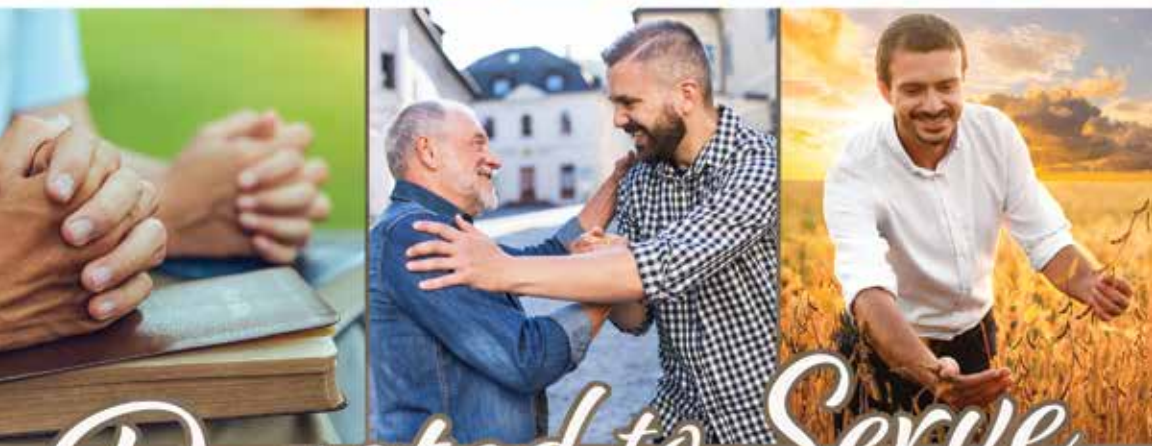


# BIMI

Vol. 62, Number 1, 2026

# WORLD



## Devoted to Serve with Delight

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# Devoted to Serve with Delight

Our God is a wonderful God! He deserves all of our honor, worship, and praise. Every good thing we possess has come from Him—the One Who is eternally gracious and merciful. The goodness of the Lord should naturally lead us to a life of devoted service that we joyfully carry out every day we live. However, because of our sin nature, we tend to forget the benevolence of God and often do not serve with devotion or delight. Since it is good to be reminded regularly about God's goodness, the 2026 theme I have chosen for

BIMI is *Devoted to Serve with Delight*. I pray that it will be a reminder throughout the year that we can and should serve the Lord with delight from a heart filled with devotion. There are three main thoughts in this year's theme: devotion, service, and delight. In this editorial, I would like to connect those

three thoughts to each other and to the Great Commission.

The word **DEVOTION** means "Religious fervor; an act of prayer or private worship... the act of dedicating something to a cause, enterprise, or activity... *Devoted* refers to one's commitment to another through love and loyalty."<sup>1</sup> As I consider that definition, I am struck with the prominence of worship and love as it relates to dedication and commitment. When it comes to the Great Commission, there is no way we can accomplish it without being fully devoted to the task. So, how can we raise the level of our devotion for worldwide evangelization? The only way this will happen is if we worship God from a heart that is fully in love with Him. True devotion to the Lord of the harvest field leads to service in the harvest field of the Lord. I remember after being saved at eight years of age, my whole world changed. My life was now about serving my Savior. My faith as a child was great because my love for the Lord was great. As an adult,



David H. Snyder  
President/General Director

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Official Publication of  
Baptist International Missions, Inc.

All Scripture quotations are from the KJV.

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## TRUE DEVOTION TO THE LORD OF THE HARVEST FIELD LEADS TO SERVICE IN THE HARVEST FIELD OF THE LORD.

I find that I need to regularly recommit myself to both a childlike faith in my Savior and a childlike love for my Savior.

As mentioned above, **SERVICE** to the Lord flows from a heart of love for the Lord. Without a doubt, the heartbeat of God is missions. It is unmistakably emphasized throughout Scripture that God uses laborers—servants—to accomplish His will. Since God is omnipotent, He could complete the Great Commission on His own. However, He has chosen to use human instruments. Although I did not understand how God would or even could use me, I surrendered to full-time missions when I was ten years old. I began to experience what serving the Lord was all about when I got involved in the bus ministry and other ministries within my local church. God has used—and continues to use—those times of service throughout the past several decades of my life. It is encouraging to know that my service to the Lord *is not in vain*.<sup>2</sup>

If we are truly devoted—worshipfully dedicated—to serving God, we will find **DELIGHT** in serving Him. The Psalmist wrote, *I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart*.<sup>3</sup> Here again there is a connection between devotion (God's Law in his *heart*) and service (*doing* God's will). It is because of that connection the Psalmist experienced joy in serving the Lord. Too often we seek for delight so that we can serve with devotion. However, I believe it is important to start with devotion, which will lead to a grateful attitude, allowing us to serve with joy. That is not to say every aspect of our service will be delightful. While serving the Lord, I have experienced a tremendous amount of trials. However, as I continued to serve through the midst of those trials, the delight came later. Again, worldwide evangelization is definitely the will of God. Thus, we can and should experience an eternal delight as we fulfill His will.

There is a Great Commission to be *completed*—not just *considered*. Lack of devotion, service, and/or delight will greatly hinder getting the message of salvation around the globe. If we begin with devotion to God, it will lead to service for God and enable us to say *I delight to do thy will, O my God*. In other words, the only way to effectively reach the world for Christ is by being *devoted to serve with delight*. 

1 [www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/devotion](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/devotion)

2 1 Corinthians 15:58

3 Psalm 40:8



## God's Incredible Opportunity in El Salvador

*By Pastor Adam Fridenstine, Emanuel Baptist Church of Cojutepeque*

There are moments in ministry when we look back and see God's hand clearly, even in seasons that felt uncertain or difficult. Our church, Emanuel Baptist Church of Cojutepeque, went through one of our hardest seasons of life and ministry so far. It was a season of challenges, testing, and growth. Yet, as we remained faithful, God was quietly preparing something extraordinary—a ministry opportunity that would touch tens of thousands of lives across El Salvador.

During that challenging season, I met the director and subdirector of the national police in my office. That day God planted a seed of friendship with the subdirector that would blossom into a ministry opportunity beyond anything I could have imagined.



About a year later, I presented a plan to place the Word of God into the hands of every police officer in the country. The subdirector shared this vision, and we began praying and planning. Soon, Faith Baptist Church, Pastor Mark Smith, and several other generous churches in the United States joined us in helping to design, print, and ship Bibles and New Testaments for all **30,000 police officers**.

With approval from the top leadership, we began visiting police stations nationwide. We presented each officer with a Bible, sharing the message of salvation and hope through Jesus Christ. Station by station, officer by officer, God opened hearts. At this point, over halfway through the force, the response has been overwhelming—officers receiving the Word of God with gratitude and joy.

But God was not finished. One day a pastor serving as a military chaplain called me after hearing about the police project. Could we do the same with the military? After a series of meetings with high-level leaders, we were granted permission to distribute Bibles to every member of the armed forces. Once again, our faithful partners in the States provided the Bibles.

On October 2 we had a historic first presentation. Standing before the top military leadership of El Salvador, we personally presented each one with his own Bible. The scene was humbling—national leaders receiving the Word of God with respect, honor, and anticipation. We now await permissions to continue the distribution across every military base.

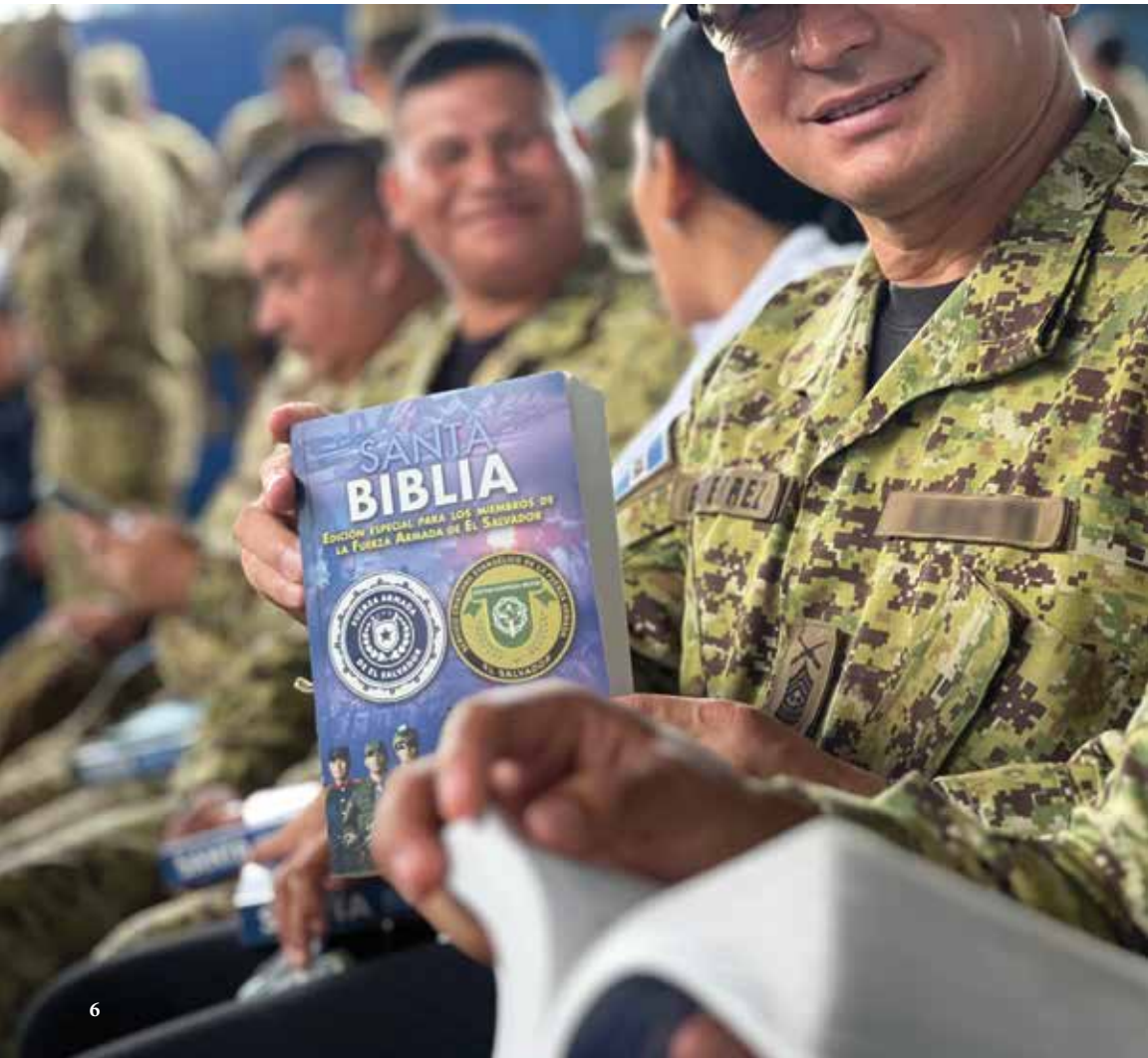
This incredible opportunity reminds us that God often works through hard times to accomplish His purposes. Romans 8:28 says, *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.* What once seemed like challenges were actually God's preparation for fruit that would last far beyond our imagination.



Faithfulness in one place, even during trials, brings a harvest in due season. Galatians 6:9 encourages us—*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.* By persevering through the trials, praying for the right doors, and staying committed to the calling God has given us, He opened doors to influence tens of thousands of lives for eternity.

As we continue to travel from police stations to military bases, carrying Bibles and the message of the Gospel, we are reminded that God is still at work. He is still opening doors, changing hearts, and using ordinary people to do extraordinary things for His glory. Every officer and soldier who receives a Bible has the opportunity to encounter the Prince of Peace—a protection far greater than any uniform or weapon.

Indeed, serving God is the greatest joy. Difficult seasons, faithful service, and perseverance are never wasted. God is moving, transforming lives, and proving that His ways are higher than ours. This is an incredible reminder: no matter where we are, in our trials or triumphs, God is still doing amazing things around the world. [W](#)



# A Worthwhile Investment


By Bryan Baggett



It is a great honor to serve our U.S. Military Forces and their families through the Gospel ministry of our missionary efforts here at BIMJ. Many of our military churches have been in existence for decades and have been filled with countless congregations that have rotated in and out during their time of active duty service. In addition to the active duty military personnel, these churches also provide a home church experience for many military contractors and embassy personnel as well as English-speaking nationals from the host country.

One of these churches, Faith Baptist Church of Iwakuni, Japan, has been in existence for over 40 years. The church owns its property and its buildings, which is not a common occurrence among our Military Ministries. This particular church has served as a Gospel preaching, soul-winning station for the Marine Corps and Naval aviation communities. As mentioned in some of my other articles, the government is planning to widen the road where the church currently sits, just outside of the gate of the base. This expansion will greatly reduce the church's lot size and will necessitate a dramatic change. In order for us to remain in close proximity to the base, it means that the buildings that are well past their original designed lifespan must be torn down and a new building reconstructed. This is all in order to maintain this wonderful location for decades to come.

It has been a tremendous blessing to see the number of souls that have been saved through the efforts of this church, currently under the leadership of Missionaries Brandyn and Alicia Knight. As a result of their Friday night Rally Point outreach and the preaching of the Word of God by Pastor Knight, the church is seeing tremendous growth. They have already seen their sanctuary and current overflow room filled.

In January 2025, we set out to raise the funds for this much needed demolition and rebuilding. The goal has been set to raise \$800,000. This amount will not only provide for the demolition needed but also for the construction of a three-story multiuse building with church auditorium, fellowship hall, and classroom space. This will be a brand new building that should serve for many decades to come. As of November 2025, we have seen over \$450,000 come in for this project. We also have a matching funds offering of \$175,000. All of this together will take us to the goal of \$800,000. We appreciate those investing in a cause like this where so many of our young Marines and Naval aviators will come to know the Lord, be discipled, and be prepared to serve the Lord for the remainder of their lives! 



# Laborers Together with God

## A Testimony of Teamwork in Missions

By Josh & Bethany Furan — Serving in the border region of Northern Ireland

### A City of Two Names, One Hope

In the border region of Northern Ireland, where deep political and religious divisions still shape daily life, the Gospel is doing a quiet but powerful work—building up a church that reflects unity and local ownership. Our family has the privilege of serving in the city of Derry/Londonderry alongside national pastor James Wilson, and we have seen firsthand the power of teamwork in missions. Derry (as Catholics call it) or Londonderry (preferred by Protestants) is a city long marked by sectarian conflict. Most residents, whether from Catholic or Protestant backgrounds, are non-practicing in their faith and disconnected from the Gospel. Yet here, the Lord is at work—not through flashy methods or strong personalities but through patient teamwork and a shared vision for indigenous church growth.

### Working Together for a Strong Local Church

Two and a half years ago, God led us to begin serving with Pastor James Wilson and Derry Baptist Fellowship with the goal of helping it grow into a fully indigenous body: **self-governing, self-supporting, and**

**self-propagating.** This is the biblical model of missions—equipping local believers to lead, serve, and multiply. When we arrived, the church with limited resources and outreach averaged about 15 in attendance.

But we joined hands with the national pastor, trusting God to bring the increase. And He has! Today, average attendance has tripled and more than 70 people attend semi-regularly. Ministries for children, teens, men, and women have been launched. Tract distribution has soared from 2,500 a year to more than 50,000 annually. Local giving has quadrupled, and more members have joined and are now serving faithfully in the ministry.

### The Fruit of Discipleship

One of the clearest pictures of teamwork bearing fruit came this August. For two years, we had been investing in a local teenager through the youth group and weekly Bible studies. After one youth event, he approached Josh and asked how to be born again. Josh explained the Gospel again and gave him a tract, encouraging him to read it before their next meeting. Later that week, the young man told Josh he had gone home, read through the tract,



and while he was alone in his room, prayed and asked Jesus to save him from his sins. What makes his story so special is how many different people God used to bring him to that point. If it were not for the teamwork of others in the ministry, we would not have had the time to start a youth group or hold consistent Bible studies with him. On top of that, God used the testimonies of a US missions team this summer to stir his heart and show him what genuine salvation looks like. His salvation was not the result of one person's effort but the fruit of many working together—each playing their part in God's plan to reach one soul.

### Challenges & Opportunities

While we rejoice in God's blessings, we also recognize the challenges that remain. The larger Irish Catholic population is still difficult to reach, with many hearts hardened by sectarian history and religious tradition. Yet even in that soil, we are seeing new shoots of life. Our vision is to continue evangelizing, discipling, launching new Bible studies in unreached areas of Derry, and preparing for future church planting in nearby County Donegal. The focus remains the same: strengthen local leadership, invest in people, and see churches grow to the point where they can stand on their own and plant others.

### Why Teamwork Matters

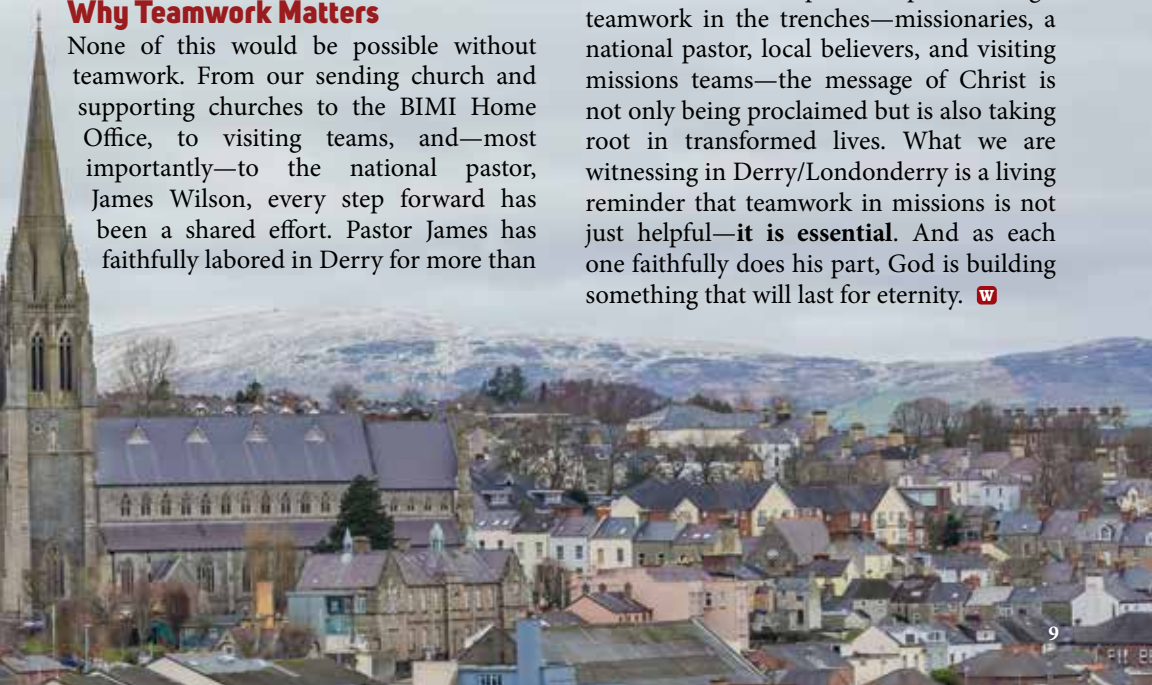
None of this would be possible without teamwork. From our sending church and supporting churches to the BIMi Home Office, to visiting teams, and—most importantly—to the national pastor, James Wilson, every step forward has been a shared effort. Pastor James has faithfully labored in Derry for more than



a decade after the church was planted by another American missionary, and it is our privilege to work alongside him. Healthy Gospel work is not about one missionary or one church working alone but about God's people serving together, each doing their part so the Gospel advances. As Paul reminded the Corinthians, *So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase* (1 Corinthians 3:7).

### A Testimony of Unity

In a city long defined by walls of division, the church is becoming a powerful testimony to unity in Christ. In Derry, there are still very few places where Catholics and Protestants gather side by side. Yet at Derry Baptist, we rejoice to see them worshipping together—not because old divisions have suddenly vanished but because the Gospel has broken down the barriers that once kept them apart. Through teamwork in the trenches—missionaries, a national pastor, local believers, and visiting missions teams—the message of Christ is not only being proclaimed but is also taking root in transformed lives. What we are witnessing in Derry/Londonderry is a living reminder that teamwork in missions is not just helpful—it is **essential**. And as each one faithfully does his part, God is building something that will last for eternity. **W**





# THE POTENTIAL OF PARTNERSHIP


By Jason Ritchie, Pre-field Ministries Director



An experiment was conducted comparing a draft horse's individual pulling power with that of a team. Eight thousand pounds was the maximum a single animal could pull, but two horses working together pulled up to thirty-two thousand pounds! The synergy of teamwork accomplished more than individual effort.

Whether parenting, playing sports, or participating in missions, the principle is the same. More can be accomplished by working together. Ecclesiastes 4:9a and 4:12b say *two are better than one . . . and a threefold cord is not quickly broken*. God did not intend for you to fulfill your calling alone. He has provided partnerships in the ministry.

Our greatest partner is the Lord *For we are labourers together with God* (1 Corinthians 3:9). But there are other partners needed such as your spouse, sending church, and supporting churches. One important partner to have is a good mission board.

**Baptist International Missions, Inc. (BIMI), can be a valuable help to your ministry.** With more than 700 missionaries on 100 fields, we have the experience and logistical support you need. Our doctrinal position and conservative standards remain the same as at our founding in 1960. Visit [www.bimi.org](http://www.bimi.org) to learn more or to make application. 



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Amedee  
Africa**

**Chad & Cynthia  
Pape  
Dominican Rep.**

**Francisco & Megan  
Méndez  
Dominican Rep.**

*One family undisclosed*

# NEW MISSIONARIES DECEMBER 2025

It is a privilege to introduce our newest additions to the BIMI missionary family. These missionaries were accepted by the Board of Trustees in December. Please pray for each one as he/she begins his/her pre-field ministry. If your church is looking for new missionaries to partner with, one may find information about these families and their fields of service at [www.bimi.org](http://www.bimi.org).



## A Bible For Bolivia's Largest Unreached People Group

By Luke Marie

BIMI has missionaries working with Deaf churches in four South American countries, yet **the Deaf remain the largest unreached people group on the continent** with a total population of nearly 20 million. Less than two percent have been evangelized or profess faith in Christ. The Deaf are a people group with a disability that is invisible to the eye. They appear as if they are fully functioning. Therefore, they live among us but are a misunderstood people group. Most hearing people believe that sign language is the same in every country, but in reality there are more than 300 sign languages worldwide. Another misconception is that hearing people assume that deaf people are literate in whatever language is spoken in their country. However, for the Deaf, that language is a foreign language.

A deaf person's heart language is sign language. Sign language has its own grammar and structure that does not conform to

spoken languages. As hearing people try to reach deaf people for Christ, many use the written Word of God, Gospel tracts full of verses, and other literature without realizing just how little of the written language the Deaf understand. To best reach deaf people, they need to be ministered to in their own language! Because no Bible exists in their language either, this also means that biblical terms most likely do not exist in their language. It is very challenging to develop biblical terms in a way that the Deaf can clearly understand and know God.



The Maries have been missionaries in Bolivia for over 17 years. After they started the only Deaf church in the city of Santa Cruz over seven years ago, God opened a door of opportunity to take on the ministry of translating the Bible into Bolivian Sign Language. The Bible translation project started almost seven years ago when there was a realization within translation


communities that many deaf do not read and that they have never had access to the Word of God. I am leading a team of translators who are interpreting the Bible into sign language by way of a series of videos. By means of this video Bible, Bolivian deaf people who are unable to read the Spanish Bible now have access to portions of the Word of God through this translation as we complete new segments of the Bible each year.

Churches are founded on the Word of God. While we can establish numerous Deaf churches if they do not have access to the Bible in their native language (sign language) and they are unable to read the written Bible, then the longevity of the church is limited to the presence of the missionary. God's Word is eternal and stands the test of time. A church built on His Word will endure!

Rodolfo Yabeta is a Bolivian who was born deaf and who was without language until the age of 17. At that time he encountered a deaf Christian man. This man introduced Rodolfo to sign language. He began learning sign language and when his family noticed his

ability to communicate (not with them because they did not know sign language but with other deaf individuals), they enrolled him in school at the age of 20 to begin his education. Rodolfo attended first grade through seventh grade but left school due to the embarrassment for being in the same class as young children. After seven years of education, Rodolfo remained functionally illiterate in Spanish and to this day is unable to read Spanish very well.

At the age of 27, Rodolfo placed his faith and trust in Jesus as his Lord and Savior. He then dedicated himself to pursuing God and has been involved in ministry for many years. Today, he serves as the co-pastor of *Iglesia Bautista Sordos Para Cristo*. Now at the age of 53, Rodolpho has finally gained access to portions of the Bible and is able to study and comprehend God in his own native language!

Missions within our Deaf community in Bolivia is like working with a blank slate. Due to their limited access to the Bible, their knowledge of God and religion is primarily based on observations and information received from others. The Deaf community presents a field ripe for the harvest—but the number of dedicated individuals to this unique field is very small. Please pray to the Lord of the Harvest for more laborers! 





# How Shall They Hear?

author undisclosed

Deaf people are found in every country, culture, and people group. However, many remain uneducated and unreached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. An article in the [Journal of Nepalese Studies](#) suggests up to 500,000 deaf people live in Nepal, but only around 6,000 use Nepali Sign Language (NSL) as their primary language. While some may read lips and use some level of spoken Nepali, it is likely that many of these are without full access to communication. The same is true in many countries around the world.

Romans 10:13–14 says, *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*

What does this mean for deaf people who have not been educated? Will they never know the Gospel because they cannot hear or read it? Brother D, a deaf BIMBI missionary in Kathmandu, Nepal, believes this should not be so. When Brother D meets deaf people, especially those without education, he seeks to help them first to communicate and then to know the Savior.

Dotiram was born deaf in a small village in rural Nepal. By the time he was five years old, both his parents had passed away. At eight years of age, Dotiram found a job in a small tea shop, cleaning tables and washing dishes, to earn daily meals and a small salary. He never had an opportunity to go to school of any kind.

As an adult, he interacted with a few deaf people and learned some sign language. However, he did not become fluent in Nepali

Sign Language until he married a deaf woman who had attended school until grade seven.

Soon after he was married, Dotiram observed a co-worker reading a Bible. The man tried to tell him about the Bible, but he did not understand. Twice, when Dotiram faced medical needs for which he could not afford treatment, his co-worker prayed for him. After Dotiram recovered, his co-worker gave him a Bible and instructed him to pray every day. He began copying Bible verses, over time filling notebooks with words he could not read but longed to understand.

In 2020, during strict COVID lockdowns, Brother D contacted Dotiram. They talked on video chat for a long time. Brother D shared that he could teach him the Bible in NSL and Dotiram wept with joy. Over the next several months, they met regularly online.

At the time, Brother D was also training interpreters at a Baptist church in Kathmandu where his family attended. By God's grace, four interpreters were ready to interpret online services when lockdowns began. The local church broadcasted on YouTube and later on Zoom, each service interpreted into NSL.

After every service, Dotiram asked the missionary to explain things more fully. Throughout the week, he called Brother D asking what certain words from the Bible meant. Despite coming from a Christian family, Dotiram's wife, Pushpa, did not fully understand the Gospel. She often joined the video calls with Brother D and the online services.


Within a year, Dotiram and Pushpa expressed clear understanding of the substitutionary death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as well as His ability and willingness to forgive sin. They made clear professions of faith in July 2021 and continued to grow as they participated in online services.

In May 2022, Dotiram and Pushpa traveled 18 hours to Kathmandu to attend the church's annual missions conference and to be baptized. Both continue to be faithful in their service of the Lord. Dotiram attends online classes led by Brother D several nights a week. The missionary's wife has also been working one-on-one with Pushpa. Dotiram continues to call Brother D daily and invites friends to online services and Bible studies led by Brother D. Dotiram has learned to read well enough to study the Bible and has even begun memorizing Bible verses.

On September 20, 2025, Dotiram and his wife became charter members of Anugraha Baptist Church of the Deaf (ABCD) in Lalitpur, Nepal. ABCD is the first Deaf Baptist church in Nepal. Brother D's sending pastor and a team from his sending church attended the opening service of the church.

The inaugural service followed the First Annual Deaf Bible Camp. Seven deaf people from around Nepal, including three others who had also never been to school, attended the event. At ages 50 and 70, two have just begun learning sign language. Brother D was introduced to these deaf individuals a few months ago and now travels to their homes weekly to teach sign language and the Bible. They are excited to be communicating, and it is thrilling to see them begin to understand biblical truth. We pray someday they will fully understand the Gospel and personally trust in Christ for salvation.

It is estimated that only two percent of the world's Deaf population have been reached with the Gospel. Would you join in this effort? Would you learn sign language and seek to reach deaf people with the Gospel in your community? As you pray for missions work around the world, would you also pray that deaf people in each place would also be reached with the truth of Jesus Christ?

You may contact Brother D by email at [contact.abcd.np@gmail.com](mailto:contact.abcd.np@gmail.com). He would love to hear from you and to encourage your desire to reach deaf people for Christ. 




# CONNECT<sub>ing</sub> The Church With The Commission Of Christ

By Sean Lunday

## Why get your church involved in a missions trip?

In 2025, the Lord allowed us to lead five missions teams through BIMI CONNECT. Two of the teams were involved in construction and helped to build two new church plants. The other three teams were medical evangelism teams working in remote regions. In all, over 100 church members volunteered for one of the teams to spread the Gospel in Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and Suriname. We have often heard the quote from Missionary C.T. Studd: **“The light that shines the farthest shines the brightest nearest home.”** The Great Commission begins where we are! Missionary Studd did not stop there; he turned his back on a career as a professional cricket player to take the Gospel to China, India, and Africa. It was Studd who wrote the poem **“Only one life, ’twill soon be past, Only what’s done for Christ will last”** as a testament to his own desire that his life would count

fully for Christ. He understood the importance of the truth that God has given us one life that we can invest for eternity. Jesus made clear where that investment should begin when he gave us the Great Commission to ***Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature*** (Mark 16:15). 





# BIMICONNECT

## Why GO on a missions trip?

### **TO CONNECT us with and support the local church**

Jesus said, *“I will build my church”* (Matthew 16:18).

Though perhaps not the only way to fulfill the Great Commission, we believe that church planting is the best way. We believe that the local church is the hope of the world because we carry the only real hope and that is the Gospel. Jesus said, *“I will build my church”* and we can partner with Him in that endeavor.

### **TO CONNECT us with God’s heart to give us a greater burden for lost souls**

Jeremiah the prophet said, *“Mine eye affecteth mine heart”* (Lamentations 3:51).

One of the most widespread ways that a missions trip can change someone is by shaping and changing their worldview. Realizing that God is concerned about the entire WORLD and wants to use us to impact lives with the Gospel, we returned from the field changed and that has an impact in our local church.

### **TO CONNECT us with a community of believers on the field**

Paul the apostle was refreshed and *comforted . . . by the coming of Titus* (2 Corinthians 7:6).

Going and serving alongside a community of believers and missionaries will help one grow in his faith and strengthen those who may be struggling on the field by encouraging them to continue to be a light in a dark place.

### **TO CONNECT us with God’s purpose for our lives**

Romans 12:2 says that the will of God is *good, and acceptable, and perfect*.

Serving others will get us out of our comfort zones and shape our character in Christ. It challenges us to speak more boldly about His Gospel and to be more sensitive to his purpose for our lives.




## **TO CONNECT us with making a lasting impact on the field where we serve**

Paul said of the Thessalonians *For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power* (1 Thessalonians 1:5).

Short-term missions often gets a bad rap! Some will say that they do more harm than good. We work to actively avoid that from happening by developing long-term relationships and partnering alongside local churches. The national pastors/missionaries are the key to continue the follow-up work with discipleship to plug new converts into a local church. Our role is to serve alongside the local leadership, encourage, and support them so they have the fuel needed to expedite the church planting process.

## **TO CONNECT us with a common goal to fulfill the Great Commission**

Jesus commands us to *Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel* (Mark 16:15).

To share the Gospel with the nations, Jesus told us to be witnesses **BOTH** in Jerusalem and *unto the uttermost part of the earth*. We are to start at home and move towards the ends of the earth. We are to tell people from far and wide about the saving grace of Christ! 

# [www.bimi.org/connect](http://www.bimi.org/connect)

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**Email us at [connect@bimi.org](mailto:connect@bimi.org) for more information about **BIMICONNECT**.**



# Missions Full Circle In Guyana

By Sean Lunday




Guyana is the only South American country that lists English as its official language. However, the name *Guyana* is an Amerindian word meaning “land of many waters.” The country was known as British Guiana until 1970 when it officially became the Republic of Guyana. Even though it is located on the continent of South America, culturally, Guyana is very unique. According to the 2012 census, 40 percent of Guyana’s population is of East Indian origin and 25 percent are Hindus, making Guyana the country with the highest percentage of Hindus in the Western Hemisphere. Almost 80 percent of the country is covered by dense rainforest. Four major rivers wind across this small tropical country. All along those rivers are located hundreds of small villages, many that have never had a Gospel witness.

Noel Shrivnauth left Guyana as a young boy when his family moved to New York City. While serving in the US Navy, he surrendered his life to Christ. Upon completion of his military service, he went to Bible college where he met and married Charlene. The Shrivnauths recently celebrated 30 years as missionaries, serving in Guyana since 1994 and starting several churches around the country. Their main church Victory Baptist is in Georgetown. They have a small Bible institute called Teaching All Nations with 17 students enrolled who have just completed their first year of classes. Noel states:

A key to their ministry is the *Foundations of My Faith* discipleship lessons being used to help those who want to get grounded in their faith. I am discipling two medical people. One is an optician and the other a medical student in medical school. Last year I went through the three levels of the course with a medical doctor who is originally from India and attends our church. He and his wife completed the three levels. Before he came here, he was not a Baptist, but after getting grounded in the faith, he chose to become a Baptist. Through online teaching, he is now reaching others in India.

Noel notes that the doctor and his brother run a ministry in India to help pastors and to train them. He has already finished teaching all three levels of the *Foundations of My Faith* discipleship lessons to 160 pastors. The doctor said, “Since then, trained pastors started practicing soul winning, and more people are coming to Christ.” Noel says the doctor “has translated the lessons into the Hindi and Telugu languages of India so that he can reach a larger audience. He is now working to implement the *Teaching All Nations* Bible institute curriculum to that crowd.”

Guyana stands today in desperate need of God-called missionaries who will give their lives as “living sacrifices” to reach the hearts and souls of her people. An old Guyanese village chief, whose village sincerely wanted a missionary to come and live among them, was sorely

disappointed when he was told that there was no one available to go to his village. Not understanding the problem, he innocently asked, “If the Bible says *Go* and my village and I say *Come*, why is there no missionary for our village?” Can you answer the old chief’s question? Who will GO to be Guyana’s next missionary? 





# The Changing Face of Europe

By Don Thatcher

Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie, and Chevrolet ring out Americanism. America has been identified as having seemingly endless city streets lined with one fast food chain after another. Most of these fast food restaurants are pretty much American icons. When our family came to Ireland in 2004, fast food consisted mainly of the local fish and chip shop with McDonalds and an occasional Burger King in the major cities. Now, 21 years later, McDonalds has popped up in the small neighbourhood towns. We can also find KFC, Tim Hortons, Subway, Starbucks, and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts around the country. This autumn, Taco Bell and Wendy's have both

opened up shop with about a dozen more coming in over the course of the next year. What am I saying? I am saying that what was an identifying mark of American culture has made its way into rural Ireland. We moved into the city of Waterford in 2007. At the time, I could count the coffee shops in the city on one hand. Ireland was predominantly a tea-drinking nation, but coffee has overtaken the market. Today, there are a good two dozen coffee shops across the city.

Europe, composed of 44 historically distinct nations, is rather quickly being reshaped into a "new" Europe. The old face is evolving



and taking on a very different look. The backdrops of history, culture, and individual nationalism are giving way to the influx of migration. The Europe of the past is no longer the Europe of the present. The unique features of Europe's cultural and national past are becoming diluted, blended, and erased. Consider this statistic referencing citizenship ceremonies from the country of Ireland where we minister: "Six ceremonies are being held over two days for approximately 6,000 people. Applicants from over 138 countries and across all 32 counties on the island will make a declaration of fidelity and loyalty to the State and become Irish citizens."<sup>1</sup>

Since 2011, nearly a quarter of a million people from countries all around the globe have legally obtained citizenship in Ireland, a country of now 5.3 million people. This same trend is happening across much of Europe. The growing migration trend—legal or illegal—has also fostered a growing sense of resentment and push back from the national population in many of these receiving countries. Nationals and migrants alike face various difficulties as a result.

All of this migration brings with it the migration of multiple religions. The dominant religious backdrop in most European countries is quickly being eroded to give way to these other religions or even the forsaking of religion as a whole. Europe has been going through a significant makeover, resulting in a new look and voice. This makeover is sourced from over 193 different countries around the globe. That is a massive amount of diversity!

But even with the face of Europe changing, one thing remains the same—all migrating into any one of these European countries



comes with the exact same spiritual need. Unless they arrive into their chosen country already born again in Jesus Christ, they arrive with the same spiritual "lostness" as the nationals that we are called to reach in each of our individual countries of service.

The changing face of Europe is bringing people from every cultural backdrop from around the world to European countries such as Ireland. This brings with it different cultural and language challenges but the same spiritual need for the Savior. As Europe is being reshaped, we find that we have a broader range of "clientele" with some very different dynamics. The world at large is coming to a place near you (us). As it does, we must adapt as best we can to these new cultural differences so that we may reach these different people groups for Christ. The Gospel has not and does not change, but those to whom we administer the Gospel message have changed.

Would you make this a matter of prayer? More and more missionaries across Europe find themselves with new and different challenges than when they first arrived on their field of service. In the changeable and volatile times in which we live, may we by God's grace do all that we can to reach all that we can for Christ's sake. **W**

<sup>1</sup> [www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2025/0915/1533587-citizenship-ceremonies/](http://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2025/0915/1533587-citizenship-ceremonies/)



By Benji Dryden

In the early 1970's, Dr. Tom Freene, General Director of Baptist International Missions, Inc., suggested a Christian radio station be built on Antigua, an island ideally situated at the center of the Lesser Antilles. Around the same time, a group of Caribbean missionaries and pastors wrote BIMI expressing the need for a fundamental Christian radio station in the West Indies.

Soon there were three families (Al Snyder, Rolan Cornelius, and Curt Waite) on their way to Antigua to begin a radio ministry that would end up impacting millions of listeners.

There were a few "religious" radio stations and programs throughout the islands so Caribbean Radio Lighthouse (CRL) was founded for the purpose of setting "a standard of true Christianity through the use of doctrinally sound broadcasting and music that has the character of Christ" (Curt and Barbara Waite). When choosing a name, Al Snyder wrote, "We think the Lighthouse identity will help the spiritual purpose of the station to be better understood, and we are praying that God will use the beaming of the Light of the Gospel of Christ to lead many souls out of darkness and into new life in Jesus Christ."

Caribbean Radio Lighthouse began to take shape and on September 7, 1975, started broadcasting on the AM band for seven hours daily. For 50 years, CRL has not only been a beacon for the truth of the Gospel of Christ, it has also been a constant source of information and updates during the many

hurricanes that have come through the Caribbean over the past five decades. There have been a few times when CRL has been the only radio station on air during and following a storm.

The most effective way to teach an audience is with local radio personalities and programs that relate directly to a society and its culture. Praise the Lord for those individuals whom

He has sent at the time they are needed! Along with Christ-honoring music, preaching and teaching programs are heard each day. Several pastors throughout the islands are featured as well as call-in programs answering Bible questions and receiving song requests. There are wellness programs and public announcements. God has used faithful supporters of CRL over the years to keep the Gospel going out over the airwaves, and this ministry is well worth our prayers and financial aid. Nathan and Renee



Owens manage and care for this fantastic ministry and are in much need of more technical support. Although the Owens have been part of CRL for over a decade, they have been the only missionaries with CRL for more than half their time in Antigua. Please consider and pray about surrendering and becoming a part of this vital ministry.

It was my distinct privilege to attend the 50th Anniversary of CRL. I learned so much from listening to testimonies and reading about their history. One account was shared about a boat captain who lost all navigation equipment and was basically “lost at sea.” He remembered CRL and tuned his hand-held radio to 1160 AM. He followed the strongest signal, constantly checking his “bearings” until he found the safe harbor. What a physical analogy of the spiritual necessity for CRL! One lady wrote in how she was about to take her life when Oliver B. Greene, *The Gospel Hour*, said, “Don’t do it!” She gave her life to Christ instead of taking it and now has grown significantly in the Lord.

Over the last 50 years, CRL has been blessed to expand to 10,000 watts for 24-hours a day and can be heard for nearly 300 miles. In 2001, CRL also began broadcasting in Antigua on 92.3 FM from a tower on Boggy Peak. CRL has been on the internet for 11 years, and during the 50th Anniversary, they released a mobile app that can be found using the QR code, inviting all to easily download the app and listen to CRL via a smartphone or smart device.



Of the two ministry buildings on the property in Valley Church, one is a home for Nathan and Renee Owens while the other houses the studio facility. The downstairs of each building is used as dormitory space for visiting missions teams and workers, guest apartments, and other local church functions. These two downstairs Ministry Apartments have been honorably named for the Curt Waite family and the Jerry Baker family who served in Antigua for over 30 years.



Nathan & Renee Owens with CRL Staff

To see a photo album  
of the past 50 years  
of Caribbean Radio  
Lighthouse visit  
[www.radiolighthouse.org](http://www.radiolighthouse.org)  
and look for the 50 Year  
Photo Album under the  
About Us tab.



For nearly 25 years now, CRL has been making advancements toward an increasingly automated programming schedule. Their goal is to present God's plan of salvation to non-believers and to instruct and encourage Christians in the principles and doctrines in the Word of God. CRL continues to offer a free Bible correspondence course for all ages, and they freely distribute Bibles and Bible tracts. There have been many changes over the years, but through them all one thing has remained constant: CRL's commitment to maintain their adherence to the doctrines and principles on which the station was founded—a basis of biblical truth. [W](#)

## EDITOR'S NOTE

In November, a part in CRL's AM transmitter exploded, and the resulting fire led to catastrophic damage to some transmitter parts. Brother Nathan Owens was able to make some repairs and get the AM station partially on the air for their nearby audience. However, the transmitter still has many technical issues, and some of the necessary replacement parts are unique and obsolete. CRL needs to replace the 30-plus-year-old transmitter in order to reach their entire audience once again. Please pray that God will supply the necessary funds to get CRL back to full operating capacity. If you would like more information, please contact Nathan Owens at [lighthousebimi@gmail.com](mailto:lighthousebimi@gmail.com).



## Testimonial

# Get SMART, Get Involved As An Intern

By Sean Lunday

The acronym *SMART* stands for Strategic Mentorship And Reality Training. Recently, we hosted our first intern through the program in Brazil. As a graphic design major, Emaline decided to spend her summer serving Christ on the mission field as an intern for *Fundamento Cristão*, the Christian school curriculum organization headed by BIMI missionary Bethany Thompson. As an intern, her primary responsibility was to illustrate and design a third-grade reader called *Foot Prints* to be used next year in the Christian school. This book includes fables, character-building stories, and Bible narratives. Another of her responsibilities was to teach an English class in the Christian school.



During her time in Brazil, **Emaline** was also able to be involved in a dynamic church with a Deaf ministry and an inner city outreach. She writes the following:

“One of the biggest highlights of my stay has definitely been the church I am attending here *Templo Batista de Maranata* (Maranatha Baptist Temple). Brazilians are extremely friendly and relational and even more so Brazilian Christians. At church, I’ve learned to greet every man with a firm handshake and every lady with a holy kiss! On the cheek, of course. The congregation welcomed me warmly and let me know they had been praying for me even before I’d arrived.

The preaching has been a blessing with Bethany’s translating services for me. A few weeks ago, I sang ‘Rejoice in the Lord’ by Ron Hamilton for Sunday morning special music. The second verse and final choruses I did entirely in Portuguese! This church family has loved me so well, and I am happy for the further opportunities I’ve had to fellowship with them (even if I am still relying heavily on Google Translate).”



Perhaps someone reading these lines is looking for the next step in your missions journey. My recommendation is that you get **SMART**. As an “**intern**” you can connect your areas of ministry interest with needs on the field while being mentored by a veteran missionary who has years of ministry experience on the field to share. [W](#)

Email us at [smart@bimi.org](mailto:smart@bimi.org) for more information about **SMART**.

# Home with the Lord



Retired BIMI Missionary **Gail Huffman** (81) went Home to be with the Lord on August 26, 2025. She and Bob joined BIMI in 1967. Their service for the Lord began in a suburb of Paris. Gail and her husband were able to reach French people along with many people from around the world in this cosmopolitan city. The Huffmans' church plant began in rented facilities and eventually they were able to get their own facilities. Gail worked alongside her husband in all the ministries, which included camps, AWANA Clubs, and ladies' ministries. After her husband went to heaven (November 29, 2010), Gail continued to serve the Lord in France.

Retired Missionary **Al Anger** (93) went Home to be with the Lord May 1, 2025. Al and Rosalie Anger were accepted as BIMI missionaries in July 1969 and they retired July 20, 2004. For most of Al's life, he was a pastor and missionary, ministering especially to military personnel. The Angers went to Hawaii where they were involved in church planting. By 1990, the Angers had established a number of churches from the main church.



BIMI Missionary **Edwin Samuel (Sam) Dayanand** (51) went Home to be with his Lord, August 11, 2025. Sharon Dayanand joined BIMI in 2000 and Sam joined BIMI in 2005. They served faithfully in India. Their former director stated the following about Sam: "For two decades Sam has been serving the Lord in church planting, evangelism, and training of national men in the country of India. God has blessed his efforts with many people being transformed by the Gospel as a result. Sam persevered through some extreme and serious health challenges that have been faced as well as continuing faithfully despite the social and political climate that was very much against the spread of Christianity in India."

Associate Missionary **Audley Charlton** (84) went Home to be with the Lord November 29, 2025. Audley and Consie Charlton began serving as BIMI missionaries in 1975. Jamaica was the first country in which they served, which was their home country. In 1978 the Charltons began working with Bluewater Bible College in the Virgin Islands. Audley became the pastor of Calvary Baptist Church on the island of St. Thomas.



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## 2026 Trips

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July 13–25

**Brazil | Amazon Med-Evangelism**  
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**Brazil | Connect with the Deaf**  
July 23–August 4

**BOLIVIA | Amazon  
Med-Evangelism**  
August 10–20

**BARBADOS | Assisting Church  
Planting in the Caribbean**  
August 18–25

**GUYANA | Amazon  
Med-Evangelism**  
September 1–10

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