

MM

MISSIONS MESSENGER

A bimonthly publication
of FBA's Global
Missions Ministry

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WE ARE TALLEST ON OUR KNEES

The answers for the days we live in will not be found in human wisdom, human ability, or human strategy *but found in and through people who pray*. God is raising men and women like Elijah, whose prayer life will release a confrontation with the anti-Christ systems of our day and will purge all toleration of anything other than complete loyalty to Jesus.

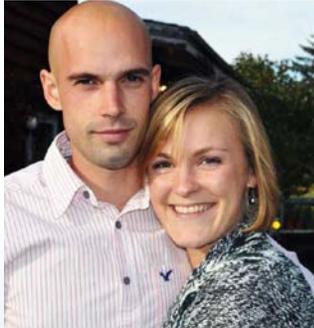
This is what we were created for. This is our call, our privilege, and our honor—to stand before God on behalf of men and before men on behalf of God. Intercessors are not a special group. Prayer is the call of every believer, young and old.

Excerpt from
Teach Us to Pray
by Corey Russell

SAVE THE DATE

AIM ZOOM | MARCH 14 | 5-6 PM EST | OLI & JUDY JACOBSEN | ASIA/USA
AIM ZOOM | APRIL 11 | 5-6 PM EST | BRIAN & ARIEL DICKS | HUNGARY

MEET OUR MISSIONARIES



JOSHUA & GINA BLOOMFIELD

Joshua & Gina Bloomfield are career missionaries with Ambassadors for Christ International. They were referred to FBA through Gina's family, Ian, John, and David North, all of whom have been or are ministry partners with FBA, and through AFCI. They have two children, Evangelina (8) and Lyla (6 ½).

Josh grew up in central Alberta and was blessed to have Christian parents who modeled godly character. When he was 12, God led his parents to sell their business and go into ministry among the unreached in Fiji. At age 14, his parents, with a family of seven, moved to Fiji and God laid a burden on Josh's heart to serve Him. His Dad became pastor of a local church that was falling apart, and Josh got involved in whatever way he could. During his teen years, he planned the worship music, taught Sunday school, led Bible studies, and coordinated youth groups. He also worked with a Fijian to plant a church in Tonga and got involved in YWAM (Youth with A Mission) before going to Bible College.

At age 19, he began Bible College, which is where he met his wife, Gina. They started a life together, bought cars, a home, had kids, and he learned a trade in a lucrative energy sector. During the next ten years, while he prayed for the door to overseas missions to open, he had many opportunities to learn to effectively live as a witness at work in his own country.

He had an Ezekiel 37:10 experience, and his prayerful battle cry became, "Lord, please use my life to rally an exceedingly great army of disciple-makers that rise up globally."

Josh currently serves as Assistant to the Director of Evangelism SHIFT (John North), who is also the National Director of AFCI Australia. His immediate area of focus is to coordinate the international growth of this AFCI disciple-making movement initiative, starting with their AFCI National Directors as they launch EvangelismSHIFT to help grow their local ministries.

Josh travels with John North assisting in ministry and being mentored for future leadership. As Evangelism SHIFT, they train, coach and resource local ministry leaders in building disciple-making movements.

EvangelismSHIFT partners with ministry leaders, here at home and abroad, to apply five shifts they find in the life of Christ to their own ministry approach that will further accelerate the spread of the Gospel. They assist the local Church in being more effective at reaching their local communities.

Gina spent her childhood years on the mission field with her parents in the Philippines. She then attended Bible college in Three Hills, Canada. As a family, they went on a two-year mission commitment to Fiji with the organization WEC. Now, with her own family, Gina knows God has called her to disciple her children and care for her family and hopes to settle and build community with other mothers and allow the ministry to organically flow out of those relationships.





BRIAN & ARIEL DICKS

Brian and Ariel Dicks were introduced to FBA's Global Missions through Pat and Traci Ragan, former members at Woodland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga, as they taught their college class and conducted their premarital counseling. FBA began supporting the Dicks in April 2020. They have two sons, Andrew (4) and Joshua (1½).

Brian attended Bryan College, majoring in Biblical Studies, and is pursuing his M.Div. at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, majoring in Christian Ministry (2015 to present).

His call to world mission ministry began with exposure to missions in childhood, as his church supported many missionaries and held an annual missions conference. In his freshman year of high school, his family spent a year on the mission field in Budapest with ABWE (Association of Baptists for Worldwide Evangelism), as there was a temporary need to be filled. During that time, he was a part-time student at the International Christian School of Budapest. When he decided to go into Bible teaching as he began college, God used the memories of his time as a student in Budapest to impress on him the need for people to teach, mentor, and disciple students in an international environment. After Ariel and he were engaged to be married, they realized that God was leading both into this area of ministry.

Ariel graduated from Dalton State College, having majored in Biology and obtaining her B.S. Biology degree. She also taught at Veritas Classical Schools for 5th and 6th grade Science, Humanities, and Spanish I & II. She also met regularly with three students (all female) in a mentorship/discipleship capacity. Having a heart for mentorship. She also led small groups and Bible studies in high school and college.

Ariel and Brian previously spent three years teaching fulltime at the International Christian School of Budapest (2014-2017), where they were able to teach, mentor, and disciple middle school and high school students.

The Dicks family are serving now in Budapest as long-term missionaries, with their focus being International Student Ministry. Brian is serving as the middle and high school student pastor at Danube International Church in downtown Budapest, as well as teaching some middle school Bible Classes at ICSB (International Christian School of Budapest), and Ariel is a significant teammate with Brian, building gospel relationships with students that they reach both in the church and in the school. God has given each of them a huge heart for students in an international setting, whether missionary kids or local students (Hungarians, in this context). Students in this type of an environment often struggle with faith, identity, and meaning in an exponentially greater way. They hope to be representatives of God's love to them, offering encouragement and reminding them of the Gospel and its power in their lives. Ultimately, they see this as a unique yet effective answer to the Great Commission, as students who graduate from the ICSB go on to colleges, universities, ministries, and businesses across the globe.

In addition to this work, they serve with the rest of the ABWE (Association of Baptists for Worldwide Evangelism) Hungary team, occasionally taking part in local Hungarian ministry as their schedules allow, primarily through English camps and classes designed to build relationships and lead Hungarians into local church plants. Brian also serves as Worship Coordinator at Danube International Church, in which he is responsible for leading worship approximately once a month and providing leadership, direction, organization to the other worship leaders on rotation.

For each of these couples, the Lord has shown His hand in their calling and journey every step of the way, and for that, they are very grateful.

LOCAL MISSIONS

Ministry through FBA has continued locally through the blessings of many members who serve and give so others may experience a touch of Jesus' love. Throughout the pandemic, we have heard stories of how people are helping other people, abroad and at home. Our FBA members have brought joy to many children by filling almost 5,000 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child; ministering in half-way houses, sharing and preparing care packages for local nursing homes; supplying 140 industrial barrels of food for the needy, and led in a recent outreach to hundreds of refugee children in Clarkston. FBA assisted in hosting seven Red Cross Blood Drives, providing on average between 40-50 units of blood with each drive. These are just a few of our ongoing ministry areas!

As we fill our church again, may God fill our hearts and beings with a greater passion to give, serve, and always pray in the days ahead.

