Many people doubt the message of the Bible—until they can read God’s Word in their own language. For 35 years, Bibles International has been laboring to get that Word into people's hands and into their hearts.
As a child in the Central African Republic, I remember lying in bed at siesta time and hearing my missionary parents talking nonstop in English and Sango. The conversation went something like this:

Cap T lowercase eti space cap N lowercase zapa space cap A space lowercase ndoye space sese space so comma space tonga space so space cap L lowercase o space mou space melengue space ti space cap L lowercase o space ngenguele space oko … “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son …”

And so it went day upon day, never ending through most of my childhood. I did not comprehend what they were doing, but I knew they were not to be disturbed, and I knew what they were working on was core critical to the ministry to which God had called them. I knew Sango and I knew English, but I did not catch what they were doing in read-and-review of the entire Sango Bible. How many times though the Bible? I have no idea.

I have watched the process of translating the Word of God into the people’s language since my childhood in Africa. Though the how has changed dramatically over the years, the why remains constant. The why was explained by my father when he answered my question of how did Grandpa Rosenau decide which portion of Scripture to translate first into the Sango language? No hesitation: "The Gospel of John, because it was critical to telling the story of redemption." Today the why remains the same: it is for man to hear the gospel story of redemption and understand that definition of God’s love for them personally. So the why never changes—but what stunning advancements in the how of Bible translation!

I was recently in Chad, Africa, at the same time as Birch Champeon, Bibles International’s IT expert. I watched as he spent days fighting a virus infecting the computer program used in the translation process. I was reminded of the wonderful blessing to have the technology of computers, even if they get infected. You see, I knew the missionary who typed the entire Bible through three times, with three carbon copies each time. Now it is done electronically.

My grandfather sat for hours, days, weeks, and months with multiple Bibles spread in front of him as he worked with the language committee in translating the Sango Bible. Recently, I was in the Central African Republic when Chief Language Consultant Glenn Kerr was there. I asked him what music he listened to while running in the mornings. Glenn quickly responded, “Oh, I listen to the Psalms in Hebrew.” God is so good to bring minds like Glenn’s to Bibles International. Only two members of the original language committee for the Sango Bible had formal training in biblical languages.

Technological breakthroughs and linguists’ educational credentials have advanced light years from the early days. But the work still requires enormous skill and dedication. I applaud the hard work and expertise of our entire Bibles International team. Their work remains core critical.

Truly by grace alone,
4 > “God speaks my language.”
For 35 years, Bibles International has been extending the Bible’s reach worldwide.

6 > Giving them direct access to God’s Word
The process of turning a culture’s spoken language into a complete Bible brings glory to God.

10 > But can they read the Bible?
Among many people groups, literacy is an essential precursor to Bible translation.

13 > Accomplishing His purposes
When Bibles are released into peoples’ hands, the impact is remarkable.

16 > While it is day
Exciting opportunities in Myanmar.

17 > Bible Translation Day
Set aside September 30 to celebrate and support God’s gift of the Scriptures.

18 > Upcoming presidential events
Vernon Rosenau’s installation service and Gary Anderson’s retirement celebration.

2 > President’s View

19 > Stewardship Impact
“God speaks

“If one would look for the most challenging task that you could do in partnership with God, it would be found in the provision of Scriptures for those who do not have it, for it gives light and dispels the spiritual darkness of this world. It is, has been, and must be priority as far as ministry is concerned. The provision of the Word of God, which lives and abides forever, is a ministry which is the basis of all other ministries, for all depend upon the Word of God. It is the seed which brings forth eternal life.” —Paul Versluis
Bible translation has been at the heart of Baptist Mid-Missions from the start. Our founder, William Haas, was a gifted linguist who translated the first Scripture portions into Sango for the people of Central African Republic. As years went by, it became crystal clear that the establishment and growth of national churches depended on having accurate Scriptures in the peoples’ languages.

In 1981, Baptist Mid-Missions established its own translation ministry committed to Scriptural inerrancy and sound linguistics methods: Bibles International. They appointed India missionary Paul Versluis as founding director. Bibles International works alongside Baptist Mid-Missions, other mission agencies, and national churches to translate, publish, and distribute Bibles. Literacy efforts complement translation work to ensure Bible recipients will be able to read the precious gift they receive. Currently, Bibles International is conducting translation and literacy projects in 16 countries on five continents.

Over the past 35 years, the Lord has provided dedicated, skilled leadership through Paul Versluis, Fred Carlson, and Hantz Bernard. Pray with us as the Lord leads Bibles International now and into the future.
By Troy Manning
BI text production manager

Sola Scriptura!

This cry was one of the five pillar statements that ignited the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century. The reformers believed that laypeople should have the privilege of direct access to the Word of God, just as the clergy did, because all true believers are priests before God (1 Peter 2:5). This Reformation thus incited a flurry of Bible translation activities in the European languages. Before then, the Bible had been translated into only 33 languages. The greatest surge in Bible translation, however, came in the ensuing centuries when pioneer missionaries took the gospel to language groups that had no previous access to the Bible.
One of the well-known pioneer missionaries was David Livingstone (1813–73), who wrote the following about Bible translation:

When converts are made from heathenism by modern missionaries, it becomes an interesting question whether their faith possesses the elements of permanence, or is only an exotic too tender for self-propagation when the fostering care of the foreign cultivator is withdrawn. If neither habits of self-reliance are cultivated, nor opportunities given for the exercise of that virtue, the most promising converts are apt to become like spoiled children. ¹

The daunting task

Livingstone believed, like the other pioneer missionaries, that for Christianity to become deeply rooted among its converts, its divinely inspired truths had to be put into the converts’ own language, their vernacular. These pioneer missionaries had the daunting task of learning these unwritten languages, reducing them to a written form, working with the nationals to translate the Bible into that newly written language, and then teaching the nationals how to read their language. Since there exist many unreached language groups today, and since only 554 languages of the world’s almost 7,000 have a complete Bible, the task remains unfinished. The people represented by the languages without a complete Bible number 1.5 billion—20 percent of the world’s population!

Some might argue that the situation has changed greatly since Livingstone’s time, since the Bible has been translated into many languages and since missionaries have infiltrated the unreached language groups with these translations. Would it not be easier just to teach these new converts how to read the Bible in these languages? In some cases, the answer may be yes!

Language they can understand

In many cases, however, the answer is clearly no! When a language group prefers to cling to their language in daily life, or when they have negative attitudes toward the “language of wider communication” (LWC), then educating them in the LWC will not succeed. Even when the local government incorporates teaching of the LWC into their school system, they encounter disappointing results. Writing from 23 years of experience in Africa, Julia R. Van Dyken states about this continent, which has the world’s highest rates of illiteracy, “It is believed that the
continent’s limited literacy is related to the degree to which the mother tongue has been ignored in favor of the international colonial language.”

UNESCO has been pushing for mother-tongue education since 1953. Livingstone’s point continues to ring true in many situations. Missionaries still encounter Bibleless language groups, so their desire must be to give new converts the most direct access to God possible. They can show these believers that, just as God did throughout biblical history, He comes to them in a language they can understand. As the God of all language groups, He knows their language and can speak directly to them through a Bible translated into their language. They can approach Him with a faith that has been defined by words in their own language, and they can engage in Great Commission work because they have taken ownership of the task.

Two needs in translation
However, not every Bibleless language group needs a translation in their own language; some languages are indeed fading out of existence. On the other hand, numerous translations that have already been produced need to be revised or replaced because they were done on the basis of a compromising ministry philosophy, a weak methodology, or an inadequate translation philosophy. Of the current translations Bibles International (BI) is working on, around half are for language groups that have no Bible, and the other half are for those who have something they deem inadequate.

A missionary/national partnership
Considering all these complications, one can understand why the research on prospective projects can take many months or years of communications, field visits, and other research by our projects management and text production departments. We want to be sure that our investment of time and resources is truly helping those with the greatest need. If research becomes extensive and if linguistic study and literacy materials are needed before Bible translation can begin, the BI administration may need to give project approval status to allow for these months of preparation. Thankfully, our local affiliates in India, Myanmar, and Chad help greatly in the research process.
If these initial stages continue to go well, our local affiliate and the BI leadership can formally adopt the New Testament project (the starting point of every Bible translation). Then a translation consultant trains delegates from national local churches on how to do a translation project. These individuals are sent by the local churches and approved by the administrative committee of the project, the Coordinating Committee (CC). The consultant works with the CC to determine who should serve on the Read-and-Review Committee (RRC) and the Translation Team (TT). Our local affiliates function as local managers throughout the life of a project.

**Clear, natural, and accurate**

The translation consultant gives initial assignments at the training, and he or she plans for a return visit in six months to give additional training and to check the translation work that has been started. While the consultant is gone, the TT does a rough draft of the first book and then meets with the RRC to ensure that the translation is clear and natural in the target language. When the consultant returns for a content-checking workshop, he or she focuses mostly on making sure that the translation is accurate according to original languages of the Scriptures. Trial editions are usually produced along the way to test the translation and to begin giving people access to it. During the translation work, linguistics and literary consultants also help with language development [see article on page 10, “But can they read the Bible?”]. Running in conjunction with all these activities are the fundraising efforts by the CC and the BI stewardship department.

After repeating the process of meeting two to three times per year for around a decade, the translation undergoes extensive quality checks for about two years. The TT works with the translation consultant to check punctuation, spelling, consistent word choice, etc. The TT also works on add-ons—book introductions, glossaries, and more. All materials are then approved by all parties and sent to BI for formatting and publication. Once the text arrives on location, the language group organizes a dedication service. The process doesn’t end there. The New Testament is distributed and used and, if that process goes well, plans are formed to begin the Old Testament translation, which takes BI an average of 17-18 years to produce.

**Well worth the investment**

We at BI are confident that the complicated and challenging efforts in Bible translation are well worth the investment, both for the sake of the language group, who can now communicate with God in their own language, and for the sake of God’s glory, who is exalted as the God of all language groups.

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1 Missionary Researches and Travels in South Africa, p. 115.

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**THE WORK THAT REMAINS**

6,887 languages in the world
- 554 languages with a full Bible
- 1,333 languages with a NT
- 1,045 languages with just portions of Scripture
- 2,932 languages with some Scripture
- 3,955 languages with no known Scripture

Source: http://www.wycliffe.net/statistics

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India: Troy Manning (front, middle) with the Simte Bible revision team.

Myanmar: Translation team member Dr. Gozo Kham holds God’s precious gift: the Falam New Testament.
Why is literacy important?
Reading is a basic life skill most of us take for granted. But in other parts of the world, many people can only hope to learn to read. Bibles International works with local churches worldwide to give people access to the Word of God in their language. But if they cannot read, do they actually have access to it? Many of the communities BI works with face this reality, so teaching basic reading and comprehension skills is a necessity. A community will spend 7-10 years preparing a New Testament. BI literacy teams use that time to create materials to teach their alphabet and bring new readers to a level of competency that allows them to read a New Testament. Our goal is to have ready and excited readers as soon as the New Testament is available.

Literacy teams are conducting projects around the world. Here is a sampling of their current work.

Neao literacy project—
**Côte d’Ivoire** (Carla Franklin)
At the beginning of this year, we held the first Neao literacy workshop in about 30 years. After decades of unrest, education levels are generally low in this part of Côte d’Ivoire. But the Neao people were excited to create an alphabet committee and begin learning to read in their language and learning how to teach others to read. For many years, New Testaments and literacy materials have sat on shelves because there have been no literacy teachers to teach them. At the beginning of the workshop week, all but one person told us they could not read in their language. We pulled materials off the shelf anyway and passed them around. One person shared a favorite verse, and instead of reading it in French, we looked it up in the Neao New Testament. We practiced reading it together, and eventually a few people even wanted to read it by themselves. Many were so excited they kept reading farther in the passage. Eventually we had to ask them to stop reading their Bibles so we could get back to work!

Metanoia literacy project—
**Eurasia** (Connie Champeon)
A language we’ll call Metanoia is
spoken in a Creative Access Nation in Eurasia. The closest related language has a very distinctive script. The language that had been used for education in this nation is in a completely different script, and the official government language uses Roman/Latin script. If anything but the government script was used for Metanoia’s alphabet, the government would consider the translation to be subversive. But their language has different sounds from the government language. How could we adjust the Roman script to reflect their language and be approved by the government? We spent several days comparing their sounds with the script of the related language and the government language before we completed a proposal for how we would write Metanoia. When we finished that day, the head translator said, “This day will be remembered in the history of our people. It is the first day our language is in writing.”

Rawang Old Testament storybook training—
Myanmar (Bethany Boston)
At the beginning of the literacy teacher training workshop, we took time for the Sunday School teachers and pastors to introduce themselves and tell about their students. Many of them expressed deep concern for the children they serve, who will neither learn to read Rawang nor hear of Jesus’ name except through Sunday School classes. They see the children being enticed by worldly pleasures and many becoming involved in drug trafficking as they grow older. At the end of the storybook training, teachers took turns sharing what they had learned and encouraging each other. One teacher noted that, although they wanted to teach their young children at this crucial time, they had previously thought this was not possible to do well because they lacked specialized resources and developed curriculum in Rawang. Now they are excited to see how, with a few simple Bible stories and whatever Scriptures are available, they are capable of creating many new lessons of their own that meet needs they are seeing in literacy and in Bible study—and that they can make a big difference in their children’s lives.

Hakha Old Testament storybook training—
Myanmar (Connie Champeon)
It’s always encouraging to hear from people we’ve trained to see

Steps to Literacy

- Research a language community to determine literacy levels and needs
- Meet with the local language committee to make a plan for literacy that will be implemented while they are working on Bible translation
- Organize and establish letters of the alphabet
- Create a primer (basic reading book) that teaches each letter
  - Local communities write the lessons and prepare the artwork
  - BI consultants explain the process and do much of the computer work
- Train teachers to hold literacy classes in their churches and communities
- Evaluate letters used in the alphabet and spelling of words as more people begin reading and writing
- Prepare Old Testament Bible storybooks to develop reading skills
- Train teachers to teach these books

how they are using their literacy materials. Several years ago, Kristy Heisey (BI intern) and Carla Franklin had the opportunity to train a group of Bible college girls in Myanmar. The students used the Bible storybook materials and training in the summer to hold local VBS programs. Every now and then, Carla gets the opportunity to chat with them online and hear how they are doing. One of the girls contacted Carla recently and told her that she was using the Old
But can they read the Bible?

continued from page 11

Testament Bible storybook that week to teach a group of 12-to-15-year-olds. It’s so exciting to hear of their opportunities and the ways they make use of their materials.

Another student used the storybook materials and training in the children’s home where she is the housemother. Her mentor came by one evening and asked why the children were sitting so quietly and were well behaved (evidently that was not normal behavior). She told him they were doing the storybook activities, and it was so interesting they would pay close attention the entire time.

Teaching women—

Chad (Claire Hossack and Susan Hossack)

For many years, we have been burdened for pastors’ wives in Chad, where Susan serves as a BI translation consultant. Many women in Chad do not have the chance to go to school, so many pastors’ wives are not able to read. In the fall of 2015, we were working to train literacy teachers. One Sunday at church, we were introduced to a woman named Monique. Monique had been teaching the pastors’ wives to read in French, but she did not have resources to teach them to read in their own language. Claire began training Monique to use materials in some of the local languages. Monique is now transitioning her classes so the women can learn to read in their own language, giving them access to the Bibles in their languages. As the husbands attend Bible school and prepare for ministry, Monique is helping equip the wives for future ministry as well.

Women’s Bible studies—

Myanmar (Connie Champeon)

For almost 10 years now, our Old Testament storybooks and activities have been used in women’s Bible studies across Myanmar. Although many Christian women attend, the books have also been very effective as an outreach to Buddhist women. The storybooks teach every story from the Old Testament that is mentioned in the New Testament. Many women have questions about how the universe came to be, so the lesson “Stories of Beginnings” has been particularly effective in leading them to the gospel. One woman said she was very discouraged about her situation, but when she remembered she had the Bible study to look forward to, her burdens lightened.

After a teacher training workshop for the Burmese Bible storybooks, the workshop leaders told us they wanted to expand their Bible studies into the cities of Mandalay and Kalay. For a few years, the leaders have been receiving invitations to go to Shan State (near the border of China and Laos) to teach people there. They really would like to train a new group of Bible study leaders, but they have run out of books. The Bible studies currently going on have covered three of the storybooks, and their teachers are anxiously awaiting more. The leaders said the teachers are beginning to know more than they do, because they are the ones doing the actual teaching.
**Peru**

Tim and Barb Whatley—missionaries

There was great excitement on January 24, 2012, when the Quechua New Testament was read aloud at the dedication ceremony. The message was so clear that one lay pastor exclaimed, “God really does speak Quechua!!”

Within ten months of that date, we were asked if we knew about a Baptist church in the Quechua community of Willoq. The tour guide asking the question had been taking tourists to Willoq over a period of seven years, and during that time she had noticed a gradual, but dramatic transformation. During the guide’s first trip to Willoq, she had been appalled by the number of sobbing, desperate women who had pleaded with her to help them or their children escape from violent or abusive homes, but on later trips she observed a church had been built and many children were going to school. Women had stopped asking her for help. On her most recent trip, the guide finally asked a villager what had made the difference. She was told that the Baptist church had been teaching them what the Bible says and had now placed God’s Word in their hands and THAT had made the difference.

**Myanmar**

Kim Hibbard—BI translation consultant

Shared from Jonathan Bualkhaw (Bualkhaw translator) about how his people are using their New Testament:

The BI New Testament is only the second book ever printed in Bualkhaw. Until the printing of the BI New Testament, the churches had been using the Hakha Bible, even though they understand only about 60 percent of the Hakha language. When people see me, they hold onto my hand and say, “Thank you!”
you for bringing us this book.” People carry their New Testaments everywhere and read when resting during work in the field. They are clamoring for the Old Testament.

**MYANMAR**

Hung Kim—native speaker, Bible college president in Yangon, and BI adjunct consultant, regarding the recently published Zomi (Tedim) New Testament (ZSV):

The laymen say that the flow is good; it is natural, and the font size is so reader-friendly. A believer told me that once he starts reading ZSV, he finds it very difficult to put it down. Ministers say that they finally have a Zomi version from which they could do a proper in-depth analysis and preparation for preaching and teaching purposes. The senior pastor of one of the biggest Zomi Pentecostal churches told his church members to use ZSV because it is carefully checked by Greek scholars. On the other hand, we have also received suggestions for improvement. The translation team is keeping a list of suggestions. One of the main negative feedbacks is the fact that it’s only the New Testament. They want the Old Testament as soon as possible!

**CHAD**

Mamra Oudalbaye—Office Administrator for BI’s Chad translation center

We praise the Lord for the work that Baptist Mid-Missions has done through Bibles International. Since the Word of God was translated into some of our mother tongues, we have noticed a good understanding of this Word. We use it in many ways: in preaching at funerals when even unbelievers are present, during family devotions, visiting the sick, etc. Many among them have come to salvation because they have heard God addressing them directly in their own languages.

May God bless Baptist Mid-Missions through this precious work. Thank you.

**MYANMAR**

Testimonial from the August 2015 issue of BI Briefings

The importance of having God’s Word in an accurate, clear, and natural format is seen in the following statement from a Matu believer: “Before my people came to be Christians, they were fighting from village to village. They were ignorant in every way. We can say the gospel is our development. Since most of the people have converted to Christ, our conditions have greatly changed for the better.”
India
Kim Hibbard—BI translation consultant

Since the dedication of the Manipuri Bible in 2011, it has been exciting to see the members of our church bringing their Manipuri Bibles to services and using them to study at home. It is a special blessing to me to see the ladies using their Manipuri Bibles to study God’s Word and teach other ladies in the women’s fellowship. The Bibles have now sold out.

The Chakma people (India and Bangladesh) have had access to a Bengali-script New Testament, but many of the Chakma living in India don’t read Bengali script. When the BI Chakma New Testament was published using Roman script in 2012, the young people in the churches in India were able to easily read the New Testament in their own language for the first time.

The Inpui people (India) received their first New Testament in 2012. At youth meetings or special conferences, people are now eager to use their new Bible to share Bible stories or challenges. They say, “Reading from our own Bible gives more understanding so that we can freely share what we have learned and what really is written to other people.”

Myanmar
Joel Wagner—BI translation consultant

With the completion of the Bualkhaw New Testament, a vast horizon of opportunity for the use and understanding of God’s Word has become available and brings with it many possibilities for increasing Scripture use among their people. It is the desire of the Bualkhaw people that their New Testament be only the beginning, and toward that end they press on diligently for the entire Bible to be printed in their own language. The Bualkhaw hope to expand the impact of God’s Word in their language by seeing many Scripture-infused works developed and distributed as well.

A Bualkhaw dictionary will help standardize their language and grammar and, in conjunction with more literacy classes, will enable an abundance of Bualkhaw people to start writing. A Bible commentary series and preaching handbook will greatly improve the ministry of their rural pastors and evangelists who have a heart for training the Bualkhaw to know and love God more. Sunday School class books will allow many laypeople to become more involved in ministry as they grow in their understanding and ability to help others study God’s Word too. Songs written and distributed in Bualkhaw will help the churches not only in fervent corporate worship but also in bringing the truths of Scripture home to the Bualkhaw people in their daily lives. Audio recordings of Scripture can hopefully also be made available to the Bualkhaw people as a familiar form that is natural to their way of learning.

I think I can speak for my colleagues in saying that it is the prayer of all the Bualkhaw leaders, and those of us who are privileged to partner with them in this work, that the Word of God will increase among the Bualkhaw as it increased among the early church, so that the number of disciples will multiply greatly and the name of God will be made great among the nations!

The BMM/BI team is growing!

... And they are greatly needed on their fields of service. If God has touched you with the need of Bible translation/literacy, consider inviting these missionary appointees to your church as they seek supporters.

• Bethany Boston
• Christine Parker
• Isaiah and Rosanna Peterson
• Joe and Bonnie Valentin
• James and Jenna Wright

To contact them, visit www.bmm.org and click the Search Our Missionaries button.
John records Jesus as saying, “I must work the works of him who sent me while it is day” (John 9:4a). God is working in the country of Myanmar (formerly Burma) in multiple, miraculous ways so that His work can proceed in this area of Southeast Asia.

Ruling dynasties, wars, colonization, foreign occupation, assassinations, riots, house arrests of elected officials, and nearly a half century of military rule have made for a somewhat dark Burmese political history. Economically, the severe currency devaluation of the 1980s had drastic results, and Cyclone Nargis took the lives of over 130,000 Burmese people in 2008. On the religious front, Buddhists and Muslims clash on a regular basis. But just this year, a civilian leader was elected as part of a historic move toward a true democracy. In addition to that, Myanmar has opened its doors to foreign visitors, even allowing tourists in the once-forbidden Chin State.

God brought Baptist missionaries to Burma in the 19th century, not only to the capital city, but also to those rugged, uninviting Chin Hills, and many Burmese people were converted. It is with the descendants of those converts that Bibles International has been working to provide God’s Word to multiple language groups. And while day appears to be dawning for Myanmar on the physical front, God is also making amazing spiritual provisions for His people.

By Becky Kerr • BI editor

- **July 2005:** A BI couple took four interns to Myanmar, one of whom, Joel Wagner, started praying that the Lord would someday make a way to return and minister there full time.
- **June 2006:** The Bibles International Myanmar Society was formed, with strong national believers at the helm.
- **December 2014:** BI purchased land on which to construct a translation center that would provide meeting rooms for workshops, guest accommodations for visiting translators and consultants, office space, and kitchen/dining facilities.
- **March 2015:** At the request of Joel and Sarah Wagner, BMM officially opened Myanmar as a field of service.
- **December 2015:** All funds were raised for the translation center, with construction expected to be completed in October 2016. Also, the Wagners moved to Myanmar, where Joel will be an on-site BI translation consultant.
- **March 2016:** A team of BI staff members traveled to rural Myanmar to meet with six people groups who are begging BI to help them translate God’s Word into their languages.

Truly, day is dawning for the Burmese people, and truly God has been preparing Bibles International for such a time as this. May we work the works of our Father who sent us while it is day.
Did you know that in 1966 the US Congress established a permanent day of the year to honor Bible translation? **World Bible Translation Day** occurs **September 30** each year.

We invite your church to set aside the closest Sunday to develop or renew a love for the Scriptures and to raise awareness of the great need to provide God's Word to the millions who have no Scripture in their language. Contact Bibles International for information and bulletin inserts.

616-942-7712 • inbox@biblesint.org
www.biblesint.org
The presidential installation ceremony for Vernon Rosenau will take place at Baptist Mid-Missions’ 2016 Annual Conference in July. On the evening prior to the ceremony, a retirement celebration will honor President Emeritus Gary Anderson for his 30 years of service with Baptist Mid-Missions.

We look forward to honoring these outstanding leaders. Watch for an article about the celebrations on www.bmm.org and in the fall issue of Advance magazine.

Through Baptist Mid-Missions’ Memorial Gift Program, you can provide a lasting legacy by donating in memory of a loved one or in honor of any occasion.

Carolyn Bardole  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Beckman  
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Meyers  
Miss Norma L. Teeter

Paul Bunnell  
Mr. and Mrs. D. Dale Grosvenor

Al Casto  
Mrs. Sharon Casto

Frank & Lillian Crumb  
Kinsman Crumb  
Charitable Trust

John & Grace Kaminsky  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard I. Young

Wanda Lane  
Wanda Lane Estate  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Joe McLeland

Joe Pigeon  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard I. Young

Marilyn N. Saunders  
Rev. Glenn E. Saunders

Cora Wilkens  
Ms. Lois Ruth Colburn  
Mrs. Charlotte Gift  
Spruce Street Baptist Church, Newtown Square, Pennsylvania

In the home office of Baptist Mid-Missions, a team of believers works together to serve the needs of donors, churches, and the missionary family. They provide a living link between donors who give to Great Commission ministry, and missionaries who keep the gospel moving forward into spiritual darkness. Gifts to the Missionary Services Fund (MSF) help provide a spectrum of services to churches, donors, and missionaries. The Lord will use your regular support of the MSF to impact lives through our missionary family—lives like that of Li Hong (see p. 19).
THE HOPE OF ETERNITY REALIZED

Li Hong was the Chinese tutor of missionaries, though she didn’t know they were missionaries. As she began to teach them Chinese, they began to share their lives with her. Slowly, carefully, she began to open up with this new family. She had been a student protester in the days of Tiananmen Square, joining with her generation seeking freedom. And just when it seemed hopeful they might succeed, all the dreams of a generation were crushed. Years of pain followed. Marked as a protester, she was assigned a work unit away from her husband and daughter in a small, out-of-the-way village in a dead-end job. And now she was teaching the foreigners.

As Li Hong shared her griefs and joys, they shared their source of hope. She listened. She heard words of hope from the Bible and learned that even the Son of God suffered grievously. At first these seemed like distant facts, but when she heard of God’s love for her, and of His death on her behalf while she was without hope and lost in sin, God touched her heart and she placed her faith in Jesus Christ. Joy entered her life like never before; the hope of eternity was hers.

Back in America, God is working in the lives of believers like you, who give to enable missionary work. These gifts impact lives like Li Hong’s and many more around the world. For more information about how you can impact lives for eternity, please contact stewardship.ministries@bmm.org.

CURRENT GIFT ANNUITY RATES

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>4.8</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>90+</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gift annuities are available to residents of most US states.

GIFT ANNUITY COUPON

Name  
Address  
City       State       Zip  
Phone Number (_____) ____________________  
If deferred, age when payments begin: ____________  
Name of first annuitant  
Date of Birth ___________ male/female ___________  
Amount to be illustrated $ ___________  
Name of second annuitant  
Date of Birth ___________ male/female ___________  
Amount to be illustrated $ ___________  

Baptist Mid-Missions Stewardship Ministries  
PO Box 308011 • Cleveland, OH 44130–8011

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