

Spring 2025

# Missions News ♦ Views

Make plans to be apart of the  
99th Annual Messenger Assembly  
of the

## American Baptist Association

June 17-19, 2025

Springfield, MO



## CHRIST'S LAST COMMAND OUR FIRST PRIORITY

Missionary work is the greatest business on earth, and it displays the heart of God! Jesus was not sent into the world to save a certain group of people, but He came for the sin of the whole world. Our commission is clear, and our field is the world. Wherever there are sinners, there is a need to reach out and share the gospel of Christ. Jesus' last command is found in Acts 1:8 and should be our first priority. To fulfill this, we must have the right preaching. Jesus uses the phrase "unto me." We preach Christ and Him crucified! We herald the good news that there is hope for every person no matter their past or their sin. We must also have the right practice. Jesus said that we are to be His "witnesses." A witness tells the truth of what they know and have experienced. Is Jesus good? Tell it! Has He been good to us? Tell it! Has He saved and secured us? Tell it! Tell the truth about Jesus. We are to go to the right places. Jesus taught the world is our field, that we begin at home and spread out to the uttermost part of the earth. We must have the right provision. He can supply all that we need! We must have the right power, and nothing less than the power of God is enough. His great power is available and promised to us. We must have the right perseverance. Troubles will come, but when Christ comes again, may He find us faithful to fulfilling the commission He has left to His churches.



In this edition, we have some faithful missionaries who have been on their fields for some time and are close to organizing and being self-supporting. You will read of some of their struggles but ultimately about how God has moved and blessed in the work that He has called them to do. May we celebrate with them all that God has done. I suggested that they write about three phases of their time spent in their fields of labor. The first phase is "where we have been." You will read about some of the hurdles and struggles they have faced. Missionary work is messy and filled with problems, heartbreaks, and discouragements. The second phase is "where we are now." Despite the difficulties, they share how God has blessed and brought them to where they are today. I pray you rejoice as you read of the blessings of God on their ministries. The last phase I asked them to cover was "where we are headed." In that final section, they will share needs and goals that you can pray about.

The writers are Danny Kennedy serving in Clovis, NM; Jonas Louis-Jeune reaching the Haitian community in Fort Myers, FL; Thang Sian reaching the Burmese people in Grand Rapids, MI; Jay Ross serving in Brazil; Michael Torres with a Spanish-speaking work in Houston, TX; Pedro Morales serving in the intercultural city of Baltimore, MD; and Jason Hebert in Lafayette, LA. I hope you will enjoy reading this as these faithful men share their hearts for their mission field and celebrate the faithfulness of our great God.

### SECRETARY-TREASURER TRAVELS

My daughter Kaley and I went to Parma, Italy in October. It was an honor to preach in their prayer meeting and be the speaker for the 2nd Church Anniversary of Parma MBC. There were people in that service from six different countries. The fellowship is sweet, and they are zealously sharing the gospel in that part of the world. They currently have two missionaries, one in Canada and the other, an ABA-recommended missionary in the Philippines. They are praying and have begun a new work in Berlin, Germany. Pastor Ronald Ricafrente and their family were gracious hosts. We had a wonderful time together.

I traveled to Colombia in November. It was a fast and fulfilling trip full of blessings. The people were so welcoming and sweet, and we enjoyed a great time of fellowship. I had the honor of preaching seven times with five churches in attendance and had great visits with two missionaries. Thanks to Bro. Gilberto Pinzon and Bro. Julio Mendoza for hosting me. It was an honor to give the charge of a dual deacon ordination service and present certificates and diplomas at seminary graduation.

I spent two weeks in Kenya in February. I spent half the trip with Ernie Hopper and the other half with Eddie Williams. Together, these two men have a combined 60 years of ministry in Kenya. God continues to bless and use them mightily. During my time in Nairobi, I preached a Sunday morning service and then to church leaders in the afternoon. I also taught a 2-day lecture on the life of Elijah to seminary instructors and students. My time in Turkana was also a very busy time of ministry. We had 3 crusades in different villages and the organization of a new church. Out of those 4 days of ministry there were 62 professions of faith, 27 baptisms, and a new church to be the light in that village. I preached 14 times and although my mind and body were tired, my heart and spirit were full. May God continue to bless His work in Kenya.

*(See page 11)*



Three years ago, in the heart of Fort Myers, Florida, the Lord led me to be the founder of this new congregation, Redemption Evangelical Baptist Church, with the purpose of serving the Haitian community, who are starving spiritually for

Last year, sixteen new believers were immersed in the water baptismal and committed to serve our Lord Jesus Christ. Two months ago, we baptized four more believers.

I have come to the realization that this must be the hand of God working by sending this group of believers who are dedicated to contribute largely, spend time and money for the advancement of God's work and the expansion of His kingdom here in Fort Myers.

Due to the rapid growth of the church, the board has decided to create more Sunday school classes. The men's group and the women's ministry will hold their separate classes. The adolescent and young adults will be held separately from the babies. We are now making plans to acquire a larger building that will facilitate the work of all the ministries in our church.

"It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.<sup>23</sup> They are new every morning; Great is thy faithfulness" Lamentation 3:22-23.

Because of God's goodness and mercy, these accomplishments were made in the three years since we started. We are convinced the best is yet to come. We want to remain humble in His sight to serve Him faithfully until the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. With dedication in prayers and through Bible studies, we plan to make Redemption Evangelical Baptist Church a training center to equip the young men and women in the Haitian community of Fort Myers. This center will assist them, help them grow spiritually and mature to the point where they can take over when we no longer have the strength to carry on.

May the Lord bless you all brothers and sisters of the American Baptist Association and the Florida State Baptist Association for your support to this ministry. I want to thank Pastor Mott for his wisdom and knowledge and the relationship we have developed over these past years.

the need to hear sound doctrine, the true gospel, or the word of God to be preached in its authenticity without any compromise.

For more than three decades, I have served as senior pastor for various churches in both Haiti and the United States of America. When the Lord had presented this new direction in my life, I was hesitant to act on it.

I started rationalizing with God knowingly, many churches have been planted throughout the city. What crossed my mind and what came out of my mouth was the idea of how difficult it would be to witness growth at the level the Lord intended for me. I thought it was time to position myself as a mentor for the younger generation to take over. "Great idea!" I said to myself. I was surely wrong.

When the Lord chooses you for a specific ministry, He will make provision in strange ways, that no excuses you try to construct will work. Within a matter of weeks, a few brothers and sisters who knew me shared their visions with me. From that moment, I shared my own visions, they embraced mine and we prayed together. On January 2nd, 2022, with just sixty people we began with the first worship service.

To my surprise, the number of believers gradually continued to grow every year. Starting with just sixty then to ninety to one hundred and fifty. It was to the point where we decided to buy a commercial van to help with the transportation of those who want to come church. As of now, we are slightly over two hundred believers.





God is so good to us! Because of His goodness and grace towards us, we are who we are, and we get to accomplish what we do. Psalm 106:1-2 reads "Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? who can shew forth all his praise?" He is worthy of all praise!

I also want to publicly thank my family for their hard work, dedication, and tireless service to the Lord. Since coming to Clovis my daughter Grace has been saved, baptized, and joined the church. My oldest son Danny Jr. has surrendered to the gospel ministry and is currently serving as our youth pastor and song director. My youngest son Bailey is also serving as our media director. I

am very blessed to be surrounded by such a brilliantly talented family. My wife works with our littles and has a strong bond with them, so much so that they fight over who gets to sit in her lap during services. I am grateful that my entire family has had a profound impact on the mission work in Clovis.

Six years ago we came to Clovis to try to save and revive a mission work that had been without a mission pastor for about a year. We came to a congregation of 5 senior saints who were keeping the doors open. They no longer had a checking account and only had ninety-seven dollars in cash on hand and were all on fixed incomes. I asked God during that summer if this was a minute fraction of your perfect will for my life, I beg you to allow me to be a part of this work. We looked into several different mission fields as to where He would have us plant a church, but God led us to Clovis. We signed the documents for our house over the Internet and moved to Clovis on faith.



Since then, one of the five has gone on to be with the Lord and two others have joined with a different church leaving us with only 2 of the first five. We have striven to keep soul-winning, disciple-making, and building relationships our main focus. We have invested time and resources in our youth and young adults.

God has been so good in continuing to give the increase. I feel as though we are on our second church here. So many have come and gone but I believe we have the right foundation to grow on. We are now running in the high 30s and low 40s on Sunday mornings. We are blessed to have a growing youth group and are averaging in the mid-30s on Wednesday night. God has blessed with many souls being saved with all but 3 members of the church having joined by baptism and not letter or statement. I am currently doing discipleship with a faithful family who has surrendered to the gospel ministry within the last few months.



God has blessed us over the last six years spiritually, numerically, and financially. We just completed the expansion of our fellowship hall which at first only sat about 20 people and now seats 96. Along with expanding the fellowship hall we were blessed to build 3 new 13x16 classrooms. I praise God for the gracious givers of our church and sister churches who have helped make this vision a reality.



We continue to strive to become a self-supporting organized church in the near future. Please continue to pray and support us as we continue to win souls, make disciples, and build relationships with those in the church and community for the glory of God.



## WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

**I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel. (Isaiah 45:2-3)**

I was saved in 2009 and ever since my eyes have seen Him. My heart has felt Him. My ears have heard Him. I have known Him because he has called me by my name, a firsthand witness to the wonderful saving power experienced through Jesus Christ. I was called to be a witness and in obedience step out in faith and answer God's calling over my life as herald of the gospel. Seminary came first, a position as associate pastor at my home church came next, and finally, an open door in 2016 to lead out in pastoral/missionary ministry. I was tasked with assisting a local English-speaking mission in Spring, TX, and while there, an outreach strategy was put in place to reach the Spanish-speaking people of the surrounding area. So, in April of 2016, our church Iglesia Bautista Betel had its inception. I recall teaching and preaching in the English morning services for the church I served then later that afternoon hosting a Spanish service for those interested in coming. The intensity of ministry soon took its toll on myself and my family. Seeking God's counsel, I later decided to trust God in the decision to pursue the Spanish-speaking ministry exclusively. It was during this groundbreaking time that I got to see how hungry the people were for God and His word. I was committed and strengthened by this. Our Sunday and mid-week services started to grow, and many souls were being won for the Lord, forever persuading me of God's love as I saw firsthand the life changes that Christ was making in those with whom I shared the blessed gospel.

Our mission went from meeting at the Woodglen MBC church building (2016-2017), to later renting out another church facility belonging to Timberlakes BC (2017-2019). Operating out of Timberlakes property allowed us the freedom to use a vacant sanctuary their church grew out of several years before. Our ministry strengthened here as we began to grow and mature in responsibility. While experiencing many good things here, our time was consummated within a moment's notice. The church body that provided this meeting place for us underwent hardships and decided to disband. This sudden change had a devastating ripple effect on our people. The Spanish mission was given 2 months to relocate. I was in an instant a pastor with a flock and nowhere to call home.

## WHERE WE ARE NOW.

**And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed. (Deuteronomy 31:8)**

Somewhat of an exodus-style departure was experienced through the turn of events. Yes, I was very afraid however I pressed forward as Moses did, "enduring as seeing him who is invisible". Iglesia Bautista Betel was determined and certain that God would lead us. In 2020, our safe haven became a local sister church that was centrally located among our members. This locality also placed us in a heavily Hispanic demographic. Soon we began discussions about purchasing the property and the rest is "HIS-tory". To say we were blessed by the support from our local churches and ABA ministries to see this mission prosper is an understatement. After a year and a half of raising funds and seeking to qualify for a loan, Iglesia Bautista Betel purchased her property in the summer of 2021. Since then until now, this mission work has grown into a vibrant congregation. Many have come to know Christ. We are continuing to have outreach in the community. We are involved in missionary efforts. We've witnessed God calling out another faithful servant out of our work in Bro. Luis Carrillo who is now pastoring another Spanish mission. Our team continues to labor for the Great Commission.



## WHERE WE ARE HEADED

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.  
(Philippians 3:14)

It is safe to say that we have only arrived where God has already been before us. When we walk by faith and pursue our commitment to God's call in our lives, we are likely to see His fingerprints all over the new uncharted territory where He sends us. Once this realization of the divine foreknowledge of God is made and beheld by oneself, it is then that proper worship and exaltation must be offered up in reverence to His Glorious Name. He goes before us, and if this is true then we are headed the right way. Betel aspires to soon be able to organize and help reproduce faithful Spanish churches that impact the world with the message of Jesus. Concerning where we are headed, I'd like to close with the lyrics written by the hymn writer, Mrs. Fanny Crosby:

“All the way my Savior leads me, cheers each winding path I tread; Gives me grace for ev'ry trial,  
Feeds me with the living Bread. Tho' my weary steps may falter, and my soul athirst may be,  
Gushing from the Rock before me, Lo! A spring of joy I see.”



*Thank you*  
to ALL who gave toward the 2024  
THANKSGIVING MISSIONS OFFERING!  
Total: \$329,298.46



## PUTTING YOUR HAND TO THE PLOW AND YOUR HEAD DOWN

**FOUR PEOPLE.** In May of 2016, we had canvassed and reached out with hundreds, maybe even thousands, of invites. With expectations high and hopes even higher, we opened the doors, and no one showed up. Only myself, my wife, and my two children, a faithful four that sang together, prayed together, I preached, and we packed up and headed home. That is what Acadiana Baptist consisted of for basically the next three months.

Today, ten years later, we are on the precipice of organization. Our group of four is now around forty. They are a faithful group of believers who love Jesus, are fervent about reaching our community for Christ, have grown spiritually, and are ready to organize into a church. It hasn't been easy, and in fact, it has been the hardest thing that

I have ever done! Church planting is not for the faint of heart, and unless you are willing to put your hand to the plow and never look back, you'll never succeed.

Our struggles have been many and varied but nothing that most churches haven't already experienced. On the mission field, things are felt much closer to home. You pour your heart into relationships, and any one thing can cause it to explode. In the early years, and to an extent still today, I felt that the mission work was a bucket of fuel, and sparks constantly danced around it. It would only take one to fall just right and blow the whole thing up. We had grown to about twenty and within a span of 3 months, experienced 3 of those families going through divorce. Our attendance dropped like a rock. We built back up, especially among our college-aged students; however, a moral flaw among one of the leaders and a lack of biblical understanding among the others caused our attendance to drop again. These situations were hard to endure, but we put our hand



to the plow once again and refused to look back.

Another struggle we faced was the issue of location. We moved to 3 different locations before finally purchasing our current location. The locations all had their challenges and design limitations. Our first location was a school, which meant that we were portable. In the eyes of the people, this meant that we were temporary, and along with the struggle of set up and tear down, we were NOT going to do that for long. We moved into two different storefronts, which were great at first, but in the long term, we knew people still saw us as temporary.

We designed these spaces with comfort in mind and used every inch. What was a closet to some was our nursery. The common areas became classrooms and fellowship spaces. We look back on those with great fondness because we saw the visiting community begin to form a core for our future church.

Then COVID hit! Honestly, we were ahead of the game when it came to an on-line presence and services. We shut down for about 7 weeks but quickly reopened with protocols in place. The church began to take off as many churches didn't reopen. Those relationships that were formed during that difficult season were foundational to the church that exists today.

Our sponsoring church saw that we had reached a point where we needed to be in our own building. We had seen several souls saved and baptized, and we began to pray for the right location for our permanent church building. In November of 2020, we purchased our current building. We were given free rein in the design, and I'm a little biased, but my wife is awesome at design. What we were able to do in six weeks is mind-blowing to me! Our building looks incredible, and the membership did much of the work. I can remember long hours and late nights working to get it done. Those times, again, are foundational to the relationships that are shared within ABC.



Every Sunday, I see a growing crowd of people who are locked in during our worship and preaching hour! We are ready to organize, and by the grace of God, it will be very soon. It hasn't been without its trials and triumphs, but it never would have happened if we hadn't put our hand to the plow and just kept our heads down and worked. God has given the increase!



Greetings, Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

We are grateful for your partnership in the Lord's work here in Grand Rapids, Michigan. By God's grace, along with your prayers and support, we have

been able to continue our regular church services and mission work beginning in 2021 and continuing to 2025 and beyond.

#### Our Journey

In September 2015, I arrived in Fort Worth, Texas, seeking God's direction for the next phase of ministry. As I prayed, I felt a strong calling to move to Michigan to reach the Burmese (Myanmar) community with the Gospel. Following this burden and the Great Commission, I eventually arrived in Grand Rapids.

Our mission began with one-on-one evangelism, engaging in meaningful conversations, and assisting those in need. As a result, some came to faith in Christ, and we established small home cell groups. Over time, lives were transformed, and more than 30 individuals accepted Christ. As the ministry continued to grow, we officially established Agape Mission Baptist Church on December 1, 2021. Our first Sunday service was held on December 5, 2021, with 39 people in attendance.

#### Our Present Work

As our congregation grew, we soon found that our worship space was no longer sufficient. Through Bro. Bill Johnson, we connected with Pastor Nate Lowe and Madison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, which graciously became our sending church in April of 2022. We are incredibly thankful for their support.

We are also incredibly thankful for the full missionary salary provided by the American Baptist Association (ABA). Due to this tremendous help, we can fully dedicate ourselves to this ministry. From our humble



beginnings with 39 members, our congregation has now grown to 87 people—a testimony to God's faithfulness and your continued prayers and support.

#### Our Vision for the Future

1. Reach the 5,000+ Myanmar people in Michigan through sports events, concerts, seminars, and training opportunities to share the Gospel.
2. Expand evangelistic efforts to Myanmar communities in other regions.
3. Establish churches that align with the beliefs and doctrines of the American Baptist Association (ABA).
4. Secure a dedicated church building for Agape Mission Baptist Church as soon as possible.

#### Gratitude and Support

We deeply appreciate the continued support from the ABA Missions Office, as well as monthly contributions from:

- Landmark Missionary Baptist Association of Michigan
- First Landmark MBC, Buchanan, MI
- Florence Street Missionary Baptist Church, Broken Arrow, OK
- Madison Avenue MBC (our Sending Church)

Additionally, we are grateful for the churches that provided financial assistance in 2024 toward our Building Fund. Your generosity and prayers are instrumental in this mission.

Please continue to pray for us and the Burmese mission in Grand Rapids. May the Lord bless you abundantly for your faithfulness!





## WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

In 2010, we returned to Brazil after 14 years in the States. We knew that God had a work for us to accomplish. His moving in our lives was so evident. To the outsider, it was a crazy decision. The church we had planted in the beautiful mountains in Northern California was doing well. My secular job paid well and was something I enjoyed doing. Our kids were older, two were married and our youngest was in college. It was a decision to radically change our lives and go back to a country that I couldn't wait to leave 14 years earlier! Seems like everyone doubted our calling, but it was so clear to us. Our kids were shocked, Peggy

and I were going back to Brazil alone, leaving all we had built up, even our only grandson who was just recently born. But in due time, at least for our kids, they all opened their minds and hearts to hear from the Lord. They all decided to come with us, not as our little kids that had to come, but as mature Christian leaders who were now our fellow laborers on the field.

We arrived in Caraguatatuba where we had previously lived for 10 years. Within 3 weeks we were having services in our home. In two months, we rented a warehouse and our family began cleaning and painting and getting it ready to open. We soon began having services and God blessed wonderfully. We began to grow, we had a strong foundation with our family that enabled us to preach, teach, and have kids' ministries, women's ministries, and a strong worship team. During the first 6 months since we got off the plane, it was clear that God was in control and we were just along for the ride!



Along with our new church plant, we felt led to open a Christian School. In 2015 we opened an accredited school with 12 kids, the oldest being 4 years old. God has blessed the school, and every year it grew as our influence over many kids and their parents grew.

During COVID, we made the decision to move our church into a larger building next to our school. That decision was based on faith, on paper we could not afford but a 99% vote from our church showed that we were all on the same page.

## WHERE WE ARE NOW

We currently have a membership of over 300 and an average of over 400 in our Sunday Services. Our building can easily hold over 600. Since our school building is connected to our church building we use it for all our Sunday School activities which allows us to grow our children's ministry. We have youth group activities every Friday night and average around 85 kids from 12 to 18 years old. Our Christian School is in its 3rd building and we currently have over 400 kids, ages one year old to high school juniors. Next year will have our first High School graduation! We also have 80 employees!

We have 3 different couples ministries that meet regularly, each one with dedicated leaders. We have a total of 15 church-related ministries. Each one has trained leadership and their own group of volunteers. We have 4 complete worship teams which allows them to rotate so they can worship from the congregation as well as lead from the front. We have 4 ordained ministers, including Justin and I, and will be ordaining one more who just completed his bachelor's degree in the Baptist Seminary in São Paulo.

We began our 3rd church plant here in Brazil in February 2024. Our son Justin and his wife Jenna are leading out in that church plant along with one of our young pastors and his wife. We are currently renting an auditori



um in a local hotel once a week – every Wednesday night. They have an average attendance of 67, the room holds 76.

Two years ago, we sent a young Venezuelan family back to Venezuela as our missionaries to the indigenous communities of the Amazon basin. They live among the people and have a great ministry. Our church here in Brazil bought them property and the material to build a small church building. They currently serve a congregation of around 40 and have evangelist outreaches in many nearby communities.

Last May, Peggy and I went to Maputo, Mozambique to establish a mission – church plant. It was a very successful trip, and we now have a church plant there. Our church here in Brazil bought a property and is sending funds for them to build their church building. They have just moved onto the new property where they will meet as they continue to build. They currently have a congregation of around 100. We also opened a nonprofit organization to feed the children. We hope to get that going soon.



All new mission works are 100% funded by our church in Brazil. We pay the missionaries full salaries and constantly send special offerings to help them. As of now we have one American Church, Cypress Baptist in California that sends offerings on a regular basis to help with the building projects in Africa and Venezuela.

We are seeing souls saved and lives transformed in all of our ministries. We are not just planting churches and moving on, our family is dedicated to staying here in Brazil and building a work that will be strong and continue strong long after we are gone. All of our kids are now married, we have 7 grandchildren and number 8 should be here as you read this article. All of our family is serving here with us. Our oldest grandson, Ryan, who was 4 when we left the States is now teaching and preaching to our youth, singing in our worship teams, and working to film and produce most of our church videos.

## WHERE WE ARE HEADED

Our great desire is simply to follow God's lead. Peggy and I plan on staying here in Brazil until He calls us Home to be forever in His presence. We hope to be used to continue to grow this church so that we may be able to plant many more churches in Brazil and around the world. We hope that our Christian school continues to grow and expand to other cities. We have had one mayor of a nearby city wanting to meet with us about opening our school in his city because he is a Christian and there are no Christian schools there. We plan on having our own accredited Seminary.

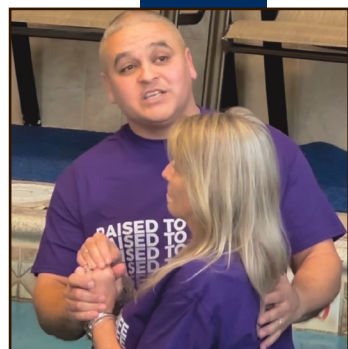
We are raising funds to bring our foreign missionaries here to Brazil for intense training and to officially ordain them! Please pray for this. We are hoping to bring them back in May or June.

As our family continues to grow, both by the birth of new grandkids and by adoption (Peggy and I are adopting 2 boys we met in Mozambique, Pedro 14, and Daniel 12), we hope that God will allow us all to stay together and serve for His honor and glory. We may not know what He has in store for us, but we are excited about finding out! Our lives have been all about knowing Him and being open to His leadership. We all believe that we have only just begun.





In 2019, the Lord made it clear to Pastor Pedro Morales that the will of God for him was to plant a church in the city of Baltimore where he grew up. For three years he and his wife, Trina, prayed, planned, and prepared to launch Baltimore Baptist Church. Since the first day of services, Pedro wanted the church to be mission-minded. He encouraged the congregation to bring in missionaries and take on missionaries even though they were still receiving support themselves.



Their first meeting place was a couple of conference rooms at a Best Western Hotel. For more than two years that was their home. Many great things transpired in those early days of this little church plant. In the first year of the church's existence, they saw twenty precious souls saved through their ministry efforts. They also had five folks follow the Lord in believer's baptism. During that first year, they took on five missionaries for support.

The second year they saw forty saved and five baptized. They were also able to increase their missions program to support eight missionaries and two mission entities! Each of their first two years in existence they hosted a vacation Bible school. Praise the Lord for the five children accepting Christ as their Savior during the first vacation Bible school and for the nine young people who got saved during their second VBS!



Even before the launch of the church, Pastor Morales and Mrs. Trina had reached out to a local congregation about purchasing their building. They tried to be proactive without getting ahead of the Lord in the process. Although it didn't always seem as if that plan would work out, the Morales' kept a good relationship with the congregation. As time passed, it became evident that it was the Lord's will for Baltimore Baptist Church to purchase that church property. However, God needed to provide and move some big mountains for that goal to be reached. The congregation of BBC prayed and gave towards a potential building purchase. Many supporting churches and pastors donated towards the purchase as well. Their sending church, First Baptist Church of Kingstowne, gave them a large donation. They received a large grant from a local Christian foundation. They needed a financial institution to give them a loan. The Lord providentially connected them with a Christian foundation in California that helps churches acquire property. That was a miracle for sure. Altogether, they had accumulated a large amount of finances for the transaction, but they still needed another \$41,000. They prayed and prayed and trusted the Lord, and, boy, did the Lord come through. In December of 2024, they received an anonymous cashier's check for the exact amount needed! That was an absolute God thing! The settlement on the loan was completed on January 28, 2025, and they held their first service in the building on February 2nd.



The church had averaged twenty-five on Sunday mornings for about a year and a half. Six months before purchasing the building, they began to average about thirty on Sunday mornings. The first Sunday they were in the building, their attendance was fifty-one. On the second Sunday there, the attendance was fifty-three. The weather was not very good on the third Sunday, and they had thirty-eight. The fourth Sunday saw forty-six people attend. Having a building makes a tremendous difference.

Pastor Morales has a desire to see more churches planted in Baltimore City. His vision is to see at least five more churches planted out of Baltimore Baptist Church in the next twenty-five years.

Everyone at the church is humbled by the grace and provision of God. They are grateful to have been able to connect with such wonderful, pastors, churches, and Christian folks that have a heart to help churches and advance the kingdom of God. They count it an honor and privilege to have so many partner with them.

Pastor Morales says, "Thank you again for your help and support. We could not have accomplished anything without your investment in us. We praise the Lord for you!"



# SECRETARY-TREASURER TRAVELS

## COLOMBIA



## ITALY



## KENYA





Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Can you believe

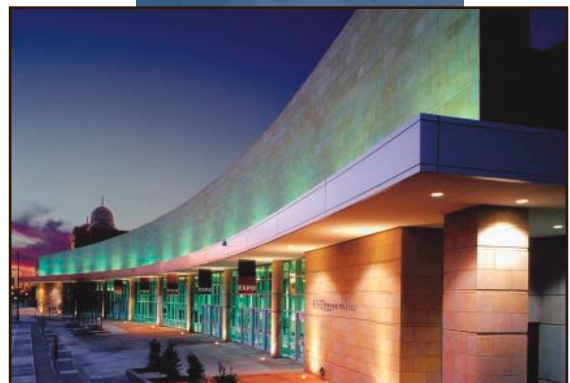
that we are just three short months away from our annual messenger meeting in Springfield, Missouri? This year we will celebrate our 99th in person meeting of churches that compose the American Baptist Association. Because of the central location of our meeting in Springfield, we are expecting a good representation of churches and messengers at this year's meeting. Hotels are filling up quickly, so please make sure your reservations are made soon.

Like everything else, the cost of our National Meetings increases every year. Each church is encouraged to prayerfully consider increasing their offerings to the Expense of Meeting Fund. Should you have any questions regarding this year's meeting, you can find all pertinent information by visiting the ABA website.

This year we will assemble around the theme **"Ye shall be Witnesses unto me" Acts 1:8**. When we yield to the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we can and should be a bold witness to what the Lord has and is doing in our lives. A witness is just someone who can state the facts to what they know is true. God doesn't call us to be a scholar or theologian, but He does call us to be a vibrant witness for Him.

This year I look forward to the fellowship, worship, and encouragement from my brothers and sisters in Christ at our Messenger Meeting in Springfield Missouri. I hope to see you there!

Bro. Bryan



# Join us for the 99th Annual Messenger Assembly of the American Baptist Association!



Springfield, Missouri | June 16-19, 2025

## Meeting Information and Registration:

For all details about the 2025 ABA Meeting, including registration and exhibitor information, visit the ABA website:

- [www.abaptist.org](http://www.abaptist.org) → Click on Events at the top → 2025 ABA Meeting Information

## Plan your Trip:

- **Hotel:** The University Plaza Hotel is sold out, but rooms are still available at the Oasis Hotel & Convention Center. Book your room soon!
- **Registration:** Complete and submit the Registration and Badge Submission Form via the link on the ABA website.

## Important Information:

- **Meeting Locations:**
  - General Sessions, Exhibits, and the Standing Missionary Committee – **Springfield Expo Center**
  - All Other Meetings – **University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center**
- **Sunday Morning Service:** A Sunday morning service will be held in the Nebraska Room at the University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center on Sunday, June 15, 2025, at 10:00 AM.
- **Exhibitors:** Exhibitor information is available on the ABA website. Booths are currently available but filling up quickly.
- **Agenda and Schedule:** The ABA website has a brochure containing the Proposed Agenda, Schedule of Events, Facility Maps, and Meal Function Information. You can view and print it.
- **Expense of Meeting Fund:** Please prayerfully consider increasing your offerings for the Expense of Meeting Fund. Even if you cannot attend, these funds are critical for covering hotel room and meeting space commitments, A/V costs, salaries, yearbooks, church directories, and other essential expenses.

## Need Assistance?

For any assistance with booking a room, submitting an exhibit application, or with any other questions, please feel free to contact Neal Sutton, Director of Meeting Arrangements, by phone, text, or email:

- **Email:** [ABA@nealsutton.com](mailto:ABA@nealsutton.com)
- **Phone:** 903-244-2647

## Send Offerings To:

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

**We look forward to seeing you in Springfield!**

# 2025 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**

Single  
 Married  
 Widowed  
 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) (*OPTIONAL*)

Are you a member of your recommending church? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in full agreement with the Doctrinal Statements of the American Baptist Association (pages 138-145) of the 2023 Yearbook? \_\_\_\_\_

Has a background check been completed on this missionary? \_\_\_\_\_

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

MINISTRY EDUCATION/TRAINING:

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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 **4/18/2025**, 60 days prior to the Messenger Meeting in Springfield, MO. Please fill out the form completely and submit or mail to:

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

## 2025 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? Select TARGET DATE FOR ORGANIZATION/SELF-SUPPORTING? \_\_\_\_\_

MONTHLY SUPPORT OF MISSIONARY BY MISSION:

Salary \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Housing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Property \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT FOR EXISTING WORKS 2024

|                            |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Professions of Faith _____ | <b>Attendance Averages</b> |                         |
| Baptisms _____             | Morning Worship _____      | Sunday School _____     |
| Other Additions _____      | Evening Worship _____      | Mid Week Services _____ |
| Mission Membership _____   |                            |                         |

### SENDING CHURCH

|   |       |                 |
|---|-------|-----------------|
| NAME  | STATE | 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:<br>SALARY \$ _____ HOUSING \$ _____ PROPERTY \$ _____ OTHER \$ _____ |       |                 |

**Is this church in full agreement with the Doctrinal Statement of the American Baptist Association (pages 138-145) of the 2023 Yearbook?** \_\_\_\_\_

**This recommendation was approved by the sending church on \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:missions@abamissions.org)**

#### Missions Office

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Returned for Additional Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Received Back in Office: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2025 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:<br>SALARY \$ _____ HOUSING \$ _____ PROPERTY \$ _____ OTHER \$ _____ |       |                 |

Is this church in full agreement with the Doctrinal Statement of the American Baptist Association (pages 138-145) of the 2023 Yearbook? \_\_\_\_\_

This recommendation was approved by the sending church on \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

Moderator \_\_\_\_\_ Church Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

This form must be received by 4/18/2025, 60 days prior to the Messenger Meeting in Springfield, MO Please fill out the form completely and submit or 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: \_\_\_\_\_