See What God Is Doing Around the World

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As we celebrate and consider 60 years of ministry, we are thankful for all God has accomplished. We have seen many changes in our world during the past six decades. Events like the Vietnam War, Neil Armstrong’s moon landing, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the 9/11 terrorist attacks serve as examples that affected the entire world. This year, we are experiencing the Coronavirus pandemic, which will undoubtedly cause major global changes. These unprecedented events have brought about unprecedented opportunities and have underscored the need to continue Counting on Christ as we carry out His Great Commission.

I would like to believe that BIMI missionaries and their supporting churches have also had a worldwide effect during the past 60 years. Whatever good has been accomplished in God’s harvest field through BIMI has been because of Jesus Christ.

As we look to the future, it will only be by Christ’s enablement that a worldwide impact can become a reality. Preaching the Gospel to every creature is a job that requires a complete and constant counting on Christ. But how can we truly count on Christ? To answer that question, I would like to mention three critical components of Counting on Christ.

First, we must be continually RELINQUISHING TO HIM everything we have. This is an ongoing, a voluntary, and a complete surrendering (Romans 12:1–2; Philippians 3:7–8). In order to do this, we must recognize that we are only stewards and that we are to be faithful stewards of all we possess (1 Corinthians 4:2). It is also important to realize that we, in our own strength, can do nothing (John 15:4–6). Thus, we need to allow God to do His work in us, through us, and for us—recognizing our weakness to experience His power.

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**BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS, INC.,** was founded in 1960 as an independent Baptist faith mission. BIMI is a fundamental mission agency, true to the Word of God in doctrine and method. The purpose of BIMI is to assist fundamental Baptist churches in fulfilling our Lord’s command to evangelize the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our objectives are to establish indigenous Baptist churches and train national pastors and leaders. There are over 800 missionaries with BIMI working in 100 fields of the world.

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Official Publication of Baptist International Missions, Inc.

All Scripture quotations are from the KJV.

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I hope you will enjoy the articles in this 60th Anniversary Edition of the BIMI World. Most of the articles focus on what the Lord has been doing through BIMI during the past decade. If you would like to read more about our first 50 years, please visit www.bimi.org/onlineMags/101world.

...count on Him to provide what we need spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally, and financially. In addition, it is essential that we rely on Him in every place. Whether we find ourselves in the middle of a storm, on the top of a mountain, at the bottom of a valley, or in the midst of a fiery trial, we must unconditionally rely on Him. God promises that when we truly rely on Him, we will experience His provision.

Third, we must be confidently resting in Him. We must rest in Who He is. Jesus Christ is Lord of lords, King of kings, Almighty God, Prince of Peace—and on we could go. We must also rest in what He has done. He made peace with God through the blood of His cross, providing a way for all mankind to be reconciled to God the Father (Colossians 1:20–22). Additionally, we must rest in where He is. Not only is Jesus at the right hand of the Father interceding for us (Romans 8:34) but is also abiding with us always, even unto the end of the world (Matthew 28:20). Furthermore, we must rest in what He will do. Christ will build His church (Matthew 16:18), He will be our co-laborer (Matthew 11:28–30; 1 Corinthians 3:9), He will save all who call on Him for salvation (Romans 10:13; 2 Peter 3:9), and He will come again (John 14:1–3; 1 Thessalonians 4:15–18). When we truly rest in Him, we can experience a peace that passes all understanding.

Despite the many changes in our world since the official organization of BIMI on June 28, 1960, one of the things that remains the same is our dependence on Jesus Christ. When BIMI began 60 years ago, we were Counting on Christ. Today, we are still Counting on Christ and as we look to the future, we will continue Counting on Christ. Our desire is to relinquish everything to Him and experience His power, to rely on Him and experience His provision, and to rest in Him and experience His peace. Fulfilling the Great Commission requires God’s inexhaustible power, provision, and peace to proclaim His everlasting Gospel to an ever-changing world.
Sixty Years of Leadership
By John Ramsey

I was thinking about this 60th Anniversary and what has happened in my 48 years with BIMI, first in the Bahamas and then with finances in the Home Office. How has God brought the Mission to this point? My father used to say, “It will not be that God does it that will amaze you—it will always be HOW He does it.”

The Mission started with pastors asking Tom Freeney to head up a Board that would encircle the world. He drove his VW Bug to many churches, encouraging men and women to give, go, and pray. He organized countries into regions and appointed veteran missionaries as field directors to coordinate the work. Frank Rosser and Clifford Huskey were asked to help, and eventually Ray Thompson and others came on staff. Soon we were encircling the world with the Gospel! He then added a Printing Department, a Business Office, and secretaries to help with the workload. A new headquarters was built at 800 Dodds Avenue in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

When Tom Freeney retired, the official Board looked to Don Sisk to become the General Director. He recruited more men and women, and soon Baptist International Missions, Inc. (BIMI), was channeling well over a million dollars a month to missionaries. Under his leadership, BIMI grew to nearly a thousand missionaries in about 100 countries with over 7,500 regular donors. The headquarters moved to Harrison, Tennessee. New fields of service were opened. An Audiovisual Department was established, Bible distribution projects were encouraged, and the radio ministry was furthered. College recruiting, Camp BIMI, CLAIM ministry, Deaf ministry, and so many more were all born during this time.

If Tom Freeney was the organizer and Don Sisk was the motivator, then James Ray, our third president, was the administrator. His skills in organization and administration were what we needed to grow and go. The requirements of the government were rapidly changing, and BIMI had to keep up. It was his leadership that helped develop the policy changes needed without burdening the individual missionary. With governments overseas changing, we enhanced ministries that would get the Gospel...
out effectively in these countries. Over one million Bibles were handed out in Eastern Europe. James Ray’s concern for our future led to developing reserves for Home Office needs, for future staffing needs, and for emergency field needs. He had a strong vision of keeping us on track so we could be here for many years to come.

During all of these years, one thing was very apparent: technology was changing rapidly! God knew our next president needed to be someone who would help us through the next years of ministry and the changes technology would bring. As a result, on June 8, 2010, the Lord chose David Snyder to serve as BIMI’s fourth president. David Snyder is young enough to understand the importance of keeping up-to-date with technology, and he has surrounded himself with qualified help. Now we communicate online, bank online, pay bills online, and can even talk face-to-face online. In addition to these changes, he has overseen Bible distribution projects in the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Argentina, Scotland, and Papua New Guinea.

Dad was right. It is always HOW God does it! The legacies from Tom Freeney to David Snyder were always “Let’s see what God will do!” Our motto for 2020 is “Counting on Christ.” However, as one can see, we have been doing that since 1960!
Dr. Ray Thompson went Home to be with the Lord on December 25, 2019. Ray and Jean Thompson were already missionaries in the Caribbean before coming with BIMI in 1964. When they joined, Brother Thompson was asked to be the Caribbean Representative and served in that capacity until 1974 when he was appointed as Caribbean Director until 1994. From 1983–94 he served in a dual capacity as Executive Vice President and Caribbean Director.

During his 39 years of service in the Caribbean, Ray Thompson founded the Calvary Baptist Church and the Bluewater Bible College. He assisted in the founding of the Caribbean Baptist Mission, which was established to help national missionaries reach other islands with the Gospel. Brother Thompson was instrumental in founding the West Indies Baptist Fellowship Conference. Dr. Ray Thompson was elected Executive Director and Vice President in 1991. As an officer of BIMI, Dr. Thompson was engaged in administrative responsibilities, such as preaching in Bible colleges, seminars, church mission conferences in America and foreign countries, and participating in BIMI field conferences. He served as a Permanent Member of the Board of Trustees. On December 6, 2011, the Trustees voted to give Dr. Ray Thompson the title of Executive Director Emeritus. He had a passion to see the Word of God and its message of Christ’s redemptive work presented to the whole world.

Dr. John Halsey as Far North Director was at one time the director for each of the three men who followed him in this ministry. Recently, I spoke with Pastor Steve Stone and Dr. David Snyder about their memories of Dr. Halsey and how his ministry impacted us. All of us agreed on a number of special memories of Dr. Halsey.

Besides his love for the Lord, his family, and missions, we each could not speak about him without mentioning his fondness for Virginia peanuts and a strong cup of coffee! Beyond this, each felt privileged to have had Dr. Halsey as our Director as well as our friend. Certainly, each Far North missionary who served with Dr. Halsey found in him...
a man with decades of pastoral experience who gave excellent counsel. He was a trusted friend in whom we could confide. He was the type of leader who invested everything in those he served and led. As I speak with missionaries and pastors in the Far North, I am reminded that Dr. Halsey left his mark on many lives too numerous to mention here.

It would be impossible to speak of Dr. Halsey and not mention his faithfulness to the Lord and the Word of God. We each agreed that Dr. Halsey’s preaching, especially on the topic of Faith Promise Missions (or Grace Giving as he often called it), had a profound impact on us personally and in ministry. Dr. Halsey was a man who studied the Scriptures and was enabled by the Lord to preach and teach in a way that built a special connection with those to whom he spoke. More importantly, he preached in a manner that displayed his faithfulness to the Lord and His Word so that it was received as it is indeed the Word of God and not the word of man. Simply put, Dr. Halsey was not only a man of faith but also a faithful man whom the Lord used in an unusual way.

As I think of Dr. Halsey, Hebrews 11:4b comes to mind as a good summary of his life and ministry. *He obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.* Dr. Halsey would be the first to announce he was righteous only because when he received Jesus as Savior, the righteousness of Christ was imputed to him. He would also be quick to tell you that it was only reasonable for him to faithfully serve the Lord in the ways he had been enabled to do. Today, he is an example to us in the matter of faithfulness to the Lord.

Note: Dr. John Halsey served as the Far North Director for BIMI from 1988 to 2004. He and his wife, Dot, continued to serve as International Representative Emeritus until December 26, 2019, when the Lord called Dr. Halsey Home.

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### Dr. Al Goss

went Home to be with the Lord Thursday evening, May 7, 2020. He was Pastor Emeritus of Mile Straight Baptist Church in Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee. In 1978, Dr. Goss became a member of the newly formed BIMI Action Committee. As a local pastor, he served for many years on BIMI’s Board of Trustees. The Executive Board of Baptist International Missions, Inc. (BIMI), invited Brother Goss to join the Executive Board of BIMI in 1983. He also served as Vice Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Board. In 1995, Dr. Goss became the Treasurer for BIMI and served in this position until his resignation in 2014. God used Brother Goss in a tremendous way assisting in the work of missions around the world.
Africa is a land of vast resources and abundant opportunity. Very few places in the world today have as much untapped resources as this second largest continent on our planet. However, this statement is not just true economically, but more importantly, it is true spiritually.

As we have advanced two decades into this new century of missions in Africa, it is important to glance back and learn some lessons of the past in order to achieve future victory. Then with that knowledge, coupled with faith and dependence on God, we can reach forward into the regions beyond.

Glancing back, we note that the early missionaries possessed three distinct attributes. No matter what their background or training, most were characterized by a deep devotion to God, a willingness to sacrifice, and a zeal to do His will. The wonderful thing is that these attributes are not limited to the past generation. Fast forward to today—it is thrilling to see new missionaries with the same devotion, commitment, and zeal, willingly following the call of God no matter what the obstacles!

A glance back over the past ten years shows a decade full of activity with over 163,000 decisions for Christ reported by our missionaries! Furthermore, this present generation has responded to the need in Africa, and we rejoice that 61 new missionaries have been approved to serve on the African continent. They were sent by their home churches to 17 countries—10 of which were brand new countries for BIMI. Those new countries were not just in one area of the continent; they are represented in every region of Africa. I would like to briefly highlight two of these areas.

Sending new missionaries into new countries is always exciting, but our new missionary into The Gambia (a small country in the northwest part of the continent) is a special blessing. More laborers into this area is an answer to a longtime prayer. Since we have launched a new project called the Sahara Initiative into the 10/40 Window part of Africa, the Lord has blessed by calling several young families to labor in this predominately Islamic region. Challenges abound, but God is definitely opening doors in this difficult area.

A new missionary to the central region has been a long time in coming, and it is wonderful to see a new family on their way to the Republic of Congo. While this country is mostly made up of dense tropical forest, half of the
country’s population lives in its two largest cities, Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. The potential to reach these cities is immense as well as paramount in order to spread the Gospel throughout the country.

Reaching forward to the future, we see an incredible potential that lies ahead. That potential lies mostly in colossal growth. In just a few years, it is predicted that Africa will host most of the fastest growing economies in the world as well as 10 of the fastest growing countries and 15 of the fastest growing cities! Africa is also a young continent with more than half of the population under 18 years of age. There is phenomenal potential in reaching these youth—especially the urban areas—with the Gospel.

As we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of BIMI, it is a good time to glance back at what those who went before us did for God—the foundation they laid, the churches they established, and the sacrifices they made. However, it is only a “glance” backward, long enough to gain motivation and to increase our momentum, and then our focus must once again be on “reaching forward” to the task God has placed in our hands and the people in our generation to be reached. Reaching forward for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).
One of the BIMI ministries God has used tremendously during our history is Camp BIMI. This ministry began in the hearts of Gerry and Diane Baughman and became a reality with the first Camp BIMI, July 5–10, 1993. Soon after Camp BIMI began, the Baughmans started a companion ministry called Student Missionary Apprenticeship Reality Training (SMART). This ministry gave Camp BIMI alumni the opportunity to take a short-term missions trip to experience the mission field firsthand.

I have often heard Dr. Baughman talk about the “Three I’s” of Camp BIMI—information, influence, and inspiration. Students receive an incredible amount of information about missions from experienced missionaries. Those missionaries (comprised mainly of BIMI Field Directors) not only teach the students but also seek to influence them to do God’s will—whether or not that includes becoming a full-time missionary. Finally, the atmosphere of Camp BIMI inspires students to find where they fit in missions and to fulfill their role as laborers in God’s harvest field.

For 25 years (1993–2018) the Baughmans informed, influenced, and inspired 1,027 Camp BIMI students, who often affectionately referred to the Baughmans as Bro. B and Mrs. B. A few years prior to 2018, Bro. B and I began to talk about who would follow him as the Director of Camp BIMI. After much prayer and consideration, it was determined that the Lord would have me to become the next Camp BIMI Director with the help of two Assistant Directors, Eric Bohman (BIMI Africa Director) and Steven Maldoff (BIMI Southeast Asia Director). As the Baughmans closed out 2½ decades of faithful service as Camp BIMI and SMART Directors, the baton was passed to Brother Bohman, Brother Maldoff, and me on June 29, 2018.

Twenty-seven years and counting—Counting on Christ! Please pray for the Baughmans as they continue to encourage Camp BIMI alumni, speak in colleges, preach in mission conferences, promote Camp BIMI, and—in short—help Christians find where they fit in missions. Also, please pray for Eric Bohman, Steven Maldoff, and me as we continue to build on the wonderful foundation laid by Bro. & Mrs. B. We are thankful for the rich history of Camp BIMI and SMART, and we are looking to the Lord for even greater things in the future. We are counting on Christ as we inform, influence, and inspire Christians of all ages concerning worldwide evangelization and help them find where they fit in missions.
When approached about the ministry of CLAIM, some have asked if it is the Insurance Department of BIMI. No, it is not. The acronym CLAIM stands for Christian Laymen Assisting International Missionaries. This brainchild of BIMI Missionary Gerry Baughman became a concrete, tangible way for God's people to involve themselves in missions by using their time, talents, and skills to serve missionaries around the world in a personal and practical manner. Clayton Shumpert did an excellent job as CLAIM's first director from the beginning in 1993 until January 2000 when Carl Vonnoh received the privilege to lead this outreach. The last ten years of CLAIM are the focus of this article. Our projects have included Bible distribution, construction, engineering, evangelism, medical missions, Vacation Bible Schools, vehicle mechanics, welding, and various labor of love projects. These trips have taken CLAIM teams to all of the continents of the world except Antarctica. CLAIM Team Leaders do a superb job in leading both skilled and unskilled workers as they minister to others. There is something for all to do.

With all of these trips, the project itself is not our final goal. These opportunities afford privileges to share the Gospel. Our goal is to assist missionaries in the Great Commission. We want to see people saved, baptized, and growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ. All of our witnessing is through the local church. It is our desire to enhance and help the church ministries of the missionaries and the nationals. We are constantly aware that the local church is the foundation for ministries—including CLAIM. We are a Helps Ministry to assist churches in their outreach with the Gospel message.

When we report the number of trips and professions of faith, it is to God's glory and not ours. This reporting is to gauge our effectiveness and to encourage others to get involved in a ministry that desires to see people saved. With that said, from 2010 to 2019 there were 221 CLAIM mission trips. As a result of these trips, 22,608 professions of faith were made. We saw the Holy Spirit claim souls for the Savior. There were also decisions made by Christians as Team Leaders preached in churches around the world. Does CLAIM pay off in eternal dividends? Oh, yes! We also have seen new churches established with the help of CLAIM. There have been men and women surrender to missions who are on the field today because of CLAIM.

Consider the following testimony that could have very well been your testimony. Sharon Spalding from Dryden, Ontario, Canada, writes the following:

I praise God for the opportunity I had to come on the trip with you to Senegal. It was a 35-year desire that God fulfilled and I praise Him for that. The trip was everything I expected and more. The fellowship with God's people and the time in the mornings when we shared God's Word and had time to talk with Josh about the work were such blessings. God worked in my life in respect to how I viewed Muslims and the GREAT need there. I left part of my heart there with the kids and came home with a sense of discontentment in the fact that my life will never be the same. At this point, I am not sure exactly what the Lord wants me to do, but this I know—I had considered spending winters as a snowbird in Arizona in the future and that is off the table for me. My travels will be with purpose for the Lord.

Pray, give, and go on a CLAIM missions trip, and let God use you and work in your heart for missions around the world! Please contact us and get involved with the CLAIM Ministry.
Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he (Proverbs 29:18). In the early years of BIMI, God gave a number of men a vision to reach the islands of the Caribbean with the Gospel. Ray Thompson went to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and established Calvary Baptist Church and Bluewater Bible College. Jim Cooper went to the Caicos Islands and planted a church. He then became burdened for Nassau, Bahamas, where he established New Testament Baptist Church and Bible Baptist Church. Freeman Goodge went to Anguilla. Jerry Johnson went to Antigua and planted Grace Baptist Church. Sam Chastain started Emanuel Baptist in St. Thomas. Bob Faile went to St. Martin and started Good News Baptist. Clifford Husky focused on Trinidad and Tobago and assisted Fundamental Baptist Mission of Trinidad. God used these men along with many other BIMI missionaries to plant churches throughout the islands.

Throughout the past six decades, soul winning and church planting have been the priority of missionaries in the Caribbean. As churches were established, missionaries desired to have God-called national leadership to replace them so they could start more churches. Throughout the Caribbean, God raised up strong national leaders and over the years, most of those churches became autonomous. Many of the national leaders trained at Bluewater Bible College in St. Thomas. Others trained through systematic Bible institute programs. We praise the Lord for the legacy left by the first wave of pioneer missionaries. There is now a new wave of missionaries planting churches throughout the Caribbean.

Don and Bridgitt Dryden have been working in the area of Port-au-Paix, Haiti. Don has been instrumental in starting eight churches. A number of years ago a 5-year Bible institute was started and now Benji, Don’s son, is directing this ministry. This year they have 145 men preparing to be pastors and lay workers. This ministry incorporates a number of national graduates who teach courses in satellite locations. National graduates are going into the interior to start new churches.

On the other side of the island of Hispaniola is the Dominican Republic (DR). In 1994, Pat Creed became the Caribbean Director. He had a vision to reach the DR and encouraged a number of young men from Independent Baptist Church in Clinton, Maryland, to consider the need. As a result, Steve Sidler went to the DR to join Ronnie Autrey and Alexis Givans in Santo Domingo. There Resurrection Baptist Church and Emmanuel
Baptist had been planted. Jerry Reece helped establish Resurrection Baptist Bible Institute that continues under the direction of Ronnie Autrey. Currently, over 75 national pastors have been trained at Resurrection Baptist.

Steve later felt God leading him to the Quitosueno area west of Santo Domingo. Mount Calvary Baptist Church was established along with a Bible institute. There are five new church plants as a result of Mount Calvary Baptist Bible Institute. Joy Wesson, wife of the late Josh Wesson, and family are laboring with the deaf. Sara Fish is on deputation and planning to help Joy with the deaf.

Also in Santo Domingo, Michael and Anna Doering are serving at Grace and Truth Baptist Church. God has given them the opportunity to disciple many young people. They have been instrumental in starting a mission in an area where there is a pocket of Haitians. God is richly blessing this ministry.

Alexis Givans started Emmanuel Baptist in Las Habitaciones. The church is located in the center of around 250,000 people east of Santo Domingo. A Bible institute has been started there also. This church is reaching out into the country (campo) to start new churches. Their outreach has reached some towns as far as the north coast.

Our BIMI missionaries have been praying that God will allow us to see the northern shore evangelized. God began answering our prayers. In recent years BIMI missionaries have started churches in the northern area of the DR. Erik Johnson planted Truth Baptist Church in San Francisco de Marcoris. Out of that church two other churches have been started with national pastors in the area of San Francisco. Truth Baptist is also assisting several other national pastors in the campo near their city.

A couple of years ago, Chad Pape and Jeffri Polanco started a storefront church in the city of Nagua. North Shore Baptist Church has already outgrown the building. In December, God provided a much larger and better-located facility. Souls are being saved and God is using Jeffri and Pamela in this new work. Jeffri recently shared that they are canvassing the entire city and putting a copy of Romans with the Roman’s Road in every home.

Last year (June 2019) we were able to ship 750,000 Romans booklets and 1 million tracts in Spanish into the DR. In spite of the shipping agent tampering with our documents and the port authority charging unbelievable wharf fees and taxes, God intervened through the President of the DR who exonerated all fees and taxes. Now fundamental Baptist missionaries have access to these booklets and tracts.

John and Rebecca Tinkle have finished their language preparation and will soon be joining the Polancos in Nagua. The Covid-19 quarantine has delayed their departure.

It is exciting to see new missionaries go to the field. A couple of years ago, Paul and Amy Valles arrived on the island of North Caicos with their family. The Valles are the first BIMI missionaries to serve in the area of North Caicos. God is using this family.

On the island of St. Lucia, Wes and Faith Ann Bartley began a ministry in Denne. The Bartleys

Continued on page 33
William Carey said, “Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God.” Our missionaries in Mexico and Central America have truly attempted great things for God. As we look back, we see that God has done great things. Over the past ten years through the work of BIMI missionaries and the national workers who have been trained by them, more than 33,000 souls have made professions of faith in the Lord as Savior! Over that same period, 129 local New Testament Baptist churches have been planted. These are great things from God and we give Him all the honor and glory.

The Bible teaches us that we should love our neighbor as ourself. The lawyer asked Jesus in Luke 10:29, Who is my neighbour? Webster defines neighbor as “one living or located near another fellow man.” What is the best way to love our neighbor? Globally, the very best way to love our neighbors to the south is to reach them with the Gospel, see them saved, and establish local churches where they can worship, fellowship, and grow in the Lord. This is exactly what has happened in Mexico and Central America.

Some of these new churches were started in one of the largest cities in the world, Mexico City. In the southeast section of Mexico City is the area known as Xochimilco. Josué and Rebekah Ortiz started Iglesia Bautista Gracia Abundante (Abundant Grace Baptist Church) on August 14, 2016, with 25 people in attendance. God has blessed and they have grown to need two services each Sunday morning to accommodate all the people who are hungry for God’s Word.

There are great needs not only in the large metropolitan areas of Mexico and Central America but also in the small villages as well. John and Robin Harris felt God’s call to reach the people of Belize with the Gospel. September 30, 2018, they were able to begin Grace Baptist Church in the town of Dangriga, Stann Creek, Belize. Many of this town’s residents are Garifuna. The Garifuna are a mixed African and indigenous people originally from the Caribbean island of St. Vincent who speak the Garifuna dialect of the Arawakan language. As far as we know, this is the only Baptist church in the area that is reaching the Garifuna.

We have seen churches started in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. Our goal is to see local New Testament Baptist churches started and established. Many of these churches now have national pastors and one church in Honduras, Bethlehem Baptist Church of Danlí of Paraíso, is sending a missionary to Africa. This church is where Jason and Cassy Tate serve.

Reports of salvations come in from all over Mexico and Central America. One testimony came from Steve and Christine Cerna in El Salvador. Steve wrote: “People have been coming to church from different areas of the city. Just recently, we led a young man to Christ at the door of his home. Shortly after receiving Christ, he quit playing rock music in a band, married the woman he was living with, and started the discipleship course. He has been coming to church over the past month. Please pray for him as he continues to learn about God.” In a later letter, Steve reports that the man was baptized and has begun to go out soul winning. The Cernas saw over 150 souls come to know the Lord in 2010. They continue to work in the city of Santa Ana.

On September 19, 2017, a 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck Cuernavaca, Mexico, one week after we held our Field Conference in this city. Effects of the quake were felt about 40 miles north in the Xochimilco area of Mexico City. It struck 32 years to the day after a massive 8.0 devastated Mexico City in 1985. Out of disaster can come victory. Several of our missionaries serving in Mexico City were able to travel to the affected area to pass out water and supplies and to minister to the victims as well as the first responders working in the area. Souls came to know the Lord through this tragedy. We thank the Lord for missionaries who are willing to go the extra mile to reach souls in need.

During the first week of November 2017, Kaye and I were blessed as we took part in the 30th Anniversary of La Iglesia Bautista Betel (Bethel Baptist Church), the church we started in 1987. It was great to see old friends and see new faces in the church. To celebrate the anniversary of the church, we had a revival meeting from Wednesday through Sunday. The national pastor planned a time of evangelization in downtown San José on Saturday. We passed out nearly 2,000 Gospel tracts and invitations to the church.

In March 2018, I was privileged to visit three BIMI missionary families in Nicaragua. Easter Sunday, I preached three services with Miguel and Leticia Parada in the city of León. Ricardo and Angela Portillo are also in León, the second largest city in Nicaragua. The Portillos are working in two church plants. The Lord is doing great things through these families. Later in the trip, I spent a few days in Masaya and Masatepe. There have been many protests in all three of these cities. There is much unrest and instability at the present time. Please pray for the missionaries in Nicaragua for safety and wisdom.

Our missionaries in Mexico and Central America have attempted great things for God and God has answered by doing great things. We thank God for all those who have supported the work of missions in Mexico, Central America, and all over the world. These souls are fruit that abound to your account (Philippians 4:17). Thank you for all you do for the Lord and His work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Alan &amp; Becky Jackson – Bethlehem Baptist Church of Danlí, Honduras, planted</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Don Carney – Church in Merida turned over to Mexican leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Jason Tate – Inaugural Pastoral Training Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Frank Gant – National Pastor Guillermo Barrientos ordained</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>The Lopez family arrive in Mexico and the Shertzers arrive in Belize</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Don Carney – Village church turned over to Mexican leadership</td>
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To write of one decade of missionary progress in Europe is but to record the blink of an eye. In reality, ten years of activity is one brief snapshot in the album of centuries of missionary work in Europe. When the Apostle Paul received his Macedonian Call in Acts 16:6–10, Europe became the very first mission field visited by missionaries in obedience to the Great Commission. Paul entered Greece almost 2,000 years ago and introduced the Gospel of Christ in Europe. Since that beginning, Christian Missions has continued throughout the centuries. Sometimes, the church grew dramatically; other times, it ebbed and occasionally even went underground, but the light of the Gospel was never extinguished. The imperative to evangelize and plant churches has continued to this day. Each new generation of Europeans needed and still needs to be reached with the message of the cross. Even though there are almost 2,000 years of missionary history, Europe, as in every other place, is but one generation from darkness.

The history of BIMI missionaries in Europe began in 1962, 58 years ago! From that first couple who went to Spain, the BIMI family of missionaries in Europe grew to over 120 missionaries at one point in time. Thousands of souls have been led to Christ and hundreds of churches have been started and turned over to national leadership. Christian camps have been organized, reaching thousands of children every summer. A number of Bible institutes and at least two Bible colleges have been established to train national pastors and church workers; many have helped orphans and widows and have participated in other church planting related ministries.

With the collapse of the Iron Curtain in 1989, the numbers of BIMI missionaries in Europe grew dramatically. Of course, after a time the “new” field of East Europe was not “new” anymore. The question was if God would continue to call laborers to His harvest field in Europe? Are there servants who would be willing to go to the many countries and the 750 million souls? Would churches still feel the burden to support missionaries to Europe? I sincerely praise the Lord that the answer to all three questions is YES! God is still calling laborers; Christians are still surrendering and obeying His call; and churches are still sending, praying for, and supporting missionaries to European countries.

Exciting things have been happening in this decade!

1. We have seen several “second generation” missionaries go back to their fields. Ukraine, Ireland, and
Romania have received Ambassadors of Christ who are a product of their parents’ ministry.

2. After 50 years of labor in Europe, this decade BIMI was able to witness the opening up of four brand new countries to our missionaries. We have missionaries in Republic of Georgia, Greece, Finland, and Croatia—all new fields for us! Praise the Lord!

3. Replacement missionaries are being called by God to fill the shoes of those who have fought the good fight and have finished their course. Spain, Germany, Scotland, Ireland, England, Belarus, and Israel have all received young, energetic, and motivated missionaries to continue the work and plant churches for the glory of God.

4. Our veteran missionaries in more than 20 countries in Europe continue to see people accept Christ, nationals surrender and train, and churches organize. The Gospel has taken root in so many places!

So often we think of Europe as a graveyard for missions. This is not true! For the missionary who is God-called, there awaits a fertile field. Yes, it will require tilling the soil, preparing the seedbed, planting and watering the seed of the Gospel, and cultivating to keep out the weeds—but for the committed missionary who is willing to invest his/her life, there WILL be a reaping, a harvest.

This decade has truly been a DECADE OF PROGRESS! As I write this and reflect on what has been done, I cannot help but LOOK FORWARD to what will be done in the next decade. Perhaps a decade is only a snapshot in the album of history. However, brief moments of time can be most important! If you were a European in darkness and a missionary came and showed you the light of the Gospel, it would be the most important snapshot in all history!

Thank you for praying and for supporting BIMI missionaries throughout Europe. We are your co-laborers in this great harvest field. It is an honor to represent you in the regions beyond. We sincerely do desire fruit that may abound to your account (Philippians 4:17).
God’s Grace in Asia is evident throughout the 60 years of BIMI ministry and history. The work of God is exciting as we look back and as we consider the future. With every soul saved and with every church planted, the cause of Christ advances. As missionaries heed God’s call, amazing stories reveal that God is at work around the world.

**God’s Grace in Japan**

BIMI is blessed with missionaries past and present who have spent a lifetime preaching the Word in Japan. The names of some of these are Sisk, Frazier, Simeonsson, White, Craig, Carter, Gardner, Ward, and many more. All of these spent many years on the field—some as many as 30 or 40 years and counting.

Those who know what God did in the early days of ministry in Japan stand in awe each time we hear a retelling of it. From those early converts, many ministries continue as new missionaries arrive on the field and as indigenized churches are blessed with further growth. Men such as Pastor Sogoro Ogawa and Pastor Hiroyuki Omote continue to preach and to see people saved and called into the ministry because of their faithfulness.

Pastor Ogawa, before salvation, attended the opening service of the Senri Newtown Baptist Church where Don Sisk preached through an interpreter. He was an English major in college who attended the first service solely to hear a native English speaker and having no spiritual interest. That night God reached into his heart and showed him his need of salvation. A year and a half later, he began pastoring what is now one of the largest independent Baptist churches in Japan—one that continues to send laborers into the harvest.

Pastor Omote was reached by the ministry of Ron White. After his salvation, his parents kicked him out of their home. Faithful prayer saw them come to Christ 32 years later. God blessed Pastor Omote with an amazing opportunity to reach the leader of a Kingdom Hall. After dealing with this man for some time, about 30 in that congregation trusted Christ and a nationwide outreach formed, seeing hundreds of Jehovah’s Witnesses come to Christ.

One of the first young men reached married Pastor Omote’s daughter and later became a church planter in northern Japan. Pastor Kosaki had been preparing to be a missionary with the Jehovah’s Witnesses and was knocking on doors 40 hours each week before his salvation. After he was saved, he would ask churches this question: “Now that I know Christians have the truth, why don’t we do more to tell others?”

Pastor Ogawa and Pastor Omote were some of the first students in what became the Kansai Independent Baptist Bible School that continues to train laborers for the harvest. Since graduating in the 70s, several of these men are still pastoring their respective churches and have been preaching for over 50 years! An amazing blessing is to see their children follow in ministry, ready to step into leadership roles in the future.

In recent years, God has blessed BIMI’s work in Japan with a new group of young families. They are learning the language and planning to start new churches. Our prayer is for more laborers for this needy field, which is one of the largest unreached people groups in the world.
God’s Grace in the Philippines

It is no exaggeration to say that thousands have come to Christ through the ministries of missionaries in the Philippines. The stories of God’s grace in the ministries of the Martins, the Rices, the Sissons, the Browns, and many others would take volumes. There is no way to know the number of souls saved or the lives transformed. One missionary family started four churches during their years of ministry. In time, those four have turned into 100 churches as national believers continue to serve the Lord!

BIMI missionaries do not report the results of previous church plants, making it impossible for us to know this side of heaven the impact that hundreds of other churches are having on the harvest around the world. National believers in the Philippines have become a missionary force themselves and continue to take the Gospel to the regions beyond.

Recently, at the invitation of Rick Martin, I was blessed to visit the Iloilo Baptist Church (IBC) for their annual Pastor’s Conference. Hundreds of pastors attended. Many were trained at IBC. Brother Martin was challenging them to continue reaching the lost and starting more Bible institutes and colleges in their churches in order to see more men trained for the ministry.

Brother Martin spoke about the island where he serves, the island of Panay. He mentioned of learning in his early days on the field of the 4,000 barangays or barrios (terms used to describe the villages, districts, or wards throughout the Philippines) that make up this island. He spoke of the burden God gave him to see a church started in every one of those areas. Even after spending 40 years on the field, he said, “With the help of many pastors, we have been able to see 2,000 churches started on Panay!” Just so you know, there was not an ounce of boasting intended nor a hint of pride in accomplishment. He went on to challenge those men to have a vision for the future. “With God’s help,” he admonished, “we need to start 1,000 churches in the next 10 years!”

In the years I have served as the Far East Director (since 2012), I often receive a quarterly list of names from Brother Martin. The purpose of this list is for his church to keep track of the men who receive a guitar from Iloilo Baptist Church. These guitars are given to men who have finished their training

In the past 10 years...

- The Lord has blessed Asia and the North Pacific with 12 new missionary families.
- Thousands of souls have come to know Christ as Savior—135,000 recorded salvation decisions!
- Over one hundred churches annually have been started.
- Many more churches have been indigenized—winning souls, sending out laborers, and starting churches!

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Deuteronomy 7:9 declares *The Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy.* Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 1:9 and 10:13 that *God is faithful.* Certainly, every child of God can give testimony to the Lord’s faithfulness in his life. We each experience His faithfulness in new mercies every morning as well as in those special times when the Lord answers a prayer request in a way that is *exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.*

Pastor Steve Stone presently serves as the pastor of Camp Creek Baptist Church in South Carolina. Prior to becoming the pastor of Camp Creek, Pastor Stone and his wife, Kathy, were sent by this church as missionaries to the Far North. They became missionaries with BIMI in 1981. In June 2010, Brother Stone was appointed as Far North Director for BIMI and served in the position through June 2018. Recently, I had the opportunity to speak with Pastor Stone about the years he served as the Far North Director. The recurring theme of that conversation was God’s faithfulness. My interview with Pastor Stone is as follows:

**Tony Bulawa:** What were some of the highlights of Far North Missions during your time as Director?

**Pastor Steve Stone:** In the first missionary Candidate School that I was a part of as Far North Director, Wes and Rebecca Burns were missionary candidates. Though I had never met them, they were an answer to my prayers. For years, I had asked the Lord to raise up young Canadian men to preach the Gospel in the Far North. The Burns still faithfully serve in Québec, Canada. As Far North Director, I began to ask the Lord to raise up families to take the Gospel to the Metropolitan areas of Canada. The Lord answered those prayers and called families to places such as Montréal and Toronto.

**TB:** What were some of the challenges of Far North Missions during your time as Director?

**SS:** The pace of church planting in the Far North is often slower than in some other areas of the world. Many missionaries spend 30 years or more in the planting of a single church. Some of our veteran missionaries had faithfully served for decades in the same town or remote village and were in need of co-laborers to come and help continue in the work. Helping supporting pastors and churches to understand that the work of church planting in the Far North most often is the work of a lifetime could sometimes be a challenge. Also, helping people see the need for missionaries in the Far North, especially in a place like Canada that on the surface seems to be so like the United States to many, presented a unique challenge.

**TB:** How did the Lord give victory in some of those challenges?

**SS:** We always knew there was a need for more laborers, and the Lord was faithful to raise up and call some to the Far North. To
see young families answering the call and Canadians surrendering to service was a victory. Churches that continued to support missionaries through decades of ministry in the North was a victory the Lord gave. Even for those missionaries who have served so faithfully for decades and still needed replacements, it was a victory to see the Lord enable them to continue in the work.

**TB:** What did you consider to be one of the single greatest needs of Far North Missions during your time as Director?

**SS:** Besides the obvious need for more laborers throughout the Far North, it had to be Greenland. The Lord burdened my heart for this country and I began to pray and ask Him to provide the funds for a survey trip. It was not long before the Lord provided special gifts through different churches for me to go to Greenland. Through those gifts, the Lord also provided enough funds for Don Arnold (former BIMI videographer) to travel with me, so we could produce a video and present the need for missionaries in this country. My trip to Greenland served to increase my burden for laborers there, and I prayed regularly for the Lord to call missionaries to this needy place.

**TB:** How did the Lord meet this need?

**SS:** After returning from Greenland, I met Gage Gilbert who was a student at Camp BIMI. During that week at Camp BIMI, I presented the need of Greenland to the students, and the Lord impressed me to speak personally with Gage as well. I gave Gage a *National Geographic* issue with a cover story about Greenland. I had picked that magazine up in the airport on my way home from Greenland. I also asked Gage to prayerfully consider what the Lord would have him do to meet that need. He took me up on my request, and today Gage and his wife, Aleah, are missionaries with BIMI. They are in the final stages of raising their support to serve in Greenland. The Lord is blessing the ministry of this young couple. To have a missionary family on their way to Greenland, a place some told me no one would ever go, was a tremendous blessing and great victory from the Lord.

Pastor Stone’s account of the Lord’s faithfulness in Far North Missions is one that could be repeated by each of the missionaries serving in this part of the world. No doubt, they could speak at length about God’s faithfulness to them and the ministries to which He has called them. The Lord is forever faithful!

The need for laborers in the Far North is still great. Would you prayerfully consider how the Lord could use you in Far North Missions? If you would like to learn more about missions in Alaska, Canada, or Greenland, please visit www.bimi.org/farnorth or contact Tony Bulawa at FarNorthDirector@bimi.org.
What is the Military Ministry about? It is about people. Specifically, it is centered on the people who have chosen to serve the United States of America in the Armed Forces. Since 1968, Baptist International Missions, Inc. (BIMI), has endeavored to aid in the establishment of local Baptist churches near military installations worldwide.

Missionaries have moved to foreign countries in order to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the servicemen and women living there. As the United States changes its foreign policies and actions over the course of time, so, too, our ministry is always adapting to the differing situations and movements of our troops. However, our mission objective remains the same—to be ambassadors of the Lord Jesus Christ to our military personnel as well as to the nationals of their host countries. Below are two examples of the way the Lord is using BIMI’s division of Military Missions to reach people for Christ. Missionary/Pastor Jeffery Wright gives the following testimony:

“Having been raised in a severely dysfunctional and abusive home and spending time in the foster care system, I felt the Marine Corps appeared to be everything I had ever needed. It gave me structure and stability. I graduated with honors from boot camp and felt like my life finally had fulfillment and meaning. After I graduated from Combat Engineer School, the United States Marine Corps (God) sent me to the island of Okinawa, Japan. I had the perfect job and was in the perfect place to succeed, but I felt empty and lonely. I had structure in my life but no comfort, so I went back to what I always knew—self-destruction and substance abuse.

God began to work on my heart through a series of events and a godly friend in my Marine Corps Unit. In December 2009, I heard the Gospel for the very first time and was convicted of my sin. That night, I took a terrifying drive back to my house, knowing that if I were to die, I would spend an eternity in a place called Hell! When I arrived at home, I got out of the car and sat on the curb, bowed my head, and asked Christ to save me. At that moment I finally felt accepted and at peace. Everything I ever longed for was given to me at that moment.

The next Sunday, Pastor Bob Monteith (a missionary serving with BIMI to the military) baptized me at Maranatha Baptist Church in Okinawa, Japan. Through his preaching and teaching I began to understand the Christian life, how to walk with the Lord daily, and the importance of Christian service.
Under Pastor Monteith’s discipleship, the Lord quickly began working on my heart towards ministry. Within the next few months, I surrendered to the Lord’s will for my life and felt a calling upon my life into full-time ministry. After much prayer, God made it clear He wanted me to reach military families overseas.

At the conclusion of my four years of service, I separated from the Marine Corps. As a 22 year old, newly saved Christian, I moved to Lancaster, California, to begin my freshman year at West Coast Baptist College for the fall semester 2010.

While in college, I met Andrea and after two years of dating we were married in 2013. Andrea grew up in Davao City, Philippines, and was led to Christ by a faithful missionary’s wife when Andrea was 12 years old. Our family is a product of missions and we are grateful that God allows us through the help of BIMI and our local church to take the Gospel to the servicemen and women serving in Sasebo, Japan.

Sasebo Baptist Church, where I serve as pastor, has been through a transformation in the past 18 months. We have seen souls saved, families discipled, lives changed, marriages restored, people called to ministry, and several construction projects completed. I praise the Lord for all He is doing in Sasebo. People see where we are now but not from where God has brought us. This is my story, and I cannot help but say, this is the LORD’s doing; it is marvellous in our eyes (Psalm 118:23)."

Yojana K. Garcia’s testimony is as follows:

“I was born and raised in Nepal. I grew up in a home with domestic violence. My family were Hindus; as such, our way of life was deeply influenced by Hinduism. Society reinforced a strict social rule that made it impossible for my mother to leave my father. My brother was the first one to leave the country. With his financial and emotional help, I left Nepal in 2006 to pursue higher education. My father was against it, but he somehow allowed me to go to the US alone.

I arrived in Lewiston, Idaho, to attend college, but needed a place to live. That is when I met Alene Tutcher. I did not know she was a Christian at first, but once I started living with her and her family in 2007, I knew she was a devout follower of Christ. She never forced me to be a Christian. She invited me to church, and by doing so introduced me to a God who wanted a personal relationship. I enlisted in the Navy in 2010, a week after I graduated with my master’s degree. I was a foreign national and was provided the opportunity to join the Navy under a special program that guaranteed citizenship in return for four years of service. Grandma Alene was my biggest supporter.

I got saved in 2010 at a church in San Diego. Grandma Alene was the first person I called. I thanked her for showing me the truth and introducing me to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Life has been incredible ever since. I have a Heavenly Father who loves me despite my sinful nature. My relationship with God restored my faith in marriage.

Continued on page 32
Awakening The Sleeping Giant

Bible Institutes
6 Institutes & Seminaries
Training Many for Ministry

Christian Schools
3 Christian Day Schools
2 Christian Publishers

Deaf Ministries
4 Churches for Deaf & Several
Ministries with Interpreters

Sending Missionaries
3 Mission Agencies with
Missionaries in Africa, Asia,
Europe, Latin America, Jews

Church Planting
156 Churches Begun by BIMI
Missionaries with Many Others
Started by National Pastors
Trained under Their Leadership

Brazil has often been
called “the sleeping giant” or
“the country of the future.”
As this giant awakens to
the Gospel, the potential
is limitless for becoming a
missionary sending agent!

Isolated Tribes
Reaching Unevangelized Tribes,
Medical Missions

Christian Camps
4 Camp Ministries Where Many
Have Surrendered to Ministry

By Sean Lunday
Structural & Leadership Changes

By Roger Blevins

BIMI has maintained Portuguese-speaking Brazil administratively separate from the rest of mostly Spanish-speaking South America because of the sheer size of the country and the difference in language. Brazil was assigned her own Field Director. This past year, the Board of Trustees approved the uniting of Brazil with the rest of South America under the watchcare of just one Field Director, Sean Lunday, the previous Brazil Director, effective June 2020.

Knowing that statistics can quickly become boring when looking back over the past decade of ministry, one must still take into consideration the numbers. After all, numbers represent people and all people have souls and souls are important to God. So important, in fact, that God put a whole book in His Word named *Numbers*!

From 2010 through 2019, our South America missionaries (excluding Brazil*) reported the following:

- 13,221 professions of faith
- 3,598 baptisms
- 52 new church plants
- 44 missionaries on the field
- 6 missionaries currently on deputation

* Please see Sean Lunday’s report for statistics regarding the ministry in Brazil.

National Pastors & New Church Plants

By Roger Blevins

It has often been said, “A missionary’s job is to work himself out of a job!” Of course, what is meant by that is that the missionary is to plant a new church, stay with that new work long enough to get it well established, train a national pastor for the church, and then move on to begin the process all over again in a new location. Then there is the method of the “mother church” where the missionary stays with the initial church he plants and the “mother church” sends out national pastors to plant new churches. Both approaches are effective and both have been practiced over the years by our missionaries in South America. While human intervention—that is to say missionary work is invaluable, we must remember the words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:6, *I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase*. The missionary should work as though it all depends on him and pray as though it all depends on God. That is a winning combination every time!

BIMI missionaries have planted hundreds of churches in South America over the years. Most of those churches have given birth to at least one new church plant. Some have been used by the Lord to plant multiple new churches. One of the best examples is the *Iglesia Bautista Estrella de Belén* (The Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church) in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church has had a hand in planting more than 40 new churches all over Bolivia, many of them in the last 10 years. National pastors called out of the ministry of the Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church pastor dozens of these churches.

The Bible education and training of national pastors are of critical importance. Because of this, BIMI missionaries throughout South America have had the vision to begin Bible institutes and seminaries. Two of the larger such ministries are located in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, and Tucumán, Argentina, under the direction of missionaries Jake Wiebe and Larry Owens respectively.

* Please see Sean Lunday’s report for statistics regarding the ministry in Brazil.
For more than 55 years, Baptist international Missions, Inc. (BIMI), has had a presence in South America. Upwards of 350 BIMI missionaries have served in South America over the course of five decades. Tens of thousands of souls have been saved and hundreds of churches planted. Hundreds of national pastors have been called of God and received training through scores of special instructional classes, Bible institutes, and seminaries. Yet today, as in days of old when the Apostle Paul heard the Macedonian Call, we hear the plea from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela all saying, Will someone please come down and help us?

That call comes from more than 430 million souls, most of whom are in urgent need of someone who will hear their cries and respond Here am I; send me. The need is growing with every passing day, and time is slipping away. As long as there are mountain villages and sprawling cities that have not yet been reached, the call will continue to ring out. There is so much work to be done, so many opportunities to serve, and so many hearts to reach with the life-changing Gospel. Whether it be teaching literacy classes using the Bible as a text book as BIMI missionary Carolyn Pace is doing in Peru or sending boxes of food and clothing to Venezuela to help BIMI missionary Carlos Arce feed the hungry, the possibilities are endless. Please pray that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers to answer that call emanating from the fourth largest continent in the world. Come down and help us!
As we survey the past decade of ministry in South America, two of the accomplishments—and pleasant memories—that stand out would have to be the End of the World Project and the Medellín Project. These were Bible distribution projects in Ushuaia, Argentina, and Medellín, Colombia, respectively.

The End of the World Project was so named because Ushuaia, Argentina, located some 5,540 miles south of Key West, Florida, is known as “the southern-most city in the world.” After canvassing the city, to the best of our knowledge, we found no independent Baptist church in Ushuaia. This led us to go in October 2012 with a team of 15 volunteers to distribute 25,000 special edition Spanish New Testaments in order to sow the seed of the Gospel as we prayed for God to send a missionary to the city. After we prayed faithfully for six years, the Lord answered by sending missionary Raymond Zacal. He is a Filipino national who was saved many years ago under the ministry of BIMI missionary Carl Vonnoh in the Philippines.

The Medellín Project was carried out in 2015 as again a group of 15 volunteers (many of whom had also been involved in the Bible distribution effort in Argentina) went to the streets of Medellín to distribute the Word of God. This very same city had at one time been considered “the most dangerous city in the world.” Throughout the 1980s and the early 1990s, Medellín was terrorized by killings and every imaginable sort of violence perpetrated by warring drug cartels. During that dark time in Medellín’s history, most missionaries were forced to leave because of the violent atmosphere created by rival drug lords. Thankfully, by 2011 things had settled down enough for missionaries to return. BIMI missionaries Mark and Katie Gerosin were the first to arrive, soon to be followed in 2013 by Peter and Elisabeth Putney. In collaboration with the Gerosins, the Putneys, and each of their church congregations, our team was able to distribute 40,000 Spanish New Testaments in the city.
One million Bibles! That is a large number of copies of the Word of God! Yet, that was the target number to distribute to the students of Papua New Guinea (PNG) by the end of the year 2020. More than 725,000 Scriptures have been distributed and the remaining 275,000 are in country ready to be handed out. Consider the impact of one million students and teachers owning their very own copy of the Bible. Think about what God can do through this effort. After reading the message of the Gospel, people will be confronted by the Holy Spirit and convicted of their need for salvation. Think of the exposure to the truth and principles of God and the potential impact on the future leaders of this nation.

From 2016 to 2020, Baptist International Missions, Inc. (BIMI), has focused its spotlight directly on PNG after hearing that their government wanted to utilize our mission agency to get Bibles into the hands of every student in the country. We moved swiftly into action through prayer and planning as we trusted God to make this a reality. We promoted the opportunity to churches and Christians everywhere and asked for financial help. And did they respond! More than three million dollars has been given to aid in the cost of printing the Bibles, shipping them from Europe to PNG, and delivering them directly to the students.

People ask why BIMI was approached by the PNG government to make such an effort. They had heard of our past Bible distributions and wanted the same for their country. Thankfully, the LORD prepared us for this experience with the same task in Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Indonesia.

In 2010, we began logistical planning to get Bibles distributed throughout the Solomon Islands, specifically on the islands of Malaita and Guadalcanal. At the time, the target goal was to hand out 28,000 Bibles to the students. God provided the necessary funds for what seemed like an impossibly high number of Bibles. Of course, dealing with the logistics of getting the Word of God across the waters and to remote locations was no easy task. Yet, men like Alan Brooks, Assistant Southeast Asia Director, tackled this challenge with an unwavering dedication to the job. He worked with other BIMI missionaries as they traversed remote locales, no matter how difficult, to give out the Scriptures. A lot of experience and old-fashioned know-how was gained during this effort. Praise the LORD for the spread of His Word across the islands!

This was followed in 2012 by a distribution of Bibles in Fiji. Alan Brooks met the Prime Minister of the nation, and this opened the door for them to invite BIMI to give Bibles to the students across the country’s entire
school system. This new challenge was going to encompass approximately 225,000 students. The population of Fiji stretches across nearly 100 islands, and the level of difficulty increased. Accessible only by boat, remote islands were just one of the challenges ahead. Using the knowledge gained from previous efforts, Alan Brooks completed a very successful distribution in 2014.

Along with the effort in PNG that is currently underway, the entire decade has been filled with distributing Bibles across the islands of the South Pacific. Smaller Bible distribution efforts are currently happening on the islands of Samoa, led by Jim and Emi Civale. A distribution will begin in 2021 on the island of Kiribati through the hard work of Joel and Brooke Daku.

Over 1.3 million Bibles collectively have been given out and countless lives have been transformed by Christ. People have put their faith in Christ. Churches have been started in villages where there were none before. Outreach ministries have expanded because of the openness in the hearts of many to the truths of the Scriptures. Even here in the United States, people have been touched by the Holy Spirit to serve as missionaries in these nations where the Bible has been given out. There has been an incredible saturation of the Word of God that we pray will have a long-lasting impact on the spiritual condition of the people in the South Pacific.

The most significant focus and emphasis this past decade have been on the activities in the South Pacific, but the Lord has also been working in the hearts and lives of people in the countries of Southeast Asia. Throughout much of the history of nations such as Cambodia, Indonesia, or Nepal, there has never been an impactful Christian presence. Religious faiths like Buddhism, Hinduism, or Islam are overwhelmingly predominant in these countries. For example, only one percent of Thailand’s population identifies with Christianity. The need for missionaries representing Jesus Christ and proclaiming the Gospel has always been tremendous.

Throughout the first 50 years of BIMI, there has never been a large workforce of missionaries serving in Thailand. Philip and Colette Pope were accepted by BIMI in 1976 and they have faithfully served in Thailand. Over the next 24 years, only two other BIMI families joined the Popes in Thailand, albeit for a short time. Yet, that has all changed since 2010.

God has been working in the hearts of numerous families, putting upon them a burden to reach the Thai people. In 2009, a new family joined the Mission and is now serving in

Continued on page 32
It is amazing that in the year 2020 there are many regions and places across the United States where multitudes of people have never heard the Good News that Jesus saves. In Acts 1:8, the Lord gave the church the scope or boundaries of His Great Commission. His command for the church was to go into “Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” We cannot and must not reach one area without the other or one region to the exclusion of the other. All four areas mentioned in Acts 1:8 are to be reached by the church and to be done so simultaneously. The world is a vast mission field but let us always remember that America is part of that world. Missions is not geography. Missions is people.

60 Years of Church Planting in America

Since 1960, the United States division of BIMI (Reseeding America) has always been about bringing biblical change to America through the planting of new churches. Over the past 10 years since the 50th Anniversary of BIMI, our Reseeding America church planters have continued to plant New Testament Baptist churches in areas of our country where Bible-believing churches were desperately needed. Over the past decade, many of our USA church planting missionaries have started churches in what we call “mainstream” America. Others have planted churches to reach different ethnic groups in our nation and still others have planted churches to reach the deaf and Native Americans. We appreciate the efforts of all our USA missionaries over the years.

Today, more than ever, we need to reach our homeland with the Gospel of Jesus Christ! It is also important to remember we can increase our missionary force worldwide by increasing our missionary source here at home. By investing in USA church planting, your mission offering or missions support for a USA missionary church planter will be multiplied tenfold, twenty-fold, even thirty-fold. This is accomplished when a USA missionary gets a new church started and challenges his congregation to get involved in sending and supporting new missionaries out to the worldwide harvest.

Church Restart and Restoration Ministry

Since 2011, the Reseeding America Church Restart and Restoration Ministry has grown at a rapid rate. In this day in which we live, we need to plant or start hundreds of new independent Baptist churches right here at home to keep up with our present population growth. At the same time, we must find ways to keep the doors of our existing churches open and functioning and doing what the Bible commands the church to do.

Today, less than 20 percent of all Americans attend church on a regular basis. As a result, churches are dying in exceptionally large numbers. Over the past ten years, this is a trend
that appears to be accelerating. Currently, in America
3,500 to 4,500 churches close their doors each year! That
number represents all denominations. What is shocking
to see as one looks at the statistics, 800 to 900 of those
churches are Baptist churches!

Reseeding America has been busy the past ten years
conducting a church revitalization program to assist
churches in decline. Because many of these churches
do not have a pastor, we begin with locating a man who
can restart the church. We first try to utilize our BIMI
missionaries who have returned to the States from a
foreign field. We will encourage them to restart some of
these churches. Many times, their missionary experience
in starting a church and pastoring a congregation can
prove to be a huge help and blessing for churches that
need to be rescued. We also utilize men for church restarts
who have the same doctrinal position and standards that
we hold and who have contacted us and are available for
this type of ministry. Examples would be retired pastors,
missionaries, or evangelists. The age-old problem has
always been manpower and we are constantly looking
for capable and trained men to assist us in this great
restoration effort.

A Major Focus for the Future

There are now 381 metropolitan cities across America.
These large, sprawling urban areas are now home to 82
percent of our nation's population. This means the great
majority of America's unchurched and unreached live in
our large cities. To effectively reach the metro multitudes,
it will take hundreds of new church plants and hundreds
of God-called metro church planters with a vision to
reach the untapped metropolitan mission fields of the
United States. As we go forward with this ministry of
church planting, we will continue to focus on this need.
To accomplish this task, it will take a major investment
by the churches in our movement to assist men who are
willing to start and pastor churches in metro America.

Please Partner with Us in Prayer

As we enter into a new decade of ministry, we are asking
churches and God's people across this nation to partner
with us in prayer, asking God to raise up church planters
and church planting families to join the Reseeding
America ministry to plant and restart churches right
here in our homeland. We welcome the opportunity to
partner with churches as well as individuals in this effort.

Therefore said he unto them, “The harvest truly is great,
but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of
the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his
harvest” (Luke 10:2).
Bangkok. The next two years, 2010 and 2011, two new families were called to missions for Thailand. Additions to the workforce continued with three more couples dedicated to Thailand in 2013 and 2015. With the continued steadfastness of the Popes, Thailand now has the most missionary families of any country in BIMI’s Southeast Asia and South Pacific fields. Churches are being established, and Thai people are coming to Christ. Discipleship is taking root, and God is calling Thai men to preach. The cycle of missions is happening for BIMI missionaries in Thailand unlike any period in all of BIMI’s previous years. God has scattered families all over different parts of the nation, allowing the influence of the Gospel to be throughout the country. A subsequent extension of these ministries is the influencing and training of Christians who travel in from border nations like Laos and Myanmar.

These past ten years missionary families have risen to the challenge of preaching Christ in a place like Thailand. It has been tremendously exciting; yet, we have not even begun to scratch the surface about the amount of work needed to penetrate Southeast Asia with the Good News of Christ. Laborers are needed to serve and work in other countries such as Cambodia, Singapore, and India. Whereas God has opened the door for the spread of the Gospel and of His Word across the islands of the South Pacific, it does not negate the fact that continued preaching, teaching, and discipleship is necessary. We are thankful for all God is doing through our missionaries in Southeast Asia and the South Pacific, but we pray passionately for what lies ahead. What will the next ten years bring? Where will God call forth the next generation of Christians to serve? We know that God will work and do great and mighty things. The question is—Will He use you to do it?

While being stationed in Sicily, I met my husband, David. We attended Calvary Baptist Church, pastored by BIMI military missionaries Allen and Elizabeth Hamilton. While under their ministry, we decided to put Christ in the center of our marriage and have promised each other to spend the rest of our lives honoring God. We endeavor to be good testimonies to each other and others and to serve those in need. Currently, I am stationed in Okinawa, Japan, where BIMI military missionary Stu Jellison is my pastor at North Shore Baptist Church.

Just last year the Lord provided BIMI’s Military Ministry the opportunity to play a part in the “rescue” from closing of Grace Baptist Church, Baumholder, Germany. Due to slated downsizing by the US Army, preparations were unwillingly being made to close the doors of this longstanding church in the community. By God’s grace and providence, that governmental decision was reversed! However, due to various circumstances, the “For Lease” sign was already posted in the yard of Grace Baptist. Divine intervention brought the dire situation of the church to the attention of BIMI military missionary Tom Lancaster. Tom, in partnership with fellow missionaries Jeff Alverson and Bryan Baggett, along with the sacrificial efforts of other men of God and the generous financial support of many pastors and individuals, kept the doors of Grace Baptist Church open. Currently, BIMI military missionary Joe Passaro is serving as the pastor of this grateful body of believers. To God be the Glory!

I am sure that these testimonies have touched your heart. Perhaps God has used them as a prompting in your spirit about how He would like to use you to reach our US military. There are many opportunities of service in Military Missions and we stand ready to help you in accomplishing those mission objectives.
have a unique ministry with the youth. Whosoever Baptist Church has grown and now they are modifying the building to provide more space. Recently, Wes started another ministry in Derriere. God is blessing and they are seeing souls saved.

Further south in the West Indies lies the group of islands called the Grenadines. Joseph and Donna Childers have focused on Grenville, the second largest town in Grenada. Recently, the church was able to purchase land and build a building. Coco Chan has joined their team. God has opened opportunities to teach the Bible in schools and the juvenile detention center. Lighthouse Baptist also has a Bible institute and several young men are preparing to serve the Lord.

Just north of Venezuela is the island of Trinidad. John and Brenda Gossett have been there for several terms. On their first term, they were able to see Trinity Baptist Church in Arima grow. God raised up Keith Lovelace to be the national pastor. The Gossetts then went over to Amazing Grace Baptist Church. After a term, God provided a wonderful national pastor to lead that church. John and Brenda went out to an area called Sangre Grande to start a new work. This area is a stronghold of Hinduism, but they are seeing God answer prayer. Several have been saved and are faithful. About a year ago, an independent Baptist missionary passed away and John felt led to help his church. This means the Gossetts are serving two churches at one time. Trinidad has tightened its immigration policies. Pray that those policies will be relaxed and we can see more missionaries entering Trinidad.

For years we have been praying that BIMI might have a missionary in one of the French islands. This year, Jeremy and Mattie Benbrooks received their visas for the island of Martinique. They are the first independent Baptist missionaries to be located in Martinique in several decades. Please pray for them as they seek God’s direction in finding a location to start a new church.

The island most eastward in the West Indies is Barbados. After serving in Nigeria, Robert and Rhoda Smith relocated to this island. They established St. Philip’s Independent Baptist Church. Until last year, they met in an old industrial school. The Lord has provided a building and land that are well suited for the church. God has been good to meet the need of the church, and our missionaries are seeing much fruit for their labor.

Back in the early 1970s, Al Snyder, manager; Rolen Cornelius, assistant manager; and Curtis Waite, engineer, moved to Antigua to build Caribbean Radio Lighthouse (CRL). God provided for this unique Christian radio station. Over the years, CRL continues to present consistent biblical truth and godly music. Jerry Baker and his wife joined the staff in 1979 and served there until Nathan and Renee Owens arrived in 2010. CRL provides English and Spanish 24-hour broadcasts via AM and FM. During hurricanes or times of distress, CRL is sending out the good news of the Gospel. Several months ago, a woman who was about to commit suicide called the station. She did not want any visits, but the staff wisely prayed with her over the telephone. She made a commitment to call the staff the following morning for a special time of prayer again. This continued for several weeks. Today, she has a wonderful testimony of salvation and spiritual growth because of CRL. Now she goes around to have prayer with those who are depressed and she encourages them to listen to CRL, where she found encouragement to live.

Although this is only a snippet of all the BIMI works in the Caribbean, we rejoice in what God is doing. It is our joy to serve the King of kings, and Lord of lords as a family of missionaries. Please pray for God’s continued guidance and for more laborers to help us in the Caribbean and West Indies.
and who are going out to start a new church. For years, this list has averaged more than 100 names per year and sometimes many more. The spirit of the Martins is the same spirit of many BIMI missionaries whether they serve in fruitful places or harder areas.

Bruce Rice has spent over 30 years in ministry on the island of Mindanao. God continues to bless the churches they have been able to start and the students they have been able to train in their Bible college. In recent years the Lord put a new area on his heart. What a blessing it was to be able to see one of their first services a few years ago and to listen to Brother Rice’s burden for the people in that area! On a later visit it was amazing to see that they had outgrown their building and expanded by building next door. The service was full of people whose lives have been changed by the power of God’s saving grace.

God’s Grace in Other Asian Fields

Over the past eight years, I have been privileged to visit all of our Asia and North Pacific missionaries. I have seen them laboring to win souls and to establish churches that will continue long after the missionary is gone. I have visited them after terrible disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and typhoons. I have listened to their burdens of reaching more people and starting more churches. I have also seen the result of their vision when on a return visit I saw a new and thriving group of believers gathering to worship our Lord.

My heart is stirred each time I visit our Far East family and visit their growing churches. God is at work in the ministries of the Doug Sisson family in southern Philippines, the Henry Ward family in Japan, the Andrew Au family in Hong Kong, the Jason Ritchie family in Mongolia, the Jon Flowers family in Taiwan, the Roger Workman family in Tinian, the Kevin Akana family in Hawaii, and many other families throughout Asia. Everywhere these dear servants of God go, the Gospel is preached and God’s grace is evident in changed lives and souls saved!

For the past ten years, our missionaries serving in Asia and the North Pacific reported more than 13,500 salvation decisions and 100 new churches started annually. God also blessed us with a dozen new families who arrived on the field. It is wonderful to consider that BIMI worldwide has averaged over 500 people coming to Christ each week over that same ten year period.

We rejoice in what God is doing, but there are so many more who need to be reached! The truth remains—The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few! Each time I travel through cities such as Tokyo, Beijing, Seoul, Hong Kong, Taipei, and Manila, I am reminded that there is a great need of Gospel preachers! Will you help us pray for laborers in Asia, the North Pacific, and the world? Others still need to experience the saving grace of God! What would keep you from coming to help us?
Retired Missionary **Fred (Freddie) Crowe** (76) went Home to be with the Lord on Saturday, March 21, 2020. Freddie and his first wife Aileen (who went Home to be with Lord in 2017) joined BIMI in 1965. They were some of the first missionaries to Nicaragua. In Nicaragua, Freddie served as the director of a large camp ministry. Freddie and Aileen served faithfully for 42 years in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and in Hispanic ministries in the United States. Freddie and his second wife, Connie, were members of Middle Road Baptist Church in Hixson, Tennessee.

BIMI Missionary **Yvette Huestis** went Home to be with her Savior on Saturday, December 7, 2019. Yvette served the Lord faithfully for 34 years in Brazil with her husband, Steve. The Huestises met while in college at Tennessee Temple, and they recently celebrated 35 years of marriage. They have been instrumental as church planters in Mato Grosso, Brazil. In February 2018, Yvette was diagnosed with an aggressive brain cancer called Glioblastoma. After being faced with the decision to either stay in Brazil or leave the field to seek treatment elsewhere, they chose to remain on the field. While Yvette endured brain surgery to remove a tumor and radiation therapy, God sustained them as they remained faithful to His calling in Brazil. God’s goodness has been evident throughout Yvette’s life, ministry, and the lives of their four children serving in ministry.

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**Memorial Gifts have been received in memory of**

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<td>Terry &amp; Kaye Jones, Margaret A Stringer, Valley Forge Baptist Temple, Nancye Alloway, Mr &amp; Mrs Gerald Judd, Bob &amp; Jennifer Larson, Henrita Barber, Bible Baptist Church, Mr &amp; Mrs Veri Taylor, Ken &amp; Nancy Lalman, East Ridge Family Dental LLC, One Another Ministries Int’l</td>
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Have you ever forgotten to send in monthly support?
Has your monthly support check ever been lost or delayed in the mail?

Help your missionaries by guaranteeing the timely arrival of monthly support!

Baptist International Missions, Inc. (BIMI), offers the convenience of check-free giving to those who regularly support its missionaries and ministries. ACH Debit allows you to authorize BIMI to withdraw your monthly support directly from your checking or savings account. You will save time, postage, check expense, and any postal delays connected with your regular giving. With ACH Debit you can be sure your support always arrives in a timely fashion. Monthly withdrawals will be made from your account until you notify us of a change. You may discontinue the program at any time.

To start the ACH Debit process, please call (423-344-5050, ext 2304), write (Attention Ken Fink), or email (kenneth@bimi.org) requesting the ACH Debit Authorization Form.