

# mission:world

NEWS



## A NEW CHANGEMAKER SERVING IN SPAIN

Mario Monroy  
ChangeMaker in Spain

**M**ario Monroy is one of BMA Global's newest ChangeMaker missionaries, continuing a ministry that has already spanned multiple countries and is now bearing fruit across Spain and Latin America.

Mario and his wife, Amuy, along with their children—Katerina, Josiah, and Lucas—are currently serving in southern Spain, where they are planting churches and equipping leaders in a region with great spiritual need.

The Monroy family's ministry began in Panama, where Mario served as pastor of First Baptist Church in David City and also worked as a missionary. From there, God led their family to Guatemala, where he pastored God's Family Baptist Church in Guatemala City for six years and served as National Missions Director for Baptist churches across the country.

Even during those years of ministry, God was stirring something more in their hearts, a calling to go where the need for the gospel was even greater.

That calling led them to Spain in 2010.

For the past 15 years, the Monroys have lived in Chiclana de la Frontera, Cádiz, a city of approximately 80,000 people. As they immersed themselves in the culture, they discovered that many people were open to spiritual conversations in a more personal setting. They began inviting people into their home to study the Bible, and what started as a small gathering of young couples has grown into a thriving church.

Today, those early participants are leading and discipling others, reflecting the Monroys' commitment to building churches that function like family and point people to the hope found in Jesus Christ.

Through their ministry, three churches have been planted—two in Chiclana and one in Jerez de la Frontera. Their focus has remained clear: not just planting churches, but equipping leaders to sustain and multiply them.

That vision has expanded far beyond Spain.

Seven years ago, leaders from Latin America reached out to the Monroys for training in house church planting. What began with a few countries has grown into a network of

leaders across 12 countries in Latin America. Through online training and ongoing mentorship, the Monroys are helping equip leaders to plant and shepherd churches in their own communities.

Even as this international training continues, their work in Spain remains central. Their vision is to see churches planted throughout Cádiz, across Andalucía, and beyond, while raising up leaders who can carry the work forward.

As a ChangeMaker missionary, Mario Monroy represents the growing movement of indigenous and national leaders who are multiplying disciples, leaders, and churches in strategic regions around the world.

The Monroy family asks for prayer as they continue this work. They request wisdom and strength for ministry, encouragement for their children as they serve in a culture that often resists the gospel, and continued growth among the house churches and leaders they are discipling in both Spain and Latin America.

Above all, they ask for prayer that people in Spain would come to know Jesus.



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## NEWS



## FROM REFUGEE TO MISSIONARY

Morteza A.  
ChangeMaker in Germany

**M**orteza A., a ChangeMaker missionary serving in Germany, is reaching people with the gospel out of a story marked by displacement, faith, and a clear calling to ministry. Originally from Afghanistan, Morteza was born into a Muslim family. His life took a significant turn while living as a refugee in Greece, where he was first introduced to the message of Jesus Christ. It was there that he came to faith—an experience that would shape both his future and his calling.

Now living in Germany for the past five years, Morteza is serving among Afghan and other immigrant communities, many of whom have little to no exposure to the gospel.

His burden is clear: to share the hope of Jesus with people who have never heard.

“Many of the people I meet have not believed in Jesus, and many have never even heard about Him,” Morteza shared.

Germany has become a strategic place for this ministry, as it is home to a growing population of refugees and immigrants from countries where access to the gospel is often limited. Through relational ministry and personal conversations, Morteza is engaging people with the truth of Scripture and introducing them to Christ.

In addition to his ministry, Morteza is preparing for an important new chapter in his life. He will soon marry Sara Filimon, a missionary serving in Romania. Following their wedding, the couple plans to continue serving together in Germany, strengthening and expanding the work among immigrant communities.

Morteza also asks for prayer for his family, who are currently living in Iran during a time of ongoing conflict and uncertainty. He specifically requests prayer for his brother, who has shown interest in learning more about Jesus.

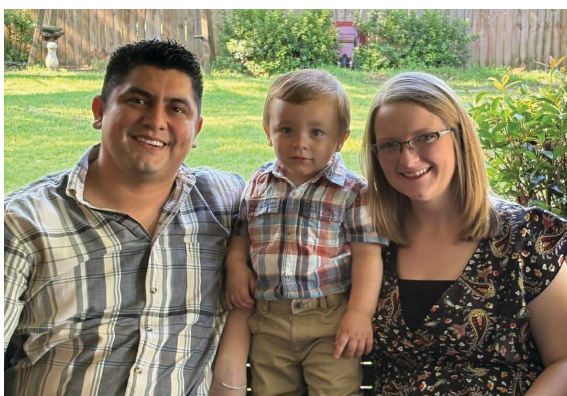
As a ChangeMaker missionary, Morteza represents a growing movement of believers who are uniquely positioned to reach their own people with the gospel, even across borders.

He asks for continued prayer for his ministry in Germany, for his family, and for the many who have yet to hear the name of Jesus.



## SMALL STEPS OF FAITH IN NICARAGUA

Evertz Rojas  
ChangeMaker in Nicaragua



**I**n the community of Las Flores, Nicaragua, God is building His church through the faithful ministry of ChangeMaker Evertz Rojas and his wife, JC, along with their young son, Luca. What began as a small step of faith has grown into a thriving local church that is reaching families, discipling believers, and sharing the gospel throughout the community.

JC's journey to Nicaragua began years earlier in Wiggins, Mississippi, where she grew up attending Vardaman Street Baptist Church. As a student, she first came to Nicaragua through Volunteer Student Missions (VSM). What started as a short-term mission trip became something much more as God knit her heart to the people of Nicaragua and eventually led her to serve there long-term.

Evertz's path into ministry also developed through discipleship and partnership. He was part of the original team that helped plant Masaya Baptist Church under the leadership of Oscar Gaitán. Through that experience, he was trained and mentored in church planting and pastoral ministry, laying the foundation for future gospel work.

Together, Evertz and JC stepped out in faith to plant a church in Las Flores. Over the past four years, God has steadily grown the work. Today the church celebrates 41 baptized believers and gathers each Sunday with an average attendance of around 60 adults. Beyond Sunday services, the church is committed to discipleship, with four weekly small groups where believers study Scripture, pray together, and encourage one another in their faith.

The ministry also reaches the next generation. Each week around 60 children attend kids' clubs where they hear the gospel and experience the love of Christ.

The church family is now building a larger worship facility through sacrificial giving from local believers. Piece by piece, the building is being completed as the congregation invests in what they see as their church and their mission.

Through faithful discipleship and partnership with BMA Global, Evertz and JC are helping the gospel take root in Las Flores as Christ continues to build His church.

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## NEWS

## THE MEASURE OF MINISTRY

By Dr. John David Smith  
President, BMA Global

**M**ore than twenty years ago, my family and I boarded a plane and left Cape Verde after twelve years of missionary service. We left thinking we would be back after I completed more seminary studies; however, that was not God's plan. Cape Verde became a part of us in those years. It had been our home. It was where my wife and I grew up from our early 20s to our mid 30s. It was where we learned the rhythms of ministry, struggled through learning the language and culture, helped plant churches, invested in future leaders, and watched God strengthen a work that we prayed would ultimately continue long after we were gone.

Earlier this year I had the privilege of returning again. Stepping back onto the island of Sao Vicente after twenty-two years brought a flood of memories and offered a deep sense of being home. The dry volcanic mountains, the ocean winds, and the sound of Cape Verdean Creole being spoken reminded me of so many past experiences. My heart was stirred by the memories, but what moved me the most was seeing, by God's hand, the blessings on present ministry.

Missionaries often leave a field with many questions. Will the churches remain strong? Will new leaders emerge and will the existing leaders be faithful? What will the work look like in a few years? My visit was a great reminder of God's faithfulness and the absolute necessity of dedicated, prepared local leaders.



scaffolding, not the edifice. Missionaries help to start a work, but the long-term viability of those churches depends on local leaders shepherding local churches.

When everything is said and done in missionary investment, what is the real measure of that effort? I would say that it is measured in the lives and faithfulness of those indigenous (local) leaders. Evangelism, discipleship, leadership development, and church planting, which are all indispensable in the fulfillment of the Great Commission, will all fade away once the missionary leaves if there are no faithful, prepared local leaders. Seeing these leaders in Cape Verde produce other leaders was great motive for gratitude and joy.

One of the most encouraging moments of my visit was participating in the ordination of Helder Ines. Helder trusted Christ during our time in Sao Vicente, and over the years he has been growing and serving to the point that he is now planting a new church. By the way, the examination portion of his ordination lasted three and a half hours! That could be the topic of a future article perhaps noting the thorough nature of the believers and churches in this process. All of this reminded me of the ultimate goal of the missionary enterprise. Missionaries are the

We also celebrated a significant anniversary in the life of the Evangelical Baptist Church in Sao Vicente. Looking back at the 35 years that we have known this church, there certainly have been difficulties. The church's resilience and fruitfulness under the leadership of current pastor, Eudo Rodrigues, has been noteworthy, as it has grown and helped plant other churches on other islands, as well as send multiple leaders to other countries as pastors and leaders. Anniversaries are powerful moments because they remind us that ministry is rarely about quick results. The work of the gospel unfolds over years and even generations. In God's mission, we often do not start a work; we grow a work. Like seed in the soil, the gospel takes root and matures through patient investment, faithful discipleship, and time."

Another important part of this visit was spending time training pastors and church leaders. Leadership development remains one of the most strategic investments we can make in global missions. These leaders do not need outsiders to lead for them. They do desire tools, biblical insight, and encouragement to help them shepherd the people God has entrusted to them. The future of the churches in Cape Verde will not depend on missionaries from outside the country. It will depend on leaders whom God has raised up from within the churches in Cape Verde.

Not every missionary has the opportunity to return to a place where they once served decades earlier. For me, this visit was a privilege. It reminded me that the work of missions has never been about one person, one family, or even one generation. It is about the ongoing work of God through His churches. Those who were there before us laid a good foundation, and BMA churches have faithfully sent and supported the work for many years. Local believers embraced the gospel and began leading their own congregations, and today the work continues.

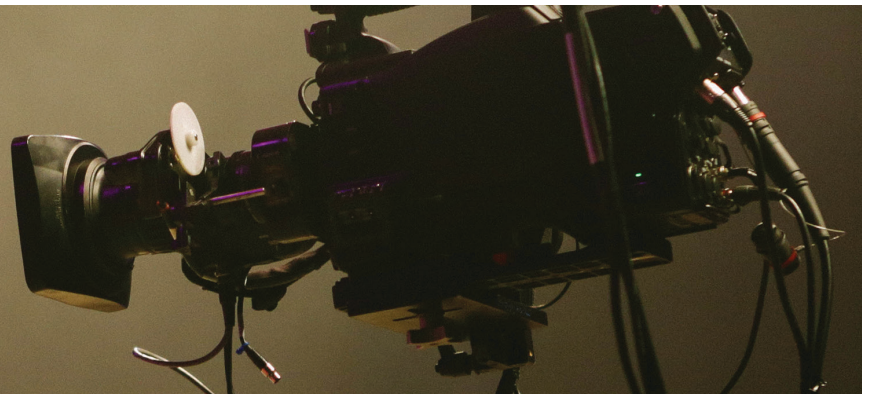
One key lesson stood out during this visit: the true measure of ministry is not what we build, but who we develop. Buildings age and require lots of maintenance and money. Programs change. But leaders multiply. Seeing the churches in Cape Verde led by capable and committed local leaders was a powerful reminder that investing in people is always the most strategic work of missions.

Cape Verde will always hold a special place in our hearts. It is where we served, where we learned, where we grew up, and where we saw God at work in ways we never expected. Returning after twenty-two years reminded me that gospel work often unfolds slowly, faithfully, and quietly across decades. And sometimes God gives us the incredible privilege of returning to see just a little of the fruit He gives. For that, I am truly grateful.



# Lifeword<sup>®</sup>

NEWS



## LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME

By Emily Brantley  
Lifeword  
lifeword.org

**A** *New Mission Field We Can't Ignore*  
When did you come to know Christ as your Lord and Savior? For many of us, that moment didn't happen in adulthood—it happened in childhood. Maybe it was in a Sunday school classroom, during Vacation Bible School, or in the quiet of your bedroom after a simple, sincere prayer.

You're not alone.

Research consistently shows that 64–80% of believers come to faith before the age of 18. Even more striking, the “4–14 window”—those formative years between ages 4 and 14—is when over 70% of people make the decision to follow Christ.

If the most important decision of a person's life is often made during childhood... then that's where we must be.

### A Mission Field in Plain Sight

Today's children are growing up in a world unlike any before. The internet is not just part of their lives—it is their environment.

At restaurants, in cars, at ballgames, at home—screens are everywhere. In fact, nearly every child now has access to the internet, and many spend hours each day consuming digital content.

The question is no longer if children are being disciplined.

The question is—by whom?

What voices are shaping their understanding of truth?

What stories are forming their identity?

What messages are capturing their attention?

At Lifeword, we believe this is one of the most urgent mission fields of our time.

And it's one we cannot afford to ignore.

### Stepping Into the Digital Harvest

For decades, Lifeword has followed a simple calling: tell the story of Jesus using whatever media is most effective.

From radio... to print... to television... and now—digital platforms.

Today, that mission is leading us somewhere new.

We are stepping intentionally into children's programming through a brand-new initiative: **Lifeword KIDS**.

This is more than just a new project—it is the largest production initiative Lifeword has ever undertaken. And in many ways, it's unlike anything we've done before.

Our goal is simple but significant: to meet children where they already are and speak truth into their lives through engaging, Christ-centered content.

### Meet “Lifeword's Little Learners”

The first show under Lifeword KIDS will be *Lifeword's Little Learners*, starring Rebecca Decker.

Rebecca brings over 20 years of experience in education and a deep love for teaching young children. As a pastor's wife and lifelong follower of Christ, she is passionate about helping kids grow not only in knowledge—but in their understanding that they are deeply loved by Jesus.

Through *Lifeword's Little Learners*, children will explore foundational academic concepts while also discovering biblical truth in a way that is joyful, engaging, and developmentally meaningful.

The show is currently in production, with a planned release in Fall 2026.

And while the cameras, scripts, and sets are all part of the process, what excites us most is what we can't fully see yet—the lives that will be impacted.

### The Story Is Still Being Written

In many parts of the world, missionaries cross oceans to reach people who have never heard the name of Jesus.

Today, there is another mission field—one that exists not across oceans, but across screens.

Children are already there.

They are already listening.

They are already learning.

And now, by God's grace, we get to step into that space with the truth of the Gospel.

This is a new kind of “field,” but the mission is the same:

To let the little children come...

and to make sure when they do, they hear the story of Jesus.

