

Rob & Myra Johnson



Reaching Out
ministries



"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:19-20

Special Ministry Update

May 2023

Dear Supporting Pastor,

Recently, while scheduling for furlough, my mother was hospitalized with Covid and pneumonia. It has scarred her lungs. Although now out of the hospital, she remains weak and requires oxygen and weekly care. At some point, she will probably transition to assisted living. With these developments, my wife's health, and closed doors in obtaining visas, I've decided, with counsel from my pastor, to transition from the mission field and minister in another area of missions and outreach stateside.

This new ministry is *not* a staff position at our church and will involve our online Global Bible Baptist College (GBBC). Fellow missionary, Bro. Jeff Lange has been at the helm of this ministry since its beginning, so I've asked him if he would explain it in more detail.

From Bro. Lange:

With the Johnsons moving their ministry to the USA, we are happy to have them partner with us in an exciting new ministry that can have a global impact. We, the Lange family (www.thelangefamily.org), have been missionaries to Thailand and S.E. Asia since 2004. We returned to the USA during covid for furlough. After reporting to our supporting churches, Pastor Scheving and I launched out on an exciting new ministry we believe will truly expand our outreach globally and see men trained and churches started.

Knowing there are many overseas students who want to train for the ministry but cannot afford to go to the USA for Bible college or do not have a missionary to train them, we started Global Baptist Bible College. It is a FREE, 3-year, online, on-demand, video-based Bible college for students only OUTSIDE the USA. My pastor and I made a video that explains this project to our supporting churches. That video can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/570qazGH5QQ>

The first-year classes are complete. We are about 50% complete with year 2 and 20% with year 3. We hope to have year 2 finished by August and year 3 by the end of the year. GBBC went online in January. However, we were so inundated with students that managing them took much of my time and I could not work on years 2 and 3. So, we stopped all advertising until we could complete those years. Those who registered during the initial 10 days are still allowed to go through the program. We currently have just over 200 students registered from 26 countries. 5 people already finished the first year and are waiting for the second year to go online.

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As missionaries sent out of Fargo Baptist Church, our vision is to see church planting movements started in strategic countries and people groups. The experience the Johnsons have in Africa and South America will be invaluable to the ministry and a key component to our vision becoming a reality. There are three areas that the Johnsons can minister in.

Offering Classes in Multiple Formats: Despite some shortcomings of a program like GBBC, with our combined ministry experience, we expect to mitigate those. For example, we know most Africans and Asians cannot afford a computer and, therefore, will access the school through mobile devices. Because the cost of mobile data is so expensive in many countries, students cannot stream video lectures online. Therefore, students will be able to stream the audio or download the transcript and read the lecture.

These transcripts are generated and need to be copyedited, proofread, and formatted before going online. This detailed project is in Bro. Johnson's "wheelhouse." His wife will help with a desktop publishing aspect to embed PowerPoint slides into each lecture. The edited PDF transcripts will then be uploaded into the course curriculum for students to download. They can either read it or use it to follow along with the audio/video teaching, especially if their English is not up to par. This is a huge undertaking for the Johnsons and is vital to another project outside GBBC.

We currently have overseas pastors asking for these teachings in other languages. The transcripts will allow for translation into other languages and be used as a teacher's manual and/or the GBBC video lectures could be subtitled. This would enable us to have classes in different languages. Personally, I'm very excited to get this material into Thai and Hmong for pastors and church leaders we are working with in S.E. Asia. Please keep in mind GBBC courses are only one facet towards fulfilling our desire to see men trained and churches started.

Follow up with Key Men: Another exciting aspect of GBBC will be to identify key men for follow-up. In our initial 10-day trial run in January, several pastors and church leaders who were not interested in taking classes contacted us with an interest in direct micro-Bible studies. This will be through email or messaging apps such as WhatsApp, Telegram, or Facebook Messenger. Bro. Johnson will beta-test this form of outreach with a group of 10 men we currently have in Kenya. We have tentatively called this "Operation Ambassador."

After Bro. Johnson gets Ambassador dialed in, and the recordings for years 2 and 3 are complete, we expect many men overseas will desire to join this Bible study group. So much so, it will be difficult to keep up with it. We pray there will be recently retired U.S. pastors who desire to continue to be involved in ministry and join Ambassador, remotely doing micro-Bible studies in English with men from other countries. Please keep in mind this form of outreach is only one other facet of our overall vision to see men trained and churches started.

Travel: Bro. Johnson and I expect to travel to various countries to meet face-to-face with key men. These trips will be profitable for various reasons: 1) A time of intense discipleship training with key men. Based on our missionary experience, we know many students will have an "ulterior motive" to their studies. Many look to gain financial support from the missionary or to seek a certificate or diploma they feel will give them status in their community or local church. Through face-to-face discipleship, we can guide and correct their motives. But if not, we can "weed" those students out of the program. 2) To

conduct pastor conferences and bible conferences. I currently have a standing invitation to teach a very large meeting with Christian leaders in Pakistan. Other invitations have come from India, Kenya, and other countries. 3) To establish “student centers” in various towns and villages. There are many villages in Africa and Asia where there is no internet access. And with the cost of mobile data being too expensive, it results in many students being unable to study or correspond.

For example, Mr. Kandukur from India cannot watch the videos on his older mobile phone. Furthermore, he bikes 30 miles to the nearest internet café to watch our lessons. He wants personal study so he can teach his men pictured here. But he cannot, at least until now.

4) We will put all three years of video lectures, quizzes, tests, and edited PDF transcriptions on a micro-SD memory card.

So, by identifying key men, like Mr. Kandukur, who is desiring to host a “student center” and proctor the tests and quizzes, students in those villages can watch the video lectures off the micro-SD card. There is more I could present to you.



Truthfully, I’ve been getting burned out and stressed doing all the work myself. But now, it’s refreshing to have the Johnsons come onboard. Their experience and expertise will help us make a global impact. We understand that with the Johnsons moving their ministry stateside, some of their supporting churches may drop their support, but we pray their supporting churches will catch this vision to see Christ preached in the regions beyond, men trained for ministry, and the potential for church planting movements.

Feel free to reach out to me if you have questions. My number is 701-491-2199 and my email address is jntlange@gmail.com. You may also contact our pastor at pastor@fargobaptist.org. Thank you and God bless.

In Christ, The Lange Family

To close, I appreciate Bro. Lange’s input. If your church feels led to continue to support us and benefit in this mission’s endeavor, it would be a blessing. The potential to bear fruit is exponential. But we also understand if a decision is made to send support to another ministry. **If so, we ask you to consider continuing financial support during this transition, until the end of the year.**

We anticipate using the balance of our ministry fund for future trips to visit these key men in various regions, and towards supporting missionaries on the field, and related projects from previous supporting churches. We appreciate everyone and the blessings that have come through service on the mission field. This is hard for both my wife and I, but we have peace in knowing this is the will of the Lord for us going forward. Lord bless!

“... unto all good works.” 2Tim. 3:17

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