

A world map is centered on the page, rendered in shades of green, yellow, and orange. The background is a light-colored fabric with a repeating floral pattern. The title 'First Baptist' is in a green script font, and 'CARTHAGE' is in a large, bold, black sans-serif font.

First Baptist **CARTHAGE**

Quarterly Mission Report
Spring 2017

**Mark Your
Calendar**

3/26

“Hearts for the Harvest” Mission Fair

Taste of the Nations

8/4-8/13

BMMI Mission Trip

to Peru

9/9-9/16

BMMI Mission Trip

to Romania

The Blessing of Giving

By Marty Stewart

First Baptist Carthage is continually looking for ways to be an encouragement to our missionaries at home and around the world. One of the ways that we do that is the Annual “Hearts for the Harvest” Mission Fair when we come together as a congregation to celebrate our BMA mission works around the world. We encourage ourselves to keep our missionaries in our prayers and we bring specific prayer and financial need to our members. The day is highlighted with guest missionary speakers and a “Taste of the Nations” potluck luncheon.

Another way we promote and support missions is to participate in several mission trips each year. We routinely take small groups of members to work with BMMI (Baptist Medical Missions International), under the direction of Dr. Ralph Izard, to various BMA mission fields around the world to assist in conducting medical clinics. During the clinics, those who come receive free medical consultation, medicines and eyeglasses as needed, and are presented the

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The Blessing of Giving Continued . . .

gospel message of Jesus Christ and an opportunity to pray for salvation through Him.

FBC members are encouraged throughout the year to be personally involved in our missions around the world by participating in various ways:

PRAYING: Supporting our missionary needs through personal and continual prayers, especially when specific prayer needs are presented, is a vital part of missions and is always the first thing our missionaries request when asked.

GOING: Participating in a mission trip and being the hands and feet of Jesus with people around the world will change your life forever as well as those you meet along the way.

SENDING: By donating to the FBC GIMP (Go In My Place) fund, one can be personally involved in the mission work by helping to send out the mission teams, another vital role in spreading the love of Jesus around the world.

GIVING: By giving financially to specific missionary needs and projects when presented, such as the purchase of supplies or helping with the expenses

of building a new mission, people become partners with our missionaries. Giving creates a personal relationship that results in us being more in tune with them in prayer needs and other areas of support as we become part of their work. We become partners with our brothers and sisters around the world who are willing to sacrifice many personal comforts to give all of themselves to those in need.

The greatest thing of all is that the blessings rain down on everyone involved. Many come to know Christ; many receive love for the first time in their lives; many receive physical relief as basic human needs are met; many are blessed here at home as well as we fulfill the Great Commission together by partnering with our missionaries in a real, personal, and meaningful way. Truly, the Blessing of Giving is a wide net that casts the Light of Jesus over us all.

1 Corinthians 12:12 *“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.”*

“HEARTS FOR THE HARVEST” MISSION FAIR MARCH 26, 2017

“Hearts for the Harvest” Mission Fair will be a day dedicated to the celebration of BMA Missions. Sunday, March 26, we will have an international flag parade representing countries where BMA has missionaries, special music focusing on missions, mission videos, display tables, and much more. For those who so desire, international dress is also encouraged. Our guest speakers



will be Dr. Ralph Izard and Dr. John Ladd. Dr. Izard and Dr. Ladd lead the BMMI medical mission trips in which many of our FBC Carthage members have participated. Directly after the 10:30 a.m. service, we will have our “Taste of the Nations Potluck”. Bring your favorite international dish. (There will be extra food for those who do not wish to bring a dish.)

BMMI GHANA-AUGUST 2016

By Wendy Arnold

From the rural dusty red dirt roads running alongside lush green bush to the tiny market buildings of the city overflowing with a sea of faces, Ghana, Africa is a sight to see. The level of poverty in this place is more than a person can comprehend even after passing it every day for 9 days. Equally as memorable were the smiling faces and right handed waves as we passed by. The children that would run alongside our vans, the pastors who served alongside us every day, and the beautiful women who lived in the compound with their husbands and children have a special place in my heart forever.

For many years, I have wanted to serve in Africa. I know God gave me that desire for a reason, but waited until the right time to allow me to go, with the right people to lead me. This team, from the doctors and nurses to those from

FBC missions, is now my family and I would follow them anywhere! Each trip I have been blessed to travel with them has been special but I feel like Ghana will always be “that one” for me.

When we returned, family and friends would ask me about the trip. Even my Sunday School teacher asked me to speak about it in class. I had a very difficult time explaining what this trip meant to me. I could never do it justice with my own words. There were people there that I feel like still hold a piece of me. A curious young boy named Michael that Julie and I befriended and visited with during clinic breaks is one of those people. Who will he become? Is he being taken care of? Does someone tell him they love him every day? Precious, a

young girl I met after church and later came to a day of clinic, asked me to be her best friend. How could you ever say no to that? Her infectious smile and sweet high pitched voice I can still hear to this day. I can't help but wonder how her life will turn out and if she will stay in church. These are things that stick with you forever.

Like most trips, I served in the pharmacy, counting pills and helping the nurses, but on days when we were caught up, I was able to go out and do evangelism which is my favorite part. Of course, because of the language barrier, it was necessary that I work with a translator and we used the “Evangelcube” to share the gospel but God's love is universal. Watching a person come to Christ is the most amazing thing a person can be part of. In Ghana, many of the people are by birth Muslim or even part of a culture that practices witchcraft, so seeing these things on their forms, but watching them light up when the gospel is shared with them and the desire to know more about their Savior is such a blessing to see.

There are so many stories I could tell. Ghana may be half a world away, but I feel like it's here with me still every day.



FAITH AROUND THE WORLD

Missionary Special Needs

FBC Carthage supports the BMA Missions Office and various BMA Missions organizations monthly as well as sending support directly to 14 BMA Missionaries and works. This newsletter will be used to share their feedback to us thanking us for support, but also to inform us of specific prayer and financial needs that they have so that we can make them a matter of prayer.

Current needs requested by our missionaries:

GHANA: Bible College student scholarships. We will be addressing this opportunity in the Mission Fair in March. Start praying now!

THAILAND: The Lingle's Bible study group is growing and they have found a larger location at a hotel to rent! Pray for the many people that walk past this new location, that some would visit and contact them.

ROMANIA: Pray for Brother Daniel Bagosi as he goes into the juvenile jails to witness to those who have no hope.

UKRAINE: Continue to pray for the people of Ukraine as they continue to be in a sensitive situation. Pray for Brother Alex Pavelchuk as he continues to work with those caught in the turmoil as well as with the local youth and drug addicted.

Feedback from the Field

"Loving greetings from the land of Ararat! Thank you very much for your very special heart towards us. We are very thankful for the gifts and prayer supports. Praise the Lord for you. We express our big gratitude to you all. Please pass our warmest greetings to everybody in church. May God bless you in every way.
Under HIS Wings,"
(Asatur Nahapetyan – Armenia)

"We are getting ready to start a new mission next month. God continues to open doors so we can preach His word. Thank you so much my brothers for all your support!"
(Rigoberto Cruz – El Salvador)

"Thank you for partnering with us in Cambodia. It was amazing to see 19 precious souls committed to Jesus with their pledge of Baptism in December, making a total of 42 in 2016. To God be the Glory!"
(John Page – Cambodia)

"Thank you once again for your faithful support of the Good Samaritan Clinic in Mexico. The clinic staff is well and patients are receiving physical and spiritual care. Please continue to pray for this ministry."
(Dr. John and Shirley Ladd – Mexico)