

CAMPBIMI

Encourager

Preparing · Praying · Proclaiming

Fall 2026





FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear **CB Alumni**,

CAMP BIMI was never meant to be the finish line—it was only meant to be a starting point. Often, we sense God’s leading long before His timing becomes clear. The space between calling and clarity can feel uncertain and that is where we want to encourage you.



Just know that preparation time is never wasted time when it is fully surrendered to the Lord. Proverbs 3:5–6 reminds us, *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”* While you continue walking with the Lord and waiting on His will, remember this: God sees faithfulness, and He rewards it.

Serve faithfully at college or in your local church and pursue your training, always seeking God’s direction. Do everything with purpose and excellence, even the little things, knowing it matters for eternity. By choosing this path, you are joining an uncommon group—Christseekers who refuse to simply “get by,” who won’t settle for “just enough,” and who stay Gospel-focused in a distracted world.

That choice matters. As you choose faithfulness in the little things, you will be rewarded with greater opportunity for service.

Jason Ritchie

**Preparation time
is never wasted
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CAMP BIMI Director
Jason Ritchie

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ENCOURAGER
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Why the CAMP BIMI Encourager Exists

The CAMP BIMI Encourager is written specifically for those who have attended CAMP BIMI and are continuing their journey toward missions and ministry.

We want to:

- Encourage continued spiritual growth
- Promote prayerful preparation
- Provide practical perspective for long term faithfulness
- Keep alumni connected to what God is doing through BIMI

**This magazine is not about pressure
—it’s about preparation.**

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Scandinavia

Access Does Not Equal Salvation

Scandinavia is often seen as a place that has already been “reached” with the Gospel. Churches exist, Christian history runs deep, and many people still identify as religious. Yet beneath the surface, the spiritual need of the people in Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland is real and growing. In major cities like Stockholm, Oslo, and Copenhagen, faith is often viewed as a cultural tradition rather than personal conviction. If you spend time there, you begin to realize that much of Scandinavia is **superficially reached**—Christian in name only and marked by secular thinking and spiritual distance. The people of this region need to be saved.

Among younger generations, education and opportunity abound but most live without any sense of purpose and a fear of the future. Immigration has fragmented communities into a patchwork of divided loyalties. Questions about identity, meaning, and truth are common, but the knowledge of God is not.

By contrast, in rural and Arctic regions, indigenous peoples such as the **Saami** carry a different story. The Saami have a rich cultural heritage shaped by language, land, and community. While many identify as Christian, their understanding of the Gospel is extremely limited. Often, evangelism is associated with outside pressure instead of hope. Historical injustice and cultural suppression have

left wounds that require patience, humility, and love.

Scandinavia reminds us that access does not equal salvation. Scandinavia’s need is not education or cultural revitalization, but faithful servants of the Gospel—missionaries willing to go and stay for Christ’s sake. What are you going to do about Scandinavia? Will you pray for more laborers?



For more info contact
Ed Hembree
BIMl Europe Director





Buddhism

Across Asia, millions are searching for peace. Not all in the same places, or the same way—but with the same questions.

Different Paths, Same Longing

In **Thailand** and **Myanmar**, many follow *Theravada Buddhism*—a way of life built on discipline, self-control, and moral effort.

In **China**, **Korea**, and **Japan**, *Mahayana Buddhism* often blends philosophy, tradition, and deep respect for family and ancestors.

In **Tibet** and **Mongolia**, *Vajrayana Buddhism* includes meditation, rituals, and spirit guides meant to lead people toward enlightenment.

They all have different expressions and different cultures but one shared desire: *freedom from suffering*.

How the Gospel Is Different

Across these traditions, peace is something you *work toward*. Growth comes from effort. Freedom comes from discipline. Because of this, many Buddhists respect Jesus as a wise teacher—but struggle with the idea of **grace**, **forgiveness**, and a **personal God** who rescues instead of waiting to be reached by futile efforts.

And yet...the Gospel speaks directly to what these people long for most. Instead of striving—rest. Instead of futile work—grace. Not isolation from a God who expects perfection, but adoption through a perfect Savior who loves us. And this personal Savior who is *touched with the feelings of our infirmities* (**Hebrews 4:15**) will one day deliver us from all our troubles. Jesus bids us, “*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*” (**Matthew 11:28**) The answer to suffering is Christ.

God Is Still at Work

God is already moving and already softening hearts. He continues drawing people to Himself. People who once trusted the false “middle way” of the Buddha are putting their faith in *the way, the truth, and the life*—**Jesus Christ**. We can make a difference among Buddhists through faithful prayer and the bold proclamation of our faith. As missionaries go with the Gospel, Buddhists will be saved for eternity. It’s good to know that Jesus doesn’t just offer peace. He *is* our Peace.

For he is our peace... — Ephesians 2:14a





GUATEMALA: *Here We Come!*

And...how CAMP BIMI helped us on our way

My wife and I are currently raising support (*traveling to churches to build our prayer and financial support team*) to serve as missionaries in Guatemala, Central America. But our story doesn't start with volcanoes, tropical jungles, and the 19 million Spanish-speaking people God has put on our hearts. It's really a story of how God prepared us step by step—and the training we received at CAMP BIMI is a big part of that. In fact, **CAMP BIMI is unlike anything else we ever experienced**, and it's safe to say that anyone seriously considering missions should prayerfully look into attending.

For me, it started when the Lord worked in my life as a thirteen-year-old boy and called me to be a missionary. From that moment, I started taking steps to grow in the decision I'd made. My parents encouraged me to attend CAMP BIMI, and I'm truly thankful they did. Aside from taking missions trips, CAMP BIMI has been one of the most fruitful—and challenging—weeks of my life. It opens your eyes to what missions really is and how each of us fits into God's mission for reaching the world. Those who attend will be encouraged by what missionaries have accomplished but also challenged by what still needs to be done.

My wife surrendered to missions while taking a missions class in Bible college. Her parents were former BIMI church planters in Elkridge, Maryland, and she was just a young girl when her family partnered with BIMI. Coming back to CAMP BIMI as an adult was especially meaningful to her, because she could see firsthand the investment BIMI had made in her family—and the lasting impact of that partnership.

*"It opens your eyes to what missions really is
and how each of us fits into God's mission
for reaching the world."*

I've had the privilege of attending all three training weeks of CAMP BIMI. Each year built on the last, giving **insightful instruction on both a practical walk with the Lord and the nuts and bolts of missions**. Each of the directors and their wives are experienced missionaries who have truly seen it all. They're genuine in their love for the Lord and for others, and I'm thankful for the personal relationships I've been able to develop with each of them.

My wife and I also really valued the quiet time each morning for devotions. These specially



designed lessons focus on the will of God and helped keep our hearts centered on His leading throughout the week. In the busyness of everyday life, true quiet time can be difficult to find. The BIMI campus provides a beautiful, secluded, and genuinely quiet environment that helped us slow down and listen. That morning time tuned our hearts and minds to what God was teaching us.

I encourage you to consider what God is doing in your life and how He may be leading you in missions. Prayerfully consider attending a week of CAMP BIMI.

Isaac and Savannah Bohac are BIMI Missionaries to Guatemala.

Bohac's Ministry Display that they are using on deputation.





CULTURE

East Africa's Heritage

& Why It Matters When We Share the Gospel

Catching the Context of Culture

Picture this: you step into a village where the “schedule” isn’t a phone notification—it’s the rhythm of people, cattle, cooking fires, and conversation. You can feel history in the dust and hear it in the whispers of the wind. East Africa isn’t a blank space on a map waiting for someone else’s ideas. It is a place of strong families, deep community ties, and layers of faith traditions—some unique, some broken, all influential.

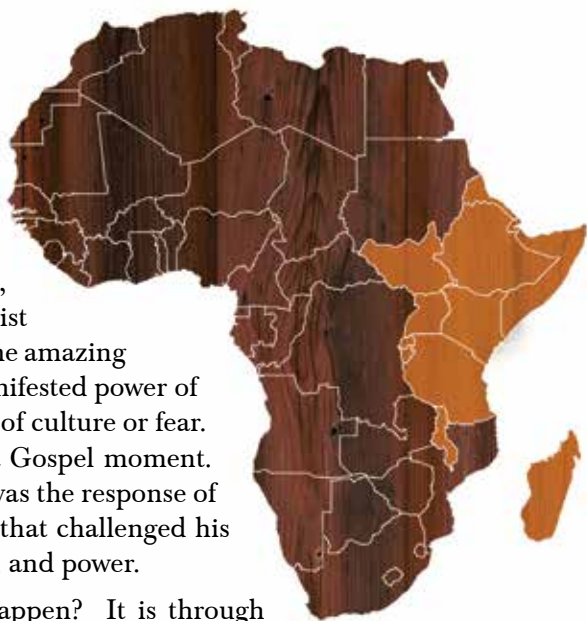
When we talk about “heritage,” we mean more than music, clothing, or food (though, yes, all of that matters). Heritage is how a person has learned to listen, trust, honor, celebrate, grieve, and make decisions. If we ignore those things, we may still speak the truth—but we might not actually be heard.

The reality is that this “heritage” as well as religion in general can be everywhere

and yet the heart still be empty. Traditional beliefs shape culture, define personal relationships, overshadow special occasions, as well as mundane daily life, even when many people no longer hold to it with personal conviction. In East Africa, you’ll see that mix—Christian labels, Islamic influence, and traditional practices woven into everyday life. That blend is not just “background”; it’s the lens through which many people interpret what you say when you share about God.



The task for the missionary is to confront this embedded worldview with the light of Scripture, but thankfully the missionary does not work alone. God often provides scenarios where traditional beliefs are challenged, His love revealed, and faith in Christ put on display. I have witnessed some amazing conversions simply because the manifested power of God proved greater than the power of culture or fear. That is “heritage” showing up in a Gospel moment. The message didn’t change. But it was the response of faith to what the listener observed that challenged his former beliefs about authority, fear, and power.



How do those Gospel moments happen? It is through establishing meaningful relationships. It is by walking through life purposefully with intentionality in your witness. It is by living an example of Christ-likeness together with a verbal message. Life, especially one in a third-world context, can be incredibly challenging and often frustrating. In many East African settings, your credibility is not mainly built by a bio or résumé—it’s built by how you walk with people when life goes sideways; as you are exemplifying the power of God in day-to-day living and in neighborly conversations.

So how do we “catch the context” and give the Gospel in a meaningful way?

- **Lead with listening.** Don’t just speak, listen to learn how people explain their world through their cultural eyes: their family expectations, spiritual fears, what “a good life” means, and what brings shame or honor.
- **Respect community pathways.** Decisions are often communal. Discipleship that ignores family and community dynamics can unintentionally isolate new believers.
- **Take spiritual questions seriously.** In many places, “Does your God have power?” is not a cliché. It’s a real question tied to real fears.
- **Stay long enough to be known.** Superficial relationships are easy; trust takes time. The Gospel is worth patient presence. It often takes a lifetime to make a lasting difference in a community.

East Africa’s heritage matters because people matter, and people are never culture-free. When we honor context, we’re not “being trendy.” We’re following the Christ-like example of careful, compassionate witness by speaking to real people in their real world. Catch the context, and you’ll find more than customs—you’ll find bridges. And across those bridges, the unchanging Gospel can travel with clarity, courage, and love. — **BIMI Africa Director**



The Maya Aren't Ancient — They've Just Adapted

When people think about the Maya, they usually picture pyramid ruins swallowed by jungle vines. But the Maya aren't frozen in the past—they're alive, culturally changing, and deeply connected to current issues. Today, millions of Maya people live across Mexico, Central America, and even the United States, continuing languages and traditions that stretch back thousands of years.

Take the Maya in Belize as an example. **Yucatec Maya** remains their primary language and families stay tightly connected across generations. Many work in agriculture, construction, tourism, or handmade crafts, often near ancient Maya cities that are now major cultural and economic landmarks.



That mix of past and present is key to understanding the Maya. Their ancestors built powerful city-states, developed advanced math and astronomy, and created one of the most sophisticated writing systems in the Americas. When their major cities declined around 900 AD, the Maya didn't vanish—they just migrated, adapted, and survived colonization, forced labor, and cultural suppression.

Today, Maya culture still influences food, agriculture, folk religion, and language across Mesoamerica. As Maya communities fight for land rights and cultural recognition they grope in the darkness of their past superstition and present, empty Catholicism.

The truth is simple: the Maya aren't a relic. They're a real people who need a relationship with Jesus Christ. ***Could God be calling you to reach the Maya?***





From *Maybe* to *Yes*

How God used CAMP BIMI to deepen my burden for missions

Born and raised in Jamaica, the message of salvation was unfamiliar to me. I knew of God, but I didn't understand what it meant to be saved or to accept Christ as my Savior. In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, God allowed me to move to the United States—and it was there that my life changed forever.

On February 26, 2022, I was invited to a teen activity at the church where I am now a member. That night, I heard the Gospel clearly for the first time, and I accepted Christ as my Savior. From that moment, **the Lord began working in my heart, placing a deep burden—and a call—to missions.** I wish I could say I responded immediately with willingness and obedience, but for about a year, my heart was hardened toward that call.

By God's grace, I had the opportunity to attend CAMP BIMI, and it was there that God began softening my heart. Before attending, my understanding of missions was very limited. I thought it simply meant going from one country to another to tell people about Christ. **CAMP BIMI gave me a much deeper understanding.**

I learned the threefold way I can be involved in missions: praying for missionaries, supporting them financially, and going if called. I also greatly appreciated the sessions taught by the field directors. They addressed many aspects of missions and answered questions I didn't even realize I had. During that week, I surrendered my life to the Lord for missions.

Since then, I have prayed earnestly for God's direction. Through that process, He has taught me patience and the importance of waiting on His perfect timing. **Returning to CAMP BIMI Week 2 was an exciting experience.** Not only did I continue learning about missions, but I also had the opportunity to speak with the directors again personally and hear their burdens for the fields where they serve. My time at CAMP BIMI has helped me grow spiritually and has greatly strengthened my prayer life. I was especially convicted by

the consistent emphasis on praying for more laborers, realizing how often I had fallen short in that area.

At the conclusion of my second week, I was challenged to seek the Lord fervently regarding His calling and to remain faithful to the ministry I serve in now.

If you are struggling with your call or considering missions, I want to encourage you in three ways. First, seek the Lord earnestly. He is all-knowing, and He reveals His will in His time. Second, seek Godly counsel from your pastor and spiritual mentors. Lastly, consider attending CAMP BIMi. It has encouraged my growth in missions, provided direction on becoming a missionary, and offered wisdom from those who have served faithfully on the field.

Although I am still unsure where the Lord is leading me—whether locally or abroad—I am committed to serving faithfully in my local church until He makes His will clear.

Mickhaylia Raymond is a CAMP BIMi alumnus and college student from Maryland





Speaking the Language of the Khans

On August 18, 1227, Genghis Khan died while crushing a revolt in the Xi Xia kingdom.

But before his death, he had welded the scattered tribes of the central asian steppe into one Mongol nation. His grandson, Kublai Khan, later founded China's Yuan dynasty. At its peak, the Mongols had the largest contiguous land empire in history. **Their empire is gone—but the “language of the Khans” lives on today among Mongolian-speaking communities** in Mongolia, Inner Mongolia (China), and parts of Russia.

Learning to Listen Before Speaking

Mongolian doesn't “map” neatly onto English. The word order is usually **subject-object-verb**, grammar runs on **stacked suffixes**, and meaning is tracked with a strong **case system** (endings that show roles like “to,” “from,” and “with”). At first, it can feel like your brain is building sentences out of Lego pieces—backwards. That's normal. Keep going and you'll get it.

Hearing the Sounds: Vowel Harmony and Length

To speak Mongolian, you have to train your ear. This language uses vowel harmony—vowels in a word tend to “agree,” and suffixes change to match. It also treats vowel length seriously (short vs. long can change meaning). Add some heavier end-of-word consonants than English, and you get this lesson: **if you rush the sounds, you'll rush the meaning. Slow down. Listen first.**

More Than a Language: Speaking to the Heart

Language learning is not just “extra credit” for missions—it's **love shown by effort**. If the Gospel matters, then **clarity** matters. And clarity costs something: hours of listening, awkward conversations, being corrected, trying again, and choosing humility when you'd rather quit. But that grind is part of how you show people they're worth more than a quick visit and a translation app. **If you love people, you'll do the hard work to be understood.**



For more info contact
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BIMI Far East Director

***If you love people,
you'll do the hard work
to be understood.***





An Empire Asked for Missionaries *—but no one came*

In the 1260s, Kublai Khan welcomed the Venetian merchants **Niccolò and Maffeo Polo** and sent them west with a message for Christendom: **“Send 100 trained Christian missionaries.”** Send people who can explain the Gospel, answer questions, and stay long enough for real training. In other words, convert us to Christianity.

But the 100 never came. Two tried—but didn’t make it all the way. Accounts say they turned back before reaching the court of the East because the journey was too hard. Soon, Asia had turned to Buddhism instead. And that’s the warning: **opportunities don’t wait on our convenience.**

It’s not enough to hear the call. We must **go**. We must **learn**. We must **stay**. We let the Lord reshape our plan and remove our pride. We make the journey our home. Forgotten places don’t need driveby ministry—they need faithful servants who will do the slow work of language, relationship, and heart-felt communication of the Gospel. *Will you go, learn, and stay—for the Gospel’s sake?*





Meet the Axolotl

A Picture of Resilience

With its permanent smile and feathery pink gills, **the axolotl looks like a creature from a fantasy book**—but it’s very real. Native to the lakes of central Mexico, this unusual salamander never fully “grows up.” Unlike most amphibians, axolotls remain in their juvenile, fully aquatic form for life—a trait known as *neoteny*.

Axolotls are also known for an extraordinary ability: regeneration. They can regrow lost limbs, gills, and even parts of their heart and brain without scarring—one reason they’re a major focus of scientific research.

Cute, curious, and scientifically invaluable, **the axolotl also illustrates the resilience needed by missionaries on the field.** Ministry can hurt our heart and bring misunderstandings, but God can work those experiences for spiritual renewal instead of emotional scarring. We can trust Him for *we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose* (Romans 8:28).

The Local Church

Still the Foundation

For a lot of people finding “calling” can feel like standing at a giant intersection with too many street signs.



College. Trades. Ministry. Missions. You want to make a decision that matters—and you don’t want to waste years guessing. In that tension, God has not left you without help. He has given you an institution older than social media and sturdier than your feelings. **The place to start is your local church.**

In the book of Acts, the church at Antioch wasn’t a side note—it was the sending center. *“Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers”* (Acts 13:1). From that church, the Holy Ghost said, *“Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them”* (Acts 13:2). They prayed, fasted, laid hands on them, and sent them away (Acts 13:3). That pattern still matters: God calls individuals, but He sends servants through New Testament churches.

We emphasize this on purpose: **a mission agency should never replace the local church.** It exists to assist the church as it sends—providing practical help, accountability, and training. That’s not just policy; it’s wisdom. You need more than an open door. You need pastors who know you, people who can tell when you’re thriving or drifting, and a place where your gifts can be tested before you head across an ocean.

In a world that says, “Build your brand,” God says,
“Be faithful in my house.”

The local church is where God grows you in ways like nowhere else. It’s where you learn to receive correction without collapsing, to serve without being seen, and to love people who are not exactly like you. Paul told Timothy, *“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also”* (2 Timothy 2:2). That kind of multiplication happens best in a church family—week after week, not just at an event. God also gives leaders to the church *“for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”* (Ephesians 4:12). Not only does the local church support missions; it trains saints to do the work.

“Don’t wait for a perfect plan
—take the next faithful step in your local church.”



So what do you do when you're choosing a major, a job, or a ministry path? Don't start by asking, "What will make me happiest?" Start by asking, "Where can I most clearly obey Christ?" God's leading is not a riddle meant to torment you. As you yield your plans and acknowledge Him, He guides your steps (Proverbs 3:5–6). One of the clearest ways to acknowledge Him is to plant yourself in the life of your church—show up, serve, submit, and let mature believers speak into your decisions.

CAMP BIMI is a boost; the local church is the base.

Programs like CAMP BIMI are most valuable when they stay connected to your church. Your time at college, a short-term mission trip, or training opportunity should deepen your love for your church family—not replace them. The win is not "getting away." The win is coming home more anchored—better equipped to serve now, and better prepared if God does open the door to career missions later.

Great missionaries always start with faithfulness.

If you're waiting for God to show you the whole map, remember that He often guides by giving a single, next step. For many of you, that next step is not a dramatic announcement—it's consistent church life.

Join a ministry. Learn to teach a class. Go soulwinning. Help with kids. Show up early. Stay late. Let your pastor know you're wrestling through your calling and you want counsel. *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."* (1 Corinthians 15:58). The local church is still the foundation—and since God is building your life for the long haul, He will keep bringing you back to the place where He shapes and sends His people.

Practical Preparation

Skills That Support Long-Term Ministry

The world changes fast. Tech moves even faster—every few months a new tool drops that feels like it changes everything. The news moves at light speed too... but not every place is like that.

Picture a place where the “timeline” hasn’t really updated in 100 years—where life moves painfully slow, and everyday conveniences feel like a luxury. That’s reality in the third world. And that’s exactly where many missionaries serve... and maybe where God will lead you.

Imagine you’re there—and things just don’t work. Suddenly your day is basically a running list of questions: “Okay, how do we fix this?” “How do we build that?” And there’s no manual.

That’s where CAMP BIMI comes in. **Every afternoon for Year 2 and Year 3 students, we run Practical Preparation workshops—hands-on training that builds real-life skills for the field.** You’ll learn through practical lessons and hands-on projects, covering basics like electrical, plumbing, mechanics, and first aid.

Our desire is to help equip you for wherever God sends you! We want you to step into His will more prepared, more confident, and ready to succeed in God’s will. **Sign up for your training today!**







Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

By Daniel & Breanna Robbins

This season of life can feel overwhelming. There are so many decisions and opportunities ahead, but time and money are limited. So how do you know what God is really calling you to pursue?

Every believer is called to grow closer to Christ by reading God's Word, praying daily, and sharing the Gospel. Some of us learned that Sunday school song "Read your Bible, pray every day, and you'll grow." But where do we go from there?

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) isn't just for missionaries; it's for all of us. What's unique is how God calls each person to live that out.

For example, Daniel sensed God's call to missions as a teenager, but he didn't know where. Then a family member's interest in Japan sparked his curiosity, and as he started researching, he realized just how great the spiritual need is there. Located in the 10/40 Window, Japan is an unreached nation where many people have never even heard the name of Jesus. That burden grew stronger when Daniel went on a mission trip and saw the need firsthand. Looking back, it's clear God was gently connecting the dots all along. **God showed Daniel how he should serve—one decision at a time.**

Breanna's story began differently. She came to Christ later in life, searching for direction and fulfillment in whatever caught her attention—but none of it truly satisfied because Christ was missing. When she surrendered her life to Him, she laid everything down and waited for God to make His purpose clear. **Breanna knew she was called to share the Gospel, but she didn't know her "how." Over time, God revealed it through a lifelong interest in learning Japanese** and countless opportunities to build meaningful relationships with people from Japan.

Our separate decisions to join a BIMI CONNECT trip brought us together—and, eventually, to marriage. Our choice to attend CAMP BIMI, deepened our understanding of missions. As we sought the Lord in prayer and godly counsel, each decision brought greater clarity and new blessing.

God has uniquely equipped each of us with interests, talents, and circumstances to reach people others can't. That might be through our job, our passions, or the people we cross paths with every day. God knew each of us before our own mothers got a chance to meet us, and His plans for our lives were already in place (Isaiah 43:7; 1 Corinthians 10:31). Just as He set Jeremiah apart before birth (Jeremiah 1:5), He has set you apart for a unique purpose too.



He has placed you exactly where you are to bring Him glory in a way only you can, but through His divine enablement. Psalm 73:28 reminds us to draw close to God and learn to trust Him first. And when we trust Him and keep Him central in our decisions, He promises to guide our steps (Proverbs 3:5–6).

So, keep reading your Bible. Keep praying. And don't ignore the interests God has placed in your heart. **When you follow Him, one decision at a time, you'll never regret where He leads you. We look forward to where God will take us next.**

Daniel and Breanna are **CAMP BIMI** Alumni preparing to go to Japan as missionaries.





TESTIMONIAL

Deputation Demystified

What I Learned Before Ever Starting

To me, deputation sounded daunting. I pictured endless phone calls to pastors, thousands of miles on the road, and living out of a suitcase—all while asking complete strangers to pray and give. Even after our family answered God's call to missions, we quickly realized that getting there would not be easy.

As we asked God for help, He led us to people who gave direction for deputation and beyond—missions directors, pastors, veteran missionaries, and others (many of whom we met at CAMP BIMBI). They answered questions, relieved worries, and encouraged us along the way. God used their counsel to help us make wise decisions and keep a right perspective. Here are a few lessons we learned from them—before we even started.

1. Deputation Is First a Ministry.

While on deputation, we learned to minister to others who were discouraged in the work—pastors, church members, and even other missionaries. Sometimes simply praying with someone makes a great difference. In the busyness, your own family can be overlooked too—they need encouragement as well. We learned to be a blessing to others, just as they were a blessing to us.

2. Deputation Is About Building Relationships.

Some of the best advice we received was to avoid cramming our schedule. Instead, we learned to slow down and spend time getting to know pastors and their churches. God helped us form friendships with wonderful people. The focus should be relationships—not just reaching 100% support.

3. Deputation Is an Opportunity to Impact the Next Generation.

When my wife and I were younger, God used several missionaries to influence our hearts toward the mission field. Once we were on deputation, we learned to pray that God would use us to influence the next generation too. We wanted to encourage today's young people and help churches stay engaged in missions.

4. Deputation Doesn't Always Mean Nationwide Travel.

Sometimes a missionary does have to drive a long way—especially if your home base is somewhere like Wyoming. But a missions director gave us some advice that reshaped our thinking. He said, “If I could do deputation over again, I’d try to keep most of my support within a five-hour radius.” Working intentionally to localize support can lower expenses, reduce family fatigue, and make furloughs more sustainable. By God’s grace, we raised about two-thirds of our support within five hours of home.

5. Deputation Can Be an Amazing Experience.

Yes—it is possible to enjoy deputation. God wants missionaries to leave the deputation trail with strengthened faith, a solid base of supporters, a closer family, and a heart full of good memories. To this day, our family looks back on deputation as a wonderful chapter in our missionary journey.

Deputation brings real challenges, but it also brings real rewards. If you embrace it with the right perspective and focus, it will prepare you for future ministry and bring great glory to God. Done well, deputation can be a genuine blessing.

The author is a CAMP BIMI Alumnus and BIMI Missionary serving in an undisclosed country in Southeast Asia.





Mentored Ministry *as a Next Step*

Some steps toward missions happen best with guidance—close enough to ask questions, serve, and be shaped before you carry the weight of full-time ministry on your own. **BIMI SMART** was built for that kind of preparation.

SMART stands for **Strategic Mentorship And Reality Training**. This internship connection ministry exists to connect potential missionaries with local churches for hands-on learning under experienced mentorship—aimed at long-term, effective service.

What you'll experience:

- **Real ministry exposure** — observe and participate in a cross-section of missionary work, from outreach and discipleship to practical logistics.
- **Personal mentorship** — receive regular instruction and feedback that strengthens discernment, character, and ministry judgment.
- **Church-centered training** — serve alongside local church leadership in a supervised setting that prioritizes faithfulness and teamwork.

How it works: You're placed with a vetted missionary mentor who provides room and board, sets expectations, and meets with you regularly while you serve in supervised ministry.

Next step: If you're **20+**, have **two years of Bible training**, and your pastor recommends you, start the application and placement process at www.BIMI.org/SMART.



CAMPBIMI

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