

Missions News ♦ Views



“One generation shall praise thy works to another,
and shall declare thy mighty acts.” Psalm 145:4





We are rapidly approaching a historic milestone for our association churches. In just a short time, we will gather for the 100th Annual Messenger Meeting of the American Baptist Association, June 22–25, 2026, in beautiful Hot Springs, Arkansas.

This centennial session marks a significant moment in the history of our association. For more than one hundred years, the Lord has faithfully guided, sustained, and blessed the churches that make up the ABA. As we come together in Hot Springs, we do so not only to conduct the business of our association, but also to celebrate God’s faithfulness across generations.

Because of the central location and significance of this 100th meeting, we are anticipating a strong attendance of messengers and guests from across the country. Hot Springs provides a wonderful location, and the facilities at the Convention Center will serve us well as we gather in worship, fellowship, and service.

Like many things today, the cost of hosting our national meeting continues to rise. This meeting location received an overwhelming vote by our messengers. We were told in advance of the high cost to make this possible. Each church is encouraged to prayerfully consider supporting the expense of the meeting through generous offerings. Your faithful giving helps ensure that this gathering remains a meaningful and well-supported time for all who attend. For additional details and updates, please refer to the ABA website.

“From Generation to Generation” serves as our theme for this annual meeting. It is drawn from Psalm 145:4: “One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.”

This verse beautifully captures the heart of what we seek to accomplish. As we reflect on the past century, we are reminded of those who have gone before us, faithful servants who proclaimed the truth, stood for the Word of God, and passed it on to the next generation. Now it is our responsibility to continue that legacy. We are called not only to remember God’s mighty works, but to declare them boldly so future generations may know Him.

As we gather, may we be challenged to remain faithful stewards of the truth, committed to proclaiming the gospel, strengthening our churches, and equipping those who will follow after us.

I am personally looking forward to the fellowship, encouragement, and worship we will share together in Hot Springs. It is always a joy to gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and this year promises to be especially meaningful as we celebrate 100 years of God’s faithful goodness.

Interrupted Plans, Perfect Purpose

Welcome to this edition of Mission's News and Views. One recurring thought that became a theme in many of the writers' articles was, "We had a plan, but God had another plan."

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes." — Proverbs 3:5–7a

We often have our own plans, ideas, agendas, and goals. Too many times, I have thought that I knew the best path forward and the outcome I desired, only for God to move in a way that was completely unexpected—and far better than anything I could have imagined or orchestrated. The truth is that God's ways are higher than man's ways, and His way is always best.

Scripture commands us to trust the Lord with all our hearts. If we trusted Him with our eternal souls, surely, we could trust Him with every other aspect of our lives. He desires that we rely on Him fully. We are also instructed not to lean on our own understanding. The reason is simple: our all-knowing, all-powerful God sees what is ahead and can accomplish in a millisecond what we could never do in a million lifetimes. He goes on to command us to seek His direction, with the promise that when we seek His will, He will reveal it. God works all things for our good and for His glory. The final statement in this passage warns us not to depend on human, earthly wisdom.

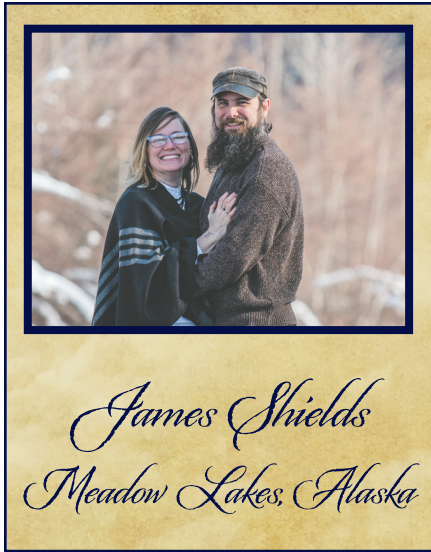
The hard part of these commands is often the waiting. I don't know anyone who enjoys the waiting rooms of life. As we wait on the Lord's direction, will, and timing, we are not left alone. Psalm 27:14 instructs us,

"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."

We do not have to stress as we wait. Instead, God calls us to stand firm and promises to give us the grace, peace, and strength not only to endure, but to thrive. If you find yourself in a place you did not plan, take heart—God has another plan, a better plan. Until He opens the next door in your journey, do not grow discouraged or complacent. Praise Him and serve Him in the hallway. Staying busy in the waiting room makes the wait feel much shorter. Be faithful where God has you and wait on the Lord.

In this edition, you will hear from faithful missionaries and how some of their plans did not unfold as they had expected. I believe they would all agree that God's way was better. I hope you enjoy reading about their fields of labor and the work God has called them to. May we support them through finances, words of encouragement, and faithful prayer.





When God first called our family to Alaska, I had no idea the journey would take so long. I prayed for “faith like Moses in the wilderness,” until I realized that was FORTY years of expectation. Instead of pursuing a sending church in the traditional way, we worked alongside ministries until God led differently. In June 2020—in the middle of COVID—Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Round Rock, Texas, voted unanimously to be our sending church. With deputation impossible and already being bi-vocational, I secured the promise of a job in Alaska, and we left Texas only a few months later. After nearly two weeks of travel through the Midwest and Canada, we crossed into Alaska exhausted but grateful. The journey we had prayed over for years had finally become a reality.

We spent our first year and a half in Anchorage to adjust to life in Alaska. God provided an affordable townhouse with a good landlord and a sliver of a mountain view. I reconnected with someone I led to Christ over the phone, and we began meeting weekly for discipleship. My wife started working at the airport and won over a crew of rough mechanics with home-baked goods. I connected with a ministry to the homeless and addicted and, as the only person technically eligible, had the privilege of leading Celebrate Recovery downtown. I also joined an association of Christian businessmen and discipled a small group of young men. Before long, we had a decently sized Bible study meeting every Sunday evening. We knew Anchorage wasn't permanent, but I've always believed you serve where you are until God leads you elsewhere.

Eventually, we turned our focus to the Matanuska-Susitna Valley—the fastest-growing area in Alaska. We settled in Meadow Lakes, but that move meant starting over. It is my conviction that a church should be the natural byproduct of making disciples. We began again with that slow, relational process through regular connections in the community. We've used tabletop gaming and artwork as bridges into people's lives, and God has repeatedly used those relationships to open doors for spiritual conversations. Though the fruit is often difficult to see, we have watched God move in many ways.

One of my favorite stories is Keelan, an Alaskan artist I met through gaming. We spent hours in spiritual conversation despite his deep involvement in dark practices. Afterward, he prayed to God for the first time in his life. A year later, he told me everything had changed. He prayed daily, read His bible, and eventually asked me to baptize him in the frigid waters of the Gulf of Alaska.

We have also been tremendously wounded here in an unimaginable way that shook us to our core. Just over two years ago, the tragic loss of our firstborn son halted our ministry for months. We still struggle. I hesitate to quote the Scripture, but “unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.” As much as I have hated the process, I cannot deny the fruit we've seen.

That pain opened doors we never expected. A single father in crisis reached out with a cryptic message. God allowed me to intervene, share the gospel, and pray with him. He is now growing and reading the Word daily. One man messaged to say that something about our conversation “cut through the static” and lifted a weight he had carried for years. An atheist friend and coworker once joked about religion but will now ask us to pray. Recently, a former Roman Catholic man who lost his husband heard me explain the gospel to someone else. When we spoke afterward, he expressed gratitude and appreciation for the knowledge I shared. There are many more I could share.

We currently hope to sell our home and move to Palmer, where we plan to host regular services. I've been making numerous connections there, and an opportunity seems to be opening to plant ourselves in a walkable, visible space downtown. I have never been dramatic or flashy—just genuine and down-to-earth—and that seems to resonate here. We covet your prayers as we continue to reach and serve our Alaskan community.



The Lord prepares the way for those who are willing to go on the journey! It all starts with God's calling. First, God calls all men to be saved. He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance! Next, He calls us to obedience—to be scripturally baptized and to be a faithful, active member of one of His churches. It is all about living out the Great Commission in our lives. Some men God calls to preach.

I was saved at 16, on February 16, 1992. I was baptized a week later and began to learn His Scriptures. After graduating from high school, I moved to the great state of Texas to attend Texas Baptist Institute and Seminary. While there, I met my wife, Anastacia, and in 1996, we married and began exploring together what God's plans for us would be.

He doesn't always reveal this information to us as quickly as we would like. We must faithfully follow what we have already been given until He gives us the next step. For us, that was pastoring in Texas from 1998 to 2016. From the beginning, we had foreign missions on our hearts. As we sought the Lord and led others to know Him, He continued to strengthen His calling in our lives. Even to this day, I delight in reading a vibrant mission report written by a man of God whose heart is broken for the souls around him.

We came to the point where we knew in our hearts that God was calling us to go to Argentina—to win souls, baptize them, and plant a church. We just didn't know how He would do it. God's ways are higher than our ways!

Fast forward to the present time. We look back on all the prayers of God's people, all the preparation, and all the ways that the Lord not only leads the missionary and his family but also prepares the people in the field to receive the message. At the same time that God was working in our hearts, preparing us to go to Argentina, He was also working in the heart of a family there who began seeking Him through reading His Word.

In 2018, the eight of us arrived in Argentina with the desire to learn the language, understand the culture, share the Gospel, and teach His Word. During this second term, we have been amazed at how many additional goals He has allowed us to accomplish! Each person we have invested time in is like a colorful thread that the Lord has used to weave together a strong fabric.

We have had moments of great joy and others when our hearts



have been deeply broken. Several times, we have poured hours into an individual or family, only to feel as though all the effort was wasted. Then, later, through continued work, love, and patience, we were given the opportunity to pick up those threads and let the Lord continue weaving.

This year, our people have grown so much in the Lord and in their commitment. We have seen seven saved since January, and on the first of March, we held our first baptismal service, during which we baptized eleven people. This was a major step for them. The next step we are working toward is organizing them into a scriptural New Testament church.

We thank you so much for your prayers for them and for us! We plan to be on furlough in the United States during the second half of the year. If possible, we would love to sit down and share more details of what the Lord has done and is doing.

Our greatest need right now is to purchase a permanent building for the work. We look to the Lord to provide this need and are confident that He will, in His time. Please pray! Thank you not only for being part of our journey, but also for continuing to work faithfully where you are!





I am Roger Babelonio, your missionary in Cambodia. I was born on June 22, 1965, in Banate, Iloilo, Philippines. I was ordained into the ministry in 1986 by Eastside Baptist Church, Gary, Texas. I started doing missionary work in Iloilo in 1986. When this mission was organized, I served as the local pastor of this church (Grace Missionary Baptist Church) for over two decades. I married Elisa Magallanes in 1991, and we have been blessed with two children, Babelyn and Bobbie Kim.

In 2006, I started a seminary in Iloilo, where I served as the director under the authority of Grace Missionary Baptist Church. Through this, the Bible school has produced many pastors whom God is now using to open more missions and organize more churches on the Island of Panay. Until now, this school has continued to operate under the authority of Abiko Baptist Church and its co-sponsor, Grace Missionary Baptist Church.

I felt that God was leading me into foreign mission work. In 2016, I resigned as pastor of Grace MBC to follow God's leading. I traveled through Thailand,

Cambodia, and Vietnam to do a survey. With much prayer for God's guidance, I accepted the challenge to go to Cambodia. I thank God for using Abiko Baptist Church in Japan as my sending church and First Baptist Church Kingstowne in Virginia as a co-sponsoring church in the ABA.

According to the latest survey, approximately 95–97 percent of the Cambodian population practices Theravada Buddhism, making it the dominant religion of the ethnic Khmer people. Paganism and spiritism are also very strong in this country. The presence of more than 4,000 temples, decorated with statues and icons almost everywhere, shows strong idolatry. One of the most visited temples is Angkor Wat, located in Siem Reap Province.

The Cambodian genocide from 1975 to 1979 was one of the worst tragedies in the country. During the Khmer Rouge period under the leadership of Pol Pot, at least 1.7 million people died, including many children. The Killing Fields stand today as a reminder of what happened to the Cambodian people.

For me, it is a great privilege and blessing to serve God in a foreign land and preach the Gospel to the Cambodians. I arrived in Cambodia in September 2018, but the mission was hindered when the pandemic started. I returned in 2022 to continue missionary work, and this time I settled in Phnom Penh, the capital. I struggled in the ministry because of the language barrier, but I thank God for the wisdom He gave me. I started by offering free English classes to the children. With the help of a Filipino friend, I was able to reach one family, who later became the first baptized Cambodian members of the mission. After that, regular Sunday services began.

My meeting with Brother Rolly Estrada, a Filipino friend, was also a blessing to the work. I shared with him about the importance of a sending church and proper authority in missionary work. Later, he and his wife, together with another Filipina, were scripturally baptized and became members of the mission in Phnom Penh. Brother Rolly continued studying with Pastor Amari and me about the importance of a scriptural church, authority, and sound doctrine. He agreed with the teachings held by Missionary Baptist churches and the ABA doctrinal statements.



After careful consideration of his beliefs and life, we recommended him for ordination. He was ordained, and just last year, he was also recommended to become a missionary in Cambodia. Now, I have a partner in the mission. Praise the Lord!

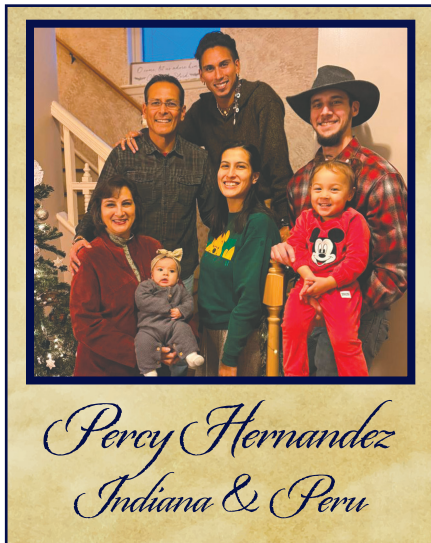
Another mission has been opened in Kampot Province. After Brother Sokme and his wife, Saren, were scripturally baptized, they donated a portion of land for the church. We built a church building and began ministry with the children. I also started training Brother Sokme, and now he is able to preach and teach from the Bible.

At present, we have four existing missions in Cambodia with about 30 baptized members. These are Kombol Mission in Phnom Penh City, Kampot Mission in Kampot Province, Stung Mission in Kandal, and Takeo Mission in Takeo Province. My main goal is not only to preach the Gospel to the Cambodians, but also to help them grow strong in biblical faith and Christian living, so that strong local churches will be established in Cambodia.

Having a formal Bible school is very important for meeting the need of spreading the Gospel. We want to train Cambodian preachers and teachers who can reach their own people. Please pray for our plan to start a seminary in Phnom Penh. For this, we need financial support for the monthly building rent and the students' food allowance.



OUR HUMBLING PAST



Close to 30 years ago, my wife Melynda, our daughter Gabriella, and I left the States after my training at the Missionary Baptist Seminary in Little Rock, AR. By God's calling and having Grace Missionary Baptist Church in Little Rock, AR as our sending Church, my family and I went to the mission field in Trujillo, Peru, South America, where I was born physically and spiritually through Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. A couple of years after our arrival in Perú, Jesse, our son, was born and joined us in our endeavors serving our God.

After settling in Trujillo, the Lord led us to work with the Bethel Mission, a sister congregation on the outskirts of town that was without a pastor at the time. The Mission was greatly blessed with brethren maturing in the faith, the Worship services increasing in attendance, newcomers accepting Jesus as their Savior, believers obeying in baptism, and the membership growing. All of these blessings led the Mission to be organized into a New Testament Church.

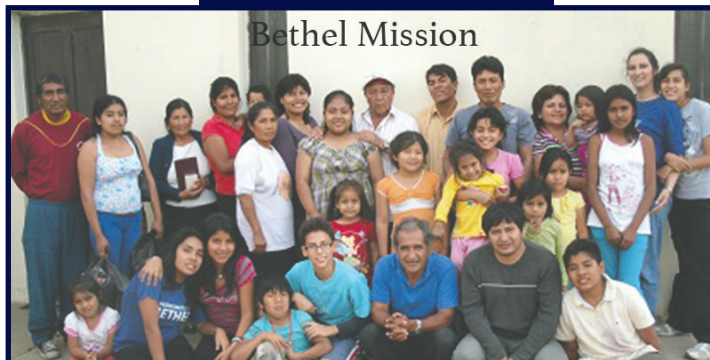
During that time, we also began having Bible studies in the two-car garage of our home, which is near the city's downtown area. Seeing the positive response from the attendees, we decided to start holding more regular, formal Bible meetings, which later became Worship Services. The Lord our God certainly blessed these meetings, with people growing in their interest in the Bible and in accepting Jesus as their Savior, and some following Jesus in baptism to become members of what came to be known as the Iglesia Bautista Getsémani. The congregation was so blessed that at one point, about 50 people were seated in our garage! Great is our God!

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Sad to say, but by this time, Grace MB Church in Little Rock decided to disband; however, by God's mercy, Landmark MBC in Bedford, IN, voted to become our sending Church. Years later, COVID hit. We were unable to meet in our garage. It was too risky for the health of the brethren. Since then, and thanks to God's provisions, Gethsémani now meets in a property that belongs to the Bible Institute of our Association. The Church has experienced some changes, yet she continues doing well under the leadership of God's Holy Spirit.

OUR UNCERTAIN PRESENT

As the years go by, things change in our lives; our kids grew up and went off to attend College in Indiana, both having dual citizenship since birth. Gabriella married Levi, from Arkansas, who now pastors one of our sister ABA Churches in Indiana. They have two beautiful daughters. Our son, Jesse, is unmarried and goes back and forth between Orlando, FL, and Peru.



About six years ago, even though Melynda is a US citizen, I was denied the renewal of my tourist visa to travel to the United States. This predicament caused us to request a resident visa for me, which was granted in 2025. However, this type of visa requires that I live in the United States. Therefore, as of the end of August 2025, my wife and I have moved to the States for the time being. This move was not an easy decision. I had to present my resignation to the Churches in Peru and to my position as missionary. I know I have sought and followed the Lord's direction in all these decisions. I am thankful to the Churches in Peru, to Landmark MBC in Bedford, IN, and to all the ABA Churches that support our ministry for their love and understanding.



My wife and I now live in Marion, IN, praying and seeking what is in store for me as a servant and minister of Jesus Christ. In the meantime, as we settle into our new reality, we are enjoying our granddaughters and family time.

OUR AMAZING FUTURE

Our Lord Jesus Christ is coming again for His people! Can there be anything greater than that for the future of us believers? However, while waiting for Him, we ought to be willing to obey God's Word, serve Him in one of His true Churches under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and share with others the precious and powerful Gospel of Jesus the Son.

While awaiting God's direction for us, we have joined First Landmark MBC in Marion, IN. We stay in touch with some of the Churches in Peru, with whom I have been helping with some online Bible studies. I have also been filling the pulpit for some Churches in Indiana without pastors and for some preachers as well.

Waiting is not always easy, yet we need to learn to do it with hope, hope in Jesus' coming and in His instructions for our lives and service. Please keep us in your prayers as we wait. If you know of a project where you think I can serve, feel free to give me a call.

Hello, my name is Akin Omisanni, and I serve as the pastor of Southwest Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. I have been married to my wife, Kellee, for 15 years, and the Lord has blessed us with four wonderful children—AJ (13), Colton (12), Beckett (10), and Everlee (7). We are deeply grateful for God’s kindness to our family.

In His providence, the Lord called us out of the suburbs of Bowie, Maryland, and into the inner city of Southwest Baltimore. Our desire is simple: to make disciples and bring glory to God. On June 1, 2025, I was installed as pastor of Southwest Baptist Church—a congregation of 21 faithful saints in need of shepherding and renewal. From the very beginning, we saw this not merely as a new assignment, but as a work of revitalization that only the Lord Himself could accomplish.

God has been kind to place us in a neighborhood and city marked by both great need and great opportunity. As I engage with our neighbors, I encounter a wide range of spiritual conditions—self-righteousness, addiction, materialism, and a pursuit of pleasure that ultimately leaves people empty. Southwest Baltimore is truly a plentiful harvest field. Many people are aware, at least in some sense, that they are broken and in need of help. Others, however, believe they are “doing fine” as long as they work hard, stay out of trouble, and live respectable lives. Yet all are in need of the same Savior.

The Lord has given me a growing burden to see the people in these neighborhoods reached with



the gospel of Jesus Christ—not just informed but transformed.

Over the past 9–10 months, we have seen the Lord at work in encouraging ways. Our membership has grown from 21 to 43, not



just in number but also in unity. God has been knitting our hearts together through His Word and through genuine fellowship. We are seeing both new believers come to faith and others grow in spiritual maturity. It is a

joy to shepherd a diverse group of people who are learning, together, to find their joy and satisfaction in Jesus Christ.

The Lord has also graciously provided for our needs, enabling me to serve as a full-time pastor while living in the neighborhood we are called to reach. This has opened doors for deeper



Akin Omisanni
Baltimore, Maryland

relationships and a more consistent gospel presence in the community. Our desire is to be a true neighborhood church—a place where people can walk in, be known, and ultimately call home.

As we look ahead, we are hopeful and dependent. There is still much work to be done. We would be grateful for your prayers in several specific ways. Pray that the Lord would raise up faithful men to help lead and shepherd the church. Currently, I am the only pastor, and we are asking God to provide additional elders for this work. Pray that the Lord would continue to strengthen our church both spiritually and numerically. Pray for laborers—people who are ready and willing to engage in the work of discipleship and evangelism. As we approach the celebration of the resurrection, pray that the Lord would bring new life, renewed hope, and gospel awakening in our city.

We are deeply thankful for your partnership, encouragement, and prayers. It is a privilege to serve Christ in this place, and we trust that He will continue to build His church.





Some of you may already know me, but many may not. I'm Matthew Thompson. In June 2023, I moved to Papua, Indonesia, to serve among a people group who do not yet have the Bible in their own language. Until September 2021, I expected to go alone, but God had other plans.

In 2020, I met Sarah Lee, and we began dating in late 2021. After much prayer, we were engaged in the spring and married on September 3, 2022. Since moving to Papua, the Lord has blessed us with two sons. Azariah Glen is almost two and a half. He loves books, friends, and speaking in a mix of English and Indonesian. Malachi is 7 months old and is now mobile. At this point, Azariah may be Malachi's favorite person.

We serve the Murkim people, who live about 100 miles into the rainforest near the Papua New Guinea border. Numbering between 300 and 500, they depend on hunting, fishing, and gardening for their food. Sharing food and resources is a deep value for the Murkim. While physical needs and sickness are common, an

even greater need remains: they do not fully understand the gospel that brings hope.

Though a missionary brought the message in Indonesian decades ago, Scripture was never translated into Murkim. For the Murkim, many key gospel terms and concepts still remain unclear. One man told me, "I know we're supposed to trust God to be saved, but what does that word even mean?" Our first task is learning their language and translating Scripture, so they can clearly understand and believe the gospel.

In 2024, I surveyed five language groups, seeking the Lord's direction. I had first heard of the Murkim eight years earlier, and through the survey, it became clear God had prepared the way. They had long been asking for Scripture, and the door was wide open. After much prayer, we believe God has led us to them. We are now learning their unwritten language and are excited about another open door for the Murkim: Project 24/7.

"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." When I first heard about Bible translation in 2017, I had no idea there were still groups who had never heard the gospel. For many, it is hard to imagine that in 2026 this is still true. It is hard to imagine unless you have been there. Unless you have sat in their homes and walked their paths. Once you have seen it, it's hard to "unimagine."

Here in Papua, there are still too many of these groups. This April, Lord-willing, something is being done about it. Project24/7 is launching to give seven tribes in Papua the opportunity to hear the message of salvation through Jesus in their own language for the first time. The Murkim are one of those groups. Over the next three and a half years, we will work alongside Murkim speakers and teams

from six other language groups to translate twenty-four Bible stories from Genesis to Revelation into their languages. This is a massive project requiring much work, wisdom, and support. But one number is not massive: 256. Two hundred fifty-six dollars provides one person with access to the gospel among these seven groups.

Project24/7 is a ministry of Flatwoods Baptist Church in Mountain View, Arkansas. It is also an opportunity for our ABA churches to work together to bring God's Word to seven language groups, including the Murkim, who have never heard it in their own language. If you'd like more information about this project, you can reach out to Chase Reynolds at chase_reynolds@wycliffe.org.

Please pray for this project, especially for the translation teams. Four individuals from each language group, many who have yet to believe, will pour over these twenty-four stories. Pray for their salvation. Pray that a foundation would be laid in them, so they might carry the gospel to their own people. And please pray for the other facilitators and us as we serve alongside these teams.



I am Yorlly Ormeño, a lawyer by profession, but a missionary by calling, dedicated to sharing the Gospel in Peru, in the city of Cascas, and now also in Nauta. My wife is Raquel Angulo, a nurse, surrendered her life to the service of the Lord and is now a pillar in the missionary work. I have a son named Samuel, a medical student, who has also responded to God's call and serves faithfully with us.

We have understood that God's calling is not only individual, but also for the family. When a family places itself in God's hands, He can do powerful things. Today, we walk in that purpose, bringing faith, hope, and the love of Christ to souls in Cascas and Nauta. As a family, one day we decided to answer, "Lord, here we are...send us."

Ten years ago, we arrived in Cascas and planted our first mission. It is located 1,400 feet above sea level in the mountains, about two hours from the coast. This town has a population of 4,667 people, according to the 2025 census. Its main economic activities are grape cultivation and the production of various wines. The most common religion is the Adventist Church, even more than Catholicism, which is the official religion in Peru.

I cannot deny that Cascas is a challenging town. Adventist doctrine and Catholic traditions are deeply rooted. But nothing is impossible for God, and we have seen some come to Him. We have grown both in number and in spiritual quality. At the same time, we have experienced some setbacks. Some people came to our congregation through conversion and scriptural baptism but later tried to introduce unbiblical teachings they brought from other religions. Also, many of our members move to the coast in search of better opportunities for study and work. So, there is always much to do, as some leave and others arrive to be taught in the Word.



Some might feel discouraged seeing the work of many years move to other cities and become part of other congregations. But there is something that burns in the heart of a missionary. It is not just emotion—it is a fire from God that compels us to begin again. It is a constant voice that says, "There is someone else here who needs to know Jesus," and that gives new strength.

Being a missionary in South America, in Peru, has a different meaning. It is learning to serve with little and to trust God when resources are limited. It is walking by faith with a heart full of love for Christ and for others. The calling of a missionary does not come from comfort, but from obedience. Many think that missions are only for distant countries, different cultures, or other languages. But the truth is that missions begin long before crossing a border. They begin when we decide to say "yes" to God, even when we do not understand the whole path.



A missionary is not someone extraordinary. A missionary is someone who has decided to believe God. Someone who has decided to leave land, food, and people—not because they do not love them, but because they have learned to love as God loves without limits and without borders. In this process, there are tears no one sees, silent goodbyes, and nights of prayer when the heart breaks—but also grows stronger.

As a family, we have learned that the mission field is not always on the other side of the world. Sometimes it is just a few hours away. We do not always cross countries, but we cross cities, cultures, and hearts. We arrive in places where no one knows us and begin again, building a congregation.



Sometimes doors open... but many times they close. Still, we continue knocking. Do you know why? Because behind every door there may be a heart in need. Because even if many do not listen, there will always be one who does. And for that one, all the effort is worth it.

Yes, it is hard. But we have understood that our work is to sow. The seed is planted in every visit, every word shared, every invitation, and every prayer. Even if we do not see the harvest today, we know it will come in God's perfect time, because it is not we who change hearts—that is the work of the Holy Spirit.

My dear brothers and sisters, we are not a perfect family, but we are a family available in God's hands. And if God can use a family like ours, He can use yours as well. Please keep us in your prayers!



*Yorlly Ormeño
Peru*



Daniel Estrada
Spain

My name is Daniel Estrada. My wife is Eloisa, and we have two children, Emmely and Oseas Daniel. We have been serving Jesus Christ in Spain since 2014, in Alhaurín de la Torre, Malaga. God is blessing the work little by little, and we know He is in control.

The Spanish people are not easy to lead to Jesus, but it is not impossible. They can be proud and stubborn, yet we have seen some come to Christ. The city where we serve is near the capital of Malaga, with a population of about 45,000 people. Most are Spanish, but there are many immigrants from Latin America and North Africa.

Spanish people love salty ham and strong, aged cheese from sheep and goats. Like other Europeans, they generally marry later in life, around age 40. Because of this, the younger generations are smaller, and the Spanish population is declining. Another cultural difference is the schedule: most shops close from 2 to 4 in the afternoon for lunch and rest, and many places open late in the morning. It was hard for us at first, but now we are used to it.

Spiritually, some American missionaries have called Spain the “cemetery” of missionaries.” Why? Many come, work hard for three or four years, see few results compared to America, and then leave without building a church. But God has given us people to witness to and disciple. Over the years, attendance has had ups and downs, yet God continues to amaze us by bringing people to Him. It is not an easy task, but in His power, we see fruit from our work.

Some of our needs include:

- Prayer partners and people willing to work with us in Spain.
- Groups that could visit and help us witness in our community.
- Spanish Bibles, tracts, and materials for children.
- Strong, spiritually mature families who might join us to serve Jesus Christ.

We strongly believe that teamwork is biblical, as shown in the Book of Acts, and it is more effective for ministry.

We plan to establish a strong, self-supporting church that loves God and sends missionaries to other places. We will continue making disciples and sharing Christ with everyone around us. We also hope to have our own building or place to serve God, but even if that does not happen, it will not stop us from building and edifying a New Testament church in Spain.

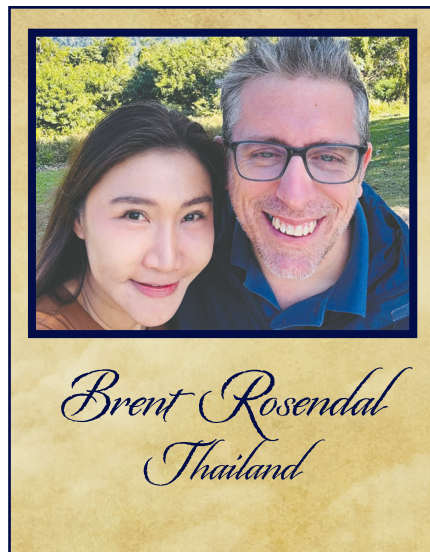
Please pray for us as we continue laboring here. Pray that the Lord Jesus adds new souls and strengthens the church in Spain. Also, please pray for my son, Oseas Daniel, that he might return to Christ. Thank you for your faithful support.



Greetings from Thailand! We are the Rosendals, sent by Landmark Baptist Church in Anderson, Indiana. We have been serving in Northern Thailand for more than 20 years. Brent is originally from Canada, and Tawm was born in Thailand. This summer, we will celebrate our 23rd wedding anniversary. Our son Owen is about to graduate from high school and will move to Canada this summer to work and start college in the fall. Thus, our family will be going through a big transition in the coming months.

Thailand is known as the land of smiles and is an amazing place to live with friendly people, beautiful scenery, including beaches, islands, and mountains, as well as the best food in the world. Superficially, it is hard to top living in Thailand. However, Thailand is 95% Buddhist, with most adherents practicing Folk Buddhism, a blend of Buddhism and spirit worship. Beneath the beautiful smiles, most Thais live in fear of spirits, lack hope for their future, and tend to be resistant to the gospel.

We first served as missionary helpers before becoming missionaries and taking over the work Nicky Barnett had started in Chiang Mai, a city of 1.2 million people. Our primary focus is planting churches and developing leaders. After starting Antioch Baptist Church, we hoped to raise up a local pastor in order to move to a new location and start the process again. However, God has worked differently than we anticipated. Over the past two decades, Antioch has yet to raise a local pastor, but during that time, Antioch has sent four missionaries to other parts of Thailand and Myanmar. At the end of March 2026, Antioch will send a core family as missionary helpers to serve near the Thai-Laos border, becoming the 5th missionary sent by Antioch.

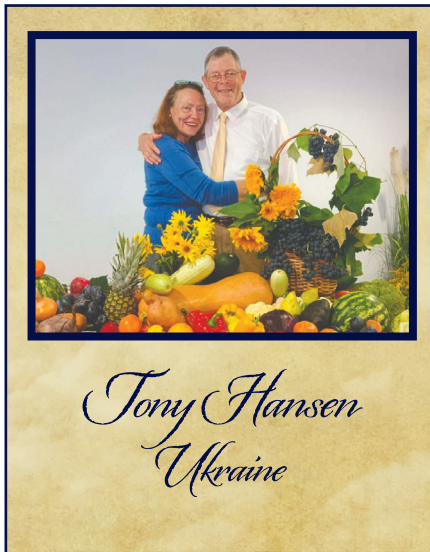


One of Antioch's missionaries worked to establish Cornerstone Baptist Church in a mountain village about 4 hours away. That work has since been passed on to a local pastor. Antioch provided all the funds necessary to build a church building in that village. The missionaries who work part-time in Myanmar work in restricted areas where Westerners cannot go due to the civil war there. The villages they visit are often under threat of bombing. We are grateful that God is using Thais to bring the gospel to locations that Westerners cannot.

Antioch averages about 45 people in Sunday morning worship services. Antioch also has Sunday School classes and midweek Bible studies. Tawm teaches the youth group and oversees the worship team and women's ministry. Owen plays the piano at Antioch and helps to lead a bible study at his school. We also started Thailand Missionary Baptist Institute to train leaders for Christian ministry. Currently, I am the only person teaching classes at TMBI, and so the process is slow going as I can only teach two new subjects each semester. Classes are recorded and posted online so others can study them later. In the current semester, 15 students are studying 7 different classes from a couple of provinces in Thailand.

Please be in prayer for our family as we transition into the empty nest stage. We are still in need of monthly support, and we continue to raise funds to purchase property for Antioch. Although we reached our initial goal to purchase land, the price of land increased significantly during the time we were raising funds, and so we are still in need of funds to buy property here. Pray that God would raise up more men to serve as pastors and missionaries in Thailand, as the gospel is desperately needed throughout the nation.





Hi, we are Tony & Coretta Hansen, and we have been working in Zhytomyr, Ukraine, leading Pearl MBC for 8.5 years. Four of those years were spent in a country at war. We are located about 2 hours Southwest of the capital city of Kyiv. We have four children (three daughters and one son) who are grown and have their own families. We have seven grandchildren (four granddaughters and three grandsons), and we have two foster grandsons. All living in the state of Indiana.

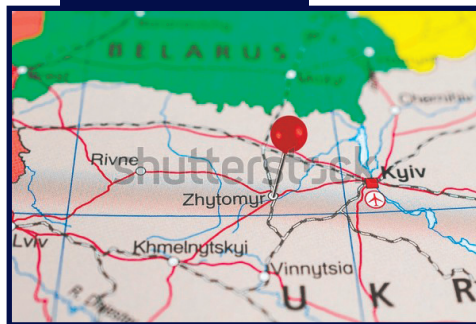
Our sending church is Columbus BC, located in Columbus, Indiana. Our sending church pastor is Charles Kennedy. They have been our sending church for 9.5 years. They guided, advised, supported, prayed, and even visited us on the field. They do much more than “send a check.”

We originally came to Zhytomyr to work with another missionary to gain experience. Shortly after our first year, the missionary and his wife left the field, and we inherited the small, young work. God blessed us by adding a wonderful young woman to our ministry team here, Alyona Vinogradova. She is a vital part of the work! Over the next few years, things changed, several people left, but God replaced them with many more new people, so much so that it was basically a new work. We began to grow, then COVID hit, and we were challenged, but the Lord continued to bless.

A little over four years ago, war came again, and we did not know what to expect. Many people left Ukraine and would never return. Coretta and I took an extended furlough, with plans to return to the field. In the Summer of

2022, we did return, even under war. God has blessed tremendously during this war! When we returned, things really “took off”! With the help of many churches and individuals in the states and in some foreign countries, we provided humanitarian aid and benevolence, distributing nonperishable food supplies and personal hygiene items, as well as gospel tracts and copies of John & Romans. We were able to assist several families who came to our city as refugees; some still worship with us. Through this war, God has opened many hearts to the Gospel message. Pearl MBC has had several salvations, baptisms, and additions. The current membership is twenty-four, with Sunday services averaging around thirty. The Lord continues to bring new people to our services regularly.

We and Columbus BC have had a powerful desire, goal, and plan, from the very beginning, to establish Pearl MBC as a self-supporting church here in Zhytomyr, led by a national pastor, which will launch other such churches in the future. One major hurdle was



building a permanent place of worship and activity. God did a wonderful thing and gave us a building amid this war, which would not have been available had there not been a war! Thanks to the help of many churches and individuals,



we were able to purchase the facility debt-free and are now in the process of having the exterior insulated and finished! The building will serve all of Pearl MBC's needs for many years. It is a newer structure and will require little major maintenance in the near future.

People often ask if it is “safe” where we live. Our reply is, “There are no safe places here, but we are blessed to live in



a less dangerous place.” The country continues to be in war, with many cities being actively attacked, but God continues to have His hand of protection over our city and area, and we go

about life with our “new normal,” and we continue to move forward by faith.

100th Annual Messenger Assembly
of the Churches of the American Baptist Association
June 22–25, 2026

Now is the time to make your plans to attend this historic meeting.

Hotel Update: Embassy Suites by Hilton and **The Hotel Hot Springs** are sold out. If you still need a room, visit the ABA website and click the link for the wait list. Overflow options will be added as available.

All meetings will be held in the **Hot Springs Convention Center**.

For full details, schedules, and maps, click on the meeting brochure on the ABA website.

Sunday Morning Services – June 21, 2026

The following invitations have been received:

Meadow View MBC – Malvern, AR
Sunday School 10:15 AM | Worship 11:00 AM
A meal will follow the service.

Center Fork MBC – Hot Springs
Sunday School 9:30 AM | Worship 10:30 AM
Guest Speaker: Chase Reynolds (MTM)
Lunch and fellowship will follow.

Exhibitors

Information is available on the ABA website. Only a few booths remain, so reserve your space soon.

Registration & Name Badges

Please register on the ABA website. No name badges will be printed on-site.

Important Financial Need

100th Annual Messenger Assembly

As we prepare for this historic 100th Annual Assembly, we are experiencing significantly higher costs in several areas, including the convention center, audio/visual services, and the printing of minute books and other publications.

We are working diligently to manage these expenses responsibly. However, we must see an increase in offerings in order to meet these obligations.

We ask that you prayerfully consider giving to the Expense of Meeting Fund. Your support is not only appreciated—it is essential to ensure that we are able to conduct this meeting in a way that honors the Lord and serves our churches well.

Even if you are unable to attend, your offering will play a vital role in helping cover these necessary expenses.

Send Offerings To:

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

We look forward to seeing you in Hot Springs for this special 100th Annual Messenger Assembly.

Edgar Neal Sutton, Jr.
Director of Meeting Arrangements
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903-244-2647

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