

PRAY938

Give a month • Change the world

A Matthew 9:38 prayer initiative

Thirty days of prayer asking God to
send gospel workers into His harvest.



What is Pray938?

Be honest.

When it comes to prayer, does it sometimes feel like a duty, a drudgery? Do you struggle to know how to pray specifically for the needs around you?



We understand that, and it's why we created this 30-day prayer guide for one of the most critical missions needs today: more laborers. In the last 20 years, churches in our constituency have seen a sharp decline in the number of people surrendering for missions.

We believe that **the central action to reverse this trend is prayer.**

At Baptist Mid-Missions' 100th anniversary celebration in 2020, BMM's president, Dr. Patrick Odle, unveiled **Advance the Vision**. In this long-term missions renewal challenge, he invited people to partner with BMM in five critical goals.

Goal #1 is to inspire partners to join with us in **praying Matthew 9:38**, asking God to send more laborers into His harvest. Because you have this guide in your hands, we know you're serious about prayer. Pray daily for more workers, or twice a day as Dr. Odle suggested, **at 9:38 am and pm.**



To give credit where it's due, the idea for the booklet was inspired by 30-day prayer guides created by an evangelical ministry called World Christian. In the 30 years that people have prayed using their Muslim prayer guides, unprecedented numbers of Muslims have discovered who Jesus Christ is and have received Him as their Savior.

That's the power of prayer! Imagine what God could do through laser-focused prayers lifted by an army of praying warriors among our supporting churches. Those churches would be reinforced, and our world could be reached like never before.

Thank you for joining us in Pray938.

Your investment will truly impact eternity.

Quickstart Guide

Each day's focus is organized around a missions topic. We start with foundational topics: families, churches, and Bible colleges. Then we invite prayer for missionary concerns and specific ministries and world regions as we seek God to fill them with workers. Pray daily, and repeat monthly or as often as you like.

We welcome you to share this guide with anyone interested in joining BMM's army of praying warriors.

Pray938 is also available in a digital format at www.bmm.org.



**Get ready for a prayer adventure
that has power to change the world.**

DAY 1

Foundations » Families: heart for missions

If you ask missionaries how God called them into missions, a common thread runs through many of their stories: the influence of their families. Children who grow up with families who regularly read missionary biographies, host missionaries in their homes, and emphasize the Great Commission are likely to develop a respect and love for missions.

When parents hold missionaries in high esteem, kids learn that missionaries are heroes worthy of honor and emulation. When they hear stories of missionaries like Jim and Elisabeth Elliot, Mary Slessor, Hudson Taylor, or BMM's founder William Haas, children absorb the traits of outstanding Christian role models.

When parents host missionaries in their home, either for meals or housing, the conversational interactions are priceless. One BMM missionary remembers sitting on her father's lap, absorbing the stories of their missionary guests. She learned how God's Word could transform an entire society. *And today she is a Bible translator.*

“

And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

—Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Whether God calls your kids into missions or leads them to champion missions in their adulthood, exposing children to missions in a positive way is a win-win.

PRAY for

- » Wisdom, creativity, and winsomeness in nurturing a heart for missions—within families and in church programs for children.
- » God to bring special missionaries into children's lives—men and women who model joy in service and who show that a surrendered life is an abundant life (John 10:10).
- » Future missionaries to be made ready in childhood for God's eventual call to missions.



Greater love has no one than this ... (John 15:13)



Small seeds for missions, faithfully planted and nurtured in your children's lives, have great potential to draw your kids toward missions. But as a parent, that thought can provoke fear: Will my children be safe? Will their financial needs be met?

Think of emergency response providers. Their jobs can involve danger, but we hold them in high honor because

they are willing to lay down their lives to save others. What greater honor is there than to rescue lives not just for this world but for eternity?

Ultimately, we are all called to lay down our lives for God. We can trust the God who laid down His own Son's life for our sake. As it was with Jesus, a missionary's sacrifice will accomplish "a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Cor. 4:17). Parents, place your children into God's loving care and encourage them to do the same in their own lives as they follow His good plan.

PRAYfor

» Parents' confident assurance that God loves their children and has plans for their kids greater than they can imagine—and will lead to their greatest fulfillment.

» Ways to challenge children to consider the high calling of missions.

PRAYfor

- » Pastors to be encouraged in their task of leading their congregations and in challenging them to keep their focus on the harvest.
- » Compassionate hearts and humble spirits—fertile ground for revival.
- » A rediscovery of the wonder of God's grace and the breathtaking radicalness of Christ's sacrifice for our salvation.

In anticipation of the harvest

For farmers, fall means harvest. It's the joyous culmination of a long growing season. A farmer's spirit of excitement can't happen without the hard labor it takes to produce a crop.

In the same way, we should have a spirit of excitement in our hearts when it comes to souls. The Lord has given us an opportunity in our day to bring in a harvest of people for Christ.

It's a sad truth that a large percentage of American churches have plateaued or are in decline.

“

If revival is being withheld from us it is because some idol remains still enthroned; because we still insist in placing our reliance in human schemes; because we still refuse to face the unchangeable truth that, 'It is not by might, but by My Spirit.'

—Jonathan Goforth

”

Many things compete for Christians' hearts and minds. The enemy of our souls is intensifying his warfare to distract and divide us from God's eternal purposes for our lives. And churches are a particular target in this warfare.

But we have the resources at our disposal to maintain our focus. As we pray, we tap into God's power to cut through distractions and divisions.

In this season, seek a profound revival of your church and churches across the nation. Winter is coming. We must be ready for the harvest.



“His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.” — Luke 3:17



Missionaries are people like you and me.



People often think of missionaries as “Super Christians,” people who know all the right answers and who have risen above the problems common to the rest of us.

That’s a myth, of course, but one thing missionaries have learned is how to be surrendered disciples. And that starts in families and churches.

A core tenet of discipleship is the understanding that the path of becoming more like Christ is

difficult. Surrendered disciples are willing to follow Christ, even when He asks them to do hard things, so that God can be glorified. They are not derailed by the lure of materialism or deadening comforts.

Surrendered disciples learn resilience. They keep running even when the wind is in their face and the rain pours on them. They tell God, “The fight is over to determine the course of my own life. My life is yours; do what you want through me.” ***There is no end to the opportunities that a surrendered Christian can have to impact eternity.***

PRAYfor

» The desire to set your heart and mind on things above (Col. 3:1-2) and to walk closely with Christ in a joyful relationship (2 Peter 3:18).

» The willingness to risk more, to sacrifice more, and the wisdom to know when and where God is leading you to do this (Ro. 12:1-2).

» Resilience to stay the course in the growth and service God is working in your life, looking to what lies ahead (1 Peter 1:13).

When Jesus spoke about the urgency of God's harvest of souls, 200 million people lived on earth. That's about 2/3^{ds} of the current US population. Today **eight billion** people live on earth. If the harvest was plentiful in Jesus's day, how much more in our day.

Missions is the lifeblood of churches, an exalted commission that brings life to the world. Missions-minded churches create an atmosphere of Great Commission interest by preaching on missions, inviting missionary appointees for meetings, maintaining close contact with supported missionaries, and teaching

“

If there be any one point in which the Christian church ought to keep its fervor at a white heat, it is concerning missions ... If there be anything about which we cannot tolerate lukewarmness, it is in the matter of sending the gospel to a dying world.

—C.H. Spurgeon

children that missions is an honorable and reasonable pursuit.

Like other missions-minded pastors, Jeff Miller of Agnew Road Baptist Church in South Carolina strives to show his church that the Great Commission is the reason why we're here. Six of their families serve in missions.

Missions-focused churches like Agnew Road, instill into their people a growing consciousness of the world's needs. They encourage and embrace surrender toward missions. In so doing, they benefit the spiritual health of their entire congregation.

PRAYfor

- » Churches to hold missions as central to their responsibility—serving locally and globally.
- » Churches to invite missionary appointees to speak, to host dynamic missions conferences, and to keep in close contact with missionaries.
- » Fruit to come from churches' missions investments: more missionaries supported and more people called into missions.





The fuel that launches missionaries into action

“Pray-Give-Go.” You’ve heard it over and over. Don’t let it slip into cliché, because the two critical actions that always stand behind “going” are *praying* and *giving*.

If we could see the invisible, supernatural power unleashed by persevering prayer, we would be astounded at our intercession’s impact. Europe’s famous 100-Year Prayer Meeting led to the world’s first major Protestant missionary movement, shaping the course of Christianity to this day. Imagine what could happen in our day if we consistently asked God

**“For I hope to see you
on my journey, and to
be helped on my way
there by you.”**

—Romans 15:24

to raise up more workers to reach the world’s lost people?

Likewise, missionaries depend on consistent prayer and finances to get them to their fields and to keep them

there. Ask your church to consider regularly adjusting your missionaries’ support for inflation or checking if they’ve lost support. This helps reduce extra trips back home to raise more support.

PRAYfor

» Churches to set missions as a prayer focus, to share missionaries’ needs, and to encourage fervent missions prayer.

» More workers; especially pray for people you know who have good missionary qualifications. God may be working in their lives.

» Courage and faith to step out in greater missions giving. Ask God to show you and your church the far-reaching impact of your giving.

PRAYfor

- » God to “break up any fallow ground” (Hosea 10:12) in your life to prepare you for God’s plans.
- » God to graciously address and ease any fears you may have about missions.
- » A willing heart to surrender toward missions, along with peace that follows each step so that unshakable joy overflows the path of God’s calling.

Surrender toward the best plan possible

One of BMM’s missionary appointee couples tells how their church reads missionary letters every Wednesday night. The Lord was already working in the husband’s heart about New Zealand. When the church read Art and Deb Brammer’s prayer request for their retirement replacement in New Zealand, the wife leaned over to her husband and said, “Maybe that’s us.”

The way God worked in this couple’s lives is common. He brought people across their path that made



them think about New Zealand. Everywhere they turned, New Zealand came to mind. In time, they both had peace about missions.

Have you ever seriously considered, “Maybe it’s me, or my family, that God is calling to missions?” If that thought terrifies you, remember

this: God graciously prepares everyone He calls, and His plan is so perfectly tailored for your personality and giftedness, you won’t be satisfied by anything else.

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.” (Jeremiah 1:5)



Where missionaries are cultivated

An effective missionary must prepare for service, and that makes Bible colleges and seminaries vital training grounds for missions. Baptist Mid-Missions maintains connections with nearly 20 like-minded Bible colleges and seminaries that consistently plan ways to expose students to missions.

Students are challenged to consider missions when colleges plan vibrant chapel services that invite missionary graduates to speak. Colleges focused on the Great Commission also organize mission teams and encourage students to participate in them and to be involved in local outreach.

Missions prayer groups are not as common as they once were, but some colleges still have groups that meet weekly. In addition to the benefit of prayer itself, these groups engage students in what God is doing around the world, and they give ready opportunities for the Holy Spirit to work in their lives.

Many Bible colleges and seminaries employ former missionaries as professors who give students deep-level insights and practical guidance on how to prepare. Some institutions are adding tracks in technology, business, and languages to equip students to enter Creative Access Nations.



"Lord, let me make a difference for you that is utterly disproportionate to who I am." —David Brainerd



PRAYfor

- » Colleges and seminaries to stay true to Scripture and that churches continue challenging students for ministry.
- » Colleges and seminaries to be passionate about evangelism and missions, and present it in a way that captivates students.
- » BMM representatives to make good connections with students and to present BMM's ministry effectively.

During his senior year of Bible college, Travis Gravley was challenged to pray Matthew 9:38, the school's missions conference emphasis. The student missions group also encouraged others to pray with them and consider missions. Their passion and burden spilled over into many lives, including Travis's.

Travis had been a youth ministries major, but as he faithfully prayed Matthew 9:38, he clearly sensed God saying, "You're one of those who needs to go." He finished his degree and went on to seminary.

He and his wife, Becky, served in Romania until God

led Travis into BMM administration, where he now challenges college students to consider missions.

“

God, send me anywhere, only go with me. Lay any burden on me, only sustain me. And sever any tie in my heart except the tie that binds my heart to Yours.

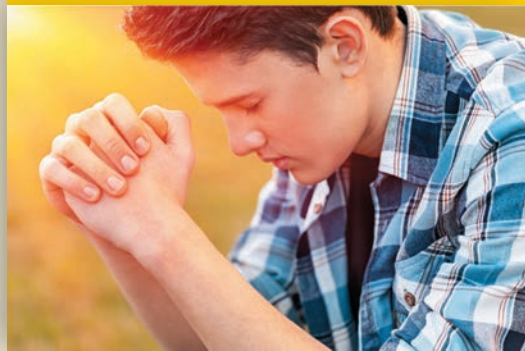
—David Livingstone

Several elements lay the groundwork for students' preparation for missions. They need to be committed to their local church through strong relationships and active involvement. Add to that a resolve to start living out their faith and be faithful witnesses right now.

Screen use has opened the door for strong enticements and addictions for people age 25 and under. It is imperative that students actively guard their hearts.

PRAYfor

- » God to cultivate students for missions through the influence of family, church, friends, missionaries, and their schools.
- » Students' willingness to offer their lives as a blank check that God can use in perfect wisdom.
- » Students to guard themselves from two major missions obstacles: sinful addictions and excessive debt.





Short-term service: a missions test drive

People have so many options of what they can do with their lives that it's sometimes hard to cultivate skills and experience in a particular area until they start working in that field and gain some experience.

Missions is no different. Internships and short-term missions service give young adults a front-row seat to missions. It shows them that missions is real people with real needs that God can use them to meet. Their picture of missions changes from a two-dimensional one to 3D.

Short-term missions offers people a testing ground to see how their skills fit into a mission field. They gain a clearer picture of God's leading.

The step toward missions can feel overwhelming, even fearful. Short-term opportunities help people ease into the adjustments of missions, such as culture shock, language acquisition, and the transitions of leaving home. They find that missions is not as intimidating as they thought, and they learn they have something to offer in building Christ's church around the world.

PRAYfor

» Young adults (and adults of any age) to seriously investigate how their skills can be used short-term on the mission field.

» Good interaction between short-termers and their missionary hosts, that the missionaries could share their wisdom and insights.

» Short-term experiences to be positive and eye-opening and that God will use them to lead people into career missions.



FIRST Look

Open your eyes to the opportunities!



FirstLook Missions Ministry Experience

FirstLook gives you hands-on experience working on the mission field to introduce you to **real people with real needs** that God wants to use you to meet.

Let your first look at ministry and life on the mission field be under the care and example of an experienced missionary, with BMM on your side leading you through the many details.

Cleveland, OH | 440.826.3930 | info@bmm.org | www.bmm.org

Learn more at
www.bmm.org/serve/opportunities/internships

PRAYfor

- » God to equip and burden people for the unique challenges of reaching Africa's new-growth areas.
- » The Holy Spirit to draw Africans who are unbelievers or nominal Christians.
- » God to give insight to missionaries working in both rural and urban Africa so that people are reached in creative and effective ways.

Urban Africa on the rise

Picture Africa in your mind, and you might think rural villages and people living in grass huts. Although many Africans still live this way, their continent has drastically changed over the last several decades.

Africa's population has grown exponentially—from 229 million in 1950 to nearly 1.4 billion in 2020.

In the next 30 years it's expected to double. Along with this trend comes Africa's rapid urbanization. By 2050, a projected 950 million people will migrate to cities, producing megacities across Africa.



Missions to Africa must flex to embrace the enormous potential of Africa's urban centers. This includes not only pioneer church planting but also educating and equipping national leaders through discipleship and ministry training.

Opportunities still exist among rural communities, but when people are in transition, they are more open to new ideas. This season is ripe for urban Africans to embrace their Savior.



Explore the variety of African fields that need new and additional workers:

www.bmm.org/serve/where-we-serve/africa



A gateway to reach Muslims

Situated on the western coast of Africa, the country of Senegal lies within the 10/40 Window, where some of the world's largest unreached people groups live. In terms of missions, Senegal is an anomaly. Although the country is 90 percent Muslim, the government allows missionaries to live and work within Senegal.

Baptist Mid-Missions is seeking workers for this crucial mission field. Think of

the possibilities of reaching a nation like this. Not only could missionaries freely share the gospel and start churches, but they could also reach people who have migrated to Senegal from other Muslim nations closed to missionaries.

In all of the African nations where BMM currently has ministries (<https://www.bmm.org/serve/where-we-serve/africa>), Muslim ministry opportunities exist. Islam is the world's fastest-growing major religion. Pray that God burdens people with a heart to reach Muslims with the hope of Christ.

PRAYfor

» Christians to no longer fear this people group but to develop a deep compassion for Muslims, recognizing their spiritual needs.

» God to equip and call workers to Senegal and other nations with populations of Muslim people.

» God to bring a harvest so that many Muslims find a personal relationship with the God who loves them and gave His life for them.

In one African nation, BMM missionaries were told that you could count on one hand the number of people who had come to Christ in the last 40 years. It bore testimony to Islam's grip on that country. Through the missionaries' caring witness, God added to that number a woman who was so overjoyed at her newfound faith that she bravely requested public baptism so she could testify how Jesus changed her life.

Another missionary couple serves faithfully in the Middle East in a community with ancient religious traditions. They are raising money to build

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations"

—Matt. 28:19

For the church to fully obey this command, we must be both courageous and creative. BMM's CAN missionaries who step out by faith are seeing remarkable testimonies of God's blessing.

a facility to meet critical social needs in their town.

Some segments of Africa and virtually all of the Middle East are considered Creative Access Nations (CAN), where missionary visas are not granted. BMM missionaries have entered these countries by offering essential business start-ups or needed medical or social services.

Creativity is the key that unlocks Great Commission potential in these regions—where people live under the oppression of false religions but have little access to the Truth.

PRAYfor

- » God to empower people with courage and a deep, sacrificial love for people in Creative Access Nations.
- » God-inspired insights on skills and business models that enable missionaries to enter these countries.
- » CAN missionaries to have courage, wisdom, graciousness, and flexibility as they serve. Pray also for God to shield their ministry from those who want to hinder Christ's message from impacting these nations.





Getting the Word to the world

Church planting and discipleship cannot make significant progress without a Bible in the people's language. Although a large number of people groups already have their own Bibles, almost 4,000 still do not.

**Almost 4,000
language groups
still have no Bible.**

In our lifetimes, we will have continuing needs for more translation consultants and specialists in literacy and Scripture engagement.

Bibles International, BMM's Bible translation society, was founded in 1981 to provide reliable Bible translations for our missionaries' work. Bibles International not only gets Bibles into the hands of those who still wait, but they also teach the people to read and fully use their new Scriptures.

With several office personnel due to retire in the near future, Bibles International also needs qualified individuals in the areas of advancement, finance, project management, and media design. (<https://biblesint.org>)

PRAYfor

- » God's preparation and calling of new translation consultants, literacy workers, and Scripture engagement specialists.
- » The provision of qualified BI staff members who will carry on important behind-the-scenes work.
- » More missionaries called to reach people who have received the Bibles that BI produces.

PRAYfor

- » Greater opportunities for your church and your family to interact with missionaries, whether in-person or with online communication.
- » The Holy Spirit to connect missionaries with the people God wants to call into missions.
- » Missionaries to reveal an engaging passion and authenticity as they share ministry stories.

Missionaries' contagious passion

As a teenager, Patrick Odle wrestled with fully surrendering his life until hearing BMM missionary Harold Dark say, "You will never be happy unless you're totally surrendered to the will of God."

Exposure to Harold Dark and many other missionaries made Patrick realize that God wants to use ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Surrendering his life, Patrick became a pastor, a missions champion, and eventually the president of Baptist Mid-Missions.

“
Never pity
missionaries;
envy them. They are
where the real action is—
where life and death, sin and
grace, Heaven and Hell
converge.

— Robert C. Shannon

It's one thing for people on the outside of missions to challenge people to serve in the Great Commission. It's far different when missionaries themselves share their experiences and invite people to join them. There is power in modeling missions.

When missionaries speak in churches or interact with ministry-minded college students or share stories around the dinner table with families that host them—missions transforms from a calling for only "super Christians" into a living, breathing, compelling real-life possibility for service.

"But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance." — 2 Timothy 3:10

The statistics are jolting: More than half the world's population (4.6 billion people) call Asia home, yet it is the continent with the lowest percentage of Christians. Asia gave birth to two major religions that keep a firm hold on the hearts of its people: Buddhism and Hinduism.

No Buddhist majority country has ever seen any significant awakening to the gospel of Jesus Christ. When we think of places, peoples, and countries that are resistant to the gospel, our minds



often rush to Muslim nations, places that violently and vehemently oppose the gospel of Jesus. However, let us remember there are countries that, although not violently resistant, are as equally needy for the gospel's message.

Many Asian countries are difficult to enter, but among the majority Buddhist countries, Cambodia, Thailand, and Japan are nations where the gospel can be freely shared. The door is open, yet the workers are still so incredibly few.

PRAYfor

» A burden to develop among North American Christians for the tremendous needs of Asia.

» God to move in an unprecedented way among Buddhists to awaken them to their unmet spiritual needs.

» Workers equipped and called to reap the harvest that God longs for in Asia.

Establish the work of our hands

Goal #5 of **Advance the Vision** is for BMM to enter 20 new fields and ministries in the next 20 years. Asia is a continent ripe with these possibilities.

Many of these fields are Creative Access Nations. However, with people fleeing countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan, refugees from Creative Access Nations (CAN) are settling in countries like Thailand or Cambodia, where missionaries are free to work.

More workers are also needed to replace those retiring throughout Asia. In Japan alone, five of our 10 missionaries will retire in the near future.

In the 1980s, BMM gained entry into a Creative Access Nation through establishing a hospital. This nation is in harvest phase. The Lord has used this medical ministry to see more than 1,000 people saved and 17 churches established. BMM's team there has expanded to seven people, but our missionary doctor is over 70 years old. We do not yet have another doctor to take his place. Without a doctor, the hospital will likely close and our other missionaries lose their visa status.

We ask urgent prayer for these needs. Our goal is to expand even beyond maintaining the works God has already started.



"Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands." (Ps. 90:17)



PRAYfor

- » Asia ministries to be expanded into new countries and new possibilities.
- » The development of refugee ministries within Asia.
- » Workers to replace retiring Japan missionaries.
- » God's provision of a doctor qualified to continue the CAN hospital ministry.



Rescuing people behind closed doors

The vast majority of Creative Access Nations lie in Asia. These are countries that grant no missionary or religious worker's visas and officially forbid the practice of Christianity. In each nation, this suppression comes from majority religions or dictatorial governments. Ironically, religious and political oppression often create a climate of extreme thirst for the gospel.

In generations past, missions challenges took the form of travel difficulties, extreme poverty,

disease, and lack of modern medicine. Our generation can meet the challenge of CANs with willingness, creativity, and perseverance. People with pioneering spirits can enter these countries as English teachers, business people, and medical workers.

A skill or business considered necessary within the country, along with a solid Bible education, equips workers to take the gospel where it is most needed. CAN ministry is not easy, but it is needed desperately.

PRAYfor

» Recognition that challenges in the name of Christ result in an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison (2 Cor. 4:17)

» Emboldening of workers to count the cost and be joyfully willing to serve in Creative Access Nations.

» Creativity to develop skills and business models allowing workers to enter Creative Access Nations.



Partner

{ with }

a mission agency you can trust.

A three-way partnership.

Churches, missionaries, and Baptist Mid-Missions. We are stronger when we work together in our common goal: fulfilling the Great Commission across the globe. Learn how God is using our partnership to advance the gospel worldwide.

Baptist Mid-Missions

www.bmm.org/partner

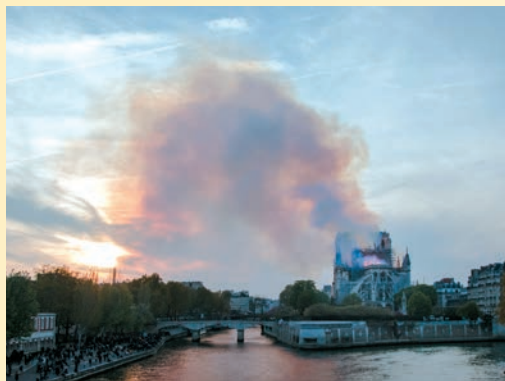
PRAYfor

- » Europeans to recognize the emptiness of philosophies and religions that have eroded Christianity.
- » People to be gripped by Europe's devastated spiritual landscape and called to restore biblical Christianity.
- » Workers equipped to reopen Europe's mission fields and to take the place of retired missionaries.

A decimated spiritual landscape

Baptist Mid-Missions' first Europe missionaries arrived in 1946. Many WWII soldiers had seen the devastation brought to Europe, and they sacrificed to renew spiritual life on that decimated continent.

A new battle in the form of postmodernism has decimated Europe's spiritual landscape, shearing people's hearts away from Christianity. Not only that, but immigrants are rapidly multiplying the number who adhere to Islam, Hinduism, and other religions.



After years of robust missionary presence in Europe, a large number of BMM missionaries have retired or are soon to retire. Three of our fields (Austria, Finland, and Ireland) sit vacant with no missionaries to fill the shoes of those who left.

It is sometimes said that the way things are in Europe will be the way they are in North America in 20 years. Missionaries are urgently needed to reintroduce biblical Christianity.



*"He extended mercy to us ... to revive us, to repair the house of our God,
to rebuild its ruins." (Ezra 9:9b)*



A gateway to reach the world

The island of Malta is the world's tenth-smallest country, but it packs huge missions potential. A devoutly Catholic nation, Malta is a hub for international shipping, cryptocurrency, and tourism. In this environment, a team of BMM missionaries has reached people with the gospel and established a church and Bible institute.

Students from a multitude of nations study at Malta's universities.

Through ministries like discipleship and Teaching English as a Second Language, BMM's Malta team is finding tremendous potential to reach people from all over the world—an opportunity found in many other European nations as well.

With its proximity to north Africa, Malta is a strategic location for forays into the 10/40 Window. Europe as a whole is an emigration landing point for people from every continent, and ministry potential abounds for work among refugees and immigrants from closed countries.

PRAYfor

» God to raise up workers to start churches and develop ministries among internationals in Malta and its two adjoining islands.

» People to see Europe's potential for international ministry and to launch creative outreaches among refugees and immigrants.

» The Holy Spirit to prepare the hearts of Europe's international community and to connect them to missionaries.

Many things can wedge themselves between missionaries and their calling. When missionaries see little fruit for their hard labor, discouragement can be suffocating. This is especially true for those having no coworkers to share their burdens and lift their spirits. Loneliness is a special challenge for single missionaries, and health challenges can affect anyone on the mission field.

Missionaries are special targets of the enemy, who loves to stir up conflicts among coworkers and within families. These can cripple missionaries' effectiveness. Add to that the increasing

moral decline found in any culture. Any of these issues can make missionaries want to throw in the towel, or they can disqualify them for service.

“

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

—2 Cor. 4:7-9

When attrition happens, and no one is ready to take a missionary's place, missions momentum reverses. As mission fields thrive, more ministries are established, with property and finances to care for. This is a good thing, because more people are reached. But when fields empty of their missionaries, those who remain behind become consumed with managing these details, with little time to conduct ministry.

PRAYfor

- » Protection of missionaries' spirits, bodies, and relationships so they can stay in their calling.
- » Special encouragement, nourishing relationships, and growing resilience in those who serve so they thrive and function as effectively as possible.
- » New missionaries (and national workers) to take the place of those who have left so that ministry momentum keeps progressing.





Urban, rural, and everything in-between

Brazil encompasses everything from the Amazon's indigenous peoples to the Africanized culture of the northeast all the way to European-flavored gaúcho cowboy culture and São Paulo's vast urban setting.

Baptist Mid-Missions has been working in Brazil since 1935, but with Brazil's population of nearly 215 million, missionaries will never run out of opportunities. We need workers in the interior areas of Ceará, Maranhão, Pará, Minas Gerais and São Paulo states. Our urban church-planting teams in

**Missionaries will
never run out of
opportunities in Brazil.**

Curitiba, Londrina, Paraná state, and São Paulo need help.

Brazil is a country on the move. As more Brazilians relocate to large cities, we have a limited window where people are more open to consider the gospel. Now is the time for workers to serve in Brazil. We have opportunities for pioneering missionaries and partnerships with Brazilian pastors and missionaries.

PRAYfor

» People who step out by faith to reach every ethnicity and geographic area of Brazil.

» The Lord to send workers to Brazil's interior and urban areas with the greatest current needs.

» Missionaries to partner with Brazilians in the areas of church planting, theological education, and other ministries.

PRAYfor

- » New team members in Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, and St. Vincent, where BMM has only a small number of missionaries, some of whom will retire soon.
- » Workers in the areas of camping ministries and theological education.
- » Missionaries to pioneer new areas of Latin America or reactivate dormant ministries.

Missions across Latin America

In contrast to Brazil's Portuguese, most Latin Americans countries use Spanish. In Argentina, major cities have a low percentage of believers. Our existing missionaries need team members and retirement replacements.

BMM has planted many churches in Peru, but some large cities and rural areas still have little or no biblical outreach.

Camp ministries in Peru and Honduras urgently need missionary personnel to establish these ministries or to replace personnel.



Bible colleges in Peru and the Dominican Republic are working toward offering post-graduate degrees and need qualified missionary professors.

Despite years of missionary presence, Latin America has many missions frontiers.

Uruguay, Paraguay, and

Columbia have Latin America's lowest percentage of evangelical Christians. BMM also seeks missionaries to reactivate ministries in Guyana, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and St. Lucia.



"To know the will of God, we need an open Bible and an open map."

—William Carey

“We have yet to see good Sunday School literature in Spanish that teaches biblical doctrine.” In 1960, this need prompted four BMM missionaries to create *Editorial Bautista Independiente* (EBI). God has blessed this ministry beyond what its founders may have imagined.

Today EBI publishes an entire Sunday School curriculum for primary age through adults. Pastors and churches in more than 30 Spanish-speaking countries around the world trust EBI materials. Hispanic ministries in Germany, Australia, and Japan also use their resources.

EBI offers more than Sunday School materials. They produce theological texts, topical studies, and resources for Christian living in print and digital formats.

“

For many years a major obstacle to our counseling/training ministry was the lack of theological and practical resources for biblical counseling in Spanish. God answered our prayers by sending a key ministry partner in EBI.

—Pastor Juan,
Ecuador

EBI is expanding its distributor network to place more materials into people's hands. With the rise of the prosperity gospel in Latin America, EBI offers doctrinally sound materials to anchor churches and theological institutions.

Currently, EBI is helping create STEP, a collaboration lifting theological institutions to higher levels of excellence and effectiveness. (www.ebi-bmm.org)

PRAYfor

- » EBI to expand with the addition of field-based missionaries and staff members for EBI's Florida headquarters.
- » Workers skilled in Spanish translation, publishing, and distribution.
- » Missionaries to help EBI broaden in the area of theological education so that the Latin American church is strengthened through increased graduate-level training.



North America: The world's largest unchurched English-speaking mission field

It is *imperative* that Christians dispel the myths that North America is still a Christian nation and that missions is only for foreign lands. Thankfully, North America exerted a substantial Christian influence for centuries, but today only China and India have larger populations of non-Christians than we do. Our continent is the only one where Christianity is not growing.

Over the last two decades, North American culture has increasingly rejected Christian beliefs and values. Even in areas still filled with churches, fewer churches are actively reaching their communities for Christ or functioning in a genuinely healthy capacity. Four thousand churches are closing yearly.

North America is a strategic location to reach immigrants from all over the world, but if we don't also reach those already here, the vitality of the North American church will continue to deteriorate.

The statistics are discouraging, but your prayers are powerful for reversing these declines. North America greatly needs vibrant churches that follow Jesus's Acts 1:8 model of being witnesses locally and globally.

Each year, BMM's School of Church Planting trains pastors and missionaries to start new churches and to revitalize existing churches. Find out more at <http://bmmschoolofchurchplanting.org>



PRAYfor

- » Christians to become passionate about reaching the people around them.
- » Churches to be strengthened and revitalized with a strong testimony and outreach to their communities.
- » God to equip and raise up career missionaries from these churches to reach North America with new church plants and ministries.

A land of unlimited missions opportunities



North America is an astounding blend of people spanning Native Americans all the way to new immigrants. Where else can missionaries reach people of so many ethnicities, ages, and backgrounds?

Consider Campus Bible Fellowship (CBF). This ministry reaches American and foreign students on secular universities, introducing Christ and shaping the worldview of future

leaders. BMM's Native American Ministries brings the gospel to America's first peoples, a community with deep physical and emotional wounds.

We continually target new North American frontiers. The fire, EMT, police, and military communities work in areas where sin and trauma are daily realities. North American missionaries gaining inroads into these camaraderie-based groups can minister to their counseling needs and have platforms to share about Jesus Christ, the ultimate Rescuer.

PRAYfor

» God to put people of various ethnicities and backgrounds in the paths of Christians, creating deep burdens for them.

» Workers equipped and willing to serve in CBF, among Native Americans, and in other existing North American BMM ministries.

» People with first-responder backgrounds to serve as full-time BMM missionaries to this critical community.

PRAYfor

- » Open doors in the Pacific and people made ready to enter them. Pray for the development of innovative new ministries in the Pacific.
- » Bible translators for Papua New Guinea, along with workers in church planting and supporting ministries.
- » People with pioneering spirits and business qualifications to reach Australia.

Take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Australia, New Zealand and the smaller Pacific islands represent a melting pot of ethnicities and opportunities.

The larger islands have always been a vast multi-cultural mission field. But even on tiny Guam, missionaries can work among Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, and Chuukese.

As with BMM's Campus Bible Fellowship, missionaries to the Pacific have plentiful opportunities to reach many of the world's peoples in one place.



Papua New Guinea is the world's the most linguistically diverse nation. Bible translators, church planters, educators, and medical personnel will find ready work.

In recent years, Australia has limited the missionary visas it grants, but innovative mis-

sionary pioneers can use business ventures to enter the country. Australia and New Zealand have grown spiritually apathetic and greatly need missionaries.



"For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries."

(1 Corinthians 16:9)



Passing the baton to the next generation

For a track team to win a relay race, they must successfully pass the baton from one team member to the next until the finish line.

What a perfect example of intergenerational teamwork in missions.

Missionaries make it their goal to strategically disciple nationals to pass ministries to them. Sometimes this process must continue after the missionaries retire because the national church is not yet

sufficiently established to maintain ministries in their country. On several BMM fields, missionaries have retired, but no one has been available to carry on their ministries. These fields now sit dormant. This is greatly discouraging to national churches, who want our continued help.

This situation is found around the world as far more missionaries retire than new missionaries come to offset them. The race will not be finished until we reach heaven. Who will pick up retirees' batons to run the race after them?

PRAYfor

» God to prepare new workers who have the specific qualifications and burdens to fill retirees' shoes.

» BMM mission fields like Mexico and others that have no missionaries ready to take the place of retirees.

» Fields such as St. Lucia, Ireland, Hawaii, Guyana, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and others with no BMM missionaries.

PRAYfor

- » An increasing perception of how the multi-gifted body of Christ works together in missions.
- » Opportunities to use your own interests and skills to build up your local church and reach your community.
- » God to call workers with a breadth of abilities to reach the people around the world that He's preparing to hear His message.

How can your skills be used in missions?

The success of the *iPlay-ball!* baseball evangelism ministry in the Dominican Republic shows that connecting with people through something that interests them or meets a significant need creates unique openings to share the gospel.



Specialized ministries (like sports, youth ministries, medical outreaches, broadcasting, music, and ministries to refugees and disabled people) reach those who might not otherwise take an interest in spiritual things or be exposed to Christ's message.

With missions, it takes all kinds of people to reach the world. Athletes, educators, doctors, broadcasters, people skilled in sign language, and others with a variety of interests and skill sets—all of these enrich missions.

Baptist Mid-Missions offers a variety of short- and long-term opportunities using specialized skills. We also work with interested people in determining how their skills can be used effectively to build Christ's worldwide church.

"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God ... that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 4:10-11)

“It’s not enough. Let’s do more.”

BMM’s *¡Playball!* coordinator, Dave Ferguson, energetically uses the Spanish phrase, “Poco es.” It’s based on Isaiah 49:6 and essentially means, “What we’ve already done for missions isn’t enough. Let’s do more.” This small phrase sums up God’s big plans for worldwide missions through BMM.

Baptist Mid-Missions’ Global Ministry Center strives to stoke a passion within churches for larger Great Commission involvement—this was one of our founding principles. We actively challenge students and church members to consider the high calling of missions.

For those joining BMM, we offer round-the-clock missions counsel and crisis management, along with on-field care and services in strategic planning, finances, taxes, working with foreign governments for visas and other paperwork. And a whole lot more!

Leaders and staff members at BMM’s Global Ministry Center need prayer as we strategize for a future that includes greater missionary mobilization and expansion into new fields and ministries around the world. We have a century of experience and history behind us, but it’s not enough.

Together with you, let’s do more.



“It is too small a thing ... I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.” (Isaiah 49:6)



PRAYfor

- » BMM to clearly transmit and inspire people to a greater passion for missions and greater involvement.
- » God to raise up godly, dynamic workers He wants to serve with BMM.
- » Strength and wisdom for BMM leadership and staff as they serve.
- » Overcoming power in the spiritual warfare affecting those in ministry.



Thank you for joining us in Pray938.

Believe by faith that your prayers unleash God's power (James 5:16)

... and keep praying!



What part does God
want you to play
in taking the gospel
to the world?

We're looking for partners
to help us move boldly into
a new century of ministry.

Will you join us?



5 ways to **ADVANCE** THE **VISION**

- 20,200 Prayer Partners
- 2,020 Donors Giving \$20/Month
- 202 Donors Giving \$200/Month
- 20 New Missionaries/Year
- 20 New Fields and Ministries

**Join the team
that impacts eternity!**

Sign up to be an **Advance the Vision** partner.

Learn more www.bmm.org/give/advance-the-vision

PRAY938

Give a month • Change the world

**Join us in a prayer adventure
that has power to change the world.**

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