

Fall 2023

MissionsNews ♦ Views



WAKE UP! THE HARVEST IS READY!

by Justin Coburn



In Matthew 9:34-38, Jesus teaches us a very important lesson. We must be awake and aware of the things that are going on around us. We cannot view things through the filter of how we want them or wish them to be, but how they truly are. We are living in dark, difficult, and discouraging days. Many in our world are unchurched and the harvest truly is plenteous. There are people to reach! There are those across the oceans and in our backyards who need to hear the gospel. This is the most important work we must do, and it is the reason we exist. Despite the difficulties, what an exciting time to be alive! This is our time to do what God would have us to do! Churches are closing their doors, and the laborers are few. We all know the problem but what is the solution? As Jesus ministered, He met physical needs, but He could see deeper. He saw the heart of man and was moved with compassion or moved in the heart to do something about their condition. Jesus gives us three things we need to see and one thing we must do.

We Need to Wake Up and See the Plight of People. (Verse 36) Jesus looked past how we often see people and saw them how they really were. We put people in so many different physical classes and circles, but Jesus classifies people into two. There are lost sinners and saved sinners. He saw in their weariness that they were being beaten down by sin. He saw them scattered wondering aimlessly through life with no direction. People today are trying to get by the best they can. They have their hope in the government, the “American Dream,” paydays, vacations, and good health. Jesus saw people without a shepherd and without hope. We desperately need to see people the way Jesus did and be moved with compassion. People are dealing with loneliness, fear, frustration and absolutely no fulfillment. Their greatest problem is their sin problem; their greatest need is to be saved, and their only hope is Jesus!

We Need to Wake Up and See the Potential of People. (Verse 37) Jesus looked at the crowds and saw a plenteous harvest. The disciples saw people who were angry, sick, and pushing to get help from Jesus. Jesus saw their spiritual problems and frustrations. He saw people who needed to be touched and transformed by His amazing grace. He saw their potential. It is not what a man is before he comes to Christ but what He can be after he comes to Christ. There is power in the name of Jesus, and He alone can change lives. The gospel we are privileged to share is a gospel for whosoever! The blood of Jesus is still good to reach the vilest sinner and set the captives free. The revival in Samaria happened because Jesus reached out to a woman no one wanted to have anything to do with. People near and far need Jesus! Politics will not get it done, religion cannot get it done, the world will not satisfy the people of this world, only Jesus!

We Need to Wake Up and See the Problem of Harvest. (Verse 37) The houses may be full, but the fields are empty. We need more workers, more disciples, and more missionaries. Reaping is hard work! We must get in the field and get dirty. We cannot wait for the harvest to come to us, but we must get busy and work in God's field. His field is here in the Bible belt, across the USA, in the deepest part of the jungles and in the cities and neighborhoods throughout the world. We see the need, but we must be willing to go.

We Must Wake Up and Realize the Power available. (Verse 38) Jesus gives only one command in this section of Scripture. The one thing He tells us to do here is pray! When we pray, we engage the power of Heaven. The work is God's, and He gives the increase. Would you join me in praying Matthew 9:38? May we pray for the lost to be saved! May we pray for the harvest to be great and more workers in the field. May we pray that we will catch a burning desire and passion and be moved to do more for the glory of God and say as Isaiah said, “Here am I, send me” (Isaiah 6:8).

That is why we are thankful for those who have answered the call and are carrying the gospel throughout the uttermost parts of the world. In this edition, we want to introduce some of our new ABA recommended missionaries. As you read, you will learn a little about them, their family, their struggles, their needs, and the ways God is blessing and using them in their field of labor.

Keep on Keeping on,
Justin Coburn

The Messengers of the Churches of the American Baptist Association endorsed the following for the 2023-2024 associational year:

Alaska,
Arkansas,
California,
Colorado,
Florida,
Georgia,
Indiana, Iowa,
Kansas,
Kentucky,
Louisiana,
Maine,
Maryland,
Michigan,
Missouri,
Nebraska,
Nevada,
New Mexico,
New York,
North Carolina,
Tennessee,
Texas, Virginia,
Washington,
West Virginia

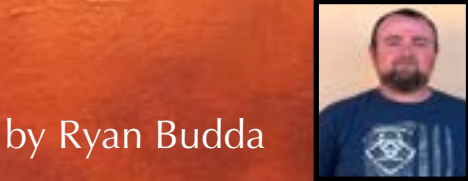
147 Missionaries
25 States
29 Foreign Countries
23 Interstate Missionaries on Salary
11 Interstate Missionaries on Designated Funds
12 Foreign Missionaries on Salary
21 Foreign Missionaries on Designated Funds
54 National Missionaries on Salary
8 National Missionaries on Designated Funds
1 Missionary Helper
17 Mission Ministries

Full salary for Interstate and Foreign Missionaries is \$4075.00 per month. The church portion of 20% is \$815.00.

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

THE BUDDA BUILDERS

Building Ministry



by Ryan Budda



My name is Ryan and my wife's name is Christy. We are the Budda Builders. My wife and I met back in 2019 on a building project in Clovis, California. In November we will have been married for 4 years. We are also expecting our first child, a little girl, who is due in November. We just recently found out that she has HLHS which means the left side of the baby's heart did not develop. The next year will be full of challenges as we learn to be parents to a little girl with special needs, but we're also excited for her to join us in the work that we do as we serve the Lord in the building ministry.

We are sent out by Valley Landmark Missionary Baptist church in Spokane, Washington. When I joined this ministry, I started building with Richard Wharton and we continue to travel with the Chapel Builders out of Fresno California. Though we come out of Spokane, Washington, most of our projects are in the state of California. We also help with other builders, like Randy Taylor out of Kentucky, and some of the Macedonian building projects as well. My trade is masonry work, but I can do a little of everything. We love building and look forward to seeing where God leads us every year.

One thing we have noticed over the years is the more we aim to serve the Lord, the bigger life's challenges. We are constantly reminded that when God calls us to follow, that doesn't only mean when everything is going well, and things are neatly together. The Lord simply said follow me and it means just that, to follow Him. There will be struggles and life will be hard at times but we aim to serve to the best we can and if we are called to build and build is what we'll do. We are truly blessed with a very strong and supportive family, church family, and friends. We do seek your prayers for our family and our little girl who will soon join us, as we look forward to building and serving in our churches across the US! Thank you all for your love and support!

Ryan & Christy Budda
The Buddha Builders





by Luis Carrillo

MISION BAUTISTA EMANUEL

Houston, Texas



THE CARRILLO FAMILY

The Lord has blessed me with a beautiful family. With an ideal wife, a daughter extraordinary; fearful of the Lord, and two amazing sons also fearful of the Lord.

We make a great team when serving the Lord's ministry.

PROJECT "PRO-TEMPLO"

As many of you know we are in the process of building our own building. God is good! We ask for your prayers and blessings on this new project. We continue to pray for Gods will to be done.



Emanuel Land



Mens Meeting at Emanuel Land

We ask that you continue to keep Mision Emanuel in your prayers and thank you for your continuous support.



MISION BAUTISTA EMANUEL

SPONSORING CHURCH: MISSION BEND BAPTIST CHURCH



AUGUST 2023

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;
Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
(2 Timothy 4:1-2)

Pastor Luis Carrillo

Lc.phil4_13@yahoo.com
832) 373 5044

6202 Winkelman Rd.
Houston, TX 77083

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS @11:30 AM

Sunday mornings are such a blessing! Brother Victor and Brother Rafael direct the class. We have been learning about the book of Daniel and the attendance has been consistent with 20-25 attending each Sunday.



SUNDAY SERVICE

SUNDAYS @12:30 PM

Thankful to God for His Word and for this country because we can fulfill the grand commission. (Matthew 28:19) The gospel is the reason many souls are being reached and many more are yet to be saved. The same way we worship the Lord and receive His message, we are edified by His Word.

HERITAGE BAPTIST INSTITUTE

TUESDAYS @7:00 PM

Mision Bautista Emanuel is the host for our Spanish HBI courses taught by Pastor Gabriel Sanchez. Thanks be to God for Pastor Sanchez who takes the time to study the Word and his dedication to the the seminary. He is teaching the book of Revelation & Synoptic Gospels.



HBI Class

HARVEST PANAMA MISSION

Chitre, Panama

by Mark Cimino



My name is Mark Cimino, and my wife Marie and I have been called to Panama to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior in October of 2002. In 2004, I surrendered to the ministry and started serving at Harvest Oaks Baptist Church under the mentorship of Bro. Jay Gibson. In 2006, I held the position of outreach minister. I have led a Men's ministry and my wife and I led the Spanish ministry at Harvest Oaks. I was ordained in 2016 and accepted the position as associate pastor. Then, in 2022, the Lord opened some doors and allowed us to pursue what He had placed on our hearts years before (moving to the mission field in Panama). In February of this year, we started our journey driving from Allen, Texas to Chitre, Panama. 5 countries and 13 days later, we arrived in Chitre. It was an incredible journey! We saw God move and protect us each and every day. 5 souls were saved. Praise the Lord! 2 in Guatemala, 2 in Honduras, and 1 in Costa Rica.

We have now been in Panama for 6 months and the Lord has blessed us with a children's ministry. We have an average of 23 children from our neighborhood that meet at our house each week. We are seeing the Lord move in the lives of these children and praying it opens doors to start reaching their parents.

Chitre, Panama is made up of mostly lower to middle class Panamanian families with a population of 60,000. 90% of its citizens are Catholic and most of the churches, of course, are Catholic. There are 2 small Baptist Churches in Chitre and, to our surprise, 4 Jehovah Witness' churches. Panama is very rooted in the occult, with fortune telling and palm reading advertisements and shops everywhere. The Panamanian people are very friendly and hospitable.

We only arrived 6 months ago and are still adjusting to our new lifestyle. It can be rough at times because electricity and water issues are common here. The electricity goes out a few times a week. Sometimes it is out for 20 minutes and other times, up to 10 hours. The water



pressure is also a problem here in Chitre, and like the electricity, we go without water a few times a week.

Even with these temporary inconveniences we know we are exactly where the Lord wants us to be. He has been blessing and providing for us since we left Texas. We have seen souls saved and our children's ministry continues to grow. We are at the point where we can no longer fit in our living room. We have a long-term goal to open a multi-purpose building to use as a community center during the week and hold church services on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, but until this is possible, we are making arrangements to meet in our back yard after a few needed improvements.

We were so blessed and grateful for the ABA voting to support us at the messenger meeting in Spokane, Washington, and we are thankful that Harvest Oaks Baptist Church was able to attend and represent us. We look forward to being at the next meeting to personally meet and say "thank you" to everyone.

Please continue to pray for us as we reach out to this beautiful community. If you would like to partner with us with monthly support or meet one of our needs listed below, contact:

Harvest Oaks Baptist Church
1401 E Bethany Dr
Allen, TX 75002



Ministry needs for back Yard Bible class:
A/V equipment
Computer





by Juan Gallegos

GETSEMANI IGLESIA BAUTISTA

Acuna, Mexico



Leaving the known to move towards the unknown is often extremely difficult. Serving for seven years at the Berea Baptist Mission (church) in Del Rio, Texas allowed me to share in building both the material and spiritual aspects of the work. A congregation developed, creating friendships that will last for many years, if not forever. And it is difficult to say goodbye to this situation to move to a new mission field. I know that although I will continue living in Del Rio, I sadly will not be able to see these people on the regular basis that I have become accustomed to. Fortunately, God has whispered in our hearts: "This is the way, walk ye in it" (Isaiah 30:21) and we must go where He has chosen for us to minister.

Several years ago, we were able to acquire a piece of property in Cd. Acuña where we could continue to minister after Berea was organized into a New Testament Church. Construction began shortly after the acquisition of the land, but it eventually took a back seat to planning and preparing for Berea's organization. So, construction still hasn't been completed. However, we recently resumed construction of this building which is made up of a future auditorium, a kids' classroom, and bathrooms. So far, the walls for all three areas are up, but a lot of work still needs to be done for us to be able to use them. In the next few months, we will concentrate on the kid's classroom and bathrooms. This will give us enough space for us to begin having services on the property. I have met with the construction crew and made plans to begin pouring the concrete roof. All the forms have been set in place and (Lord willing) we hope to be able to pour the roof at the beginning of next week. The anticipation of what God will accomplish in this new mission work is what keeps us motivated to go in the path that He has determined. We pray that everything we accomplish in this new mission field will be to His glory!



MISSIONARY PILOT

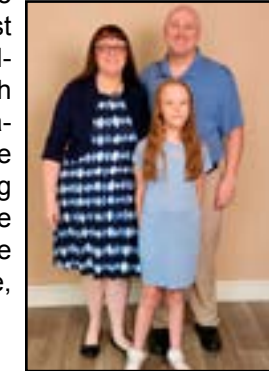
Gospel Flight

by Randell Gillespie



Introduction

I am Randall Gillespie, a Missionary Pilot called by God to spread the Gospel through aviation. My passion for aviation fuels my mission to share God's love and message of repentance. God's call leads us to reach the unreached in remote areas, establishing self-supporting New Testament Churches led by indigenous pastors. Bridging the gap between isolated communities is a privilege. I'm deeply thankful to Jesus for this opportunity. We are sent out from Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Orlando, FL. I'm undergoing advanced flight training and connecting with churches in the American Baptist Association to share our ministry and gain valuable experience during deputation. The training provides the skills to fly into some of the world's most challenging and inaccessible regions to deliver God's redemptive hope, humanitarian relief, and assistance.



The Role of Missionary Pilots

In preparation for embarking as a Missionary Pilot, using the learned aviation skills and aircraft to serve humanitarian, religious, and charitable missions is vital. The goal will be to join an Organization like Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), JAARS, or similar groups to reach people. The roles we will likely be involved in can be broadly categorized into three main areas: transportation, medical evacuation, and disaster relief.

- Missionary pilots are vital in providing transportation, medical evacuation, and disaster relief to isolated communities. They transport essential supplies like Bibles, food, medicine, and educational materials and provide medical assistance during emergencies. They also quickly deliver aid and supplies to disaster-stricken areas, providing immediate relief to those in need.



Challenges Faced by Missionary Pilots to Get to the Field

While the work is essential, some not-so-typical challenges are encountered, and we'd ask you to join us in praying for the following things:

- **Training and Costs:** I'm on the path to becoming a Missionary Pilot, which requires rigorous and costly training. I currently hold a Private Pilot License and am actively pursuing Instrument Training. However, I must complete two immediate training goals: Instrument Rating and Commercial Pilot training. To start Commercial Training, I must have

250 hours of flight time; to qualify for fieldwork, I need a minimum of 500 hours. The advanced training and expenses total approximately \$55,995, covering ground schools, flight training, rentals, insurance, instructor fees, and FAA tests. Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated on this journey.

Challenges Faced by Missionary Pilots When on the Field

- **Hazardous Flying Conditions:** Many missionary pilots operate in challenging environments with unpredictable weather conditions, rugged terrain, and high altitudes. These conditions require advanced piloting skills and constant vigilance.
- **Security Concerns:** Some regions where missionary pilots operate may be politically unstable or plagued by violence. This poses significant security risks to both pilots and the organizations they work with.

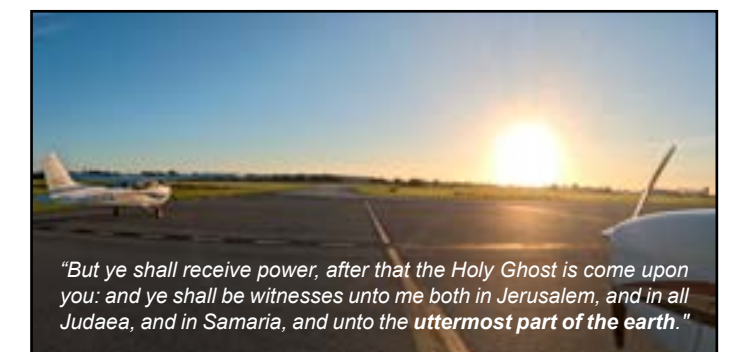
Impact on Communities

The work as a missionary pilot typically has a profound impact on the communities they serve:

- **Spiritual Transformation:** Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, positively affecting individuals, families, and entire communities.
- **Access to Vital Services:** They enable remote areas to access healthcare, education, and essential services, leading to better living conditions.
- **Empowerment and Sustainable Development:** Equipping isolated communities with the ability to take the Gospel from their location to others natively.

Conclusion

Your prayers, contributions, and partnership make it possible to improve countless lives by providing the Gospel, bringing hope and compassion to the world's darkest corners, and showing Jesus Christ's impact in a single flight. I appreciate your prayers and support.



"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Photos of Standing Missionary Committeemen and Missionaries
During the Mission Presentation at the 97th Annual Messenger
Assembly of the ABA in Spokane, Washington

Courtesy of
Grace
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JILL



Secretary-Treasurer of Missions,
Justin Coburn



Missionary Juan Gallegos,
Mexico



Kelli Reynolds, wife of
Missionary Chase Reynolds,
World Mission Ministry



Josh Phillips, son of Missionary
Anthony Phillips, France



Missionary Temple Meek,
Florida and World Wide



Missionary Kunihiko Oba, Brazil



Uriah Reynolds, son of
Missionary Chase Reynolds,
World Mission Focus



Missionary Shin Komoda, Japan



Missionary Youngbae Kim,
Virginia



Perlita Meek, wife of
Missionary Temple Meek,
Florida and World Wide



Missionary Mike Jones, North Carolina,
preached the Missionary Sermon on
Wednesday evening.



Committeeman Chet Johnson with
Missionary Mike Jones, North
Carolina



Secretary-Treasurer of Missions, Justin Coburn
and wife, Amber, with Missionary Scott Bourland, Indiana



Missionary Jason Hebert, Louisiana



Missionary Chase Reynolds,
World Mission Focus



Missionary Walt Emry, Vanuatu



Bro. Jim Nixon, Clerk of the
Standing Missionary Committee



Diana Rutherford, wife of
Missionary Brandon Rutherford,
Ride For God



Bro. Ed Button, Chairman
of the Standing
Missionary Committee

Annual Missionary Breakfast



Mission
Service and
Prayer Time





by Kevin Hutcheson

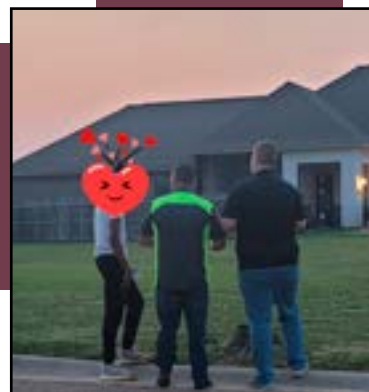
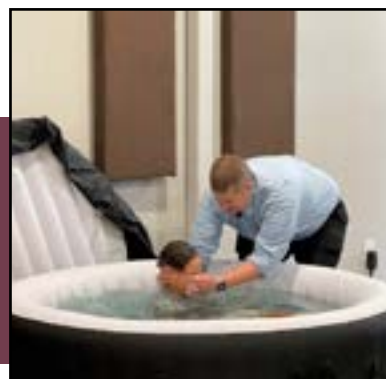
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH Sterlington, Louisiana

Hello. My name is Kevin Hutcheson and I am the missionary in Sterlington, LA. I am sent out by Promise Land MBC of Hamburg, AR where brother Josh Luellen is pastor. I was born in Florida and grew up attending Welcome Baptist Church of Lithia, FL. The Lord blessed me with great parents that raised myself and my brothers in that church. I was called to preach at 14 and surrendered to preach that summer at Florida Baptist Camp in Groveland, FL. I enrolled at Emmaus Baptist College after high school and pursued God's call in ministry. I had no plans to be a missionary or do any type of mission work.

I met my wife through a mutual friend that attended the college and we began dating the next year. She is one of the many fruits of ABA missions and was one of the first to be saved and baptized under missionary Doug Wiersema that went to Romania in 1993. I flew to Romania in November 2007 and asked her to marry me. We were married in June 2008. God blessed us with two sons, AJ and Nicholas and we were serving Him while living in Florida.

I thought I was where He wanted me to be. I realized in January 2012 that God had orchestrated everything for the purpose of calling me into the mission field. I surrendered to His call and went to Romania in May 2013. We were blessed to serve there until October 2022. God allowed us to see souls saved and many other wonderful things done there.

I then felt Him moving me and knew He had to be trusted. I came back to the US and began to pray and preach. I preached in several places and was faced with a big decision. God led me to Promise Land MBC in Hamburg, AR and gave me immediate peace about where I needed to be. God has blessed TREMENDOUSLY! In ten months, He has allowed us to see seven salvations and Faith Baptist Church had it's first baptism in August! We are about to begin a big building project and covet your prayers. We have great plans and an even greater God. We are so grateful for your prayers and support and I am honored to be able to serve the Lord here in Sterlington. God bless you all!



LIGHTHOUSE ELECTRICAL MINISTRIES Electrical Engineer

by Kevin Mattox



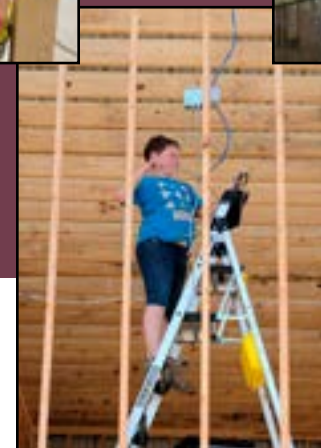
In March of 2019, Madison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church of Kentwood, voted to sponsor our family, as Lighthouse Electrical Ministries, to serve the Lord's churches in their electrical needs. We frequently serve alongside the Macedonian Mission Builders and Bro. Tommy Baker, who is a master electrician, on building projects. Our whole family finds great joy in working on the construction projects alongside other brothers and sisters in Christ. Since then we have worked in 12 states and one foreign country, at 17 different churches and 2 church camps on building projects.

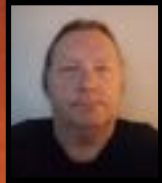
I am a licensed electrical engineer. With my background, it has given me the opportunity to serve churches by drawing electrical plans for their upcoming construction projects and preparing material lists. I also have years of experience working on audio/video systems and can help churches with updating sound systems, video presentation systems, and set up live streaming.

Presently, Lighthouse Electrical Ministries operates on a part time basis due to my secular employment. I am able to assist churches remotely with the help of phone conversations, email, and even video chat. If this ministry can serve your church, please reach out to us at the email address or phone number below. We would be honored to come alongside your church in any way we are able.

Finally, we would like to ask for your prayers. Continuing to work full time places limits on our ability to serve. We ask you to pray with us as we await God's timing to move from my current employment situation. I would like to work to become a licensed electrician which would expand our ability to serve the Lord's churches; however, this requires a lengthy apprenticeship process. We ask for your prayers regarding how this licensing can be pursued. We specifically ask you to pray for wisdom and discernment to recognize God's will in these matters. We thank you for your prayers.

Kevin & Lauren Mattox
lighthouseelectricalmin@gmail.com





LIGHT OF GRACE BAPTIST MISSION

by Craig Stark

Las Vegas, Nevada

My name is Craig Stark, Missionary and Pastor of Light of Grace Baptist Mission in Las Vegas, Nevada. I have lived in Las Vegas all of my life and have seen many people struggling through the years and become homeless. I joined Lone Mountain Missionary Baptist Church and the Lord laid it on my heart to work with these less fortunate people, so in 1996 I started working with Pastor Larry Frye, who began this work in 1994. Through the years we have seen thousands and thousands of souls come to Christ.



It's amazing how God works. We started with gravy and loaves of bread in the back of a van. I have been using the same cooking pot for all these years and we've never run out, even when we served in excess of 350 people or more at a time. We have a big meal on Sunday mornings out on the street reaching many people, preaching the word, seeing souls saved, and inviting them to church. Thankfully, we have a 25 passenger bus that we received from Macedonia Missionary Service that enables us to bring people to church and take them where they need to be after services and classes.

We purchased a house a little over 7 years ago where we are able to reach over 100 people a week and that has resulted in salvations, baptisms and changed the hearts of so many people. We have multiple Bible studies, classes, and dinners a week. We have helped many in the job application process, training programs, housing and provide a place for them to do laundry, take showers, and get new clothing and toiletries from our donation room. God has given us the ability to have the church doors open 6 days a week.



Some of our goals are to see souls saved, baptized, and learning the word of God. We would also like to see many working and ,hopefully, get off the street for good. Another goal is to prayerfully, one day soon, have a building in which we can house individuals temporarily until they can be self supportive have their own living situation.

We are always in need of clothes, sleeping bags, toiletries, etc. Praying we have the opportunity to work together in the future for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



For the 2022-2023 Associational Year, the ABA Missionaries Reported:

5790 Professions of Faith

717 Baptisms

7 Churches Organized

MACEDONIAN MISSIONARY SERVICE

Reach

by Todd Ward



I would like to take the opportunity to formally introduce myself. My name is Todd Ward, and I am the Global Development Director for Macedonian Missionary Service. When I was 17 years old, I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior at a youth rally in Bogata, Texas. At the age of 21, I married my beautiful wife Jamie Ward, and we have been married for 27 years. We have three children and two grandchildren. God has truly blessed Jamie and I with a great family. From 1993-2022, I had a secular job for years at the same company. In 2018, I was ordained as a deacon in our church. In 2020, God started working on my heart after I went on a building project with Macedonian Missionary Service in Wewoka, Oklahoma. After that trip I knew that God was calling me to be a part of the ministry. After much prayer, I left my secular job and became a part of Macedonian Missionary Service in February of 2021. I'm very humbled and blessed to be part of Macedonian Missionary Service, an organization that has been helping share the Gospel for 50 years!

There are so many ways that you can partner with our organization to help spread The Gospel. We have multiple avenues of ministry within Macedonian Missionary Service Building ministry, Mac-Med ministry, Mechanics ministry, Mac-Trip ministry, Mac-Tech ministry, and our Radio ministry.

At this time, I would like to tell you about the newest ministry that God has opened the doors for us to begin, REACH. I am humbled to be able to have the opportunity to serve in a leadership role within this ministry. REACH stands for Reaching, Evangelizing and Comforting the Hurting. Our vision is to take the Gospel into places that have been affected by a natural disaster or man-made events, and minister to the communities, through the local New Testament church, meeting both physical and spiritual needs. In April of this year, we ordered a portable building that is an 8-meter dome structure that was built in the United Kingdom. We received the unit at the end of August. This will be set up in the places to be a place to minister to the people in the affected areas. We were also blessed with a 52 ft food trailer that was donated about the same time as the building got to our shop in Texas. God has truly opened doors that we could have never opened! I ask you to specifically pray for the REACH ministry and to prayerfully consider helping us so that we can go and tell the people in crisis situations about the One who can help them get through the storms of life, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!!

His Humble Servant,
Todd Ward



World Missions Focus

The theme for the 2023 World Missions Focus at the ABA was From the Ends of the Earth to Our Jerusalem. In recent history, the nations have increasingly flocked to our home country. David Smith informed and urged us to recognize and seize the opportunity to reach the nations living among us. Josh Edwards highlighted the unique opportunities to make disciples among international students, whether they have come to us through nearby universities or our own hometown high schools. Then John Mix wrapped it up talking about how to effectively involve internationals in our churches. While the commission to “go into all the world” has not been rescinded, we must not overlook or miss the nations who have come into our own neighborhoods.

Photos courtesy of Grace Photography by Jill



Bro. Chase Reynolds



Bro. David Smith



Bro. Josh Edwards



Bro. John Mix

International Missionary Retreat

The 2023 International Missionary Retreat (IMR) was held on June 14-18 at the Mirabeau Park and Convention Center in Spokane, WA just 20 minutes from the location of the ABA Messenger meeting. Twenty-one participants representing ministries in 7 different countries and 5 different continents came together for a time of fun, fellowship, and spiritual refreshment.

The theme Rise and Eat was more than just a witty slogan as rest and nourishment (both physical and spiritual) was the focus of the retreat. Scott and Esther Bates led the group in times of worship, while Joel Dillahunt ministered the Word. Several churches gave special offerings to sponsor some spectacular meals and activities that helped make the retreat a memorable success.

Chase and Kelli Reynolds host the IMR at a location near the ABA Messenger Meeting every year to allow our international missionaries to rest and enjoy refreshment among the missionary community before arriving at the Messenger Meeting. If your church would like to help support this ministry, offerings may be designated “IMR” and sent to:

Sublett Road Baptist Church
P.O. Box 172076
Arlington, TX 76003



Bro. Bryan Sellers, Bro. Justin Coburn, and Bro. Randy Cloud



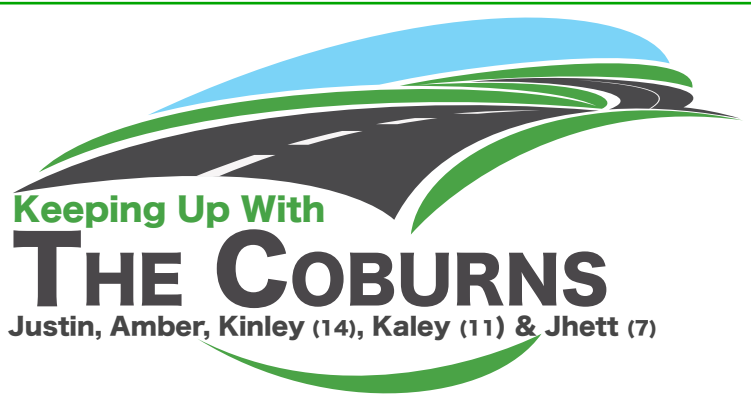
Bro. Shin Kamoda, Japan, and Bro. Justin Coburn



Missionary Jack Brown and family, Colorado with Bro. Justin Coburn and family



Left: Bro. Justin Coburn with Missionary Kevin Hutcheson, Louisiana (left) and Missionary Mike Jones, North Carolina (right)



Thanksgiving MISSIONS OFFERING

Join us in reaching our goal of

\$325,000

on or before

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

*"Not because I desire a gift: BUT I DESIRE FRUIT
that may abound to your account."*

Philippians 4:17

Please send offerings to:

Secretary-Treasurer of Missions, American Baptist Association
PO Box 1050, Texarkana, TX 75504-1050
Phone: 903.792.2312, Email: missions@abamissions.org

