

Advance

In Review 2009



*Evangelizing,
equipping,
and edifying*



**a retrospective
of God's work
through Baptist
Mid-Missions**

"Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him." —Psalm 33:8

God at Work in the Best and Worst of Times!

I know that Charles Dickens was not speaking of this past year in the life of Baptist Mid-Missions when he said, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." But it fits.

This year spawned an array of stellar events. Some were genuine "one-of-a-kind" standouts. In that category was a visit in January from Pastor Christoph Rüttgers from Ingolstadt, Germany. His congregation sent him to the States on a "thank-you mission" to let Baptist Mid-Missions and the supporting churches of the Bunjers, Dailys, and Ellises know how grateful they were for these missionaries who labored faithfully to plant their church. None of us sought such effusive expressions of gratitude, but Pastor Rüttgers certainly did bless our hearts.

That was early January, and Pastor Rüttgers seemed to set the tone for much of what followed throughout this year. This In Review edition of *Advance* records much of what made this year one that we often wished would never end. Our great God worked greatly on our behalf.

But with the victories came a share of struggles. Most of what falls under the category of "the worst of times" grew out of the economic crunch we are all enduring. Slashing the budget, calculating how to manage with a smaller work force, and weighing which of the services we render might have to be scaled back were painful responsibilities. The financial needs of the Mission are as urgent right now as they have ever been. None of us would mind if that ended.

We are not, however, allowing that to be our focus. It certainly is not what this *Advance* highlights. Financial needs can be very distracting, but we have also found God using them to draw us closer to Himself, teaching us to trust Him more, and reminding us to give Him alone the glory for all that is accomplished. Completing that work in us could very well move the "worst of times" over into the category of the "best of times." That, too, will be evidence of a great God working greatly on our behalf!



Gary L. Anderson, D.D.
President



"Financial needs can be very distracting, but we have also found God using them to draw us closer to Himself, teaching us to trust Him more, and reminding us to give Him alone the glory for all that is accomplished."

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Mission Statement:

The Baptist Mid-Missions family exists to strategically advance the building of Christ's church, with His passion and for His glory, in vital partnership with Baptist churches worldwide.

Serving since 1920, Baptist Mid-Missions is a partner with fundamental Baptist churches as they send out and equip their members to evangelize and plant new Baptist churches. Our 1000 missionaries serve in over 55 countries around the world.

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Congress Extends IRA Charitable Rollover until 12/31/2009

The provision, originally enacted as part of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, permits IRA owners starting at age 70½ to make tax-free charitable gifts totalling up to \$100,000 per year from their IRAs directly to eligible charities. Contact Stewardship Ministries Department for complete details.

Building Up the Zambian Church

A Refuge of Compassion (ARC) was created as a BMM ministry in Zambia to serve and strengthen African churches toward biblical responsiveness. Earlier this year, ARC launched two ministry projects that offered strength to dozens of churches across Zambia's Southern Province and provided several of the same churches an opportunity to personally meet the spiritual and physical needs of their orphans.

The first was an Orphan Day Camp. Thirty-seven orphans from four of BMM's indigenous and church-plant works were invited to attend. At least two children placed their trust in Jesus! The camp's focus was to not only minister to the children but to also



MK Camden Smith (at right) and his best friend and neighbor, orphan David Kalaba.

encourage the personal, proactive involvement of each participating church. Sponsorships for a year of schooling, books, uniforms, backpacks, supplies, and personal items were gifted to each church and presented to the pastors for distribution to every child. By design, the method of distribution requires the church to personally interact with the children, their guardians, and the various schools. Through it all, the indigenous church, rather than ARC, has been at the forefront.

Another significant event for ARC was the cosponsoring of the Choma Baptist Leadership Conference. More than 60 pastors, church leaders, and



The children proudly showing off their new backpacks stuffed full of supplies and all their needs for a full year of schooling.

wives gathered for a four-day, scripturally rich conference that emphasized personal holiness, faithfulness, and integrity. The testimonies shared at the conclusion of the conference revealed the effectiveness of the event and the power of God's Word at work in the hearts of His servants.

With a strategic plan to reproduce these programs elsewhere across Southern Africa, the ARC ministry team is eager to be used again by God to further serve His church and His people for His glory!

Sustaining Ministry in Ivory Coast

During March and April, Steve King and short-term-er Joanne Sopt held financial seminars in Abidjan and San Pedro, Ivory Coast. The seminar material, provided by Crown Financial Ministries, taught pastors and business people to apply biblical principles to their work and personal lives.

Forty-five of the 107 attendees were pastors and church leaders who covenanted to teach the principles to another 100 people by September 2015. The end goal is to promote ministry sustainability long after missionaries are no longer present.

Joanne Sopt's knowledge in accounting helped her teach on budgeting, debt, and spending.



Attacks Displace Central African Villagers

The dispensary where Pastor Bissawé serves the health needs of local people and Bible school families.



Bandit and rebel activity has increased in northern Central African Republic, resulting in an estimated 200,000 displaced people. In February three villages were attacked and burned, and more than 1000 villagers sought temporary refuge on BMM's Bible school property in Kaga Bandoro. Pastor Bissawé, who leads the school, lived in one of the burned villages, but his family survived because they were not home at the time. Pastor Bissawé is now housing 48 survivors from his village, mostly children. To give to BMM's World Relief fund to help refugees, contact Larry Beckman at lbeckman@bmm.org.

Asia & the Pacific



Short-termer Tad Wychopen (at right) and Matt baptized three people on August 16.



By God's grace, the church did not have to give up its highly visible location in Kaohsiung.

Taiwan's Cornerstone Baptist Church Takes Step of Faith

By Matthew Hanna

Cornerstone Baptist Church in Kaohsiung held its first service in September 2002. Since then our family has been amazed and blessed to see God repeatedly shatter our expectations of what He can accomplish in building His church. In January 2009, our rented facilities were no



The Hannas have seen attendance steadily increase and broke attendance records in July with a high of 105.

longer big enough to hold our growing congregation, and we began to seek a suitable property for purchase. It didn't take us long to discover that any building big enough to meet our need was too expensive, and anything we could afford was too small. Then, in February, the business agency that had been occupying the corner property right next door to us suddenly and unexpectedly moved out.

The building had more than double the floor space and greater visibility than our existing church home. Furthermore, it would not require us to move our physical location in the community. However, the lease was double our current payment and

seemed beyond our ability to afford. But convinced that God had opened a door, our congregation determined to trust God and signed the lease.

Since moving to our new building, God has expanded our ministry and blessed us with numerous professions of faith, baptisms, new families joining our church membership, and unbelievers present in every service. Furthermore, God has faithfully sustained and expanded our church finances. We are still seeking to find land in our area that we can purchase for future use and are expectantly waiting to see what God will do next in the building of His church.

First Asian Director of Partnership Missions

Dr. Sana Singh was appointed director of BMM's Partnership Missions, a ministry that provides Asian churches with resources needed to fulfill the Great Commission. A native of India, Dr. Singh was saved through BMM missionaries and has served the Lord for 45 years, including Bible translation consultancy with BMM's Bibles International. For more information: www.partnershipmissions.org.



Sana and Nancy have served with Bibles International since 1997.

Encouragement for Japan



Pastor Quick (center) with BMM missionaries and Japanese church leaders.

Grace Baptist Bible School of Japan held its annual Bible conference June 10–11. Keynote speaker Dr. Bradley Quick, pastor of First Baptist Church of Elyria, Ohio, greatly encouraged the Japanese pastors and Christians who attended.

After years of faithful ministry in Japan, the missionaries are also thankful for a number of recent baptisms and salvations, including three siblings and their friends saved through Joe and Noney Mita's ministry.

First Arabic Service in Melbourne Church

To reach the growing number of Arabic immigrants in their Australian church, Phil and Lenna Waters held their first Arabic service August 2. Unsaved family and friends of the immigrants are also showing interest in attending these special services.



The Waters family.

EuroSem Places Seminary Students On-Site for Training

Travel has a way of sharpening the mind and opening new perspectives. When travel combines with

invaluable for students pursuing pastorates. EuroSem's strength lies in its combination of coursework and missionary mentoring. The academic segment is hosted by BMM's Bible institute in Algrange, France, with all classes overseen by missionaries with doctorates. For their practicum, students team up with a European missionary for immersion in real-life missions. Ministries may include church services, youth ministries, camp, university outreach, Bible college teaching, ministry mentoring, and more.

who directs EuroSem, says, "We have tried to adapt courses that will easily integrate into the curriculum of all of the seminaries with whom we have relations."

To learn more about EuroSem, visit www.euro-sem.org.



Students interact with both missionaries and local believers during their practicum.

academics, the lessons learned are unforgettable. That's what seminary students can expect from EuroSem, Baptist Mid-Missions' four-week European study program, which launched in September.

The program is ideal for anyone preparing for missions, but it is also

EuroSem's next session will be held June 7–July 4, 2010. Students not only experience missions in a highly tangible way, but they also earn academic credits through a partnership between BMM and the students' individual seminaries. Missionary Ed Christy,



Dr. Ed Christy with Ben Spink, who studied in France in 2007.

Macedonian Call from Spain

In February, a group of believers in Plascencia, Spain, found the website of Azuqueca Baptist Church (near Madrid), where Jonathan and Rachelle Lyons, Tony and Jenny Hart, and Mark and Hillary Stipp serve. Mark Stipp visited the believers and found that they had been meeting for seven years and had been praying the entire time that God would send them a missionary to help them form a church.



Plascencia was founded under the name of "Ut Deo placeat" ("May it please God").

The Stipps and the Harts have answered that call and plan to begin ministry there in October 2010.



An Easter service with the believers at Plascencia.

New Couples Join Romania Team

Romania has seen an unprecedented increase of new missionaries on-field. Nathan and Amy Freel arrived for their first term in mid-2008. With the arrival of Luke and Kim Warner in January 2009 and Dave and Ruth Kimmel in September, we now have three couples. A fourth, Travis and Becky Gravley, hope to leave for Romania in early 2010. Please pray that our veteran couple, Tim and Sandy Fink, may be able to rejoin their coworkers soon, following Tim's cancer treatments in the US.



The on-field Romania team, left to right: Kimmels, Freels, and Warners.

Latin America



Peruvian Partnership in Medical Missions

by **Joy Anglea, M.D.**,
BMM Medical Director

What could six college students, several veteran BMM missionaries, six local Lima (Peru) churches, and seven health care workers from the US all have in common? They all want to reach Peruvians with the gospel of Christ!

From March 12 to 21, we worked alongside Peruvian health care workers from a Baptist church in Lima. One-day clinics were

A grateful patient.

held in five churches, each in a different area of the huge metropolis of Lima. Most communities were quite poor, and patients were extremely grateful for the loving care provided to them. Some live in shantytowns on the sides of dusty, dry mountains and have to haul water up long flights of stairs to reach their shack-like homes.

Everything about this trip was marked by partnership in the gospel. Church members enthusiastically promoted these clinics in their neighborhoods and carefully planned follow-up with those making spiritual decisions. As patients were seen, Peruvian believers shared the gospel one-on-one with those waiting.

Camaraderie abounded between the American and Peruvian team members.

Jim and Becky Carlton, along with Gary and Penny Whipple, helped with logistical details, translating, and counseling. Each day the team of about 25—some speaking only English and some only Spanish—lovingly labored together for the sake of the gospel.

And the fruit? During those five days, 118 decisions were made, most of them for salvation. As the Scriptures state, some water, some scatter the seed, and some reap the harvest. On this particular trip, there was plenty of all three, but the glory goes to God.

Filling the Gap With Good Music



Paul Van Loh's annual music conference.

Five years ago, Paul and Susan Van Loh compiled a 435-song hymnal to give Brazilian churches a long-needed, updated selection of conservative music. This year, building on that project,

they completed a nine-CD kit of recorded music to accompany each hymn, and a CD of lyrics for PowerPoint.

The hymnal and CDs have been of great assistance to musicians learning the songs, but they also help churches lacking accompanists. The hymnal and CDs are available through the website www.vozdemelodia.com.br and have been distributed to Portuguese-speaking people in six countries.



Brazil's Fortaleza Academy Closes

Since 1953 the Fortaleza Academy had educated missionary and expatriate children in northeast Brazil. To date, 299 students have graduated and 494 have studied for part of their schooling years there.

However, as the missionary population dwindled and home schooling expanded, school enrollment diminished. Except for five remaining juniors and seniors, the



At its peak in the 1970s, nearly 100 students were enrolled in Fortaleza Academy.

school has ceased operations and will officially close in 2011. The school equipment will benefit other ministries. It is our prayer that the academy's ministry will continue to glorify God as former students serve Him.



Campus Bible Fellowship Goes International

Baptist Mid-Missions' ministry on US secular colleges will now be reaching out worldwide under its updated name, Campus Bible Fellowship International (CBFI). Patricia Strickland and Jodi Harrison became

CBFI's first international missionaries and are raising support to work in France and Spain, respectively.

olds. To reach them, foreign missionaries have conducted informal campus ministries but often lacked the time and expertise to do so. With a full-time CBFI missionary joining their team, church-planting missionaries can more fully reach this critical age group.

The move to international ministry was CBFI's biggest event this year, although its North America missionaries weathered storms earlier in 2009. Chapters of CBFI in Ohio and Idaho endured legal challenges from campus officials over CBFI's biblical requirements for its members. With help from the Christian legal groups Foundation for Individual Rights in Education and the Alliance Defense Fund, both chapters retained their status as recognized campus groups.

Despite the Ohio group's legal challenges, its CBFI missionary, Joe Holloway, was nominated for International Student Advocate of the Year on his campus.

Another positive outcome



A Thanksgiving student dinner hosted by an Ohio chapter.

Typically, the adult age group most responsive to the gospel on a given field is 18- to 25-year-



Twenty-seven missionaries serve with CBFI in 17 US locations, with more international campuses to come.

North America

was several more students desiring to join CBFI when they heard about the case!

Also in CBFI news, the first electronic edition of its manual, *Disciples in Deed* (DID), was released in May. This 76-chapter manual has been CBFI missionaries' primary discipleship tool since 1993. Newly revised, the electronic format gives considerable cost-savings and ease-of-use for both disciplers and students.

To order a DVD presentation on CBFI, contact Carol Lingle at clingle@bmm.org.



CBFI not only gives the gospel to unbelievers, but it is a spiritual refuge for Christian students.

Team Effort Launches Georgia Church

Seph and Christa Coutinho welcomed 77 to the grand opening service of Alpharetta Baptist Church in Georgia on April 5. Blessed by a small army of dedicated volunteers from their supporting churches, the Coutinhos thoroughly canvassed their area for months beforehand. They and their helpers offered acts of kindness to neighbors, such as raking leaves and giving roses on Valentine's Day to build relationships.

God continues to send them people hungry for the Word, and by His grace, they are seeing a new family added each month, on average.



Seph and Christa Coutinho with sons Boston, Carver, and Campbell. For more information on their ministry: www.atlantabound.org.

Landmark Number of Appointees

This was the year for North America in BMM's 2009 Appointee Class. Sixteen of our 32 new missionaries are called to ministries within the United States. Their appointment is a barometer of the growing opportunities for ethnic outreach within North America, with four couples intending to plant churches among Brazilian immigrants in the New England area. Another couple will work with Hispanics in Texas.



The 2009 Appointee Class.

We also appointed new directors for BMM's children's work, Baptist Youth Ministries—the first new workers in this ministry in more than a decade. Another couple will give pastoral leadership to an inner-city work in Cleveland, Ohio, while another plans to start a church in Carolina.

Missions Milestones

Faithful Servants

At our July Annual Conference, Baptist Mid-Missions honored missionaries who marked milestone years of service.

20 Years

Barry and Judy Byrne.....Zambia
Jackie Hopkins.....Brazil
Mark and Teresa Jacobsen.....North America
Dan and Valerie Woods.....Brazil

25 years

Jeff and Kim Abernethy.....CBFI*
Larry Beckman.....Home Office
Steve and Ricka Butler.....Home Office
Charles and Nancy Ellis.....Home Office

Allan and Diane Frey.....Peru
Elizabeth Mayner.....CBFI
Tom and Nancy Miller.....CBFI
Doug and Debbie Rowland....CBFI
Jimmy and Rhonda Shaw.....Brazil
Betty (Luytjes) Walden.....Brazil

30 Years

Dick and Pat Baucum.....Asia
John Boyes, Jr.....Home Office
Ken and Sharon Davis.....North America
Sylvia Eury.....Home Office
Mark and Debbie Seymour....Home Office

35 Years

Ruth Buerer.....Asia
Linda Dembeck.....Home Office
Paul and Sandy Jewell.....CBFI
Bev Kuehl.....Jewish Outreach Team
Karen Thompson.....Home Office

Churches Graduated in 2009

Iglesia Bautista Internacional
(International Baptist Church)
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Missionaries: Paul and Barbara Joles
Pastor: Miguel Mota



Peters Creek Baptist Church
Peters Creek, Alaska

Missionaries: Virgil and Nyladine Redmond; Dean and Julie Blood
Pastor: Brian Rolston

40 Years

Max and Louise Lanz.....Brazil
Lloyd and Marty Larkin.....Mormon Focus Ministry Team
Steve and Evelyn Stilwell.....Peru
Dick and Nancy Teachout.....Bibles International
George and Maxine Wells.....Brazil

45 Years

Jacqueline Eaton.....Bibles International
Marisue Lewis.....Brazil
Roger and Rosemary
McNamara.....North America
Dee Woods.....Brazil

50 Years

Joan Reiner.....Brazil
Ruth Shelpman.....Haiti

* CBFI=Campus Bible Fellowship International

Fifty-five missionaries received service pins, a total of more than 1700 years of ministry.

