



# Family Newsletter

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**May The Lord Use Us Together As A Family**



**Dr. Gene Burge  
President, BMFP**

As we enter the New Year of 2020 we want to thank those of you who faithfully show your love for missionaries by praying and giving financial support for them and their ministries that serve with BMFP. I talk with many prospective missionaries looking for just a “mission board” (there are several good ones out there). However, if they are looking for a “**mission family**” we would be honored

to have them consider Baptist Missions To Forgotten Peoples. I also desire those of you supporting missionaries with BMFP, to know that all of you are a vital part of our missionary family.

I think the Apostle Paul explained this concept when he said in II Corinthians 1:11, “Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.” Paul was talking about a team concept or family effort in the work of missions. Our endeavor to reach the world consists of faithful Christians that pray and give through their local churches. That way, those of us who are called of the Lord as missionaries can go with the Gospel to reach a lost and dying world. When that happens, multitudes are being reached and, “thanks may be given by many on our behalf.”

As we venture into 2020, let us as Christians become more than a task oriented people. It is my desire that this may be the year that we, as sinners saved by grace, see the need of majoring on what Jesus thought was important when he walked on this earth. Jesus spent more time touching people’s lives than in any other action. He was not primarily task-oriented, even though He knew He had only three years to train twelve men to carry on the movement that would change the world. He knew the primary thing was to personally touch lives. He personally gave himself, not only in ministering, but also gave his life personally for our redemption from sin.

So on behalf of the missionaries that serve with Baptist Missions To Forgotten Peoples around the world, THANK YOU for being a big part of our ministries. May the Lord use us together as a FAMILY this year to touch many lives with the saving message of Jesus Saves! May God bless you and give you a wonderful and abundant New Year.



**Why Not Military Missions?**  
by  
**Pastor Gib Wood**  
**BMFP Missionary to the  
Military in Germany**

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends, (John 15:13). In reality, only two people have died for you. The American soldier gave his life for your freedom as a citizen. The Lord Jesus Christ gave His life for your eternal freedom. Willingness to die for the freedom of another is the highest expression of love imaginable.

We must remember what love requires; it is the sacrifice of one’s life so that others can live. This is definitely true in the life of the soldier, as a quick review of our nation’s history will bear out. The American military began with the colonial wars of 1620-1774 and became more firmly established during the War of Independence from 1775-1783. That was followed by the Barbary Wars, the War of 1812, and the Mexican-American War from 1783-1848. The American Civil War lasted from 1861-1865, and was followed by the Indian Wars, the Spanish-American War, and the Philippine-American War, taking us to 1902. A series of skirmishes in Latin America made up the Banana Wars. While there were other conflicts during the same time period, the next major war was World War I. This was followed by World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, the on-going War on Terrorism. Countless other actions, while mostly unknown, were no less important, and demanded no less sacrifice.

These wars, conflicts, and the many that I have not listed, have resulted in more than 666,440 combat deaths, more than 673,930 other than combat deaths, and a total of more than 1.3 million war related deaths. While it is true that some who died served with less than honorable motives, the vast majority involved in these actions sacrificed out love for country, love for family, and love of freedom. But their sacrifice goes much further and much deeper because their sacrifice has built our land from a wilderness into the most prosperous, productive, and selfless nation the world has ever known. Also, their sacrifice has given those of us who are missionaries the opportunity to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in lands far and wide. Their sacrifice has set the standard of selfless service for the rest of us to follow. **(Continued on next page)**

**Why Military Missions?**  
**By Gib Wood**  
**(Continued from the front page)**

Yet love has often required the ultimate sacrifice. In the words of President Woodrow Wilson on the first Veterans Day (then Armistice Day): "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations."

Death also makes life possible for others. As the apostle Paul wrote to the Roman believers, "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die" (Romans 5:7).

Each soldier, sailor, airman, and marine has been willing to fight for our nation's defense. Nearly 1.5 million of them have proven their commitment to freedom by laying down their lives. The rest of us must remember their sacrifice, because the cost of freedom is eternal vigilance.

The death of Christ makes eternal life possible. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 10:10 tells us, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 8:32 says, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 8:36, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." And in John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Love caused the Father to send His Son. Love caused the Lord Jesus to willingly give His life. And, love makes the gift of salvation free for all who believe.

Why military missions? Because 1.3 million Americans have gone into eternity serving our nation. Because "the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world." Why military missions? Because men and women who have served in the military already understand what sacrifice means, and some of them will sacrifice again by giving the rest of their lives to serve on the mission fields of the world. Why military missions? Let me ask the question a little differently. Why NOT military missions?

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*"Neither let us be slandered from our duty by false accusations against us, nor frightened from it by menaces of destruction to the government nor of dungeons to ourselves. Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it."* - Abraham Lincoln, 1860

**News From the Field**

**Bobby & Joanna Burdett**  
**Madagascar**  
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We are back in Maintirano, and it is good to be back with the church. We have been working hard at reconnecting with the people in the church, planning the next few months, and seeking God's direction for the next location of the church once our lease runs out this month. Right now, we hope to build a pavilion to meet under before rainy season. I have been doing my best to handle what I can from Maintirano and have been very grateful for the other missionaries in the capital that help in what ways they can with logistical support while we can't travel back and forth. When we got here we were informed by the government that since the airplane sat while we were in the States, the engine requires an overhaul. I fought the ruling for weeks until I felt going any further would jeopardize my testimony with the local authorities. We were scheduled to do the 12 year overhaul of the engine in 2021 and had been saving for such, but do not have all the money as of now. Since there is no repair station in Madagascar that can do this type of work, we have to ship the engine back for repairs. We are moving forward in faith that God will provide. Lord willing, the engine will be shipped back to us in couple months and reinstalled in the plane. Until the plane is repaired, we are limited to land travel and chartering private flights.

**Jared & Chelsea Miskovic**  
**Mexico**  
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I would like to share a quick testimony about a lady in our church that was recently saved. This was a three year process that started with the husband, Bro. Roberto. Her whole family, one by one, started attending our church and received Christ as their Savior. After all the family was saved, she had no choice but to go to church with them. She sat on the back row and just listened for two years. She hardly spoke a word to anyone. She would say hello, if we said hello, and shake hands and give, what I wanted to think was a smile, but nothing more. Just a couple Sundays ago, I was preaching and immediately after the service, during the invitation, her hand shot to the sky for the need of salvation. I thought my preaching had finally done the trick! What a great preacher I am! When everything was said and done, I asked Sister Ellen who had prayed with her, what happened, and what moved her? She said earlier in the week, on her own, she threw in the towel and finally let go of her Catholic religion in exchange for a real saving relationship with Christ! It wasn't my preaching that finally got through to her. It was the three years of conviction brought on through a massive transformation of her family. Praise the Lord for His power and perfect conviction that can cut to the heart of a cold dead religious person and change their life forever. What she showed me before was not a smile. Now I know what her real smile looks like!