

BOSTON & BEYOND

a globalized cities initiative

Praise and Prayer

- ◆ *Build the Church*—Our annual IBC International Thanksgiving Dinner was well attended by long-time residences of East Cambridge and newer immigrant neighbors, as well as international scholars.
- ◆ *Evangelize the Nations*—This morning, Deb had an online meeting into China with a woman who is the wife of one who became a Christian in an online Bible study with Bill. Her husband has been urging her to study the Bible, as well. Deb will do so with her.
- ◆ *Recruit the Workers*—There is now a regular online meeting with those interested in becoming part of the Boston and Beyond ministry team. One person is making application to become a BMM missionary, and two other couples plan on being interns next summer.
- ◆ *Do the Demographics*—One of our future team members is working with me to identify key globalized cities according to ten civilizational categories.
- ◆ *Launch the teams*—We have begun to have online fellowship meetings with friends from other continents. The desire is to network with our disciples who have left Boston as well as with future team members, building relationships that may become eventual church planting teams.



Progress Report

2018-11-27

Beloved Ministry Partners,

As you may remember, Boston and Beyond, *a globalized cities initiative* (B&B), has now been approved by the various world-wide field administrators of BMM. In addition to this happy news, we recently received the following by way of email from Steve Butler, the BMM North American Field Administrator,

"The Administrative Staff unanimously recommended B&B as a standing Special Ministry under Butler Field Administration and secondly, to have Bill and Deb Edmondson's placement into that ministry within Baptist Mid-Missions. All that to say, these recommendations are now on the Administrative Committee's agenda for December 6th and the entire group was of one mind that you would not need to be present for that Administrative Committee meeting."

If the December 6 meeting goes well, as expected, B&B will be presented for final approval at the BMM General Council meeting, March 7-8, 2019. As the above indicates, B&B is slowly but surely becoming part of the BMM ministry vision. Below is our written presentation made to the field administrators of Baptist Mid-Missions (BMM) in late September.

Boston and Beyond Presentation
Missionary Services
2018-09-26

Men,

Thank you for taking time to hear about the Boston and Beyond ministry plan. I am eagerly anticipating our collaboration and have been praying that our Father will grant us wisdom as Boston and Beyond is vetted, and hopefully, weaved into the fabric of Baptist Mid-Missions.

Boston

Deb and I moved to Boston 20 years ago in order to minister the gospel to international students and scholars. Over the years, God has taught us that the academic community is only one part of what makes large cities important places to minister. Because large cities consist of immigrant communities, tourist industries, internationally integrated businesses and globally connected city governments, these cities are strategic hot spots for Great Commission ministry. In Boston, on any particular day, we can potentially touch any part of the world.

Boston and Beyond

However, ministry in Boston has not remained in Boston. ¹Our disciples leave Boston and take the gospel with them. Friends and family members have responded to Christ through their witness. By using video conferencing augmented with occasional visits, we have been able to help these disciples in their evangelistic and discipleship ministries. Individuals have become Christians and young Christians have been strengthened. By following gospel-centered relationships made in Boston, globally, we have been able to disciple into other parts of the world.

Prayer Calendar

- ✦ November 30—A Christmas Cookie Decorating party will be held in East Cambridge. Please pray specifically for neighborhood families to attend.
- ✦ December 6—The Administrative Staff of BMM will be meeting to consider B&B as an official BMM ministry.
- ✦ December 7—The first of three previous interns/future workers will arrive spending several days enjoying ministry in Boston
- ✦ December 8—Deb and I will host a Christmas Tree decorating party for friends across Boston. We will be reading the Christmas story to not-yet-Christians Pray.
- ✦ December 14—Christmas Dinner will be held for the IBC family and our visiting interns/workers at our ministry home.
- ✦ December 16—The IBC will host Christmas Brunch along with our morning service. We are praying that some of our new friends will join us.
- ✦ March 7-8—B&B will be presented to the BMM General Council for final approval. Please Pray!
- ✦ Sundays of 2019—Deb and I will be presenting B&B to churches across the USA. **We will be raising much needed support** and recruiting workers. The load will be heavy. We are looking forward to it. Pray for us.

¹By "Our disciples," we are referring to those who have become Christians in Boston through the ministry to which God has called us. We understand that it is God who works in them, and that we are blessed to be used by Him to do so.

A Globalized 2Cities Initiative

We see the potential to join these disciples in other globalized cities, helping them to be faithful to our joint calling of making disciples in all nations. The resulting plan is being called, Boston and Beyond *a globalized cities initiative*.

The Plan

Build the Church: We will continue to help establish the International Baptist Church (IBC), which is designed to minister to the whole demographic of Boston. The IBC will provide the foundation and launching pad, which these disciples will need, as they go home and duplicate what they have learned in Boston.

Evangelize the Nations: Our outreach to the global community of Boston will continue. The goal is to develop evangelistic relationships/Bible studies with individuals from all parts of the world.

Recruit the Workers: We will recruit and train church members, interns, and vocational missionaries to live and work in globalized cities, internationally. This training will take place in Boston.

Target Strategic Cities: Through relationships made in Boston and by means of demographic studies we will identify the most strategic cities internationally.

Launch the Teams: Teams will be formed which will include vocational missionaries, church members, as well as international disciples made in Boston. These teams will travel to the strategic cities in order to network with existing churches and/or to start churches capable of ministering the Word of God to the surrounding areas.

During our twenty years in Boston, God has shown us that by ministering in Boston, the gospel will travel globally. Our desire is to accelerate by working with the body of Christ to disciple the world, starting in Boston, and then extending globally—Boston and Beyond.

Please help us,

Bill and Deb



The goal of Boston and Beyond a globalized city initiative (B&B) is to obey the Savior by joining Him in the fulfilling of His command to disciple all nations. We believe this is possible for two basic reasons: 1) Jesus has all authority, and He has promised to help those who surrender to do His will. 2) The Savior has providentially prepared globalized cities, places where the nations can be disciplined, both locally and globally.

²A globalized city is technically defined as a city of at least one million which is connected internationally by human interactions.