

# mission:world

NEWS

## ONE MISSION – MANY PARTS

By John Meriweather  
VP of Global Operations  
bmaglobal.org

**T**he Christian journey was never intended to be an isolated one. The call to make disciples gives clarity to our need for one another. In a similar fashion, scripture tells us the church is one body made up of many parts. One body represents the unity of MISSION. Many parts represent the MEANS. God's plan and design is that we work together, using our God given gifts, talents, and ability to further his mission.

This is true of the church. This is true of the missionary endeavor. This is true of BMA Global.

It takes many parts working together to fulfill one mission.

When you pull back the curtains at BMA Global you will find we are blessed with a talented and skilled team – each using their unique gifts and abilities to serve the overall mission. Ask any missionary and they will tell you these faithful team members are the trellis that allows the vine to grow and produce fruit. They are the backbone of BMA Global.

Our missionaries are SENT with the support and backing they need to sustain long-term ministry impact. Finance and accounting, technology and information management, marketing and communication, insurance and benefit planning and support are fundamental and required. But did you know that our missionaries also receive soul care and counseling services, crisis management training, pre-field ministry and cultural orientation training, ongoing ministry resources and training, furlough support including housing and auto, and so much more.

Though most of these activities are not visible, they are essential for the long-term viability of the missionary endeavor. They create a system of accountability and sustainability. Without them

the trellis would collapse under the weight of the vine.

There is yet another essential member of the missionary team – YOU!

- You - the local church that gives generously to support our global missionary endeavor.
- You - the family that supports and prays for that missionary that visited your church last year.
- You - the prayer warrior that seeks the Lord's favor and blessing on His work in difficult places.
- You are a vital and integral part of the missionary team.

There is no greater Mission than God's Mission. God in his infinite wisdom designed us to work together, in the unity of mission and the uniqueness of talents. We are grateful and thankful for the team that God has assembled that each serves in their unique way, giving, praying, and supporting God's Mission – TOGETHER!



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## SELF-ASSESSMENT OF PRIORITIES

By Sean Richards  
Director of Mobilization  
bmaglobal.org

Every so often, my wife and I sit down and assess our budget. We ask important questions like, “Are we disciplined and faithful with our current budget?” and, “Do we need to make some changes to address current realities?” But the most important question we ask is this: “Does our budget reflect our overall goals and purposes?”

As believers, it is imperative that we assess our own lives, churches, and ministries from time to time. When we look at our spiritual and ministry goals and strategies, are we being disciplined and faithful to reach or adhere to them? Do we need to adjust how we prioritize our time and resources based on current realities? The most important question we need to ask ourselves is this: Do our goals and strategies reflect God’s overall purpose for the Church?

That last question requires us to ground ourselves to God’s overall plan. That grounding refocuses us on the big picture and allows us to be more effective when developing our spiritual and ministry strategies and goals. So, what is the overall plan?

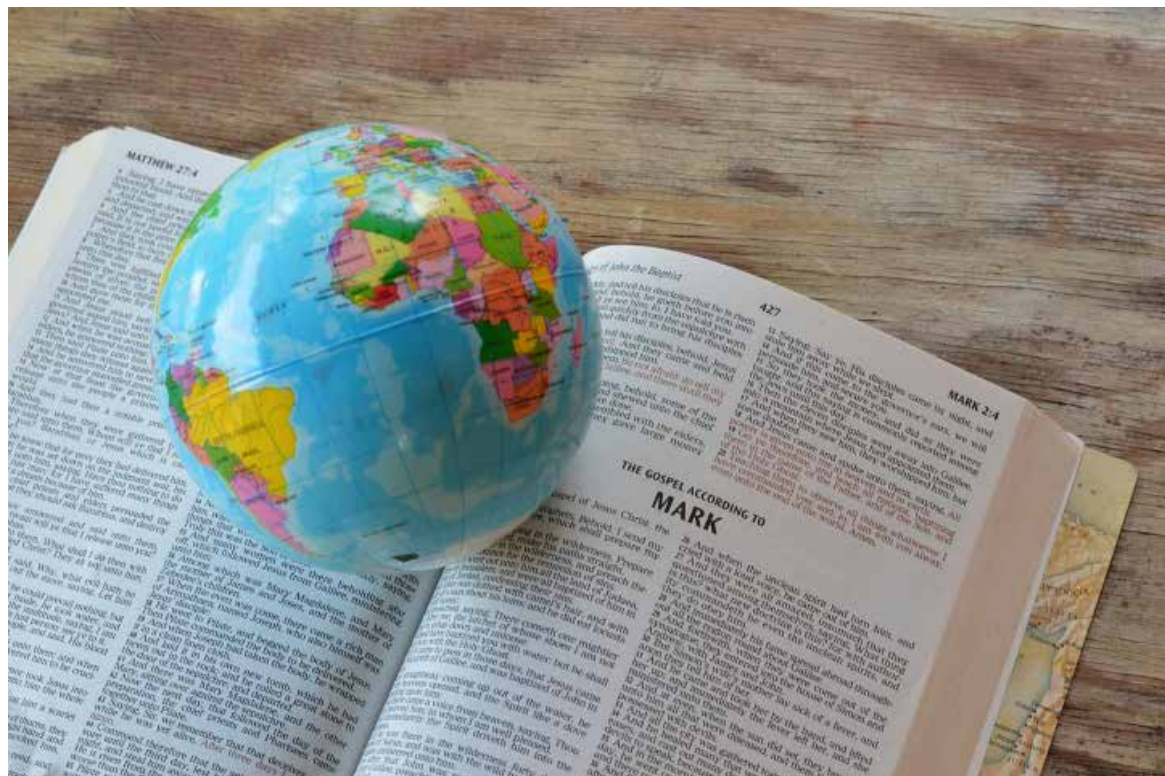
In God’s story, we are living in the part when God is reconciling his image-bearers back to himself. God chose to use those already reconciled to be the message-bearers to those still separated from Him. Jesus specifically gave believers the task to take this message to all peoples throughout the world. This lines up with Jesus’s answer when asked which of the commandments was the greatest: love God and love others. God is glorified by his image-bearers being reconciled to Him. Trying to bring God glory shows our love for Him. When people are reconciled to God, they are set free from sin and death. Sharing the Good News with others also shows our love for them. The Great Commission Jesus gave to believers is in line with the Great Commandment He also gave.

Now, when we assess our goals, strategies, and current direction, do they align with the specific task Jesus gave to Christians, the Great Commission? If we looked at our budgets, schedules, and goals for life and ministry, would the findings clearly reflect the priorities of loving God, loving others, and taking the Gospel to all peoples? If not, it’s high time to make some changes.

One challenge that may arise in prioritizing the Great Commission is figuring out a strategy or direction to go based on where things currently stand. You may be wondering if there is someone or something out there to help. That’s where mobilization comes in.

As the Director of Mobilization for BMA Global, I am a resource that exists to help you personally and organizationally to be more intentional and involved in the Great Commission. “Mobilization” is the act of assisting and facilitating a collective movement toward a common cause. In mobilization there are three ways to increase impact of a movement; focusing the efforts and resources, increasing overall involvement, and coordinating smaller groups with a similar focus to work together as a larger movement.

I’ve been an Arkansan for 20 years now, but I was raised in northern Iowa. That being said, I grew up with snow being a regular part of life so I’ll explain how



mobilization can increase the impact of a movement using snowfall as a metaphor.

If a storm drops an inch of snow along its path, there would be no impact for folks where I grew up. However, if somehow all of that snow funneled down to fall on one small town, there would be a substantial loss of life and property. Or, if instead of an inch of snow, the accumulated snow along the path increased to two feet, there would collectively be a similar loss of life and property as the previous example, but the impact would be spread out over the path of the storm. A storm’s impact can be increased if the same volume of snow is focused on a small target. It can also increase the impact by simply increasing the amount of snow on its current path. Either of those scenarios combined with multiple snow storms coming through and hitting the same area within a week would compound the impact with each additional storm that comes through.

Mobilization can increase our Great Commission impact in those same ways: focusing our efforts, increasing our involvement, and coordinating with others who have similar strategies. I desire to be a helpful resource for people, churches, and ministries in the BMAA by assisting them in those three ways to maximize their impact in the Great Commission as they Send, Go, Sustain, and Welcome.

Is it time to make some changes to better reflect God’s purposes? Do you want to level up your involvement, focus, or collaboration? I’m here to help, so contact me today at [sean@bmaglobal.org](mailto:sean@bmaglobal.org).

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## SHORT-TERM MISSIONS WITH LONG-TERM GOALS

By Angela Rice

Director of Short-term Missions

[bmaglobal.org](http://bmaglobal.org)

Short-term trips are intentional journeys to serve with a missionary and provide assistance in a project or ministry, serve the local church, share the gospel, build relationships, and foster cross-cultural understanding. More often than not, the person taking the trip is much more impacted than the ones they go to serve. God uses short-term trips to open the traveler's heart and mind to different people groups, people who live and serve and worship differently than the traveler does.

For BMA Global, short-term missions include Volunteer Student Missions, Baptist Medical Missions International, a shoebox trip, or a church trip. Short-term missions for us is a short-term trip with a long-term goal in mind. Through BMA Global short-term missions, our goal is to foster a love for missions in every person that visits our mission fields. We pray that during the mission and for many years after, the things that are learned stay with you, calling you to be a part of long-term missions in some way. We pray for long-term missionaries to be called from short term trips, and they are. Most of our missionaries first felt called to missions on a short term trip. If you ask a full-time missionary about how they were called into missions, many will tell you of a time when they served for a couple of weeks, and during that time, God began calling them to give their life fully to missions. But God does not call all of us to go; He calls some of us to send.

Our missionaries in Romania are great examples of this. Bryan Risner stepped up as a youth pastor to serve as a VSM leader so that one of his students could go on a mission trip. God used that first trip to begin calling his family to Romania, and each year as he led the VSM trip to Romania, that calling became stronger to him and to his family. In 2017, The Risners moved to Romania accompanied by a short-term team. Bryan and Pam have been faithfully serving the Lord in Romania now for seven years. They have helped with three church plants and are always looking for the next thing God has for them.

The vision of BMA Global is to send missionaries to share God's story, make disciples, and plant churches that multiply among the nations. So, short-term missions come alongside a missionary as a support system. With VSM, we usually go and do service projects, Vacation Bible Schools, and other things that will assist in bringing new people to the church to meet the pastor and the members serving in a community. BMMI sets up a medical clinic, just for the purpose of making the missionary known in the community. We want to open doors that will help our missionaries get to know more people.

If you would like to be involved in short-term missions, there are many ways to do that.

- First, pray. We would love for everyone to be praying over our teams that are traveling during the summer: we have nine VSM teams, a BMMI team, and several church teams.
- Second, go. If you would like to go on a short-term trip, reach out to me at [angela@bmaglobal.org](mailto:angela@bmaglobal.org) and I will talk to you about what type of trip is best for you. I promise, you will not regret taking time to serve with our missionaries around the world. We have the very best!
- Lastly, support. If you would like to financially support short-term missions, you can do that at [bmaglobal.org](http://bmaglobal.org). Because of our generous supporters, we are able to provide short-term mission trips each year.





# LIFEWORLD MINISTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

By Emily Brantley  
Lifeworld  
lifeworld.org

**Africa:** Amidst political unrest, economic instability, and health crises that are found in various countries in Africa, Lifeworld's partners are working diligently to spread the gospel and hope of Jesus. Our partners in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Zambia are regularly reporting the salvation of souls and the growth of their churches through Lifeworld's partnership and broadcasting efforts in their countries. In a continent where there are over 3,000 languages spoken, it is vital that we have partners who are seeking to present the gospel in as many of these languages as they can. We currently have Lifeworld broadcasts in 161 languages, and over half of those are languages spoken in Africa.

**Americas:** In North America, Lifeworld is working on the development of an app for FOLLOW, our new online discipleship portal. In addition, we have begun the process of translating FOLLOW into Spanish. With Spanish being the second most common language spoken in the world, we know that FOLLOW will make an impact in these communities around the world. We are also preparing for this year's Lifeworld Sunday on October 20th. We are praying that the Lord will provide the resources we need to

continue carrying out His mission around the world. In Central and South America, our Lifeworld partners are preparing for a new online-streaming TV station to go live this summer with 100% Lifeworld video programming. There is also a new theology program being produced for Central and South America and steps are being taken to produce content in 5 languages in Bolivia (Chimán, Sirionó, Mojeño, Yucares, and Yukises).

**Asia:** In Asia Pacific, Lifeworld Regional Coordinator Pete Etabag reports that team members are being trained in using streaming services, like Streamyard, to do live shows and more online programming. Our Asia Pacific Lifeworld Team Member in Myanmar regularly reports positive engagements on his video programming from Muslim and Buddhist listeners in his area. In the Middle East, our Lifeworld Regional Coordinator Joe Costa asks for prayers as their team is working to update their studio in the hopes of being able to produce more content and reach more lost individuals in their area.

**Europe:** Lifeworld Regional Coordinator Bogdon Bilav reports new initiatives being started on TikTok to reach the German speaking community. They are continuing their efforts to reach the Gypsy community, the Romanian speaking community, the Hungarian speaking community, and the French speaking community in Europe.

Among the 100+ partners that Lifeworld has around the globe and our US team, efforts are being made daily to share the gospel with the world through radio, internet, digital print, and various ministries. We are currently broadcasting in 161 languages, with a goal to add 4-6 more languages before the end of the year. Over 2 billion people in the world have the ability to hear Lifeworld broadcasting every day. Would you join us in praying for our partners around the world? Please pray that their ministries in their various countries and cultures will be blessed and that many will come to know Christ because of them and Lifeworld Media Ministries.

