



GLOBAL PARTNERS

By James G Smith • Associate Mission Director

The Mission Office's tri-annual supplement to the *Baptist Bible Tribune* is aptly titled *Global Partners*. Global tells us the scope of our responsibility, "all the world." A partner is a person who shares or is associated with another in some action or endeavor.

Most of us who participate in the missionary enterprise of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International do so believing in the concept of partnership. In order to fulfill the Great Commission, which is evangelism, discipleship, and church planting worldwide, we really do need each other.

Our churches need to take seriously the

responsibility to send our best servants, leaders, and theologians to the regions beyond us. Missionaries need to carefully and responsibly use the resources entrusted to them by the churches.

The development of the BBFI Mission Office over the years has been in response to the needs of our missionaries and churches. We really do serve as a bridge between those who go and those who send. We help our churches get their financial support quickly and efficiently to our missionaries. Our current team of 18 full-time employees serves effectively, efficiently, and caringly.



The BBFI Mission Office really is a World Mission Service Center

The mission of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International Mission Office is to serve churches and their missionaries as they endeavor to fulfill the Great Commission. We strive for professionalism and integrity through stewardship to God in all our dealings, particularly with His chosen servants, the pastors and missionaries whom we passionately serve.

The BBFI Mission Office is the World

Mission Service Center for BBFI churches and their missionaries — a bridge between those who give and those who go. We serve nearly 4,500 churches and 900 missionaries. Our team operates effectively and efficiently as we process over \$40 million per year.

Since the BBFI Mission Office is the World Mission Service Center for BBFI churches and their missionaries, we administrate the policies determined by the pastors of the BBFI.

However, we recognize the sending church as the missionary's final authority and as the Biblical sending agency.

Most pastors appreciate the process our missionaries go through to become a partner with the churches of the BBFI. It is not a perfect process, but it assures the supporting pastor that the missionaries have met certain doctrinal, educational, practical, and health requirements that are set before them.

FOR CHURCHES

FOR MISSIONARIES

The BBFI Mission Office does not charge the approved missionaries, colleges, or Tribune for handling their contributions. They receive 100 cents of every dollar that comes in for them. Just as the individual missionaries, we are financed by faith — through the giving of churches, individuals, and missionaries. All support, whether from missionaries or churches, is voluntary.

The cost to provide a service center on behalf of the churches is approximately \$3.50 per transaction. We encourage each church or donor to contribute this amount every month per missionary they support. For example, if a church supports 10 missionaries through the BBFI, a \$35 monthly gift to the Mission Office would help cover these operational expenses.



We offer these services to our churches:

Screening of missionary applicants for approval
Contact Directory – online and printed copy

Contribution Services

- Process and receipt contributions
- Expedite emergency funds for churches to the missionary
- Provide various donor contribution reports
- Manage compliance with U.S. tax laws

Promotional materials

- Mission conference supplies
- Posters for foyers and classrooms
- Brochures
- Videos

Support Services

- Assist with mission conference bookings
- Provide information and assistance to Field Representatives
- Assist sending churches with missionary care

Website Services

- Detailed missionary contact information
- Profile information of missionaries
- Downloadable missionary pictures and videos

Other Services

- Mailing labels for churches and missionaries
- Furlough list of missionaries
- Missionary email list
- Monthly Missionary Connection newsletter
- Weekly Connection Point – a missions-focused email

We offer these services to our missionaries:

Processing of Funds

- Monthly and yearly statements and reports
- Yearly 1099

Financial Services

- Assistance with any type of foreign government requirements
- Bank letters of credit – to open bank accounts
- Letters of guarantee – to obtain work permits
- Loans – auto and emergency
- Notary public services
- Power of attorney
- Retirement options

Personal Benefits

- Worldwide medical coverage including medical evacuation for emergencies
- Life insurance
- Disability plan

Training/Networking

- Candidate School – preparation for the field
- Annual Missionary Family Reunion

Website Services

- Access to current and archived statements and reports
- Data that can be exported to prayer letters, labels, etc.

Other Services

- Crisis Action Team
- Mail and package services
- Missionary Projects Offering – A program that enables missionaries to live in suitable Fellowship-owned homes on the field and provides financing for the establishment of indigenous churches.

Mission Office personnel are available for ministry in your church

All of these speakers can be contacted through the BBFI Mission Office at 417.862.5001 or Info@bbfimissions.com.



Jon Konnerup's experience as a missionary kid born in Ethiopia, service as a missionary in Kenya, and time spent as an associate mission director in the Mission Office have equipped him to fill the position of mission director of the BBFI since 2005. Jon's unique, firsthand perspective on world missions will certainly challenge your church concerning God's passion for the people of our world. Youth groups, adults, and your entire church will be encouraged by his speaking as he shares his vision of world missions. His schedule does fill up quickly every year, so please plan ahead.



Steve Bender served as a BBFI missionary in Korea for 15 years and has served as an associate mission director since August 2000. Steve's primary responsibilities are the Missionary Care Program and the Missionary Project Offering. Steve preaches mission conferences and weekend mission Sundays to encourage a commitment to missions giving. He is also available to speak for State Fellowship meetings addressing missions in general or to explain in detail and encourage participation in the Missionary Projects Offering.

Pastors and missionaries offer perspective on Mission Office services

We wanted to hear from our most generous supporters so we asked them some questions. We hope that hearing what their motivations are in faithfully and generously supporting the work of the BBFI Mission Office will inspire others to follow their kind example. So we communicated with the pastors of the churches and the missionaries who have committed to superior levels of support. Most of them responded immediately. We are very pleased and even humbled by their kind words. We think you will find this thought provoking.



Eddie Lyons
High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

“We support the Mission Office because we believe in the mission! And we appreciate all you do for our missionaries. You provide a vehicle to get support to the missionaries. You are a hub of communication. You are a supportive place when missionaries have a need in the United States and they are far away. Thank you for all the great things you do on a daily basis for all our missionaries.”



Herbert Gilbert
Beacon Baptist Church, Taylor, MI

“We understand it costs you to service our missionaries, so we like to help pay some of that expense. The Mission Office is always there for our missionaries when they are in need — financial, spiritual, or guidance. We thank God for that. You handle the finances from every contributor properly and give a report to everyone who gives. We thank God for the good job the Mission Office is doing and for the great staff!”



John Henry Theisen
Midway Baptist Church, Aubrey, TX

“I think most people understand the idea of overhead in mission funding. People often ask what percentage of their financial support is actually used for ministry purposes. They understand that funding for administration has to come from somewhere. We support the Mission Office monthly, which allows

100 percent of our financial support for our missionaries to be used for their ministry purposes. It's not a shell game but an efficient means of making sure the administrative needs of our missionaries are met without being a financial burden to them.

The Mission Office is a hub that provides an amazing network of mission opportunities for local churches. The sheer volume of missionaries and ever-changing issues would be quite a challenge for one local congregation to shoulder. Our partnership enables us to provide dedicated support for numerous missionary personnel.

We think the best thing you do is the candidate school and approval process that provides accountability and keeps our hearts tender toward the Great Commission. Both the pre-committee meetings and approval day during Fellowship Week are highlights. While the sending church is a safety net for our BBFI missionaries, it is comforting to know that we have capable and experienced individuals to assist with all kinds of issues that arise in cross-cultural environments.”



Paul Hylton served as a BBFI missionary to Taiwan for 29 years. He began his ministry in the Mission Office in July 2001. His area of service involves missionary finances, providing documents and letters to missionaries for visas and government paperwork, and he is a liaison for retired missionaries. Brother Hylton enjoys preaching the Word of God and is glad to serve BBFI churches in mission conferences, State Fellowship meetings, and also provides pulpit supply for area churches.



Jim Smith served as a BBFI missionary to Ecuador for 30 years before coming to work in the BBFI Mission Office in August 2008. His primary responsibility is the new candidate application process. Jim preaches in mission conferences and mission emphasis weekends. He also is available to preach in Spanish. As the BBFI chaplain endorser, he has preached in military chapels as well.



Don Baier
Seminole Baptist Temple, Springfield, MO

“As a church we understand the important role the Mission Office has in the life of the missionary. We see the Mission Office as an extension of the ministry of our church. You help the church in fulfilling its purpose. We appreciate the fact that you offer the missionary quality service at no cost to them.”



Lewis McClendon
Ventura Baptist Church, Ventura, CA

“We support our BBFI Mission Office for three reasons:

1. The Mission Office provides vital services to our missionaries. Without the Mission Office our missionaries could not do what they do on the field.
2. The Mission Office does not charge the missionaries for their services. Many mission organizations charge their missionaries a percentage of their support for the services they provide. Our

missionaries receive every dollar that is sent to them by individuals and churches. That is a great benefit to our missionaries, but it does not come without a cost. If we do not support our Mission Office, the day could come when our missionaries will have more issues to worry about and deal with on their own.

3. We want to fully support our missionaries. If we just send money to the Mission Office for our missionaries and do not support the Mission Office, we are not paying the full cost of having our missionaries on the field. We don't want another church to have to carry the financial load for the work the Mission Office does for our missionaries. We consider it a privilege and honor to be allowed to contribute to the Mission Office each month.

I do not know all the things the Mission Office does for our missionaries. Some of the things the Mission Office does that I think are very important are:

1. Processing funds
2. Keeping up on IRS laws and making sure every missionary is compliant so that they will not face a ministry-killing audit.
3. Taking their calls and helping missionaries when they are discouraged or something tragic has occurred.
4. Preparing missionaries for the approval process and for deputation.
5. Administering a self-funded insurance policy that covers a missionary anywhere in the world.

6. Promoting missions and missionaries to our Fellowship.
7. Working with BBC students to prepare them to be missionaries.
8. Allowing individuals and churches to send packages to the Mission Office that they in turn send to the missionaries.
9. Visiting missionaries in their countries.
10. Putting up with pastors like me.



Matthew Trill
New Testament Baptist Church, Largo, FL

“Our involvement with the BBFI Mission Office is the result of a few factors. First, our church has a sincere love for our missionary families, many of which are affiliated with the BBFI. We are committed to their support including prayer and finances. Second, we understand the importance of the Mission Office — standing behind our missionaries offering vital support in day-to-day matters, as well as the larger issues of seeing a missionary successfully get to the field and minister there.

The BBFI Mission Office is a service center for world missions in several aspects. It begins with creating an awareness of the spiritual needs of foreign countries. This is furthered by helping the individual missionary families create

Our former Mission Directors are also available for speaking engagements in Mission conferences or for a mission emphasis Sunday. They both bring with them much missions ministry experience and are compelling preachers.

Carl Boonstra (top photo) was the BBFI mission director from 1972-1986. Bob Baird (bottom photo) was the BBFI mission director from 1986-2005.



Rick Vanhooser is the chief operations officer at the BBFI Mission Office. Rick retired from the U.S. Air Force after 22 years and served at Baptist Bible College and Graduate School for 11 years. He has extensive leadership experience in non-profit and ministry settings and

brings an understanding of planning and expertise in management and administration. He has conducted professional seminars in estate planning, planned giving,

an awareness for their particular nation and ministry. They also provide a valuable service to sending and supporting churches and their pastors by maintaining lines of communication.

Generally speaking, the efficient processing of finances for the missionaries is a remarkable feat. Even more impressive is that every dollar given goes to the intended missionary. As pastor, I take many opportunities to remind our church how valuable that is to our missionaries.

Specifically, the Projects Offering may be the best thing that BBFI Missions does. To have funds available for building homes and churches is a great blessing. For our church to be able to directly help in the support of projects for "our missionaries" is highly rewarding.



Bob Baier
Antioch Bible Baptist Church, Gladstone, MO

“For us it is simply a matter of good stewardship. It makes sense to support the Mission Office because of everything they do to support the missionary endeavor of the BBFI and the local church.

What the Mission Office does administratively is so helpful for everyone involved. We appreciate that the Mission Office provides accountability between the church, pastor, and missionary. The Mission Office oversees and assists in the daily challenges of mission life in various countries and cultures around the world.

We are very pleased with our relationship with the Mission Office. Phone calls and answers to questions are promptly dealt with and relayed back to us.



Ken Board
Missionary to Japan



“Five Reasons Why I Support The Mission Office

First, the Mission Office is efficient. Whenever I call in a request, the request is handled quickly and efficiently.

Second, the Mission Office staff is approachable. Every time I have gone to the office I have been greeted warmly and been asked, "How may we help you?" Not one time has there even been a "we're-busy-so-don't-bother-us" attitude.

Third, the Mission Office is helpful. When my wife suddenly went home to be with the Lord, the Mission Office contacted me right away and offered their assistance. I shall ever be grateful for their help with the transportation and funeral arrangements. In addition, I especially appreciate their assistance



Keith Taylor
Southside Baptist Church, Denison, TX

“It is our joy to support such a concerned, caring, attentive staff from top to bottom. The description you use as a service center for world missions is certainly fulfilled in everything you do whether for the missionary or the supporting church. Southside Baptist Church is grateful for the BBFI Mission Office, and we feel like the amount we support the office is a worthy investment.

and the use of charitable trusts in local churches.

Having a seminar in your church would give your congregation information on Christian wills, revocable living trusts, and other areas of estate planning. The purpose of the seminar is to encourage and challenge individuals to prepare for the distribution of their estate in a Christian manner by remembering their local church and the Mission Office in their wills or revocable living trusts. The seminar is about one hour in length with time devoted to questions and answers. If you are interested in partnering with the Mission Office to sponsor a trust and estate planning seminar in your church, please contact us.

BBFI CONTACT DIRECTORY



2012

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with the quarterly reports. I don't think I have ever sent in one that was completely correct, but they always explain my errors in detail and work with me until I get it right.

Fourth, the Mission Office is encouraging. The monthly letters from Brother Konnerup always seem to arrive when I need a word of encouragement.

Fifth, the Mission Office is informative. I have many missionary friends I have met on deputation and furlough. My only contact with many of these friends is the information I receive through the Missionary Update from the Mission Office.

For these five reasons I support the Missions Office gladly and willingly. Without reservation I recommend the ministry of the Mission Office to the churches and missionaries of the BBFI.

phone call or email away. They not only handle all of the monthly processes (finances and mail), but have also been ready to help with special needs such as home and church projects as well as emergency loans. In addition, they have been valuable partners in developing appropriate processes that have enabled us to bring more than a dozen interns to the mission field.



Mark and Michele Hale
Missionaries to Portugal



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I was a non-BBFI missionary for two and a half years before being approved as a BBFI missionary in 1987. The difference was astounding to me and still is. The Mission Office doesn't just process our support like most other mission organizations, they also itemize all of our supporters, generate helpful lists for the missionaries, provide invaluable support in dealing with governments, taxes, education, and many problems that people in America thankfully don't have to deal with. The Mission Office labors to make our lives and ministries as uncomplicated as they can in spite of the complex and confusing laws and restrictions so many missionaries have to deal with. The Mission Office stands ready to help the missionaries and their supporting

churches in any way they can and they do this without taking one cent from any funds sent in for a missionary. Every cent that is given to a BBFI missionary reaches that missionary. The personnel of the Mission Office live by faith, just like we as missionaries do. They could have higher-paying, less-stressful jobs but they choose to look at their work as a ministry. They labor for the Lord and to advance the cause of Christ across the world. That is why we support the BBFI World Mission Center and will continue to do so.

During the past quarter of a century as BBFI missionaries, we have received tremendous support from the Mission Office in home and church projects, help with difficult and seemingly impossible situations with governments hostile towards missionaries, and have benefitted from constant advice and help with a multitude of questions, problems, and concerns. Personally, I have received wise and godly counsel from various members of the Mission Office staff over the years. Don Brown guided me in biblical responsibility in personal and ministerial finances. F.C. Lasater counseled me to forgive those who had done me harm in the ministry and focus on Christ. Jim Smith testified to me the difficulties of leaving a growing and successful ministry after over 30 years because it was the Lord's will, and he and his dear wife have shown us all how the Lord can sustain you through terrible loss. Personally, Paul Hylton has helped me the most with his wise and godly counsel about massive changes in our lives and ministries and how to follow the Lord through those upheavals for God's glory.



Mike and Jill Ivey
Missionaries to Korea



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Jill and I realize that every donation that is processed for us costs over \$3 (it may well be more than that now). Other organizations and clearinghouses charge right up front, so we determined at the very beginning of our ministry that we would support the Mission Office each month.

The office personnel have always been a

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FAITH PROMISE BROCHURE



Scriptural principles are used in this pamphlet to explain Faith Promise giving. The benefits of Faith Promise are outlined and plainly stated for complete understanding.



Blake and Meagan Fortner
Missionaries to Ethiopia

we did not feel like we were burdening her or giving her a ton of extra work to do. We appreciate the fact that the office is there to help us in ways that we cannot help ourselves when we are out of the U.S.

The Mission Office is as much a partner with the missionary as those who give their mission dollars each week in their local churches.

“We feel like if we hired some other company to do all the services that the Mission Office does for us we would be paying a whole lot more. We realize the Mission Office has to raise their support just like we do. We support the Mission Office out of thankfulness for all they do. The office helps us in so many ways at any time with no hassle. We just appreciate the office staff!

We see the Mission Office as a major resource to missionaries. We are provided guidelines and services that keep us legal in the eyes of the IRS. We can't tell you how many "independent" missionaries we come across that have no one to take care of their money and make sure they are following the law. All the hard work is done for us so we don't have to worry about it and we can concentrate on the task at hand in our respective fields. I can say the same for health insurance. Many "independent" missionaries have none ... and we are very blessed in that area.

Just a few months ago we needed some serious help Stateside to have some documents gathered, notarized, and sent over so that we could obtain a work permit and residency status in Ethiopia. Jacque Burkholder worked so hard to help us and did it in such a way that

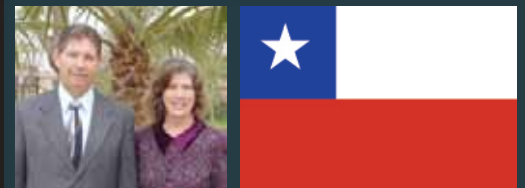


Bill and Rhonda Smith
Missionaries to Belize

“The Mission Office manages our financial support each month, requiring no payment in return for their service. We have a moral and spiritual obligation to help repay them for the work they do for us.

As missionaries, we rely upon the Mission Office staff as our consistent and dependable source for making our bank deposits and managing our medical coverage. These are tasks that American residents often take for granted. However, for those of us living outside the United States, a simple task such as banking can often prove to be a source of frustration.

We also depend upon the Mission Office's commitment to help us with evacuation if we are faced with a life or death emergency. Living in a third-world country, political stability can change at a moment's notice.



David and Hope Reinhardt
Missionaries to Chile

“We began supporting the Mission Office when we were approved back in 1981. We were glad that our agency (different from many others) did not charge a commission for the amount of support processed for each missionary. They give 100 percent of that which is designated directly to the missionary. Thus they are operating by faith as much as the missionary is. So I felt that I would do my part, grateful for the service that they render to us.

After 30 years on the field, I cannot imagine how it could have been done without the help of the Mission Office. Besides the processing of our support, there have been many other services such as letters given to justify the use of funds on the foreign field for projects here, they have notarized copies of important documents needed to conduct business with the government, these also given in order to begin purchases of properties, we have received letters showing we belong to an

COUNTRY POSTERS



We provide full-color posters of nearly 100 different mission fields. These posters are approximately 17 1/2" x 23" and are attractive for special mission emphasis occasions as well as year-round decoration. The posters may be ordered separately or as a set.

PLACEMATS

These full-color placemats can be used for your missionary banquets, international dinners or any occasion intended to emphasize missions. They are 11" x 17" and come in packets of 100.



FAITH PROMISE CARDS

These commitment cards are designed especially to fit the appropriate groups in a congregation. They come perforated to allow one portion to be tallied for the Faith Promise Goal and the other portion is designed for the individual to keep as a reminder of his commitment to Faith Promise Missions Giving.



internationally recognized organization, etc.

We also have received loans for cars and churches, and have a structure in order to put away funds for travel. We are also kept up to date on legal issues such as paying taxes, and other requirements. I know they do much more, such as help in moments of political crisis, national disasters in a country, or even help in the crisis in the personal life of the missionary. They process our mail, work as our extension with the bank in Springfield, and even have taken an interest in our daughter who is presently studying at the Bible college across the street. I know that the help is different with each missionary, for each field, as the need arises, yet maintaining the autonomy of the missionary in his work.



Brent and Sheila Moeller
Missionaries to South Africa

“We support the Mission Office because of the valuable support that we receive. We have friends from other mission organizations who pay between 10 to 15 percent of their support to have their headquarters handle their funds

and do other important business. What we give is not even close to that figure.

We also give because we believe it is a scriptural principle that we should honor those who are faithful in their stewardship. The staff of the Mission Office has been an incredibly helpful and faithful servant to not only our supporting churches but to us for over 20 years.

The Mission Office assists the missionary in so many ways. From the very beginning of our approval until now we have been served. Some of these services include: Candidate School, wise counsel on multiple issues over the years, help with financial letters and financial and legal matters, financial loans for automobiles, emergency needs, and the purchasing of the home that we live in on the field. We have a partner who looks after our stateside banking issues, mail, insurance programs, IT advice ... the list could go on and on.

The Directors have been personally interested in us and have come to visit us on the field. We have the confidence that the office is strongly in our corner! Last but not least they are a very efficient channel between supporters and the missionaries. The office does so much and charges absolutely nothing for their services. We find it hard to understand how a missionary would not feel compelled to financially support the Mission Office!

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BAL PARTNERS

As we consider the effect of the ministry of the missionary work of Baptist Bible Fellowship International over the last 60+ years, we are moved with gratitude. It is truly amazing to see how the Lord has blessed the work of our global partners to the extent that we now have thousands of local, biblically sound, Baptist churches all over the world. These churches are now or are on the path to becoming autonomous and indigenous.

They don't all look like your church. Their language is probably different. Their styles will vary. These churches have given birth to thousands of pastors who have been trained at more than a hundred different Bible institutes, Bible colleges and pastoral training centers. These pastors are reproducing themselves in the lives of younger leaders every day.

However impressed we may be with the results of the labor, let's keep our hearts focused on the ultimate goal. We look forward to the fulfillment of the Revelation when those who have been redeemed gather to worship the King of kings from every kindred, every tongue, every people and every nation.

We love the missionary psalm, Psalm 67:

"God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah.

That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah.

Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him."

"Let's worship the Lord with our giving" is not just a catchphrase pastors pull out to indicate to the ushers that it is time to pass the offering plates. That really is how this works. We give as a part of our expression of worship and awe of our Great God. That which is given is then administrated by faithful people so that many more can join us in the ultimate and

eternal worship!

We all experience different motivations when we consider the giving of our resources. Sometimes we give out of obligation. We give something that we consider ours because we have to. Or we give in exchange for a service or product received.

Sometimes we give out of gratitude. We are so grateful for someone or something that our reaction is to give something.

Sometimes we give out of love. Our heart is full of selfless affection for someone, we simply want to see them prosper or have what we have.

For God so loved, that He gave! Let's be grateful and godly in our stewardship.

We call upon the churches and missionaries of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International to seriously consider this partnership with the Mission Office as a priority in your ministry stewardship in 2012. Let's truly BE global partners. To quote our former Mission Director, Dr. Carl Boonstra, "Think what we can do together!"

