

mission:world

NEWS



THE GLUE OF OUR ASSOCIATION

BY: Dr. John David Smith
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The first value statement of BMA Global Missions states: Motivated by the Mission of God - The Mission of God is defined specifically as making God's glory and love known to the nations. This aspect of the nature of God expressed in the expansion of His kingdom (missions) to all peoples, it is the primary motivational piece in all that we do.

The Mission of God is that transcendent reality of His nature that is all about His love and glory to the nations. The eternal, triune God is both the source and the example of love and communication. He did not HAVE to create us in order to experience love and communication, He had that from eternity past within Himself (Trinity). He did choose to create, and He manifests His nature in love and communication to His creation in both word and deed. His redemptive plan, through His eternal Son Jesus Christ, was established before the foundation of the world because He is a gracious, merciful, and personal God . . . this is who He is . . . His nature.

He is also a God of perfect holiness, and we are thankful that he is a propitious God. At no point in eternity past or in space and time did God all of a sudden become a missionary God and begin to promote His mission. An element of His eternal nature is His mission.

We are motivated by the mission of God, which includes his glory to the nations, his redemptive plan, and the ultimate destiny of all things (worship).

The Mission of God must be our identity, meaning it gives us our "why."

Why do we exist and why do we do the things we do? Mission! God's glory and love to the world provides us with our "what."

We are to go and proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness to all people groups, which gives us our "how."

We are to make disciple makers out of the unengaged, unreached, and undisciplined, which gives us our "where" and in this sense, where we are going in terms of ultimate destiny. Mission is all about the ultimate and eternal worship

of God around his throne by the redeemed from every language, tongue, and nation.

The legitimacy of our association will be found in a synergistic cooperation to a unifying mission undergirded by like-minded beliefs and values under the watchful eye of biblical accountability. The glue of our association is our commitment

to the Mission of God. Synergistic cooperation, like-minded beliefs, values, and biblical accountability are all necessary, but the unifying mission is the strength and fuel of our association.

May God's love be known to the nations and may His name be famous among all peoples as we stay unrelentingly focused on the Mission of God, that part of His nature that defines us, directs us, and drives us as His people.



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MOTIVATED TO CARE

BY: Jonathan Montgomery
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This ministry of care has made a difference in the lives of BMA missionaries since it began several years ago under the leadership of Jerry Kidd, a legacy missionary and former director. He was assisted by Sarah Hebert Hamilton whose experiences as a missionary to the Philippines burdened her to encourage missionaries. They coordinated several regional conferences for BMA missionaries to worship, fellowship, and encourage each other. Attendees still tell stories of their impact.

Conferences are a central part of Missionary Care's ministry efforts. A mini-conference was offered in the fall of 2020 to missionaries who were stateside and unable to return to their fields due to pandemic travel restrictions. An online soul care conference was produced at the Global Missions Center in Conway to be shared this spring with missionaries on the field. Using conferences to connect missionaries through worship and fellowship remains a goal of Missionary Care.

In addition, Missionary Care provides other essential services for our global workers like counseling, coaching, and prayer support. We offer assistance during each missionary's deputation period, departure, and furlough but also their permanent return to the States. During this reentry process, we offer debriefing and counseling to process their experiences and prepare for a healthy transition.

We are developing procedures to help missionary kids prepare for college during their senior years if they choose to return to America. If families have a specific need, we connect them with trained professionals. Whether it is helping with a vehicle during furlough or connecting them with a midwife to deliver their child in remote regions, we work hard to meet needs.

During the pandemic, BMA Missions provided a new level of care. A team was assembled to check on missionaries weekly and ensure their safety and well-being. An Asia-Pacific missionary heard from a missionary colleague serving with another sending agency that he felt alone during the pandemic because no one reached out. The BMA missionary shared that this was not the case for her family because Missions office personnel and churches remained in contact, making them feel loved and valued. Testimonials like this remind us that Missionary Care makes a difference in their ministries.

We are motivated to support and care for our missionaries who work tirelessly to proclaim the gospel and advance God's kingdom. They are passionate about making God's glory and love known to the world and the reason our churches are faithful to support, encourage, and pray for them.

May we all be motivated by God's mission.

BMA Missions and its missionaries and churches share one common goal: Make God's glory and love known to every tribe, tongue, and nation. It's the heart of our association and the focus of our first value statement:

We are motivated by the Mission of God.

Making him know to all peoples wherever they are in the world is our passion. Some live in far corners of the world in isolated villages where Jesus' name hasn't been heard. Others live in urban areas, planting churches that reach both local peoples and international expats with the gospel. Every missionary's ministry is different, but individuals and families serving the BMA share a zeal for proclaiming the good news.

Another shared characteristic is our caring support of missionaries as they navigate the good and bad days of ministry. The heart and focus of Missionary Care is to come alongside our missionaries with the aid, encouragement, and support necessary to carry out God's Mission.

Missionary Care also prepares, equips, and ministers to BMA missionaries so they can be fruitful in both life and ministry. This vital ministry exists to serve our missionaries as they serve others. We're invested in caring for their spiritual, physical, and emotional needs because they have invested in caring for the needs of others. Missions Executive Director Dr. John David Smith describes our care team as "missionary medics" to those serving on the front lines.

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OPEN DOORS AND CHURCH PLANTS

BY: Dr. Ralph Izard
BMMI Director
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Baptist Medical Missions International is the humanitarian/benevolent arm of BMA Missions. The primary purpose of this ministry is to provide humanitarian aid or assistance for many nations of the world where care is needed because of economical, geographic, or disaster reasons.

BMMI is opening doors for BMA missionaries to plant new churches and make new disciples for Christ all around the world. Many churches and individuals partner with us to serve with missionaries. The main goal of BMMI is to assist pastors and missionaries in meeting people in their communities. Many people come out to a medical clinic to receive healthcare, but our prayer is that they leave with more than just a few pills. We want them to leave with hope, the kind that comes from knowing Christ.

During our clinics, local pastors and missionaries set up an evangelism station that each patient goes to as a part of our rotation. Here they are introduced to Christ, to the local pastor, and to the church.

Hear from BMA Missionaries Stan and Donna Scroggins about how BMMI has impacted their lives both as volunteers serving with medical missions and also as missionaries on the field:

“We always knew how important Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) was to the local people who received medical care through this ministry. Stan and I started traveling with BMMI back in the 1990s. As a nurse, I relished using my skills alongside doctors and other medical professionals to provide care otherwise unreachable to the desperately poor around the world.

“Not until we began serving as full-time missionaries in the Philippines did I understand how important BMMI would be to us as BMAA international missionaries.

“Living in the Philippines has afforded us opportunities to be part of

teams in Vietnam and Cambodia, which opened doors for ministry, but it has been joining the teams in the Philippines that has meant the most.

“First it was in Northern Luzon where Missionary Fil Kakilala works with a ChangeMaker missionary planting a church. While part of that team we met an American Filipino who was born and raised on the island of Leyte. She asked us to check on her village of Tigbagwan in the mountains around the city of Maasin. That was four years ago, and now there is a vital mission church in that village.

“Then in 2019 a team came to work directly with us here in Talisay City, Philippines. Well, let me just say that is when the real impact of BMMI’s work became real to us. First, since we live in Talisay City we dreamed of starting a church in our little Jerusalem. BMMI set up a clinic right in our little village and guess what? That village captain is now such a good friend that he allows us to have complete freedom bringing the gospel to his people. This allowed us to take a group of students from BMA Bible College to do outreach there. It was during this time that the village captain accepted Christ and wanted his entire family to be saved also.

“Second, the BMMI team traveled to our mountain ministry in Ahgu to work with Missionary Church Planter Kevin Berayo. Because of this, Kevin has now started his third mission in that region.

“Not only does BMMI bless those desperately in need of medical care but also the hearts of missionaries. God uniquely places a love in the hearts of missionaries for the people He sends them to reach. That love for our dear Filipinos has been the biggest effect of the ministry of BMMI to us personally. Nothing has brought us greater joy than hosting BMMI teams to love on our dear Filipinos.



“In a time when travel is so difficult, when countries are in lockdown, when funding is limited, BMMI still moves on, breaking down the hindering walls and bringing the love of Christ to all peoples of the world and to BMA missionaries as well.”

Stan and Donna
Scroggins



MORE GROUNDBREAKING FOR LIFEWORD

BY: Donny Parrish
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Lifeworld Executive Directors Harold Morris, A.R. Reddin, and Paul Bearfield, Sr. were incredible visionaries in their time, remaining on the cutting edge of technology throughout their tenures. Now deceased, they could hardly have imagined where that technology would take the media ministry.

Bro. George Reddin, who served as Lifeworld executive director from 1986 to 2011, had the foresight to lead the association to purchase what is now the BMA Global Missions Center. His vision for the studio part of the building was a media production center for audio and video content. Instead, the area originally intended for video production was used as a warehouse for both BMA Missions and Lifeworld.

Through the years, however, the world became increasingly video centric with more and more shows and other projects produced from a small studio. In 2017 Lifeworld moved into Internet ministry, which meant the introduction and production of video content plus a redesign of Lifeworld's audio production studio to be used for video.

Thousands of video content hours were shot in that small production area. Millions of hours of Lifeworld video content have been consumed on the Cloud and social media pages. As the need for video content increased, more studio space became increasingly important until finally there was no more production room.

Director of Operations Luis Ortega says, "It is humbling that the Lord allows Lifeworld to come alongside the local church in making disciples of all nations and to play a role as 'the vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language' prepares to stand clothed in white robes in front of the throne before the Lamb."

After years of praying and planning, Lifeworld recently broke ground for a warehouse at the back of its present facilities. After that project's completion, the ministry will reclaim the present warehouse facility for the purpose it was originally intended: a video production area. This studio expansion allows Lifeworld four times more video production area and more gospel programming.

"What an exciting time for the ministry of Lifeworld," Executive Director Donny Parrish says. "The expansion of our television suite will give us four to five times more production floor space than we have now. We need this room to produce more video content to reach more people, and at the same time, this will allow our sister ministry, BMMI, to have more room for shoebox efforts."

This expansion is a huge leap of faith for Lifeworld. Please pray that God will provide the resources to complete this project and use the content produced to make His name more famous around the world!

