

PERSECUTION IN CONGO

Roger Tate asks us to pray for two of his former students who are facing persecution in the Congo.

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RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

A faithful missionary who has served the Lord through BFM for nearly 4 decades has announced their retirement.

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IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GO?

Read more about how our Missionary Support Partnership works.

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SPRING CONFERENCE

Join us in Ohio April 4-5!
More details on page 8.

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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

DISCIPLES IN FRANCE SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS!



John Mark &
Judy Hatcher
JMHatcher@aol.com
2 T Impasse de la Picardie
31830 Plaisance du Touch
France

February 17, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Greetings from Southern France which is far north of where most of you live. Plaisance du Touch is about the same distance from the North Pole as Toronto, Canada. However, our winters are not extremely cold due to the Gulf Stream that warms western Europe.

God continues to touch lives around us. It is wonderful to be sharers of the Good News here and to be used by God to disciple those who have trusted Christ as Lord and Savior. Yesterday, Rose, a lady who was diagnosed with cancer a couple of years ago, told us excitedly about a door that God opened for her to share the Good News. She was waiting for minor surgery to remove the chemotherapy port that had been used for her treatment. A conversation with another lady awaiting the

same procedure began and God guided her to be able to give her testimony and share about her faith as the other lady asked questions.

Roxane, a young lady who is a member of our congregation, studying to be an engineer, shared how God had given her the opportunity to share the Gospel with a friend for whom she had been praying. Roxane trusted the Lord and followed Him in baptism less than two years ago. She is the only believer in her family, but a flame of fire for the Lord in her gentle way of passionately seeking the lost and sharing the Good News.

We have regular Bible studies in six different locations in addition to the regular church meetings. Some of these are groups of saved people growing in the Lord and encouraging each other and some are groups of seekers meeting in the home of a believer with whom they are friends.

Several of those who were seekers have trusted Christ in the last year and are reading through their Bibles. It is exciting

to receive phone calls or text messages from these new believers asking questions from their reading. Here are a couple of questions I received this past Saturday: "How come prophet Nahum proclaims condemnation of Nineveh when Jonah tells about their repentance and forgiveness?" "How were Pharaoh's men able to do some of the same signs as Moses?" How would you answer these questions? If you need help, ask one of your spiritual leaders.

We are very grateful for your contribution to what God is doing here.

Your Fellow Servants
in France,
John and Judy




- ▶▶ Pray for the disciples in France as they grow in the Lord & share.
- ▶▶ Pray for those in the Bible Studies who are seeking.

*"She is
the only believer
in her family,
but a flame of fire
for the Lord
in her gentle way
of passionately
seeking the lost
and sharing
the Good News."*

- John Mark Hatcher -

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NEWS & REPORTS**

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Sarah Wainright, Managing Editor
Daniel Hillard, News Editor All correspondence concerning BFM or
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Baptist Faith Missions, c/o David Pitman
P.O. Box 286; Addyston, OH 45001
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(407) 417-0204 | grsledd@hotmail.com
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736 Berry Lane
Lexington, KY 40502
wainright50@gmail.comIf making a change of address, please include the
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ODALI BARROS ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Odali Barros has faithfully served as a BFM missionary in Brazil for over 30 years, ministering in São Paulo and later moving to Manaus. He will be retiring this month. Odali, a native Brazilian, was saved under the ministry of Mike Creiglow. He is married to Kathy, the youngest daughter of John and Alta Hatcher. Their ministry together has had a special emphasis on children over the years, including many orphans.

"I'm grateful for BFM because it was through this mission that I heard the gospel and was saved."

- Odali Barros -

Odali and Kathy have expressed a desire to continue working among the people of Manaus for as long as they are able. We pray that God will continue to bless Odali and Kathy as they seek to bring yet more lost souls to Christ.

A NOTE FROM ODALI BARROS

Odali & Kathy
Barros
odali_kathy@hotmail.com
Iranduba, Amazonas
Brasil, S.A.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
We want to thank each one that supports Baptist Faith Missions. We are thankful for your support and prayers for our ministry. I'm grateful for BFM because it was through this mission that I heard the gospel and was saved. Time has gone by so fast. We are retiring but will continue serving God where we are.

May God continue blessing each one and Baptist Faith Missions.

Love in Christ,
Odali and Kathy

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father..."

1 Thessalonians 1:1b-3

PRAY FOR OUR COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS

Terry Adkins • Harold Draper • Philip duBarry
Benton Glover • Paul Hatcher • Dan Hillard
Kenny Hurst • Randy Jones • Darrell Messer
David Mitchell • Dave Parks • Mark Pyles
David Pitman • George Sledd • Sheridan Stanton
Jonathan Turner • Steve Wainright

May God give them wisdom and discernment.

PRAYING FOR THE PERSECUTED IN THE CONGO



Roger & Julie Tate

rojuta@gmail.com
Moffat Bible College
P.O. Box 70
Kijabe, Kenya 00220

February 10, 2025

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

How up are you on African current events? Probably not so much if you are anything like me. But because I live here and love Africa and the people of Africa, I may hear more about current events than y'all back in the States. So, what do you hear about the conflicts in Congo? Congo is "near" to Kenya, and although the conflict, fighting, and violence that is going on there does not affect us here in Kenya at all, we are still concerned about the people that live there and that are having to face the extreme hardships that surround them.

The conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, especially in the eastern region, has escalated significantly recently. I don't know what they should be called, rebels or terrorists or what, but the group called M23, supported by the Rwandan government, has been on a rampage, causing widespread displacement of people and a severe humanitarian crisis. Over 700,000 people have been displaced along with widespread reports of violence, executions and mur-

ders, sexual assault, and the burning of villages and crops. There are also concerns that the fighting will extend to surrounding countries like Burundi and Uganda (neighboring countries of Kenya).

I can't pretend to say I understand any of the political, military, economic, or religious reasons behind the tragedies going on in Congo. Most assuredly they are fueled by decades of ethnic tensions, political rivalries, and probably corruption. But stripping all that stuff away, which I don't understand, there are thousands, if not millions, of people and families that are being adversely and harmfully affected by the violence and viciousness of the uncaring and callous fighters/rebels/terrorists.

So, why am I telling you all of this? Well, first of all, because I want you to pray for the people and the country of Congo. Precious people and families are being destroyed, and we need to lift them up to our loving and powerful God. But, second, because I know people who are there in the midst of the suffering, doing the work of God and of the Kingdom, right in the center of the violence. You

may recall that we had four students from Congo at our school who graduated just back in July of last year.

Our four students were Steven, David, Jiresse, and Asifiwe. After graduation back in July, Steven and David remained in Kenya to continue their education but Jiresse and Asifiwe returned to Congo to begin ministering to their beloved Congolese people. As I write this, Jiresse and Asifiwe find themselves right in the mist of these conflicts and directly in the line of fire of the violence and aggression. We have been able to hear from them when they get a chance to communicate. They are part of

"It is impossible to know how you might touch someone's life who will then go on to touch someone else's life, and so on and so on."

- Roger Tate -

the displaced people who are struggling to obtain food and water for themselves and their people. They have no electricity or amenities and basically no shelter. But they have not abandoned their training or their calling, even in the midst of suffering and distress. They are determined to continue to proclaim and teach the gospel message of Jesus to the refugees and broken families of Congo. They are seeing people

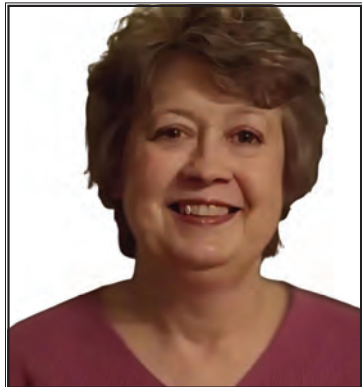
being saved and entering the Kingdom of Christ even in the midst of tragedy. They are trying to help desperate people find food, water, and shelter, all in the name of our Savior. They are being true ministers and servants of our precious Lord, doing the same thing Jesus did when he came to minister to hurting people: "Proclaiming good news to the poor; Proclaiming liberty to the captives; Setting at liberty those who are oppressed; and Proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor."

It is impossible to know how you might touch someone's life who will then go on to touch someone else's life, and so on and so on. I know that we have been able to touch the lives of Jiresse and Asifiwe in significant ways, for which we are thankful and blessed. Now, they are touching others with the love of Jesus in a place where we cannot reach. Please be in prayer for Jiresse and Asifiwe. Pray that God would watch over them and protect them from harm. Pray that they would have effective ministries to their beloved Congolese people. Pray that many Congolese people would know and experience the love of Jesus through their lives and service.

Thank you, beloved, for your prayers.

Blessings to all,
Roger, Julie, & Chloe

In Memory of Joanne Felan



February 18, 1948 - February 4, 2025

We would like to acknowledge the passing of Joanne Felan, longtime member of New Hope Baptist Church and supporter of BFM. If you ever attended the annual BFM Thanksgiving Conference at New Hope Baptist Church in Michigan, you most likely experienced a warm welcome from Joanne, her husband Paul, and her sister Myrna.

Joanne's sweet smile, generous hospitality, cheerful demeanor, and kind listening ear will be remembered fondly. She blessed many of us with her gift of music, playing the piano and singing in the choir.

She and her husband Paul also frequently traveled to other BFM Conferences, encouraging our missionaries and other believers with their presence. It was evident that her love for the Lord fueled her love for missions and all things BFM.

May we all seek to serve the Lord with the same attitude as Joanne, radiating His love and encouraging others along the way! Pray that the Lord would wrap His arms of comfort around her family in their grief.

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of His saints."
Psalm 116:15*

www.vermeulenh.com/obituaries/mary-felan/#!/Obituary

WACASER *continued from page 8*

of missionaries on a 10-hour trip to the southernmost state of Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul. There in a coastal city called Canoas, they spent the final week in one-on-one evangelism and outreach. The Lord blessed tremendously in at least two predominant ways: Lost listeners heard the gospel message and surrendered their lives to Christ and, also, our new volunteers were overwhelmed with how much the Lord used them to share the love of Jesus to the lost and are excited about getting out there and participating more.

While in Brazil, my former co-pastor, now senior pastor, invited me to speak to my former church. The good folks gave me such a warm reception. It was very encouraging to see how well Cledson has taken up the reins and how well he and his wife, Fabiane, are leading the church. One of the impressive details about Cledson's leadership is how he guided the church through a very difficult and painful move to other facilities. I know how hard that can be since I've done it a couple of times throughout our ministry. It was clear that the Lord was doing the leading, because of the better location and lower costs. The former building was located quite a distance from a major road or street, but their new location is right in front of a main city bus terminal and a neighborhood park. During the course of a week, tens of thousands of residents pass right in front of the new location. The park also offers ample opportunities for evangelistic outreach through social interaction with the visitors and residents. And, as I mentioned, this better location

also comes with a better price. God is so good!

I spoke with Yago and Manoela, our missionaries to Portugal this week. They shared the news that Manoela's pregnancy is going fine. Yago got some good news about his "tent-making" vocational income as well. Microsoft Portugal has handed him a new set of working orders which assure that they will continue to receive a good portion of their financial support for an extended period. He had told me a couple of months ago that they had not received any contract information, and they were concerned that their income might cease. Yago conveyed to me, though, that he and Manoela were certain that the Lord was not finished using them in Portugal yet, so they were prayerfully seeking His leading and sustenance. With this new work order information, they can rejoice now that the Lord has confirmed their presence there for some time. We continue to pray for them to win lost Portuguese people to Christ and to build the church there.

On a personal note: After nearly three months, Charlene and I were able to move out of the hotel back into our home. The repairs after Hurricane Milton are nearly done, lacking only the kitchen cabinet tops and a little bit of electrical work. We still have not had much success getting our insurance companies to pay their due protection, but we will continue to appeal the process and pray that the Lord will lead us to a viable solution.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and kind support. We pray that 2025 will be a year full of ministry opportunities and results.

In Christ's love,
Bobby and Charlene Wacaser

A NOTE FROM DAVID PITMAN, PRESIDENT OF BFM

Through the generosity of our donors we were able to send a \$500 “bonus” at the end of 2024 to our missionaries and retirees. A small token but much appreciated. I was so blessed by Brother Asa Mark Bratcher’s response and I share it now with his permission:

“Dear Bro. David: Just a note to express my deepest appreciation to you and the directors of BFM, for the bonus I just received. It is so amazing how our Lord works sometimes. Exactly 2 minutes earlier I had transferred to a couple in Manaus, 500 dollars as a down payment for a piece of property, next to the building of the Bratcher Memorial Baptist Church in the middle of the rain forest. Thanks once again, and to our Faithful God, whom we try to serve, all the glory!”

We are very thankful for how our retirees continue to represent BFM so well. Please give to the Missionary Support Fund!

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

“Jesus has given us the greatest privilege and joy possible: To tell the lost how Jesus, by His death, burial, and resurrection, can save the vilest sinner.”

John A. Hatcher

BFM Missionary to Brazil, 1955-2015

VETERAN MISSIONARIES PENSION FUND

Please prayerfully consider helping us support our faithful veteran missionaries in their senior years by giving a recurring generous offering designated for “VETERAN MISSIONARIES PENSION FUND.”

You can do that by simply making your contribution to Baptist Faith Missions and designating it for “**Pension Fund**” or “**Veteran Missionary Pensioners**” or by anything that says “**Pension.**” We will know what you mean, and your offerings will go directly toward honoring our **Veteran Missionaries Pensioners** who have served our Lord and us so faithfully and sacrificially.

You can mail your contribution to our Treasurer, George Sledd. Or you can give online by going to our website and clicking on the gold “**GIVE**” button.

When you make your transaction online, you will be given the “**Recurring option: __ Yes! Please register me for the recurring program!**”

We pray and hope you will.

MISSIONARY SUPPORT PARTNERSHIP

BAPTIST FAITH MISSIONS FUNCTIONS AS A MISSIONARY SUPPORT PARTNERSHIP

COOPERATING IN THIS MISSIONARY SUPPORT PARTNERSHIP ARE:

▶▶ **THE SENDING CHURCHES.**

The Sending Churches are the origin and catalyst for missions. As in the case of the church at Antioch (Acts 13:1-3), the Holy Spirit directed them to separate members and servants from their church for the work to which He [the Holy Spirit] had called them. Sending Churches make application to the Directors of Baptist Faith Missions to help with the support of the missionaries they want to send.*

▶▶ **THE MISSIONARIES.** The missionaries from the Sending Churches who are answering the call from the Holy Spirit make application for support along with their Sending Church to the Directors of Baptist Faith Missions.

▶▶ **THE SUPPORTING CHURCHES AND INDIVIDUALS.**

There is a fellowship of like-faith-and-order churches and individuals who contribute to the mutual support of missionaries both from their own churches and other churches. These contributions are made to the *Missionary Support Fund* of Baptist Faith Missions. Sending Churches and their Missionaries also participate by appealing to sister churches in their respective networks

and fellowships to partner with them and with the other contributors to the *Missionary Support Fund* to help support the missionaries.

▶▶ **THE DIRECTORS OF BAPTIST FAITH MISSIONS.** When a Sending Church and their Missionaries make application for support through Baptist Faith Missions, The Directors of Baptist Faith Missions review the applications for consistency with a mutually-agreed-upon Statement of Doctrine and Practice. Each applicant must also display good character and have experience in service that qualifies him to be an effective missionary.

▶▶ Churches and individuals voluntarily support the missionary work by sending offerings to the *Missionary Support Fund* of Baptist Faith Missions. These contributions provide living and ministry funds for the missionaries who are approved for support through Baptist Faith Missions.

▶▶ This fund is also used to provide housing, transportation to and from the fields, medical insurance, furlough expenses, and contributions toward retirement. These benefits enable the missionaries to concentrate on the primary mission to which God has called them.

▶▶ Sending Churches and Missionaries associated with Baptist Faith Missions also assist with the responsibility of appealing for and raising these support funds to meet their needs. See Romans 15:24; Philippians 4:14-20; et. al.

▶▶ Baptist Faith Missions sends receipts monthly and annually to each contributor and publishes a yearly accounting of all funds received and disbursed.

▶▶ Baptist Faith Missions receives and distributes funds for the support of missionaries.

▶▶ Baptist Faith Missions forwards appropriately designated funds to the work accounts of each missionary.

▶▶ Baptist Faith Missions does the necessary bookkeeping for all of the services mentioned above and provides the necessary legal paperwork to satisfy the requirements of local, State, and Federal laws in the United States and the countries where the missionaries serve or plan to serve.

▶▶ Baptist Faith Missions also publishes a monthly newsletter, *BFM News & Reports*. It contains letters from our missionaries and news about their ministries and needs and is distributed without charge to any interested church or person.

▶▶ All of these services and anything else that is necessary is provided because of the cooperation of the churches, missionaries, Directors, and individuals who participate in this Missionary Support Partnership ministry.

▶▶ All of this is possible through the services of the Directors of Baptist Faith Missions.

**Baptist Faith Missions does not ordain, commission, send, or assign fields of service to missionaries. These ministries are the purpose of their respective Sending Churches.*

HAS SOMEONE IN YOUR CHURCH BEEN CALLED TO MISSIONS ABROAD?

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO WORLDWIDE MISSIONS?

LET'S GO!

► STEP 1

We come alongside of Baptist churches in sending God-called missionaries.

► STEP 2

We ask other Baptist churches to join us in financial and prayerful support.

► STEP 3

You take part in fulfilling the Great Commission and church-planting missions in the nations of the world.

LEGACY GIFTS - PLEASE CONSIDER REMEMBERING OUR PENSIONERS IN YOUR WILL

Ever since our Traditional Pension Fund was established years ago, that Fund has been supplied by numerous generous gifts that have been given to BFM. Some have donated properties to BFM and the sales of those properties have been allocated to our Pension Fund. Others have bequeathed Legacy Gifts to BFM in their wills.

These gifts have sustained the on-going ministry of helping to support our Veteran Missionary Pensioners in their senior years after they are no longer physically able to continue their active on-the-field service.

This is just another way you can perpetuate your partnership in missionary support for years to come. We pray you will consider helping our missionaries in this way.

**Consider your
impact on the world.**

Leave a lasting legacy.

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Follow us on Instagram
www.instagram.com/BFMnow

We encourage you to like, share,
and retweet our posts!

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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.



PRAY & PRAISE

...IN THIS ISSUE

► **ODALI & KATHY BARROS:** PRAISE GOD for how He has used Odali & Kathy in His service through BFM for decades! PRAY for them as they enter a new season. [PAGE 2]

► **JOHN MARK & JUDY HATCHER:** PRAISE GOD for the disciples in France who are sharing the Good News with others! PRAY for these new believers as they grow and those in Bible Studies who are seeking. [PAGE 1]

► **ROGER & JULIE TATE:** PRAISE GOD for how the Tates have touched the lives of Jiresse and Asifiwe and PRAY for them as they now minister in the troubled Democratic Republic of Congo. [PAGE 3]

► **BOBBY & CHARLENE WACASER:** PRAISE GOD for 18 new volunteer apprentices training with Projeto Vida & sharing the Gospel with the lost! PRAY for Yago and Manoela as they seek to win lost Portuguese people to Christ. [PAGE 8]

**PRAY ALSO FOR OUR OTHER
FAITHFUL MISSIONARY
FAMILIES!**

**MIKE & BEVERLY CREIGLOW
JUD & RAQUEL HATCHER
AJ & BARBARA HENSLEY**

18 NEW APPRENTICES IN TRAINING & SHARING THE GOSPEL



Bobby &
Charlene
Wacaser

*bobbymichael_1@hotmail.com
Rua Laudelino Ferreira Lopes, 279
Sobrado 1, Novo Mundo
81050-310 Curitiba, PR, Brasil*

February 2, 2025

Dear Friends,

I was in Brazil the last couple of weeks training a new group of missionary volunteers for this new year. Our traveling evangelism ministry partner, Projeto Vida, tries to

put together at least two training seminars per year: one in January and one in July. This past month we had 18 new volunteer apprentices coming from four different states. A couple of other veteran missionaries and I were the speakers/mentors for this conference. We spent one week in the biblical study of missions and evangelism and then the students accompanied our experienced team

 **WACASER**
Continued on page 4

Join us in Ohio for the BFM ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE at Grace Baptist Church of Fairborn, Ohio

Dates:

April 4 & 5, 2025

Theme:

"The General Call and Effectual Call of God"

Speakers:

*Pastor Steve Wainright, Dr. Hershael York,
Dr. Matt Shamblin, & Pastor Chuck Hunt*

Conference Times:

Friday: 6:30 PM-9:00 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM - Lunch

www.gbcbairborn.com

