

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

MATTHEW 24:14

**THEME 2024: "SHARE THE WORD. MAKE DISCIPLES" MAT 28:19-20**



**BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH**

## **Worship Service & Communion**

Sunday, 4 February, 2024

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**Worship Services In-person & Online 10:40am & 6pm**



<https://www.youtube.com/user/bereanbarbados/live>



<https://www.facebook.com/BereanBarbados/live>

**Sunday School In-person 9:30 - 1015am**



**ZOOM** links provided

**Midweek In-person & Online Service (Wednesday)**

**Noon & 7:30 pm | ZOOM** links provided

**Youth Service in-person 7pm (Friday)**



**WhatsApp** 845 - 5752 or Tel: 426 - 4707

**email:** [info@bereanbarbados.org](mailto:info@bereanbarbados.org)

**[www.bereanbarbados.org](http://www.bereanbarbados.org)**

# Who Will Go To Reach South America's Largest Unreached People Group?

By Sean Lunday

*Achieving the Impossible with God* was our theme for the 2023 South America Field Conference. We had a great participation with more than 80 missionaries from six South American countries. In South

America, BIMI has missionaries in all but one country. During the conference we were blessed by the ministry of Missionary Scott Crabtree and his wife, Tricia, coming all the way from Columbus,

Ohio. Pastor Crabtree planted the LifeSigns Deaf Baptist Church where he has pastored for six years.

Though we have missionaries working with Deaf churches in four South America countries, the **Deaf are still the largest unreached people group on the continent** with a total population of nearly 20 million. Less than two percent have been evangelized and profess faith in Christ. God worked in a wonderful way and used every message to minister to us and challenge our hearts to reach this largely forgotten people group.

However, we have witnessed several of our missionaries do what is seemingly impossible! In February, we traveled to Ecuador where we were blessed by the ministry of Raymond and Anita Bradley. Ray is 100 percent deaf and in the last several years has begun to lose his eyesight. Almost 40 years ago, Ray went to **Peru** as a single missionary where he met and married Anita who was serving in the Efata Christian School for the Deaf.

Efata was started by Vernon Miller, BIMI's first deaf missionary to reach the Deaf in South America in 1967. Efata exists to give Peruvian deaf children language, education, life skills, and a solid opportunity to know the Savior. Efata is a distinctively Baptist Christian school that teaches K-12 children and is recognized as one of the best schools for the Deaf in Peru.

The Bradleys moved from there to Ecuador over 20 years ago. On our recent trip to **Ecuador**, I was challenged to see what God can do with someone totally

surrendered to His will. As Jeremiah the prophet said, *Mine eye affecteth mine heart*. The Bradleys, in spite of their limitations, have seen God do an amazing work in establishing multiple churches, a Deaf school, and an institute for training pastors and workers.

Also participating in our conference was the Marie family who have been laboring in **Bolivia** for 15 years. After they started the only Deaf church in downtown Santa

Cruz, God opened an opportunity to take on a Bible translation project. Luke is leading a team of translators who are interpreting the Bible into sign language by way of a series of videos. There are many deaf in Bolivia who cannot read the Spanish Bible. With this



Bible translation they can now have access to the Word of God.

Participating in our conference were our missionaries working with the Deaf in **Brazil** where Portuguese is the spoken language. In every country in South America, the sign language is different with signs unique to that particular country. This provides an additional challenge to reaching this people group. However, in 2023 the Deaf ministry in Brazil reached a milestone with the opening of the Deaf Baptist Bible Institute. It has been a burden on BIMI Missionary Carl Johnson's heart and a dream for many years to provide a training opportunity for the Deaf to learn



in their own language instead of through an interpreter. The first semester began with nine deaf students who have surrendered

their lives to prepare for the ministry. Please be in prayer for this ministry that God would provide Brother Carl with other qualified teachers to teach the course classes. The load is heavy for one man as he is at the church for about four hours each night teaching each module.

God is doing an amazing work through the lives of our missionaries to reach **South America's largest unevangelized people group. It is still only a drop in the bucket of a sea of lives who have never heard the name of Jesus.**

In his book *Into the Silence*, Missionary Joe Kotvas says, "There is only one foreign independent Baptist missionary to the Deaf for every 8 million deaf people." Brother Kotvas goes on to say, "There is only one North American independent Baptist missionary to the Deaf for every four countries."<sup>1</sup> It is overwhelming to even try to grasp the magnitude of those statistics in the afore mentioned book.

Missionary Dan Bennett has been serving in the city of São Paulo, Brazil, for 20 years. In



response to those statistics he states, "We are just barely reaching a small percentage of the more than 270,000 deaf in São Paulo, much less than reaching three other countries. Those figures are staggering!"

The Great Commission states *Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature* (Mark 16:15). Millions of deaf worldwide do not even have a language, no one with whom they can communicate, and no one to explain God's love for them. They know nothing of Jesus, the Cross, the empty tomb, or heaven. Many deaf sit in silence, alone, unreached, forgotten, and without hope. Christian Friend, this needs to change! Churches across America and around the globe need to wake up and see this immense "void" that is **not** being filled. The time is now to make a concentrated effort to send more laborers into God's harvest field to reap the souls of lost deaf. In Matthew 9:37-38, Jesus said to His disciples, *The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into his harvest.* We are praying that God would send forth more laborers among the Deaf around the world. Would you please make this a matter of prayer in your home and in your church?

Recently, I received an email from a college student requesting information on the Deaf ministry in Argentina. Unfortunately, I had nothing to give him because to my knowledge there is not a work being done with the nearly one million deaf in Argentina. **Who will go?** [W](#)

<sup>1</sup> Kotvas, J. (2006). *Into the Silence: A Biblical Perspective and Plan for Reaching the Deaf Around the World*, Efata, page 28.

# Order of Service

February 4, 2024, 10:40 a.m.

**“Share the Word. Make Disciples”**

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Call to Worship                  | 8. Offertory: #798 Surely Goodness & Mercy |
| 2. Welcome & Announcements          | 9. Choir Ministry                          |
| 3. Meditation & Invocation          | 10. Sermon – Pastor Paul Garnes            |
| 4. #790 God is Still on the Throne  | 11. #289 Consider Him                      |
| 5. OT Scripture Reading – Genesis 9 | 12. Distribution of Elements               |
| NT Scripture Reading – Matthew 9    | 13. #572 The Mercy Seat                    |
| 6. #566 He's The One                | 14. Benediction                            |
| 7. Prayer                           |  |

## ITEMS FOR PRAYER



- Give God thanks for bringing us through 2023 to see the new year 2024.
- Pray for the ministry and wellbeing of Pastor Garnes and Pastor Clarke and their families.
- For healing for our sick members.
- For grace for our shut-in members.
- For the Berean Church families in The DR Congo, Grenada, and Dominica.
- For the friends of Berean – The Gilmours, Haecks, Hulls, Moores, Montagues, Porchers, Rogers, Rudders and Taylors.
- For our unemployed members to find meaningful employment.
- For the peace of Jerusalem.
- For opportunities to share the gospel.
- For the salvation of souls.



## February Birthdays

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|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 – Tony Montague      | 16 – Nathan Neblett | 24 – Lauraine Bovell |
| 7 – Genifer Bayne      | 19 – Betty Mendes   | 28 – Angello Alleyne |
| 11 – Judy Wiltshire    | 23 – Doreen Graham  |                      |
| 13 – Fabian Lamontange | 23 – Sheryl Parris  |                      |

## Anniversaries

- 10 – Adrian & Susan Greenidge