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GOOD NEWS!

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BAPTIST FAITH MISSIONS

bfm NEWS & REPORTS

Assisting Baptist churches to send God-called missionaries to fulfill church-planting missions in the nations of the world

A CHALLENGING MONTH PREPPING FOR CLASSES



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October 16, 2020

Dear friends and family,

Some months are what we consider more productive than others. This is one that has been a challenge. Limited mobility (broken ankle) and the China virus, of which our country and all the world is being challenged. So, we are working to establish another virtual class for our seminary group in São Paulo. This is the group that is closer to completing the 12 classes for a degree or a certification in Pastoral Ministries. These students, Pastors, missionaries, and church workers are also challenged as we are challenged. We, trying to get the class set up, and they, trying to be able to have the funds and the time to participate.

We are now permitted to have a certain number of virtual classes because of the China virus. So our proposal is to have five classes set up by the end of the 2021 summer. We have completed one class: Systematic Theology, book by Wayne Grudem. The professor was Dr. Coleman and the class was given in São Paulo and in Africa. The virtual classes are going to increase our outreach immensely.

How AWESOME is our Lord, taking bad things and converting them into something good. We cannot brag on Him enough! Even though we have a few problems to overcome, all things are possible. Here is a good time to

were hoping for the end of the year; however, that has been delayed until April 2021 now. Our plans now are to purchase our tickets for the spring of 2021 and praying that we do not have to cancel and reschedule again.



One of the classes from 2019

interject a particular prayer request: pray for the setting up, organization, and preparation by our pastors and other technologies we will encounter for these classes.

We are somewhat hesitant to purchase our tickets for Brasil as of yet since we are in doubt as to when we can travel in-country. We

We are still waiting to get reimbursed for the tickets in March. Please make this one of your prayer requests.

As I am traveling in Brasil it gives me opportunities to reacquaint myself with the Pastors and to know the problems that they are encountering and the struggles they have to overcome. Before and after



A book they are using in the classes

classes and during our break time I am discussing all these things and getting their ideas as to how we can overcome these problems. I also use this time to encourage them and to pray with them. I don't have all the answers but I can work with them in these areas. So I am asking you for your prayers for the Brazilian pastors and church workers to keep on keeping on in the vocation they have been called to accomplish: His mission —Go—Teach—Reach. This is going to be and is accomplished because of you. Your prayerful support and financial help is more than AWESOME!!!!

Continue to pray for us as we were chomping at the bits to get back to Brasil to carry on with God's work there.

In His service,
AJ and Barbara



"And...they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how He had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles." -Acts 14:27

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*May God give them wisdom and discernment
as they prayerfully make decisions.*

NEW YOUNG MEN INTERESTED IN DISCIPLESHIP COURSE; PREPARING FOR FURLOUGH



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October 1, 2020

Dear praying friends,

We hope this finds you all doing well. It is hard to believe that we are in the month of October already. How time flies. This update will share our current plans as well as our upcoming time of furlough.

As I shared last month, there has been a big "to do" list before shutting down for furlough. You don't really realize it until you start shutting down. You need to figure out how to pay bills in Kenya while you are in America, try to find someone to stay in your house while you are gone, get necessary work permit paperwork done before leaving, and the list goes on. I am very happy and feel we are in good shape and prepared for our upcoming furlough.

We plan to be in the West Virginia area starting in December 2020. If anyone knows of any housing in the area between Charleston and Huntington, that would be very much appreciated. Finding housing on furlough is one of the biggest challenges, and we are trusting God to provide something in this area within our budget. If anyone has any leads, please email me at naterad@yahoo.com and we can discuss more of the specifics. We know God will provide in His time and plan. 2 Corinthians 9:8 says, "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." Also, Philippians 4:6, which says, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." We are trusting God to provide for this need and we appreciate your prayers with us for housing.

Coronavirus has really disturbed things here in Kenya. Schools will

not reopen until January of next year. So many things were closed down, for about a five-month period. There were no international flights for some time. You had (and still do have) to get your temperature taken before entering supermarkets, etc., as well as washing of hands. Thankfully, we praise the Lord that Kitale has been spared the brunt of the cases and not that many to date have been sick. Please pray for Nairobi and other large cities that have borne the brunt of the cases. We know it has been difficult in America as well. We remember you in prayer as you please remember us as well. It has been a challenging year to say the least. Obviously, I (Nathan) have not been able to continue with the prison ministry, as it is a hot spot for the virus. Please pray for the prisoners and their health, all over Kenya.

I did receive some encouraging news about the ministry in Taito, a village located right outside Kitale. One of my students has been very encouraged and built up spiritually through the discipleship course, and he has gone to his village himself to invite other young men to the trainings. I have been informed there are around four other young men who live in the area who have seen some of the teachings and are excited to come, study, and learn. I understand that they are independent-minded and want to learn the Word of God. This discipleship course is so foundational as so many of the men have lacked these teachings from the start. They need to get grounded before they go out and teach others, eventually leading to planting churches, Lord willing. The course has received very positive feedback and I am thankful for this. Obviously, with preparing for furlough, I am not able to start with them now, but this will be a good lead for next term, Lord willing.

One of the things that has been emphasized to me over and over is to get youths to train, usually

around 20 to 25 years of age. They should have some form of employment, as this will help them to be independent thinking and not depend on the missionary. Also, they should have a heart for the Lord and a true desire to serve. After receiving the trainings, they should start groups in their respective areas, with people they know, such as friends, neighbors, and family. This should be the start and they can build off that. I have been pleased with the results I have seen with this model this term and ask that you would pray with me that God would provide this type of men from the start. We are trusting God to provide this type of men and ask that you would pray with us for this.

One of the big prayer requests that has been answered is friends for our daughters. The mission field can be a challenging and very lonely place. Homesickness is a constant battle, and it is increased with there is a lack of friends, especially for children. There is a new family in Kitale that has a girl that has been such a good friend and blessing to our daughters. They have so much fun playing together. What a wonderful provision for our daughters and an answer to prayer. Please pray for the new family and their adjustments, as well as for our girls, in regards to friends for them. God has been so good to provide and we trust Him to provide for them for the future.

We appreciate each of you so much. Your prayers, sacrificial giving, and encouragement are always such a blessing. Please pray for our upcoming furlough, as we want God to receive the glory for all that is said and done. I am reminded of Isaiah 42:8, which says, "I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." Also, 1 Corinthians 10:31, which says, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." May this be our true desire, to bring honor and glory to God in all that we do.

Blessings,
Nathan and Carrie Radford

QUESTIONING GOD



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October 11, 2020

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

Have you ever questioned God's character? Have you ever questioned his goodness? Have you ever questioned his justice? Have you ever asked him, "Hey, God, why are you doing this"? or "Why did you allow that to happen"?

You say: "Roger, good Christians and good followers of God don't ask those kinds of questions" (At least, good missionaries don't, right?). And I suppose you are right.

But I have been asking God some

of these questions lately. "God, why won't you let anything I do in your name succeed"? "God, why do you allow false teachers, false prophets and false pastors to thrive with seemingly no effort"? "God, why do I not have any energy or strength to do your work"? "God, why do you allow things to start well only to allow them to die a slow death"?

I am especially asking God about that last question, especially concerning the Chapel. Things were going so well at the Chapel to the point that I had begun to teach and preach about what constitutes a church and what is a church and what does it mean to organize and start a church. I was thinking the people of the Chapel were ready to hear these things and maybe we were ready to proceed to organize into a church. However, since we

shut things down in March as a result of Covid the whole ministry has (in my estimation) imploded. Only three or four people show up to our services each week, some of those an hour late. Those that come have an apathetic spirit about worship and service. Others offer lame excuses for not coming. I can't even seem to get electricity and water at our new venue.

I so much want this ministry to grow and thrive. I so much want the Kingdom of Jesus to grow in this place. I so much want Jesus to be loved and followed by those here who are called by his name. But every time it seems like we are heading in this direction it also seems like everything eventually falls apart.

So, yea, I've been asking God some of those kinds of questions,

even though I know I am the problem and not him. But I am not alone in asking these kinds of questions. Various psalmists asked these kinds of questions. And most recently I noticed how Habakkuk asked these questions about God's justice. Habakkuk looked around at his nation, Israel, and cried "ah, violence, iniquity, strife and wickedness everywhere. God, why won't you do anything"? So God said, "I will send the unrighteous Babylonians to judge and destroy Israel". Habakkuk responded, "Hey, wait a minute, God. That doesn't sound right either. What are you thinking"?

See, others question God's goodness sometimes too. So, starting this Sunday we will embark upon a study of Habakkuk at the Chapel - to see what God has to say to Habakkuk and to see what Habakkuk learns and how he responds to God. This study isn't mainly for the three or four people who are attending the weekly service, but is mainly for me. If you haven't read Habakkuk in a while, go check it out. It's only three chapters long and has some good insight that you (and especially I) might need.

Blessings to you all,
Roger, Julie, Amy, Josiah & Chloe

GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE GOOD NEWS!



Bobby & Charlene Wacaser

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October 3, 2020

Dear Friends,

Good news about the Good News! I truly love when someone under my leadership calls or writes to share with me that the Lord used them to win a lost friend or relative to Christ. I got that privilege again this week from Priscilla, one of the young ladies from my church. She told me that for several weeks she had been seeking to demonstrate the love of Christ to a coworker of hers who did not know the Lord. She wanted me to know that she had listened to the teaching from the pulpit about letting our light shine to those around us in order to open a door for sharing the message of the gospel. She had been seeking to do that with her friend from work and that friend finally asked what she must do to be saved. Priscilla showed her from the Bible how to surrender her life to Christ as Lord and Savior and her friend did just that. She brought her friend to the very next appointed church meeting and they both were over-

joyed by God's mercy and grace. God's good news is still good news and He is still transforming lives through it.

Because of the COVID restrictions since early in the year, we had not attempted any of our special yearly church events that involve close proximity one to another. Finally, in September, those restrictions were somewhat lifted and we were able to put on our first married couples' meetings of the year. It was a wonderful success. Many of our church members were so excited about being able to get involved in planning and executing a special event that they went over and above in the quality of the preparations. As a result, some of our couples were motivated to work on improving their marriage relationships.

Some wives shared with Charlene that their husbands took the teachings to heart and made some clear efforts to be more romantic and considerate. I am grateful that we are getting the privilege of being able to meet and fellowship more freely, as well.

Our outreach team, Projeto Vida, has used the pause in public school classes to find other ways of getting the gospel out to people who don't go to church, even by invitation. We discovered that many people who lost their jobs during the pandemic have also lost their homes. Our homeless population has

increased exponentially this year. The majority of them struggle to find enough to eat, so our team prepares hot meals and takes them to strategic locations where many homeless people gather. While serving their food, and afterward, we

"God's good news is still good news and He is still transforming lives through it."

- Bobby Wacaser -

offer to pray for their needs and to sit down and talk about the issues that they want to share. We know that we can't "fix" all their problems, but we do share the message of the grace and mercy of Christ and the power of God to change even the direst of situations. Almost all of them accept the food graciously. My hope is that our efforts have a double (or more) impact: 1) That those who receive our gift of a hot meal can see the love of Christ in us and behind our efforts and, 2) That our own members will be touched by the plight of those whose situations are worse than their own and will be grateful for God's blessings and share them for the increase of His glory.

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and support of our ministry here in southern Brazil.

Bobby and Charlene Wacaser

PROVISION FOR A REAL NEED



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October 21, 2020

Dear friends,

It was 2:00 pm on Monday when I heard the doorbell ring. I was not expecting anyone. Our four kids were studying at their desks. Raquel had gone out to take care of some things. Before I could get a glimpse of who was outside, Melissa said, "Who is it, Dad?" "I don't know. Going to find out," I responded. "Stay in your room while I check." I looked through the window but did not recognize the person. I opened the door to speak to him, as he stood behind the main gate of our house (almost all houses in Sao Paulo are walled, gated, have barbed wire or an electric fence around the property perimeter wall, and often have multiple security cameras). He greeted

me with a hopeful smile, "Good afternoon, sir. I am trying to find a way to feed my family. Do you have any yard work I could do for you? Any debris, or trash I can remove? Any aluminum cans or other recyclables? If you want me to, I can sweep your sidewalk and street. I can make it look really nice." He was wearing a t-shirt, a pair of jeans, and flip-flops. He was pushing a shopping cart. Inside the cart were a broken tube TV, two bags of rice, and a bag of pinto beans.

My heart breaks every time I see someone in this situation at our door. (What if this was

me in such extreme poverty? And how would Jesus respond?) It is a tough call to give food out of our home door because word gets around quickly and people from all over come asking for assistance. A few months ago, a man rang the doorbell at 10:00 pm asking for a bus pass, or a subway ticket with the explanation of a recently deceased aunt and that he needed to identify the body at

the hospital morgue. (I assisted the first time, but the following week he

**"Pray for us
serve better,
love more
generously,
for abundant
provision,
and wisdom
from above."**

- Judson Hatcher -

came by again at 10 pm, with the same story). I still have mixed feelings when I am laying in bed, it is midnight, and I hear someone rummaging through our trash bags outside looking for food, or recyclables. Unfortunately, this happens all too often, and it has intensified since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. My prayer is always, "Lord, what can we do? Give me wisdom, to provide for a real need, not be scammed, protect my family, and still give people the opportunity to drink of the Living Water and eat of Your Bread so they may know You personally, and find fulfillment in Your sovereign provision for this life and for eternity.

I looked at the man as he held on to his cart and said, "I don't have any money on me." (We never keep money at home, or on us, for security reasons.) Before I could continue he replied, "Could you give me rice or milk if I pull out the weeds from this sidewalk gutter? I said, "Sure, go ahead." I responded, "I will be right back with something for your family." I returned with a 2.2lb of canned black beans and meat stew we often serve at our table. "This is from my family to yours. I have something else... Would you mind listening to something important my family can share with you?" I proceeded to share the Gospel. He listened. When I finished talking about the resurrection, he glared through me and said, "Thank you," and walked away with the items in his cart.

I pray the message will take hold in his heart.

Pray for us serve better, love more generously, for abundant provision, and wisdom from above.

Grateful always,
Judson and Raquel

THE BIGGER PICTURE



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October 12, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to encourage you today as we review a speck of what God is doing. The bigger picture is beyond our ability to comprehend in the present and the future. "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." (1 Corinthians 2:9) Who, a year ago, would have predicted that we would now be in a Covid pandemic? But, God knew and is greater than all.

The Tournefeuille church meeting yesterday was a blessing. We have been examining the encounters of Jesus with individuals. This Sunday we looked at the seaside interchange between Jesus and Simon Peter concluding with "Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men." (Luke 5:1-11).

Early in the morning, in the middle of his net washing after a tiring night of failed fishing, Peter obeyed in pushing back the boat from the edge and later by casting once more the nets. Awed by the miraculous power of Jesus, Peter "fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord". Jesus, instead, took Simon Peter with Him.

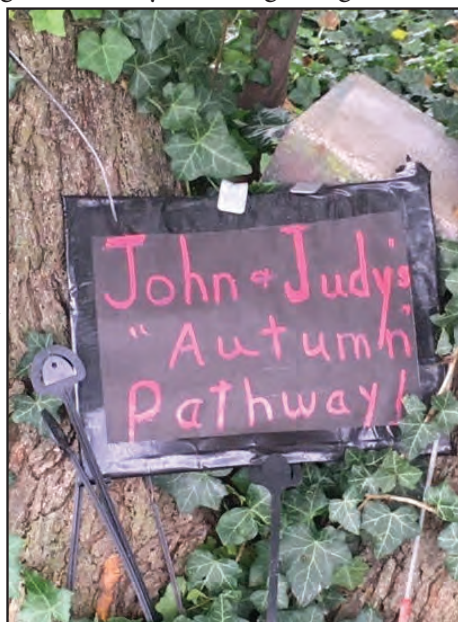
Do you, like Peter, feel tired and overwhelmed by the circumstances? Jesus, our friend, Savior, almighty God, has entered our boat. He is still telling us to "Fear not." He is in control. He will never leave you or forsake you and along the way you will experience His joy as He touches others through you.

One of the Tournefeuille church members (and our second oldest

granddaughter) is beginning her last month of serving God by serving refugees who are being held in Austria. Among these are followers of Jesus who have been persecuted for their faith and others who need to know Christ who overcame everything that is against them. What a delight to see how God is using Nathalie and working in her life as she follows Him. Your prayers for her are much appreciated.

You may remember the August letter about Suzie (which I wrongly spelled Susie). Judy and I thought you might like to see the latest sign that surprised us a few days ago. So, here it is.

May the Lord bless each of you,
John and Judy



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FISHING FOR FISH—AND FISHING FOR MEN



Odali & Kathy Barros

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October 19, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings from the Barros family!

We pray and hope that all is well with each church and each family. Things are well with us and the work here. Things are getting back to normal, but at the same time, taking care of our health and those around us. There have been several cases in the last few weeks of people with COVID around our community. Some from our church. Thank God none have been very serious.

This time of year is a specialty time for fishing. I have been able to take several men to fish and to have some fellowship and to also witness to men that are not saved. This is a way to reach many men around here. God has provided us with a boat and a motor. Also, we have been able to give fish to those who need it and also to pastors and some of their people in need. Last week we took fish to a group that works with Indians, Venezuelans, and an orphanage. This has been a great blessing. Last night I preached at one of these churches we have helped with



Children in Iranduba

fish. We were able to take some fish to them yesterday. Thank God for these opportunities! Continue to pray as we serve in this way.

Thank God the work at Iranduba is doing great. A pastor and his family have taken over the work and they are being blessed. The kids program is growing and adults are being reached. They live in the city there which is great for having more contact with the people.

The work in the community of Ubim is back to normal. The number of kids is back to normal with an average of 55-60. Last year we had some tee-shirts made for the kids to use. We would like to make some new ones. If you would like to help, Kathy would be thankful! The cost is 5 dollars per shirt.



The church they help with fish.



Iranduba



Ubim Children's Day Pizza Party

View more pictures at
blog.bfmnow.org!

everywhere. Our prayers are that we show them Christ and His love and sacrifice for us! That is the chance they will have for a different life!

God bless each of you! Thanks for your prayers and support!

Love in Christ, Odali & Kathy

POSITIVES IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC



Mike & Beverly Creiglow

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October 19, 2020

Dear Brethren,

Greetings from gradually opening Cruzeiro do Sul.

Last month we started having a Sunday morning service. These meetings have been limited to one hour. The state will not allow us to have childrens classes yet. In mid September we started having our Wednesday service again. Now in October we have added back our Sunday evening service. For all of September and half of October these meetings have been at 50% of what they were up to March 18th when we had our last service before the pandemic.

Even though the attendance has not

been as good as I would like, we still have had some surprising results. We have had 3 professions of faith, 5 requests for baptism, 4 requests to become member by letter, 1 by statement and 5 members coming back into fellowship after being out in the world. Besides these, we have presented 2 babies in the last 2 weeks. It is no surprise that these babies are pretty big kids already!

Then last Sunday we had a 27% increase in attendance in both services. We had 346 in the morning and 350 at night. That was encouraging. I am praying that we will continue to increase.

This period has been beneficial in sorting out some things in our church. We have been able to find out who is courageous and committed. We have also found out who is timid. These have been quite a letdown. As things were before they were involved and seemed to be audacious, but now they are still

home cowering because of the virus. These are the ones who don't hesitate to run a red light, but now are shaking in their boots because there is a 0.05% chance they may die of covid-19. A couple of these have received a sizeable investment in their ministries by the church. Needless to say, I am not too happy about the situation of this rather small group. They are His children though and we will do our best to get them moving again.

There are some positive things going on in our work overall. We just put the trusses on the building at Centrinho. The pastor there resigned recently, but we have already found 2 good men to take over. We also started building an annex at Miritizal. They are needing classroom space and a nursery. I drew up the plans a while ago and now we are building. This week we started paving the second half of our parking lot at

church, too. Even though the economy took a hit, still many things are in short supply because of the high demand. Building supplies are really hard to get.

Today I stepped out of my office as I heard a jet going over nearby. It was the first flight after over 6 months of isolation. The news reports say that we will have 4 flights a week. We used to have daily commercial flights. That went away overnight back in March. Now they are back and hopefully the isolation is over.

We are starting to have rain now and then. Hopefully the rainy season will kick in and the pandemic subside so I can get back out on the rivers. Can't wait!

Thanks for all of your prayers and support. God bless you as much as He has us.

In Christ,
Mike Creiglow

BAPTIST FAITH MISSIONS

THANKSGIVING OFFERING FAQ

(Frequently Asked Questions)

Will you please take the time to read this appeal for a much-needed generous Thanksgiving Offering? Maybe you have not given in previous years. May we explain the importance of the Thanksgiving Offering for the continued support of your missionaries? And may we invite you to join us this year in giving to supply the benefits and services we have committed to our missionaries?! *Thank you!*

1. "WHY DO WE HAVE A THANKSGIVING OFFERING?"

We have a Thanksgiving Offering because WE NEED IT for the coming year to supply the financial commitments we have made to our missionaries for the services and benefits we provide from a common contribution receptacle account called the "Missionary Support Fund." The monthly contributions we receive for the Missionary Support Fund are not sufficient to supply ALL of the benefits and services we commit to provide for our missionaries. So, we NEED the Thanksgiving Offering to supplement the monthly Missionary Support Fund offerings.

2. "WHY IS THE THANKSGIVING OFFERING SO IMPORTANT?"

The Thanksgiving Offering is ESSENTIAL because it is the only source of funds for supplying many of our missionaries' needs during the coming year. Those services and benefits NOT sufficiently funded by monthly offerings to the Missionary Support Fund are supplied by contributions received in the Thanksgiving Offering.

3. "WHAT SERVICES AND BENEFITS DOES THE THANKSGIVING OFFERING HELP PROVIDE?"

The Thanksgiving Offering enables us to provide the services and benefits we have committed to our missionaries "as the Lord provides" – *in addition to monthly salary, housing and ministry allowances, and hospitalization.* These benefits include:

- reimbursements for missionaries' Furlough (Home Assignment) airfare/transportation expenses to and from the field
- reimbursements for their hospitalization personal deductibles for the year (their personal deductible is \$1000 and we reimburse them \$600 of that amount)
- children's school/education expenses (if funds are available)
- expenses for mailing *BFM News & Reports* (missionaries' monthly letters, reports, updates -- and a brief summary report of all offerings given through BFM that month)
- expenses for maintaining Stateside office for communication and daily services – there are a lot of activities that go on Stateside to keep our missionaries functioning on their fields of service

4. "HOW ELSE IS THE MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND SUPPLIED?"

The primary supply for the Missionary Support Fund is from monthly offerings that are given to the Missionary Support Fund. These monthly Missionary Support Fund offerings are used to supply the "Essential Missionary Support" (EMS) that we have committed to the missionaries for their standard essential monthly expenses. These include:

- their monthly salary
 - their monthly standard housing allowance
 - their monthly standard ministry allowance
 - their monthly hospitalization premium
 - expenses for printing *BFM News & Reports* – their monthly newsletters, reports, and updates
- We just wish to reiterate – and we cannot over-emphasize – that we have no sources of funding for these*

committed benefits other than the monthly Missionary Support Fund and the Thanksgiving Offering. If we do not receive the necessary funding through these two contribution streams, we cannot disburse the benefits.

5. "WHY IS THE THANKSGIVING OFFERING GIVEN AT THE THANKSGIVING SEASON?"

- The BFM Thanksgiving Offering began many years ago in conjunction with the annual Thanksgiving Missionary Conference in the Detroit-area and has continued that way to this day.
 - Also, the Thanksgiving season is good reminder of the thanks we owe God for His Indescribable Gift in Jesus Christ – and our Thanksgiving Offering is a good way to express that thanks.
 - And, the Thanksgiving season and Offering is a good occasion for us to give missionary offerings so others, also, may hear the blessed Good News of salvation through Christ...and, in this way, share our Thanksgivings to God with others and MULTIPLY STILL MORE THANKSGIVINGS TO GOD.
- See 2 Corinthians 9.11-15

6. "HOW CAN I GIVE MY THANKSGIVING OFFERING?"

If your church receives a Thanksgiving Offering for the missionaries supported through BFM, then we encourage you to give your offering through your church. Most of the Thanksgiving Offerings that are given by churches are made up by the voluntary offerings of individual members who give to the Offering. *Pastors, we encourage you to give your church the opportunity to contribute to our BFM Thanksgiving Offering.*

7. "WHAT IF MY CHURCH DOES NOT RECEIVE A BFM THANKSGIVING OFFERING?"

If your church does not participate in the Thanksgiving Offering, you may send your personal gift to the Treasurer of BFM and *designate it "Thanksgiving Offering."*
Baptist Faith Missions / Pastor George Sledd, Treasurer
P.O. Box 471280
Lake Monroe FL 32747-1280
You can also give online at www.bfmnow.org and click on 'Donate/Support' and *designate for "Thanksgiving Offering" in the memo field.*

8. "CAN I GIVE MY THANKSGIVING OFFERING ONLY AROUND THANKSGIVING ... OR DURING NOVEMBER?"

No. Many churches and individual Friends of BFM give on or around "Thanksgiving Sunday." However, offerings begin coming in before November and continue to come in to the Treasurer during the months following November, and sometimes on into the next year. *You can give your Thanksgiving Offering any time. But, all offerings designated "Thanksgiving Offering" go toward the same collective Offering for that year.*

9. "HOW IS THE "EVERY FRIEND A GIVING FRIEND" PERSONAL GIVING MINISTRY PERTINENT TO THE THANKSGIVING OFFERING?"

We introduced the "EVERY FRIEND A GIVING FRIEND" ministry and plan during the 2003 Thanksgiving Conference. "Every Friend a Giving Friend" encourages each of our missionaries' friends to personally participate in regular giving to the Missionary Support Fund. This plan is nothing new or unique; it is just another way to express and articulate what the Friends of BFM have been doing since the inception of the Mission.



It is also patterned after the instructions Paul gives us in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9: that is,

1. to purpose in your heart to give an offering (9:7)
2. to give as generous an offering as God enables you (8:1-3 & 9:6)
3. to ask God – and trust Him – to supply you with the funds you will need to give the offering (9:8)
4. to plan and begin preparing even a year ahead of time (as Paul instructed the Corinthians and the other churches to do) (8:10-11 & 9:2)
5. to give your offerings to the Lord and to the Lord's missionaries willingly and cheerfully (9:7)
6. to express your love and obedience to the Lord through your generous giving (8:8 & 9:13)
7. to give as your response to Jesus Christ's grace and gift of Himself to you (8:9 & 9:15)

We encourage every Friend of BFM to be a **Giving Friend** and give a personal Thanksgiving Offering to help supply our missionaries' needs that are met through the monthly Missionary Support Fund.

"EVERY FRIEND A GIVING FRIEND" also challenges each Friend of BFM to personally participate in missions by giving monthly offerings *over and above the regular tithes and offerings you give to your church to meet the needs of your local church's ministries.* We encourage each **Giving Friend** to make a personal commitment to either begin giving or increase your giving each month to the Missionary Support Fund.

10. "WHY DO YOU SET GOALS FOR THE THANKSGIVING OFFERING?"

We set goals because the goal amount is keyed to the projected needs we expect to provide for the coming year of missionary ministry. And, when we increase the commitments, services, and benefits we give our missionaries so they can better fulfill their ministries, our needs for the necessary funds increase also.

And, please remember with us that we cannot approve and commit to increasing the services and benefits we provide for our missionaries unless we believe the Lord will supply those funds through your giving.

OUR 2020-21 THANKSGIVING OFFERING GOAL IS \$50,000.00.

Would you please pray and ask the Lord of the Harvest what he would have you give to this year's Thanksgiving Offering? And then ask Him also to supply you with that gift from his inexhaustible resources of Grace?

Thank You, GIVING FRIENDS!

Your September 2020

OFFERINGS

[Transacted in October]



Grand Total....\$49,645.06

However, only \$23,644.81 of this total amount was given for the *Missionary Support Fund*.

The remaining \$26,000.25 of the total amount contributed was designated for various other funds [\$1,980.00] or to the missionaries by name [\$24,020.25] for various specified designations.

WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT? It is so critically important because the way Baptist Faith Missions functions is that: when we assume full-time support for a missionary, that missionary's monthly support commitments are supplied from the *Missionary Support Fund*. In other words, the missionary does not 'raise' his own essential support funds. BFM commits to disburse these essential maintenance services "as the Lord provides." Then, we pray fervently to God, appeal to you, and trust the Lord to work in your hearts to help us provide these commitments to your missionaries by contributing to the *Missionary Support Fund*.

Therefore, contributions that are given to the missionary by name [1] for specific work projects, [2] for the generic "as needed," [3] or for "personal" use are NOT allocated toward providing for that missionary's essential, base support disbursements.

The accrued total that we have disbursed this month [September] just for the missionaries' essential maintenance services is \$33,741.36. This is supplied from the *Missionary Support Fund*.

For example, we have eight [8] current full-time missionary families. Each of those missionaries receives a base essential support disbursement of \$4,150.00 per month. Here's how that breaks down:

\$ 1900.00 = base support

\$ 750.00 = housing/ministry expenses allowance

\$ 1500.00 = paid medical insurance

Plus, there are other necessary expenditures that are essential to implementing the logistics and administration of their support services. This month, we have disbursed over \$6000.00 to provide our missionaries with additional benefits and services to assist in their support. All of these expenditures are essential, reasonable, and prudent in order to serve our missionaries who you love and appreciate.

All this to take you back to the top and note again that \$23,644.81 was given this month to the Missionary Support Fund.

While we recognize and acknowledge that our missionaries need and can use ALL contributions given to them for whatever purpose, we still must emphasize that the only way we can fulfill the essential, bottom-line commitments we have made to them is for sufficient contributions to be made to the *Missionary Support Fund*.

So, PLEASE! May we appeal to you to make a commitment to help provide for your missionaries' on-going support by giving generously and faithfully to the *Missionary Support Fund*! Is your missionaries' ministries important enough to you to give, say, \$1 a day, or \$30 per month to the *Missionary Support Fund*?

And, we express our heartfelt gratitude to all our faithful friends who do give sacrificially and consistently to the *Missionary Support Fund*!

If you would like to know more about how Baptist Faith Missions administers your missionary support contributions, you can read about it on our website: < <https://www.bfmnow.org/missionary-support-partnership/> > and especially read the Missionary Support Fund article in footnote 2.

And, as always, thank you for your partnership in giving to the Lord!

*"...for all things
come from You,
and of Your own
have we given You."
- 1 Chronicles 29:14 -*

WAYS TO GIVE



Give Online

You can make a secure donation online with a check or credit card.

Just click the **Give** button on our homepage at www.bfmnow.org



Mail a Check



All offerings should be addressed to:

**BFM, c/o George Sledd
P.O. Box 471280
Lake Monroe, FL 32747-1280**

If your offering is for a specific missionary or project, it should be so designated.

The greatest need each month is for the *Missionary Support Fund*.



BAPTIST FAITH MISSIONS

NEWS & REPORTS

Assisting Baptist churches to send God-called missionaries
to fulfill church-planting missions in the nations of the world

www.bfmnow.org



November 2020 Issue

ONLINE EDITION

PRAY & PRAISE

...IN THIS ISSUE

► **ODALI & KATHY BARROS:** PRAISE GOD for the blessings that have come from their fishing trips! PRAISE GOD that the works in the communities are thriving. PRAY the Lord would bless these communities with lives that have been changed by Christ. [PAGE 5]

► **MIKE & BEVERLY CREIGLOW:** PRAISE GOD they have been able to restart their two Sunday services and Wednesday service! PRAY as people return to church. PRAISE GOD for the professions of faith, baptisms, and restoration! [PAGE 5]

► **JOHN MARK & JUDY HATCHER:** PRAISE GOD for the blessing of the Tournefeuille church meetings! PRAY for Nathalie as she begins her last month of serving refugees in Austria. PRAISE GOD for being in control! [PAGE 4]

► **JUD & RAQUEL HATCHER:** PRAISE GOD for the opportunity to share the Gospel with one in need! PRAY the message will take hold in his heart. PRAY for God to give the Hatchers wisdom, provide abundantly, and help them love more generously. [PAGE 4]

► **AJ & BARBARA HENSLEY:** PRAISE GOD for how the virtual classes are going to increase their outreach! PRAY for the setting up, organization, and preparation by the pastors for the classes. PRAY for them as they make travel plans and try to get refunds for cancelled flights. [PAGE 1]

► **NATHAN & CARRIE RADFORD:** PRAISE GOD for the young men in Taito who are interested in the discipleship course! PRAY the Lord will provide housing for furlough. [PAGE 2]

► **ROGER & JULIE TATE:** PRAISE GOD for remaining faithful to His character even when our vision is clouded! PRAY for Roger as he ministers through a tough season. PRAY that the people of Kenya will love Jesus and follow Him. [PAGE 3]

► **BOBBY & CHARLENE WACASER:** PRAISE GOD for Elizeu's testimony! PRAY as they plan outdoor evangelism events. PRAISE GOD they are back to in-person services! [PAGE 8]



THANKSGIVING OFFERING UPDATE – APPEAL

Have you given your personal offering toward the 2020 THANKSGIVING OFFERING?

There is just no way that we can exaggerate or over-state the importance of our Thanksgiving Offering. The Thanksgiving Offering is indispensable if we are to maintain providing our missionaries with the levels of service and benefits we are giving them now – and we certainly can't increase the benefits we give them without a very generous Thanksgiving Offering.

All the offerings given to the Thanksgiving Offering go directly toward the support of our missionaries by funding the commitments, benefits, and services we give them over the course of the next year.

Consider these truths:

- All the commitments, benefits, and services we give our missionaries are funded through offerings and contributions given to the *Missionary Support Fund*
- The only contribution streams that supply the Missionary Support Fund are the monthly offerings given to the *Missionary Support Fund* and the THANKSGIVING OFFERING
- The monthly *Missionary Support Fund* contributions do not sustain all the accrued annual disbursements for the commitments, benefits, and services we give our missionaries
- Therefore, we need and depend upon the THANKSGIVING OFFERINGS to make up for the monthly deficits we will incur in providing the commitments, benefits, and services we give our missionaries over the upcoming year
- This year's THANKSGIVING OFFERING will make up for *next year's monthly deficits* in *Missionary Support Fund* contributions and disbursements
- IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE SUFFICIENT



**WE NEED TO REACH FOR OUR
\$50,000.00
THANKSGIVING OFFERING GOAL!**

THANKSGIVING OFFERING FUNDS NOW IN ADVANCE OF NEXT YEAR'S DISBURSEMENTS, THEN WE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO REDUCE THE COMMITMENTS, BENEFITS, AND SERVICES WE GIVE TO OUR MISSIONARIES

- we have no other reserves, subsidies, or endowments to draw from or fall back on
- we cannot borrow money to operate
- So, it is essential that we all give as generously as possible so our missionaries' needs will be supplied
- Will you give a generous personal THANKSGIVING OFFERING right now?
 - and, at the same time, may we encourage you to commit to making monthly offerings to the *Missionary Support Fund*!
- Your missionaries' needs will be met – and thanksgivings to God will abound and increase and continue!

GIVE NOW!