



# GLOBAL OUTREACH

## MCLEAN BIBLE CHURCH

### **MBC MISSIONARIES**

(UPDATED OCTOBER 2024)

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McLean Bible Church (MBC) Missionaries are sent out from MBC to cross geographic, cultural, and/or linguistic barriers as part of a missionary team focused on advancing the gospel, making disciples, and multiplying churches, primarily among unreached peoples and places.

MBC missionaries are current, active, MBC members in good standing when sent. They live outside the United States for the spread of the gospel. In addition, they have progressed through a process of evaluation, training, and affirmation by Global Outreach leaders and have been commissioned by MBC.

*\*For missionaries living in countries where being a Christian could compromise their security or the security of their fellow workers, pseudonyms and regions are used.*

#### **JOSEPH & JENNIFER**

**SERVING IN THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE 2012**

**Major Religion:** Islam

**Joshua Project Status:** Unreached

**% Evangelical:** Less than 0.5% (1 in 200)

Joseph first attended MBC in the 1990s after graduating from college. He gained a vision for cross-cultural work while on an MBC short-term trip. Later, he completed his theological studies, earning a doctorate in theology. As a teenager, Jennifer taught backyard Bible clubs and Sunday school classes. She met Joseph in seminary, then served for five years in East Asia before they married, where she researched languages and studied minority-group cultures.

Joseph and Jennifer's current work in the Middle East centers on providing theological education and leadership training to believers, especially those from a Muslim background. Joseph teaches at an evangelical seminary and leads a discipleship group for men off campus.

Jennifer loves being a mom to their two children, and she also leads a Bible study for local women. She often visits her neighbors with the goal of sharing Christ.

## ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2024:

Last year, one local student successfully completed the first year of their training cohort program. Additionally, the team collaborated with a media group to produce raw footage for a video series on Christian history in the Arab world, which is based on a book by a local professor. The media team is now in the final stages of editing the series, which will serve as a valuable gospel resource for the region.

## PLEASE PRAY:

- That God would continue to help their children adjust smoothly as they transition to new schools.
- That God would provide at least three qualified students for the 2025 training program and help them complete the program.
- That God would grant a smooth adjustment for a new family joining their team and foster a healthy, productive working relationship.
- That God would bring peace to the region, protecting and guiding those affected by unrest.

Visit [Joshua Project](#) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

## BEN & ERIN

### SERVING IN GERMANY SINCE 2017

**Major Religion:** Christianity

**Joshua Project Status:** Partially reached

**% Evangelical:** 2.12% (1 in 47)

Ben began attending MBC Tysons when he was just two years old. He joined the church when he was fourteen and eventually served on the worship staff for over twenty years. Erin began attending MBC in 1991 and served with Access Ministry staff for seven years. While at MBC, their daughters Elise and Emily were involved in many ministries.

Ben and Erin had an interest in Germany for many years. In 2017, Ben joined Eurobrass, an evangelistic Christian ensemble that tours Germany. The next year, they moved to the Black Forest region of Germany to serve with Artists in Christian Testimony International. They also perform handbell concerts as a way to share the gospel. God provided a special-needs school

near their town, with a life and job skills training program, that Emily could attend. Elise is now studying at a university in the US.

Germany's historic appreciation for brass music opens many ministry doors. But despite centuries of rich spiritual heritage, Germans are quite secular. Technically, of the eighty million people in Germany, roughly half "belong" to either the Protestant or Catholic Church. But only 4% of Catholics and 3% of Protestants attend church on a regular basis. Among those who are Protestant, even fewer would identify as evangelical.

## ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2024:

Last December, the team had the opportunity to perform five handbell concerts, sharing the true story of Christmas with their audiences. Ben composed a new piece for the Eurobrass ensemble titled "A Light has Dawned," inspired by Isaiah 9:2. Erin continued to faithfully minister to four Ukrainian families with special-needs children, who have all decided to remain in the village permanently.

## PLEASE PRAY:

- That God would bring improved health to Ben and Elise, restoring their strength and well-being.
- That God would help improve Emily's behavior and grant wisdom in making decisions about her future.
- That God would use the handbell and brass concerts to point people toward Jesus and the hope found in Him.
- That God would continue to bless the relationships being built with the Ukrainian families, deepening connections and opportunities for ministry.

Visit [Joshua Project](#) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

## MIRIAM

### SERVING IN EGYPT SINCE 2018

**Major Religion:** Islam

**Joshua Project Status:** Partially reached

**% Evangelical:** 4.5% (1 in 22)

As a middle schooler, Miriam fell deeply in love with Jesus. She loved reading and was captivated by missionary biographies. In high school, Miriam traveled on several short-term

trips, and her love for the nations grew. After graduation, she learned a shocking statistic: Only 3% of Christian missionaries serve among the world's nearly two billion unreached people. Those numbers lit a fire in her; and from that day, she prepared to spend her life making Christ's name known among the unreached.

Miriam became a member of MBC Tysons in 2016 when her family moved to northern Virginia. She served as a Church Group leader and Global Outreach intern and is glad to be commissioned from MBC. In 2018, Miriam moved to Egypt. While there is a moderate amount of gospel work taking place in Egypt, much work remains. Many Egyptians will likely never meet a Christian in their lifetime. She and her husband, who is Egyptian, are faithfully working to make Christ known in this region.

## ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2024:

For medical reasons, Miriam's mother-in-law came to live with them last year, as the care she would receive in their home and city was superior to other parts of the country. Her presence has been a blessing, and getting to know her deeply has been a gift Miriam treasures. Her presence also has brought the family into deeper relationship with their Muslim neighbors and allowed them to witness to many doctors and nurses. Last year, they also welcomed their second baby boy!

## PLEASE PRAY:

- That God would work miracles in the health of Miriam's mother-in-law and husband.
- That God would bless the small congregation that Miriam's father-in-law has shepherded for over twenty years; provide a smooth leadership transition, strength for new leaders, and abundant spiritual renewal in the area.
- That God would grant Miriam and her husband guidance and direction as they seek to reach, support, and minister to people in their community.

Visit [Joshua Project](#) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

## JAMES & LYRIC

### SERVING IN KAZAKHSTAN SINCE 2018

**Major Religion:** Islam

**Joshua Project Status:** Minimally reached

**% Evangelical:** 1.67% (1 in 60)

James and Lyric were born and raised in Southeast Asia. They later emigrated to the United States to raise their children and are now blessed with grandchildren. As longtime members of MBC Tysons, they were involved in a home Bible study and various MBC fellowships. After retiring, James and Lyric began to wonder if God wanted them to use their time to live and serve among unreached peoples. They searched the Scriptures, sought counsel from MBC leaders, and prayed for God's direction.

It was clear that their thirty years of international development experience had prepared them for life overseas. They now serve in the Muslim-majority country of Kazakhstan. In this context, it is hard to establish deep relationships with other Christians. That's why James and Lyric spend time training local pastors and leaders through a program called Transformational Development (TD). These programs equip local churches to serve the practical needs of their communities. By meeting these needs, they can build relationships, which in turn opens the door for gospel proclamation.

## ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2024:

Church members launched a successful egg poultry business last fall to raise family incomes. The partner church began building relationships with the displaced Karakalpak community from Uzbekistan, aiming to establish a local church. The pastor's wife plans to start a TD process with the Karakalpak women, praying it will improve their lives and open avenues for them to learn about Jesus.

## PLEASE PRAY:

- That God would allow a healthy church to be planted in the Karakalpak community and that it would have an eternal impact.
- That God would open the hearts of the Karakalpak women to participate in the TD process, allowing them to experience the love of Jesus through it.
- That God would provide safety, health, and security and that James and Lyric's visas would be approved, enabling them to continue serving in Kazakhstan.
- That God would bless the egg poultry business, inspiring church members to engage in activities that improve their lives.

Visit [Joshua Project](#) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

## STEPHANY

## SERVING IN GERMANY SINCE 2018

**Major Religion:** Christianity

**Joshua Project Status:** Partially reached

**% Evangelical:** 2.12% (1 in 47)

As a child, Stephany saw many cultures firsthand and developed an interest in living abroad that grew over time. At eighteen, she aspired to serve the Lord overseas and waited for an opportunity while working after college. Stephany first visited MBC Arlington in 2015. Soon after, she became a member and began to serve as a Church Group co-leader and in other areas of the church as needed.

Stephany now lives and works in Germany. She supports and trains missionaries in over twenty countries through a missions organization. In addition to her work with church planters, Stephany has plugged into a local church plant. Her husband Andy, who is from Norway, is also a missionary who serves church planters in Europe. They enjoy working for separate organizations that partner with each other for the spread of the gospel among the unreached in Europe.

### ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2024:

Stephany was most encouraged to see how God continues to save and transform lives in her local church, where they celebrated thirty-five baptisms across multiple locations last summer. Additionally, her organization trained over 780 leaders from twenty-one European countries in church planting, discipleship, and mentoring, offering instruction in thirteen different languages. This achievement was an answer to prayer, as God helped pastors and teams to establish new churches and reignite the gospel across Europe.

### PLEASE PRAY:

- That God would help Stephany's team as they work to make seven training tracks available in thirty-two major European languages and that it equips and blesses the local church.
- That God would mobilize local believers to fulfill their God-given calling and impact their nations for Christ.
- That God would inspire believers in Germany and across Europe to boldly evangelize, disciple, pastor, mentor, plant new churches, and serve faithfully in their local churches.
- That God would bless Stephany and her husband as they serve locally in Germany and across Europe, working with international teams.
- That God would help foster strong relationships between various organizations to best

serve the body of Christ in Europe.

Visit [Joshua Project](#) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

## HEATHER

### SERVING IN INDIA SINCE 2021

**Major Religion:** Hinduism

**Joshua Project Status:** Unreached

**% Evangelical:** Unknown

Heather grew up in a loving, Christian family that prioritized missions and attended a healthy local church. As a young graduate student in DC, she met and married a nonbeliever. A few years after the birth of her second son, her marriage ended.

Later, she enjoyed a career as a diplomat. She reflects, “I had traveled to more than fifty-five countries, and during my overseas postings, I attended local churches. In these churches, I served as a Sunday school teacher and hospitality volunteer. Despite this, the hurt, pain, and stigma of my life choices held me back from being vulnerable. Instead, I just became focused internally; and even though I prayed and read my Bible, I was not connected significantly to a local church, and thus did not grow during this period.”

In 2018, while on a new assignment to DC, Heather began attending MBC Montgomery County and became a member soon after. In a 2019 sermon, Pastor David asked the church, “What if God is calling you for more than just the American dream?” After prayer and counsel, Heather felt the Lord urging her to move overseas. She was equipped and commissioned through the church and is now serving in India as she pursues marketplace opportunities for gospel advancement.

### ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2024:

By God’s grace, Heather’s church successfully moved into a new, spacious hall, which has provided the congregation a comfortable place to worship. The hall can also accommodate up to one hundred people for biblical seminars, fostering growth in learning how to live according to God’s will. Heather’s work term was also extended for another two years, and she is overjoyed to continue serving and supporting the local church.

### PLEASE PRAY:

- That God would grant Heather wisdom in accordance with Ephesians 1:17-18 and that she would practice Colossians 3:23 in all she says and does.
- That God would provide for and protect her family and children, drawing them closer to His heart.
- That God would continue to grow, mature, and multiple the church that Heather serves.

Visit [Joshua Project](#) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

## **REED & CLAIRE**

### **SERVING IN THAILAND SINCE 2023**

**Major Religion:** Buddhism

**Joshua Project Status:** Unreached

**% Evangelical:** 1.02% (1 in 98)

Reed and Claire were both raised in the DMV area and lived in northern Virginia for many years. Reed worked as a manager in a manufacturing company, and Claire was a teacher and reading specialist. They were each converted as adults. As faithful members of MBC Prince William, they served in Kid's Quest, Access, and Global Outreach. They have two children.

Reed and Claire had no plans to engage in global missions, but things dramatically shifted after an MBC short-term trip in 2019 when they developed an interest in serving overseas.

While they did not feel strongly about a specific people or place, they received counsel from the church, and the Lord provided an opportunity to serve in Thailand. They were commissioned as MBC missionaries and moved to Thailand in the summer of 2023.

In Thailand, Claire is serving as a teacher in an international school where she ministers to local children. Their family joined a church plant, where Reed is working with other missionaries to proclaim Christ. He is concentrating on learning the language over the next several years.

### **ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2024:**

Reed and Claire's first year in Thailand brought challenges and blessings. They saw answered prayers and church growth, welcoming new members and celebrating three baptisms. Their organization completed three book translations and launched a website with gospel resources for Thai believers. Language learning went well, helping them build connections in the



community. Though difficult moments arose, God used those times to strengthen their faith. Grateful for MBC's support and prayers, they eagerly anticipate what God will do in year two!

## PLEASE PRAY:

- That God would grant more opportunities and courage to be intentional in reaching their community with the gospel.
- That God would help form deeper relationships with other members of the church.
- That God would bring more families with teenagers to join the church and foster Christ-centered connections for their teenagers.
- That God would provide motivation and perseverance to continue studying and learning the language.

Visit [Joshua Project](#) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

## KEN & RUTH

### SERVING IN CENTRAL ASIA SINCE 2023

**Major Religion:** Islam

**Joshua Project Status:** Unreached

**% Evangelical:** Less than 0.1% (1 in 1,000)

Ken and Ruth were both raised in the DC area. They each separately heard the gospel, believed in Jesus as Lord, and developed a strong desire to take the gospel to those who had never heard the good news. They first moved overseas in 2002 and served among an unreached people group for the next twelve years, working to start and strengthen local churches.

Ken and Ruth then returned to the States for a season. During that time, they served on staff at MBC. As MBC members, they developed a deep love for MBC and served in different ministries, including Global Outreach and Church Groups. They faithfully and consistently prayed for the unreached, and God continued to draw their hearts to those who had little to no access to the gospel.

In 2023, after much prayer and counsel from church leadership, Ken and Ruth returned overseas so Ken could serve as the lead pastor of an international church in an unreached megacity in Central Asia. This church is one of the few Christian churches in a city of close to twenty million people! They ask their MBC family to pray for them fervently as they serve!

## ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2024:

Ken and Ruth rejoice as God continues to strengthen their local church. Last year, they welcomed new members, celebrated baptisms, and witnessed increased evangelistic outreach throughout the city. They are discipling many members who are growing in righteousness and spiritual maturity, reflecting God's transformative work in a dark place.

## PLEASE PRAY:

- That God would deepen love and unity among the church elders, ministry leaders, and congregants.
- That God would bless and guide their evangelistic efforts throughout the city.
- That God would empower the preaching and teaching in their church, making their work fruitful and impactful for His glory.

Visit [Joshua Project](#) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

## JAMES & GRACE

### SERVING IN ARABIAN PENINSULA SINCE 2024

**Major Religion:** Islam

**Joshua Project Status:** Minimally reached

**% Evangelical:** 1.5% (1 in 67)

James and Grace began attending MBC Montgomery County in 2018 after moving to the DMV area from the Midwest. James worked as a physician, and Grace served in a parachurch ministry teaching the Bible to women while working part-time as a researcher. As members of MBC, they served as Church Group leaders and as volunteers in the church nursery along with their two sons.

Their interest in serving among the unreached in the Middle East began over seven years ago. Grace was serving on their church's global outreach volunteer team; and in 2016, they attended a missions conference for health care workers. At that conference, as James puts it, "God hit me over the head" with the prospect of serving the unreached in countries that are typically closed to missionaries but open to professionals. Since that pivotal moment, their family continued to pursue the possibility of serving God overseas, attending and being equipped at MBC.

James and Grace chose to attend MBC in part because of its focus on missions and desire to make disciples of all nations. They were further equipped through the church, and in late 2023, God opened the door for James and Grace to move to the Arabian Peninsula through James's occupation. They have since become members at a healthy church and are transitioning to life abroad as they seek to proclaim Christ in this Muslim-majority context.

## ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM 2024:

James and Grace are grateful to God for placing them in a wonderful church home where they continue to build relationships and serve. God moved in their older son's heart, leading him to become an official church member and to be baptized. This has been a powerful testament to God's work in their family!

## PLEASE PRAY:

- That God would continue to provide good friends for each member of the family.
- That God would encourage, strengthen, and give joy to James, making him a light and witness in his workplace.
- That God would grant guidance, wisdom, and provision for their older son as he applies to universities for the fall of 2025.
- That God would give each family member opportunities, boldness, and clarity to share the gospel.

Visit [Joshua Project](#) to learn more about the unreached in this country.

## DAVID & KRISTEN

### SERVING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA SINCE 2024

**Major Religion:** Buddhism

**Joshua Project Status:** Unreached

**% Evangelical:** Less than 2% (1 in 50)

David and Kristen met in college while serving on a short-term trip. They began attending MBC in 2006 and became active, faithful church members. They served in various capacities, from leading kids, college, and Church Group ministries, to participating in local outreach. Kristen also served on staff, and together they played a role in launching the MBC Maryland location.

In 2019, David and Kristen, along with their three young children, moved to Southeast Asia

to spread the gospel. Over three years, they worked in communications, learned the local language, and served in a small village church, where they taught children's Sunday school and hosted an evangelistic kids' club.

Upon returning to the US in 2022, David and Kristen rejoined MBC Montgomery as members while simultaneously serving at a DC-area church attended by people who spoke the Southeast Asian target language they were learning. Kristen discipled young women, and David regularly preached. With prayer and guidance from MBC leadership, they made the decision to return to Southeast Asia in the summer of 2024. They are now collaborating with a team to support the local church, encourage pastors, mentor young adults, and care for local communities.

### PLEASE PRAY:

- That God would continue to help David, Kristen, and the children learn the local language.
- That God would provide them with opportunities to share the gospel and that unbelieving people would have a heart and mind to receive it as truth.
- That God would give David and Kristen opportunities to disciple local believers.
- That God would unite their family and help them persevere well in their faith.

Visit [Joshua Project](#) to learn more about the unreached in this country.