

May 15, 2021 Missions Update

The BHCC Missions Team wanted to update the congregation on our mission points and what's going on there.

Munich (Germany)



We support Reiner Kallus (above on left), Carsten Oberwittler (above in middle), and Stephan and Martina Kallus (above on right). Germany has struggled under COVID and has seen several hard lockdowns. During their most recent lockdown they could not meet at the building, and in fact could only meet with one other person. They utilize video conferencing. Family groups meet weekly, while the whole congregation meets the first Wednesday of each month. They have found that members meet more regularly via Zoom than before COVID. They have reported several baptisms over the past year. They also have an active student and college ministry.

Zagreb (Croatia) – Biblijski Institute



We support the Bible Institute. They've also dealt with various lockdowns and have helped several local churches go online. Croatia also dealt with an earthquake last spring. Burt Nowers chairs their Board. Pictured on right is one of the students with Charlie Pearman, Jeff Whitehorn, Beverly Pearman, and Burt Nowers.

Mani Pagidipalli (India)

Mani is a medical doctor who also preaches. He leads evangelism efforts and works with a preacher training school. As a doctor, he runs a free medical clinic. India has suffered extensively due to COVID, so he's also led extensive food relief efforts.



He reported the following data in October:

- 390,000 Meals Delivered
- 45,000 Grocery Bags Delivered
- 28,500 Rice Bags Delivered (one effort pictured above)
- Reached out to 5,700 families outside the church
- 5,000 Hindu Families
- 700 Muslim Families
- Helped 1,000 Christian families
- Helped 10,000 Traveling Migrant Workers
- Many New Congregations planted - 66 (mostly pre-Covid)
- Many New Christians - 5,444 (Mani pictured above with one recent convert)

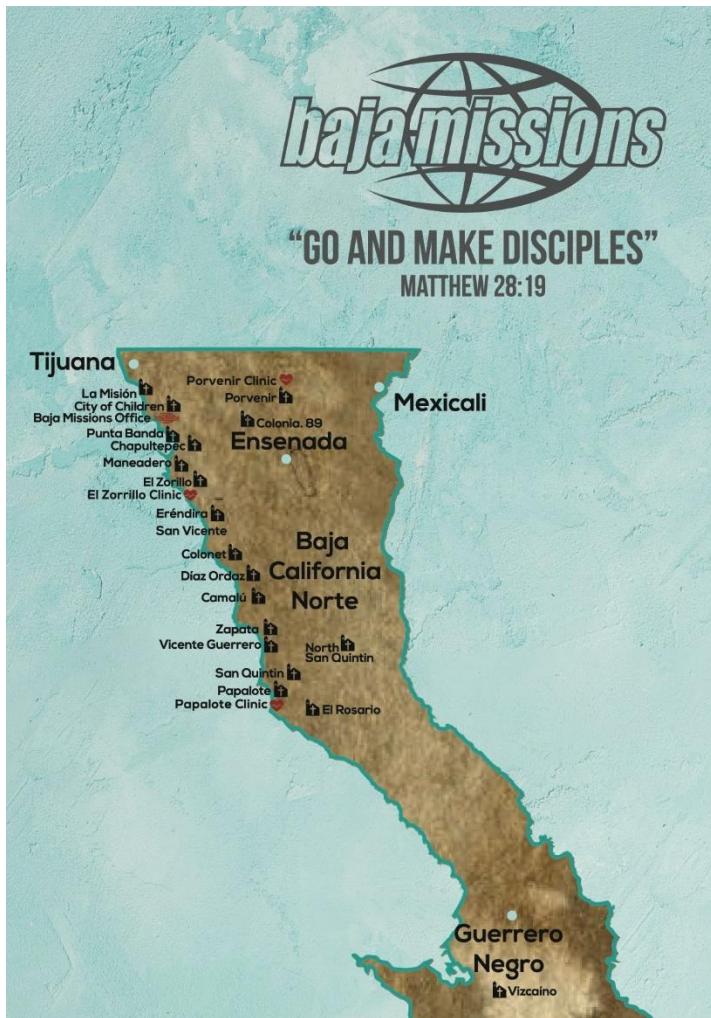
Dunedin (New Zealand)

We support the Aaron Knotts family (pictured below). Dunedin is located on the southern end of the southern island of New Zealand. Early in the crisis, the government shut down all international travel to contain COVID. Public gatherings were limited, and the congregation met virtually. Aaron also works as a chaplain with local military units.



Baja Missions (Mexico)

Rex Watson chairs the Baja Missions board in an effort to support 17 congregations along the Baja coast (see map below). Each of the Baja churches is sponsored by a sister congregation in the United States. Three free medical clinics serve some of the communities around these congregations. Brentwood Hills sponsors the work in Papalote. Baja Missions has sponsored multiple food relief efforts over the past year. Laura Dorris works for Baja Missions where her work is focused on spiritual enrichment for women and teens and also a transitional program for young adults helping them to finish high school or pursue college education.



Papalote



Alfonso and Angie Duenas (pictured above) lead the work in Papalote. Jason Ventura also works with the congregation. The picture on the right shows a recent food relief effort.

Within the past twelve months they have begun to develop the property across the road from the Papalote church building. The property will be known as Baja Missions South Campus, which contains a multipurpose building (below on left) that will house a Baja Bible Institute classroom (below on right) and Baja Mission Offices. They have also begun to build a house for Angie and Alfonso to live in. BHCC built most of the Papalote campus, including its clinic.



Baxter Institute and Adams Clinic (Honduras)



BHCC has supported Baxter and its associated Adams Medical Clinic for many years. Mark Brewer serves as Treasurer of the Baxter Board, and Robert Scott is also a board member.

Baxter has a four-year college program that trains men and women to preach the gospel in Central and South America. They house all students on campus. Their school year recently began with 74 students.

BHCC has provided additional support for several Venezuelan students (some of whom are pictured above with Perry Moore). Four of those students graduated this past November, and we are continuing to support two of them. Daniel was hired by Baxter as a full-time instructor, and Jose is part of a Great Cities Team that is planting a congregation in Medellin, Colombia (more on that work below). Two remain at Baxter, and one will begin work on his PAM internship in greater Mexico City, at the Iglesia de Iztapalapa congregation, this summer.

Students were restricted to campus due to the Honduran tight lockdown, but that lockdown meant that no student came down with COVID.

Health Talents (Guatemala)



BHCC has supported Health Talents (HTI) for many years. Their mission: through medical evangelism in Central America, HTI will nurture self-supporting and self-replicating bodies of Christ.

HTI runs Clinica Ezell, a free medical clinic. While the clinic did close during the pandemic, they have been allowed to reopen to begin seeing patients again. However, no US-based surgical groups have been allowed to travel since April. Recent changes in Guatemala laws and regulations mean that HTI must pursue a change in licensure. Instead of a clinic providing medical, dental, and occasional surgical care, they will now be licensed as a hospital even though they plan to continue their model of providing monthly surgical care and year-round medical and dental care. Dr. Mark Whitefield serves as a member of their board. Pictured above (left) is Bailey Whitefield helping a patient on the BHCC trip in January 2020. The other picture shows Jenni and Ryan Grace Whitefield with a young patient on that same trip.

Quito City (Ecuador)



BHCC recently began supporting Jhoan Perez who is planting a congregation in Quito City. Previously, he preached in Venezuela before he and his family left that country. Enoch Rinks visited with Jhoan in February (pictured above on left). A recent church meeting held in their garage is pictured on the right.

Great Cities Missions

BHCC has partnered with Great Cities for over fifteen years. They began sharing the gospel in the Latin world in 1976 and currently have more than 100 families who are now embedded in the lives, communities, and churches in the Latin world. Over 225 congregations are now meeting, teaching and serving the people of their communities. Bryan Flanagan and Penny Ellis both serve on its Board.

They plant congregations all over Central and South America utilizing native Spanish language speakers. Most teams are comprised of four couples who plan to devote seven years to each church plant. Over the past fifteen years, BHCC has sponsored five different congregations. Two of those congregations are now self-supporting, while we continue to work with the other three.

Tultepec (formerly known as Alborada, Mexico City)



We support two missionaries in this congregation: Fernando Mendoza (middle, white vest) and Juvenal Jimenez (middle, far left). They have also been able to baptize several people during the past twelve months. During the pandemic, they provided food bags to people in the community (bottom, right).

Over the past twelve months, they have worked hard to add a second floor to their church building (top, left). The team is ending their seven-year commitment in 2021 and has asked to transition to a new location in Las Americas Ecatepec to continue the work begun there. A work-day several years ago included several members from BHCC: JD Blackburn, Cory Calendine, Andy Mankin, Bill Smith, and Juvenal (bottom, left).



Huehuetoca (Mexico City)



We supported Danilo Diaz (right) for the past seven years, but that commitment ended in December. Danilo has decided to pursue a secular career while remaining in Mexico City. The congregation established five small groups in homes where the Sunday worship services were held when the country was locked down. They have also provided food bags to people in the community. There have been several baptisms through this work. Pictured above is a worship service from last November.

Las Americas Ecatepec (Mexico City)

The team placed here by Great Cities was withdrawn, and the work has been continued by the Tultepec team, who desire to transition to this new location in 2022.

Cucuta (Colombia)



We support Abel Gonzalez (left picture, with Bryan Flanagan, Jeff Whitehorn, and Burt Nowers; and right picture with team and Chris Fry). Chris Fry is the Director of Latin Teams at Great Cities. Cucuta is located on the border with Venezuela. This work has produced several baptisms during the past twelve months. They have established eight CASA small groups.



Prior to the pandemic, this congregation provided food/medicine to 80+ congregations across the border in Venezuela (see picture of Perry Moore with 500 food bags waiting for distribution). Some congregations had to travel over 20+ hours each way to get there. (see map)

The border was closed during the Pandemic. While it has reopened somewhat, food relief efforts are pursuing different paths. A church member who runs a grocery store in Venezuela is selling food items at cost that are distributed to 30-40 congregations that are located close to Cucuta. The other congregations are being shipped food boxes through efforts led by Todd Potgetter. The left picture was taken in 2018 when Chris Fry, along with Burt Nowers, Bryan Flanagan, and Jeff Whitehorn visited, along with others from the USA and includes all team members. The picture (middle) was taken on March 28 when Enoch Rinks visited with the team, and the picture (right) shows a March 28 worship service.



Medellin (Colombia)



We support the Jose Saribia family in this new church plant (seen on left in picture with Enoch Rinks). The family arrived in late March, and the team hopes to have their first service in May or June. The four team members and their families are seen on right.

Cartagena (Colombia)

We had supported the work in Cartagena for many years, but our multi-year commitment ended in 2020. We still follow the work of the Sebastian Jimenez family who is planting a church in one of the suburbs (pictured on left with Mark Brewer). More recently we provided some support to Sebastian and Abigail Girado (below on right) who work with the main congregation in Cartagena. Sebastian and Abigail were able to visit with BHCC last November before they returned to Colombia in January.



Middle East

We support a family of five in their work in the Middle East. They work with an organization that places health care professionals in this region to serve refugees. This family has BHCC ties. The husband is a dentist who works with a local hospital and also serves patients through several remote clinics located across the country.

They have experienced numerous hardships during hard lockdowns across the pandemic. They were able to return to the states over a long Christmas holiday, where the dentist was able to be vaccinated.

Nairobi Great Commission School (Kenya)



We support this work that provides academic, practical, and experiential training in the African context, equipping men and women for the ministry in the planting and maturing of local churches. The picture was taken in 2019 when Bryan Flanagan, Jeff Whitehorn, and Burt Nowers journeyed to Africa to meet the school's new president. Healing Hands also works with the school and this area in teaching people to be self-supporting. Numerous wells have been drilled to provide clean drinking water for various communities.

Jovenes En Camino (Honduras)



Their mission is to transform young Honduran men by bringing them to Christ. They break the cycle of poverty for these boys and impact the people of El Zamorano through faith based and empowering programs. They aim to equip these boys and communities with the tools they need to be successful and help them discover God's purpose in their lives. BHCC has long supported this orphanage. Jonathan Seamon serves as the Treasurer of the Board. Pictured above on recent BHCC trips: Matt Moss (left), Bethany Ashley (center), and Mike Sansom and Aaron Kelley (right).

Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort

CCDRE responds to major disasters in the US by sending trucks of food, water, and supplies to local churches that aid disaster victims. BHCC member Joe Dudney served as the board chair for many years. Currently, Mike Morello serves as the Board Treasurer.

Healing Hands International (HHI)

HHI's mission is to aid, equip, and empower those in need around the world in the name of Jesus Christ. They fulfill this mission through these programs and ministries:

- Clean water
- Agriculture: fighting hunger
- MAGI boxes
- Women of hope
- Disaster recovery
- Medical aid
- Shipping



Burt Nowers previously served as President and continues to serve on their board, alongside Jeff Whitehorn and Bruce Beck. Joseph Smith and Angela Bell are employed there. The picture above shows Jeff Whitehorn and Burt Nowers with Frederick and his family in Kenya (Frank Wheeler's WEI student where BH dug the well) in 2019. This story was profiled recently during one of Walt's sermons.

Inner City Ministries

This ministry is dedicated to helping people understand that their life has value and purpose. They are dedicated to living life with the youth and families they serve, through the joy and chaos. Prior to the pandemic, BHCC regularly hosted a group of bus riders one night each week. Several BHCC members serve on their board, including Walt Leaver, Gary Pollock, and Jeff Hunter.

World Christian Broadcasting

WCB takes God's word, through mass media, to people who may have no other means of hearing the Good News. They utilize two shortwave broadcasting communities located in Anchor Point, Alaska, and Madagascar. Randy Perry serves as Secretary of their Board, and Neika Stephens is a board member.

Lipscomb Missions Office

This office provides Lipscomb students, faculty, and staff with global opportunities to explore ministry and vocation as an expression of the Kingdom. Their long-term strategy ensures that volunteers go back year-after-year, joining the same communities, deepening relationships and developing best practices for engagement.

Other Assistance

Funds are also available to assist BHCC members, those who attend BHCC, and local university students who desire to serve on a short-term global effort. Such assistance is generally limited to a percentage of the total experience cost.