

Missions News & Views

*"First, I thank my
God through Jesus Christ
FOR YOU ALL,
that your faith is spoken of
THROUGHOUT THE
WHOLE WORLD."
Romans 1:8*





The Gospel

Paul began his letter to the church at Rome by praising God for their impact throughout the known world at that time. “First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world” (Romans 1:8). God intends and demands that we make a global impact by advancing God’s kingdom. This impact will only be realized and truly enjoyed for all eternity. The church at Rome was loved and important to Paul. In verse 17, he declared he prayed for them always. Even though he had not been there, he loved and prayed for them because of the power of the Gospel. The Gospel has power to unite us despite our many differences. We may not all like the same brand of truck or cheer for the same football team, but the Gospel of Christ unites us to a larger purpose and gives our lives meaning. Think about how this simple Gospel message has changed your life and the influence it has had on your family. Paul longed to go to Rome and even planned to go there time and again, but was always hindered. The Gospel has power to change our focus and our priorities. Paul had a desire to make Jesus known and to make Heaven crowded. Paul made three “I am” statements in this passage of Scripture.

“I am debtor” (Romans 1:14). Paul was thankful that Christ reached down to him and saved him. He knew he owed a debt he could not pay, and Christ paid a debt He did not owe. Therefore, Paul said I am in debt. Christ died for me so I can surely live for Him. When he listed who he was in debt to, it covered every person. The Greeks felt that anyone who didn’t accept and live by their culture were just “Barbarians.” Paul exclaimed Jesus died for the Greeks and the Barbarians. His blood was shed for the wise and the unwise. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, and we should feel a responsibility of debt to reach the masses with the Gospel of Christ.

“I am ready” (Romans 1:15). Paul’s life could be summarized by the words “I am ready.” On the road to Damascus, when he first came to Christ, his first words were “What would you have me to do?” He spent the rest of his life finding out the answer to that question. Paul was ready! He was ready to serve the Lord at all costs! He was ready to suffer for the name of Christ! He was willing to die and even ready to die, knowing he would go to the Lord and receive a crown to lay down at the feet of Christ. Paul was ready!

“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ” (Romans 1:16). Paul had many reasons to be ashamed, but he declared he was unashamed. The gospel is the dynamite power of God. The effectiveness of the Gospel is not in our ability, presentation, or persuasion, but the great power of God. The purpose of the Gospel is that people might be saved from their sins. The possibilities of the Gospel are to all men. The Gospel is a whosoever gospel. None are so bad that they cannot be saved, and none are too good that they do not need the salvation Christ offers. Are we ashamed? Is the gospel precious to us? The greatest way we can live unashamed and show we believe the gospel is to share it with a world suffering and reeling under the weight of sin.

In this edition you will hear from some of our newly recommended missionaries who feel this debt, who are ready to go, and who are not ashamed of the Gospel. You will read from missionaries serving in various places in the world who are carrying out the Great Commission by going and sharing this message in the power of the Holy Spirit. Our desire is to introduce you to them and their families, to learn a little about them, and the field and work God has called them to. It is my hope that you will put them on your prayer list, reach out and be a friend to them, and support them financially as God leads and as you are able.

Keep On Keeping On,
Justin Coburn

The Messengers of the Churches of the American Baptist Association endorsed the following for the 2024-2025 associational year:

Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington

150 Missionaries



22 States

30 Foreign Countries

26 Interstate Missionaries on Salary

11 Interstate Missionaries on Designated Funds

13 Foreign Missionaries on Salary

20 Foreign Missionaries on Designated Funds

55 National Missionaries on Salary

8 National Missionaries on Designated Funds

2 Missionary Helpers

15 Mission Ministries

Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, France, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Mexico, Nairobi, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu

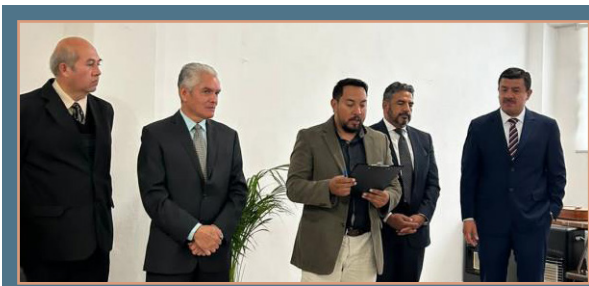


Meet Samuel & Sarai Robledo Dominguez of Saltillo, Mexico

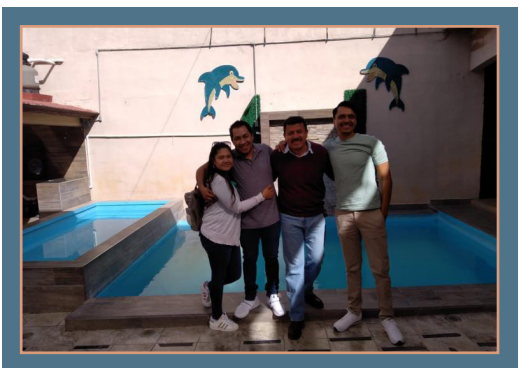


Greetings and blessings from Saltillo, Mexico to you all! My name is Samuel Robledo Dominguez and I would like to introduce my lovely family. My wife, Sarai Elizabeth Martinez Velazquez; my firstborn, Samuel Isaí who is four; and my baby daughter Helena Saraí who is eight months old.

I was saved and became a member of El Camino Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Brother Eduardo Magaña's ministry during his time as pastor there. Later, when he started a new mission, he invited me to go and help work with him and his family. Although the Lord had been dealing with me about serving Him in a special way, it was Brother Magaña's sudden and unexpected death that hastened the process. The men got together and in an extraordinary meeting, decided to appoint me as their pastor, seeing that I had already started my schooling at the Seminary online from Mexico City. I am still a student of the seminary there and I am a teacher by profession. I was ordained on October 8th, 2023.



We have had three new people who have made professions of faith and have been baptized this year. We have continued working on strengthening the knowledge of our Lord and building relationships within the church by having weekly Men's and Ladies' meetings. We have also tried different activities as outreach to spread the Gospel in the Community and around the city. We try to reach man areas because our members are from all different parts of Saltillo.



We were working with kids from the community but ever since the Pandemic, it has been so difficult to gather them. Some moved away to a different community and some even to a different state.

Since we have several teachers in our membership, we are planning to have classes and workshops dedicated to teenagers between fourteen and eighteen years of age. We will offer help with their preparation for school like English, Spanish and Math, because many young people are battling with their academic knowledge since the pandemic. We will also offer fun classes like guitar, cooking, and crafts. We plan to have spiritual teaching before the workshops to try to win them to Christ.

before the workshops to try to win them to Christ.

We are hoping to have good results from this effort, make new contacts and experience church growth. We pray that they might be saved, disciplined and become strong members of the church.

I want to close by sharing a few prayer needs. First, please help us pray that the Lord would open doors and young people's hearts for Christ. Second, for commitment and determination of the church members to carry out the Great Commission. Third, that my family and I will remain faithful to the Lord in everything according to His plan and purpose.





Meet Matt & Becky Dean of Hayden, ID

The Bible says in Acts 17:11, "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

Hello. I am Matt Dean, church planter to Hayden, ID. My wife Becky, and our kids Antonia and Henry moved to the area in June 2024. We knew that God was calling me to start this work, so we made the 45-minute move over to the area. Our children will be heading to West Coast Baptist in the fall. We are excited for them, as well as a little sad to be empty nesters. Antonia will be in her 3rd year of Office Administration. Henry will be in his first with Missions being his focus. Becky and I will celebrate our 13th wedding anniversary in August.

We have been members at Valley Landmark Missionary Baptist Church for 6 years now. While there Becky and I were youth leaders, and I taught the youth on Wednesday nights for a couple of years. After that God opened the door for Valley to start a recovery ministry. I was allowed to serve as the director of the church's Reformers Unanimous program. We saw lives truly changed through the discipleship the program promotes.

How did we get to where we are now? I had been feeling the tug and pull from God to do more. Not sure if you have ever felt the kind of restlessness that comes when God is leading you to the next adventure? Through much prayer and conversations with Becky, I finally surrendered to the pastoral ministry. I will admit, I was a little hesitant to tell Becky. She did not sign up to be a pastor's wife. My fear was for naught. She never batted an eye at the thought. She said, "If God has called you to this, and He brought us together, then who am I to stand in the way?" More than "not stand in the way", she has been my biggest supporter along the way. Our kids, as well, have been happy to become MK/PK's in their late teen years.

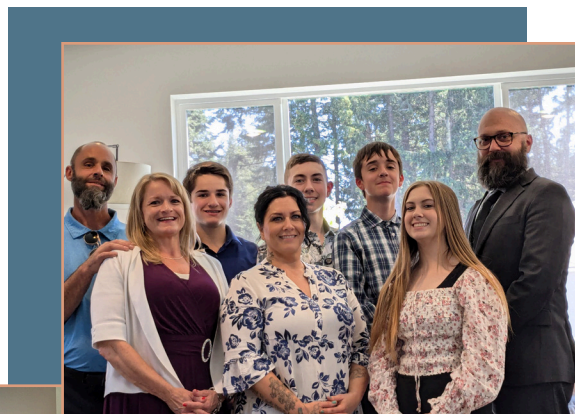
Looking back at my life I truly can see where God had His hand on me, and allowed me to survive some of the situations that I have been in. He truly was long suffering with me, and for that I thank Him every day. My story is one filled with trouble and anxiety from an early age. I won't bore you with stories from a lost boy and man. What I can tell you is that I know there were family members praying for my salvation, and God heard and answered those prayers. If I could give you an encouraging word, don't ever stop praying for

the loved ones you know need Jesus. Hearts can and will get softened, and He is calling all.

A little about the field that God has called us to. Hayden, ID has a population of around 15,500 people. Idaho is one the fastest growing states in the U.S. As we were driving around the area, God opened the door for us to move to this town. Hayden touches Coeur d' Alene on its southern border. You really can't tell where one stops and the other begins. My plan was to move out to the country and work till we retired but God had other plans. We knew we had to be where the people are, and more people are moving here by the day.

Currently Berean Missionary Baptist Church has 7 members by way of letter from Valley. Our current prayer needs are these: Please pray for people to come and join with us. Along with that, please be in prayer that God will give us a building to meet in. Pray that the church can make inroads in the community and make a difference. I am an ABA Missionary on salary, Valley is also giving me a housing allowance. If you or your church is feeling led to help VLMBC with that, please reach out to them.

Thank you for taking a minute to read about what God is doing in our lives.



Mission Presentation and Prayer in Springfield, Illinois



Courtesy of *Grace* PHOTOGRAPHY BY JILL





Meet Kylie Phillips of Nantes, France

My name is Kylie Phillips and I am a Missionary Helper. I am returning to France to work with my family who have been missionaries in France for six years.

My team is located in the city of Nantes, and it is three hours South-West of Paris. Nantes has a population of about 700,000 people. It is the sixth largest city in France,



and is also the country's third fastest growing city. In Nantes, there is a total of fifteen churches, but these are all located in the outskirts of town. There are no churches in Downtown Nantes, which has a population of 28,485 people. Our mission is to plant a church in the town's center and, eventually, through the church, start different outreaches for our community.



Some fun facts about Nantes is that it is the home of Jules Verne, who was a famous French novelist, poet, and playwright. He is most known for "Around the World in 80 Days", "Ten Thousand Leagues Under the Sea", and "Journey to the Center of the Earth". Nantes is also famous for the LU factory, which makes all sorts of snacks and cookies. It is basically the Little Debbie of France. Another thing about Nantes is that the city is very centered around art. In fact, it is the birth place of Surrealism art.



During my time in France, I have seen that most of the French are atheist. Although most claim to be Catholic, the majority do not actually practice their faith or even believe in God. France needs the Gospel. It needs missionaries. Most of all, it needs Jesus.

In the French culture, it takes a little bit longer to start sharing the Gospel or even talking about religion. For a French person, that is a very personal subject and can be offensive if you don't know the person well. I have learned that there usually has to be a relationship built before there can be any discussion about God.

Now on the positive side of things, Nantes seems to be more open than other cities we have seen in France. They are easier to communicate with and are a lot more open to foreigners, which helps a lot.

My parents have been able to start a Wednesday night Bible study in their apartment. They have people from various cultures that attend. My dad has also started teaching non-believers who have come to him asking to learn more about God and the Bible. He uses a book that teaches twelve major Bible stories from creation all the way to the cross. This book has been a great asset to teaching non-believers about Jesus and the salvation He offers.



Once I am able to join my family in Nantes, my main responsibility on the team will be Evangelism.

I will do this by making connections with people, building relationships, and taking every opportunity to share my Jesus with them. I will also have a special emphasis on reaching young adults my age.



My goal is to be on the field in Nantes by January of 2026. The only thing I am waiting for at this point is the monthly support needed to get there. Please pray for God to provide everything needed for me to get there so I can start working. Thank you!



Welcome to Wentzville, Missouri! We are the Neeley's. I am Kurt, and Laura is my wife. God has blessed us with three awesome children: Natalie, Dalton, and Liam. Laura and I were both raised in ABA churches. Laura is the daughter of the late John and Jonna Black. Brother Black was a pastor and missionary in Arkansas, Missouri, and Tennessee. I am the son of the late Darrel and late Judy Neeley. My dad was a deacon at New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church in Colt, Arkansas.

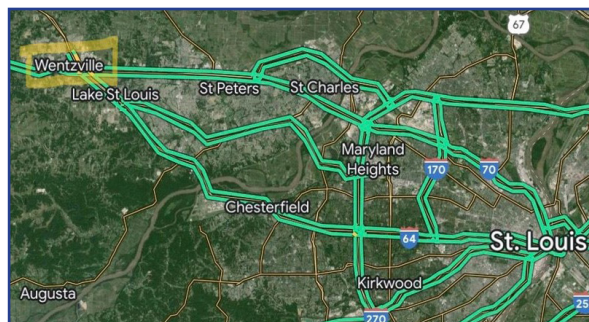
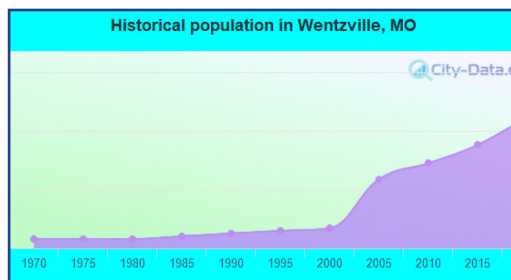
The St. Louis metropolitan area is home to nearly three million people. Unfortunately, we only have two ABA churches in this area. Very few churches in the metropolitan area are preaching salvation without some form of works-based salvation. The true gospel of receiving God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone is not a common belief among the people. There is a need for more churches to be started in this city and surrounding suburbs.

Wentzville is a suburb of St. Louis, Missouri. It is about forty-five minutes northwest of St. Louis on interstate seventy and is the fastest growing city in Missouri. Wentzville calls itself the Crossroads of the Nation. Interstate seventy and interstate sixty-four cross paths in this town, and every truck driver I have spoken to knows right where it is located. There are several factories and businesses that employ thousands of people.

We plan to move to Wentzville as soon as our



Kurt & Laura
NEELEY
with Natalie, Dalton, & Liam
KURBURN@YAHOO.COM • 870-494-5259



Meet Kurt & Laura Neeley of Wentzville, MO



house is built. We should close on the house in September. We chose to have a house built in a new subdivision which will have 209 homes by the end of next year. We hope to be able to welcome most of the neighbors as they move into the neighborhood. We also hope to lead in neighborhood outings in order to build relationships and a good reputation with our community. Our ultimate goal is to love and share the hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

My second avenue to meet people and build relationships with the people of Wentzville is to work in the public school as a substitute teacher. My goal is to become a familiar name and face in the community. To work in the public schools, I will need to pass a background test. This will give me some creditability with a skeptical society. Hopefully by adding these relationships in the town, I will be better received when we are doing outreach events and engaging in gospel conversations.

Here is a list of goals I would love for you to pray for. First, pray for souls to be saved. Second, pray for those who place their faith in Jesus Christ to be baptized and join the church we are planting. Pray that we will be able to disciple the new Christians so they can share their faith with other people as well as living a life that is consistent with the teachings of Christ. Pray for me as a husband and father so that I can know how to weave my family into this ministry. I want my children to know Christ as their Savior and the joy of their life. Lastly, pray for men to answer God's call to preach and minister to His churches. Pray that I can teach these men to serve God in the position of pastor.

Missionaries and Standing Missionary Committeemen
from the 98th Annual Messenger Meeting of the
American Baptist Association in Springfield, Illinois

Courtesy of
Grace
PHOTOGRAPHY BY *JILL*



Secretary-Treasurer of Missions,
Justin Coburn & wife Amber



Kevin & Lauren Mattox,
Lighthouse Electrical Ministries



Missionary Philip & Kim Wysocki,
Michigan



Missionary Youngbae & Jungmi Lee Kim,
Virginia



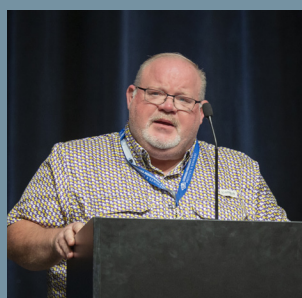
Missionary Anthony Philipps,
France



Missionary Candelario & Paulina
Espinosa, Missouri



SMC Committeeman, Missionary
Scott & Missy Bourland,
Indiana



Missionary Jason Hebert,
Louisiana



Missionary Jay & Peggy Ross,
Brazil



SMC Committeeman,
Wayne Stringer, Philippine
Mission Development



Former SMC Committeeman and Clerk, Jim Nixon



Missionary Rusty & Susan Teer, Thailand



Brant Lane, Macedonian Missionary Service, Building Ministry and SMC Committeeman Mike Maxwell



Missionary Gabriel & Esmeralda Sanchez & Family, Colombia



Missionary, Kevin Hutcheson, Louisiana



SMC Committeeman, Pete Underwood



SMC Committeeman & Missionary, Bruce Betts, Mississippi



Missionary Michael & Jenna Jones & Emmitt, North Carolina



SMC Chairman, Ed Button



The Mattingly Family



Missionary Justin & Jenna Ross, Brazil



SMC Committeeman, John Sanders



Meet Ruel & Merrygel Cruz of Angeles City, Philippines

I am missionary Ruel A, Cruz and I live in Angeles City Pampanga, Philippines. I am blessed with my wife Merrygel, and we have three wonderful children: Mariel, Daniel and Rachel.

I received Jesus Christ as my Savior in the year 2000. I was baptized and studied at the Bible School of New Life Baptist Church. In 2007 I met Pastor Christopher David of Good news Missionary Baptist Church, and I was corrected of my wrong doctrine, and he recommended me to Pastor Abner Tuazon at Independent Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. Pastor Abner taught and equipped me in Bible doctrine. In 2008 I became a baptized member of Independent Calvary MBC. In 2009 I was ordained and in 2010, the church sent me as missionary to Brangay, Cuayan, Angeles City. Cuayan Christian Missionary Baptist Church was organized in 2015 where I have served as pastor until June 2024. At that time, my family and I came back and joined Independent Calvary MBC once again, where Pastor Joshua Tuazon serves as pastor. They once again are my sending church but this time they are sending me to Brangay. Sapangbato Angeles City Pampanga.

Sapangbato is a mountainous region beside Clark Air Base. Thirty percent of the population are Native people (IATAS). We started sharing the Word of God using tracks and one of the houses we visited opened the door for a Bible study and we started our work in that place. Twelve souls have been baptized. The name of the mission is Sapangbato Missionary Baptist Mission.

We have begun another Bible study in this area with a family and we continue to share the gospel. By the grace of God, we have a worship service every Sunday and a midweek prayer meeting each week.

We are praying for the work of God in this barangay to be fruitful during this season, which is known as rainy season. During this season, we have trouble in reaching many areas because of the rain. We are wet when we reach the barangay.

Please include us in your prayers to have a good

place to worship, transportation, and for protection in travel and good health.

I thank God for Independent Calvary MBC and Pastor Joshua Tuazon. I also thank God for First Baptist Church of Inwood and Pastor Zack Stringer and the American Baptist Association for helping us to spread the gospel of salvation. May the Lord bless us all, as we serve God.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” I Corinthians 15:58.



Meet Akin & Kellee Omisani of Baltimore, MD



My name is Akin Omisani. I was born in Baltimore MD, where my mom still resides today. I grew up in Prince George's County, Maryland, and came to faith right out of high school through the faithful witness of my wife, Kellee. God, in his great love, revealed to me my sin which caused me to place my faith in Jesus Christ in the summer of 2010. I was baptized and discipled at Grace Baptist Church in Bowie, Maryland. God gave me an aspiration to pastor in 2011.

I am passionate about Jesus and the gospel, my family, God's people, expositional preaching, ecclesiology, and raising up the next generation through discipleship. I love good coffee and good books. My favorite foods are Nigerian and Mexican. I reside in Baltimore, MD, with my wife Kellee, and our four children: AJ(12), Colton(10), Beckett(8), and Everlee(6).



My family and I believe the Great Commission calls us to reach all people, even those in neglected, inner-city neighborhoods. We desire to impact the inner city by taking the Gospel to where it is most neglected for the glory of God through his son, Jesus Christ. We have decided to leave the suburban area of Bowie, Maryland, to do gospel ministry in the Westside of Baltimore City.

The Lord has called us on a mission to revitalize New Southwest Baptist Church. We plan to do this by engaging in the community, evangelizing our neighbors, establishing a healthy church, and equipping the saints while we treasure Christ together. It is so easy to write off Baltimore City due to the poverty, violence, and

crime that the city is so well known for, but we believe that the greatest tragedy that the city faces is the absence of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The solution to this crisis is to embed ourselves in the community to earn trust as we proclaim the gospel message. We tell ourselves that Jesus did not commute to us; he dwelt among us. We want to dwell among our neighbors in Southwest Baltimore City, being a neighborhood church in which we and other church members live among and reach people in the community. In August, we purchased a home in the city, just one block from the church.

We began the process of revitalizing New Southwest Baptist Church on July 1, 2024. I have been working with a leadership team of four men from the congregation as we begin the slow process of church revitalization. God has been at work, bringing people from the community interested in the work and two young men who want to follow Jesus Christ. Starting September 29th, we will meet as a core group on Sunday evenings. This will be a worship service centered around Jesus and us growing together as a local body of believers. This regular gathering as a core group will strengthen our unity, as we will be under the same leadership, music, prayers, and teaching.

As the congregation begins to become a core group seeking to revitalize the church, this gathering will create consistent space for us to regroup, reframe, and be retrained together in intimacy as we strive to make an impact in Southwest Baltimore. This would give us a posture to welcome others into our fellowship in the coming months. Additionally, others from other local churches will join our core group and help us grow in our unity and diversity. We need time to form them and us together. By aligning under unified leadership, teaching, and vision, we will aim to cultivate a healthy foundation as we reestablish and reintroduce ourselves as a church in June 2025.

By God's grace, we hope to renovate our sanctuary over the next couple of months leading up to June, maintain a Godly reputation in our community, and grow in our love for the word and each other. We are so grateful for like-minded local churches in our area and the ABA for partnering with us in our labor for the Kingdom of God. To God be the glory, both now and forever.





Missionary Share Time

Courtesy of



Annual Missionary Breakfast in Springfield, Illinois



Meet Alejandro & Katty Molina of Malaga, Spain



Your Missionary Alejandro Molina greets you in the love of Christ. I was born in San Cristóbal -Venezuela on May 17, 1985. Christ saved me in 2002 in an evangelistic campaign of the Baptist Church of Palo Gordo. From that moment on I felt the call of the Lord to His work. In 2015, I was at the CCMI Baptist Missionary Training Center in Venezuela, where the Lord confirmed the call to work in Spain. Since then, we have been praying for God's direction. I have been married to my wife Katty for 16 years. God blessed us 15 years ago with our son Diego. In 2016, we moved to Bogotá, Colombia. This is the country where we were serving in the Missionary Baptist Church of Grace, where I was ordained to the ministry and sent to Spain on March 6, 2024, as a missionary. We came to Spain by faith without having any sponsorship and with very limited resources. At first only I traveled, and my family stayed in Colombia while resources were obtained for their tickets. Our God allowed us to have contact with Missionary Daniel Estrada in Malaga City, where I arrived on March 13. They have been supporting us as they have opportunity and have been a great blessing to us; We are supporting the work that missionary Estrada is developing as a period of adaptation.

Our Sending church is a church that has remained faithful and, despite the economic limitations due to the currency exchange, it has always supported us within its means. Above all, they have supported us in prayer, preparation and financially as they have been able. God is the Lord of the work and always provides for the needs of those He sets aside for ministry. In the month of April, Landmark Florida Baptist Church took us on as a co-sponsor and introduced us at the ABA meeting. This year we were approved in response to prayers and associational work. We ask for your prayers for our son Diego who just turned 15 years old because this is a big change for him. We are praying that the Holy Spirit will direct us to begin a new work in the place He has chosen to do it.

Malaga is a coastal city; therefore, it is home to people of more than 85 nationalities. Spain is deeply rooted in Catholicism, traditions and festivals. Due to the large number of tourists who visit the city, Spaniards are open to different cultures and are eager to learn more about different cultures. Spain is a very liberal place the experience all the hot topic movements. The biggest movement right now is the LGTB, which has quite an impact here because it is greatly supported. The great migration of people from Africa, who profess Islam, makes the Muslim population large in the country of Spain. Atheism is popular among Spaniard, especially the younger generation. All these things plus the presence of other religious groups makes spreading the gospel message a challenge.

We have been sharing the gospel in the streets, adapting to the culture, and asking God for wisdom to spread His message. Soccer is very popular in Spain. I was a soccer player years ago and now I use sports to reach families of our community with the gospel. We have already been in contact with some children and young people with this outreach. We are praying to the Lord that we can open a sports school with biblical values and show God's love to people. It is a great challenge, and it requires sports equipment, a place that will give us permission to meet, and a vehicle to be able to transport ourselves in the city. We are praying that people come to Christ and know the gospel and sound doctrine.

We ask for your prayers! It is a great challenge, and we trust in God and in His provision. We pray that God moves more hearts that want to support the work of the Lord in Spain.

Yours truly,
Alejandro Molina



Meet Gabriel & Esmeralda Sanchez of Montería, Colombia

My name is Gabriel Sanchez. My beautiful wife, Esmeralda, and I are about to celebrate our 30th anniversary on October 29. The Lord has blessed us with four wonderful children: Drayen, Dylan, Daren, and Dayra. Over the years, we have served as missionaries in Romania, Mexico, and the states of Florida and Texas. In March of last year, we received the Lord's call to the mission field in Montería, Colombia.



Montería is situated in the northeastern part of Colombia, near the Atlantic Ocean. According to the latest 2022 census, the metropolitan population of Montería is approximately 440,000. The people here are known for their coastal warmth and friendliness, often greeting one another with "buenos días" (good morning) or "buenas tardes" (good afternoon). While most residents practice the Catholic faith, they are very open to hearing the message of salvation in Christ.

When God called us to this country, He knew He was calling a team of four. Alongside our younger daughter Dayra, our son Dylan joined us to assist with teaching free English classes. This will provide an excellent opportunity to share the gospel with his students and invite them to our church services.

Arriving in Montería on March 11, 2024, along with our eight pieces of luggage, we also brought our plans, dreams, and faith. We soon discovered that establishing a presence would be challenging. Since we were on a tourist visa, we couldn't lease a house or secure a meeting space. Undeterred, we decided to follow the example of our beloved Philemon and hold church services in our apartment. It was both comforting and uplifting for our family of four to gather for Sunday morning Bible study, confident that God would bring more people to our services.

Our first visitor was Yaimer, our barber, followed by Diego, our taxi driver, the following Sunday. Just as God was beginning to open doors, we needed to return to the States to start the process of obtaining our religious visa. With heavy hearts, we informed these new friends that we would be coming back soon.

On June 10, we submitted our visa request at Colombian Secretary of Foreign Affairs. We were going to receive a response to our request on July 10. On July 6, we received an email from them requesting some additional information. On July 8, hurricane Daryl hit Houston interrupting the basic services such as electricity and internet. As a result, we were not able to comply with them and our request was labeled and inadmissible, meaning that we had to submit our request all over again, which we did right away. On August 12, I received an email informing me that my visa request was approved. To God be the glory, great things he has done! Our plan is to head to the mission field sometime next month. We ask you to please keep us in your prayers.



2024-2025 Standing Missionary Committee



Alan Schoeff, *Promotional Director*, Eddie Addison, *Assistant Chairman*, Justin Coburn, *Secretary-Treasurer of Missions*
Ed Button, *Chairman*, John Mix, *Clerk*, H. H. Strickland, *Assistant Clerk*

Second Row Standing

Bruce Betts, Jerry Baker, John Sanders, Scott Bourland, Jerry Chandler, Steve Merritt, Michael Schmid,
John Strader, Russell Bailey

Back Row Standing

Pete Underwood, Chet Johnson, Wayne Stringer, Juan Gallegos, Larry Butte, Keith Wilson, Bob Pogue, Kenny Roberson,
Mike Maxwell, Bobby Ball, Jr., *Not Pictured* Brian Langley

For the 2023-2024 Associational Year,
the ABA Missionaries Reported:

4895 Professions of Faith
579 Baptisms

Extra



Booth Time

Left: Missionaries Jay Ross and Youngbae Kim
Below: Missionary Michael Torres, Justin Coburn
and SMC Committeemen Bob Pogue



Missionary Anthony Philips (France) and daughter, Taylor, with Gena Stewart (ABA Missions Office) while working with The Outreach Bible Project during the Olympics in Paris, France.

THANKSGIVING MISSIONS OFFERING

Join us in reaching our goal of

\$350,000

on or before

November 24, 2024

*'First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ FOR YOU ALL,
that your faith is spoken of THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD.'*

Romans 1:8

Please send offerings to:
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PO Box 1050, Texarkana, TX 75504-1050
Phone: 903.792.2312, Email: missions@abamissions.org

