

Spring 2023

MissionsNews ♦ Views

Join us for
97th Annual Messenger Assembly
of the
AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

June 20-22, 2023

Spokane, WA

SHEW
ME THY
Glory
Exodus 33:18



Serving as Senders

by Justin Coburn



The apostle Paul said in Romans 10:13, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” There are still many in the world who have never heard a clear, true, simple presentation of the gospel. In verse 14 he said, “how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” Jesus said “the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few” (Matthew 9:37). The cry rings true that we need more missionaries but Paul didn’t end there. He went on to say in Romans 10:15, “and how shall they preach except they be sent?” In mission work there are two levels of involvement: those who go and those who send. Mission work is the heartbeat of God, and we should excel at being senders. Sending out missionaries is one of the most important tasks that churches have, and we should do it to the best of our ability, in the Lord, in order to carry out the commission He has left us to fulfill.

There is more to sending out a missionary than voting unanimously, sending some money and saying good-bye. Missionaries need our moral support, logistics support, financial support, prayer support, communication support and even reentry support. The theme of this edition of the Missions News & Views is “Serving as Senders.” The writers in this edition have served as pastors, missionaries or been on both sides. Bro. Micah Carter covers the early stages of feeling the burden, now what? He also gives his experience of leading a church into sending out their first missionary. Bro. John Strader displays the “Struggles of a Missionary.” He breaks that down into four different categories and shares some personal stories of their time in Africa. Bro. Eric Sutton leads his church to be a friend to missionaries and encourages us to do the same. Bro. Chase Reynolds covers how they thrived in Indonesia because of the support they were given back home. No matter which role you have in a church, get involved and get close to missionaries. Pray for them, be a friend to them, be their cheer-leader and ask God to show you how you can support them and how you can be a blessing to them.

Lastly, there is a section in this edition entitled “Remembering Bro. Roger.” You will hear from some of our missionaries on the kind of man he was, what he meant to them and the mark he left on their lives. He truly was a spiritual giant who left a legacy and huge shoes to fill. He was very special to me and I miss him very much. I will share one short story to show the kind of heart he had. The missions office receives all types of emails. One day he received an email from a lady who lived in DeKalb, the city where I pastor. She had cancer and needed a ramp to get her wheelchair in and out of the house. She thought the missions office helped with “missions” like that. He could have easily let that go but he called me to see if I knew her and to inform me so that we could possibly help. I got in touch with her and some of our men built that ramp. This led to calls and visits where I talked to her about eternity and salvation. She was a self-proclaimed atheist but through our relationship, God softened her heart and she accepted Christ! She did not live much longer after that and I had the privilege of sharing the gospel at her graveside. Although they never met on this earth, I believe they are acquainted now in heaven, and oh the time they are having! I’m thankful he did not let that go. He had a heart for people and a desire to serve and help in any way possible. He ran his course well and God took him home. I long to see him again and spend eternity with him!

Keep On Keeping On,
Bro. Justin Coburn

Burdened! What Now?

by Micah Carter

In 2008 my family and I moved to Magnolia, AR to serve as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church. At the forefront of what I brought with me to Magnolia was a desire to pastor a missionary sending church. This was something God put in my heart, but I didn't know if it would be a desire of our church. In 2009, I shared with Calvary concerning my burden to send a missionary. They prayed and one month later voted unanimously to send someone to a field of labor. The church was in perfect unity about this endeavor. We were all excited and anticipated God doing something amazing. We were ready to move forward. What happened next was totally unexpected.

Keep in mind that Calvary had never been a sending church. None of us really knew what would be expected. All we had was excitement, desire, and a burden to see this through. We wanted to do this, but we didn't really know what to do. We prayed and formed a mission committee. Those both seemed like the right things to do. Our church prayed that God would raise up a man and send him our way. Remember, this is in 2009. We were ready, but we were not prepared. God had a plan for us to wait.

Our church prayed for four years that God would raise up a man for us to send. We didn't care if he came from our church or from somewhere totally unexpected. We weren't lacking for zeal, however, God had some details concerning faith that He wanted to work out. In one of our first mission committee meetings the conversation turned to finances. The main question was, "how will we ever be able to afford this?" It seemed as though finances dominated the discussion each time we met. I wrestled with discouragement often through this process. Why would God not give us a man to send? Why do we only talk about money every time we meet? The answer to the latter question is the answer to the former question. God knew that we were more focused on finances that fulfilling this burden.

I remember it like it was yesterday. We met with the mission committee one Sunday afternoon and the topic of finances came up again. A man stood and said, "if we wait until we can afford to do mission work, we'll never do mission work." He went on to explain by using the analogy of marriage and raising a family. If we

wait until we can afford to get married, we never will. If we wait until we can afford to raise children, we will never get there. The same is true for missions. If we are only waiting for the bottom line to add up, then we have a lack of faith and focus. That meeting was a pivotal moment for Calvary. Our committee changed their perspective. This led to our church as a whole strengthening in faith and focus. We had majored on the minors for a long time. God was giving us time to work all of that out. God was long suffering with us. Once He got our focus on Him, God did something amazing.

After four years of praying, questioning, refocusing, and learning, God brought us two families with a burden for Indiana. Missionaries Scott Bourland, Kevin Pruitt, and their families were ready to be sent together to Bloomington, IN. We were praying for one, but God was preparing two. Throughout the preparation process God had helped us understand that the work of missions is His work. We are simply privileged to be included. He makes the decisions on who, where, when, and how. That's not for us to fret over. Our church met the Bourland and Pruitt's and voted unanimously to partner with them and send them to Indiana.



Bro. Kevin and Kelli Pruitt, Bro. Micah Carter and Bro. Scott and Missy Bourland

Mission work is a learning process. We learned that mission work requires much faith. It requires a total dependency on God. We also learned that God could do far more if we gave Him our worries and doubts. He already knew every soul that would be saved. He knew about property that would be purchased and buildings



a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account." Our church can't be everywhere to witness to everyone, however, we can send men to the lost world. Each time they win one to Jesus, that is fruit to our account.

that would be built. He already planned for salaries to be paid and utilities to be covered. There was much that we didn't know, however, there wasn't one thing that God didn't know.

Today, we praise God that the Journey Baptist Church in Bloomington, IN is an organized work. Bro. Kevin Pruitt is the pastor of Journey. They are thriving in every way and already praying about sending out missionaries themselves. Bro. Bourland and his wife, Missy, are sent by Calvary to Hope, IN now as missionaries to a new field. Grace Baptist Church is growing there. God is saving souls and doing amazing things at Grace.

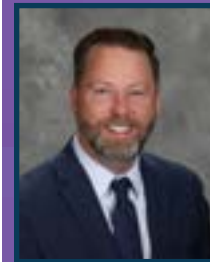
God made all of this possible. Calvary didn't do anything extraordinary. We simply did what Christ commanded us to do, and He did the rest. Since sending missionaries out, we have witnessed the blessings and provisions of God like never before. We truly serve an awesome God. We are so thankful that he allows us to be a part of mission work. Every time a soul is saved in Bloomington or Hope we remember what Paul said to the Philippian church in Philippians 4:17, "Not because

I desire



Being a Friend to Missionaries

by Eric Sutton



When I came to New Home 11 years ago, we established 3 goals: 1) We wanted to see and trust God as a big God; 2) We wanted to see God call our young men to preach; 3) We wanted to be a friend to missionaries. Often times, missionaries are isolated on their field with little deep connection with those who support them. As churches, we are really good at sending our checks and even praying for our missionaries, but we often fall short on the personal touch, on being a friend. How can we develop and express friendship with the missionaries we support? Take a genuine interest in them! Learn the names of their children and spouse. Learn their birthdays and send a card or gift. Connect with them on social media and interact with their posts. Call or visit them on the field. When they visit your church, have them stay in your home and take them to supper. Take them fishing or some fun activity. Contact them, ask what needs they have and try to meet the need personally or as a church. In other words, invest in a relationship that goes beyond simply sending a check. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the missionaries you support remembered being with your church and wanted to visit every time they were close? Not because of the size of the offering, but because they were visiting friends! May God help us to be a friend. You have no idea how God will use you and your friendship to encourage and even keep the missionary on the field.



Fellow Helpers to the Truth

by Chase Reynolds

When you think of the Air Force, you probably think of pilots. You can probably envision men and women scurrying up ladders, sliding into cockpits, closing canopies, and launching into the sky. And when you think of missions, you probably think of missionaries. You probably envision them selling their possessions, visiting churches, packing their bags, and heading off to the field to which God has called them.

Did you know, however, that only 4% of the US Air Force personnel are pilots who scurry up ladders and launch into the sky? Did you know that 96% of the people who make up “the largest, the most technologically evolved, and the most powerful air fleet in the world” never sit in a cockpit? They bring a very different set of skills and labor to “the world’s premiere aerospace force”.

This is also true of the Lord’s missionary force. Only about 7% of evangelical Christians pack their bags and head out to serve as missionaries (i.e. those who are called by God and sent by their church to serve in places beyond the normal reach of their local church’s ministry). The vast majority of God’s missionary force do not “go” but rather serve as senders and supporters. This is a critical but often misunderstood and under appreciated role in missions.

The apostle John told one of the early churches, “Because that for his name’s sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellow helpers to the truth” (3 John 7-8). Paul continually gave thanks to God for the Philippian church and their “fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now” (Phil. 1:5).

During our years in Indonesia, our family and ministry thrived, and a big part of that was due to the tremendous support we received from churches “back home”. We had sufficient financial support to do everything we needed to do (and usually even more than we needed). We had regular, encouraging communication from churches and church members, including emails, text messages, calls and video chats. Our sending church leadership and members visited our field multiple times. We had long-term mentors who spent time with us in our village. We had a prayer team of over 100 people who regularly and eagerly prayed for the ministry and our family. We had people who printed, folded and mailed our newsletters. We had a CPA who freely helped with our taxes. We often received packages with “tastes from home”. When we returned on furlough our sending church secured phones, a vehicle, warm clothes, and other items that we would need stateside. And this list could go on and on.

The main point is that there were literally hundreds and hundreds of “fellow helpers” involved in the ministry taking place deep in the heart of the world’s second largest rain forest. Not only did that keep us refreshed and encouraged and help make the gospel available to a remote tribe of people, but it also gave each of those “fellow helpers” a tangible way to be involved in God’s work in a place far from their home.

Both missionaries and churches need to experience that “fellowship in the gospel”. Just as the Air Force is comprised of thousands and thousands of airmen, both in the sky and on the ground, with a single purpose, the Lord’s churches have a wide diversity of people with single commission. And the small percentage of people who are called and sent to go and serve in new places need an army of “fellow helpers” praying, encouraging, helping, supporting, and enabling them to “Go... and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever [he has] commanded [us]”.

Struggles of a Missionary Family

by John Strador



Have you ever wondered how to pray for a missionary family? Do you wonder about the daily challenges and struggles they face? While God gets all the glory and His grace is enough to face each day, they face many obstacles that go unseen. Sometimes we would love to share but we do not want to come across as complaining or taking for granted the special calling God has placed on our lives.

My family and I served as missionaries to the Coast of Kenya, Africa for five years; here are some of our personal struggles while on the field. While some of these struggles may seem personal, many of them will be generic to missionaries and their families. The struggles have been broken down to major categories:

LONELINESS AND LANGUAGE LEARNING

When you move to another country and culture, first your family and friends feel like you are moving very far from them, and while many promise to stay in touch, the longer you live on the field, the more you lose touch with others as their lives move on to other people and daily demands. A missionary can begin to feel isolated and lonely. This loneliness takes on many different forms over the years.

Holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, and celebrations can feel lonely. Not being able to invite your family to your son’s first birthday or come to your daughter’s kindergarten graduation or celebrating Thanksgiving or Christmas alone can be a huge struggle especially when you see pictures of your friends and family celebrating back home. Although you are happy to see their pictures or Face Time call back home, there is a deep longing to be celebrating with those you love.

At first not knowing the language well makes a missionary feel lonely, because it is difficult to have a friend if you cannot communicate with them. As you learn the language you still feel friendless, because just a few greetings and phrases limits you from developing deep, close relationships that you desire, relationships that came much easier to you when you were in your home culture. Now not only do you desire to meet and have friends, as a missionary you also have the weight

of a job, the desire of sharing the gospel and preaching where others can relate and allow the LORD to speak to them. From first arriving to the field feeling friendless to feeling like sharing the good news of Jesus in a new language is far out of reach, learning language can become a daunting task.

A missionary needs encouragement and to remember God’s calling. God called me to this place, and God will provide for me. We started to pray that God would teach us the language in order for us to share the good news of Jesus with those who have never heard. We began to memorize the Roman Road in Swahili. This greatly helped us learn the language as well as meeting weekly with our amazing language teacher. At the beginning, we would meet 5 days a week, then 3 days a week, then twice a week, and then finally to once a week with our language teacher to help write sermons and devotionals. We were blessed to have a language teacher who also went to church with us and fully believed the Bible as God’s Word. She was able to help us effectively learn to share the gospel and communicate properly when teaching and preaching. Not all missionaries have a teacher who is so knowledgeable about the Bible. Trying to communicate without the message getting lost in translation can be a real challenge.

At first learning some of these new things are fun and adventurous, but other times, when you must greet each person and talk for a while, shake hands a certain way, and make sure to do everything culturally appropriate without making a language mistake can be frustrating and the day-to-day interactions can begin to feel taxing. Simple everyday tasks take much longer. Going to the store to buy bread can take over 30 minutes just to make sure you properly have greeted and talked with each person at the store. Not greeting them there means that you might be mad at them or no longer their friend.

As we were learning Swahili, we lived in Tanzania at a language school. While we were there, we went a few months with no electricity and at this time my wife will recall needing to go to the restroom in the night. We were living in small apartments at the school that

connected to the apartment next to us. One night when she got up to go to the restroom, there were two small glowing eyes looking back at her without any way to turn on the light, a rat! She refused to go to the bathroom again until the rat was gone.

While living in Kenya, Amber met with a small group of women who would study the Bible together weekly. A very sweet woman that attended the Bible study asked Amber to pray for her because she was having tummy trouble. Amber prayed for her, but also told her that she thinks it is due to the water she is drinking. The woman laughed and said in Swahili of course, “No, no, no, it is not the water.” Several months later, Amber noticed the same woman was pregnant, and another friend told Amber to please pray for the woman because she has had several miscarriages over the years. Amber then saw that she made a language mistake all of those months ago. Thankfully, the women all prayed together, and this dear woman gave birth to a healthy baby boy named Baraka, which means Blessing. This woman had given her life to God a few months prior to giving birth, so all the women praised God for giving her such a blessing as a sweet baby boy. The woman was right. It wasn’t the water giving her tummy trouble, but a major prayer request that was almost missed due to a language barrier.

In the area where Amber would walk to meet ladies for Bible study, she would walk past a few homes, where a few women would call out mean words and mean things as she walked by not knowing that she could speak Swahili and could understand them. Most of the time it would be mean names based on her color of skin. Thankfully over time, some of these women gave their lives to Christ and started attending the Bible study weekly.

One time we were able to share the gospel in a village where the Dad asked Jesus to be his Savior, the mom, the teenage son, and the grandma. That day reminded us of the jailer who was saved and his entire house except there was also a grandfather in the same house where we tried to share the gospel with him as well. We shared in Swahili and since all of his family just gave their lives to Christ, he leaned in and tried hard to understand. The more we would share the more he would say he could not understand. He spoke another dialect. We told his family that they must be the ones to tell him since he could not understand us.

LIVING CONDITIONS

When we would go to town to buy groceries or do daily errands, our family stuck out visibly. People could look across and see we were different than everyone else. We stood out, and sometimes that was good, but many times that meant strangers coming up to us begging for money or for a job. One time someone even tried to follow us home.

Fourteen days. Fourteen days is the longest streak of time we lived without power and running water while living in Kenya. That meant we had to buy large 5-gallon bottles of water. The mosquitoes swarmed our hot, sweaty heads at night without a fan, and we could not wash our hands or use the toilet without having a bowl or bucket of water nearby.

In the first house we lived in, frogs lived in our toilet. Geckos crawled across the ceiling. In the evening lying in bed after a long day, a gecko would be seen crawling across overhead. They were welcomed mosquito eating friends. We almost forgot about them until one evening settling down in bed, we hear a shrill scream coming from the room of a young intern. When we go in to check on her, she is screaming about a gecko. This did make us laugh, and we remembered that we have gotten use to seeing them. We would take a gecko or a frog over a rat any day. We had a few struggles with rats that we will go into greater detail later.

One week when meeting the ladies in a Bible study in the home of the same woman, Baraka’s Mama, Amber saw a rat. She did not want to be rude. All the ladies were reading the Bible together and sharing all God was doing in their lives when Amber saw a rat climbing around the house. None of the ladies reacted in any way but continued to read and share. Then the rat walked right over Amber’s shoes. She wanted to squeal, jump, move, but since none of the ladies reacted, she sat completely still.

Our last year living in Kenya, a field next to us was cleaned and all the cats and rats moved next door, where we were living. We caught over 17 rats in a four-month period. I think Amber was ready to move out! Our dogs caught different snakes. There are many poisonous ones living there. Many that we are not used to seeing and sometimes they try to come inside.

THE HARDEST THINGS

Missionaries miss the 3 F’s, family, friends, and food. Not seeing your family and friends for years at a time. When we first moved to Kenya, my grandfather passed away. Amber’s nephew was born, and we did not get to

meet him until he was almost two years old.

Having mission teams over was a huge blessing, and one time a young guy made us crack up when he shared with the group that he was really missing cheeseburgers and how he couldn’t wait to get home to eat one. We laughed and said we hadn’t had our favorite cheeseburger in over a year while you have been away for only a week. Care packages to missionaries can be great and an encouragement to get small things even Kool Aid packs for missionary families with kids. Before visiting a missionary, ask them about some of their favorite things that you could bring with you when you visit like their favorite candy, any special toiletries, or items they would like. Bring them a few jars of peanut butter, Velveeta, taco seasoning, and/or any special requests. Seasonal items and treats are fun to get as well.

Living in a hot area with no a/c was very challenging to get used to, especially at first. Also taking cold showers were rough. For some reason, living in Africa, we always felt dirty. We would take a cold shower only to immediately get out and start sweating.

Children can be treated differently on the foreign field. Many kids would want to touch Nora’s hair. While this did not bother Nora, JJ was not a fan. Also, finding affordable birthday gifts and Christmas presents for children in another country can be hard. A typical \$5 Barbie from America would be more than \$50 in a toy store in Kenya. We would tell them they would wait to get gifts on furlough.

ACCESS TO GOOD HEALTH CARE

When we would visit the hospital to pray over friends and visit those who wanted prayer, we saw a men’s ward, women’s ward, and a children’s ward, a room full of twin beds with many beds full of two people. That would be hard to see, especially when both men or women had two completely different yet very contagious diseases or issues. Amber once went to visit her friend so she could go home to shower, get more clothes, and bring back items like towels and toilet paper. Patients had to provide their own blankets, sheets, and pillows. Also, patients could not leave the hospital until paying their full bill. Once Amber was called in the middle of the night to help her friend leave, because she owed \$10.

When JJ, our son, was about 14 months old, he had a febrile seizure. Our pediatrician was a couple of hours drive away, so we desperately needed one in Malindi where we lived. When Amber and JJ got checked in for the night, the power went out in their room. The next day, the nurses tried to draw JJ’s blood by poking him with a needle and squeezing his arm. After they got 2 vials of blood, they said they needed 2 more vials to be able to see what caused JJ’s seizure. When we could not get that much blood to come out, they sent us home saying it just must be a febrile seizure. We thank God that JJ returned to his healthy self, but needing medical care there can be rough.

These are some of the struggles a missionary family may face, and while some may seem silly, some are serious, that is why a missionary seriously covets your prayers and support.

Thank you to ALL who gave toward the 2022
Thanksgiving Missions Offering!
Total: \$300,174.64

Remembering Bro. Roger

Brother Stewart showed his sincere love for missionaries, and me in particular. I went to him for advice a number of times, and he was always loving, understanding and helpful.

Walter Goulding
Costa Rica



I never had the chance to meet him personally, but I believe Brother Roger Stewart was a faithful servant of God and he proved it during his service in the office as a secretary Treasurer.

Jacob Martin
Philippines

I never met brother Roger, but I know he was very dedicated to the Lords work.

Furlong Usher
Belize

A couple of key things come to mind when thinking about Pastor Roger Stewart. One is Family Camp. Roger was a staple of EBA Family camp in my teen years. He led music, engaged campers, and did his best to present camp, and more importantly Jesus, in an enjoyable way. He expressed joy in Christ. Being a follower didn't have to be a drag; quite the contrary, it is an adventure! (Something I believe he got to taste even more as Secretary-Treasurer.) I recall one instance when he challenged campers to come up with their own custom verses to the song "You Can't Get to Heaven..." The outcome was hilarious, but that wasn't the best part; Many of the campers took it as a challenge, or rather, an opportunity, to roast Bro. Roger. Something he took in stride and responded to with laughter!

The second moment that really resonated with me is much more recent, a conversation I was unaware of had occurred. I discovered it secondhand. My dad had discussed with Bro. Stewart the possibility of being my sending pastor, something neither my father nor I wanted to do. Neither of us were very big on the idea due to the potential issues it could produce. In their conversation, after my dad -- who did become my sending pastor, and the relationship between church planter and sending church has been a blessing -- after he voiced his concerns, Bro. Roger shared his own insight. He said something to the effect of, "Gary, the fact you are so concerned about it is why I wouldn't be." His encouragement and advice were helpful in us moving forward and me being in the position I'm in now: planting a church in central Indiana.

Jonathan Woodring
Indiana

Bro. Roger Stewart had a big impact on my ministry. When I first surrendered to the ministry, Bro. Stewart encouraged me by allowing me to fill in for him at First Baptist in Coloma, Michigan. All through the years he has continued to take an interest in my family and my ministry. It was an honor that he took the time to record a video message to celebrate my 25 years in the ministry. His smiling face and encouragement will be greatly missed!

Philip Wysocki
Michigan

Bro. Stewart always treated each person as a friend. He knew your name, your family and your field. He asked questions of real concern.

Everett Ledbetter
Kansas

January 13, 1966 - October 8, 2022

Son, Brother, Husband,
Dad, Pops, Friend
MAN OF GOD



Words cannot express our gratitude in Colombia, South America, for the great blessing Dr. Roger Stewart and his wife, Gena, were to us. Dr. Stewart helped us to organize the Bosa MB Church and preached the 29th closing of the Colombia Theological Baptist Institute from August 18-21, 2021, in Bogotá. One of his great sermons was "Treasures in earthen vessels" 2 Corinthians 4: 7. We in Colombia love and miss him very much but know that he, as a faithful soldier of Jesus Christ, is Rejoicing with Him in glory.

Gilberto Pinzon
Colombia

I knew Bro. Stewart for over 35 years as a supporting pastor. He continually looked for ways to spread the gospel by supporting men like me and indoctrinating those from other countries with whom he came in contact and could influence. He truly was an example we all could follow.

Ernie Hopper
Africa



I remember brother Roger Stewart, he visited us here at Eternal Life Baptist Mission in Ushiku, Japan. I remember that he was preaching here about the topic of "Jesus is the answer." I had the privilege to pray with him! I remember him as a man who has a big heart to win the lost souls! Truly, we miss him but one day we will meet him again! God bless everyone as we continue to win souls for Christ!

Roldan Namion
Philippines



I met him in Cebu at a Conference, he encouraged me so much when he gave lectures about Paul's preaching in Athens. After the conference, he visited my mission work in Carcar MBC with some Pastors in Cebu, where we had a great lunch fellowship together. I cannot forget his heart in the mission works.

Renald Paracueles
Philippines



Bro. Stewart was a very thoughtful servant of God, especially during the deterioration of our pastor's health and when I suffered a brain aneurysm, three years ago. Thanks for his life, an offering for us.

Marcelino Zabala
Philippines

Pastor Roger was a faithful servant. I'm new in ministry but as I hear from others, he was a submissive worker in the ministry that God gave to him.

Dominic Labuguen
Philippines



It is my great pleasure to remember the man of God whose heart is in the mission work. Once he visited us here in Cebu Missionary Baptist Seminary in the Philippines. He was our guest speaker for our conference, and he also spoke at our church, Jesus Saves Missionary Baptist Church in Cebu City. I will never forget Sir Roger Stewart because of his big heart and enthusiasm for mission work. I and my family miss and love him so much. That Filipino Barong was given to him during his visit when he preached at our church.

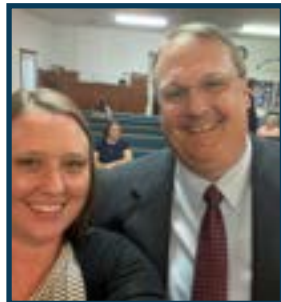
Jose Bernardo
Philippines

He was the kind of person that when I shared something with him about my ministry, even though he was so busy, he promptly responded to my concerns. He helped us when we had a problem with the bank where we receive salaries for all 7 Landmark missionaries. The bank manager required us to submit Articles of Agreement and an IRS document. At first I informed my sponsoring pastor (Pastor Dewey Owen) regarding the requirement of the bank. My sponsor pastor emailed Dr. Stewart to send the required documents to me and after few days I received it. In my response I thanked Sir Roger for his quick action, and I will never forget his words, "Brother Lansangan, it is always my pleasure to assist our missionaries".

Jess Lansangan
Philippines

Not only did Bro. Roger love missionaries but he also took great care of their wives and kids. I am forever grateful for the way Bro. Roger checked in on me and the kids to make sure we had everything we needed on the field. He always made my children feel special and encouraged them in the Lord. We greatly love and miss Bro. Roger!

Jennifer Morgan
Romania



I didn't get the chance to meet him personally but whenever I had concerns, he always made himself available every time I sent an email to him. We are very thankful for his contribution in this work. He will always be remembered.

Allan Nacanilao
Philippines

I met Bro Roger in 2013 when I first went to the field. He was a friendly brother who made my wife and me feel welcome. When he became the Secretary-Treasurer of missions, he reached out to me and we had discussed him coming to Nevada. We were planning for a possible visit this summer, as we know the Lord took him home and though he is greatly missed, I know we will see him again.

Jim Smith
Nevada

Bro. Stewart's heart for missions and missionaries was evident, and he treated everyone with the same warmth and excitement, no matter who they were. I remember several different ABA meetings when he greeted me with that warmth, and I could see the excitement on his face—like he was being energized by all the missionaries around. It left a lasting impression on me, that this man loved serving God and loved those who were serving God.

Holly Couch Naimushina
Russia

I, Kim, was originally afraid to meet Roger Stewart, as he was an important figure in the ABA, but he was one of the MOST helpful, down to earth, humorous guys I've met. I am so thankful for the compassion and love he showed ALL of the missionaries and their wives. David and I will always remember our trip to Boring, Oregon to see the Big Foot Museum with the Stewart's. He and Gena hold a special place in our hearts. He is missed.

Kim Rohr
Latvia



I have fond memories of Brother Roger. He was my co-sponsoring pastor at Olive Branch MBC in Pine Bluff, AR. In 2015, he wrote me an invitation to come to the USA to attend the ABA meeting. While there, I stayed with them in their home. They were a very welcoming family. I went with him to many churches, showed me beautiful parks, let me speak before the men at Olive Branch, let me preach in his pulpit, we went to ABA meeting together, showed me Bogard

Press in Texarkana, where I bought some books. We went to the Gateway Arch in Saint Louis, until I came back to the Philippines he was there helping me. I miss him.

In 2018, Cebu Missions, we invited him to be our Main guest lecturer/Preacher, he continue to encourages us, show us the scripture that support his teachings, very positive in his exhortations, a great preacher and Pastor, when he became the Secretary – Treasurer of Missions he continue to showed his loyalty, uncompromising devotion to our Lord, and his commitment and faithfulness encourage us missionaries also. The Lord took him so early at El Salvador, but we are going to see him someday with the other heroes of faith who gone before us at the feet of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Joel Nepomuceno
Philippines

I first met Bro. Roger when we were on deputation and he was the pastor at Olive Branch Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, AR. I had just started deputation and was making all the cold call phone calls to make appointments. Bro. Todd Anderson at Summit Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, AR helped me get an appointment at Olive Branch.

What I remember the most was his enthusiasm for mission work! He was so encouraging. I will never forget how much wisdom and encouragement he shared with me over dinner at his favorite Mexican restaurant after services. As he spoke a little Spanish with the waitress, he encouraged me to work hard and learn Romanian to be an even more effective witness in Romania. I went with his encouragement and hope that he would be proud of what the Lord has accomplished through us here.

Kolt Mackrill
Romania

We are so grateful to God and Brother Roger Stewart for preaching to us his 3 great sermons in a series during the Virtual Youth Fellowship IMBYF August 2-5, 2022. Despite the pandemic, he was able to preach to us and many attended the virtual meeting from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. His sermons were a great encouragement to all of us. It was a pleasure conversing with him when I drove him to the airport after the conference in Caloocan, Manila on his previous visit to the Philippines. I was hoping to see him as he communicated his plan of visiting again in 2023, but was surprised and saddened by his early departure to be with the Lord. Still, I have hope that we will meet again when the day comes because there is victory in Jesus. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:55-57).

Edwin Jardinel
Philippines

I thank God for Bro. Roger's life and service in God's Kingdom. I loved Brother Roger's kind and humble heart as well as his bold vision for reaching the world with the good news of Jesus. I appreciate how he was always so encouraging and supportive of me and the other missionaries.

Matthew Thompson
Indonesia

As we were coming through Texarkana we stopped by his office. He was out, so we talked to Miss Gena. She got him on his cell and they told us they would like to take us out to dinner. We said that would be wonderful. Come to find out, it was their Anniversary. We said, oh, we can do this another time. They said that's ok, so they took us out to dinner on their Anniversary! They must LOVE Missionaries!!

Walt and Maggie Emry
Vanuatu

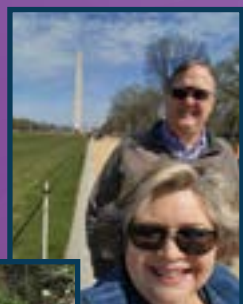


Dr. Stewart, his wife, and their son, Hayden, visited our mission in Japan in 2011. He preached for us and a soul was saved. He also preached a missionary sermon during the Japan Baptist Association annual messengers' meeting. I interpreted his sermons into Japanese. They blessed us with preaching, testimonies, and specials. We will remember these moments.

Bro. Shin Kamoda
Japan



Family



2023 American Baptist Association

The 97th annual session of the American Baptist Association will be held in beautiful Spokane, Washington, June 19-22, 2023. If you haven't already, it is time to make plans to attend. Rooms are available at The Davenport Grand Hotel. When we voted to go to Spokane in 2019, we committed to filling our room block. If we don't fill at least 80% of our contracted rooms, we must pay for the difference. We will also lose our concessions, such as reduced \$10 per night parking for all attendees. Right now, we need many more bookings to avoid this expense. Once we reach 80% of the contracted rooms, the meeting space will be covered. If we don't meet the 80% commitment, we will have to pay for the very expensive convention center rental. In addition, we must cover the Audio/Visual cost, minutes, salaries, and other expenses associated with the meeting. Even though we try to be very frugal, the expenses have risen a great deal in the past few years, especially since COVID.

All meetings will be held in the Spokane Convention Center. This is a beautiful building and offers plenty of comfortable meeting space. The exhibit hall is right across from the general sessions.

The Exhibit Hall is open for reserving your booths. Information for exhibits and hotels is on the ABA website – www.abaptist.org

Please prayerfully consider increasing your offerings for the expense of meeting fund. We have many very important issues to consider this year. Even if you are unable to attend, we need funds to cover these expenses. Please let me know if I can be of assistance at any time.

Send offerings to:

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

Looking forward to seeing you in Spokane:

Neal Sutton
Director of Meeting Arrangements
aba@nealsutton.com
903-244-2647

ATTENTION CHURCHES OF THE AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE:

The annual meeting of the American Baptist Association will be held on June 20-22, 2023 in Spokane, Washington. This year, we have several important items of business. We will hold the CHURCH VOTE on the recommended changes to the Articles of Agreement (abaptist.org/revision) as well as elect a new Secretary-Treasurer of Missions. We will also hear a report from our new business manager, Bro. Jim Crain. It is vitally important that our churches travel to Spokane and participate in the important business of the Association. Rooms are available by clicking the link on abaptist.org/hotelsandinformation. With the rising cost of everything, it is more important than ever that we fill our contracted room block and send a generous offering to the expense of meeting fund. If we do not meet our room block, we will have to pay for the unused rooms which will not allow us to pay for audio, lights, minute book printing, salaries, etc. Brethren, please make every effort to attend the meeting. More than anything, pray that as we gather, God will show us His glory!

Eric Sutton
President



2023 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		WIFE'S NAME	
<div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Single</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Married</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Widowed</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Divorced</div></div> <div>If married more than once or divorced, please attach an explanation to the form.</div>		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 152-154) of the 2022 Yearbook? _____

Has a background check been completed on this missionary? _____

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

MINISTRY EDUCATION/TRAINING:

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS A PASTOR OR MISSIONARY _____

YEARS AS AN **ABA** RECOMMENDED MISSIONARY _____

YEARS ON **PRESENT** MISSION FIELD _____

This form must be received by **4/21/2023**, 60 days prior to the Messenger Meeting in Spokane, WA. Please fill out the form completely and mail to:

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

2023 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? _____ TARGET DATE FOR ORGANIZATION/SELF-SUPPORTING? _____		

MONTHLY SUPPORT OF MISSIONARY BY MISSION:

Salary \$_____ Housing \$_____ Property \$_____ Other \$_____

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT FOR EXISTING WORKS 2022

Professions of Faith _____

Baptisms _____

Other Additions _____

Mission Membership _____

Attendance Averages

Morning Worship _____

Evening Worship _____

Sunday School _____

Mid Week Services _____

SENDING CHURCH		
NAME		PASTOR OR CLERK
MAILING ADDRESS		PHONE
CITY	STATE	POSTAL CODE
E-MAIL ADDRESS		
Indicate areas and approximate amount of monthly support this church will be contributing to missionary and mission: SALARY \$_____ HOUSING \$_____ PROPERTY \$_____ OTHER \$_____		
Is this church in full agreement with the Doctrinal Statement of the American Baptist Association (pages 152-154) of the 2022 Yearbook? _____		
This recommendation was approved by the sending church on _____ day of _____, 2023.		
Moderator _____ Church Clerk _____		

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

If you have a current photo to update the Missionary Poster, please send the photo via email to missions@abamissions.org in a JPEG format. Please include the name of the missionary in the e-mail.
DO NOT ATTACH TO FORM
Any questions, please call or email the missions office.
Phone: 903-792-2312 Email: missions@abamissions.org

Missions Office

Date Received: _____

By: _____

Returned for Additional Information: _____

Received Back in Office: _____

15

2023 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	POSTAL CODE
E-MAIL ADDRESS		

Indicate areas and approximate amount of monthly support this church will be contributing to missionary and mission:
 SALARY \$ _____ HOUSING \$ _____ PROPERTY \$ _____ OTHER \$ _____

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

This recommendation was approved by the sending church on _____ day of _____, 2023.

Moderator _____ **Church Clerk** _____

This form must be received by **4/21/2023**, 60 days prior to the Messenger Meeting in Spokane, WA. Please fill out the form completely and mail to:

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

Missions Office

Date Received: _____

By: _____

Returned for
 Additional Information: _____

Received Back in Office: _____