

mission:world

NEWS

CHRISTIAN ADVENTURE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Sam Jordan
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Serving Christ is a very beautiful task. It is an enjoyable adventure and filled with challenges that raise in the heart a desire to continue despite the fears it sometimes has and the failures at other times. With each one we experience that the grace of God is sufficient, and it gives the “power made perfect in our weakness.”

My family and I came to Jordan ten years ago in 2013 as missionaries. God has blessed our ministry in great ways, and we have been able to share the love of God in practical ways. Here is what God is doing in our ministry.

Life Changing Ministries

“Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).

This is our motive to serve thousands of people who are in need of help spiritually, emotionally and physically. Our goal is to glorify our Father and share the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We continue helping people with medical treatment and medicines at Mercy Medical Clinic, and we still reach around 2,500 patients each month.

Two-thirds of those patients are refugees, mostly women and children. We’re seeing different types of illnesses. Many suffer from severe trauma as a result of eleven years of civil war in Syria. We’re helping some people with critical conditions, and many were referred to hospitals as “lifesaving cases.” Hundreds of food boxes are distributed every month to help the needy, especially those who have no chance to eat.

The Non-formal Education Program now is helping around 200 Syrians. We teach them life skills, offer schooling and classes, and explain Christian values. It fills our hearts with joy seeing kids expressing their appreciation because they have ambitions for their future. We believe that one day they will testify how they were impacted by the church.

Life Center for Women: Focusing first on women’s lives and hearts, the center offers post-trauma healing for those women affected by the conflict in Syria. In addition there is vocational training such as sewing, cooking, and handicrafts to help them generate some income to survive. Empowering women is an essential and crucial need in our region because they were abused and suffered for a long time. I believe that our team is doing an amazing job.

The other women’s ministry is concerned about women, especially widows and the elderly. My wife Sue and three other ladies started a **Blessings Center** where women can find safe haven and a place to be encouraged and taken care of. Widows especially are facing the hardship of life. At the center they offer Bible study three times a week and train women to share their testimonies with others. The center also offers food and different kinds of help in the name of Christ. Many of the women who never attended church have become regular attendees.

Theology Training: This is God’s calling for the church. Luke 10:2 says, “And he said unto them, the harvest indeed is plenteous, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore to

the Lord of the harvest, that he send forth laborers into his harvest.” I took that as a personal calling; therefore, we started a theology program, and right now I am teaching a preaching class to students and this is my fifth course.

Helping Churches and Pastors: The church in Jordan went through a tough time due to the Covid virus pandemic, and it suffered as everyone else did. Some churches lost members and even some sponsors. As a result of the curfew, the church used social media to continue its pastoral work and care for its members, and meetings shifted from in-person to virtual churches. Perhaps curfew helped families to spend more time together, and the church went on to carry out field service to help its members. However, the pandemic weakened the church because it dispersed its members, and when returning to the church to meet in person, half of the members didn’t show up. We had an obligation to share with other churches, help them, and support them spiritually by encouraging their pastors and praying with them.

The **“Come and See”** ministry focuses on holding revival meetings and training churches how to use the discipleship materials we have. Our team recently visited Anjara Baptist Church in Anjara, Jordan. That church is led by Pastor Mousa Tadrous. The church was heavily impacted because people are moving from that city to other big cities searching for better job opportunities. In addition, the church suffered from the effects of the pandemic. During the meetings, our worship team led the worship time and everyone enjoyed it. I shared an encouraging message for the believers, shared the gospel, and many accepted the Lord as their Savior.

Life Café: The church opened a café last year that is a safe haven, especially for young people and families. Open six days a week, it became a center of discipleship and provides a community gathering space. During the World Cup, we used the café to be a ministry outreach center. It was an amazing tool to gather young and old people together. It connected the church members to become one family.

Fruits to Celebrate: As a result of our discipleship effort, recently nineteen people decided to follow the Lord through baptism. It’s a great joy to celebrate the fruits of our labor. We give glory to God for his grace because it is sufficient to use a weak vessel like us.



SPREADING HOPE AND EMPOWERING VILLAGES

By Joshua Phiri
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In our commitment to spreading the transformative message of faith, we have embarked on a journey of planting churches in the villages of Zambia, each with its unique set of challenges and opportunities. This article highlights our efforts in establishing these churches, addressing challenges related to witch doctors and the cultural practice of marrying multiple wives, and celebrating the passion of young people to reach neighboring villages. Furthermore, we focus on our goal of raising up leaders who will not only lead their churches but also plant more churches and make disciples who will continue the chain of transformative growth (2 Timothy 2:2).

Planting Churches in Three Villages

With a vision of expanding the reach of the Gospel, we have successfully planted churches in three villages. Each church serves as a center for spiritual growth, village unity, and comprehensive development. Through prayer, strategic planning, and collaboration with local villages, we have witnessed the establishment of vibrant congregations and Bible study small groups that are transforming lives.

Challenges of Witch Doctors and Cultural Practices

One of the significant challenges we have encountered in these villages is the presence of witch doctors and the cultural practice of marrying multiple wives. Witch doctors often hold influence over the village, perpetuating beliefs and practices that are contrary to the teachings of Christ. In these villages, there aren't any doctors or hospitals, so when people get sick, they go to witch doctors for help. These witch doctors are seen as sources of hope and healing.

But we wanted to bring true healing to the village with the love of Jesus. We showed kindness, prayed for people, and shared stories of how God has miraculously healed others. We wanted to show that faith in God can bring real love and healing. As time went on, we saw a change happening as people started to see that they could find genuine

love and healing through a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

Additionally, the practice of marrying multiple wives poses its own set of challenges, including strained relationships, gender inequality, and emotional turmoil within families. Upholding our core value of caring for families in distress, we approach this issue with sensitivity and respect for cultural traditions. Our goal is to help families thrive by promoting biblical values of love, respect, and unity. By providing support, guidance, and family discipleship, we strive to strengthen marriages and create a healthier and more harmonious family life, reflecting the teachings of the Bible and the love of Christ.

The Passion of Young People and the Call to Reach Neighboring Villages

Inspiringly, we have witnessed a fervent passion among the young people within these villages to reach neighboring villages with the transformative message of Christ. Their desire to make a difference and share the hope they have found in their own lives is a driving force behind our efforts. These young people, fueled by their faith and full of excitement, are like sparks that bring positive changes. They share God's teachings and help their villages grow.

Raising Up Leaders and Making Disciples

To ensure the sustainability and growth of the churches we have planted, we are committed to raising up local leaders. Through comprehensive training programs, mentorship, and discipleship, we equip individuals within the village to take up leadership roles within their churches. These leaders are empowered to shepherd their congregations, nurture spiritual growth, and address the specific needs of their villages.

Furthermore, we emphasize the importance of making disciples who will, in turn, make more disciples. By instilling the value of intentional discipleship, we create a culture of continuous growth and multiplication. As Jesus instructed in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

Conclusion

Our journey of planting churches in the villages has been marked by challenges, triumphs, and a deep sense of purpose. Despite the obstacles posed by witch doctors and cultural practices, we remain committed to sharing the transformative message of faith, hope, and love. The passion of young people fuels our efforts, while the training and equipping of local leaders ensure the continued growth and expansion of the churches.

As we raise up leaders who will lead their churches and plant more churches, we strive to make disciples who will carry the torch of transformative growth forward. Through the power of faith, community empowerment, and the commitment to spreading the Gospel, we envision a future where these villages and neighboring communities are touched by the love and grace of Jesus Christ. Together, we embrace the call to empower communities, make disciples, and bring about lasting transformation.



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NEWS

WE NEED YOUR HELP

By Johnmichael Poulin
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“We need your help!!” That is something that we hear all the time. Normally when we hear it the first thing that comes to mind is that someone wants our money. This time we are not asking for your money. I am conveying a request that was made to me recently on my last trip to Africa. On this trip I was able to visit three countries where the BMAA has a presence: Ghana, Nigeria, and Liberia.

As I visited these three countries, I was able to visit with pastors. As I visited with these pastors, I heard about what God was doing in all these beautiful countries. I was also able to listen to their needs—both physical and spiritual. I was able to listen to their difficulties. Most are the same difficulties we have here in the United States, and some are specific to the region in which they were working, but none are new to ministry or following Christ.

As I listened to all their needs, there was one common theme in all three countries. They were asking—truly they were begging—for our help in theological training. Most of the pastors in these countries do not have large libraries. If the truth were to be told, most of them only own a Bible, and if it is a study Bible that is something very special. Most of them have not studied formally. The only training that they have received is reading the Bible and the discipleship of their former pastors.

These churches understand that ultimately it is their responsibility to train their people. They are not trying to shift their responsibility to anyone else. They are asking sister churches to come alongside them and to help them in their theological training so that they might be able to train their own pastors and leaders in the future.

This is where we’re asking for your help. We are asking that your church make a three-year commitment to a specific area in Africa to help train these churches. BMA Global will help to identify an area that would best fit your church. We will help with training material that will be doctrinally sound and easily reproducible so that they can teach their own people. We will also provide all the necessary pre-field training for this commitment.

Let’s talk about what this three-year commitment looks like. The first thing that we would ask is that your church would commit to making three trips per year. Each trip will be to the same area, hopefully working with the same pastors. If your church cannot do three trips in a year, you could partner with two other churches and each church could do one trip per year. BMA Global can help in the coordination of this.

The second part of the commitment would be to do the training that BMA Global provides. The first part of that training would be security training. This is for the safety of your team members as they travel abroad. The second part of that training would be on the topic of “when helping hurts.” This will help you understand why we will not be meeting every request that is made to you and to us concerning physical needs.

The third part of the commitment is that you come up with a plan of what will be

taught on the nine trips that will be made over the three-year commitment. BMA Global has great material that we would love to share with you. We also understand that some pastors feel more comfortable developing their own material. We ask that this material be easily reproduced so that they can teach it to others. We also ask that there be a systematic plan to what is being taught.

I pray that we will have several churches that will commit to helping our sister churches in Africa. Our sister churches in Africa are pleading for help. Truthfully, most of our Sunday school teachers here in the United States are better trained than most of the pastors that are in Africa. I pray that our churches in the United States will be willing to help our churches in Africa so that they will be able to help themselves in the future and help neighboring countries just as we were able to help them.

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LIFEWORLD EXPANDS ACROSS LATIN AMERICA

By Heather Harrison
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Joy. Excitement. Thankfulness. Those were the sentiments as twenty-five Lifeworld representatives from various Central American countries gathered in El Salvador at the end of June. Their purpose was to learn from and encourage one another, celebrate what God has done, and look ahead at Lifeworld Latin America. Every Lifeworld team member is a firm believer in discipleship, and it is backed up by the fact that each is discipling someone. Most reported having multiple professions of faith and new believers being discipled.

Team members, representing churches and countries from México, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama, and the United States, were trained in editing, recording, voice, ministry, and preaching. They also worshiped God together and shared his word—encouraging each other to serve in humble obedience, giving all glory to God.

One of their primary tasks was to select a new Lifeworld coordinator for Latin America. They unanimously agreed and appointed Rigoberto Jimenez Cruz. Brother Rigoberto is the BMA Global Coordinator for El Salvador. He pastors Centro De Vida Montelimar Baptist Church and is a team player, leading in serving, evangelism,

discipleship, and church planting. The new mission points in El Salvador are progressing and discipleship is ongoing. As the new coordinator, Brother Rigoberto will oversee Central America, South America, Caribbean, and Spain.

Here are some updates of what God is doing through the three-way partnerships of Lifeworld, the local church and BMA Global:

- Lifeworld team members plan to share the gospel through three new initiatives at the border of Colombia and Venezuela, as well as through other formats and digital platforms to reach additional audiences.
- Three new language speakers for the Guahibo (aka Jivi), Puinave, and Tenec have been identified. Other languages are currently being explored. This means many more will be able to hear the gospel in their native language.
- The Garifunas are now reaching the Mesquito people group.
- Praise God for the work being done in Latin America!

