



NORTH  
AMERICAN  
BAPTIST  
CONFERENCE



2025-26 PROSPECTUS





# NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE

## 2025-2026 PROSPECTUS

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**While there are many funds that support the various projects and efforts across the entire North American Baptist Conference, the two largest are the Ministry Resource Fund and the Global Missions Fund. The Connie Salios Church Planting Fund works directly alongside the MRF to resource church multiplication.**

## MINISTRY RESOURCE FUND

The MRF is the general source of funding for every ministry out of the NAB International Office. To varying degrees, these ministries are funded directly by donors, but inevitable shortfalls are funded by the MRF.

## CONNIE SALIOS CHURCH PLANTING FUND

This fund, named in honor of one of the NAB church planting legends, supports the multiplication of the church here in North America.

## GLOBAL MISSIONS FUND

The GMF is central to sustaining ongoing, collaborative ministry on an international scale. While every NAB international missionary has their own network of support through individuals, families, groups, and churches, the GMF serves as the foundation that provides our missionaries and partners with the necessary resources, administrative support, and other help that allows them to focus on ministry in the field.





The North American Baptist Conference (NAB) is a community of churches that believes in God's working and God's leading. We believe God calls all people into a loving and submitted relationship to God in Jesus. Through the sacrificial death of God's Son on the cross and Jesus's subsequent resurrection to life, we are graciously redeemed and given abundant life. A life lived in and through God's Spirit involves living in and with other believers in the church as the body of Jesus Christ. God has ordered the Christian life in such a way that we cannot live it alone. We are to live and learn and serve in community. We are to seek and to engage God's mission as his people together. This is what brought us as a conference of churches together in the first place: a desire to minister to and with one another.

Part of God's mission on this Earth is for the disciples and followers of Jesus to be formed by God's Spirit into the image of Jesus Christ. This happens by our efforts, disciplines, and practices, which are informed, inspired, directed, and empowered by God. As the NAB, our intention is to fully align ourselves to God's will. Our ministries as a conference are meant to grow and mature us as fully devoted followers of Jesus. God's mission on this Earth is also through us. God continues to draw



people to a transforming relationship to himself in Jesus. God is working in the lives of those in our circles of connection. As God's people, we bring that message of redemption and transformation, communicating it by what we say and what we do. The ministries of the NAB seek God's best will for all those God has brought around us.

This booklet includes information about a number of NAB ministries we believe will equip God's people to engage in God's mission. The NAB is churches in Canada and the United States, churches that are small, mid-sized, and large, in cities and towns and rural areas. The NAB intends to be God's people on mission. Consider this an invitation for you to join us in this mission of God.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Helm".

**DR. HARRY HELM**  
NAB Executive Director



## MISSIONAL INITIATIVES

For those who are *in* Christ, there is a need to become *like* Christ (formation) in order that we might join *with* Christ on mission as he is about the Father's business of redeeming all things. As disciples of Christ, we are learning that our vocation is as missionaries (local and global), and therefore we are to bear witness to Christ in all we do. Because of this, the NAB seeks to provide training and resources to engage our churches in the discussion, evoke them to change, and equip them to be *in, like, and with Christ as he is on mission*. We do this through Blue Ocean, Ethos, the Discovery Project, and many other offerings throughout the year, culminating in Missional Alumni. It is our desire to have the NAB become a movement of churches joining God on mission.

### MISSIONAL INITIATIVES TEAM

As the NAB missional movement has grown, we, too, have expanded our Missional Initiatives Team. Cam Roxburgh continues to serve as team lead. Deb Judas is the director of Formation and assists with administrative tasks. Merv Budd is the equipping evangelist, and Karen Wilk is under the area of Neighborhood Life. Luke Miller, Matt Styles, and David Williams are all serving as members of the Missional Initiatives Teaching Team. These key leaders have joined the Missional Initiatives Team to help resource us all as we seek to bear witness to our missionary God in all we do.

## BLUE OCEAN

Blue Ocean is a one-year training experience with pastors and leaders throughout North America that traditionally gathers three times in three different locations. With the guidance of presenters who are experts and practitioners in missional and formational theology, attendees will reflect deeply on missional theology, spiritual formation, and what it means to be the church in a post-Christendom world. Our cohorts begin in the fall each year. If you are interested in taking part in the next cohort or learning more information about Blue Ocean, reach out to Deb.



### MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: BLUE OCEAN

At Blue Ocean last year—a three-module NAB seminar—we learned three terms: Theology (who is God?), Missiology (what's God up to in the world?), and Ecclesiology (who are we?). This Theology–Ecclesiology–Missiology framework has radically shifted the way I view God, his Church, and life on mission. It has taken the pressure off me to accomplish God's work for him and given me a renewed excitement to discover where Jesus is at work and join with him.

**NATALIE WARKENTIN**  
Blue Ocean 2023-24

## DISCOVERY PROJECT

The Discovery Project is a training for local churches and their leaders and attendees to better understand missional theology and practices. Emphasis is placed on understanding that the task as followers of Jesus is to bear witness to him in every area of life. God's people are to be a sign, servant, and foretaste of the Kingdom of God. This weekend seminar is aimed at helping the people of the church see God through a missional lens and begin to have an imagination for how they might join him in the neighborhood.

## MISSIONAL ALUMNI

Above all else, we gather yearly in a time for pastors and leaders across the NAB to celebrate the ways in which God is moving. We press even further into what it means to be part of a missional/formational movement. This event is typically held annually in conjunction with Superweek.

At this event, we tell stories of what God has been doing, challenge one another in our spiritual practices, and share best practices in seeking to join God on mission. As well, we have input from renowned teachers, writers, and theologians, such as Christopher J. H. Wright, Scot McKnight, David Fitch, and, most recently, Jeff Christopherson. We are looking forward to our next gathering in Ohio in May 2026, where the Missional Cooperative will be spending time together encouraging one another on to bearing witness to Christ in the neighbourhoods to which he has sent us.

### MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: MISSIONAL ALUMNI

I've been on my own church journey this year discerning what God has in store for Capstone. It's been a fog, to be honest. I would say it was the final day of Bonfire when the fog lifted. I feel like I have a semi-clear picture of what's next. The three circles as introduced by [David] Fitch and clarified by Cam has helped a lot.

#### ROB CRIPPS

Pastor, Capstone Community Bible Church in Toronto, Ontario

For more information about Missional Initiatives, please contact Cam Roxburgh, VP of Missional Initiatives, or Deb Judas, director of Administration, Missional Initiatives.



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## EMERGING LEADER ENGAGEMENT

Our goal with Emerging Leader Engagement is to elevate younger leaders. We seek to elevate the voices, ideas, dreams, and presence of younger leaders in our conference of churches. We believe the way forward as a conference must be more fully and intentionally led by younger leaders, many of whom are already leading at the local church level. Those of us who are older continue to be needed as our conference moves into the future, but our continued leadership must be more and more oriented around making room and unleashing the creative and Holy Spirit-inspired leadership of our younger leaders. They have generational awareness and cultural proximity to the younger mission field before us. If we do our job well over the next few years, more and more of the leadership, dreaming, planning, and activity at the conference-level of the NAB will be heavily influenced by younger leaders. Our future demands it.

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: THE GATHERING 2025

Every three years, teens and young adults from across the NAB come together to be encouraged in following Jesus's way, walking with others in that journey and serving as a community to the glory of God. This event is called The Gathering, and its focus is empowering youth to be ambassadors for Jesus abroad and at home. In fact, our bywords are "Here and Home." The Gathering is a youth conference and missions experience in Orange County, California, that helps equip young leaders as we partner with local churches and organizations to engage in mission where God is at work in Southern California.

There are a variety of service projects groups can undertake during the week. It is amazing to hear the stories of impact that happen when we join God where he is working!

Just this past July, over 230 students from 13 different churches in Canada and the US served on missions projects in Southern California.

They showed the love of Jesus to the communities in Orange County through service, they played together, and they worshiped God and heard vibrant biblical teaching in the evenings. Projects included landscape restoration for four senior homes; serving at a Family Promise Youth Camp; and cleaning and performing maintenance for the Friendly Center, which provides much-needed food for the food insecure.

They helped in the restoration of three family homes that were uninhabitable after the Los Angeles fires earlier that year. They restored a community garden in a low-income residential community. And much more.

The Gathering is an amazing opportunity that only comes around once every three years for the younger body of NAB believers to get together and show Christ's love as one.

Our next Gathering will be in 2028. Already, we are dreaming about how God can move among our youth to show his love through service, as well as learning opportunities. We eagerly anticipate those beautiful moments where we can partner with local groups to bless their communities and see the Father restore people to himself in Jesus and to flourishing by the presence of the Spirit.



**MIKE ANDERSON**

Regional Minister, Saskatchewan Baptist Association



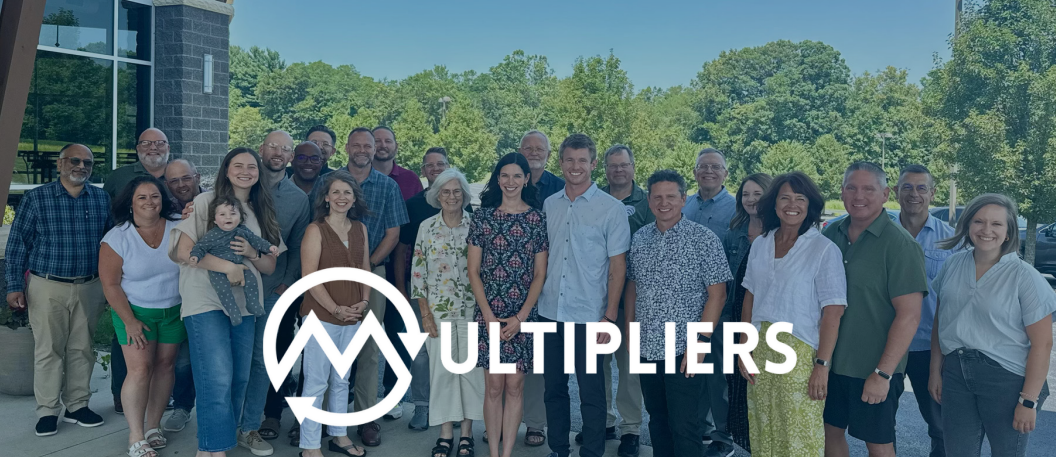
For more information about Emerging Leader Engagement, please contact Wayne Stapleton, VP of Cross-Cultural Engagement and Emerging Leader Engagement.



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## **CHURCH MULTIPLICATION**

This past year has been marked by a powerful move of God through the people and churches of the NAB. Together, we are seeing the fruit of investing in leaders, churches, and communities to multiply the Gospel presence in North America and beyond.

## **MULTIPLIERS SUMMIT**

The 2025 Multipliers Summit was our largest gathering yet—full of church planters, revitalization pastors, micro-church leaders, and more. We were deeply encouraged to sit under the teaching of three of our own NAB church multiplication leaders – Josh Huseby, Micah Brookhart, and Drew Steinhart – who shaped the conversation around the journey of our personal and communal discipleship: Being with Jesus. Becoming like Jesus. Doing what Jesus did.

These are not just aspirational ideas; they - lived realities in the ministries of these faithful multipliers. Their authenticity and experience left us all more deeply formed and better equipped to join Jesus on mission.

## **FIT ASSESSMENT**

We also celebrate more than a few major milestones in our Fit Assessment initiative, which has completed six assessments since 2023. For the first time, in May of 2025, we brought Fit Assessment to Canada. This was a big win for the Kingdom and a wonderful collaboration between the NAB International Office and the Alberta Baptist Association. To date, sixty NAB leaders have been trained to serve on staff at Fit Assessment – offering spiritual insights, emotional support, and practical training in ministry to those discerning their next steps on mission with God. Because of this growing network and their deep commitment to multiplication of NAB leaders, thirty-three couples and individuals have now been served through Fit Assessment, and many are actively serving as planters, missionaries, and Gospel-centered leaders across our family of churches.

## SENDING CHURCH COHORT

Now in its second year, the Sending Church Cohort continues to be a catalytic force for churches eager to step more boldly into sending. This past year took our cohort to two strategic cities.

In March, we traveled to Spanish Fork, Utah, part of the Salt Lake City metro area, to witness how Mercy Church, led by Vince Rediger, is working to reach across cultural and religious divides to bring the Gospel to hard soil.

In September, we visited Prince George, British Columbia, to learn from College Heights Baptist Church, led by Curtis Reimer. Curtis answered a decades-old call from his church to multiply by partnering with Micah Brookhart to help plant a new work right across town, Garden City Church.

At each stop, we heard directly from church planters and their sending pastors – stories of risk, faith, and God's grace unfolding in real time, all of which came together in each case to join God's ongoing redemptive work in cities, neighborhoods, and communities around the world.

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: REVITALIZATION

All across North America, God is stirring in legacy churches, calling pastors and congregations into a season of renewal and fresh purpose. Through our growing revitalization initiative, we are walking alongside a rising number of NAB pastors who are courageously leading their churches into a new chapter of faithful Gospel presence.

These congregations are experiencing:

- Renewed focus on joining God's mission in their neighborhoods.
- Reawakened passion for discipleship and spiritual formation
- Meaningful growth in community and in Christlikeness.

Revitalization isn't flashy, but it's sacred. And it is bearing real, enduring fruit.

## LOOKING AHEAD: EMBOLDENED AND GLOBAL

As we look to the year ahead, we are preparing to take even greater strides in quipping and partnering with NAB churches to multiply the mission of Jesus.

**New Voices and Resources for Sending Churches:** We're bringing in new leaders and teachers to help sending churches grow in confidence and clarity as they raise up and send out planters, pioneers, missionaries, and pastors to expand the reach of the Gospel – both here and around the world.

**Fresh Experiments to Multiply the Gospel:** We are working with a few micro-church and ministry leaders across the NAB whose call and passion to launch ministries and churches will look different than the church planting of yester-year. We are so eager to see how God uses these courageous leaders and the churches sending and supporting them.

**Global Partnerships for Local Multiplication:** We are also working strategically with several of our international NAB mission fields to strengthen and streamline sister-church partnerships. These collaborations will allow North American churches ready to multiply to do so in tandem with churches abroad – co-laboring for the sake of the Gospel in global, Spirit-led ways.

## A NOTE FROM STU

None of this is possible without your generous and ongoing support.

When you give to the Ministry Resource Fund and the Connie Salios Church Planting Fund, you are fueling a movement of Gospel renewal, leadership development, church planting, revitalization, and cross-cultural partnership.

Thank you for believing in this work. Thank you for being a multiplier.

Let's keep moving forward, together.



**STU STREETER**

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# CROSS CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

As the body of Christ, we represent the purposes of God in a world that is broken in so many ways, including culturally and ethnically. The body of Christ, a community called to be a shining example of unity, is composed of people with the same kinds of tensions and disunity we see outside the church. The purpose of cross-cultural engagement in the NAB includes creating bridges of understanding and unity in the church, led by the Spirit of God and by his very Word.

When we speak of cross-cultural engagement, we seek to illuminate, to give voice to those whose voices historically have not been received among the majority church. We seek to create space for conversation and understanding. The goal is the love that exists among people who love and serve the triune God, as Jesus commanded in John 13:34–35. As the church grows in this area, we become even more credible witnesses to the love God the Father has for those who don't yet know him. We become increasingly compelling witnesses to the power of Jesus to unite people in a divided world. The term cross-cultural reflects interaction across different cultures, but it also could mean engagement marked by the cross of Christ – the giving of oneself in sacrificial ways for the greater purposes of God's glory, which makes it challenging.

Through international students, immigrants, and refugees in our communities, God has brought the nations to us. Bud Fuchs offers seminars that provide coaching and training to help churches reach out to internationals in your own community. To show hospitality to those not in their own homeland is an ethic commanded throughout Scripture. Bud can lead a seminar to help your church cast a vision for reaching internationals and to train you to host events to help them with conversational English or international welcoming parties. He can guide you in ways to find and connect with your international community.

**ONE ASPECT OF CROSS-CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT  
INCLUDES EDUCATING OURSELVES REGARDING  
DIFFERENCES IN RACE AND CULTURE FOR THE  
PURPOSE OF CHRIST-CENTERED UNITY.**

This work is centered in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ and only seeks to build what Jesus came to build (1 Peter 2:9–10).

Our strategy to promote this education includes sermons with town hall discussion sessions, webinars, online workshops, and book discussion groups.

In the fall of 2023, Wayne Stapleton and Parry Stelter led a series of four workshops to create a space for non-Indigenous people to ask questions and gain further understanding of the issues related to ministry to Indigenous peoples. Parry is a Bible teacher, author, and ambassador of Jesus Christ, as well as ambassador representing his fellow Indigenous people. He is originally from Alexander First Nation, which is part of Treaty Six Territory in the Province of Alberta. These workshops were well attended and created new understanding about Indigenous people and the things to consider when ministering to them.

In the spring of 2024, Wayne Stapleton led a book discussion with a group from Creekside Christian Church in Elk Grove, California. This group was organized to encourage and promote multi-ethnic unity among the people of God. They discussed *In Church as It Is in Heaven* by Jamaal E. Williams and Timothy Paul Jones, two Baptist pastors serving in a multi-ethnic church. The book chronicles the biblical foundation of multi-ethnic church, as well as the many personal experiences both pastors have in this area. The book's contention is that the multi-ethnic church, when healthy and unified, is an apologetic to the power and truth of Christ.

You can find our collection of webinars on the NAB website.



## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: CROSS-CULTURAL EQUIPPING

My wife and I will often quote Proverbs 27:1 to each other when life brings on the unexpected. “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring” (NIV).

A young man from Latin America earning an MBA at our local university came to one of our events. He was invited by a fellow student from Mongolia. One morning, he texted, telling me he was in the hospital. I went to see him that day, not knowing of his emergency, life-threatening surgery the night before. I asked him if he was afraid of dying, and he said, “Yes.” We walked through the plan of salvation in Jesus, and he then prayed to invite him into his life!



I am thankful the Lord used me to speak into his life, just as we do with others in our ministry to internationals.



The Lord wants to use any of us who are willing to practice hospitality to strangers.

Thank you for supporting us! The opportunity it gives us to train churches through our workshops equips people to make a

cross-cultural impact in their community. We are blessed to have the opportunity to make disciples here at home who then have influence across the earth.

### **BUD FUCHS**

Cross-Cultural Equipper

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: CROSS-CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

At our 2021 Easter worship service, we merged with Fresh Manna Church, an ethnic church in Edmonton, Alberta, ministering to refugees from East Africa. This union marked the beginning of our journey as an intercultural church, a community dedicated to making disciples of people from various nations.

A crucial aspect of this journey was ensuring our staff and leadership reflected the diverse identity of our church family. After a nearly five-year search for a full-time worship pastor or director, in May 2024, we were blessed with Ms. Daisy Ejang.



Daisy is a dynamic and talented young leader from Kampala, Uganda, who grew up as a sponsor child with Compassion International. Through a series of events, Christ led her to Edmonton to study at Vanguard College, where she graduated with an advanced certificate in Christian Ministries. Today, she serves as our director of Worship and Connection Ministries.

Our worship of Christ is a central part of the church, and Daisy has been sovereignly prepared and called by God to lead our intercultural worship ministry – rich and diverse in languages, styles, and expressions – in a unified and dynamic manner that glorifies Christ.

**DARREN PLATT**  
Pastor, Steele Heights Baptist Church



For more information about Cross-Cultural Engagement, please contact Wayne Stapleton, VP of Cross-Cultural Engagement and Emerging Leader Engagement.



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## SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS

Whether it is initiated by Gateway or requested by a church, Gateway leads short-term mission trips. When they are initiated by Gateway, these will often be FUSE Teams, where team members come together from various churches and locations for an overseas ministry experience. When it is by request of a church or ministry, Gateway is there to lead the way in providing a short-term mission team experience; training team leaders from the church, possibly providing customized training for the leader and the traveling team as a whole and additionally, possibly leading the team overseas.



However it originates, a Gateway team is designed for team members to have a cross-cultural experience that will broaden their worldview and allow them to experience God's Kingdom in a tangible way. Gateway short-term mission teams serve in various settings and participate in projects benefiting local churches or organizations, such as children's ministry, light construction and maintenance, sports ministry, basic English classes, etc.

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: TRAINING WORKSHOP

In February 2025, NAB Gateway trained ten future short-term mission team leaders through our leader training workshop (sometimes also called Best Practices in Short-Term Mission). This training was hosted by Sunrise Community Church in Fair Oaks, California, for the NorCal Region of NAB churches. Over the last twenty-one years that NAB Gateway has been facilitating these workshops, more than 500 leaders have been trained in leading short-term mission teams, many of them going on to be part of leading trips of their own.

## SISTER-CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

Sister-church partnerships are long-term, mutual relationships for churches/ministries to partner with another church/ministry internationally. They are theologically missional and Kingdom-oriented, focusing on global church identity, mutual relationship building toward reciprocal sending and receiving, and collaborative mission that is shared and endures through many years.

For more than thirteen years, Gateway has emphasized and guided churches, ministries, and our NAB mission fields toward sister-church partnership engagement, believing this approach to be a faithful working out of the realities of polycentric mission and a global church whose epicenter has firmly emerged in the Global South.

Gateway remains committed to excellence in executing and promoting mission trips, in both our leading and training. As a result, we also firmly believe short-term mission teams are best accomplished in the sister-church partnership context, fulfilling one aspect among many of a thriving, long-term partnership.

### MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: SISTER-CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

A part of the process of initiating a sister-church partnership is a vision trip. In November 2024, NAB Gateway Director Randy Schmor played the role of cultural interpreter for a potential sister-church partnership between Park Meadows Baptist of Lethbridge, Alberta, and a number of Jesus-following communities in

Cameroon. These communities are all comprised of a tribe spread across West Africa and overseen by two evangelists from the. This sister-church partnership vision trip provided a unique opportunity for representatives from the Canadian church to meet with a number of these Jesus-followers in the region. NAB Gateway is continuing to walk toward this vision of a sister-church partnership between Park Meadows and these Cameroon communities. To this end, we are also pursuing the beginning steps of future engagement through a youth conference in Cameroon with this people group, which an NAB Gateway Mission FUSE Team will assist with.





## INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

The call to make disciples of all nations has defined who we are and what we do as the NAB since our very beginnings. Historically, this has meant evangelizing and planting churches among immigrant communities in North America and sending missionaries to countries beyond Canada and the US.

One of the four ends of the NAB missional/formational movement is to send and support missionaries. We accomplish this through cross-cultural missionaries, short-term mission volunteers, and partnerships across the globe, all to proclaim and live out the Gospel of Christ's Kingdom through evangelism, church-planting, leadership development, and ministries of service and fellowship.

### **CALLED TO BE A PEOPLE ON MISSION WITH GOD**

The glorious, joy-inducing present-day reach of the Global Church – the very church we read about in the Bible – compels us to serve in a spirit of inter-connectedness, inter-dependence, receptive humility, and collaborative partnership alongside the global body of Christ. With every new group of people reached, new ways of understanding the diversity and depth of the Gospel are there to be discovered and celebrated.

Only one-third of the world's population of 8.2 billion are Christians. That means 5.4 billion people remain to be reached with the Gospel. Partner with NAB International Missions as we revitalize a movement of sending and supporting missionaries from NAB churches to the nations across the world and to the unreached diaspora peoples who live in Canada and the US.

Together, let us discover anew the joy of collective, sacrificial participation in God's redemptive, reconciling, and restorative mission. Let us be churches that listen to the Spirit's call, send our best with joy, uphold them in prayer, and celebrate the stories of God's grace—all to "declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples" (Psalm 96:3 NRSV).



## **GOING: GOD CALLS AND WE GO**

God calls individuals of all ages and stages of life to go and proclaim the Gospel among the nations. As we earnestly plead with Christ to send more workers into the harvest field, we must do so from the posture of Isaiah: "Here I am, send me" (Matthew 9:37–38; Isaiah 6:8). It is the responsibility of every local NAB church to create opportunities for people to hear and discern the Spirit's call to global mission and be equipped to go in obedience, whether across cultures or continents (Romans 10:13–15).

## **SENDING: THE CHURCH SENDS**

In Acts 13, the church at Antioch fasted, prayed, laid hands, and sent their best leaders—Paul and Barnabas. Sending is not a passive process; it is an engaged, participatory, Spirit-led ministry of local churches joining together to send missionaries (3 John 5–8). Sending includes actively discerning and affirming God's call, providing financial and relational support, and maintaining active care for those we send (Philippians 2:25, 4:15–16; Romans 15:24). This is how we as NAB churches become active participants in God's mission. The NAB Conference of churches must continue to be a launching pad for Kingdom workers, committed to sending and nurturing missionaries with intentionality and joy.

## **PRAYING: WE UPHOLD MISSIONARIES IN PRAYER**

Prayer is frontline participation in mission. Throughout Paul's letters, he pleads with churches to pray for open doors, for the ability to clearly and boldly communicate the Gospel, and for protection (2 Thessalonians 3:1–2; Colossians 4:2–4; Philippians 1:19). The early church "commended" Kingdom workers to the grace of God through prayer (Acts 14:26–27). NAB churches are called to a posture of intercession, standing as one with those on the field. Collectively and individually, we are called to engage directly in the advancement of the Gospel through laboring in prayer.



## **CELEBRATING: WE CELEBRATE WHAT GOD HAS DONE**

When Paul and Barnabas gathered the church in Antioch in Acts 14 to report all God had done, it serves as an example to us, how we should receive missionary visitors and their reports with joy and celebration. In Luke 10, Jesus invites the returning seventy-two into joyful reflection on the eternal significance of their mission. Celebration gives glory to God, honors the obedience of those sent, inspires future faithfulness, and reminds us that our prayers, gifts, and obedience bear eternal fruit (Philippians 1:3–5). Celebration is not boasting in human effort; it is acknowledging what God has done, and continues to do, through his people (Romans 15:18–19). It inspires thanksgiving, renews passion, strengthens partnerships, and invites others into the mission of God.

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: LEAST-REACHED PEOPLE GROUP

Sonya and I first came to Nigeria in 2008 when I took a year-long sabbatical from my pastorate in Manitoba. It was there we met members of the least-reached people group (LRPG) we are now partnered with. They are Muslim-background believers, and we knew we wanted to work with them long term when we saw how serious they were about reaching their people for Christ.



Sometimes it is said of the African churches that their faith is a mile wide but only an inch deep. This is not the case with these Muslim-background believers; you simply cannot be like that in this difficult environment. Mostly it is we who are on the receiving end of lessons about persecution and forgiveness, suffering and endurance, hospitality and peace, and the joy of following Christ. The focus of our partners is on showing their neighbours what the Kingdom of God looks like, in word and action.



My friend Tijjani was evangelizing in a village. His team started each night by singing the Gospel, which was not appreciated by everyone there. One villager was so angry he vowed to kill them all and sharpened his sword to do just that. Someone saw him hide his sword under a mat, and they put it into their own house. When their singing started, the man, seeing he had no sword, came and slapped Tijjani so hard my friend staggered back and was blinded for a moment. When a young visitor wanted to avenge him by confronting the villager, Tijjani said, "No, we are called to forgive him, and to keep on singing."



The villager stalked angrily back to his own compound. After a while, however, he reflected on what he had done and came back to the meeting to ask for their forgiveness. They told him they had forgiven him already, and he broke down in tears.

What a privilege it is to be part of this modern-day book of the Acts of the Spirit among our LRPB partners.

**JEFF KILMARTIN**  
NAB Missionary

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: **MOBILIZATION**

After twenty-five years serving as an NAB international missionary in Japan, Shan Reed now serves as the NAB's new mobilization director. Shan is working to advance the strategic vision of NAB International Missions by igniting and resourcing deep, passionate engagement with international missions across NAB churches. This position is a pivotal part of growing a movement of sending and supporting missionaries—going, giving, praying, and celebrating—by equipping churches and individuals to respond to Jesus's commission to go and make disciples of all nations. "I am excited about Shan Reed taking up this new role with the NAB," said Joel David, the VP of International Missions. "Her deep passion for missions, her long experience on the mission field, and her proven capabilities in relating to and serving NAB churches in international missions make her a great fit."

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: MOBILIZATION CONT.

Shan will work closely with regional ministers, churches, and individuals to cultivate a culture of sacrificial sending and meaningful partnership in global missions. She is available to resource NAB churches as they deepen their International Missions engagement, and to inspire and mentor those God is calling to serve as NAB missionaries. Because the mobilization director is a support-raising position, Shan will be continuing as an NAB missionary. Her new position officially started at the beginning of September 2025. Reach out to Shan today to explore how she can inspire, serve, or resource you or your church for international missions.



The NAB has missionaries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America, serving as doctors, nurses, accountants, teachers, professors, pastors, and more. If you believe God may be calling you to support international missions, or if you believe God may be calling you to be a missionary, please contact the NAB International Missions Department.

For more information about NAB international missions, please contact Joel David, VP of International Missions, or Caryn Young, director of Administration, International Missions.



**JOEL DAVID**  
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**CARYN YOUNG**  
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916.797.6250



## ONWARD MAGAZINE

Full of stories, articles, and resources from across the NAB and partner ministries, this magazine is mailed to homes across North America twice a year. It is also published online on the NAB website.

## EMAIL NEWSLETTERS

There are a variety of newsletters and emails we send throughout the year. In addition to the few below, we also publish Lenten and Advent devotionals and newsletters for the retired segment of the NAB (Servant Link) and for those interested in the NAB Heritage Commission (Heritage Horizons).



### NAB UPDATE

These weekly emails contain news, resources, stories, profiles, resources, and other information pertaining to the NAB.



### MULTIPLIERS MONTHLY

This monthly email newsletter is directed at church planters and revitalizers and includes events, resources, and stories around the NAB focused on church multiplication.



### MIT MONTHLY

Flowing out of the Missional Initiatives Team, this monthly email newsletter offers helpful resources and guidance for those eager to learn how to dwell, discern, and join God on mission.



To subscribe to NAB newsletters, emails, devotionals, or other publications, scan this QR code or visit

[nabconference.com/newsletter-signup](http://nabconference.com/newsletter-signup).

## EVENTS

The NAB hosts a number of events throughout the year, including webinars, trainings, book clubs, and in-person and online gatherings. Scan this QR code to discover the upcoming events.



**ONLINE GIVING**

Visit [nabconference.org/give](http://nabconference.org/give).

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENT BY PHONE**

Contact Briana Eaton at 916.797.6251.

**GIFTS OF SECURITIES OR STOCKS, AND  
LEGACY GIVING THROUGH END-OF-LIFE ASSETS**

Contact Betty Buchholz at 916.886.2351.

**CHECKS:**

Make payable to "North American Baptists, Inc." with specific fund or project in the memo line.

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**ANY QUESTIONS?**

Reach out to us at 916.797.6251 or  
by emailing [communications@nabconf.org](mailto:communications@nabconf.org).