
BILL & DEB'S REPORT

endeavoring to make disciples of all nations

To our financial supporters,

Deb and I thought it appropriate to send a more personal letter concerning our change of status within Baptist Mid-Missions to our financial supporters.

We are thankful for the kind words from Mark Pitts of BMM, in a letter recently sent out to you. As he stated, Deb and I have served 42 years with BMM. However, our connection with BMM goes even deeper than that. In the fall of 1973, a student member of Campus Bible Fellowship, (a division of BMM), explained the gospel to Deb, which she immediately received. It was the fall of 1975 that Hal Miller, the founder of Campus Bible Fellowship, challenged me with the gospel, and I also believed. It was the then President of BMM, Allan Lewis, who first invited us to serve with BMM. In fact, Deb and I have served under BMM presidents Allan Lewis, Raymond Buck, Gary Anderson, Vernon Rosenau, and Pat Odle. While with BMM, we were mentored by BMM missionary legends like Leah Adams, Hal Miller, Carl Abbot, Ben Kendrick, Bill Smallman, Dr. Quinton Kenoyer, Dr. David Seymour and many, many others. It is a fact that the Lord has used BMM as a huge sanctifying force throughout our Christian lives. For this we are eternally thankful.

We also appreciate that our history with BMM has prepared us well for what is next in our service to the Lord. Yes, this is a reminder that our retirement from BMM does not mean we are retiring from our Divine stewardship from the Lord—making disciples of all nations by ministering to the nations, locally. We have our health, we have our passion, our stewardship from the Lord is not fulfilled—we continue on in the energy He grants us. By the grace of God and His Almighty power which energizes us, we are not retiring—we are retooling, we are not retreating—we are advancing. Missionally, we are not slowing down—we are accelerating. The world and its inhabitants remain in the hand of the evil one. It is not a time to stop.

In my doctoral thesis, “GLOBAL-CHURCH PLANTING WITHIN THE MOBILE ACADEMIC AND IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES OF THE BOSTON METROPOLITAN AREA,” written in 2009, I referenced our potential change of relationship within BMM.

The relationship between the Edmondsons' sending mission agency and the OBM* will need to be clarified within the chain of command of Baptist Mid-Missions. Three possibilities exist. The best scenario would be that the OBM would be allowed to function under the umbrella of Baptist Mid-Missions. A second possibility would be to negotiate a version of the plan that is as effective and yet more palatable to the mission. A third possibility is that there could be a friendly parting of the ways between Baptist Mid-Missions and the Edmondsons. If this were to happen, it would be by mutual consent and with goodwill on all sides.

We are thankful to the Lord and to the administrators of BMM that Deb and I will be able to continue within BMM as Emeritus missionaries, while at the same time, continuing to fulfill our calling.

We love you,

Bill and Deb

*The OBM stood for Orthodox Baptist Ministries. Nomenclature we eventually decided to change:-)