

Upcoming Events

- January Sermon Series - "Elders & Deacons"
- 1/21 - Sanctity of Life Sunday - *CHOICES OF THE HEART
 - *Note: Baby Bottle Campaign begins Sunday, May 12th - Mother's Day
- 2/4 - Global Missions Month - Giving Begins
- 2/7 - Prayer For Our Church
- 2/14 - Annual Congregational Meeting
- Recommended Resource - *Church is a Team Sport : A Championship Strategy for Doing Ministry Together* by Jim Putman (\$11.49 @ Amazon)
- 10% of ALL our Giving goes to Global Missions
Designated Offerings can be made to - Local Outreaches, Changemakers, Etc.
- Get CONNECTED with God, His Church & His People via our CONNECT Card
- Pray About Sponsoring Dr. JD Smith's 450 mile 5 Day Bike Ride that has been completed - 2.222 X \$450 = GOAL of 1 Mil.
- On which MISSIONAL TEAM should I be Serving?
 - Internal / Discipleship - Don & Carm Hickson
 - External/Outreach - Jose & Ivis Quann
 - Bldg. & Grounds - Bill & Laura Dolhansky
 - Technology - Mark & Jillaine Couse

— MISSIONARIES —



South America & Africa

- John Michael Poulin
- BMAA Regional Coordinator

Persecuted Christian

- ALGERIA -

CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE AMID GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN ON CHURCHES

- In 2019, the Algerian government permanently closed many churches, & several others that closed temporarily during the pandemic have not been allowed to re-open. "Many believers have gone for months or even years without gathering with their brothers & sisters in Christ," a front-line worker said. While Christians in Algeria are receiving biblical training via the internet & Arabic Christian satellite TV channels, relying on the internet & other media sources can leave them vulnerable to false teaching & manipulation. One such heretical cult is targeting believers in Algeria, the front-line worker said. He requested prayer that Christians in Algeria would hold fast to "the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."
 - Before the founding of Islam in the seventh century & the subsequent invasion by Arab Muslims, Algeria was inhabited by the Berber people. Today, they live mainly in Algeria's mountainous Kabylie area in the north, while Arabs inhabit the rest of the country. The Christian faith has a long history in North Africa, especially among ethnic Berbers. The early church father Augustine of Hippo is thought to have been a Berber from Algeria. After centuries of oppressive Muslim occupation, public Christian worship & witness have largely disappeared, but many Berbers are now rediscovering their Christian heritage. Churches have seen rapid growth, & Algeria has experienced one of the world's largest movements of Muslims coming to faith in Christ. Algerian Christians are reaching out boldly to their Muslim countrymen, causing increased persecution in an uncertain political climate.
 - 97% of Algerians are Sunni Muslims.
 - Algeria is a shining example of church growth in North Africa & is also a leader for theological training & church development in the region. Nearly all of the church growth has occurred within the Berber community. Although churches are allowed to meet openly, in 2018 the government temporarily closed many church buildings & harassed congregations. Berber Christians, who are watched carefully, have gained a collective voice through an association of churches. Sharing the gospel with Arabs can cause serious problems, but Berber Christians continue to share the gospel boldly in & around al-Qaida terrorist camps. Secret communities of Arab Christians exist throughout the country. While it is not common for Christians to be imprisoned, one believer was imprisoned for nearly a year in connection with a social media post.
 - There is a Bible society in Algeria, but the printing & importation of Bibles is carefully monitored, limited & controlled by the government. Bible distributions are risky for the distributors & congregations involved, & Bibles are often confiscated by government officials.
- PLEASE PRAY
- That church leaders will be strong & wise while enduring hardship.
 - For Christians who suffer at the hands of their unbelieving families & whose churches were closed by the government.
 - For opportunities to distribute Bibles throughout Algeria, especially in the south
 - For the many who hear the gospel through social media evangelism.

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PERSONALLY -
CORPORATELY -
RELATIONALLY -
with God
in Worship
in Small Groups