes**
 Has a background check been completed on this missionary? **No**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

YEAR SAVED _____	BAPTIZING CHURCH	
YEAR BAPTIZED _____	CITY, STATE	AFFILIATION
YEAR ORDAINED _____	ORDAINING CHURCH	
	CITY, STATE	AFFILIATION

MINISTRY EDUCATION/TRAINING: _____

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS A PASTOR OR MISSIONARY _____ YEARS AS AN **ABA** RECOMMENDED MISSIONARY _____ YEARS ON **PRESENT** MISSION FIELD _____

This form must be received by **4/18/2024**, 60 days prior to the Messenger Meeting in Springfield, IL. Please fill out the form completely and mail to:

Secretary-Treasurer of Missions
American Baptist Association
PO Box 1050
Texarkana, TX 75504-1050

2024 MISSIONARY RECOMMENDATION FORM

MISSION FIELD

PROPOSED AREA OF MISSION WORK (city, state, province, country): _____
 NAME OF MISSION OR CHURCH: _____
 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE MISSION WORK: _____
 IS THIS AN ORGANIZED CHURCH? **No** TARGET DATE FOR ORGANIZATION/SELF-SUPPORTING? _____

MONTHLY SUPPORT OF MISSIONARY BY MISSION:
 Salary \$ _____ Housing \$ _____ Property \$ _____ Other \$ _____

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT FOR EXISTING WORKS 2023

Professions of Faith _____ **Attendance Averages**
 Baptisms _____ Morning Worship _____ Sunday School _____
 Other Additions _____ Evening Worship _____ Mid Week Services _____
 Mission Membership _____

SENDING CHURCH

NAME		PASTOR OR CLERK
MAILING ADDRESS		PHONE
CITY	STATE	ZIP/POSTAL CODE
E-MAIL ADDRESS		
Indicate areas and approximate amount of monthly support this church will be contributing to missionary and mission: SALARY \$ _____ HOUSING \$ _____ PROPERTY \$ _____ OTHER \$ _____		

Is this church in full agreement with the Doctrinal Statement of the American Baptist Association (pages 152-154) of the 2022 Yearbook? **Yes**

This recommendation was approved by the sending church on _____ day of _____, 2024.

Moderator _____ Church Clerk _____

FOR EACH CO-SPONSORING CHURCH, PLEASE COMPLETE THE CO-SENDING CHURCH FORM.

If you have a current photo to update the Missionary Poster, please send the photo via email to missions@abamissions.org in a JPEG format. Please include the name of the missionary in the e-mail.

DO NOT ATTACH TO FORM
 Any questions, please call or email the missions office.
 Phone: 903-792-2312 Email: missions@abamissions.org

Missions Office
 Date Received: _____
 By: _____
 Returned for Additional Information: _____
 Received Back in Office: _____

2024 MISSIONARY RECOMMENDATION FORM

CO-SENDING CHURCH FORM

THIS RECOMMENDATION:

New Recommendation
 Re-Recommendation

RECOMMENDING AS:

Interstate Missionary
 Foreign Missionary
 National Missionary
 Missionary Helper
 Mission Ministries

RECOMMENDING FOR:

Salary
 Designated Funds

MISSIONARY INFORMATION

FULL NAME			AGE
ADDRESS			PHONE
CITY	STATE	COUNTRY	ZIP/POSTAL CODE
E-MAIL ADDRESS			CITIZENSHIP (COUNTRY)

CO-SENDING CHURCH

NAME		PASTOR OR CLERK
MAILING ADDRESS		PHONE
CITY	STATE	ZIP/POSTAL CODE
E-MAIL ADDRESS		
Indicate areas and approximate amount of monthly support this church will be contributing to missionary and mission: SALARY \$ _____ HOUSING \$ _____ PROPERTY \$ _____ OTHER \$ _____		

Is this church in full agreement with the Doctrinal Statement of the American Baptist Association (pages 152-154) of the 2022 Yearbook? _____

This recommendation was approved by the sending church on _____ day of _____, 2024.

Moderator _____ **Church Clerk** _____

This form must be received by **4/18/2024**, 60 days prior to the Messenger Meeting in Springfield, IL. Please fill out the form completely and mail to:

**Secretary-Treasurer of Missions
 American Baptist Association
 PO Box 1050
 Texarkana, TX 75504-1050**

Missions Office

Date Received:

By:

Returned for
Additional Information:

Received Back in Office: